

MIDDLE HIGH GERMAN SERIES • VOLUME 7

NEIDHART VON REUENTHAL

Neidhart von Reuenthal

The Summer Songs and the Winter Songs

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

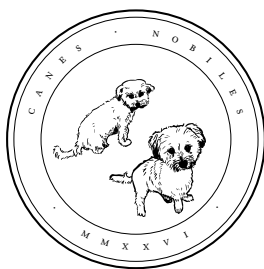


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Volume 7 of the Canes Nobiles Middle High German interlinear texts

The Middle High German text follows Neidhart von Reuenthal,
herausgegeben von Moriz Haupt (Leipzig: S. Hirzel, 1858)

Set from a page scan of the 1858 printing

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

The songs stand in Haupt's order and are cited in the outer
margin by the page and line of his edition of 1858, as Neidhart
has been cited since. Haupt's own Berichtigungen are applied.

CONTENTS

THE FIRST BOOK: THE SUMMER SONGS

An Old Woman Fell to Leaping	11
May Leads the Wood by the Hand	13
On the Hill and in the Valley	16
Heath, Meadow, and Wood Stand in Joy	18
The Wood Stood All Gray	21
In the Valley the Birds Are Loud	23
It Mays This Year as Before	26
Rejoice, Young and Old	29
Summer, Be Welcomed	32
The Season Is Here	36
The Heath Is Green Again	38
The Bright Long Days Have Come	44
Welcome Be the Beauty of May	47
I Never Saw the Heath So Fair	51
All Who Would Welcome the Summer	55
Fair as Gold the Hawthorn Greens	59
See How the Wood Grows Rich	63
The Wood Stands Full of Leaves	68

THE FIRST BOOK: THE SUMMER SONGS

(continued)

Hail the Day	71
I Never Saw the Wood So Bright	75
Now the Cool Winter Is Gone	79
The Linden Wants Its New Leaves	82
We Saw the Meadow Lying Bare	86
The Wood Rings Again	90
Joy and Delight Spread Wide	93
Now the Cold Winter Is Wholly Gone	96
A Lovely May Has Come	100
This Turn of the Season Brings Much Joy	103
For the Honor of the Land	107

THE SECOND BOOK: THE WINTER SONGS

Winter, Thy Power Drives Us In	113
It Grieves Me to the End	117
Children, Make Your Sleds Ready	122
Sing, a Golden Hen	127
Now the Hateful Winter Is Here	132
Blight Lies on the Linden	135
The Small Birds Are Forbidden Their Song	137
Woe Is Me for This Distress	142
How Shall I Get Over the Flowers	147
Now the Small Birds' Singing Is Gone	151
When the Dear Summer Took Its Leave	155
The Sun and the Flowers Have Bent from Their Height	160
It Is Winter	165

THE SECOND BOOK: THE WINTER SONGS

(continued)

How Shall I Get Over Both	169
Now the Dear Summer Has Parted	174
Tell Me, Summer, Where Wilt Thou Flee	180
Alas, Dear Summer, for Thy Long Bright Days	183
The Birds Are Silenced of Their Song	187
These Gloomy Days	192
The Flowers and the Green Grass	196
Alas for This Summertime	201
If the Joyless Would Not Weary of It	205
I Will Sing Again	209
Now I Lament the Flowers	216
Generous Prince Friedrich	226
Summer, We Must Do Without Thy Weather	228
Alas, Summer-Season	234
Summer, Thy Bright Feast for the Eyes	242
I Have Sorrow from the Heart	247
They Lament the Winter's Sharpness	253
Alas, Dear Summer	261
All That Was Joy in Summer	266
Not a Flower Left on the Heath	273
Winter, Thy Blemishes	282
The Enmity of Summer and Winter	290
Alas, Summer-Delight	296
Alas for This Distress	301
Alas, Winter, What Thou Bringest	308
March, Sink Thou Down	312

NEIDHART VON REUENTHAL

The First Book: The Summer Songs

Ein altiu diu begunde springen

AN OLD WOMAN FELL TO LEAPING

An old woman leaps as high as a kid and calls for her gown: she means to take the hand of the squire named of Riuwental. Her daughter warns that he is not a man of constant love, and the mother answers that she is dying for it. A second old woman calls her away to gather flowers, asking why she should stay behind when she has so many companions. Each strophe closes on a nonsense refrain.

Ein altiu diu begunde springen

3,1

An old-woman she began to-leap

hôhe alsam ein kitze enbor:

high like a kid upward:

sî wolde bluomen bringen.

she wanted flowers to-bring.

‘tohter, reich mir mîn gewant:

‘daughter, hand me my dress:

ich muoz an des knappen hant,

I must to the squire’s hand,

der ist von Riuwental genant.

who is of Riuwental named.

traranuretum traranuriruntundeie.’

traranuretum traranuriruntundeie.’

“Muoter, ir hûetet iuwer sinne.

“Mother, you guard your senses.

erst ein knappe sô gemuot,

he-is a squire so disposed,

er pfliget niht stæter minne.”

he practices not steadfast love.”

‘tohter, lâit ir mich âne nôt.

‘daughter, leave you me without trouble.

ich weiz wol waz er mir enbôt:

I know well what he to-me sent-word:

nâch sîner minne bin ich tôt.

for his love am I dead.

traranuretum traranuriruntundeie.’

traranuretum traranuriruntundeie.’

Dô sprachs ein alte in ir geile,

Then spoke-it an old-one in her wantonness,

‘trûtgespil, wol dan mit mir!

‘dear-playmate, well then with me!

ja ergât ez uns ze heile.

indeed turns-out it for-us to well-being.

wir suln nâch bluomen beide gân.

we shall after flowers both go.

war umbe solte ich hie bestân,

where fore should I here remain,

sît ich sô vil geverten hân?

since I so many companions have?

traranuretum traranuriruntundeie.’

traranuretum traranuriruntundeie.’

Der meie der ist rîche
MAY LEADS THE WOOD BY THE HAND

May is rich and leads the wood by the hand; the winter is over and the branches are full of new leaves. A well-formed maid says she will welcome the bright season and asks her mother's leave to go out and dance the round. The mother, who raised her alone at her breast, forbids her the men. The girl names the youth of Riuwental, whom she will embrace, and repeats his word that she is the fairest from Bavaria to Franconia.

Der meie der ist rîche:

3,22

The May he is rich:

er fûeret sicherlîche

he leads assuredly

den walt an sîner hende.

the wood by his band.

der ist nû niuwes loubes vol;

it is now of-new foliage full;

der winter hât ein ende.

the winter has an end.

‘Ich fröwe mich gegen der heide,

I rejoice myself toward the heath,

der lichten ougenweide

the bright feast-for-the-eyes

diu uns beginnet nâhen’

which to-us begins to-approach’

sô sprach ein wolgetâniu maget:

so spoke a well-formed maiden:

‘die wil ich schône enpfâhen.

‘it will I fairly receive.

Muoter, lâtz âne melde.

Mother, leave-it without talk.

jâ wil ich komen ze velde

indeed will I come to field

und wil den reien springen.

and will the round-dance leap.

jâ ist ez lanc daz ich diu kint

indeed is it long that I the children

niht niuwes hôrte singen.'

nothing new heard sing.'

"Neinâ, tohter, keine!

"No-no, daughter, no!

ich hân dich alterseine

I have thee all-alone

gezogen an mînen brüsten:

reared at my breasts:

nû tuo ez durch den willen mîn,

now do it for the will mine,

lâz dich der man niht lûsten."

let thee the men not tempt."

'Den ich iu wil nennen

'Him-whom I to-you will name

den muget ir wol erkennen.

him may you well know.

ze dem sô wil ich gâhen:

to him so will I hasten:

er ist genant von Riuwental:

he is named of Riuwental:

den wil ich umbevâhen.

him will I embrace.

Ez gruonet an den esten

It grows-green on the boughs

daz alles möhten bresten

so-that altogether might burst

die boume zuo der erden.

the trees to the earth.

nû wizzet, liebiu muoter mîn,

now know, dear mother mine,

ich volge dem knaben werden.

I follow the youth noble.

Liebiu muoter hêre,

Dear mother honored,

nâch mir sô klaget er sêre.

for me so laments he sorely.

sol ich im des niht danken?

shall I him for-that not thank?

er spricht daz ich diu schœnste sî

he says that I the fairest am

von Beiern unz in Vranken.'

from Bavaria unto in Franconia.'

Uf dem berge und in dem tal

ON THE HILL AND IN THE VALLEY

Three short strophes. On hill and in valley the birds are loud again and the clover is green, and winter is told to clear out because it does harm. The trees that stood gray now carry their new twigs full of birds, and May takes his toll of them. Then an old woman who had been fighting with death both day and night springs up like a ram and knocks all the young ones down.

4,31 Uf dem berge und in dem tal

On the hill and in the vale

hebt sich aber der vogele schal,

rises itself again the birds' din,

hiwer als ê

this-year as before

grüener klê.

greener clover.

rûme ez, winter: dû tuost wê.

clear it, winter: thou doest ill.

Die boume die dô stuonden grîs

The trees which then stood gray

die habent alle ir niuwez rîs

they have all their new twig

vogele vol.

of-birds full.

daz tuot wol.

that does well.

dâ von nimt der meie den zol.

there from takes the May the toll.

Ein altiu mit dem tôde vaht

An old-woman with the death fought

beide tac und ouch die naht.

both day and also the night.

diu spranc sider

she leapt afterward

als ein wider

like a ram

und stiez die jungen alle nider.

and shoved the young all down.

Heid anger walt in fröuden stât
HEATH, MEADOW, AND WOOD STAND IN JOY

Heath, meadow, and wood have put on the best clothing May sent them, and the poet calls for a loud, glad greeting to the summer. The children are to come out of the stove-room and show themselves on the road, for the sharp wind and the cold snow are gone and the birds are consoled. Those who can escape their watchers should put on their holiday clothes and go out to see the flowers shine. Though Riuwental is his own, he is free of care this summer.

5,8 Heid anger walt in fröuden stât;

Heath meadow wood in joys stands;

diu habent sich bereitet mit ir aller besten wât,

they have themselves arrayed with their of-all best raiment,

die in der meie hât gesant.

which to-them the May has sent.

sî wir alle

be we all

frô mit schalle.

glad with clamor.

der sumer ist komen in diu lant.

the summer is come into the lands.

Wol ûz der stuben, ir stolzen kint!

Well out of-the parlor, you proud children!

lât iuch ûf der strâze sehen: hin ist der scherfe wint

let yourselves on the street be-seen: gone is the sharp wind

unde ouch der vil kalte snê.

and also the very cold snow.

hebt iuch balde

lift yourselves quickly

zuo dem walde:

to the wood:

vogelîn singent; den was wê.

little-birds sing; to-them was woe.

Diu sint ergetzet leides gar.

They are compensated for-sorrow wholly.

ir sult mir ez gelouben, unde nemt sîn selbe war

you shall to-me it believe, and take of-it yourselves heed

waz der sumer erzeiget hât.

what the summer shown has.

er wil rîchen

it will enrich

sicherlîchen

assuredly

manegen boum mit loubes wât.

many-a tree with of-foliage raiment.

Die nû vor grôzer huote megen,

Those now for great watching may,

die sulen balde ir bestez vîretacgewant an legen;

they shall quickly their best holiday-dress on put;

lâzen sich dar inne ersehen.

let themselves there within be-seen.

wir suln schouwen

we shall look

vor den ouwen

before the meadows

maneger hande bluomen brehen.

of-many a-kind flowers to-shine.

Swie Riuwental mîn eigen sî,

Though Riuwental my own be,

ich bin doch disen sumer aller mîner sorgen frî.

I am yet this summer of-all my cares free.

sît der winter ist dâ hin,

since the winter is thither gone,

ich wil lêren

I will teach

die jungen êren

the young to-honor

freude: dar nâch stêt mîn sin.

joy: there after stands my mind.

Der walt stuont aller grîse

THE WOOD STOOD ALL GRAY

The wood that stood gray with snow and ice is in bright color again, and the poet tells the proud children to see it and to dance the round where the flowers are. On many a green twig he heard the small birds sing sweet tunes, and he found the shine of flowers; the heath has its bright garment. He is fond of May, in which he watched his love dance in the linden's shade.

Der walt stuont aller grîse

6,1

The wood stood all gray

vor snê und ouch vor îse.

before snow and also before ice.

derst in liechter varwe gar.

it-is in bright color wholly.

nemt sîn war,

take of-it heed,

stolziu kint,

proud children,

und reiet dâ die bluomen sint.

and round-dance where the flowers are.

Ûf manegem grûenem rîse

On many-a green bough

hôrte ich sûeze wîse

heard I sweet melody

singen kleiniu vogelîn.

sing little birds.

bluomen schîn

of-flowers gleam

ich dâ vant.

I there found.

heide hât ir licht gewant.

beath has her bright raiment.

Ich bin holt dem meien.

I am devoted to-the May.

dar inne sach ich reien

there within saw I round-dance

mîn liep in der linden schat.

my love in the linden's shade.

manic blat

many-a leaf

ir dâ wac

her there fanned

für den sunnenheizen tac.

against the sun-hot day.

In dem tal

IN THE VALLEY THE BIRDS ARE LOUD

The birds greet May in the valley and the poet will help the merry laymen dance. A young maid tells her mother that this year she has first heard the squire's singing, and that she would fare well if she helped him leap. The mother warns her that deceivers are everywhere. The girl swears that if he ever asked for her body her dress would not stay folded long, then laces herself, leaps higher than any maid, and asks for a song.

In dem tal

6,19

In the vale

hebt sich aber der vogele schal.

rises itself again the birds' din.

sî wellent alle grüezen nû den meien.

they will all greet now the May.

den wolgemuoten leien

the merry-hearted laymen

den wil ich helfen reien.

them will I help round-dance.

Ein jungiu meit

A young maid

sprach zir muoter 'mirst geseit

spoke to-her mother 'to-me-is told

hiuwer alrerst von des knappen singen.

this-year for-the-first-time of the squire's singing.

ob ich im hulfe springen,

if I him helped to-leap,

mir müeste wol gelingen.'

to-me would-it well turn-out.'

“Liebez kint,

“Dear child,

trieger allenthalben sint.

deceivers everywhere are.

liebiu tohter, volge mîner lêre.

dear daughter, follow my teaching.

dâ von mac wol dîn êre

there by may well thy honor

sich høehen immer mêre.”

itself beighten ever more.”

Diu junge bôt

The young-one offered

manegen eit: daz tet ir nôt.

many-an oath: that did to-her need.

‘ob er mich des lîbes ie gebæte,

‘if he me of-the body ever begged,

sô sîs unlange stæte,

so be-it not-long steadfast,

diu valde an mîner wæte.

the fold on my gown.

Wande ich hân

For I have

zuo den mannen keinen wân.’

toward the men no expectation.’

alsô sprach diu junge zuo der wîsen.

so spoke the young-one to the wise-one.

sî hiez sich schône brîsen

she bade herself fairly to-be-laced

und huop sich von der grîsen.

and rose herself from the gray-one.

Sâ sî spranc

At-once she sprang

mêr dan einer klâfter lanc

more than a fathom long

und noch hôher danne ie magt gesprunge.

and yet higher than ever maid had-sprung.

diu minneclîche junge,

the lovely young-one,

sî bat daz man ir sunge.

she asked that one to-her should-sing.

‘Ez meiet hiuwer aber als ê

IT MAYS THIS YEAR AS BEFORE

A girl says that flowers and clover spring from the dew, the nightingale sings in the linden, and Merze leads the round, where her mother is to find her. The mother tells her to turn from the dew, to arm herself against the sharp winter, and to dance so that no cradle stands before her foot. The daughter answers that women have always borne children, calls for her bright clothes, and curses the cradle. The two come to blows over a rake.

7,11 ‘Ez meiet hiuwer aber als ê.

‘It mays this-year again as before.

von dem touwe’

from the dew’

sprach ein frouwe

spoke a lady

‘springent bluomen unde klê.

‘spring flowers and clover.

diu nahtegal diu singet ûf der linden

the nightingale she sings on the linden

ir süezen sanc.

her sweet song.

Merze vor den reien spranc:

Merze before the round-dance leapt:

bî dem solt dû mich vinden.’

by it shalt thou me find.’

“Tohter, wende dinen muot

“Daughter, turn thy spirit

von dem touwe.

from the dew.

ganc her, schouwe:

come here, look:

disiu mære sint niht guot.

these tidings are not good.

warne dich engegen dem scherpfen winder

arm thyself against the sharp winter

...

(lacuna)

ahte niht ûf Merzen sin:

beed not upon Merze's sense:

des rede drinc hin hinder.

his talk press thither back.

Und reie alsô, swiez dir ergê,

And round-dance so, however-it thee befall,

ob er dich triege,

if he thee deceive,

daz ein wiege

that a cradle

vor an dînem fuoze iht stê:

in-front at thy foot not stand:

sich, sô wirt dîn fröude harte kleine

see, so becomes thy joy very small

und mac geschehen,

and may happen,

sô dû die bluomen wellest sehen,

when thou the flowers wouldst see,

daz nâch dir iht weine."

that after thee something weeps."

‘Muoter, ir sorget umbe den wint.

‘Mother, you fret about the wind.

mirst unmære

to-me-is indifferent

solhiu swære:

such-a grief:

wîp diu truogen ie diu kint.

women they bore ever the children.

ich wil mîner fröude niht enlâzen

I will of-my joy not let-go

durch iuwarn rât.

for your counsel.

reichet mir mîn liehte wât.

hand me my bright raiment.

diu wiege var verwâzen!’

the cradle go accursed!’

Nû hærent wie ez ir ergie.

Now hear how it to-her went.

sî biegen beide

they quarreled both

dô mit leide.

then with sorrow.

diu muoter einen rechen vie.

the mother a rake seized.

den begreif diu tohter bî der grœze:

it grasped the daughter by the thickness:

sî nam zehant

she took at-once

in der alten ûz der hant.

it the old-one’s out-of the hand.

dô gienc ez an die stœze.

then came it to the blows.

Ir fröut iuch, junge und alte

REJOICE, YOUNG AND OLD

May has driven the winter out by force, the flowers are up, and the nightingale sings many tunes on the twig. A merry maid says her mother does not believe that, though she bound her foot with a rope, she would still get to the linden with the other children. The mother threatens to thrash her back with sticks and orders her to sew the torn sleeve in. The girl mocks her, the mother disowns her, and the girl retorts that the hole is only at the seam.

Ir fröut iuch, junge und alte.

You rejoice yourselves, young and old.

8,12

der meie mit gewalte

the May with force

den winder hât verdrungen;

the winter has driven-out;

die bluomen sint entsprungen;

the flowers are sprung-forth;

wie schône nahtegal

how fairly nightingales

ûf dem rîse

on the bough

in manger wîse

in many-a manner

singent wunneclîchen schal.

sing blissful sound.

‘Der walt ist wol geloubet.

‘The wood is well leafed.

mîn muoter niht geloubet,

my mother not believes,

der mir mit einem seile'

who to-me with a rope'

sprach ein maget geile

spoke a maiden merry

'bunde mînen fuoz,

'bound my foot,

mit den kinden

with the children

zuo der linden

to the linden

ûf den anger ich doch muoz.'

onto the meadow I yet must.'

Daz gehôrte ir muoter:

That heard her mother:

"ja swinge ich dir daz fuoter

"indeed swing I to-thee the fodder

mit stecken umbe den rûgge.

with sticks about the back.

vil kleine grasemûgge,

very little hedge-sparrow,

wâ wilt dû hüpfen hin

where wilt thou hop away

ab dem neste?

from the nest?

sitze und beste

sit and stitch

mir den ermel wider in."

me the sleeve again in."

‘Muoter, mit dem stecken

‘Mother, with the stick

sol man die runzen recken

shall one the wrinkles stretch

den alten als eim sumber.

of-the old-ones as of-a drum.

noch hiuwer sît ir tumber

still this-year are you sillier

dan ir von sprunge vart.

than you from leaping fare.

ir sît tôt

you are dead

vil kleiner nôt,

of-very small trouble,

ist iu der ermel abe gezart.’

is to-you the sleeve off torn.’

Ûf spranc sî vil snelle.

Up sprang she very swiftly.

“der tievel ûz dir belle!

“the devil out-of thee bark!

ich wil mich dîn verzihen.

I will myself of-thee renounce.

dû wilt vil übel gedîhen.”

thou wilt very ill thrive.”

‘muoter, ich lebe iedoch,

‘mother, I live nevertheless,

swie iu troume.

however to-you dreams.

bî dem soume

by the seam

durch den ermel gât daz loch.’

through the sleeve goes the hole.’

Sumer, wis enphangen

SUMMER, BE WELCOMED

Summer is welcomed a hundred thousand times: the hearts wounded through the long winter are healed. The wood has set up its booth for May, where joy-bearing seed and birdsong are on sale against mourning. An old woman will buy the sweet sound to heal her wound, and a proud maid cries out to Queen Love, who robs so many of their senses. Love's arrow, the old woman says, is of red gold, not steel, and struck her heart; the girl sees that the old woman's mind is set on joy.

9,13 Sumer, wis enphangen

Summer, be welcomed

von mir hundert tûsent stunt.

by me hundred thousand times.

swaz herze wunt

whatever heart wounded

was den winder langen,

was the winter long,

diu sint geheilet, unde ir nôt zergangen,

they are healed, and their distress dissolved,

lediclichen vrî vor allen twangen.

utterly free from all constraints.

Dû kumst lobelîchen

Thou comest gloriously

aber der werlt in elliu lant.

again to-the world into all lands.

von dir verswant

from thee vanished

armen unde rîchen

of-poor and of-rich

ir trûren, dô der winder muose entwîchen.

their mourning, when the winter had-to yield.

jungen, sult iuch aber zen vröuden strîchen.

young-ones, shall yourselves again to-the joys make-ready.

Der walt hât sîne krâme

The wood has his booth

gein dem meien ûf geslagen.

against the May up set.

ich høre sagen,

I hear tell,

vröude bernder sâme

joy bearing seed

der sî dâ veile mit vil voller âme.

that be there for-sale with very full measure.

hôchgemuoter, solhes koufes râme.

high-hearted-one, of-such a-purchase take-aim.

Da ist für trûren veile

There is against mourning for-sale

manger hande vogeles sanc.

of-many a-kind birds' song.

‘ir süezen klanc

‘their sweet ringing

ich ze mînem teile

I for my portion

wil dingen, daz er mîne wunden heile:’

will bargain-for, that it my wounds may-beal:’

alsô sprach ein altiu in ir geile.

so spoke an old-woman in her wantonness.

Der was von der Minne

To-her was by the Love

allez ir gemüete erwagt.

altogether her spirit stirred.

ein stolziu magt

a proud maid

sprach “sê, küneginne,

spoke “behold, queen,

wie mangen dû beroubest sîner sinne.

how many-a-one thou robbest of-his senses.

mir ist nôt waz erzenê ich gwinne.”

to-me is need what medicine I win.”

‘Diu hât mit ir strâle

‘She has with her arrow

mich verwundet in den tôl.

me wounded unto the death.

von seneder nôt

from longing distress

lîde ich mange quâl.

suffer I many-a torment.

sî ist von rôtem golde, niht von stâle.

it is of red gold, not of steel.

an mîn herze schôz sî zeinem mâle.'

into my heart shot she at-a stroke.'

"Sage, von welhen sachen

"Say, from what causes

kom daz dich diu Minne schôz?"

came that thee the Love shot?"

'unsenften klôz

'unyielding lump

kan sî linde machen.

can she soft make.

sî twinget daz man swindet under lachen,

she compels that one wastes amid laughing,

selten slâfen, dicke in trûren wachen.'

seldom to-sleep, often in mourning to-wake.'

Wol verstuont diu junge

Well understood the young-one

daz der alten ir gedanc

that of-the old-one her thought

nâch vrôuden ranc;

after joys strove;

als ich gerne runge,

as I gladly would-strive,

ob mich ein sendiu sorge niht entwunge

if me a longing care not constrained

unde an herzenliebe mir gelunge.

and in heart's-love to-me it-prospered.

Diu zît ist hie
THE SEASON IS HERE

The season is here, and the poet has seen no fairer one in many years: the cold winter is over and the wood stands leafed again. May brings much birdsong and many flowers, and the heath has forgotten its sorrow in bright clothing. One girl calls her playmate to the linden, where she will find all her heart desires; the other sends for her gown, tells Irmengart to say nothing, and goes out declaring that her sorrows are at an end.

10,22 Diu zît ist hie:

The season is here:

ichn gesach vor mangem jâre ein schœner nie.

I saw for many-a year a fairer never.

ende hât der winder kalt.

end has the winter cold.

des vreut sich manec herze daz sîn sêre enkalt.

of-it rejoices itself many-a heart that of-it sorely suffered.

aber geloubet stât der walt.

again leafed stands the wood.

Des meien zil

The May's season

bringet vogeles sanges unde bluomen vil.

brings of-birds song and flowers many.

wartet wie diu heide stât

watch how the heath stands

schône in liechter wæte und wunneclîcher wât.

fairly in bright garb and blissful raiment.

leides sî vergezzen hât.

of-sorrow she forgotten has.

‘Wol dan mit mir

‘Well then with me

zuo der linden, trûtgespil. dâ vinde wir

to the linden, dear-playmate. there find we

alles des dîn herze gert.

all that thy heart desires.

jâ weist dû vil wol war ich dich sande vert.

indeed knowest thou very well whither I thee sent last-year.

disiu reise ist goldes wert.’

this journey is of-gold worth.’

“Nû dâ hin

“Now away there

nâch der wæte, sît ichs in dem willen bin

after the raiment, since I-of-it in the will am

daz ich leiste mîne vart.

that I perform my faring.

nû gesage ez niemen, liebiu Irmengart.

now tell it to-nobody, dear Irmengart.

wol mich sîner künfte wart.”

well me his coming became.”

Sâ zehant

At-once straightway

brâhte man der mägde ir sûberlîch gewant.

brought one to-the maid her neat dress.

schiere het siz an geleit:

quickly had she-it on laid:

“zuo der grünen linden mich mîn wille treit.

“to the green linden me my will bears.

ende habent mîniu leit.”

end have my sorrows.”

Ez gruonet wol diu heide

THE HEATH IS GREEN AGAIN

A song sung overseas on crusade. The heath is green and the wood leafed, but the poet's longing turns him toward the woman he left behind, and he asks for a messenger to the village where she is. The Italians care nothing for his song: hail, then, to the German tongue. He sends word to his lady, his kin, and his friends of how the pilgrims fare, says the army is more than half dead, and calls any man who stays through August a fool.

11,8 Ez gruonet wol diu heide

It grows-green well the heath

mit niuwem loube stât der walt:

with new foliage stands the wood:

der winder kalt

the winter cold

twanc sî sêre beide.

oppressed them sorely both.

diu zît hât sich verwandelôt.

the season has itself changed.

mîn sendiu nôt

my longing distress

mant mich an die guoten von der ich unsanfte scheide.

reminds me of the good-one from whom I unhappily part.

Gegen der wandelunge

Toward the changing

singent wol diu vogelîn.

sing well the little-birds.

den vriunden mîn

to-the friends mine

den ich gerne sunge,

to-whom I gladly would-sing,

des sî mir alle sagten danc.

for-it they to-me all would-say thanks.

ûf mînen sanc

upon my song

ahtent hie die Walhe niht: sô wol dir, diutschiu zunge!

beed here the Italians not: so well thee, German tongue!

Wie gerne ich nû sande

How gladly I now would-send

der lieben einen boten dar

to-the dear-one a messenger thither

(nû nemt des war)

(now take of-it beed)

der daz dorf erkande

who the village knew

dâ ich die seneden inne lie;

where I the longing-one within left;

jâ meine ich die

indeed mean I her

von der ich den muot mit stæter liebe nie gewande.

from whom I the spirit with steadfast love never turned.

Bote nû var bereite

Messenger now fare ready

ze lieben vriunden über sê.

to dear friends across sea.

mir tuont vil wê

to-me do very woe

sende arebeite.

longing labors.

dû solt in allen von uns sagen,

thou shalt them all from us tell,

in kurzen tagen

in short days

sæhens uns mit vröuden dort, wan durch des wâges breite.

would-they-see us with joys yonder, but through the water's breadth.

Sage der meisterinne

Tell to-the mistress

den willeclîchen dienest mîn.

the willing service mine.

sî sol diu sîn

she shall the-one be

diech von herzen minne

whom-I from heart love

vür alle vrouwen hinne vür.

before all ladies henceforth on.

ê ichs verkür

sooner I-her would-forsake

ê wold ich verkiesen der ich immer teil gewinne.

sooner would I forsake whom I ever share may-win.

Vriunden unde mâgen

To-friends and to-kinsmen

sage daz ich mich wol gehabe.

tell that I myself well hold.

vil lieber knabe,

very dear lad,

ob sî dich des vrâgen

if they thee of-it ask

wiez umbe uns pilgerîme stê,

how-it about us pilgrims stands,

sô sage wie wê

so tell how ill

uns die Walhe haben getân: des muoz uns hie betrâgen.

us the Italians have done: of-it must us here weary.

Wirp ez endelîchen;

Manage it promptly;

mit triuwen lâ dir wesen gâch.

with troth let to-thee be haste.

ich kum dar nâch

I come there after

schiere sicherlîchen

soon assuredly

so ich aller baldist immer mac.

as I of-all quickest ever may.

den lieben tac

the dear day

lâze uns got geleben daz wir hin heim ze lande strîchen.

let us God live-to-see that we thither home to land stride.

Ob sich der bote nû sûme,

If itself the messenger now delays,

sô wil ich selbe bote sîn

so will I myself messenger be

zen vriunden mîn.

to-the friends mine.

wir leben alle kûme;

we live all hardly;

daz her ist mêr dan halbez mort.

the host is more than half dead.

hey wære ich dort!

hey were I yonder!

bî der wolgetânen læge ich gerne an mînem rûme.

by the well-formed-one lay I gladly in my space.

Sol ich mit ir nû alten,

(if)-Shall I with her now grow-old,

ich het noch eteslîchen dôn

I had still some tune

ûf minne lôn

upon love's reward

her mit mir behalten,

here with me kept,

des tûsent herze wurden geil.

of-which thousand hearts would-become merry.

gewinne ich heil

(if)-win I fortune

gegen der wolgetânen, mîn gewerft sol heiles walten.

with the well-formed-one, my wooing shall of-fortune have-charge.

Sî reien oder tanzen,

They round-dance or dance,

sî tuon vil manegen wîten schrit,

they make very many-a wide stride,

ich allez mit.

I ever with.

ê wir heime geswanzen,

before we homeward sauntered,

ich sage ez bî den triuwen mîn,

I say it by the troth mine,

wir solden sîn

we should be

ze Æsterrîche: vor dem snite sô setzet man die phlanzen.

in Austria: before the cutting so sets one the plants.

Er dunket mich ein narre,

He seems to-me a fool,

swer disen ougest hie bestât.

whoever this August here abides.

ez wær mîn rât,

it were my counsel,

liez er sîn geharre

left he his tarrying

und vüer hin wider über sê:

and fared thithber again across sea:

daz tuot niht wê.

that does not woe.

nindert wære ein man baz dan dâ heime in sîner pharre.

nowhere were a man better than there at-home in his parish.

Komen sint uns die liechten tage lange

THE BRIGHT LONG DAYS HAVE COME

The bright long days have come and the birds with them, singing better than they have in a long while. Those who spent the winter in longing have not felt lighter in thirty years. Young maids and proud laymen should pair for the summer and loose their hearts from longing's bonds with quick leaps in the round. The poet sends messengers home ahead of the returning pilgrims, with word for the girls on the road and for Landsbut that all is well.

13,8 Komen sint uns die liechten tage lange:

Come are to-us the bright days long:

alsô sint die vogeles mit gesange.

so are the birds with singing.

die habent ein niuwez vunden,

they have a new-thing found,

daz sis nie vor mangel stunden

which they-it never for many-an hour

baz begunnen.

better began.

Die den winter sendes herzen wâren,

They-who the winter of-longing heart were,

den gestuont der muot vor drîzec jâren

to-them stood the spirit for thirty years

nie ringer danne hiuwer.

never lighter than this-year.

mâgde, ir nemt des meien stiuwer;

maids, you take the May's support;

zogt ab iuwer.

draw off yours.

Junge mägde und alle stolze leien,

Young maids and all proud laymen,

ir sult iuch gên dem lieben sumer zweien:

you shall yourselves toward the dear summer pair:

so ist wünne in allen rîchen.

so is delight in all realms.

ir sult iuch ze vrôuden strîchen.

you shall yourselves to joys make-ready.

lât dar wîchen.

let thither yield.

Kint, lât iu den reien wol enblanden.

Children, let to-you the round-dance well be-a-labor.

lœset iuwer herze ûz senden banden

loose your heart from longing bonds

mit snellen sprungen ringen.

with swift leaps light.

ich hœre von der vogeles singen

I hear from the birds' singing

den walt erklingen.

the wood ring-out.

Lieben boten ich heim ze lande sende.

Dear messengers I home to land send.

al mîn trûren daz sol haben ein ende.

all my mourning that shall have an end.

wir nâhen zuo dem Rîne.

we near to the Rhine.

gerne sehen die vriunde mîne

gladly see the friends mine

uns pilgerîne!

us pilgrims!

Bote, nû sage den kinden an der strâze

Messenger, now tell the children on the street

daz sî niht enzürnen ûz der mâze.

that they not be-angry beyond the measure.

wir suln ein niuwez briuwen,

we shall a new-thing brew,

dar nâch sî die vinger kiuwen,

there after they the fingers chew,

an den triuwen.

upon the troth.

Bote, nû sage dem liepgenæmen wîbe

Messenger, now tell the love-worthy woman

daz ze wunsche gât sô wol mîn schîbe.

that to wish goes so well my ball.

dû sage ze Landeshuote,

thou tell in Landsbut,

wir leben alle in hôhem muote,

we live all in high spirit,

niht unvrute.

not unglad.

Willekomen

WELCOME BE THE BEAUTY OF MAY

May's beauty is welcomed and many a longing heart is freed of its mourning; the poet has never heard the birds sing so well and holds the winter in hatred. A merry maid complains that she is watched and dare not be glad openly. The poet wishes she were lady in Riuwental. Two closing strophes turn on single words: love sworn to love with oaths and undivided, and the friend whose counsel makes a friend's heart laugh.

Willekomen

14,4

Welcome

sî des meien schoene.

be the May's beauty.

ich hân vernomen,

I have heard,

manegem senedem herzen trûren ist benomen.

to-many-a longing heart mourning is taken-away.

sorge lât,

care leave,

junge mägde, deist mîn rât.

young maids, that-is my counsel.

uns nâhet

to-us nears

ein sumer; den enphâhet.

a summer; it receive.

Ine vernam

I heard

nie der vogele singen

never the birds' singing

sô lobesam.

so praiseworthy.

wol dir, sumerwunne! ich bin dem winder gram.

hail to-thee, summer-delight! I am to-the winter hostile.

sîn getwanc

his constraint

wendet mangel sîezen sanc

turns many-a sweet song

uns allen.

from-us all.

wem sol daz wol gevallen?

to-whom shall that well please?

Schône gevar

Fairly colored

lît der ... anger,

lies the (lacuna) meadow,

des nam ich war,

of-it took I heed,

von den rôsen die der meie sande dar.

from the roses which the May sent thither.

des ist zît

of-it is time

daz diu nahtigal ir strît

that the nightingale her contest

behalte.

keep.

zergangen ist diu kalte.

passed is the cold-one.

Hôchgemuot

High-spirited

solten sîn die jungen;

should be the young-ones;

daz wære guot.

that were good.

‘owê’ sprach ein geiliu magt, ‘ich bin behuot.

‘alas’ spoke a merry maid, ‘I am guarded.

ine getar

I dare

vrô gesîn niht offenbâr.

glad to-be not openly.

got wolde

God would

daz niemen hûeten solde!’

that nobody guard should!’

Sunder sal

Without stain

sint der meide kleider,

are the maiden’s clothes,

ir zöphe val.

her braids blond.

solte ich wûnschen, sî mües in dem Riuwental

should I wish, she would-have-to in the Riuwental

vrouwe sîn.

lady be.

so ist diu meisterinne mîn

so is the mistress mine

des muotes,

of-the spirit,

sî spilten selten guotes.

they played seldom of-good.

Lieben wân

Dear expectation

hât mîn lîp nâch liebe.

has my person toward love.

deist wol getân.

that-is well done.

liep vor allem liebe ich mir ze liebe hân

love before all love I for-myself for love have

liep erkorn.

love chosen.

liep ze liebe hât gesworn

love to love has sworn

mit eiden.

with oaths.

diu liebe ist ungescheiden.

the love is unsundered.

Vriundes rât

Friend's counsel

gât der vriunt dem vriunde,

gives the friend to-the friend,

der triuwe hât.

who troth has.

vriundes vrömden daz tuot wê, swenn ez ergât.

friend's estrangement that does woe, whenever it comes-about.

mirst geseit,

to-me-is told,

vriunt der vriundes herze treit,

friend who friend's heart bears,

der machet

he makes

daz vriundes herze erlachtet.

that friend's heart laughs-out.

Ine gesach die heide

I NEVER SAW THE HEATH SO FAIR

The heath and the green wood have never been better shaped, and the maids are told to pair and dance in high spirits. Flowers stand where none could be found before, and a dance of courtly children begins. One maid asks for whom she should trim herself, since men are fickle and joy and honor count for nothing. Her playmate answers that one woos her who can drive off mourning: the man whom all call of Riuwental.

Ine gesach die heide

15,21

I saw the heath

nie baz gestalt,

never better formed,

in liechter ougenweide

in bright feast-for-the-eyes

den grünen walt.

the green wood.

an den beiden kiese wir den meien.

in the two perceive we the May.

ir mägde, ir sult iuch zweien,

you maids, you shall yourselves pair,

gein dirre liechten sumerzît

against this bright summer-season

in hôhem muote reien.

in high spirit round-dance.

Lop von mangen zungen

Praise from many-a tongue

der meie hât.

the May has.

die bluomen sint entsprungen

the flowers are sprung-forth

an manger stat

in many-a place

dâ man ê deheine kunde vinden.

where one before none could find.

geloubet stânt die linden.

leafed stand the lindens.

sich hebt, als ir wol habt vernomen,

itself raises, as you well have heard,

ein tanz von höfschen kinden.

a dance of courtly children.

Die sint sorgen âne

They are of-cares free

und vröuden rîch.

and of-joys rich.

ir magede wolgetâne

you maidens well-formed

und minneclich,

and lovely,

zieret iuch, daz iu die Beier danken,

adorn yourselves, that to-you the Bavarians thank,

die Swâbe und die Vranken.

the Swabians and the Franks.

ir briset iuwer hemde wîz

you lace your shift white

mit sîden wol zen lanken.

with silk well at-the flanks.

‘Gein wem solt ich mich zâfen?’

‘Toward whom should I myself trim?’

sô redete ein maget.

so spoke a maid.

‘die tumben sint entslâfen.

‘the foolish-ones are fallen-asleep.

ich bin verzaget.

I am despondent.

vreude und êre ist al der werlde unmære;

joy and honor is to-all the world indifferent;

die man sint wandelbære;

the men are fickle;

deheiner wirbet umbe ein wîp

none-of-them woos for a woman

der er getiuwert wære.’

by-whom he ennobled were.’

“Die rede soltû behalten”

“That talk shalt-thou keep-to-thyself”

sprach ir gespil.

spoke her playmate.

“mit vröuden sul wir alten.

“with joys shall we grow-old.

der manne ist vil

of-the men is many

die noch gerne dienenet guoten wîben.

who still gladly serve good women.

lâz solhe rede belîben.

let such talk rest.

ez wirbet einer umbe mich

there woos one for me

der trûren kan vertriben.”

who mourning can drive-away.”

‘Den soltû mir zeigen,

‘Him shalt-thou to-me point-out,

wier mir behage.

whether-be to-me pleases.

diu gürtel sî dîn eigen

the girdle be thy own

diech umbe trage.

which-I about wear.

sage mir sînen namen, der dich minne

tell me his name, who thee loves

sô tugentlîcher sinne.

so virtuous of-mind.

mir ist getroumet hînt von dir,

to-me is dreamed last-night of thee,

dîn muot der stê von hinne.’

thy spirit it stands from hence.’

“Den sî alle nennent

“He-whom they all name

von Riuwental,

of Riuwental,

und sînen sanc erkennent

and whose song they-know

wol über al,

well over all,

der ist mir holt. mit guote ich im des lône.

he is to-me devoted. with good I him for-it repay.

durch sînen willen schône

for his sake fairly

sô wil ich brîsen mînen lîp.

so will I lace my body.

wol dan, man liutet nône!”

well then, one rings nones!”

Alle die den sumer lobelîche welnt enphâhen

ALL WHO WOULD WELCOME THE SUMMER

Those who would welcome the summer should take the poet's teaching: let the young be merry with fair breeding and fear the rod of shame. Winter has taken its leave and May heals what winter wounded. A maid says she is robbed of her joy, and her mother asks whether a man is at fault. She confesses that a knight kissed her with a root in his mouth and she lost her senses. The mother tells her to shun old Kunze's talk.

Alle die den sumer lobelîche welnt enphâhen,

16,38

All who the summer with-praise will receive,

die lâzen in ze guote mîne lêre niht versmâhen.

they let to-them for good my teaching not despise.

ich râte daz die jungen hôchgemuoten

I counsel that the young high-spirited-ones

mit schoenen zûhten sîn gemeit

with fair manners be merry

und vûrhten schame ruoten.

and fear shame's rods.

Der walt mit niuwem loube sîne grîse hât verkêret.

The wood with new foliage his grayness has changed.

dâ von vil mangem herzen sîne vreude sint gemêret.

there by very to-many-a heart its joys are increased.

diu vogelîn diu der winder het betwungen,

the little-birds which the winter had constrained,

diu singent aber des meien lop

they sing again the May's praise

baz dannes ie gesungen.

better than-they ever sang.

Urloup nam der winder ab der wunneclîchen heide,
Leave took the winter from the blissful heath,

dâ die bluomen stênt gevar in liechter ougenweide,
where the flowers stand colored in bright feast-for-the-eyes,

begozzen mit des meien suezem touwe.
watered with the May's sweet dew.

‘der het ich gerne ein krenzelîn,
‘of-them had I gladly a little-garland,

geselle’ sprach ein vrouwe.
companion’ spoke a lady.

Swaz vür trûren hoeret und vür allez ungemüete,
Whatever against mourning avails and against all ill-humor,

daz bringet uns der meie mit vil manger hande blüete.
that brings us the May with very many-a kind of-blossom.

er heilet daz der winder het verwundet.
it heals what the winter had wounded.

er hât mit sîner süezen kraft
it has with its sweet power

der siechen vil gesundet.
of-the sick many made-whole.

Vreude ist aller werlde gegen des meien kunft erlaubet.
Joy is to-all world toward the May's coming allowed.

‘owê mir’ sprach ein magt, ‘ich bin der mînen gar beroubet.
‘alas to-me’ spoke a maid, ‘I am of-the mine wholly bereft.

dâ von sô lîde ich manger hande swære,
there by so suffer I of-many kind of-grief,

der ich gein dirre sumerzît
which I against this summer-season

mit vuoge wol enbære.’
with fitness well could-spare.’

Diu muoter sprach ze der tochter "kunt ez dir von mannes schulden?"

The mother spoke to the daughter "comes it to-thee from man's fault?"

'jâ muoter; ich muoz von der manne minne zouber dulden.

'yes mother; I must from the men's love enchantment endure.

mich hât ein ritter nâhen zim gevangen,'

me has a knight close to-him caught,'

"nû sage mir, liebez tochterlîn,

"now tell me, dear little-daughter,

ist anders iht ergangen?"

is otherwise anything come-to-pass?"

'Neinâ, liebiu muoter mîn, des ich gemelden kunde.

'No-no, dear mother mine, of-that I tell could.

er kuste mich: dô het er eine wurzen in dem munde;

he kissed me: then had he an herb in the mouth;

dâ von verlôs ich alle mîne sinne.'

there by lost I all my senses.'

diu alte sprach "dû bist niht magt;

the old-one spoke "thou art no maid;

dich rüerent mannes minne."

thee touch man's love."

Zorniclîchen sprach diu magt 'ir habt ez wol beschœnet.

Angrily spoke the maid 'you have it well glossed-over.

waz solten mir die vrömden tuon, sît ir mich selbe hœnet?

what should to-me the strangers do, since you me yourself shame?

mir ist niht kunt um mannes minne rüeren.'

to-me is nothing known about man's love touching.'

diu alte sprach "dû darft mich niht

the old-one spoke "thou needest me not

mit spellen umbe vüeren.

with tales about to-lead.

Wildû, liebez tohterlîn, deich dir die rede zerlœse,
(if)-Wilt-thou, dear little-daughter, that-I to-thee the matter unravel,

sô vliuch die alten Kunzen mit ir üppiclichem kœse.
so flee the old Kunze with her wanton chatter.

diu rætet daz dich noch her nâch geriuwet.
she counsels what thee still here after shall-grieve.

sî hât mit swinden sprûchen ie
she has with swift sayings ever

vil alter mære geniuwet.”
very old tales renewed.”

Schôn als ein gólt grúonet der hágen

FAIR AS GOLD THE HAWTHORN GREENS

The hawthorn greens like gold and the heath has turned to bright roses: up, then, proud maidens, for May is in the land, the linden hangs full, and the nightingale draws near. A girl means to glean a garland to wear on every holiday and calls Adelheit out to dance. Her mother warns that the singer has laid his snare and threatens a pinch; the daughter answers that blows are wasted, and the two trade threats to the end.

Schôn als ein gólt grúonet der hágen.

Fair as a gold grows-green the hawthorn.

18,4

guot mære ich dén vróuwen wil ságen,

good tidings I to-the ladies will tell,

daz von liechten rôsen

that of bright roses

diu heide hât gewant,

the heath has raiment,

daz beste daz sî vant.

the best that she found.

nû wol ûf, stolziu magedîn! der meie ist in diu lant.

now well up, proud little-maids! the May is in the lands.

Nû ist wol breít der linden ir ást.

Now is well broad the linden her bough.

diu wás des loubes húwer ein gást:

she was of-the foliage this-year a stranger:

nû ist sî wol behangen

now is she well hung

mit sûberlicher wât.

with neat raiment.

schouwet wie sî stât.

look how she stands.

nû loset wie diu nahtegal dar nâher strîchen lât.

now listen how the nightingale there nearer to-draw permits.

‘Seht wie sich vrêut bóum unde wîse.

‘See how itself rejoices tree and meadow.

dar áb ich mîr hîuwer gelîse

there from I for-myself this-year gather

von den gelpfen bluomen

of the bright flowers

ein krânzel daz ich trage

a little-garland that I wear

alle vîretage.

all holidays.

nû wol ûf, trûtel Adelheit! dû sprinc als ich dir sage.

now well up, darling Adelheit! thou leap as I to-thee tell.

Múoter mîn, læstû mich dár,

Mother mine, lettest-thou me thither,

stolzlichen sprînge ich an der schár

proudly leap I in the throng

vor den knappen allen,

before the squires all,

daz sî mir müezen jehen.

so-that they to-me must grant.

selbe soltû sehen

thyself shalt-thou see

daz ich ûf der erde niht gesiffel mit den zehen.’

that I upon the earth not shuffle with the toes.’

“Tóhterlin, túostû den gánc,

“Little-daughter, makest-thou the going,

dér daz gímpel gämpel gesánc,

he-who the gimpel gampel sang,

der hât sich vermezzen,

he has himself pledged,

und werde im dîn ein blic,

and become to-him thine a glance,

er lege dir sînen stric.

he lay for-thee his snare.

und wiltû niht hie heime sîn, dir wirt von mir ein zwic.”

and (if)-wilt-thou not here at-home be, to-thee comes from me a pinch.”

‘Zwicke und slége hâstû verlórñ.

‘Pinches and blows hast-thou lost.

dû wilt hîuwer réizen den zórñ,

thou wilt this-year provoke the anger,

daz dû mir verbiutest

that thou to-me forbiddest

des er mich hât gebeten.

what he me has asked.

ich gehilfe im treten.

I help him to-step.

dû muost hîuwer âne Jiuten dînen garten jeten.’

thou must this-year without Jiute thy garden weed.’

“Strîch von mîr bâlde unde swîc.

“Stride from me quickly and be-silent.

hey strûche! vergên ich dir den stîc,

hey vagabond! bar I to-thee the path,

dû getuost ein springen

thou makest a leaping

daz dir ze leide wirt

that to-thee to sorrow becomes

und dînen rûcke swirt.

and thy back stings.

ich geschaffe daz dich krot diu reise gar verbirt.”

I arrange that thee toad the journey wholly spares.”

Schouwet an den walt wier niuwes loubes rîchet

SEE HOW THE WOOD GROWS RICH

The wood draws on the green clothes May sent it, and the maids are reminded to win their rose garlands when the dew falls. A girl says she would go and see the linden if she had Jiutelîn with her. The child's mother offers to go along and chaperone her, calling herself a girl in years except for her gray locks, but the daughter has hidden her veil. The quarrel ends with the maid stealing two red hose from a knight of Riuwental.

Schouwet an den walt wier niuwes loubes rîchet,

Look at the wood how-it of-new foliage grows-rich,

19,7

wie wol er sîniu grüeniu kleider an sich strîchet.

how well it its green clothes on itself draws.

der hât im der meie

that has to-it the May

vil gesant.

much sent.

mägede, sô man reie,

maidens, when one round-dances,

sô sît gemant

so be reminded

alle

all

daz wir diu rôsenkrenzel

that we the rose-garlands

gewinnen

win

soz tou dar an gevalle.

if-it dew there on falls.

Hei sumer, waz herzen gegen dîner kunft erlachtet!

Hey summer, what hearts toward thy coming laugh-out!

die vogele die der winder trûric het gemacht,

the birds which the winter mournful had made,

die singent wunniclîchen

they sing blissfully

ir gesanc,

their song,

welnt in aber tîchen

will it again make

den sumer lanc.

the summer long.

schalles

of-noise

phlegent sî des morgens:

keep they in-the morning:

gein âbent

toward evening

spil wir kint des balles.

play we children of-the ball.

Vreude und kurzewîle sul wir hiwer uns nieten.

Joy and pastime shall we this-year ourselves take.

got sol den jungen mägden allen daz gebieten

God shall the young maidens all that command

daz sî mit liechter wæte

that they with bright raiment

sîn bereit

be ready

und den sumer stæte

and the summer steadfast

an hövescheit.

in courtliness.

winder

winter

hât ez hie gerûmet.

has it here cleared.

die alten

the old-ones

suln sîn desten kinder.

shall be the-more childlike.

‘Die sumerwunne ich bi der vogeles reide erkande,

‘The summer-delight I by the birds’ warbling knew,

die bluomen die der meie lôte ûz rîfen bande

the flowers which the May loosed from frost’s bonds

mit sînem liechten schîne

with its bright shining

wolgetân.

well-formed.

het ich Jiutelîne,

had I little-jiute,

sô wolde ich gân

so would I go

schouwen.

to-look.

diu linde ist wol bevangen

the linden is well covered

mit louben.

with foliage.

dar under tanzent vrouwen.’

there under dance ladies.’

“Dâ wil ich dîn hûeten” sprach des kîndes eide.

“There will I of-thee take-care” spoke the child’s mother.

“nû gê wir mit ein ander zuo der linden beide.

“now go we with one another to the linden both.

ich bin mîner jâre

I am of-my years

gar ein kint,

wholly a child,

wan daz mînem hâre

save that to-my hair

die locke sint

the locks are

grîse.

gray.

die wil ich bewinden

them will I wind-about

mit sîden.

with silk.

tochter, wâ ist mîn rîse?”

daughter, where is my veil?”

‘Muoter, die rîsen die hân ich vor iu behalten;

‘Mother, the veil that have I from you kept-back;

diu zîmt einer jungen baz dan einer alten

it suits a young-one better than an old-one

ze tragen umbe ir houbet

to wear about her head

an der schar.

in the throng.

wer hât iuch beroubet

who has you robbed

der sinne gar?

of-the senses wholly?

slâfet.

sleep.

waz ob iu nû ringer

what if to-you now more-lightly

getroumet,

is-dreamed,

daz ir iuch anders zâfet?’

that you yourself otherwise trim?’

Wie sî den strît liezen wil ich iu bescheiden.

How they the quarrel left will I to-you relate.

daz magedîn begunde sîner muoter leiden.

the little-maid began to-her mother to-become-bateful.

zwêne rôte golzen

two red boots

sî verstal

she stole

einem ritter stolzen

from-a knight proud

von Riuwental

of Riuwental

tougen.

secretly.

sî bôt im bî dem tanze

she offered him at the dance

ein krenzel:

a little-garland:

sô mir got, deist unlougen.

so me God, that-is undeniable.

‘Der walt mit loube stât’

THE WOOD STANDS FULL OF LEAVES

A maid calls for her bright clothes: the man of Riuwental has sung new songs and she will leap at his hand to the linden. Her mother reminds her what came of her playmate Jiute's dancing last year, a child named Lempel. The girl answers that he sent her a rose garland and brought her two red hose over the Rhine, and that she has given him her word. The mother lets her go with a prophecy of blows and two cradles.

20,38 ‘Der walt mit loube stât’

‘The wood with foliage stands’

sprach ein meit: ‘ez mac wol mîner sorgen werden rât.

spoke a maid: ‘it may well of-my cares become remedy.

brinc mir mîn liechte wât.

bring me my bright raiment.

der von Riuwental uns niuwiu liet gesungen hât.

he of Riuwental to-us new songs sung has.

ich hoer in dort singen vor den kinden:

I hear him yonder sing before the children:

jâne wil ich nimmer des erwinden,

indeed will I never of-it desist,

ich springe an sîner hende zuo der linden.’

I leap at his hand to the linden.’

Diu muoter rief ir nâch.

The mother called her after.

sî sprach “tochter, volge mir; niht lâ dir wesen gâch.

she spoke “daughter, follow me; not let to-thee be haste.

weistû wie geschach

knowest-thou how happened

dîner spilen Jiuten vert, alsam ir eide jach?

to-thy playmate Jiute last-year, as her mother said?

der wuohs von sînem reien ûf ir wempel,

to-her grew from his round-dance up her belly,

und gewan ein kint, daz hiez sî Lempel.

and she-got a child, that named she Lempel.

alsô lêrte er sî den gimpelgempel.”

so taught he her the gimpel-gempel.”

‘Muoter, lât ez sîn.

‘Mother, let it be.

er sante mir ein rôschenschapel, daz het liechten schîn,

he sent me a rose-chaplet, that had bright shining,

ûf daz houbet mîn;

upon the head mine;

und zwêne rôte golzen brâht er her mir über Rîn:

and two red boots brought he here to-me across Rhine:

die trag ich noch hiwer an mînem beine.

them wear I still this-year on my leg.

des er mich bat, daz weiz ich niewan eine.

what he me asked, that know I only alone.

jâ volge ich iuwer ræte harte kleine.’

indeed follow I your counsels very little.’

Der muoter der wart leit

To-the mother it became grievous

daz diu tochter niht enhôrte daz si ir vor geseit.

that the daughter not heard what she to-her before said.

iz sprach diu stolze meit

there spoke the proud maid

‘ich hân im gelobt: des hât er mîne sicherheit.

I have him promised: of-it has he my pledge.

waz verliuse ich dâ mit mîner êren?

what lose I there with of-my honors?

jâne wil ich nimmer wider kêren;

indeed will I never back turn;

er muoz mich sîne geile sprünge lêren.’

he must me his merry leaps teach.’

Diu muoter sprach “wol hin!

The mother spoke “well away!

verstû übel oder wol, sich, daz ist dîn gewin.

fares-t thou ill or well, see, that is thy gain.

dû hât niht guoten sin.

thou hast no good sense.

wil dû mit im gein Riuwental, dâ bringet er dich hin.

(if)-wilt thou with him toward Riuwental, there brings he thee away.

alsô kan sîn treiros dich verkoufen.

so can his treiros thee sell.

er beginnt dich slahen stôzen roufen,

he begins thee to-strike to-shove to-pull,

und müezen doch zwô wiegen bî dir loufen.”

and must yet two cradles by thee run.”

Wol dem tage

HAIL THE DAY

Hail the day that lifts the whole world's spirits, and shame on the winter that broke the flowers of the heath. The birds sing loud evening and morning, and nobody hears May's summer cry who does not dance. Young maids should adorn themselves and pleat their gowns. One says she has secretly looked on a knight and will leap in the ranks for him; her mother answers that it is too late and bids her turn back and obey.

Wol dem tage

21,34

Hail to-the day

der al der werlde hôchgemüete trage

which to-all the world high-spirits brings

und vil mangem herzen vröude mêret.

and to-very many-a heart joy increases.

der winder sî gunêret.

the winter be dishonored.

der brach uns ze leide

it broke to-us to sorrow

bluomen an der heide.

flowers on the heath.

die stênt aber in liechter ougenweide.

they stand again in bright feast-for-the-eyes.

Grôzen schal

Great sound

hœr ich die vogeles singen über al,

hear I the birds sing over all,

süezen sanc den âbent und den morgen.

sweet song the evening and the morning.

ende hât ir sorgen.

end has their cares.

ez kûndet in der meie

it announces to-them the May

sumerlîch geschreie.

summerlike shouting

daz enhœret niemen, erne reie.

that bears nobody, unless-be round-dance.

Nu ist der walt

Now is the wood

schône geloubet, den der winder kalt

fairly leaved, which the winter cold

het beroubet: demst ein teil vergolten.

had robbed: to-it-is a part repaid.

junge mägde solten

young maids should

sich stolzlichen zieren,

themselves proudly adorn,

ir gewant ridieren,

their dress to-pleat,

an die man mit einem ougen zwieren.

at the men with one eye to-blink.

‘Ich wil dar

I will thither

stolzlichen springen an der schar’

proudly leap in the throng’

sprach ein maget, ‘unverwendlichen

spoke a maid, ‘unwaveringly

mich ze vreuden strichen.

myself to joys make-ready.

ich hân, deist âne lougen,

I have, that-is without denying,

einen ritter tougen

a knight secretly

an gesehen mit beiden mînen ougen.

on looked with both my eyes.

Dem bin ich holt.

To-him am I devoted.

muoter, dar umbe dû niht zûrnen solt.

mother, there about thou not be-angry shalt.

ich kum nimmer tac von dînem râte?

I come never a-day from thy counsel.'

“tohter, deist ze spâte.

“daughter, that-is too late.

der schuohe und der kleider

of-the shoes and of-the clothes

springest âne beider.

leapest-thou without both.

mir getet nie dehein minne leider.”

to-me did never any love worse.”

‘Mîner wât

‘Of-my raiment

hân ich durch sînen willen gerne rât,

have I for his sake gladly forgoing,

den ich hân erwelt ûz allen mannen.’

whom I have chosen out-of all men.’

“tohter, sage von wannen

“daughter, tell from whence

er sî der uns beiden

he be who us both

wil der triuwen scheiden.

will of-the troth sunder.

kint, erwint und volge dîner eiden.”

child, turn-back and follow thy mother.”

Ich gesach den walt und al die heide

I NEVER SAW THE WOOD SO BRIGHT

May has sent the wood and the heath ahead as his heralds, and whoever would read his letters should listen to the nightingale. A maid says she has chosen one leap, and that whoever can do it stays young; asked who taught it, she keeps his name back. The two playmates quarrel and part enemies, one boasting of a knight who would carry her to his bed. The poet ends by cursing whoever envies him his love.

Ich gesach den walt und al die heide

22,38

I saw the wood and all the heath

nie vor manegen zîten in sô liechter ougenweide.

never for many-a season in so bright feast-for-the-eyes.

die hât der meie vür gesant

them has the May forth sent

daz sî künden in diu lant

that they proclaim in the lands

sîne kunft den vruoten

his coming to-the prudent

und al den hôchgemuoten.

and to-all the high-spirited.

Allez daz diu werlt nû hât beslozen

All that the world now has enclosed

vreut sich sîner künfte wol: der habe wir ê genozzen.

rejoices itself of-his coming well: of-it have we before had-benefit.

nû sî uns allen willekomen.

now be to-us all welcome.

manegen herzen ist benomen

to-many-a heart is taken-away

leit und ungemüete.

sorrow and ill-humor.

er kumt mit maneger blüete.

it comes with many-a blossom.

Die nû sîne brieve hœren wellen

Those-who now his letters bear will

unt sîn lop mit willen helfen in diu lant erschellen,

and his praise with willingness help in the lands to-resound,

die losen der lieben nahtigal,

they listen-to the dear nightingale,

wan ir stimme nie erhal

for her voice never rang

alsô süeze mêre.

so sweet more.

der meie habe des êre.

the May have of-it honor.

Sprach ein maget 'ich wil sî gerne hœren,

Spoke a maid 'I will her gladly hear,

im ze lobe den mînen lîp mit manegem sprunge enbœren.

to-it in praise the my body with many-a leap to-lift.

ich hân erwelt mir einen sprunc:

I have chosen for-myself a leap:

swer den kan derst lange junc;

whoever it can be-is long young;

so ich den hôhe springe,

when I it high leap,

sô vreut sich mîn gedinge.'

so rejoices itself my hope.'

Ir gespil sî vrâgen dô begunde,

Her playmate her to-question then began,

daz si ir seite wer sô guote sprünge lêren kunde;

that she to-her should-say who so good leaps teach could;

“ich kande in gerne, und mähete ez sîn.”

“I knew him gladly, and might it be.”

‘entriuwen’ sprach daz magedîn,

‘in-troth’ spoke the little-maid,

‘erst sîn unvermeldet,

‘be-is of-him untold,

ir lobet in oder ir scheldet.’

you praise him or you chide.’

“Ich mac wol dîn ungevüege schelten.

“I may well thy unseemliness chide.

dû muost immer wider mich sô gelfer worte enkelten.

thou must ever against me so boastful words atone-for.

wir hieten beide baz gedagt.

we bad both better kept-silent.

hiute sî dir widersagt

today be to-thee renounced

dienest unde triuwe.

service and troth.

dîn muot ist iteniuwe.”

thy spirit is ever-new.”

‘Sprichest dû daz ich sî ungevüege?

‘Sayest thou that I be unseemly?

ich weiz einen ritter der mich an sîn bette trüege,

I know a knight who me to his bed would-carry,

daz er mich niht enwürfe hin.

so-that he me not would-throw down.

dû bist leider âne sin,

thou art alas without sense,

daz dû mich sô swachest,

that thou me so belittlest,

dir selben vîent machest.'

to-thee thyself an-enemy makest.'

Ir geselleschefe sî sich schieden.

Their fellowship they themselves parted.

niemen kunde ir wehselrede volrecken an den liden.

nobody could their exchange-of-words carry-through in the songs.

sî wurden beide ein ander gram.

they became both to-one another hostile.

eine ich mir ze trûte nam,

one I for-myself as beloved took,

die ich immer triute.

whom I ever cherish.

daz nident ander liute.

that envy other people.

Swer mich um die wolgetânen nîde,

Whoever me for the well-formed-one envies,

dem wünsch ich daz im geschehe daz er unsanfte lîde:

to-him wish I that to-him happen what he painfully suffers:

gewinne er immer herzeliep,

win be ever heart's-love,

daz stel im der minnediep.

that steal from-him the love-thief.

vriunt, nû sprechen âmen,

friends, now let-us-say amen,

daz wir sîn alle râmen.

that we of-it all aim.

‘Nu ist der küele winder gar zergangen

NOW THE COOL WINTER IS GONE

A girl tells her playmate that the nights are short and the roses are out, and to bind herself up quickly because she means to go with a knight. Her mother overhears and threatens to keep her clothes. The girl answers that her mother never spun a thread of them, breaks open the locked chest, puts on her frock, and throws her bright ball into the hand of the man of Riuwental. The old woman beats her with a distaff.

‘Nu ist der küele winder gar zergangen;

‘Now is the cool winter wholly passed;

24,13

diu naht ist kurz, der tac beginnet langen:

the night is short, the day begins to-lengthen:

sich hebet ein wunneclîchiu zît

itself raises a blissful season

diu al der werlde vreude gît;

which to-all the world joy gives;

baz gesungen nie die vogele ê noch sît.

better sang never the birds before nor since.

Komen ist uns ein liehtiu ougenweide:

Come is to-us a bright feast-for-the-eyes:

man siht der rôsen wunder ûf der heide;

one sees of-the roses a-wonder on the heath;

die bluomen dringent durch daz gras.

the flowers press through the grass.

wie schône ein wise getouwet was,

how fairly a meadow bedewed was,

dâ mir mân geselle zeinem kranze las!

where to-me my companion for-a garland gathered!

Der walt hât sîner grîse gar vergezzē:

The wood has its grayness wholly forgotten:

der meie ist ûf ein grüenez zwî gesezzē;

the May is on a green twig seated;

er hât gewunnen loubes vil.

it has won of-foliage much.

bint dir balde, trûtgespil:

bind thee quickly, dear-playmate:

dû weist wol daz ich mit einem ritter wil.

thou knowest well that I with a knight will.

Daz gehôrte der mägde muoter tougen.

That heard the maid's mother secretly.

sî sprach "behalte hinne vür dîn lougen.

she spoke "keep hence forth thy denying.

dîn wankelmuot ist offenbâr.

thy fickleness is manifest.

wint ein hûetel um dîn hâr.

wind a head-cloth about thy hair.

dû muost ân die dînen wât, wilt an die schar."

thou must without the thy raiment, wilt-thou into the throng."

'Muoter mîn, wer gap iu daz ze lêhen

'Mother mine, who gave to-you that in fief

daz ich iuch mîner wæte solde vlêhen?

that I of-you my raiment should beg?

dern gespunnet ir nie vadem.

of-it spun you never a-thread.

lâzet ruowen solhen kradem.

let rest such an-uproar.

wâ nû slüzzel? sliuz ûf balde mir daz gadem.'

where now key? unlock up quickly for-me the chamber.'

Diu wât diu was in einem schrîne versperret.

The raiment it was in a chest shut-away.

daz wart bî einem staffel ûf gezerret.

that was by a leg open torn.

diu alte ir leider nie gesach.

the old-one it alas never saw.

dô daz kint ir kisten brach,

when the child her chest broke,

dô gesweic ir zunge, daz sî niht entsprach.

then fell-silent her tongue, so-that she nothing said.

Dar ûz nam sî daz röckel alsô balde.

There out took she the little-gown thus quickly.

daz was gelegen in maneger kleinen valde.

it was lain in many-a small fold.

ir gürtel was ein rieme smal.

her girdle was a strap narrow.

in des hant von Riuwental

into his hand of Riuwental

warf diu stolze maget ir gickelvêhen bal.

threw the proud maid her gaily-colored ball.

Diu alte diu begreif ein rocken grôzen.

The old-one she seized a distaff great.

si begunde ir tochter bliuwen unde stôzen.

she began her daughter to-beat and to-shove.

“daz habe dir des von Riuwental.

“that have thou from-him of Riuwental.

rûch ist im sîn überval.

rough is to-him his upper-garment.

nû var hin, daz hiute der tievel ûz dir kal.”

now fare away, that today the devil out-of thee bawl.”

Der linden welnt ir tolden

THE LINDEN WANTS ITS NEW LEAVES

The linden's crowns fill with new leaves and the nightingales sing new tunes against them; the meadow is mingled with flowers, and the poet has sent Vriderûn a garland of roses. The maids are to lace themselves and strip off their veils for the dance on the meadow, where Vriderûn sprang in her pleated frock while Engelmâr watched from the other side. The song closes on the grief that Engelmâr tore Vriderûn's mirror from her side.

25,14 Der linden welnt ir tolden

The linden's will her crowns

niuwer loube rîchen.

of-new foliage grow-rich.

dâ wider lâzent nahtigal dar tîchen.

there against let nightingales thereto strike-up.

sî singent wol ze prîse

they sing well to praise

vrômde sūeze wîse,

strange sweet melody,

dcœne vil.

tunes many.

sî vreunt sich gein dem meien:

they rejoice themselves toward the May:

sîn kunft diu ist ir herzen spil.

his coming it is their heart's play.

Sî sprechent daz der winder

They say that the winter

hiuwer sî gelenget.

this-year be lengthened.

nu ist diu wise mit bluomen wol gemenget,
now is the meadow with flowers well mingled,

mit liechter ougenweide
with bright feast-for-the-eyes

rôsen ûf der heide
of-roses on the heath

durch ir glanz.
through their gleam.

der sante ich Vriderûnen
of-them sent I to-Vriderûn

einen ... kranz.
a (lacuna) garland.

Die vogle in dem walde
The birds in the wood

singent wünneclichen.
sing blissfully.

stolze mägde, ir sult ein niuwez tîchen.
proud maids, you shall a new-thing make.

vreut iuch lieber mære.
rejoice yourselves of-dear tidings.

maneges herzen swære
of-many-a heart grief

wil zergân.
will dissolve.

tuot als ich iuch lêre,
do as I you teach,

strîchet iuwer kleider an.
draw your clothes on.

Ir brîset iuch zen lanken;

You lace yourselves at-the flanks;

stroufet ab die rîsen.

strip off the veils.

wir suln ez ûf dem anger wol wikisen.

we shall it on the meadow well dance.

Vriderûn als ein tocke

Vriderûn like a doll

spranc in ir reidem rocke

leapt in her pleated gown

bî der schar.

by the throng.

des nam anderthalben

of-it took on-the-other-side

Engelmâr vil tougen war.

Engelmâr very secretly heed.

Dô sich aller liebes

When itself of-all love

gelîch begunde zweien,

alike began to-pair,

dô sold ich gesungen haben den reien,

then should I sung have the round-dance,

wan daz ich der stunde

save that I of-the hour

niht bescheiden kunde

nothing to-tell knew

gegen der zît

against the season

sô diu sumerwunne

when the summer-delight

manegem herzen vreude gît.

to-many-a heart joy gives.

Nû heizent sî mich singen.

Now bid they me sing.

ich muoz ein hûs besorgen,

I must a house look-after,

daz mich sanges wendet manegen morgen.

which me of-song deprives many-a morning.

wie sol ich gebâren?

how shall I bear-myself?

mirst an Engelmâren

to-me-is from Engelmâr

ungemach

trouble

daz er Vriderûnen

that be from-Vriderûn

ir spiegel von der sîten brach.

her mirror from the side broke.

Blôzen wir den anger ligen sâhen

WE SAW THE MEADOW LYING BARE

The meadow that lay bare is ringed with roses again, and thrush and nightingale make hill and valley ring. A maid says the trees are in leaf, calls Wierât out to dance, and means to wear a garland if she may leap at a knight's hand. Her mother warns her not to press among men who are not her match, since the young bailiff wants her. The girl will have no peasant, and says her mind strives toward Riuwental.

26,23 Blôzen wir den anger ligen sâhen.

Bare we the meadow lie saw.

sît uns diu liebe zît begunde nâhen,

since to-us the dear season began to-near,

daz die bluomen drungen durch den klê,

so-that the flowers pressed through the clover,

aber als ê

again as before

ist diu heid mit rôsen umbevangen:

is the heath with roses encircled:

den tuot der sumer wol, niht wê.

to-them does the summer well, not woe.

Droschel nahtigal die høert man singen,

Thrush nightingale them hears one sing,

von ir schalle berc unt tal erklingen.

from their sound hill and dale ring-out.

sî vreunt sich gegen der lieben sumerzît,

they rejoice themselves toward the dear summer-season,

diu uns gît

which to-us gives

vreuden vil und liehter ougenweide.

of-joys much and of-bright feast-for-the-eyes.

diu heide wunneclîchen lît.

the heath blissfully lies.

Dô sprach ein maget 'die wisen wellent touwen.

Then spoke a maid 'the meadows will bedew.

megt ir an dem sumer wunder schouwen?

May you in the summer a-wonder behold?

die boume die den winder stuonden val

the trees which the winter stood pale

âne zal,

without number,

die siht man aber in dem walde louben:

them sees one again in the wood leaf:

dar under singent nahtigal.

there under sing nightingales.

Losâ wie die vogele alle dœnent,

Listen how the birds all sound,

wie sî den meien mit ir sange kroenent!

how they the May with their song crown!

jâ wæn ich der winder ende hât.

indeed think I the winter an-end has.

Wierât,

Wierât,

sprinc alsô daz ich dirs immer danke.

leap so that I to-thee-for-it ever thank.

diu linde wol geloubet stât.

the linden well leafed stands.

Dâ sul wir uns wider hiuwer zweien.

There shall we ourselves again this-year pair.

vor dem walde ist rôsen vil geheien:

before the wood are roses many grown:

der wil ich ein kränzel wolgetân

of-them will I a little-garland well-formed

ûfe hân,

upon have,

springe ich einem ritter an der hende

leap I with-a knight at the hand

in hôhem muote. nû wol dan!"

in high spirit. now well then!"

"Tohterlîn, lâ dich sîn niht gelangen.

"Little-daughter, let thee of-it not long.

wil dû die ritter an dem reien drangen,

(if)-wilt thou the knights at the round-dance press-upon,

die dir niht ze mâze ensulen sîn,

who to-thee not to measure shall be,

tohterlîn,

little-daughter,

dû wirst an dem schaden wol ervunden.

thou wilt at the harm well be-found.

der junge meier muotet dîn."

the young steward desires thee."

'Giezet mir den meier an die versen.

'Pour to-me the steward at the heels.

jâ trûwe ich einem ritter wol gehersen.

indeed trust I with-a knight well to-master.

zuiu sol ein gebûwer mir ze man?

to-what shall a peasant to-me as husband?

der enkan

he can

mich nâch mînem willen niht getriuten.

me after my will not caress.

er wæn mîn eine muoz gestân.'

he I-think of-me alone must stand-off.'

“Tochterlîn, lâ dir in niht versmâhen.

“Little-daughter, let to-thee him not be-scorned.

dû wilt ze tumbe der ritter künde vâhen.

thou wilt too foolish of-the knights acquaintance take.

daz ist allen dînen vriunden leit.

that is to-all thy friends grievous.

mangen eit

many-an oath

swüere dû, des bistû âne lougen.

sworest thou, of-it art-thou without denying.

dîn muot dich allez von mir treit.”

thy spirit thee ever from me bears.”

‘Muoter mîn, ir lâzet iuwer bâgen.

‘Mother mine, you leave your wrangling.

ich wil mîne vriunde durch in wâgen

I will my friends for him risk

den ich mînen willen nie verhal.

from-whom I my will never bid.

über al

over all

müezen sîn die liute werden inne.

must of-it the people become aware.

mîn muot der strebt gein Riuwental.’

my spirit it strives toward Riuwental.’

Der walt
THE WOOD RINGS AGAIN

*The wood rings with small sweet voices and the birds have given up their mourning;
joy rises on the road among the children and the linden is rich with new leaves.
The dew falls into the flowers' eyes, and the proud maids are told not to stay
unpartnered. Uodelhilt says how dear the man would be who loosed her bonds,
that she will wind her hair with silk for him, and that she loves him past changing.*

28,1 Der walt

The wood

aber mit maneger kleiner süezer stimme erhillet:

again with many-a little sweet voice resounds:

diu vogelîn sint ir sanges ungestillet;

the little-birds are of-their song unstilled;

diu habent ir trûren ûf gegeben.

they have their mourning up given.

mit vreuden leben

with joys live

den meien!

the May!

ir megede, ir sult iuch zweien.

you maidens, you shall yourselves pair.

Sô hebet

So rises

sich aber an der strâze vreude von den kinden.

itself again on the street joy from the children.

wir suln den sumer kiesen bî der linden.

we shall the summer perceive by the linden.

diu ist niuwes loubes rîch,

she is of-new foliage rich,

gar wunneclîch

wholly blissful

ir tolden.

her crowns.

ir habt den meien holden!

you have the May dear!

Daz tou

The dew

an der wise den bluomen in ir ougen vellet.

on the meadow to-the flowers into their eyes falls.

ir stolze megde, belibt niht ungesellet:

you proud maidens, remain not unpartnered:

ir zieret wol den iuwern lîp!

you adorn well the your body!

ir jungiu wîp

you young women

sult reien

shall round-dance

gein disem süezen meien.

toward this sweet May.

‘Wie holt

How devoted

im daz herze mîn vor allen mannen wære’

to-him the heart mine before all men were’

sprach Uodelhilt, ein magt unwandelbære,

spoke Uodelbilt, a maid unblemished,

‘der mir lôste mîniu bant!

‘who to-me loosed my bonds!

an sîner hant

at his hand

ich sprunge,

I would-leap,

daz im sîn helze erklunge.

so-that to-him his sword-bilt would-ring.

Mîn hâr

My hair

an dem reien sol mit sîden sîn bewunden

at the round-dance shall with silk be wound

durch des willen der mîn zallen stunden

for his sake who of-me at-all hours

wünschet hin ze Riuwental.

wishes away to Riuwental.

des winders zâl

the winter's peril

hât ende.

has an-end.

ich minne in, deist unwende.'

I love him, that-is unturnable.'

Vreude unde wunne hebt sich wîten

JOY AND DELIGHT SPREAD WIDE

Joy spreads wide, and no birds have sung better since the days of brave Charles. Wendelmuot complains that she must stay out of the dance, since her mother has locked away her hose, veil, and hat. Asked what her fault was, she says only that she refused a freeholder who came asking for her as wife, whereupon they pulled the frock off her body. While he thought her at home, she threw her ball to the man of Riuwental.

Vreude unde wunne hebt sich wîten.

28,36

Joy and delight raises itself widely.

ir gevrieschet sît kûne Karles zîten

you beard since bold Charles's times

nie vogeleschal

never birds' sound

die baz sungen über al.

who better sang over all.

gar verborgen

wholly bidden

sint aber alle ir sorgen.

are again all their cares.

‘Vrô sint nû diu vogelîn geschreiet.

‘Glad are now the little-birds made-to-cry.

nû belîbe ich aber ungereiet’

now remain I again undanced-with’

sprach Wendelmuot.

spoke Wendelmuot.

‘golzen rîsen unde huot

‘hose veil and hat

hât mîn eide

has my mother

verspart mir vor ze leide.’

locked-away from-me before to sorrow.’

“Nû sage mir, waz sint die dînen schulde?”

“Now tell me, what are the thy faults?”

‘ichn weiz, Rîchilt, sam mir gotes hulde,

‘I-not know, Richilt, so to-me God’s favor,

wes ich enkalt,

for-what I suffered,

wan deich einen vrîheitstalt

save that-I a freeholder

hân versprochen.

have refused.

daz ist an mir gerochen.

that is on me avenged.

Der kom dâ her. dô bat er mîn ze wîbe.

He came there hitber. then asked he me for woman.

dô zugen sî mir daz rœckel ab dem lîbe.

then pulled they from-me the little-gown off the body.

jâ muoz er mîn

indeed must he of-me

weizgot gar versûmet sîn,

God-knows wholly deprived be,

er gebûwer.

he peasant.

jâ nam michs gar untûwer.

indeed took me-of-it wholly cheaply.

Swanne er wânte deich dâ heime læge

Whenever he thought that-I there at-home lay

unde im sînes dingelînes phlæge,

and for-him his little-business tended,

warf ich den bal

threw I the ball

in des hant von Riuwental

into his hand of Riuwental

an der strâze.

on the street.

der kumt mir wol ze mâze.'

he comes to-me well to measure.'

Nu ist vil gar zergangen

NOW THE COLD WINTER IS WHOLLY GONE

The cold winter is gone and the green wood is caught up in leaves, but the poet cannot say that his own long longing has dwindled. Two playmates lament together: one says mourning has ruined her body and her senses over a man estranged from her, and the other counsels patience and secrecy. The first names the knight of Riuwental, whose song constrained her heart. The song ends with the poet's wish for a house with a roof by the Lengebach.

29,27 Nu ist vil gar zergangen

Now is quite wholly passed

der winder kalt,

the winter cold,

mit loube wol bevangen

with foliage well covered

der grüene walt.

the green wood.

wunneclîch,

blissfully,

in süezer stimme lobelîch,

in sweet voice praiseworthy,

vrô singent aber die voge, lobent den meien.

glad sing again the birds, praise the May.

sam tuo wir den reien.

so do we the round-dance.

Al der werlde hôhe

To-all the world high

ir gemüete stât.

their spirit stands.

bluomen in dem lôhe

flowers in the grove

mîn ouge hât

my eye has

an gesehen.

on looked.

ich mac leider niht gejeihen

I may alas not declare

daz mir mîn lange senediū sorge swinde:

that to-me my long longing care dwindles:

diust mîn ingesinde.

it-is my household.

Zwô gespilen mære

Two playmates dear

begunden sagen,

began to-tell,

herzensenede swære

heart-longing grief

besunder klagen.

each-apart to-lament.

einu sprach

one spoke

‘trûren leit und ungemach

‘mourning sorrow and trouble

hât mir verderbet lîp und al die sinne:

has to-me ruined body and all the senses:

dâ ist niht vreuden inne.

there is nothing of-joys within.

Leit und ungemüete

Sorrow and ill-humor

ist mir bekant.

is to-me known.

liebes vriundes güete

of-dear friend's goodness

mich beider mant.

me of-both reminds.

mir ist ein man

to-me is a man

vremde, der hât mir getân

estranged, who has to-me done

dâ von mir langiu senediû sorge mêret

there from to-me long longing care increases

unt mîn herze sêret.'

and my heart wounds.'

"Sage bî dînen triuwen,

"Tell by thy troth,

waz wirret dir?

what troubles thee?

lebst in seneden riuwen,

(if)-livest-thou in longing sorrows,

sô volge mir

so follow me

und habe gedult.

and have patience.

sîz von liebes mannes schult,

be-it from dear man's fault,

daz hil mit allen dînen sinnen tougen.

that hide with all thy senses secretly.

wie gerne ich vür dich lougen!"

how gladly I for thee would-deny!"

‘Dû hærest eteswennen

‘Thou hearest sometimes

ze einem mâl

at a time

einen ritter nennen

a knight named

von Riuwental.

of Riuwental.

der sîne sanc

he whose song

mîn gemüete sêre twanc.

my spirit sorely constrained.

nû phlege sîn der des himels immer walte,

now tend him he-who of-the heaven ever rules,

daz er mirn behalte.’

that he to-me-him keep.’

Und hân ich indert heime,

And have I anywhere a-home,

wâ sol daz sîn?

where shall that be?

ein swalwe klint von leime

a swallow daubs of clay

ein hiuselîn,

a little-house,

dâs inne ist

where-she within is

des sumers ein vil kurze vrist.

of-the summer a very short while.

got vüege mir ein hûs mit obedache

God grant to-me a house with a-roof

bî dem Lengebache.

by the Lengebach.

Komen ist ein wunneclîcher meie

A LOVELY MAY HAS COME

A lovely May has come, but neither cleric nor layman rejoices at it; the emperor's coming would please more, for he stills the great outcry. Sorrow and misery dwell in Austria and nobody makes peace there. In the wood the nightingale praises May all night, and the poet calls seven girls by name to May's company with Glad-Mood as their leader. The round is danced; but Glad-Mood has fled Austria, as Vriderûn's mirror is gone.

31,5 Komen ist ein wunneclîcher meie.

Come is a blissful May.

des kunft envreut sich leider weder phaffe noch der leie.

of-its coming rejoices itself alas neither priest nor the layman.

sî vreut noch baz des keisers komen.

them rejoices still more the emperor's coming.

kumt er, als ich hân vernomen,

(if)-comes he, as I have heard,

er stillet grôz geschreie.

he stills great outcry.

Leit mit jâmer wont in Ôsterlande.

Sorrow with misery dwells in Austria.

jâ wurde er sîner sünden vrî, der disen kumber wande.

indeed would-become he of-his sins free, who this affliction turned.

der möhte nimmer baz getuon.

he might never better act.

hie vrumt niemen vride noch suon.

here furthurs nobody peace nor reconciliation.

deist sünde bî der schande.

that-is sin beside the disgrace.

Liebiu kint, nû vreut iuch des gedingen

Dear children, now rejoice yourselves of-the hope

daz got mit sîner güete mange swære kan geringen.

that God with his goodness many-a grief can lighten.

uns kumt ein schoëniu sumerzât

to-us comes a fair summer-season

diu nâch trûren vröude gât.

which after mourning joy gives.

ich høre ein vogelîn singen

I hear a little-bird sing

In dem walde sumerliche wîse.

In the wood summerlike melody.

diu nahtigal diu singet uns die besten wol ze prîse,

the nightingale she sings to-us the best well to praise,

ze lobe dem meien al die naht.

in praise to-the May all the night.

manger leie ist ir gebraht,

of-many a-kind is her clamor,

ie lûter, danne lîse.

now louder, then softly.

Dâ bî lobent diu merlîn und die zîsel.

There by praise the little-blackbirds and the siskins.

ûf Hiltrât Liukart Jiutel Berhtel Gundrât Geppe Gîsel!

up Hiltrât Liukart Jiutel Berhtel Gundrât Geppe Gîsel!

die zement wol an des meien schar.

they suit well in the May's company.

Vrômuot sol mit samt in dar;

Glad-Mood shall together with them thither;

diu ist ir aller wîsel.

she is of-them all leader.

Dô sî den vil lieben trôst vernâmen,

When they the very dear comfort heard,

dô brâhtens ir geleite. dô sî ûf den anger quâmen,

then brought-they their escort. when they onto the meadow came,

dô wart der meie enphangen wol.

then was the May received well.

herze wurden vröuden vol,

hearts became of-joys full,

die mägden wol gezâmen.

which to-the-maidens well suited.

Randolt Gunthart Sibant Walfrit Vrêne

Randolt Gunthart Sibant Walfrit Vrêne

die sprungen dâ den reien vor, ie einer, dar nâch zwêne,

they leapt there the round-dance in-front, now one, there after two,

deis Diethôch Uolant unde Iedunc

that-is Diethôch Uolant and Iedunc

spranc dâ mangel geilen sprunc.

leapt there many-a merry leap.

an des hant spranc Elêne.

at his hand leapt Elêne.

Vrômuot ist ûz Ôsterrîche entrunnen.

Glad-Mood is out-of Austria escaped.

wir mugen uns ir und Vriderûnen spiegel wol verkunnen.

we may us of-her and of-Vriderûn mirror well despair.

den spiegel solte wir verklagen,

the mirror should we cease-to-lament,

Vrômuot ûf den handen tragen,

Glad-Mood upon the hands carry,

dies uns her wider gewinnen.

if-they-her to-us here again won.

Disiu wandelunge mange vröude bringet

THIS TURN OF THE SEASON BRINGS MUCH JOY

The turn of the season lightens the world's longing, though the poet's own suit fails. Those who should raise women's spirits have taken up foreign ways once strange to the Germans. Were things as they stood thirty years ago, going sadly would deserve punishment. He would sing again if the Germans and the Bohemians would not burn before the sowing, and if peace held. Two girls agree to hate false love and honor the men who serve in troth.

Disiu wandelunge mange vröude bringet;

This changing many-a joy brings;

32,6

seneclîchiu swære ist al der werlt geringet;

longing grief is to-all the world lightened;

vil herze in ir gemüete ûf gegen den lûften springet.

many-a heart in its spirit up toward the airs springs.

nâch der ich mîn herze tougen swanc

after whom I my heart secretly swung

unde ir mînen lîp ze dienste twanc,

and to-her my person to service constrained,

owê daz mir dâ niht gelinget!

alas that to-me there nothing prospers!

Komen ist uns diu wunne, komen ist uns der meie,

Come is to-us the delight, come is to-us the May,

komen sint die bluomen manger hande leie:

come are the flowers of-many kind of-sort:

nû koment uns die voge mit ir sūezen schreie;

now come to-us the birds with their sweet crying;

komen ist uns diu liebe sumerzât,

come is to-us the dear summer-season,

diu vil mangem herzen vröude gît.

which very to-many-a heart joy gives.

sîn trûren niemen langer heie.

his mourning nobody longer nurse.

Die den wîben hôchgemüete solden machen

Those-who to-the women high-spirits should make

unde in in diu lôsen ougen solden lachen,

and to-them into the merry eyes should laugh,

die habent sich bewollen mit sô vrömden sachen,

they have themselves defiled with so strange matters,

daz hie bevor den Tiutschen wilde was.

which here before to-the Germans foreign was.

ja ist er niht der wîbe spiegelglas

indeed is he not of-the women mirror-glass

der sich ze vile wil geswachen.

who himself too much will debase.

Stüende ez in der werlde alsam vor drîzec jâren,

Stood it in the world as before thirty years,

der mich danne trûriclîchen sæhe gebâren,

whoever me then mournfully saw bear-myself,

der solde mich zehant behiuten unde behâren;

he should me at-once un-skin and un-hair;

jâ wære ich ungevüeger zûhte wert.

indeed were I of-unseemly discipline worthy.

ja ist iz hiuwer bæser danne vert:

indeed is it this-year worse than last-year:

daz leben mir beginnet swâren.

the life to-me begins to-grow-heavy.

Der uns nû die Diutschen und die Bêheim bâte
He-who to-us now the Germans and the Bohemians would-beg
 daz sî niht enbranten unze man gesæte
that they not burned until one had-sown
 und daz ein ieglich herre diu kleit von im tæte
and that every single lord the garments from him would-do
 diu man vor den vrouwen niht sol tragen,
which one before the ladies not shall wear,
 dâ von wolde ich singen unde sagen,
there of would I sing and speak,
 und belibe der vride noch stæte.
and remained the peace still steadfast.

Wîlen dô die herren hôher minne phlâgen
Once when the lords of-high love took-care
 und dô sî bî herzenliebe gerne lâgen,
and when they by heart's-love gladly lay,
 dô kunde sî vor liebe der minne niht betrâgen.
then could them for love of-the love not weary.
 nu ist ez an die valschen minne komen.
now is it to the false love come.
 diu hât der werden minne ir lop benomen.
it has of-the worthy love its praise taken-away.
 niemen sol mich fûrbaz vrâgen.
nobody shall me further question.

‘Trûtgespil, nû swîge; niht verlius dîn lêren.
‘Dear-playmate, now be-silent; not lose thy teaching.
 ob ich dir noch hilfe dîne vröude mêren,
if I to-thee still help thy joy to-increase,
 wer mêret mir die mîn? die man sint niht in êren,
who increases to-me the mine? the men are not in honor,

daz sî tougen unser minne geren.

that they secretly our love desire.

ich wil von in valscher minne enberen.

I will from them false love forgo.

die site wellent sich verkêren.'

the ways will themselves reverse.'

Sâ dô sprach diu ander "man sint underscheiden.

At-once then spoke the other "men are distinguished.

die mit triuwen dienen wîben unde meiden,

those-who with troth serve women and maidens,

die selben lâ dir lieben und die böesen leiden.

those same let to-thee be-dear and the bad be-hateful.

ist uns iemen âne herze holt,

(if)-is to-us anybody without heart devoted,

dem ist kupher lieber danne golt.

to-him is copper dearer than gold.

gehœnet werde er von uns beiden."

shamed be he by us both."

Durch des landes êre
FOR THE HONOR OF THE LAND

For the honor of the land and at his friends' urging the poet breaks his vow of silence and sings again, wishing he could sing what the young would gladly take up after the world's misfortune. The good news is May and all his power, which lighten many a burden. The wood and the heath are adorned with brown, blue, and red flowers inlaid with roses, and where the young want no joy, Honor is driven off.

Durch des landes êre

33,15

For the land's honor

muoz ich brechen

must I break

mîn versprechen

my refusal

unt durch vriunde lêre,

and through friends' urging,

die nû wellent niht enberen,

who now will not forgo,

ich enmüeze ir bete geweren

I unless-must their request grant

und singen aber mêre.

and sing again more.

Kunde ich nû gesingen

Could I now so-sing

daz die jungen

that the young-ones

gerne sungen

gladly sang

nâch dem ungelingen

after the misfortune

den diu werlt an vreuden hât,

which the world in joys has,

diu mit trûren umbe gât!

which with mourning about goes!

wer kan die nôt geringen?

who can the distress lighten?

Welt ir liebiu mære

Will you dear tidings

gerne hœren?

gladly hear?

trûren stoeren

mourning to-disturb

kumt uns lobebære.

comes to-us praiseworthy.

deist der meie und al sîn kraft.

that-is the May and all its power.

er und sîn geselleschaft

it and its fellowship

diu ringent manege swære.

they lighten many-a grief.

Vruht ûf al der erde

Fruit upon all the earth

ist betouwet

is bedewed

(alle schouwet)

(all behold)

aber in vollem werde.

again in full worth.

daz genuoge ringe wiget,

what many lightly weighs,

meie hât im an gesiget

May has it out conquered

dô sich diu zît verkêrde.

when itself the season reversed.

Nu ist der walt gezieret

Now is the wood adorned

und diu heide

and the heath

mit ir kleide

with her dress

licht und wol gwyzieret.

bright and well embellished.

mit in brâhtens ûz der nôt

with them brought-they out-of the distress

brûne blâwe bluomen, rôt

brown blue flowers, red

mit rôsen underwieret.

with roses inlaid.

Hie mit sî gesungen

Here with be sung

den ze hulden

to-them for favor

die von schulden

who from duty

wol nâch vreuden rungen

well after joys strove

unde ouch tugende wâren wert.

and also of-virtue were worthy.

swâ diu jugent niht vreude gert,

wherever the youth no joy desires,

da ist Êre ûz phade gedrunge.

there is Honor out path pressed.

NEIDHART VON REUENTHAL

The Second Book: The Winter Songs

Winder, uns wil dîn gewalt
WINTER, THY POWER DRIVES US IN

Winter's power drives the company out of the broad linden and into the stove-room; the lark is told to stop, since frost and snow have declared war on it. The young are to dance and laugh anyway, and the poet offers a new song to help them wait for joy. Lanze, Anze, Adelber, and merry Rüeie have sworn together against a proud peasant of Witenbrüele, and Lanze goes about growling like a bear in a quilted mail-shirt.

Winder, uns wil dîn gewalt

35,1

Winter, us will thy power

in die stuben dringen

into the parlor press

von der linden breit.

from the linden broad.

dîne winde die sint kalt.

thy winds they are cold.

lerche, lâ dîn singen:

lark, leave thy singing:

dir hât widerseit

to-thee has renounced

beidiu rîfe und ouch der snê;

both frost and also the snow;

dû muost stille swîgen.

thou must still be-silent.

sô klag ich den grünen klê.

so lament I the green clover.

meie, ich wil dir nîgen.

May, I will to-thee bow.

mir tuot der winder wê.

to-me does the winter woe.

Tanzet, lachet, weset vrô:

Dance, laugh, be glad:

daz zimt wol den jungen

that suits well the young-ones

disen winder lanc.

this winter long.

iu ze stiuwer gibe ich sô

to-you as support give I so

hiwer von mîner zungen

this-year from my tongue

einen niuwen sanc

a new song

daz ir âne swæren muot

that you without heavy spirit

vreude muot erbîten.

joy may await.

Engelmâr, dîn stube ist guot.

Engelmâr, thy parlor is good.

küele ist an der lîten.

cool is on the slope.

der winder schaden tuot.

the winter harm does.

Lanze und Anze und Adelber

Lanze and Anze and Adelber

und der geile Rüele

and the merry Rüele

zesamen hânt gesworn

together have sworn

alle ûf einen dörper hêr,

all against a peasant proud,

derst von Wîtenbrüele

he-is of Wîtenbrüele

und brüevet grôzen zorn.

and stirs great anger.

daz enkunde ich ê noch sît

that could I before nor since

nie vol tagedingen,

ever fully negotiate,

Rüele wolte enwiderstrît

Rüele would in-contest

an dem reien springen.

at the round-dance leap.

daz was Lanzen nît.

that was Lanze's envy.

Lanze eine treien treit,

Lanze a jacket wears,

diu ist von barkâne,

it is of fustian,

grüene alsô der klê.

green like the clover.

ze wîge hât er sich bereit

for battle has he himself readied

und lebet in dem wâne

and lives in the belief

daz im niht widerstê.

that to-him nothing withstand.

dar in er gesteppet hât

there in he quilted has

ein guot îsenhemde.

a good iron-shirt.

limmende als ein ber er gât.

growling like a bear he goes.

guot muot ist im vremde.

good spirit is to-him strange.

erst kint der in bestât.

he-is a-child who him assails.

Mir tuot endeclichen wê

IT GRIEVES ME TO THE END

Nobody can keep the winter from taking the flowers and the bright days, so the dice-game moves indoors, with Künzel as its master forbidding laughter and talk. The poet then arranges the holiday dance: Jiutel is to bring the others, Engelmuet is to call Künze over the palings and tell her to come in her small frock. Künze comes, and pleases him; but she dare not sit with him, and Elle is named as the one who sets everyone talking about them.

Mir tuot endeclichen wê

36,18

To-me does utterly woe

daz den winder niemen des erwenden mac,

that the winter nobody of-it prevent may,

er entwinge uns abe

he unless-wrest from-us away

beidiu bluomen unde klê,

both flowers and clover,

dar zuo mangan liechten wunneclichen tac.

there to many-a bright blissful day.

deist mîn ungehabe:

that-is my distress:

die beginnent leider alle truoben;

they begin alas all to-dim;

hin gescheiden ist ir zil.

away parted is their term.

bickelspil

dice-play

wil sich aber in der stuben uoben.

will itself again in the parlor practice.

Des wil Künzel meister sîn.

Of-it will Künzel master be.

der verbiutet lachen sprechen winkelsehen.

he forbids laughing speaking corner-looking.

deist durch in getân.

that-is for him done.

des gesmielt dô Jiutelîn.

of-it smiled then little-Jiute.

uchuch, der muoz an ir hant vil wê geschehen,

uchuch, to-her must at her hand much woe befall,

des ich Sorge hân:

of-which I fear have:

diu wart hiuwer wunt in einen vinger,

she became this-year wounded in a finger,

dôs ir muomen gersten sneit.

when-she to-her aunt barley cut.

mir ist leit:

to-me is sorrow:

trûther Künzel, slaht ein wênic ringer.

dear Künzel, strike a little more-lightly.

Hie mit sul wir des gedagen:

Here with shall we of-it be-silent:

sprechen von den kinden diu dar sint gebeten

speak of the children who thither are bidden

ûf den govenanz.

to the dance-feast.

Jiutel sol in allen sagen

Jiutel shall to-them all say

daz sî dâ mit Hilden nâch der gîgen treten.

that they there with Hilde after the fiddle step.

michel wirt der tanz.

great becomes the dance.

Diemuot Gîsel gênt dâ mit ein ander:

Diemuot Gîsel go there with one another:

al daz selbe Wendel tuot.

all the same Wendel does.

Engelmuot,

Engelmuot,

wergot, ruof uns Künzen durch diu lander.

by-God, call to-us Künze through the palings.

Sage ir daz der man sî hie;

Tell her that the man be here;

dazs ein kleinez röckel unde ir mantel trage,

that-she a fine little-gown and her mantle wear,

obs in welle sehen.

if-she him will see.

des hât sî gewünschet ie:

of-it has she wished ever:

nû kumt ez ir rehte gein dem vîretage;

now comes it to-her right toward the holiday;

dâ lâz ez geschehen.

there let it happen.

bit sî dazs ir in ir giuchel binde.

bid her that-she to-her in her privates bind.

mir ist lieber, kumt sî her

to-me is dearer, comes she here

danne ob er

than if he

sî dâ heime in swacher wæte vinde.

her there at-home in poor raiment find.

Künze dô niht langer beît,

Künze then no longer waited,

sîne gienge dar ir Engelmuoht gebôt;

unless-she went thither where-her Engelmuoht bade;

seht, dar was ir gâch.

see, thither was to-her haste.

schiere hetes sich angeleit.

quickly had-she herself dressed.

beide sîten wâren ir von sîden rôet.

both sides were to-her of silk red.

lützel gieng ir nâch.

little went to-her after.

swer diu lant nâch wîben gar durchvüere,

whoever the lands after women wholly traversed,

der deheiner gunde ich baz,

of-them to-none granted I better,

wizzet daz,

know that,

mîner lieben muoter zeiner snüere.

of-my dear mother for-a daughter-in-law.

Hickâ, wie sî mir geviel,

Hey-ho, how she to-me pleased,

dô ich rehte erblihte wie sî was getân!

when I rightly beheld how she was formed!

wol stuont ir daz hâr

well suited to-her the hair

unde ir rôsenvarwer triel.

and her rose-colored lip.

dô bat ich die guoten zuo mir sitzen gân.

then bade I the good-one to me sit to-come.

sî sprach 'ine getar:

she spoke 'I-not dare:

mirst verboten daz ich mit iu niht rûne
to-me-is forbidden that I with you not whisper

noch zuo ziu niht sitzen sol.
nor to you at-all sit shall.

tuot sô wol,
do so well,

vrâget Heilken dort bî Friderûne.'
ask Heilke yonder by Friderûn.'

Heilken vrâgen ich began
Heilke to-ask I began

wer dem kinde sîne vreude het erwert:
who to-the child her joy had denied:

daz tet sî mir kunt.
that made she to-me known.

'dâ ist Elle schuldec an,
'there is Elle guilty of,

von der uns vil manec bunkel wirt beschert.'
from whom to-us very many-a mishap is allotted.'

dô sprach Kûnegunt
then spoke Kûnegunt

'diu müet uns ze kirchen und ze gazzen,
'she troubles us at church and in-the street,

dazs uns allen machet wart.
that-she to-us all makes talk.

Irmengart,
Irmengart,

vrouwe, dâ soltû sî umbe hazzen.'
lady, there shalt-thou her for bate.'

Kint, bereitet iuch der sliten ûf daz îs

CHILDREN, MAKE YOUR SLEDS READY

The children are to make their sleds ready on the ice, for the winter has stripped the wood and the nightingales have flown. The poet asks where the young should take their joy and settles on Megenwart's wide stove-room, naming the girls who must be fetched. Eppe and Ruopreht come to blows over an egg, and Frideliep and Engelmâr over Göteline, until the steward makes peace. The poet ends on the house at Riuwental that keeps him poor.

38,9 Kint, bereitet iuch der sliten ûf daz îs.

Children, make-ready yourselves the sleds upon the ice.

ja ist der leide winder kalt.

indeed is the hateful winter cold.

der hât uns der wunneclîchen bluomen vil benomen.

it has from-us of-the blissful flowers many taken.

manger grûenen linden stênt ir tolden grîs.

of-many-a green linden stand her crowns gray.

unbesungen ist der walt.

unsung is the wood.

daz ist allez von des rîfen ungenâden komen.

that is all from the frost's ungraciousness come.

mugt ir schouwen wie er hât die heide erzogen?

May you see how it has the heath brought-up?

diust von sînen schulden val.

it-is by its fault pale.

dar zuo sint die nahtigal

there to are the nightingales

alle ir wec gevlogen.

all their way flown.

Wol bedörfte ich mîner wîsen vriunde rât

Well needed I of-my wise friends counsel

umbe ein dinc, als ich iu sage,

about a matter, as I to-you tell,

daz sî rieten wâ diu kint ir vreuden solten phlegen.

that they advised where the children of-their joys should take-care.

Megenwart der wîten stuben eine hât:

Megenwart of-the wide parlors one has:

obez iu allen wol behage,

if-it to-you all well please,

dar sul wir den gofenz des vîretages legen.

thither shall we the dance-feast of-the holiday lay.

ez ist sîner tochter wille, kom wir dar.

it is his daughter's will, come we thither.

ir sultz alle ein ander sagen.

you shall-it all one another tell.

einen tanz alumben den schragen

a dance about the trestle

den brüvet Engelmâr.

that arranges Engelmâr.

Wer nâch Kûnegunde gê, des wert enein:

Who after Kûnegunt go, of-it become agreed:

der was ie nâch tanze wê:

to-her was ever for dance woe:

ez wirt uns verwizzen, ist daz man ir niht enseit.

it is to-us reproached, is that one to-her not tells.

Gîsel, ginc nâch Jiuten hin und sage in zwein,

Gîsel, go after Jiute away and tell them two,

sprich daz Elle mit in gê.

say that Elle with them go.

ez ist zwischen mir und in ein starkiu sicherheit.

it is between me and them a strong pledge.

kint, vergiz durch niemen Hädewîgen dâ,
child, forget for nobody Hädewîc there,

bit sî balde mit in gân.
bid her quickly with them go.

einen site sî sulen lân,
one custom they shall leave,

daz binden ûf die brâ.
the binding up the brows.

Ich rât allen guoten wîben über al,
I counsel all good women over all,

die der mâze wellent sîn
who of-the measure will be

daz sî hôchgemuoten mannen holdez herze tragen,
that they to-high-spirited men a-devoted heart bear,

rückenzen vorne hôher, hinden hin ze tal,
shift-it in-front higher, behind away to down,

decken baz daz nâckelîn.
cover better the little-neck.

wâ zuo sol ein tehtier ân ein collier umbe den kragen?
what to shall a head-piece without a collar about the throat?

wîp sint sicher umbe dez houbet her gewesen
women are safe about the head hitherto been

sô daz in daz niemen brach.
so that to-them that nobody broke.

swaz in anderswâ geschach,
whatever to-them elsewhere befell,

des sint ouch genesen.
of-it are-they also recovered.

Eppe der zuht Geppen Gumpen ab der hant;

Eppe he pulled Geppe from-Gumpe off the hand;

des half im sîn drischelstap:

of-it helped to-him his flail-staff;

doch geschiet ez mit der riutel meister Adelber.

yet parted it with the plow-staff master Adelber.

daz was allez umbe ein ei daz Ruopreht vant

that was all about an egg that Ruopreht found

(jâ wæn imz der tiuvel gap);

(indeed think-I to-him-it the devil gave);

dâ mit drôte er im ze werfen allez jenenther.

there with threatened he to-him to throw all yonder-ward.

Eppe der was beidiu zornic unde kal:

Eppe he was both angry and bald:

übellîchen sprach er 'tratz.'

wickedly spoke he 'defiance.'

Ruopreht warf imz an den glatz,

Ruopreht threw it-to-him on the bald-head,

daz ez ran ze tal.

so-that it ran to down.

Frideliep bî Göteline wolde gân;

Frideliep by Göteline would go;

des het Engelmâr gedâht.

of-it had Engelmâr thought.

wil iuch niht verdriezen, ich sag iu daz ende gar.

(if)-will you not weary, I tell to-you the end wholly.

Eberhart der meier muoste ez understân;

Eberhart the steward had-to it prevent;

der wart zuo der suone brâht:

he was to the reconciliation brought:

anders wære ir beider hende ein ander in daz hâr.

otherwise were of-them of-both hands one another in the hair.

zwein vil æden ganzen gênt sî vil gelîch

to-two very foolish ganders go they very alike

gein ein ander al den tac.

toward one another all the day.

der des voresingens phlac,

he-who of-the lead-singing took-care,

daz was Friderîch.

that was Friderîch.

Hie envor dô stuont sô schône mir mîn hâr,

Here before then stood so fairly to-me my hair,

umbe und umbe gie der spân.

around and around went the curl.

des vergaz ich sît man mich ein hûs besorgen hiez.

of-it forgot I since one me a house to-tend bade.

salz und korn diu muoz ich koufen durch daz jâr.

salt and grain them must I buy through the year.

wê, waz het ich im getân

woe, what had I to-him done

der mich tumben ie von êrste in disen kumber stiez?

who me foolish ever from first into this affliction shoved?

mîne schulde wâren kleine wider in.

my faults were small against him.

mîne vlüechen sint niht smal,

my curses are not narrow,

swanne ich dâ ze Riuwental

whenever I there in Riuwental

unberâten bin.

unprovided am.

‘Sinc, ein guldîn huon; ich gibe dir weize.’

SING, A GOLDEN HEN

A woman's promise of wheat sets the poet singing, as a good promise cheers a fool all year. The stools and trestles are cleared for a dance, the room thrown open so the wind can cool the dancers, and the fiddles start. At the head of the round is a peasant in a new jerkin of twenty-four cloths with a sword-strap two hands broad, who has designs on Engelbolt's daughter Âve. The poet offers Riuwental outright to the woman he serves.

‘Sinc, ein guldîn huon; ich gibe dir weize.’

40,1

‘Sing, a golden hen; I give to-thee wheat.’

schiere dô

quickly then

wart ich vrô:

became I glad:

nâch ir hulden ich vil gerne singe.

for her favor I very gladly sing.

alsô vreut den tumben guot geheize

so gladdens the foolish-one a-good promise

durch daz jâr.

through the year.

würde ez wâr,

became it true,

sô gestuont nie mannes muot sô ringe

so stood never a-man's spirit so light

alsô mir der mîne danne wære.

as to-me the mine then were.

mac sî durch ir sælekeit

May she through her blessedness

mîniu leit

my sorrows

wenden? ja ist mîn kumber klagebære.

turn? indeed is my affliction lamentable.

Rûmet ûz die schâmel und die stûele!

Clear out the stools and the chairs!

heiz die schragen

bid the trestles

vûrder tragen!

further to-carry!

hiute sul wir tanzens werden müeder.

today shall we of-dancing become wearier.

werfet ûf die stuben, so ist ez küele,

throw open the parlor, so is it cool,

daz der wint

that the wind

an diu kint

on the children

sanfte wæje durch diu übermüeder.

softly blow through the bodices.

sô die voretanzer danne swîgen,

when the lead-dancers then are-silent,

sô sult ir alle sîn gebeten

so shall you all be bidden

daz wir treten

that we step

aber ein hovesânzel nâch der gîgen.

again a little-court-dance after the fiddle.

Los ûz, ich hœr in der stuben tanzen.

Listen out, I hear in the parlor dancing.

junge man

young men

tuot iuch dan.

take yourselves thence.

da ist der dorfwîbe ein michel trünne.

there is of-the village-women a great troop.

dâ gesach man michel ridewanzen.

there saw one great ridewanz-dancing.

zwêne gigen:

two fiddled:

dô sî swigen,

when they were-silent,

daz was geiler getelinge wünne;

that was of-merry yokels delight;

seht dô wart ze zeche vor gesungen.

see then was in turn lead-singing done.

durch diu venster gie der galm.

through the windows went the noise.

Adelhalm

Adelhalm

tanzet niwan zwischen zweien jungen.

dances only between two young-women.

Gesâht ir ie gebûren sô gemeiten

Saw you ever a-peasant so decked-out

als er ist?

as he is?

wizze Krist,

know Christ,

er ist al ze vorderst anme reien.

he is all to foremost in-the round-dance.

einen vezzel zweier hende breiten

a baldric of-two hands broad

hât sîn swert.

has his sword.

harte wert

very worthy

dünket er sich sîner niuwen treien.

thinks he himself of-his new jacket.

diust von kleinen vier und zweinzec tuochen;

it-is of fine four and twenty cloths;

die ermel gênt im ûf die hant:

the sleeves go to-him onto the hand:

sîn gewant

his dress

sol man an eim æden kragen suochen.

shall one on a foolish neck seek.

Vil dörperlich stât allez sîn gerüste

Very peasant-like stands all his gear

daz er treit.

which he wears.

mirst geseit,

to-me-is told,

er sinn Engelboltes tochter Âven.

he is-minded-toward Engelbolt's daughter Âve.

den gewerp erteile ich im ze vlüste.

that wooing adjudge I to-him to failure.

si ist ein wîp

she is a woman

daz ir lîp

that her person

zæme wol ze minne einem grâven.

would-suit well to love to-a count.

dâ von lâze er sich des wîsen tougen.

there of let he himself of-it advise secretly.

zeche er anderthalben hin.

turn he elsewhere thither.

den gewin

the gain

trüege er hin ze Meinze in sînen ougen.

would-bear he away to Mainz in his eyes.

Im ist sîn treie nie sô wol zerhouwen

To-him is his jacket never so well slashed

noch sîn kel

nor his throat

nie sô hel,

ever so clear,

er enmüge sî sîn wol erlâzen.

he unless-may her of-him well release.

disen sumer hât er sî gekouwen

this summer has he her chewed

gar vür brôt.

wholly instead-of bread.

schamerôt

shame-red

wart ich, dô sî bî ein ander sâzen.

became I, when they by one another sat.

wirt sî mir der ich dâ gerne diene,

(if)-becomes she to-me whom I there gladly serve,

guotes gibe ich ir die wal,

of-goods give I to-her the choice,

Riuwental

Riuwental

gar vür eigen: deist mîn Hôhiu Siene.

wholly for property: that-is my Highb Siena.

Nu ist der leide winder hie
NOW THE HATEFUL WINTER IS HERE

The hateful winter is here and young and old are vexed by it; the poet promises the children a new song that will cost Wierât some trouble to learn. He calls the company by name to Hademuot's manor-farm for the dance. Then he remembers the woman who greeted him coldly and paid him at last with blows on the hand, and the rival Engelbreht, for whose sake he has worn out shoes and wasted many bright days.

41,33 Nu ist der leide winder hie:

Now is the hateful winter here:

des verdriuzet junge zuo den alten.

of-it wearies young-ones with the old.

welch rât wirt den kleinen vogelînen?

what remedy becomes to-the little birds?

man gesach mich stolzer nie.

one saw me prouder never.

hât diu heide rôsen vür behalten,

has the heath roses in-reserve kept,

sô mans in dem meien siht erschînen,

as one-them in the May sees appear,

den kinden singe ich niuwen sanc.

to-the children sing I a-new song.

daz wirt aber Wierât ein epfeltranc

that becomes again to-Wierât an apple-drink

ê daz siz gelerne:

before that she-it learn:

wan diu høeret mîn geplätze gerne.

for she hears my strumming gladly.

Nû wol ûf kint, welt ir dar

Now well up children, will you thither

in den meierhof ze Hademuote:

into the steward's-court to Hademuot:

dâ verwæne ich mich der massenîe.

there expect I of-me the company.

Engelbreht und Adelmâr,

Engelbreht and Adelmâr,

Friderîch in der gazzen, Tuoze, Guote,

Friderich in the lane, Tuoze, Guote,

Wentel unde ir swester alle drîe,

Wentel and her sisters all three,

Hiltburc ein vil schœnez kint,

Hiltburc a very fair child,

Jiutel unde ir muomen tohter Ermelint,

Jiutel and her aunt's daughter Ermelint,

Trûten swester Brîde

Trûte's sister Brîde

spilt mit Eppen umbe ein vingerîde.

plays with Eppe for a finger-ring.

Ez ist noch niht vol ein jâr

It is still not full a year

daz sî saz und vrouwen vil genuoge.

that she sat and ladies very many.

dô begunde sî mich seine grûezen.

then began she me slowly to-greet.

ûf mîn triuwe, daz ist wâr,

upon my troth, that is true,

sî gap mir ze koufen in dem kruoge

she gave to-me for buying in the tavern

dâ mit wir die mennescheit gebûezen.

there with we the humanity make-good.

doch muoz ich ze jungest sagen,

yet must I at last say,

dô wart wunder slege ûf mîne hant geslagen.

then was a-wonder of-blows upon my hand struck.

sô sî sî zunêren!

so be she dishonored!

...

(lacuna)

Waz ich durch den guoten kneht

What I for the good lad

niuwer schuohe dürkel hân gemachet

of-new shoes full-of-boles have made

und vil mangeln liechten tac versûmet,

and very many-a bright day wasted,

den sî dâ heizent Engelbreht.

him they there call Engelbreht.

der giht unde er sî mit mir verswachet.

he says and-that he be with me disparaged.

doch hât sî im sîne strâze gerûmet.

yet has she to-him his road cleared.

seht, des gie ir grôziu nôt,

see, of-it went to-her great need,

wande er kou sî tægelîch vûr schœnez brôt.

for he chewed her daily instead-of fair bread.

wê wiez mir erbarmet

woe how-it me grieves

daz ir vuoze bî vrömdem viwer erwarmet!

that her foot by a-stranger's fire warms!

Ûf der linden liget meil

BLIGHT LIES ON THE LINDEN

Blight lies on the linden, the wood is stripped of leaves, and the nightingale must constrain her heart. If the well-formed woman becomes his, the poet has his luck: whoever loves her stays free of care. Were the choice still his he would take her as his lady and never give her up. But at Riuwental she would find great want, bare from the ground floor to the roof-laths, and he can only hope that comfort comes from her.

Ûf der linden liget meil.

Upon the linden lies blight.

42,34

dâ von ist der walt des loubes âne

there of is the wood of-the foliage bereft

und diu nahtegal ir herze twinget.

and the nightingale her heart constrains.

wirt sî mir, sô hân ich heil,

(if)-becomes she to-me, so have I fortune,

diech dâ meine: deist diu wolgetâne,

whom-I there mean: that-is the well-formed-one,

diu mir mîn gemüete dicke ringet.

who to-me my spirit often lightens.

wol ir, daz sî sælic sî!

hail to-her, that she blessed be!

swer sî minnet, der belibet sorgen vrî.

whoever her loves, he remains of-cares free.

si ist unwandelbære.

she is unblemished.

wîten garten tuot sî rûeben lære.

wide gardens makes she of-turnips empty.

Stüende ez noch an mîner wal,

Stood it still at my choice,

sô nâem ich die schœnen zeiner vrouwen,

so took I the fair-one for-a lady,

der ich mich doch nimmer wil verzîhen.

whom I myself yet never will renounce.

kumt sî mir ze Riuwental,

(if)-comes she to-me to Riuwental,

sî mac grôzen mangel wol dâ schouwen.

she may great want well there behold.

von dem ebenhûse unz an die rîhen

from the ground-floor up to the rafters

dâ stêt iz leider allez blôz.

there stands it alas all bare.

jâ mach ichs wol armer liute hûsgenôz.

indeed make I-her well of-poor people a-housemate.

doch ding ich ze lîbe,

yet hope I to live,

kumt mir trôst von einem schœnen wîbe.

(if)-comes to-me comfort from a fair woman.

Verboten ist den kleinen vogelînen

THE SMALL BIRDS ARE FORBIDDEN THEIR SONG

The small birds are forbidden the song they sang all summer, and the days have turned gloomy. The woman the poet praises is angry with him, for he is at odds with her; three rivals this year lay in her ears like bees, and he means to take her out of their circle and keeps Wasegrim and Adelhûne from whispering with her. Egelolf's hand has gone too far already. Merhenbreht closes the song with a boast of his own courting.

Verboten ist den kleinen vogelînen

43,15

Forbidden is to-the little birds

ir gesanc,

their song,

diu den sumer sungen über al.

who the summer sang over all.

nû siht man leider lützel bluomen schînen:

now sees one alas few flowers shine:

des ist lanc

of-it is long

daz sî von dem rîfen wurden val.

that they from the frost became pale.

aber sâ

again at-once

sint die tage trûebe.

are the days dim.

diu nêhste rûebe in mînem garten grûebe,

she-who nearest turnip in my garden would-dig,

diu tanze ûf mîner slâ.

she would-dance upon my track.

Wol ir, si ist ein wîp in hôhem prîse,
Hail to-her, she is a woman in high praise,

lobesam,
laudable,

unde ist aller wandelunge vrî.
and is of-all changing free.

nû râtet, mîne vriunt: ich bin niht wîse.
now counsel, my friends: I am not wise.

si ist mir gram,
she is to-me hostile,

wande ich bin bewarren wider sî.
for I am embroiled with her.

ditze jâr
this year

wâren ir wol drîe
were of-them well three

die ir in den ôren lâgen als diu bîe,
who to-her in the ears lay like the bee,

sôs immer kômen dar.
whenever-they ever came thither.

Die selben wolden gerne mich verdringen
Those same would gladly me crowd-out

alle drî,
all three,

vunden sî gehengen inder dâ.
found they connivance anywhere there.

ich muoz si et weizgot ûz ir kreize bringen,
I must her just God-knows out-of their circle bring,

daz sî sî
so-that she be

daz die dörper ninder wizzen wâ.
where the peasants nowhere know where.

ich bewar

I guard

daz mit ir iht rûne

that with her not whisper

jener Wasegrim oder Adelhûne,

yonder Wasegrim or Adelhûne,

swie verre ich von ir var.

however far I from her fare.

Den zweien bin ich vînt als einem wolve

To-the two am I an-enemy as to-a wolf

durch den haz

for the hate

daz sî gênt ûf mînen umbesweif.

that they go upon my circuit.

ich hete ez ie ze nîde an Egelolve

I held it ever to grudge against Egelolf

daz er saz

that he sat

bî ir unde ouch etewenne greif

by her and also sometimes groped

mit der hant

with the hand

hin dâ wir daz suoehen

thither where we that seek

dâ mit wir unser mennescheit beruoehen:

there with we our humanity attend-to:

niht nâher er erwant.

not nearer he stopped.

Er tôre, und werdent sîn ir bruoder inne

He fool, and become of-it her brothers aware

daz er sich

that he himself

alsô sêre nâch ir minne sent,

so sorely after her love longs,

ez wirt im weizgot ein vil sûriu minne.

it becomes to-him God-knows a very sour love.

wil er mich

(if)-will he me

vil gereizen, sô wirt er gedent

much provoke, so is he stretched

durch den tanz

through the dance

bî sînem reiden hâre.

by his curly hair.

habe ûf mînem schuohe in disem jâre,

have upon my shoe in this year,

bestê sîn houbet ganz.

remain his head whole.

‘Ich wil mich gegen der süezen minne briuten’

‘I will myself toward the sweet love betroth’

sprach Merhenbreht,

spoke Merbenbreht,

‘wûrd mîns meisters acker nimmer garn.

‘became of-my master’s field never yarn.

und solde ich ir daz nâckelîn zeriuten

and should I to-her the little-neck to-clear

(daz ist sô sleht),

(that is so smooth),

daz kund Adelhûne niht bewarn.

that could Adelhûne not prevent.

Ekkerîch,

Ekkerich,

swaz er dar an gewinne

whatever he there at win

daz er nâch meier Guoten tohter sinne,

that he after steward Guote’s daughter is-minded,

an sînen stein daz strîch.’

on his stone that stroke.’

‘Owê mir dirre nô’t

WOE IS ME FOR THIS DISTRESS

A woman laments the ending of the summer and the red flowers fading before the wood; had they lasted, she would have had a garland of them. The dancers are named, with Eberhart at Gisela's hand. The poet steps up to one dancer and is driven off by her mother, who swears the girl goes free of all men while she lives; the daughter answers that her every thought is carried away from him. His jesting wins her back before the day is out.

44,36 ‘Owê mir dirre nô’t

‘Alas to-me of-this distress’

sprach ein wîp: ‘der sumer wil zergân.

spoke a woman: ‘the summer will pass.

des gewinne ich lîhte noch vor leide ein grâwez hâr.

of-it get I perhaps yet from sorrow a gray hair.

ich sihe die bluomen rô’t

I see the flowers red

vor dem walde trûriclichen stân.

before the wood mournfully stand.

die heten alsô liechten schîn: nû valwents aber gar.

they had so bright a-shining: now fade-they again wholly.

und möhten uns die bluomen alsô schoene sîn beliben,

and might to-us the flowers thus fair have remained,

seht, der würde vile lîhte mir ein kranz;

see, of-them would very likely to-me a garland;

wande ir glanz

for their gleam

hât mir mîner swære vil vertriben.’

has to-me of-my grief much driven-away.’

Diu heide ist gar verblüet.

The heath is wholly out-of-bloom.

die rôten tolden rîsent valwe nider.

the red crowns fall faded down.

daz machent in die sorgen die sî zuo dem rîfen hânt.

that make to-them the cares which they toward the frost have.

owê, wie sî der müet,

alas, how them it troubles,

er oucholf. kumt der sumer immer wider,

he toad-fellow. comes the summer ever again,

der machet sî sô wol gevar dazs aber schône stânt.

he makes them so well colored that-they again fairly stand.

muschâ mirz, wiez Gîsel dâ mit tanze tîchen sol!

tell it-to-me, how-it Gîsel there with dancing make shall!

seht, des hilfet Jiutel Berhtel Irmengart.

see, of-it helps Jiutel Berhtel Irmengart.

Eberhart

Eberhart

der gât an ir hant: seht, so ist im wol.

he goes at her hand: see, so is to-him well.

Ich kom an eine stat:

I came to a place:

triuwen, dâ was höfscher kinde vil.

in-troth, there was of-courtly children many.

sî heten einen tanz, der was dem vletze gar ze wît.

they had a dance, which was for-the hall wholly too wide.

zuo einer ich getrat.

to one I stepped.

ir muoter sprach ‘waz ob ich des niht wil

her mother spoke ‘what if I of-it not will

daz ir mit ir iht rûnet? woy daz ir verwâzen sît!

that you with her at-all whisper? woe that you accursed be!

lât sî mit genâden; zechet anderthalben hin.

leave her with grace; turn elsewhere thither.

ir hœret wol daz sî mit iu niht rûnen kan.

you hear well that she with you not whisper can.

aller man

of-all men

gât sî vrî die wîle ich lebendic bin.'

goes she free the while I living am.'

"Muoter, zûrnet niht.

"Mother, be-angry not.

machet mir daz beiten niht ze lanc.

make to-me the waiting not too long.

beite er unze morgen, seht, sô mües ich im versagen.

wait he until tomorrow, see, so must I to-him refuse.

als in mîn ouge an siht,

as him my eye on looks,

von im sô treit mich aller mîn gedanc.

from him so bears me all my thought.

des gât mir nôt. jâ wart ich vert vil wol durch in zerslagen

of-it goes to-me need. indeed was I last-year very well for him beaten

wê wiez mir versmâhet daz ez mir durch in geschach.

woe how-it me galls that it to-me for him befell.

vrouwe, nû wis im durch mînen willen gram:

lady, now be to-him for my sake hostile:

ich tuon sam.

I do likewise.

jâ ist erz den ie mîn lîp versprach."

indeed is he-it whom ever my person refused."

Sî hât sich mîn erwert.

She has herself of-me warded.

wie rehte kûme sî daz hât getân!

how very hardly she that has done!

sî zeigte mir den wolves zant dâ si vil ebene saz.

she showed to-me the wolf's tooth where she very calmly sat.

ob sî nû wol gevert,

if she now well fares,

sô muoz ouch mir mîn dinc nâch heile ergân.

so must also to-me my matter after fortune turn-out.

zwinze ich hiute, jâ gesihe ich lihte morgen baz.

squint I today, indeed see I perhaps tomorrow better.

argiu wîp gelônent selten guoten mannen wol.

malicious women reward seldom good men well.

swer die triuwe suochet dâ ir lützel ist,

whoever the troth seeks where of-it little is,

deist ein list

that-is a cunning

der sî doch vil kleine helfen sol.

which him yet very little help shall.

Nû sorge ich hinder mich.

Now care I bebind me.

swie sî sich immer helfe an mir bewar,

however she herself ever help against me guard,

ich weiz wol, sî denket mîn, in swelher mâze ez sî.

I know well, she thinks of-me, in whatever measure it be.

sî sündet anders sich,

she sins otherwise herself,

wan ich mit grôzen triuwen von ir var.

for I with great troth from her fare.

getörste ich, jâ wær ich ir zallen zîten gerne bî.

dared I, indeed were I to-her at-all times gladly by.

ich widersitze'n salman in des handen sî dâ stât,
I dread'the guardian in whose hands she there stands,

er sel sî anderthalben hin dann ich sî bite.
he may-give her elsewhere thither than I her ask.

solhen site
such a-custom

man dâ heime in mîner pharre hât.
one there at-home in my parish has.

Mîn schimphen half an ir.
My jesting helped with her.

dô sî des zornes muotes widerwant,
when she of-the angry mood turned-away,

sî brâhte mich des inne daz ir zürnen was ein troum.
she brought me of-it aware that her being-angry was a dream.

vriunde wurde wir.
friends became we.

sî gie des tages vil gar an mîner hant
she went of-the day very wholly at my hand

die wîle ich bî dem tanze was. des nam ir Matze goun.
the while I by the dance was. of-it took her Matze notice.

sî sprach 'vrouwe, tuot sîn niht: ir kumts in grôzen nît.'
she spoke 'lady, do of-it not: you get-of-it into great ill-will.'

mit der rede kunde sirz verbieten nie.
with the talk could she-it-to-her forbid never.

an diu knie
on the knees

brâhte mich diu selbe dierne sît.
brought me the same girl since.

Wie sol ich die bluomen überwinden

HOW SHALL I GET OVER THE FLOWERS

The flowers are spoiled and the linden that roofed the dancers against the sun stands bare, and for that the poet is angry at the winter. He asks his friends how to deal with a woman who fights him off: he caught her swingling flax, found her too strong and himself too weak, and took a fist against the breast for his jesting. She roasted six pears and gave him two. Later, under the hedge, she made it up.

Wie sol ich die bluomen überwinden

46,28

How shall I the flowers get-over

die sô gar verdorben sint?

which so wholly perished are?

die siht man nû nindert sô mans in dem meien sach.

them sees one now nowhere as one-them in the May saw.

ir vergezzet niht der grünen linden

you forget not the green linden

(wê, wâ tanzent nû diu kint?):

(alas, where dance now the children?):

diu was uns den sumer vür die heizen sunne ein dach.

she was to-us the summer against the hot sun a roof.

diu ist grüenes loubes worden âne.

she is of-green foliage become bereft.

des bin ich dem winder gram,

of-it am I to-the winter hostile,

sît er uns die rôsen ab der heide nam,

since it from-us the roses off the heath took,

die dâ stuonden hiuwer wolgetâne.

which there stood this-year well-formed.

Mîne vriunde, râtet wiech gebâre

My friends, counsel how-I bear-myself

umbe ein wîp, diu wert sich mîn.

about a woman, she wards herself of-me.

die begreif ich dâ sî flahs ir meisterinne swanc.

her caught I where she flax to-her mistress swungled.

diu wert sich des êrsten vil undâre:

she warded herself at first very indifferently:

doch tet sî ze jungest schîn

yet made she at last clear

daz sî mir ze starke was und ich ir alze kranc.

that she for-me too strong was and I for-her all-too weak.

leider lûtel half mich dô mîn ringen.

alas little helped me then my wrestling.

doch versuochte ich sît genuoc,

yet tried I since enough,

mangen ungevüegen buc den sî mir sluoc.

many-a mighty blow which she to-me struck.

sî sprach 'liupper, sitzet, lât mich swingen.'

she spoke 'dear-fellow, sit, let me swingle.'

Ich begunde mit der guoten schimphen

I began with the good-one to-jest

alsô mich daz herze hiez.

as me the heart bade.

lîse greif ich dort hin dâ diu wîp sô stundic sint.

softly groped I yonder thither where the women so ripe are.

dicke zeigtes mir ir ungelimphen.

often showed-she to-me her rudeness.

in dem tûsche sî mich stiez

in the tussle she me shoved

mit der viuste gên den brüsten sô daz ich ergint.

with the fist against the breast so that I gasped.

‘ir lât mich wûrken, leider witestecke.

‘you let me work, alas wood-stick.

iuwer lîp ist ungeseit.

your person is unspeakable.

vreischet ez mîn muome, jâ kiut sî mir leit,

learns it my aunt, indeed cries she to-me sorrow,

daz ich immer iht mit iu gezecke.’

that I ever at-all with you tussle.’

Grôziu kraft diu was uns beiden tiuwer

Great strength it was to-us both lacking

von dem ringen daz wir dô

from the wrestling that we then

mit ein ander tâten umbe ein dinc des ist nû site.

with one another did about a thing of-which is now custom.

sehse biren briet sî in dem viuwer.

six pears roasted she in the fire.

der gap mir diu vrouwe zwô;

of-them gave to-me the lady two;

viere az sî selbe, dâ labt sî daz herze mite.

four ate she herself, there refreshed she the heart with.

heten wir des obezes niht vunden,

had we of-the fruit not found,

ich wær in mîn ouge tât.

I were in my eye dead.

och, zwîu lîde ich armer alsô grôze nôt?

oh, to-what suffer I poor-one so great distress?

wes hân ich mich tumber underwunden?

of-what have I fool myself taken-charge?

Langiu mære lât iu kurzer machen,

Long tales let to-you shorter be-made,

swiez umb allen spot ergê.

however-it about all mockery turn-out.

ich gesach nie jungez wîp sô grimmedlîch geslahen.

I saw never a-young woman so grimly strike.

ich muoz dicke ir schimphes vil gelachen.

I must often of-her jesting much laugh.

waz dar umbe, was mir wê?

what there about, was to-me woe?

daz versuonte sî ouch sît ûf einer derreblahen.

that atoned-for she also since upon a drying-cloth.

bî ir muomen hûse underm hecke

by her aunt's house under-the hedge

kam ich zir, des was sî geil.

came I to-her, of-it was she merry.

mînes guotes wart ir dâ daz beste teil:

of-my goods became to-her there the best part:

dâ liez ich der vrouwen Siuftenecke.

there left I to-the lady Sighing-corner.

Nu ist der kleinen vogelîne singen

NOW THE SMALL BIRDS' SINGING IS GONE

The birdsong and the bright flowers are gone, and the woman the poet calls his heart's queen has denied him since childhood. He took a glass stylus out of her hand and was blamed for it; she swears she will never sing his tune or dance behind him again, and he has to send the thing back. He praises her past every girl in the ring, and warns that at Riuwental she would find dry mouths, where talk is wind and a blow a bump.

Nu ist der kleinen vogelîne singen

48,1

Now is of-the little birds' singing

und der liechten bluomen schîn vil gar zergân.

and of-the bright flowers' shining very wholly passed.

wolde ein wîp mir liebez ende bringen,

would a woman to-me a-dear end bring,

mir wær als ichs immer bêde solde hân,

to-me were as if-I-of-it ever both should have,

diu mich ir genâden ie verzêch von Kindes beine:

she to-me her favor ever refused from child's leg:

doch bit ich die guoten dazs ir triuwe an mir erscheine;

yet beg I the good-one that-she her troth on me show;

mînes herzen kûneginne ich meine.

of-my heart the-queen I mean.

Niemen sol an vrouwen sich vergâhen.

Nobody shall with ladies himself over-basten.

des wart ich wol inne: mirst diu mîne gram.

of-it became I well aware: to-me-is the mine hostile.

der getrat ich leider alsô nâhen

to-her stepped I alas so near

daz ich ûz ir hende ein glesîn grüfel nam.

that I out-of her hand a glass stylus took.

daz wart ir gekoufet; in der krâme stuont ez veile.

that was to-her bought; in the stall stood it for-sale.

daz wart mir verwizzen sît nâch grôzem unheile,

that was to-me reproached since after great misfortune,

dô sî reit mit kinden ûf dem seile.

when she rode with children upon the rope.

Wan daz guote liute mir gewâgen,

Save that good people to-me stood-surety,

jâ wær ich gehœnet umbe ir rôtez glas.

indeed were I shamed about her red glass.

sî begunde mich in zorne vrâgen

she began me in anger to-ask

‘liupper herre, sagt wie dûht ich iuch sô blas

‘dear sir, tell how seemed I to-you so worthless

daz ir mir mîn grüffel nâmet unverdienter dingen?

that you to-me my stylus took of-uneared things?

jâne wil ich nimmer iuvern treirôs gesingen

indeed will I never your treirôs sing

noch nâch iu den reien niht enspringen.’

nor after you the round-dance at-all leap.’

“Vrouwe, zallen dingen hœret mâze:

“Lady, to-all things belongs measure:

zürnet sô daz iu der zorn iht missezem.

be-angry so that to-you the anger not misbecome.

mîne stîge gânt an iuwer strâze:

my paths go across your street:

schaffet daz man mir ein phant dar umbe iht nem."
arrange that one from-me a pledge there about not take."

'wâ gesâhet ir ie wîp die man alsô gephenden?
'where saw you ever a-woman whom one so distrain?

jâ getrûwe ichz sust nâch mînem willen wol volenden.'
indeed trust I-it thus after my will well to-finish.'

nâch dem grüfelîne muos ich senden.
after the little-stylus must I send.

Ich gesach nie jungez wîp sô lôse
I saw never a-young woman so sly

diu ir lîp den mannen kunde baz versagen
who her body to-the men could better refuse

unde ir werkes immer iht verbôse.
and of-her work ever anything spoil.

hei sold ich daz heu mit ir hin hinder tragen,
hey should I the hay with her thither behind carry,

als wir hie bevor in unser gâmelîche tâten!
as we here before in our merriment did!

vaste wir ez mit den vûezen zuo dem zûne trâten
firmly we it with the feet to the fence trod

mangen morgen vruo und âbent spâten.
many-a morning early and evening late.

Si ist an allen dingen wol ze prîsen;
She is in all things well to be-praised;

noch ist in dem kreize niemen alsô wert.
still is in the circle nobody so worthy.

ir gebende ist niwan glanze rîsen:
her head-dress is only a-gleaming veil:

wol genætiu hûetel truoc sî dannoch vert.
well sewn little-caps wore she yet last-year.

wirt sî mir, ich hân mîn leit mit vröuden überwunden.

(if)-becomes she to-me, I have my sorrow with joys overcome.

ich wæn, alle die der sint ein bezzer kint niht vunden,

I think, all who there are a better child not found,

wan daz ir diu vüezel sint zeschrunden.

save that to-her the little-feet are chapped.

Ich bin von der guoten ungescheiden

I am from the good-one unsundered

mînes lîbes und der ganzen triuwen mîn.

of-my body and of-the whole troth mine.

wol gelinge uns mit ein ander beiden:

well prosper to-us with one another both:

sî sol mîn gewaltic zeinem vriedel sîn.

she shall of-me have-power for-a lover to-be.

maneger sagt den wîben von dem guote grôzen griule:

many-a-one tells to-the women of the goods great horror:

kumt sî mit ze Riuwental, sî vindet durre miule;

(if)-comes she with to Riuwental, she finds dry mouths;

dâ ist rede ein wint, ein slac ein biule.

there is talk a wind, a blow a bump.

Dô der liebe summer

WHEN THE DEAR SUMMER TOOK ITS LEAVE

With the summer gone the dances on the meadow stop, which galls Sir Gunderam, now dice-master for the winter and the most wretched fool in the land. He handles the maids roughly, and when the holiday company gathers to Erkenpreht's lyre and Sigemâr's drum the poet imagines what his own two-edged game would do among them. He threatens any rival he catches dancing at his lady's hand with a gash an ell wide.

Dô der liebe summer

49,10

When the dear summer

urloup genam,

leave took,

dô muose man der tânze

then had-to one the dances

ûf dem anger gar verphlegen.

on the meadow wholly forgo.

des gewan sît kummer

of-it got since affliction

der herre Gunderam.

the lord Gunderam.

der muose ouch sîn gestränze

he had-to also his swaggering

dô lâzen under wegen.

then leave under way.

der ist bickelmeister disen winder.

he is dice-master this winter.

œder gouch ist in dem lande ninder.

a-more-foolish gawk is in the land nowhere.

sîn rûmegazze kaphet zallen zîten wol hin hinder.

his clear-the-lane gaps at-all times well thither backward.

Waz er an den meiden

What he on the maidens

wunders dâ begât

of-wonders there commits

ê daz mîn vrouwe Schelle

before that my lady Bell

volende ir gebot!

finishes her command!

erst vil unbescheiden:

he-is very unreasonable:

wan swelhe er bestât,

for whomever he assails,

diu wirt von slegen helle,

she becomes from blows loud,

und mîdent sî den spot.

and avoid they the mockery.

dâ von lâzen alle ir smutzemunden,

there of leave all their simpering,

des die jungen niht verhelen kunden!

which the young-ones not hide could!

des hât ir hant von solher meisterscheffe dicke enphunden.

of-it has their hand of such mastery often felt.

Immer sô man vîret

Whenever so one keeps-holiday

sô hebent sî sich dar

so lift they themselves thither

mit einer samenunge,

with a gathering,

den ich wol schaden gan.

to-whom I well harm grant.

Erkenpreht der lîret,

Erkenpreht he fiddles,

sô sumbert Sigemâr.

so drums Sigemâr.

daz in dâ misselunge

that to-them there it-went-ill

daz læge et eben an.

that would just fitly be.

daz sich doch vil lîhte mac verrîden:

that itself yet very easily may twist:

wellents ir getelse niht vermîden,

(if)-will-they their clatter not avoid,

sich mugen zwêne an mîner weibeluoten wol versnîden.

themselves may two on my bailiff's-rod well cut.

Koeme ich zeinem tanze

Came I to-a dance

dâs alle giengen bî,

where-they all went by,

dâ wurde ein spil von hende

there would-become a play out-of hand

mit beiden ekken zuo.

with both edges to.

lîhte geuele ein schanze

easily would-fall a chance

daz vor mir lægen drî.

that before me lay three.

ich hielte ez âne wende,

I held it without turning,

verbûte ez einer vruo.

forbid it one early.

sige und sælde hulfen mir gewinnen,

victory and blessing would-help to-me to-win,

daz sî halbe müesen danne entrinnen.

so-that they half must then escape.

nû ziehen ûf und lâzen in ir gogelheit zerinnen.

now let-draw up and let to-them their wantonness run-out.

Seht sîn weidegeuge

See his prowling-rounds

die verewent mich grâ,

they color me gray,

swenn er verwendeclîchen

whenever he arrogantly

vür mîne vrouwen gât.

before my lady goes.

trîbet erz die lenge,

drives he-it at length,

bestât er danne dâ,

abides he then there,

man bûezet im den kîchen,

one cures for-him the wbeezing,

daz er vil riuwic stât.

so-that he very rueful stands.

er und etelîcher sîn geselle,

he and some-a-one his companion,

den ich tanzent an ir hant ersnelle,

whom I dancing at her hand overtake,

des sî gewis, ich slahe in daz sîn offen stât ein elle.

of-it be sure, I strike him that of-him open stands an ell.

Im hilfet niht sîn treie

To-him helps not his jacket

noch sîn hiubelhuet,

nor his little-hood-hat,

wirt er dar an bekrenket.

is he there at weakened.

er zuhte ir einen bal.

he snatched from-her a ball.

er ist ein toerscher leie.

he is a foolish layman.

sîn tumplicher muot

his silly spirit

wirt im dâ in getrenket.

is to-him there in drenched.

wil er vür Riuwental

(if)-will he past Riuwental

hin und her sô vil gewentschelieren,

hitber and thither so much to-strut,

er wirt wol zezeiset under vieren.

he is well torn under four.

her Erkenbreht, waz mag ich des, wirt iu ein umberieren?

sir Erkenbreht, what may I of-it, becomes to-you an about-stirring?

Diu sunne und ouch die bluomen hânt ir hœhe hin geneiget

THE SUN AND THE FLOWERS HAVE BENT FROM THEIR HEIGHT

The sun and the flowers have bent from their height, the birds are silenced, and the wood suffers under sour winds; the winter and a woman together are making the poet old. She will not hear his song with either ear. The yokels boasted all summer that he would forswear singing, and he answers them man by man: Ellenhart's brooch, Beremuot's helmet-bat, Megengôz's swagger. He ends asking his friends for fire-aid after an arsonist burned his children's living.

50,37 Diu sunne und ouch die bluomen hânt ir hœhe hin geneiget;

The sun and also the flowers have their height away inclined;

ir vil liechter schîn beginnet truoben alle tage.

their very bright shining begins to-dim all days.

dâ von sint diu vogelîn ir sanges gar gesweiget

there of are the little-birds of-their song wholly silenced

(daz ist vor allem leide mînes senden herzen klage)

(that is before all sorrow of-my longing heart's lament)

und der walt

and the wood

muoz von sûren winden ungevüegen schaden dulden.

must from bitter winds grievous harm suffer.

ich hazze den winder kalt:

I hate the winter cold:

disiu nôt kumt gar von sînen schulden;

this distress comes wholly from its faults;

er unde ein wîp diu machent mich in kurzen tagen alt.

it and a woman they make me in short days old.

Diu wil mit beiden ôren niht gehœren swaz ich singe:

She will with both ears not hear whatever I sing:

kunde ich sanfte rûnen, daz vernæme sî mir gar.

could I softly whisper, that would-hear she from-me wholly.

unsælic müeze er sîn der mich von ir genâden dringe,

unblessed must he be who me from her favor press,

swelhen ende er kêre, daz er nimmer wol gevar.

whatever end he turn, that he never well fare.

ich vergaz

I forgot

ir mit triuwen nie: nû tuot sî mir sô toubez ôre

her with troth never: now turns she to-me so a-deaf ear

ie lenger sô ie baz.

ever longer so ever more.

des bin ich mit guotem willen tôre.

of-it am I with a-good will a-fool.

mir schadent getelinge, ich wæne, durch den alten haz.

to-me harm yokels, I think, through the old hate.

Die wâren des gerüemic disen sumer an der strâzen,

They were of-it boastful this summer on the street,

dô man sagete daz ich singen wolde gar verloben.

when one said that I singing would wholly renounce.

ir etelicher möhte sîn gemüffe gerner lâzen,

of-them some-a-one might his grimacing more-gladly leave,

dem sîn gämellîche zimt als einem der wil toben.

to-whom his merriment suits as to-one who will rave.

Ellenhart

Ellenbart

treit an sînem buosem ein vil wæhez vürgespenge.

wears on his bosom a very showy brooch.

er und Regenwart

he and Regenwart

habent mit den wîben ir gerenge.

have with the women their scuffling.

jâ sint sî doch zewâre beide niht von hôher art.

indeed are they yet in-truth both not of high kind.

Ich gevriesch bî mînen jâren nie gebûren alsô geile

I learned-of in my years never peasants so merry

sô die selben zwêne sint und etelîcher mêt.

as the same two are and some-a-one more.

wie wol sî noch verkoufent daz sî tôren vüerent veile.

how well they still sell what they as-fools carry for-sale.

got geb in den market daz man sî mit vollen wer.

God give to-them the market that one them with fullness pay.

Beremuot

Beremuot

hât mit in vil mangan liechten vîretac geloufen.

has with them very many-a bright holiday run.

wirt sîn gelücke guot,

(if)-becomes his fortune good,

er mac sînen merz vil wol verkoufen.

he may his wares very well sell.

erst aber ungewunnen, treit er sînen hiubelhuot.

he-is again unconquered, wears he his little-hood-bat.

Dar durch ist er mit swerten in sîn houbet unverschrôten.

There through is he with swords in his head unwounded.

dar zuo treit er ouch ein hôhez collier umbe den kragen:

there to wears he also a high collar about the throat:

derst ûf und ûf gezieret wol mit einem tuoche rôten.

it-is up and up adorned well with a cloth red.

daz sol jungen mägden an dem tanze wol behagen.

that shall young maidens at the dance well please.

Megengôz

Megengôz

biutet sich gein in: er dünkhet sich sô ragehüffe.

offers himself against them: he thinks himself so jut-hipped.

des üppikheit ist grôz.

whose vanity is great.

ich weiz niht war sich der tôre güffe.

I know not whither itself the fool would-boast.

vor im genæse niemen. würde ouch im ein drüzzelstôz!

before him would-escape nobody. May-come also to-him a snout-blow!

Ich hân von æden ganzen alle wîle her gesungen,

I have of foolish ganders all while hither sung,

die mich nie sô sêre gemuoten dâ ze Riuwental.

who me never so sorely troubled there in Riuwental.

er hât in disem sumer an einer mägde hant gesprungen,

he has in this summer at a maid's hand leapt,

diu sîn doch niht næme, und hiet sî aller manne wal.

who of-him yet not would-take, and had she of-all men choice.

afterreif

back-ring

hât sîn langez swert mit einem schûbelohten knophe.

has his long sword with a disk-shaped knob.

dô man die tânze sleif,

when one the dances trod,

dô reit er daz houbet ûf dem krophe

then bore he the head upon the crop

vil verwendeclîchen, wan er ûf sîn hüffe greif.

very arrogantly, for he upon his hip gripped.

Mich hât ein ungetriuwer tougenlichen an gezündet,

Me has an unfaithful-one secretly on set-fire,

hât mir vil verbrant des mîniu kindel solten leben.

has to-me much burnt whereof my little-children should live.

diu leit sîn unserm trehtîn und den vriunden mîn gekündet.

that sorrow be to-our Lord and to-the friends mine made-known.

ich hân nû dem rîchen noch dem armen niht ze geben.

I have now to-the rich nor to-the poor nothing to give.

mir ist nôt,

to-me is need,

gebent mir die vriunt mit guotem willen brandes stiuwer.

give to-me the friends with a-good will of-fire support.

gewinne ich eigen brôt,

(if)-win I my-own bread,

ich gesanc nie gernner danne ouch hiuwer.

I sang never more-gladly than also this-year.

jâ fürhte ich daz ich ê vil ofte werde schamerôt.

indeed fear I that I before very often become shame-red.

Êst ein winder. nemt des war

IT IS WINTER

It is winter, and the heath and the green wood are stained with it; many a heart must leave its joy. What gladness the poet has comes from the hope that the well-formed one will free him of care. Two rivals have agreed out of envy that he shall never have a part of her, and wherever he hides they drive him from his own headland. Megengôz and Ezekint aim at the same, and he is in their outlawry summer and winter.

Êst ein winder. nemt des war

52,21

It-is a winter. take of-it heed

an der lieben heide:

on the dear heath:

die hât er gemeilet und den grünen walt;

her has it blighted and the green wood;

bluomen unde voge le singen ist in gar zergân;

of-flowers and of-birds singing is to-them wholly passed;

sî sint beidiu missevar.

they are both discolored.

seht an ir getreide:

see at their crops:

daz ist allez von dem leiden rîfen kalt.

that is all from the hateful frost cold.

manic herze muoz von sînen schulden vreude lân.

many-a heart must through its fault joy forgo.

wirde ich vrô,

(if)-become I glad,

daz kumt noch von einem lieben wâne,

that comes still from a dear expectation,

sî getuo mich sorgen vrî

she may-make me of-cares free

der ich gerne læge bî.

whom I gladly would-lie by.

daz ist diu wolgetâne.

that is the well-formed-one.

Gît mir iemen guoten rât?

Gives to-me anyone good counsel?

wol bedörfte ich lêre.

well needed I teaching.

zwêne sint vor nîde worden des enein,

two are through envy become of-it agreed,

mugen siz erwenden, mir enwerde ir nimmer teil.

(if)-may they-it prevent, to-me become of-her never a-share.

einer dâ her höfschen gât.

one there hither courting comes.

seht, der mûet mich sêre

see, he troubles me sorely

mit sîm werren den er brüevet under ein.

with his discord which he stirs among one-another.

werbe er umbe ir minne, volgen müeze im unheil.

woos he for her love, follow must to-him misfortune.

erst ein gouch.

he-is a gawk.

swâ ich mich verbürge in dem lande,

wherever I myself hide in the land,

er und jener Engelher

he and yonder Engelher

triben mich mit wîges her

drove me with war's host

ab mîner anewande.

off my headland.

Der ich holdez herze trage,

She-to-whom I a-devoted heart bear,

swie sî nie getæte

though she never did

mînes willen gegen einer hirsen vesen,

of-my will against a millet husk,

sît ich êrste nâch ir hulden ir ze singen phlac,

since I first after her favor to-her to sing took-care,

lônte sî mir mîner tage

rewarded she to-me of-my days

dâ mit ich sî bâte,

there with I her begged,

sô wær ich von senelîcher nôt genesen.

so were I from longing distress recovered.

die daz wendent die gewinnen nimmer guoten tac,

they-who that prevent they gain never a-good day,

swer sî sîn.

whoever they be.

doch wæn ich sî sumelîche erkenne

yet think I them some to-know

die mir niht ze wæge sint.

who to-me not to friendly are.

Megengôz und Æzekint

Megengôz and Æzekint

die râments etewenne.

they aim-at-it sometimes.

Wê geschehe in. swar ich var,

Woe befall them. wherever I fare,

ich bin in ir æhte

I am in their outlawry

die den sumer tanze brüevent in dem geu

who the summer dances arrange in the district

und den winder in der spilstuben herren sint.

and the winter in the play-parlor lords are.

wilen muot mich Engelmâr.

once troubled me Engelmâr.

owê, der mich bræhte

alas, who me would-bring

da ich genæse vor ir üppiclicher dreu.

where I might-escape from their wanton threat.

disiu nôt ist umbe ein wolgetânez diernkint.

this distress is about a well-formed girl-child.

derne gan

her grant

ich in niht: dâ nîdent sî mich umbe.

I to-them not: there envy they me about.

ez ist âne mînen danc

it is against my will

swaz er ie nâch ir geranc,

whatever he ever after her strove,

Æzekint der tumble.

Æzekint the foolish.

Wie verwinde ich beide
HOW SHALL I GET OVER BOTH

The poet asks how he is to get over his love and the summer at once, and thinks he might fall silent as the small birds have. Engelwân, Uoze, and merry Ruoze plot to keep him from his reward, and he asks his lady not to follow their counsel. He mocks Engelwân's borrowed Flemish courtliness and his puffing like a sated dove, then turns to Love herself, whose cords leave him no defense.

Wie verwinde ich beide

53,35

How get-over I both

mîn liep und die súmerzît?

my love and the summer-season?

ine kan die wolgetânen schiere niht verklagen.

I can the well-formed-one quickly not cease-to-lament.

von sô grôzem leide

from so great sorrow

mir riuwe âne vrêude gît

to-me rue without joy gives

trûre ich wol von schulden nû ze disen trûeben tagen

mourn I well from cause now in these dreary days

die uns den winder kündent, der uns manger vrôude roubet.

which to-us the winter announce, which from-us many-a joy robs.

sanges habent sich diu kleinen vogelîn geloubet:

of-song have themselves the little birds forsworn:

alsô möhte ich wol mit mînem sange stille dâgen.

so might I well with my song silent be-still.

Sol mich niht vervâhen

(if)-Shall me not avail

mîn trôst und mîn lieber wân,

my comfort and my dear expectation,

sô enweiz ich waz genâden ich mich trœsten mac.

so not-know I what of-favors I myself comfort may.

wol mac ir versmâhen

well may to-her be-scorned

mîn diēnest dēn ich ir hân

my service which I to-her have

lange her geleistet und des ie mit triuwen phlac.

long hither performed and of-it ever with troth took-care.

alsô phlæge ichs immer gerne, möhte ich des geniezen,

so would-take-care I-of-it ever gladly, might I of-it have-benefit,

sô daz mich die dörper mînes lônēs iht verstiezen.

so that me the peasants of-my reward not thrust-out.

des ist Uoze grîfic und sîn rûher schavernac.

of-it is Uoze grasping and his shaggy fur-cap.

Engelwân und Uoze

Engelwân and Uoze

die zwêne sînt mir geház:

the two are to-me hostile:

schaden unde nîdes muoz ich mich von in versehen.

of-harm and of-envy must I myself from them expect.

und der geile Ruoze,

and the merry Ruoze,

wie tíuwer ér sich vermáz,

how dearly he himself boasted,

er bestüende mich durch sî. die drîe widervehen

he would-assail me for her. the three foes

die râtent unde prüevent daz ich âne lôn belîbe.

they counsel and plot that I without reward remain.

niht envolge ir lêre, vrouwe, liebist aller wîbe.

not follow their teaching, lady, dearest of-all women.

lône mîner jâre; lâz in leit an mir geschehen.

reward of-my years; let to-them sorrow on me befall.

Vrouwe, dîne gûete

Lady, thy goodness

dierkénne ich sô manicvált

it-know I so manifold

daz ich liebes wânes von dir noch gedingen hân.

that I of-dear expectation from thee still hope have.

daz mich ie gemüete,

what me ever troubled,

die spränzelær ûnde ir gewált,

the swaggerers and their power,

daz was mit den bluomen hin. nû wil mir Engelwân

that was with the flowers gone. now will to-me Engelwân

dîne hulde verren. daz im müeze misselingen

thy favor estrange. that to-him must it-go-ill

sô daz hundert swert ûf sînem kophe lûte erklingen.

so that hundred swords upon his pate loudly ring-out.

snîdent sî ze rehte, sî zeriutent im den spân.

cut they to right, they root-out for-him the curled-hair.

Seht an Engelwâne,

Look at Engelwân,

wie hôhe er sîn houbet treit.

how high he his head bears.

swanne er mit gespannem swerte bi dem tanze gât,

whenever he with buckled sword by the dance goes,

sô ist er niht âne

so is he not without

der vlæmischen hövescheit

the Flemish courtliness

dâ sîn vater Batze wênic mit ze schaffen hât.

where his father Batze little with to do has.

nu ist sîn sun ein œder gouch mit sîner rûhen hûben.

now is his son a foolish gawk with his shaggy cap.

ich gelîche sîn gephnæte ze einer saten tûben

I liken his puffing to a sated dove

diu mit vollem krophe ûf einem kornkasten stât.

which with full crop upon a corn-bin stands.

Swer in sîner tougen

Whoever in his secret-heart

ie lîep ode lêit gewân,

ever love or sorrow won,

dem sint mîne sorgen und mîn kumber wol bekant.

to-him are my cares and my affliction well known.

sît ich mînen ougen

since I to-my eyes

den stîc niht verbieten kan,

the path not forbid can,

sî enblicken hin dâ Buoze tanzet an ir hant,

they unless-glance thither where Buoze dances at her hand,

sô verlâze ich kûme deich mich selben niht enroufe.

so refrain I hardly that-I me myself not tear-the-hair.

solhen wehsel nement die dâ minnent an ir koufe.

such an-exchange take they-who there love at their bargain.

Minne, lâ mich vrî: mich twingent sêre dîniu bant.

Love, let me free: me constrain sorely thy bonds.

Minne, dîne snüere

Love, thy cords

die twíngent daz hérze mîn,

they constrain the heart mine,

daz ich hân ze strîte wider dich deheine wer.

that I have to strife against thee no defense.

swie verholne ich rüere

however secretly I touch

den zímbel der zélle dîn,

the cymbal of-the cell thine,

sô bin ich betwungen doch daz ich dir hulde swer.

so am I compelled yet that I to-thee homage swear.

vrouwe Minne, dîn gewalt ist wider mich ze strenge.

lady Love, thy power is against me too strong.

küeginne, dîner ungenâde niht verhenge

queen, of-thy disfavor not permit

daz sî mich verderbe. ja ist sî über mich ein her.

that she me destroy. indeed is she over me a host.

Nu ist der liebe sumer hin gescheiden

NOW THE DEAR SUMMER HAS PARTED

The dear summer has parted and the flowers and birdsong are left to the winter. The poet names eight peasants who go about like a greased wagon with their hilts ringing at their heels and mean to outdo the man who took Vriderûn's mirror. Against them he sets the lady he has served since childhood, beside whom sun and moon are nothing. Nine of them forbid him the district; he would let them kill one another and be done.

55,19 Nu ist der liebe sumer hin gescheiden;

Now is the dear summer away departed;

die bluomen und der vogele sanc

the flowers and the birds' song

müeze wir dem leiden winder lâzen.

must we to-the hateful winter leave.

den ungemach

the discomfort

mehte ein ieglich herze wol von wâren schulden klagen.

might every single heart well from true cause lament.

hôchgemüete het ich von in beiden:

high-spirits had I from them both:

diu wîle dûhte mich sô lanc

the while seemed to-me so long

daz sî niht entsprungen ûf den strâzen.

that they not leapt upon the streets.

mîn ouge an sach

my eye on saw

daz si giengen alle tage als ein gesmirter wagen,

that they went all days like a greased wagon,

eben unde lise, niht bedrungen,

evenly and softly, not crowded,

daz in diu swert

so-that to-them the swords

ûf den versen klungen.

upon the heels rang.

sich dûhten sumelîche dâ vil maneger bône wert.

themselves thought some there very many-a bean worth.

Die daz wâren, des wil ich iuch wîsen.

Who that were, of-it will I you inform.

deist Engeldîch und Adelvrit,

that-is Engeldîch and Adelvrit,

Willepreht und Enzeman der junge

Willepreht and Enzeman the young

und Berewîn

and Berewîn

Sigelôch und Ekkerîch und jener Engelram.

Sigelôch and Ekkerîch and yonder Engelram.

wol gevûrbet sint ir kepelîsen;

well polished are their brawling-irons;

ir helze klingent nâch dem trit

their sword-hilts ring after the step

lûte bi dem reien nâch dem sprunge.

loudly by the round-dance after the leap.

sî wellent sîn

they will be

tumber danne der uns Vriderûn ir spiegel nam.

more-foolish than he-who from-us Vriderûn her mirror took.

des gewaltes was uns hie zerunnen.

of-the power was to-us here run-out.

nû sint ez jene

now are it those

die mir vröude enbunnen

who from-me joy begrudge

und mir die guoten verrent nâch der ich mîn herze sene.

and from-me the good-one estrange after whom I my heart long.

Der ich her gedienet hân von kinde

She-whom I hitherto served have from childhood

und noch ouch in dem willen bin

and still also in the will am

daz ich wil belîben an ir stæte

that I will remain at her steadfast

vil mangan tac,

very many-a day,

wol mich daz ichs ie sô rehte minneclîchen vant.

well me that I-her ever so rightly lovely found.

sî ist mînes herzen ingesinde:

she is of-my heart the-household:

diu wîle gêt mir schône hin,

the while goes to-me fairly away,

swenne ich sî in wolgetâner wæte

whenever I her in well-formed raiment

gesehen mac,

see may,

sô dünk ich mich rîcher danne ich hiete ein eigen lant.

so think I myself richer than I had an own land.

ich gesach nie wîp sô wolgetâne.

I saw never a-woman so well-formed.

des muoz ich jehen.

of-it must I declare.

sunne und ouch der mâne

sun and also the moon

gelîchent sich der schoenen niht, od ich enkan niht spehen.

liken themselves to-the fair-one not, or I can not discern.

Der mir mîner vrouwen hulde erwende,

He-who from-me of-my lady favor would-turn,

nû wizzet daz, wirt mir sîn stat,

now know that, becomes to-me for-it place,

daz ich im ein punkelîn erzeige,

that I to-him a little-mark show,

als hiwer ich tet

as this-year I did

einem gouche der mîn ouch niht wol hin zir gewuoc.

to-a gawk who of-me also not well thither to-her spoke.

Frideliep, sô wê dir in die zende!

Frideliep, so woe to-thee in the teeth!

dû bist der gogelheit sô sat

thou art of-the wantonness so sated

daz dû wil, swar sich dîn houbet neige

that thou wilt, wherever itself thy head incline

durch minne bet,

for love's request,

daz dir iemen iht versage. owê daz ichz vertruoc,

that to-thee anyone anything refuse. alas that I-it endured,

mit Elsemuot sîn üppeclîch geriune

with Elsemuot his wanton whispering

des er dâ phlac.

of-which he there took-care.

ir sint leider niune

of-them are alas nine

die mir daz geu verbietet manegen lichten viretac.

who to-me the district forbid many-a bright holiday.

Die gehellent alle Berewîne,

They agree all with-Berewin,

wan Enzeman und Willebreht

save Enzeman and Willebreht

die enziehent mit in niht gelîche,

they pull with them not alike,

durch daz er giht,

because that he says,

sî daz ers ersnellen mege, sî sîn bêde tôt,

be that he-them overtake may, they be both dead,

er slahes daz diu sunne durch sî schîne.

he strike-them that the sun through them shine.

sî rouften sînes vater kneht

they pulled-the-bair-of his father's servant

hiuwer vor dem meier Friderîche,

this-year before the steward Friderich,

umb anders niht

for otherwise nothing

wan daz er ein krenzel truoc, daz was von bluomen rôt;

save that he a little-garland wore, that was of flowers red;

daz verseite er dâ zehant in beiden.

that refused he there at-once to-them both.

nû wizzet daz,

now know that,

wirt ez niht gescheiden,

(if)-is it not parted,

ez wehset lîhte zwischen in ein ungevüeger haz.

it grows easily between them an unseemly hate.

Daz die dörper alle ein ander slüegen,

That the peasants all one another slew,

daz lieze ich alsô hine gân,

that would-let I so hence go,

wan sî tuont mir vil ze widerdrieze.

for they do to-me much to vexation.

ir üppekeit

their wantonness

diust sô grôz daz ir die wîsen spottent über al.

it-is so great that of-them the wise mock over all.

daz sich doch vil lihte mac gevüegen.

that itself yet very easily may come-about.

wer et er sich, Enzeman!

defend just be himself, Enzeman!

triffet ers mit sînem scharfen spieze

strikes he-them with his sharp spear

den er dâ treit,

whith he there bears,

sî gedrangent mich niht mêre dâ ze Riuwental.

they would-crowd me not more there in Riuwental.

ich bin vreuden gar von in versûmet.

I am of-joys wholly by them deprived.

daz ist niht guot.

that is not good.

wurde mir gerûmet

were to-me cleared

von in, daz müese wir verklagen, ich und Elsemuot.

by them, that must we cease-to-lament, I and Elsemuot.

Nû sage an, sumer, war wiltû den winter hinne fliehen?

TELL ME, SUMMER, WHERE WILT THOU FLEE

The poet asks the summer where it will flee the winter and offers to go with it, since he means to withdraw from his wanton singing. Gîselbolt and Engelram, who take after the man that seized Vriderûn's mirror, with Erkenfrit and curly Uozeman to help, push him back from the woman he serves. He begs her for favor before the evening of his days, while he still stands at the height, and keeps his hope.

57,24 Nû sage an, sumer, war wiltû den winter hinne fliehen?

Now tell on, summer, whither wilt-thou the winter hence flee?

geruochestû sîn gerne, ich leiste dir geselleschaft.

(if)-deignest-thou it gladly, I render to-thee fellowship.

ich wil mich von mînem üppiclichen sange ziehen.

I will myself from my wanton song withdraw.

mîne widerwinnen mit dem tievel sint behaft.

my adversaries with the devil are possessed.

die enlâzent mir an mînem liebe niht gelingen.

they let to-me at my love not prosper.

daz ist ein schade bi der scham.

that is a harm beside the shame.

Gîselbolt und Engelram

Giselbolt and Engelram

die leident mir mîn singen.

they make-bateful to-me my singing.

Die selben zwêne die gehellent hin nâch Engelmâren,

The same two they agree away after Engelmâr,

der gewalteclichen Friderûne ir spiegel nam.

who violently from-Friderûn her mirror took.

tretzic unde hœnic sints an allen ir gebâren,
defiant and scornful are-they in all their bearing,
 die selben zwêne dörper Gîselbolt und Engelram.
the same two peasants Gîselbolt and Engelram.
 des wil helfen Erkenfrit und Uozeman der reide.
of-it will help Erkenfrit and Uozeman the curly.
 die viere dringent mich hindan:
the four press me aside:
 gewunnest einen tumben wân
wonnest-thou a foolish expectation
 gein in, daz wær mir leide.
against them, that were to-me sorrow.

Sumer, ich verklage niemer dîne manege ziere
Summer, I cease-to-lament never thy many adornments
 dâ uns dirre kalte winter von gedrunghen hât.
of-which us this cold winter from pressed has.
 mich verdringent aber geiler sprenzelære viere
me crowd-out again of-merry dandies four
 von der wolgetânen diu mich sings niht erlât,
from the well-formed-one who me of-singing not releases,
 ich enmüeze singen, swenne mir diu guote lône
I unless-must sing, whenever to-me the good-one reward
 als der lieben gnâde sîn.
as of-the dear-one favor be.
 vrouwe, nû tuo gnâde schîn
lady, now make favor clear
 vor mîner tage nône.
before of-my days the-ninth-hour.

Mîne tage loufent von der hœhe gegen der neige:

My days run from the height toward the decline:

frouwe, trœste mich die wîle ich ûf der hœhe stê.

lady, comfort me the while I on the height stand.

ob ich dir mit rehter stæte herzentriuwe zeige,

if I to-thee with right constancy heart's-troth show,

sô schaffe daz ir bœser wille iht an mir ergê.

so arrange that their evil will nothing on me befall.

mîne swære sint von dînen schulden manicvalte:

my griefs are through thy fault manifold:

der schaffe ein ende, sælic wîp,

of-them make an end, blessed woman,

ê daz mîn vil tumber lîp

before that my very foolish person

in senden sorgen alte.

in longing cares grow-old.

Ie lieber unde ie lieber ist sî mir diu wolgetâne,

Ever dearer and ever dearer is she to-me the well-formed-one,

ie leider unde ie leider bin ich ir; daz ist mir leit.

ever more-hateful and ever more-hateful am I to-her; that is to-me sorrow.

bin ich vrô, daz kumet von einem herzelieben wâne,

(if)-am I glad, that comes from a heart-dear expectation,

sît sî mir ir hulde und ir genâde widerseit.

since she to-me her favor and her grace renounces.

trôstes und gedingen wil ich niemer werden âne;

of-comfort and of-hope will I never become bereft;

trôstes ich noch nie vergaz,

of-comfort I still never forgot,

sô diu schœne vor mir saz

when the fair-one before me sat

alsam ein voller mâne.

like a full moon.

Owê, lieber sumer, dîner liechten tage lange!

ALAS, DEAR SUMMER, FOR THY LONG BRIGHT DAYS

The bright days are turning and the birds are silent, but the poet's greatest care is that long service has won no reward. One yokel, whom nobody may name, wears a long sword like a hemp-swing with peepholes cut in the hollow hilt and a mirror set in the pommel, just such a glass as Vriderûn's, and presses the lady to look at herself in it. She refuses with scorn, saying she has three better ones.

Owê, lieber sumer, dîner liechten tage lange!

58,25

Alas, dear summer, of-thy bright days long!

wie sint die verkêret an ir schîne!

how are they turned in their shining!

sî truobent unde nement an ir süezem weter abe.

they dim and take of their sweet weather off.

gar gesweiget sint diu vogelîn mit ir gesange.

wholly silenced are the little-birds with their singing.

doch ist daz diu meiste sorge mîne,

yet is that the greatest care mine,

daz niht langer dienest lieben lôn erworben habe.

that not long service a-dear reward earned has.

ich enkunde ir leider nie gesprechen noch gesingen

I could to-ber alas never speak nor sing

daz die wolgetânen dûhte lônnes wert.

what the well-formed-one seemed of-reward worth.

lônâ, küneginne! ich bin der lônnes gert.

reward, queen! I am he-who of-reward desires.

liebist aller wîbe, ich hân ûf lieben lôn gedingen.

dearest of-all women, I have upon dear reward hope.

Hât ab iemen leit daz mînem leide sî gelîche,
(if)-Has but anyone sorrow that to-my sorrow be like,

möhte mir der sînen rât enbieten!
might to-me be his counsel offer!

deiswâr, guoter ræte der bedörfte niemen baz.
in-truth, of-good counsels thereof needed nobody more.

ich gespræche mîne vriunde gerne sumelîche,
I would-speak-with my friends gladly some,

daz sî mir von solhen sorgen rieten.
that they to-me from such cares advised.

mich vêhet âne schulde der ich selten ie vergaz.
me hates without fault she-whom I seldom ever forgot.

daz ist wunder daz ich eine wîle vrô belîbe,
that is a-wonder that I one while glad remain,

sît daz mich diu guote in ungenâden hât.
since that me the good-one in disfavor has.

wan daz mich mîn triuwe und ouch mîn stæte enlât,
save that me my troth and also my constancy not-lets,

ich geslûege nimmer niuwez liet deheinem wîbe.
I would-strike never a-new song for-any woman.

Ine gewan vor mangeln zîten ungenâde mêre
I-not got before many-a season disfavor more

danne ich hân von einem getelinge.
than I have from a yokel.

derst alsô getoufet daz in niemen nennen sol.
he-is so baptized that him nobody name shall.

derst an sîner strâze beidiu tretzic unde hêre.
he-is on his street both defiant and haughty.

langez swert alsam ein hanifswinge,
a-long sword like a hemp-swingle,

daz treit er allez umbe; im ist sîn gehilze hol.
that bears he ever about; to-him is his hilt hollow.

dâ sint luoger in gemacht, zeine zîzelwæhe;
there are peep-holes in made, for-a dainty-nicety;

oben in dem knophe lit ein spiegelglas,
above in the knob lies a mirror-glass,

dem gelich alsô daz Friderûnen was.
to-it like just-as that of-Friderûn was.

dô bat er die guoten daz sî sich dar inne ersæhe.
then bade he the good-one that she herself there within behold.

Sine wolde iedoch in sînen spiegel nie geluogen.
She would however into his mirror never look.

daz versagtes im in einer smæhe.
that refused-she to-him in a scorn.

sî sprach verwendeclîchen 'daz ist immer ungetân.
she spoke haughtily 'that is ever undone.

ich bekenne iuch niht an iuwer hovescheit sô kluogen;
I know you not for your courtliness so clever;

ê ez iu ze liebe an mir geschæhe,
before it to-you to pleasure on me happened,

ê wolde ich verliesen slehtes allez daz ich hân.
sooner would I lose simply all that I have.'

sî sprach 'liupper herre, ich hân noch guoter spiegel drîe.
she spoke 'dear-fellow sir, I have still of-good mirrors three.

derst mir iegelîcher lieber danne der.
of-them-is to-me each-one dearer than that.'

schiere sprach er aber "vrouwe, luoget her."
quickly spoke he again "lady, look here."

alsô muote sî der gouch mit sîner hoppenê.
so troubled her the gawk with his hopping.

Hie mit disen dingen sî diu rede alsô gescheiden.

Here with these things be the talk thus parted.

lât iu mêre künden mîner swære.

let to-you more be-told of-my grief.

die tumben getelinge tuont mir aller leideclîch.

the foolish yokels do to-me altogether hatefully.

swaz ich tuon, ich kan sî beide der guoten niht erleiden.

whatever I do, I can them both to-the good-one not make-hateful.

wessen sî wie lîhte ich des enbære,

knew they how easily I of-it could-spare,

sî wûrben anderthalben, Gîselbreht und Amelrîch.

they would-woo elsewhere, Gîselbreht and Amelrich.

die hânt disen sumer her getanzet an ir hende

they have this summer hither danced at her hand

allenthalben swâ man ie der vreuden phlac.

everywhere wherever one ever of-the joys took-care.

hinne vûr gelebe ich nimmer lieben tac

hence forth live I never a-dear day

unz ich mînen kumber nâch dem willen mîn volende.

until I my affliction after the will mine finish.

Sanges sint diu vogelîn geswîget

THE BIRDS ARE SILENCED OF THEIR SONG

The birds are silenced and the winter has chased the summer off, but the poet stays undaunted because his lady commands it. At the dance two peasants show off coats of Austrian cloth and studded belts. Nobody should ask why he is going gray: Gîselbreht and the gander Walberûn give him no rest, and one of them snatched his lady's ring in the round and wrenched her hand, as Vriderûn lost her mirror.

Sanges sint diu vogelîn geswîget,

Of-song are the little-birds silenced,

59,36

der leide winder hât den sumer hin verjagt:

the hateful winter has the summer away driven:

des ist manic herze beidiu trûric unde unvrô.

of-it is many-a heart both mournful and unglad.

aller werlde hôchgemüete sîget,

of-all the-world high-spirits sink,

wan ich bin an mînen vreuden unverzagt.

for I am in my joys undaunted.

daz gebiutet liebist aller wîbe mir alsô.

that commands dearest of-all women to-me so.

ir gebot

her command

leiste ich immer al die wîle ich lebe.

perform I ever all the while I live.

mîne vriunde, wünschent mir durch got

my friends, wish to-me for God

daz sî mir ein liebez ende gebe.

that she to-me a dear end give.

Hie mit sule wir die rede lâzen.

Here with shall we the talk leave.

wir müezen in die stuben. zeinem bervrite

we must into the parlor. to-a wooden-tower

kômen hin durch tanzes willen vil der jungen diet.

came thither for dance's sake many of-the young folk.

zwêne dörper (daz sî sîn verwâzen!),

two peasants (that they be accursed!),

sî truogen beide röcke nâch dem hovesite,

they wore both coats after the court-fashion,

Ôsterrîches tuoches. Uoze ninder in sî schriet.

of-Austrian cloth. Uoze nowhere into them cut.

wol beslagen

well studded

wâren in ir gürtel beide samt.

were to-them their girdles both together.

œdeclîchen wunden sî den kragen

foolishly wound they the neck

bi dem tanze daz ich michs erschamt.

by the dance so-that I myself-of-it was-ashamed.

Niemen vrâge mich war umbe ich grâwe.

Nobody ask me where about I grow-gray.

jâ wânte ich daz ich geruowet solde sîn

indeed thought I that I at-rest should be

vor den getelingen. des ist in vil ungedâht.

from the yokels. of-it is to-them very unthought.

sîne lâzent mich deheine râwe

they let me no rest

gewinnen. ir gewerp ist um die vrouwen mîn.

win. their wooing is about the lady mine.

mir ist lieb, und werdent sî zerhouwen schiere brâht.

to-me is dear, and are they cut-to-pieces quickly brought.

Giselbreht

Giselbreht

unde ein tœrscher ganze Walberûn

and a foolish gander Walberûn

tuot mir zallen zîten ungereht.

does to-me at-all times injustice.

wie verlôs ir spiegel Vriderûn?

how lost her mirror Vriderûn?

Alsô vlôs mîn vrouwe ir vingerîde.

So lost my lady her finger-ring.

dô sî den krumben reien ûf dem anger trat,

when she the crooked round-dance upon the meadow trod,

dô wart ez ir ab ir hant, seht, ân ir danc genomen.

then was it to-her off her hand, see, against her will taken.

hân ich den von schulden niht ze nîde

have I him from cause not to hate

der irz von sîner üppikeit gezücket hât?

who to-her-it out-of his wantonness snatched has?

daz möht einem æden kragen noch ze schaden komen.

that might to-a foolish neck yet to harm come.

wê mir sîn

woe to-me of-it

daz er sî sô rehte dar zuo vant.

that he her so exactly there to found.

jâne klagte ich niht daz vingerlîn,

indeed lamented I not the little-ring,

het er ir verlenket niht die hant.

had he to-her wrenched not the hand.

Sône müet mich niht an Brünewart

So troubles me nothing about Brünewart

niwan daz er den æden krophen vor gestât

except that he the foolish crops before stands

üppiclicher dinge und ungevüeger gogelheit.

of-wanton things and of-unseemly wantonness.

des geswillet mîn gemüete harte.

of-it swells my spirit sorely.

wan daz mîn zuht vor mînem zorne dicke gât,

save that my discipline before my anger often goes,

ich geschüefe daz ir etelîchem würde leit.

I would-bring-about that of-them to-some-one became sorrow.

alle drî

all three

düнкent sich die dörper wîse gar.

think themselves the peasants wise wholly.

herre got, nû schaffe mich ir vrî!

Lord God, now make me of-them free!

hie bevor dô muot mich Engelmâr.

here before then troubled me Engelmâr.

Er und die mir durch den anger wuoten,

He and they-who to-me through the meadow waded,

den ist sô gar getûtzet al ir üppikeit;

to-them is so wbolly husbed all their wantonness;

die gebârent sam sî nie gelebten guoten tac.

they bear-themselves as-if they never lived a-good day.

hôte spienen sî ir weibelruoten:

high stretched they their bailiff's-rods:

ir islîcher hîuwer eine riutel treit.

of-them each-one this-year a mattock bears.

kleine hûben truogens ê: nû strûbet in der nac.

small caps wore-they before: now bristles to-them the nape.

rehte alsam

right so

mûeze in noch gelingen über al.

must to-them still it-prosper over all.

sac mit salze mache mir sî mir zam;

a-sack with salt make to-me them to-me tame;

sô geruowe ich hie ze Riuwental.

so rest I here in Riuwental.

Dise trüeben tage
THESE GLOOMY DAYS

The gloomy days and his own lament have taken the poet's joy, and he asks what his song is worth when the lady he has served summer and winter has never heard it. Seven peasants are named who dance with the maids and will not yield a foot on the road. One of them blames him because the lady angrily refused him her hand at a church-feast, and to spite him tramples the poet's meadow-grass every holiday.

61,18 Dise trüeben tage

These dreary days

dâr zuo léitlichiu klâge

there to sorrowful lament

hânt mir vrêude benómen

have from-me joy taken

und allen hôhen muot.

and all high spirit.

war zuo sol mîn sanc,

where to shall my song,

sît er nie sô erklânc

since it never so rang

dâz in héte vernómen

that it had heard

ein schœniu vrouwe guot,

a fair lady good,

der ich hân gedienet ûf genâde her vil lange

whom I have served upon favor hitherto very long

den sumer und den winder ie mit einem niuwen sange.

the summer and the winter ever with a new song.

nû verstât sî mir ez alrest zeinem anevange.

now understands she to-me it for-the-first-time as-a beginning.

Daz sî niht enstât

That she not perceives

dâz ir mînne mich hât

that her love me has

ân den sinnen verhért,

on the senses ravaged,

dâ sündet sî sich an.

there sins she herself against.

sî vil sælic wîp,

she very blessed woman,

jâ verliuse ich den lîp,

indeed lose I the life,

ist sî mir niht beschért.

(if)-is she to-me not allotted.

owê daz ich niht kan

alas that I not can

gesingen dâ von sî mir alsô holdez herze trüege.

sing there from she to-me so a-devoted heart bore.

jâ bin ich in dem munde leider ninder sô gevüege.

indeed am I in the mouth alas nowhere so apt.

bezzer wære daz ich niuwes nimmer niht enslüege.

better were that I of-new never anything struck.

Mir schât Engelbolt

To-me harms Engelbolt

ûnd der méier Mangolt

and the steward Mangolt

ûnde ouch jéner Durnkhárt,

and also yonder Durnkbart,

daz vierde ist Engelber,

the fourth is Engelber,

dar zuo Eberwîn

there to Eberwîn

únd die zwên bruoder sîn,

and the two brothers his,

sô sô tœrsches nie wart,

so so of-foolish never was,

Lûthêr und Adelgêr

Lûthêr and Adelgêr

die tanzent mit den meiden in dem geu verwendeclîchen.

they dance with the maidens in the district arrogantly.

sî wellent ûf der strâze niemen einen fuoz entwîchen.

they will on the street to-nobody a foot yield.

hei, solt ich ir einem sîne stelzen dâ bestrîchen!

hey, should I of-them to-one his stilts there thrash!

Er ist mir gevêch

He is to-me hostile

dáz in hîuwer verzêch

that to-him this-year refused

zórneclîchen ir hânt

angrily her hand

mîn vrouwe ûf einer dult.

my lady at a festival.

seht, daz was im leit.

see, that was to-him sorrow.

sînen vrîunden er klêit

to-his friends he complained

dáz ichz hét im erwánt,

that I-it had to-him prevented,

und wære gar mîn schult,

and were wholly my fault,

‘wan er gie vil nâhen an ir sîte gar bedrungen.

‘for he went very near at her side wholly pressed.

er het uns an der wîle ein liet ze tanze vor gesungen.'

he had to-us at the while a song for dance before sung'

wol verstuont der dörper sich bi einem kleinen stungen.

well understood the peasant himself by a little prick.

Seht, der ist ein teil

See, he is a bit

béidiu túmbe unde géil:

both foolish and merry:

séht, dem gienc er gelích.

see, to-that went he like.

ein schuoch was im gemâl,

a shoe was to-him painted,

dâ mit er mir trat

there with he to-me trod

níder al mîn wisemât.

down all my meadow-crop.

aller vîrtegelich

of-every holiday

sweimt er vür Riuwental,

sweeps he past Riuwental,

oberthalp des dorfes strâze steig er über den anger,

above the village's street climbed he over the meadow,

durch mînen haz von stîge vaste nâch den bluomen spranger,

in my despite from-the path firmly after the flowers leapt-he,

in einer hôhen wîse sîniu wineliet diu sanger.

in a high melody his love-songs them sang-he.

Die bluomen und daz grüne gras

THE FLOWERS AND THE GREEN GRASS

The flowers and the grass are gone and the linden throws no shade where the company used to be glad. Winter's inconstant lot and a woman together make the poet suffer: all his years of service have not been paid by a hair. He blames Watke and Ôtegêr for her deaf ear, describes a rival who had three fiddlers and a piper before him at the dance, and ends on a song that now rings on doubt and uncertain reward.

62,34 Die bluomen und daz grüne gras

The flowers and the green grass

beidiu sint verschwunden.

both are vanished.

nû treit uns aber diu linde vür die sunnen nindert schat.

now bears to-us again the linden against the sun nowhere shade.

ê dô sî geloubet was,

before when she leafed was,

dô hiet man dâ vunden

then had one there found

vil maneger hande vreude: dâne gât nu nindert phat,

very of-many a-kind of-joy: there goes now nowhere a-path,

dâ wir dô

where we then

ê vil vrô

before very glad

bî ein ander wâren.

by one another were.

diu vreude het ein ende dô diu zît begunde swâren.

the joy had an end when the season began to-grow-heavy.

des trûret manic herze des gemüete stuont ê hô.

of-it mourns many-a heart whose spirit stood before high.

Winder, dîn unstætlic lôz

Winter, thy inconstant lot

twinget uns ze lange.

constrains us too long.

von dir und einem wîbe lîde ich leider ungemach.

from thee and a woman suffer I alas discomfort.

diu heide ist von den rôsen blôz:

the heath is of the roses bare:

daz kumt von rîfen twange.

that comes from frost's constraint.

diu vogelîn in dem walde habent nindert obedach.

the little-birds in the wood have nowhere a-roof.

der ich gar

her-to-whom I wholly

mîniu jâr

my years

hân gedienet lange

have served long

von herzen williclichen, eteswenne mit gesange,

from heart willingly, sometimes with singing,

des ist mir niht gelônnet noch swie kleine ist umbe ein hâr.

of-it is to-me not rewarded nor however little is about a hair.

Man sol willetôre sîn

One shall a-willing-fool be

aller guoten wîbe,

of-all good women,

der ir willen henget und ir hulde welle haben.

who to-their will yields and their favor would have.

daz ist der geloube mîn,

that is the belief mine,

swie sô mir mîn schîbe

however so to-me my ball

ze wunsche niht enloufe. ich wæne, ich werde alsô begraben

to wish not run. I think, I be so buried

dazs ir muot

that-she her spirit

mir ze guot

to-me to good

gein mir iht verkêre.

toward me at-all turn.

diu schult diu lît ûf Watken unde ûf jenem Ôtegêre,

the fault it lies upon Watke and upon yonder Ôtegêr,

daz sî alsô dicke mir sô toubez ôre tuot.

that she so often to-me so a-deaf ear turns.

Geuden giengen sî gelîch

Swaggering went they alike

hiwer an einem tanze.

this-year at a dance.

dâ muosten drîe vor im gîgen und der vierde pheif.

there had-to three before him fiddle and the fourth piped.

sîner vreuden was er rîch

of-his joys was he rich

under sînem kranze.

under his garland.

er nam im dâ diu schoene gie vil manegen umbesweif;

he took to-himself where the fair-one went very many-a circuit;

Erkenvrit

Erkenvrit

allez mit

ever with

vaste an sînem diehe.

close at his thigh.

er wunschte daz er mir an ir daz helmel vor geziehe.
he wished that he to-me at her the little-helmet away would-pull.

er hât den vuoz verlenket hiwer an einem geilen trit.
he has the foot wrenched this-year at a merry step.

Dienest âne sælikeit

Service without blessing

niemen kan volenden.

nobody can accomplish.

ich hân ez rehte ervunden: dehein lôn ist mir beschert.

I have it rightly found-out: no reward is to-me allotted.

mîn verloren arebeit

my lost labor

wil mich dicke phenden

will me often distract

an vreuden; ungelücke maneger sælden mich behert.

in joys; misfortune of-many blessings me deprives.

ich verzage

I despair

daz mîn klage

that my lament

niht ir herze entsliuzet

not her heart unlocks

und daz er gegen ir in ruomewât sîn bölzel schiuzet.

and that he toward her in boast-dress his little-bolt shoots.

er hoffet daz er mich ze jungist von ir dienste jage.

he hopes that he me at last from her service chase.

Sî versmæhet mînen sanc

She despises my song

und sîn spottelachet.

and of-it mock-laugh.

wol singen unde rûnen habent ungelîchen dôn.

well to-sing and to-whisper have an-unlike tone.

ê do'r in diu ôren klanc

before when-it into the ears rang

was er ungeswached.

was it undebased.

nû klinget er ûf zwîvel unde ûf ungewissen lôn.

now rings it upon doubt and upon uncertain reward.

minne riet

love counseled

daz ich liet

that I songs

nâch ir hulden sunge.

after her favor sang.

daz tet ich und wânt des niht daz mir dâ misselunge:

that did I and thought of-it not that to-me there it-would-fail:

nû læt mir niht gelingen ein vil hiuziu dörperdiet.

now lets to-me not prosper a very insolent peasant-folk.

Owê dirre sumerzât

ALAS FOR THIS SUMMERTIME

Frost and snow have come, and Amelunc and Uodelrich rejoice at the poet's failure. Four peasants have sworn a pact against him and made their boast good. One of them has done him a worse injury than anything before: he laid hands on the poet's eyes' delight, unseen by her, a scornful jest that pleases no good person. The poet calls his friends together for counsel and promises to stand by anyone who renounces those men's service.

Owê dirre sumerzât,

Alas of-this summer-season,

owê bluomen unde klê,

alas of-flowers and clover,

owê maneger wunne der wir âne müezen sîn!

alas of-many-a delight of-which we without must be!

unser freuden widerstrît

our joy's adversary

bringet rîfen unde snê.

brings frost and snow.

daz hât allez rôten rôsen ungelîchen schîn.

that has all to-red roses an-unlike shining.

alse ist ungelîch

so is unlike

mîn und Amelunges swære.

my and Amelunc's grief.

mînes ungelingen vreut er sich und Uodelrich.

of-my ill-success rejoices he himself and Uodelrich.

der ist mînes schaden zallen zîten vlîzic und gevære,

he is of-my harm at-all times diligent and treacherous,

er und Eberolt, ein ungestüemer wüeterîch.

he and Eberolt, an unruly raging-man.

64,21

Eberolt und Amelunc,

Eberolt and Amelunc,

Uodelgêr und Undelhart

Uodelgêr and Undelhart

habent wider mich gebrüevet eine sicherheit.

have against me plotted a compact.

manic œdeclîcher sprunc

many-a foolish leap

von in dô gesprungen wart,

by them then leapt was,

dô sî sich des ruomten, sî getæten mir ein leit.

when they themselves of-it boasted, they would-do to-me a sorrow.

stille und offenbâr

secretly and openly

habent sî den ruom bewæret.

have they the boast made-good.

ich gewünsche in nimmer daz ir keiner wol gevar.

I wish to-them never that of-them any-one well fare.

under disen vieren hât mir einer mînen muot beswæret,

among these four has to-me one my spirit burdened,

daz er nie sô trüebe wart von iu, her Engelmâr.

so-that it never so gloomy became from you, sir Engelmâr.

Wesse ich wem ich solde klagen

Knew I to-whom I should lament

mînen grôzen ungemach

my great discomfort

den ich von in lîde und lange her geliten hân!

which I from them suffer and long hither suffered have!

swaz mir noch bî mînen tagen

whatever to-me still by my days

leides ie von in geschach,

of-sorrow ever from them befell,

dêst ein wint wan daz mir nû der eine hât getân.
that-is a wind save what to-me now the one has done.

owê daz ich sol
alas that I shall

nû mîn selbes laster rüegen!
now my own reproach accuse!

mîner ougen wunne greif er an den fudenol.
of-my eyes delight grabbed he at the mound.

tumber gouch, des mehte den keiser Friderîchen wol genüegen.
foolish gawk, of-it might the emperor Friderich well be-satisfied.

höener schimph gevellet nimmer guoten liuten wol.
a-scornful jest pleases never good people well.

Iz ist vrouwen ê geschehen
It is to-ladies before happened

âne ir willen sunder danc
against their will without consent

daz der lieben und der wolgetânen dô geschach.
what to-the dear-one and to-the well-formed-one then happened.

hiete sî den grif gesehen,
had she the grip seen,

si ist ir lîbes nie sô kranc,
she is of-her body never so weak,

er hiet sîne buoze enphangen; des sî sît verjach.
he had his penalty received; of-it she since declared.

sneller danne ein bolz
swifter than a bolt

was sîn liep ir leit ergangen.
was his pleasure to-her sorrow become.

immer mêre was der dörper sînes herzen stolz.
ever more was the peasant of-his heart proud.

dône kunde er an den stunden sînes willen niht vollangen.

then could be at the hours of-bis will not attain.

die unwæge rihte uns beiden herre knütelholz.

the unfriendliness set-right for-us both lord cudgel-wood.

Mîne vriunt, nû gêt herdan,

My friends, now come hither,

gebt mir iuvern wîsen rât

give me your wise counsel

wiech mit disen dingen mûge ze mînen êren komen.

how-I with these matters may to my honors come.

aller triuwen ich iuch man,

of-all troth I you remind,

daz ir mir nû bî gestât.

that you to-me now by stand.

mîne weidegeuge und al mîn vreude ist mir benomen.

my hunting-grounds and all my joy is to-me taken.

ich bin unverzaget

I am undaunted

beide an lîbe und ouch an muote.

both in body and also in spirit.

der in durch den willen mîn sîn dienst widersaget,

he-who to-them for the sake mine his service renounces,

dem gestüende ich immer triuwen bî mit lîbe und ouch mit guote

to-him would-stand I ever with-troth by with body and also with goods

al die wîle und mir der stegereif ze hove waget.

all the while and to-me the stirrup at court sways.

Wolde sîn die freudelôsen niht an mir verdriezen

IF THE JOYLESS WOULD NOT WEARY OF IT

The poet would still sing for those who want joy, though the joyless weary of it. A woman harder of heart than a diamond has proved his eyes wrong, and he will never send them out as messengers again. He has wasted his long days in mourning, and doubt of his reward, the sickness of the world's joy, and the fear of hell all urge him to lay the burden down. Still he promises a new song about Uoze and Anze.

Wolde sîn die freudelôsen niht an mir verdriezen,

Would of-it the joyless not at me weary,

65,37

sô sunge ich noch den freudegernden mînen wânaldei:

so would-sing I still to-the joy-craving my wânaldei:

ich gertes gegen den muotes armen niemer niht geniezen,

I desired-it toward the of-spirit poor never at-all to-profit,

die freude niht in selben kouften umbe ein halbez ei.

who joy not for themselves bought for a half egg.

hôhe junge man die sîgent an ir hôchgemüete,

high young men they sink in their high-spirits,

sô wîchent aber diu minneclîchen wîbel an ir gûete.

so yield again the lovely little-women in their goodness.

Dise rede die hât ein wîp vil wol an mir bewæret;

This talk it has a woman very well on me proved;

diust herzen unde muotes herter denne ein adamant.

she-is of-heart and of-spirit harder than an adamant.

die hân ich gar lange für die besten her vermæret,

her have I wholly long for the best hitherto proclaimed,

sît daz ich sî ze trûte mir vor allen wîben vant.

since that I her as beloved for-me before all women found.

solhes fundes wirt gedanket nimmer mînen ougen.

of-such a-finding is thanked never to-my eyes.

diu habent mich verwîset gar: nû stênt sî an ir lougen.

they have me led-astray wholly: now stand they at their denying.

Owê daz sî nâch wâne des dem herzen ie verjâhen,

Alas that they after supposition of-it to-the heart ever declared,

sî heten under wîben noch sô guotes niht gesehen;

they had among women still so good-a not seen;

daz sî wider unde für niht ûf und abe sâhen,

that they backward and forward not up and down looked,

dô sî einen stæten friunt dem herzen wolten spehen.

when they a steadfast friend for-the heart would spy-out.

ich enwil sî nimmer mêt ze boten für gesenden:

I will them never more as messengers forth send:

dâ sî mich hiezen werben dâne kan ich niht volenden.

where they me bade woo there can I nothing accomplish.

Sinne rîchem manne mac an wîbe misselingen,

To-a-sense rich man may with a-woman it-go-ill,

ob er der ougen willen mit den werken wil begân:

if he of-the eyes' will with the works will carry-out:

seht ob sî einen tôren niht in ungelücke bringen.

see whether they a fool not into misfortune bring.

ich was den mînen wîlen alze sêre undertân,

I was to-the mine once all-too sorely subject,

daz ich in ze vil ir twerhen blicke hân verhenget:

so-that I to-them too much their sidelong glances have allowed:

dâ von ist daz herze mîn mit trûren wol gemenget.

there of is the heart mine with mourning well mingled.

Hete ich an ein ander wîp den mînen muot gewendet,
Had I to a different woman the mine spirit turned,

mir wære lihte gelônnet baz dan mir gelônnet sî.
to-me were perhaps rewarded better than to-me rewarded is.

mîner langen tage ich vil mit trûren hân verswendet.
of-my long days I much with mourning have squandered.

herzekünigîn, ich was dir ie mit triuwen bî:
heart's-queen, I was to-thee ever with troth by:

lâz daz herze mîn alsô in trûren niht verderben:
let the heart mine so in mourning not perish:

frouwe, nâch der werlde lône wil ich langer werben.
lady, after the world's reward will I longer woo.

Zwîvel mînes lônes und der werlte freude krenke
Doubt of-my reward and of-the world's joy weakening

diu zwei diu machent daz ich mînes sanges wil verpflegen.
those two they make that I of-my song will forbear.

dar zuo fürhte ich sêre daz ez mich ze helle senke.
there to fear I sorely that it me to hell sink.

ich wil die swæren bürde schiere ab mînem rücke legen.
I will the heavy burden quickly off my back lay.

daz wir vil gesünden deist von hove niht erlobet;
that we much sin that-is from court not permitted;

jâ zimt ez niht uns beiden, mir und mînem grîsen houbet.
indeed suits it not to-us both, to-me and to-my gray bead.

Ir ist vil die wundert daz umb Uozen unde umb Anzen
Of-them is many who wonder that about Uoze and about Anze

daz ich ir sô lange in mînem sange hân verswigen,
that I of-them so long in my song have kept-silent,

dar zuo ir beider bruodersüne Lutzen unde Lanzen.
there to of-their both brothers'-sons Lutze and Lanze.

genuoge wænent des daz sî mir wellen an gesigen.

many think of-it that they me will over conquer.

nein, sî mugen mir ir bæsen willen wol erzeigen;

no, they may to-me their evil will well show;

dâ mite kunnen sî mich mînes sanges niht gesweigen.

there with can they me of-my song not silence.

Disen winter tanzent sî bî mîner ougen wunne:

This winter dance they by of-my eyes' delight:

des pflâgens ouch den sumer swâ sî sîn gewonnen stat.

of-it took-they-care also the summer wherever they of-it won place.

nû gelinge in allen als ich in von herzen gunne,

now prosper to-them all as I to-them from heart grant,

in und etelîchem der ir alsô nâhen trat.

to-them and to-some-a-one who to-her so near stepped.

owê daz ez ie geschach ze mîner angesiht!

alas that it ever happened before my sight!

wizzet daz ich noch ein niuwez liedel von in tihte.

know that I still a new little-song of them compose.

Ich wil aber singen

I WILL SING AGAIN

The poet will sing again although the woman who first bade him sing does not listen; for some thirty years he has done all she asked and stands unrewarded. Hetzeman, in a holiday coat sewn with silk, lounges in her lap and courts her against her will. Berewolf has been tamed by marriage to Biterolf's daughter Trûte. To the question who the well-formed one is, the poet answers only with her praise: chaste, unblemished, and beyond price.

Ich wil aber singen,

I will again sing,

67,7

swie ez vür ir ôren gê

however it past her ears go

diu mich êrste singen hiez.

who me first to-sing bade.

wê, war umbe hoeret niht diu guote mînen sanc?

woe, where about hears not the good-one my song?

von dem ungelingen

of the ill-success

singe ich ie von schulden 'wê.'

sing I ever from cause 'woe.'

sît ich mich an sî verliez

since I myself upon her relied

(des ist in der mâze wol bî drîzec jâren lanc),

(of-it is in the measure well about thirty years long),

sît was ich ir undertân

since was I to-her subject

alles des sî mir gebôt.

of-all that she to-me commanded.

nû wil sî mich ungelônnet lân.

now will she me unrewarded leave.

ist daz niht ein schädelfîchiu nôt?

is that not a harmful distress?

Sumer unde winder

Summer and winter

sint mir doch gelîche lanc,

are to-me yet alike long,

swie sî unterscheiden sîn.

however they distinguished be.

dise rede lât ir iu zelæsen âne strît.

this talk let you to-you to-unravel without dispute.

niemen ist sô kinder,

nobody is so childlike,

tuot im liebe leiden wanc,

(if)-does to-him love a-bateful turn,

im enkan der bluomen schîn

to-him can of-the flowers shining

trûren niht erwenden, er ensen sich zaller zît.

mourning not turn-away, he unless-long himself at-all times.

alsô hân ich mich gesent

so have I myself longed

nâch der lieben lange her

after the dear-one long hither

sît daz ich den muot an sî gewent.

since that I the spirit on her accustomed.

nu ist ir vrâge wes ich tumber ger.

now is her question of-what I fool desire.

Waz ist des nû mêre?

What is of-it now more?

solher rede ist nû genuoc:

of-such talk is now enough:

trahten umbe ein ander dinc!

consider about a different thing!

wîser liute lêre der bedorfte ich nie sô wol.

of-wise people teaching that needed I never so well.

swelhen ende ich kêre,

whatever end I turn,

immer bristet mir der kruoc.

ever breaks to-me the jug.

mir hât aber ein getelinc

to-me has again a yoke!

mînen muot beswæret, daz ich vil unsanfte dol.

my spirit burdened, which I very painfully bear.

hulde hât er mir verlorn

favor has he from-me lost

einer vrouwen wolgetân.

of-a lady well-formed.

die het ich ze vriunde mir erkorn:

her had I as friend for-myself chosen:

daz hiet er ze nîde, Hetzeman.

that had he to envy, Hetzeman.

Lange nâdelrunzen

Long needle-pleats

hât der Hetzemannes roc

has the of-Hetzeman coat

den er vîretages treit;

which he on-holidays wears;

ermel unde buosem sint mit sîden wol genât.

sleeve and bosom are with silk well sewn.

sîn vil lôsez lunzen

his very wanton lounging

machet mir vil grâwen loc,

makes to-me many gray locks,

swenne er in ir schôz sich leit.

whenever he into her lap himself lays.

wê daz er die guoten sînes höfshens niht erlât,

woe that he the good-one of-his courting not releases,

daz er âne ir willen tuot,

which he against her will does,

im ze ruome und mir ze schaden.

to-him for boast and to-me for harm.

einez, heizet üppiclicher muot,

one-thing, called wanton spirit,

des ist er mit vollen überladen.

of-it is he with fullness overloaded.

Sî sint mir unwæge,

They are to-me unfriendly,

sîne wizzen umbe waz,

they-not know about what,

er und jener Berewolf.

he and yonder Berewolf.

derst alsô genennet, dem sîn schîbe als ebene gie.

he-is so named, to-whom his ball as evenly went.

diust im vollen träge,

it-is to-him fully sluggish,

wol nâch mînem willen laz.

well after my will slack.

im gap hiuwer Biterolf

to-him gave this-year Biterolf

sîne tohter Trûten, dâ mit er ez undervie

his daughter Trûte, there with he it prevented

daz er sît gedultic was

so-that he since patient was

aller sîner gogelheit,

of-all his wantonness,

dâ man ê vil kûme vor genas.

there one before very hardly from escaped.

demst ein richel in den hert geleit.

to-him-is a poker in the hearth laid.

Wol dir, vrouwe Trûte,

Hail to-thee, lady Trûte,

daz er durch dich mîden muoz

that he for thee avoid must

sîn geslende des er phlac.

his gluttony of-which he took-care.

ich gevluoche im nimmer der dir in ze vriedel gap.

I curse him never who to-thee him as lover gave.

drîer kolekrûte

of-three cabbage-beads

wirt im noch vil selten buoz.

becomes to-him still very seldom relief.

dâ von strûbet im der nac.

there of bristles to-him the nape.

einez, heizet sorge, volget im unz in sîn grap.

one-thing, called care, follows him until into his grave.

des was er vil ungewon

of-it was he very unaccustomed

enneher bî sînen tagen.

formerly in his days.

nû tuont im die secke vil gedon

now do to-him the sacks much straining

die dâ dicke rîtent sînen kragen.

which there often ride his neck.

Tumber liute vrâge

Of-foolish people's questioning

müet mich sêre zaller zît,

troubles me sorely at-all times,

wer diu wolgetâne sî

who the well-formed-one be

von der ich dâ singe: ja ist ez in vil ungesagt.

of whom I there sing: indeed is it to-them very untold.

hât sî holde mâge,

(if)-has she kindly kinsmen,

der belîbets âne nît:

of-them remains-she without envy:

si ist von missewende vrî.

she is from blemish free.

ich gesach sî nie diu mînen ougen baz behagt.

I saw her never who to-my eyes better pleased.

des ein man ze vröuden gert,

what a man for joys desires,

des hât sî mêr danne vil.

of-it has she more than much.

er ist alles liebes wol gewert,

he is of-all love well granted,

mit dem sî daz gerne teilen wil.

with whom she that gladly share will.

Swaz an einem wîbe

Whatever in a woman

guoter dinge mac gesîn,

of-good things may be,

der hât sî den besten teil,

of-it has she the best part,

minneclîche schoene, gar ze wunsche wol gestalt.

lovely beauty, wholly to wish well formed.

wol ir süezen lîbe!

hail to-her sweet person!

der ist ûf die triuwe mîn

it is upon the troth mine

unbewollen, âne meil;

undefiled, without blemish;

kiusche an ir gebæren, mit ir sprûchen niht ze balt,

chaste in her bearing, with her sayings not too bold,

êrebære und wol gezogen,

honorable and well bred,

deist ein übergülte gar.

that-is a surpassing-gold wholly.

in hât sîn gelücke niht betrogen

him has his fortune not deceived

der mit ir verswendet sîniu jâr.

who with her spends his years.

Nû klag ich die bluomen und die liechten sumerzât

NOW I LAMENT THE FLOWERS

The poet laments the flowers and the bright days, and a woman whose ears are filled with stone: whatever he sings to her is harping in a mill. Willebort, Gêneliup, and Hiltewîn have overturned his fortune, and Engelmâr's theft of Vriderûn's mirror is named as the root of it. The song then turns to weighing men's love against women's, praising pure love above all the gold of Greece, and counsels a man to speak in time, since no woman was ever won by thoughts.

69,25 Nû klag ich die bluomen und die liechten sumerzât

Now lament I the flowers and the bright summer-season

und die wunneclîchen tage.

and the blissful days.

dâ bî hân ich eine klage

there by have I a lament

diu mir tougenlîche manege vröude hât benomen,

which to-me secretly many-a joy has taken,

daz ein wîp sô lange haldet wider mich ir strît,

that a woman so long keeps against me her strife,

der ich vil gedienet hân

whom I much served have

ûf genâdelôsen wân.

upon a-favorless expectation.

ich kan mînes willen ninder gein ir zende komen,

I can of-my will nowhere toward her to-an-end come,

sît sî niht enhât

since she not has

in ir herze wîbes güete

in her heart woman's goodness

unde ir doch dar under dienen lât.

and to-her yet there under to-serve lets.

wer wære den der kumber niht enmüete?

who were whom the affliction not troubled?

mich wundert daz mîn dienst und mîn singen niht vervât.

me astonishes that my service and my singing nothing avails.

Swaz ich ir gesinge deist gehärphet in der mül;

Whatever I to-her sing that-is harped in the mill;

sî verstêt es ninder wort.

she understands of-it nowhere a-word.

jâne sprichet Willebort.

indeed-not says Willebort.

stein erfüllt ir ôren daz sis immer iht verneme.

stone fills her ears so-that she-of-it ever nothing hear.

seht ob ich dar umbe im niht vîent wesen sül,

see whether I there about to-him not an-enemy be shall,

der mich sô beswæret hât

who me so burdened has

und mir für ir hulde stât.

and to-me before her favor stands.

er sol wizzen, kumt ez sô, daz ich imz in gereme,

he shall know, comes it so, that I to-him-it on-them requite,

dâ den vriunden sîn

where to-the friends his

wirt ir herze von gesêret.

is their heart of-it wounded.

er und Gêneliup und Hiltewîn

he and Gêneliup and Hiltewîn

habent mîn gelücke dâ verkêret.

have my fortune there overturned.

ez wirt ir etelîchem ein verzintez nûschelîn.

it becomes to-them to-some-a-one a tinned little-clasp.

Disen sumer wârens alle drî ûf sî verkoln,

This summer were-they all three upon her inflamed,

dazs ein ander truogen haz.

that-they to-one another bore hate.

doch enbôt siz einem baz

yet showed she-it to-one better

mit gebâerden: daz was niht der zweier wille guot.

with gestures: that was not of-the two the-will good.

‘wâren sî ze Kriechen,’ solde ich sî von danne holn,

‘were they in Greece,’ should I them from thence fetch,

sî beliben lange dort,

they would-remain long yonder,

Gêneliup und Willebort.

Gêneliup and Willebort.

dâ gelæge ouch lîhte der Hildewînes hôher muot.

there would-lie also perhaps the of-Hildewîn high spirit.

mîner arebeit

of-my labor

habent sî mir vil gebrouwen:

have they to-me much brewed:

ich sag iu daz wol ûf mînen eit,

I say to-you that well upon my oath,

daz sî mir des selben suln getrouwen.

that they to-me of-the same shall trust.

ez schadet der ze langer vrist den tumben vil vertreit.

it harms he-who too long a-term to-the fools much indulges.

Ich hân in durch mîne zuht ein teil ze vil vertragen,

I have to-them through my breeding a part too much borne,

daz mich nie gein in gevrumt

which me never toward them profited

und ze staten niht enkumt.

and to advantage not comes.

ich kunde ir hulde nie verdienen noch ir werden gruo.
I could their favor never earn nor their worthy greeting.

ich enmac sîn allez mit gesange niht geklagen
I may of-it all with singing not lament

daz mir leides widervert:
what to-me of-sorrow befalls:

mirst sîn alze vil beschert.
to-me-is of-it all-too much allotted.

mir enwil diu sælde nindert volgen einen vuoz:
to-me will the blessing nowhere follow a foot:

swelhen ende ich var,
whatever direction I fare,

sô læt sî mich immer eine.
so lets she me ever alone.

got vor ungedulde mich bewar.
God from impatience me preserve.

mîn gelücke ist wider sî sô kleine.
my fortune is against them so small.

von iuvern schulden hân ich disiu leit, her Engelmâr.
from your faults have I these sorrows, sir Engelmâr.

Sit von iuvern handen Vriderûn den spiegel vlôs,
Since from your hands Vriderûn the mirror lost,

so ist unbildes vil geschehen,
so is of-outrage much happened,

des genuoge müezen jehen,
of-which many must declare,

daz in hundert jâren nie sô vil dâ vor geschach.
that in hundred years never so much there before happened.

beidiu laster unde schaden sî doch nie verkôs
both reproach and harm she yet never overlooked

noch verkiesen niht enwil.
nor to-overlook at-all will.

iuwers schimpfes was ze vil.

of-your jest was too much.

daz diu hant erkrumbe diu die spiegelsnuor zerbrach,

that the hand grow-crooked which the mirror-cord broke,

die sî selbe vlaht

which she herself braided

âne golt ûz glanzen sîden.

without gold out-of gleaming silks.

sî was maneger hande sîden slaht.

it was of-many kind of-silk kind.

des was ir ze vil von iu ze lîden.

of-it was to-her too much from you to suffer.

iuch het iuwer gogelheit von iuwern sinnen brâht.

you had your wantonness from your senses brought.

Ich was ie den wîben holder danne sî mir sîn.

I was ever to-the women more-devoted than they to-me are.

daz ich des enkelten sol

that I of-it pay-for shall

daz enzimt in niht ze wol.

that suits to-them not too well.

owê daz diu liebe niht gemeiner triuwen pfligt.

alas that the love not of-mutual troth takes-care.

des ist zwischen mir und einem wîbe worden schîn.

of-it is between me and a woman become clear.

diust mir niht als ich ir bin.

she-is to-me not as I to-her am.

sô gêt mir mîn leben hin.

so goes to-me my life away.

ez ist âne reht daz liebe niht gelîche wigt.

it is without right that love not equally weighs.

dô diu liebe wac

when the love weighed

hie bevor gelicher wâge,

here before of-equal balance,

dône het diu minne ninder krac:

then had the love nowhere a-crack:

niemen mich dar umbe mêre vrâge:

nobody me there about more ask:

diu hât nû scharthen hinne vür unz an den lesten tac.

it has now notches hence forth until at the last day.

Dô man wîbe minne gegen der manne minne wac

When one women's love against the men's love weighed

innerthalp des herzen tür,

inside the heart's door,

dô wac mannes minne vür.

then weighed man's love more.

nûne kan sich gegen der wîbe minne niht gewegen.

now can itself against the women's love nothing be-weighed.

ich enweiz ab niht wen ich der schulden zîhen mac,

I know but not whom I of-the faults accuse may,

der die wâren schulde hât.

who the true faults has.

zweier dinge uns abe gât,

of-two things to-us off goes,

daz wir man niht kiusche sîn noch rehter wâge pflegen,

that we men not chaste are nor of-right balance take-care,

diu gelîche trage

which equally bear

herzenliebe gein der minne.

heart's-love against the love.

ir sult wizzen, swaz iu iemen sage,

you shall know, whatever to-you anyone says,

er gewan nie herzen küneginne,

he won never a-heart's queen,

der niht enwirbet daz er guoten wîben wol behage.

who not strives so-that he to-good women well please.

Reiner wîbe minne tiuwert hôher manne muot.

Of-pure women love ennobles high men's spirit.

ist ir triuwe minneclîch,

is their troth loving,

deist in beiden lobelîch.

that-is to-them both praiseworthy.

wol im der gein wîben sîner stæte hûeten kan.

bail to-him who toward women his constancy guard can.

valschelôsiu minne wære beidenthalben guot:

falsehood-free love were on-both-sides good:

wol dem herzen daz sî treit.

bail to-the heart that it bears.

dem wirt sîner arebeit

to-him becomes of-his labor

wol gelônnet. disiu mære merket, guote man.

well rewarded. these tidings mark, good men.

sît den wîben holt,

he to-the women devoted,

lât in herze und ougen lachen.

let to-them heart and eyes laugh.

ir sult wizzen, aller Kriechen golt

you shall know, of-all Greeks gold

möhte ein herze niht sô vrô gemachen

might a heart not so glad make

sô reiner wîbe minne. deist ein vreudebernder solt.

as of-pure women love. that-is a joy-bearing wage.

Al diu crêatiure die der himel hât bedaht

All the creation which the heaven has covered

und dar zuo diu erde treit

and there to the earth bears

hât niht hôher werdekeit

has no higher worthiness

danne ein reine wîp; vor ir ein wol gevieret man.

than a pure woman; before her a well four-square man.

swâ diu zwei beinander ruowent eine ganze naht,

wherever the two by-one-another rest a whole night,

da ist der minne lanzen ort

there is of-the love the-lance's point

wol bewunden hie unt dort.

well wound here and there.

sî hât zwischen herzenlieben schaden vil getân.

she has between heart's-loved-ones harm much done.

sus getâner nôt

of-thus fashioned distress

kan diu minne wunder machen,

can the love wonders make,

trüebiu ougen, nâch der trüebe rôr,

dim eyes, after the dimness red,

sus und sô mit manger hande sachen.

thus and so with many-a kind of-matters.

sî wundet mangan daz im bezzer wære ein senfter tôr.

she wounds many-a-one so-that to-him better were a gentle death.

Ich bin einem wîbe lange gar unmâzen holt

I am to-a woman long wholly beyond-measure devoted

stæteclichen her gewesen.

constantly hitherto been.

ân die trouwe ich niht genesen.

without her trust I not to-recover.

nû belîben frô die liute und merken mîne klage.

now remain glad the people and mark my lament.

solte ich zuo ir sprechen allez daz ich gerne wolt

should I to her say all that I gladly would

und doch guote fuoge hât

and yet good propriety has

und niht an ir êre gât

and not at her honor touches

und geschæhe ouch wol, und wære ich gên ir niht ein zage.

and would-happen also well, and were I toward her not a coward.

swenne ich von ir bin,

whenever I from her am,

sô hab ich vil guote sinne:

so have I very good senses:

kum ich zuo ir, sô ist hin der sin.

come I to her, so is gone the sense.

daz sint allez herzeclîche minne.

that is all heartfelt love.

sus ungesprochen mit gedanken gât diu wîle hin.

thus unsspoken with thoughts goes the while away.

Mit gedanken wirt erworben niemer wîbes kint.

With thoughts is won never a-woman's child.

dâ von spreche ein man enzît

there of speak a man in-time

daz im an dem herzen lît

what to-him at the heart lies

und versuoche ob ez diu minneclîche danne tuo.

and try whether it the lovely-one then do.

swes er im gedenket, daz ist ir vil gar ein wint;

whatever he to-himself thinks, that is to-her very wholly a wind;

des enkan sî wizzen niht:

of-it can she know nothing:

dâ von ist ez gar ein wiht.

there of is it wholly a nothing.

dâ gehœret underwîlen guot geriune zuo.

there belongs sometimes good whispering to.

êst unmâzen guot,

it-is beyond-measure good,

swer gein wîben tar gesprechen:

whoever toward women dares to-speak:

daz verkêret mangel stæten muot

that turns many-a steadfast spirit

und kan vestiu herzen wol zebrechen.

and can firm hearts well break-open.

des volge ein man, und ist mîn rât, ob er ez gerne tuot.

of-it follow a man, and is my counsel, if he it gladly does.

Milter fürste Friderîch, an triuwen gar ein flins

GENEROUS PRINCE FRIEDRICH

A single strophe addressed to the prince. Friedrich is called generous and, in troth, a flint; he has housed the poet well, and God should reward him for it, since no richer gift ever came from a prince's hand. All of it would be good but for the burdensome tax, which takes what his children should live on and will soon have him pawning goods to his friends. Lighten it, and he will sing that praise from the Elbe to the Rhine.

73,11 Milter fürste Friderîch, an triuwen gar ein flins,

Bountiful prince Friderich, in troth wholly a flint,

dû hâst mich behûset wol.

thou hast me housed well.

got dir billich lônên sol.

God to-thee justly reward shall.

ich enpfienç nie rîcher gâbe mêr von fürsten hant.

I received never a-richer gift more from a-prince's hand.

daz wær allez guot, niwan der ungefüege zins.

that were all good, save the excessive rent.

des diu kinder solten leben,

what the children should live-on,

daz muoz ich ze stiuwer geben:

that must I as tribute give:

des wirt zwischen mir und mînen friunden schiere ein pfant.

of-it becomes between me and my friends soon a pledge.

lieber herre mîn,

dear lord mine,

maht dû mir den zins geringen,

canst thou to-me the rent lighten,

dînes heiles 'kempfe' wil ich sîn

of-thy well-being 'champion' will I be

und dîn lop wol sprechen unde singen,

and thy praise well speak and sing,

daz ez lûte erhillet von der Elbe unz an den Rîn.

so-that it loudly rings-out from the Elbe up to the Rhine.

Sumer, dîner süezen weter müezen wir uns ânen

SUMMER, WE MUST DO WITHOUT THY WEATHER

The poet must do without the summer's sweet weather and the good one's comfort alike. Hildebolt and young Willeher keep him from her at the street dance in their narrow coats, red hats, and buckled shoes; a root of ginger given and snatched away sets off a brawl he leaves before its end. Then he gives up the name of Riuwental, where his holding is measured small, and tells how the prince of Austria has housed him at Melk.

73,24 Sumer, dîner süezen weter müezen wir uns ânen:

Summer, of-thy sweet weather must we ourselves deprive:

dirre kalde winder trûren unde senen gît.

this cold winter mourning and longing gives.

ich bin ungetræstet von der lieben wolgetân:

I am un comforted by the dear well-formed-one:

wie sol ich vertriben dise lange swære zît

how shall I drive-away this long heavy season

diu die heide velwet unde mange bluomen wolgetân?

which the heath withers and many-a flower well-formed?

alsô sint die vogle in dem walde des

so are the birds in the wood of-it

betwungen daz ir singen müezen lân.

constrained that-they their singing must leave.

Alsô hât diu vrouwe mîn daz herze mir betwungen

So has the lady mine the heart to-me constrained

daz ich âne vröude muoz verswenden mîne tage.

that I without joy must squander my days.

ez vervæhet niht swaz ich ir lange hân gesungen.

it avails nothing whatever I to-her long have sung.

mir ist alsô mære daz ich mêre stille dage.

to-me is so indifferent that I henceforth silent be-still.

ich geloube niht des daz sî mannen immer werde holt.

I believe not of-it that she to-men ever become devoted.

wir verliesen swaz wir dar gesingen unde gerûnen,

we lose whatever we thither sing and whisper,

ich und jener Hildebolt.

I and yonder Hildebolt.

Der ist nû der tumbist under geilen getelingen,

He is now the most-foolish among merry yokels,

er und einer, nennet man den jungen Willeher.

he and one, calls one the young Willeher.

den enkunde ich disen sumer nie von ir gedringen,

him could I this summer never from her push-away,

sô der tanz gein âbent an der strâze gie entwer.

when the dance toward evening on the street went crosswise.

mangen twerhen blic den wurfen sî mich mit den ougen an,

many-a sidelong glance that threw they me with the eyes on,

daz ich sunder mînes guoten willen vor in

so-that I without of-my good will before them

beiden ie ze sweime muose gân.

both ever to hovering had-to go.

Wê daz mich sô manger hât von lieber stat gedrungen

Woe that me so many-a-one has from a-dear place pushed

beidiu von der guoten unde ouch wilent anderswâ.

both from the good-one and also once elsewhere.

œdelichen wart von in ûf mînen tratz gesprungen.

offensively was by them upon my defiance leapt.

ir gewaltes bin ich vor in mînem schoppe grâ.

of-their power am I from them my forelock gray.

iedoch sô neic diu guote mir ein lützel über schildes rant.
yet so bowed the good-one to-me a little over shield's rim.

gerne mugt ir hoeren wie die dörper sint gekleidet:
gladly may you hear how the peasants are clothed:

üppeclîch ist ir gewant.
showy is their dress.

Enge röcke tragent sî und enge schaperûne,
Narrow coats wear they and narrow capes,

rôte hüete, rinkelohte schuohe, swarze hosen.
red hats, buckled shoes, black hose.

Engelmâr getet mir nie sô leide an Vriderûne
Engelmâr did to-me never so grievously with Vriderûn

sam die zwêne tuont. ich nîde ir phellerîne phosen
as the two do. I envy their silken purses

die sî tragent: dâ lît inne ein wurze, heizet ingeber.
which they wear: there lies within a root, called ginger.

der gap Hildebolt der guoten eine bî dem tanze;
of-it gave Hildebolt to-the good-one one at the dance;

die gezuhte ir Willeher.
it snatched from-her Willeher.

Sagte ich nû diu mære wie siz mit ein ander schuofen,
Told I now the tidings how they-it with one another settled,

des enweiz ich niht: ich schiet von danne sâ zehant.
of-it know I nothing: I departed from thence at-once straightway.

manneglîch begunde sînen vriunden vaste ruofen.
every-man began to-bis friends loudly to-call.

einer der schrei lûte 'hîlf, gevater Wezerant!'
one he cried loudly 'help, godfather Wezerant!'

er was lihte in grôzen noeten dô er sô nâch helfe schrê.
he was perhaps in great straits when he so after help cried.

Hildeboldes swester hôte ich eines lûte schriên
of-Hildebolt the-sister heard I once loudly cry

‘wê mir mînes bruoder wê!’

‘woe to-me of-my brother woe!’

Wâ von sol man hine vûre mîn geplâtze erkennen?

Where from shall one hence forth my strumming know?

hie envor dô kande man iz wol bî Riuwental.

here before then knew one it well by Riuwental.

dâ von solde man mich noch von allem rehte nennen:

there from should one me still by all right name:

nust mir eigen unde lêhen dâ gemezzen smal.

now-is to-me property and fief there measured narrow.

kint, ir heizet iu den singen der sîn nû gewaltic sî:

children, you bid to-you him sing who of-it now master be:

ich bin sîn verstôzen âne schulde: mîne vriunt,

I am of-it thrust-out without fault: my friends,

nû lâzet mich des namen vrî.

now let me of-the name free.

Ich hân des mînen herren hulde verloren âne schulde:

I have of-the my lord favor lost without fault:

dâ von so ist mîn herze jâmers unde trûrens vol.

there from so is my heart of-grief and of-mourning full.

rîcher got, nû rihte mirz sô gar nâch dîner hulde,

mighty God, now set-right to-me-it so wholly after thy favor,

vil manges werden friundes, des ich mich sô ânen sol.

of-very many-a worthy friend, of-whom I myself so deprive shall.

des hân ich ze Beiern lâzen allez daz ich ie gewan
of-it have I in Bavaria left all that I ever won

unde var dâ hin gein Ôsterrîche und wil
and fare there thither toward Austria and will

dingen an den werden Ôsterman.
look-for-favor at the worthy Austrian.

Mîner vinde wille ist niht ze wol an mir ergangen:
Of-my enemies will is not too well on me come-about:

wolde ez got, sîn mähete noch vil lîhte werden rât.
willed it God, of-it might still very easily become remedy.

in dem lande ze Ôsterrîche wart ich wol enphangen
in the land in Austria was I well received

von dem edeln vürsten der mich nû behûset hât.
by the noble prince who me now housed has.

hie ze Medelicke bin ich immer âne ir aller danc.
here in Melk am I ever without their all consent.

mirst niht leit daz ich von Eppen und von Gumpen
to-me-is no sorrow that I of Eppe and of Gumpen

ie ze Riuwental sô vil gesanc.
ever in Riuwental so much sang.

Rädelohte sporen treit mir Fridepreht ze leide,
Wheeled spurs wears to-me Fridepreht to sorrow,

niuwe vezzel; dar zuo hât er zweier hande kleit.
a-new strap; there to has he of-two kinds clothing.

rucket er den afterreif hin wider ûf die scheide,
shifts he the after-strap thither back upon the scabbard,

wizzent, mîne vriunde, daz ist mir ein herzenleit.
know, my friends, that is to-me a heart's-sorrow.

zwêne niuwe hantschuoh er unz ûf den ellenbogen zôch.

two new gloves he up onto the elbows drew.

mugt ir hœren wie der selbe gemzinc von der

May you hear bow tbe same chamois from tbe

lieben hiuwer ab dem tanze vlôch?

dear-one this-year off the dance fled?

Owê sumerzît
ALAS, SUMMER-SEASON

The summer is addressed as a ruler robbed: winter has taken the summer's throne, sent its household into the land, and shoveled the flowers and leaves into its sacks as first plunder. Men are told to guard their fingers and toes, and their eyes against sleet that colors a young man gray. The poet will go on serving his lady on a good hope, though Mandelzwî and Herebrant, yoked like a lion on a chain, whisper beside her at the dance.

75,15 Owê sumerzît,

Alas summer-season,

daz dir niemen hilfe gît!

that to-thee nobody help gives!

waz dir hazzes unde nît

what to-thee of-bate and envy

aber ûf dînem rücke lît

again upon thy back lies

ê der winder sînen strîf

before the winter his strife

an dir gar volende, als im sîn wille gegen dir stât!

on thee wholly finish, as to-him his will toward thee stands!

er ist dir gehaz,

he is to-thee hostile,

ich enweiz niht umbe waz.

I know not about what.

sît er dînen stuol besaz,

since he thy seat occupied,

des er selten ie vergaz,

of-which he seldom ever forgot,

erne twunge ie vürebaz.

unless-be forced ever further.

sîn gewalt wol tûsent ellen vür den dînen gât.

his power well thousand ells before the thine goes.

er hât in diu lant

he has into the lands

dir ze schaden her gesant

to-thee for harm hither sent

allez sîn gesinde, daz dich roubet offenliche mit gewalteclîcher hant.

all his household, which thee robs openly with a-violent hand.

Sîne winde kalt

His winds cold

habent dînen grünen walt

have thy green wood

harte jâmerlîch gestalt:

very pitiously fashioned:

des diu heide sêre enkalt

of-it the heath sorely suffered

an ir bluomen manecvalt;

in her flowers manifold;

sî ist verderbet, daz sî sich ze hove wil beklagen.

she is ruined, so-that she herself at court will complain.

bluomen unde loup

flowers and foliage

was des rîfen êrster roup

were of-the frost the-first plunder

den er in die secke schoup;

which it into the sacks shoved;

er enspielt in noch enkloup.

it not-split them nor cleft.

des ist manic herze toup,

of-it is many-a heart numb,

daz an sînen vröuden wol von schulden muoz verzagen.

which in its joys well from cause must despair.

îs und anehanc

ice and icicle

hât der vogelîne sanc

has of-the little-birds' song

gar gestillet in den welden, dâ sî müezen

wholly stilled in the woods, where they must

swîgen allen disen winder lanc.

be-silent all this winter long.

Bluomen unde klê,

Flowers and clover,

manger hande wunne mê,

of-many kind of-delight more,

die verderbet uns der snê.

them ruins for-us the snow.

disiu sorge tuot mir wê,

this care does to-me woe,

daz uns iht vor im bestê.

that to-us nothing before it remain.

sumer, dîne holden von den huoben sint gevarn.

summer, thy retainers from the holdings are fared.

leit ist mir geschehen

sorrow is to-me happened

an der lichten sunne brehen,

in the bright sun's flasbing,

die wir dicke trüebe sehen,

whicb we often dim see,

des wir alle müezen jehen.

of-which we all must declare.

beidiu vinger unde zehen

both fingers and toes

sol ein ieslich man vor disen winden wol bewarn.

shall every single man against these winds well guard.

ougen unde brâ

eyes and brows

vor der winderræzen schrâ

against the winter-sharp rime

sult ir wol behüeten, wan sî verwet einen jungen

shall you well protect, for it colors a young-man

daz man wænet er sî grâ.

so-that one thinks he be gray.

Swaz ich tumber klage

Whatever I fool lament

bluomen und die liechten tage,

flowers and the bright days,

und an freuden niht verzage

and in joys not despair

bî dem kumber den ich trage

beside the affliction which I bear

mêre denne ich iemen sage,

more than I to-anyone tell,

daz ist der gedienet der ich vil gedienet hân

that is to-her served whom I much served have

unde ir dienen wil

and to-her serve will

unz an mîner jâre zil,

until at my years' end,

ir sî lützel oder vil.

they be few or many.

disen ruom ich nieman hil.

this boast I to-nobody hide.

habe siz immer für ein spil,

hold she-it ever for a game,

doch sô wil ich dienen ir ûf einen guoten wân.

yet so will I serve her upon a good expectation.

lîhte kumt ein tac

perhaps comes a day

daz ich sô gedienen mac

that I so serve may

daz mir von der guoten wirt gelônnet daz ich

that to-me by the good-one is rewarded so-that I

von ir füere freuden vollen sac.

from her carry of-joys a-full sack.

Aller mîn gerinc

All my striving

daz ist ein verloren dinc.

that is a lost thing.

swenne ir alle sprechet 'sinc,

whenever you all say 'sing,

ungemüete von mir swinc,'

ill-humor from me swing,'

sône lât ein getelinc

so lets a yokel

sî niht hoeren mînen sanc. daz lât iu wesen leit.

he not hear my song. that let to-you be sorrow.

derst ir dicke bî

he-is to-her often by

unde heizet Mandelzwî.

and is-called Mandelzwî.

wie der gouch getoufet sî,

how the gawk baptized be,

der gewizzen bin ich vrî:

of-the knowledge am I free:

sîner nâchgebûren drî

of-his neighbors three

habent ungevrâget etewenne alsô geseit,

have unasked sometimes so said,

daz er Eberzant

that he Eberzant

in der toufe sî genant.

in the baptism he named.

disen sumer habent sî mich von ir verdrungen,

this summer have they me from her crowded-out,

er und sîn geloufte Herebrant.

he and his comrade Herebrant.

Die zwên gênt geweten,

The two go yoked,

sint von Kûnehôhesteten.

are from Kûnehôhesteten.

als ein lewe an einer keten

like a lion on a chain

gênt sî bî dem tanze treten

go they by the dance stepping

bî der lieben ungebeten.

by the dear-one unbidden.

daz sî dâ mit ir gerûnent deist mîn ungewin

that they there with her whisper that-is my loss

unde ist mir getân.

and is to-me done.

owê welch ein sunderwân!

alas what a strange-hope!

waz ich ungemaches hân,

what I of-discomfort have,

mêre danne ein ander man,

more than a different man,

des ich niht erwenden kan!

whiche I not turn-away can!

sô mit ungenâden loufent mîne tage hin.

so with disfavors run my days away.

wê gelückes rat,

woe fortune's wheel,

wenne sol ich mîne stat

when shall I my place

ûf dir vinden, oder wenne sol ich mînen

upon thee find, or when shall I my

vooz gesetzen in der sælden pfat?

foot set in the blessing's path?

In der sælden pfat

In the blessing's path

ich noch leider nie getrat.

I still alas never trod.

dâ ich ie genâden bat

where I ever favor begged

dâ verstiez mich mîner stat

there thrust me from-my place

ein gebûwer gogelsat.

a peasant wanton-sated.

solher vlûste hân ich her gespilt wol drîzec jâr,

of-such losses have I hitberto played well thirty years,

mînenthalp verlorn

on-my-part lost

beidiu schaden unde zorn,

both harm and anger,

den ich lîhter het verborn;

which I more-easily had forgone;

daz doch nimmer wirt verkorn,

which yet never is forgiven,

des ich tiuwer hân gesworn.

of-which I solemnly have sworn.

an der lieben Vriderûnen huop ez Engelmâr,

on the dear Vriderûn began it Engelmâr,

der ir spiegel nam,

who her mirror took,

des im gouche niht gezam.

which to-him gawk not befitted.

des ist unvergezzen, ich getuo ir einem sînes herzen kûneginne alsam.

that is unforgotten, I do of one his heart's queen likewise.

Sumer, dīner liechten ougenweide
SUMMER, THY BRIGHT FEAST FOR THE EYES

Three sorrows press the poet at once: the heavy season, the scorn his service meets, and the good one's absence from his arm. His little lament-songs go into her ears as water goes into stone. Madelwîc, whose father Engelgêr was never so insolent, leapt the crooked round at her white hand, and the poet means to beg the man of Schônêlîte for his favor. At the end he sits on the stool while his rival sits above him on the bench.

78,11 Sumer, dīner liechten ougenweide

Summer, of-thy bright feast-for-the-eyes

muoz ich mich getræsten aber sunder mīnen danc.

must I myself console again against my will.

mich betwinget drīer hande leide,

me constrains of-three kinds sorrow,

daz vor allem leide nie sô sêre mich betwanc.

which before all sorrow never so sorely me constrained.

daz eine ist diu swære zît

the one is the heavy season

diu uns allen nâhet;

which to-us all nears;

so ist daz ander daz mir trûren unde senen gât

so is the other that to-me mourning and longing gives

daz ir al der dienest mîn versmâhet;

that to-her all the service mine is-scorned;

daz dritte daz diu guote an mīnem arme niht enlît.

the third that the good-one in my arm not lies.

Mîniu senelîchen klâgeliedel

My longing little-lament-songs

gênt ir in diu ôren sam daz wazzer in den stein.

go to-her into the ears like the water into the stone.

ich versmâhe ir lîhte ze einem vriedel:

I seem-contemptible to-her perhaps as a lover:

unser beider wille der enhillet niht einen.

of-us both's will it agrees not as-one.

si ist mir vînt und ich ir holt.

she is to-me an-enemy and I to-her devoted.

wenne hât daz ende?

when has that an-end?

disen werren prûevet Madelwîc und Werenbolt.

this discord stirs Madelwîc and Werenbolt.

got in beiden ir gelücke wende!

God to-them both their fortune turn!

jâ hân ich disen sumer ir gewaltes vil gedolt.

indeed have I this summer of-their power much endured.

Ich hân ungemach von Madelwîge:

I have discomfort from Madelwîc:

sîner ungenâden lîde ich mêre danne vil.

of-bis disfavours suffer I more than much.

sîner ungevüege ich vil verswîge,

of-bis unseemliness I much keep-silent,

diech den liuten nimmer halbe ze ôren bringen wil.

which-I to-the people never half to ears bring will.

ich bin im von schulden gram:

I am to-him with reason hostile:

erst ze snabelræze.

he-is too beak-sharp.

sach ab iemen den der Vriderrîn ir spiegel nam?

saw but anyone him who from-Vriderrîn her mirror took?

dem gelîch ist allez sîn gelæze.

to-him like is all his bearing.

ze manegen stunden ich mich sînes ungelimphes scham.

at many hours I myself of-his rudeness am-ashamed.

Hiuwer dô diu kint ir vröuden phlâgen,

This-year when the children of-their joys took-care,

dô spranc er den krumben reien an ir wîzen hant.

then leapt he the crooked round-dance at her white hand.

ich begunde mîne vriunde vrâgen

I began my friends to-ask

wer der dörper wære: dô was ez in unbekant.

who the peasant were: then was it to-them unknown.

dâ bî wuohs mir ninder smer,

there by grew to-me nowhere fat,

dô sî vor mir sprungen.

when they before me leapt.

jâ enwas sô hiuze niht sîn vater Engelgêr.

indeed was so insolent not his father Engelgêr.

nû bin ich beswæret von dem jungen.

now am I burdened by the young-one.

owê, wer brâht in ie von Sante Lienharden her?

alas, who brought him ever from Saint Lienbart hither?

Jâ wær er mir sînes lîbes schuldec

Indeed were he to-me of-his body guilty

der mir in ze schaden ûz dem Vorste her vertreip.

who to-me him for harm out-of the Forest hither drove.

er ist vrevellîchen ungeduldec.

he is recklessly impatient.

owê daz er dort bî sînen mâgen niht beleip!

alas that he yonder by his kinsmen not remained!

sô enstriche er sînen vuoz

so would-stroke he his foot

niht an mîne sîten.

not at my sides.

lîhte wirt mir sîn und sîner ungenâden buoz.

perhaps becomes to-me of-him and of-his disfavors relief.

ich wil bitten den von Schônêlîten

I will beg him of Schônêlîte

daz er mir sîn hulde gebe; ich wæne wol er tuoz.

that he to-me his favor give; I think well he does-it.

Ich bin ir ze verre, sî mir nâhen.

I am to-her too far, she to-me near.

ir vil lôsiu ougen brâhtens in daz herze mîn.

her very wanton eyes brought-her into the heart mine.

dô sich diu zwei lieb ein ander sâhen,

when themselves the two loves one another saw,

dô dûhtes mich sô schœne sam der liechten sunne schîn.

then seemed-she to-me so fair as of-the bright sun shining.

und ist ez als ich kunde spehen

and is it as I could discern

an der wolgetânen,

in the well-formed-one,

nimmer mûeze Madelwîge lieb von ir geschehen,

never may to-Madelwîc pleasure from her befall,

der sich teiles niht an ir wil ânen,

who himself of-a-share not in her will deprive,

wande ich under wîben hân sô schœnes niht gesehen.

for I among women have so fair-a not seen.

Ich trag allerherzenliche swære,

I bear an-all-heartfelt grief,

under mînen vreuden einen ungevüegen last

among my joys an unseemly load

der dem keiser überswenke wære,

which for-the emperor overweighty were,

unde ir doch dâ bî an mînem dienste nie gebrast,

and to-her yet there by in my service never it-lacked,

ich gesunge ir niuwen sanc

I would-sing to-her a-new song

gegen der wandelunge.

toward the changing.

dâ mit diene ich ir den sumer und den winder lanc

there with served I her the summer and the winter long

ê mich Madelwic hin dan gedrunge.

before me Madelwic away away pushed.

nû sitze ich ûf dem schamel, unde er oben ûf der banc.

now sit I upon the stool, and he above upon the bench.

Mirst von herzen leide

I HAVE SORROW FROM THE HEART

The cold winter destroys the flowers and a longing toil destroys the poet, who doubts that any woman's goodness could have stayed hidden so long. Adeltir of Ense threatens him as one threatens a fat goose and swaggered round the dance all day trading garlands, while Lanze tore a veil and a flower-hat from a proud maid. That hand is cursed as ruder than Engelmâr's, and the song ends on the rival's narrow trimmed sleeves and his Flemish airs.

Mirst von herzen leide

79,36

To-me-is from heart sorrow

daz der küele winder

that the cool winter

verderbet schœner bluomen vil:

destroys fair flowers many:

sô verderbet mich ein senelîchiu arebeit.

so destroys me a longing-filled toil.

dise sorge beide

these cares both

dringent mich hin hinder

press me thither backward

zende an mîner vreuden zil.

to-the-end at my joys' goal.

owê daz diu guote mit ir willen daz vertreit,

alas that the good-one with her will that endures,

sît sî wol geringen mac

since she well lighten can

alle mîne swære.

all my sorrows.

owê, gelebte ich noch den tac

alas, lived I yet the day

daz sî genædic wære!

that she gracious were!

Swenne ich mich vereine

Whenever I myself am-alone

unde an sî gedenke, —

and of her think,—

wær inder wîbes güete dâ,

were anywhere woman's goodness there,

diu nehæte sich sô lange bî ir niht verholn.

it would-have itself so long with her not concealed.

sît sî lônet kleine

since she rewards little

mîner niuwen klenke,

my new tunes,

mag ich dienen anderswâ?

may I serve elsewhere?

nein, ich wil mit willen disen kumber langer doln.

no, I will with willingness this affliction longer suffer.

waz ob noch ein sælic wîp

what if yet a blessed woman

gar den muot verkêret

wholly the spirit turns

und vreut mîn herze und ouch den lîp?

and gladdens my heart and also the body?

diu zwei diu sint gesêret.

the two they are wounded.

Zuo dem ungemache

To the discomfort

den ich von ir lide

which I from her suffer

sô twinget mich ein ander leit

so constrains me a different sorrow

daz vor allem leide mich sô sêre nie betwanc,

which before all sorrow me so sorely never constrained,

swiech dar umbe lache

though-I there about laugh

und gebâre blide.

and behave cheerfully.

mir hât ein dörper widerseit,

to-me has a peasant defiance-declared,

umb anders niht wan umbe den mînen üppeclîchen sanc.

for other nothing than for the my wanton song.

derst geheizen Adeltir,

he-is called Adeltir,

bürtic her von Ense.

born hither from Ense.

zallen zîten drôt er mir

at-all times threatens he me

als einer veizten gense.

like a fat goose.

Hiwer an einem tanze

This-year at a dance

gie er umbe und umbe.

went he round and round.

den wehsel het er al den tac.

the exchange had he all the day.

glanziu schapel gap er umbe ir niuwen krenzelîn.

shining garlands gave he for their new little-wreaths.

Etzel unde Lanze,

Etzel and Lanze,

zwêne knappen tumbe,

two lads foolish,

die phlâgen ouch des jener phlac.

they practiced also that-which that-one practiced.

Lanze der beswârte ein vil stolzez magedîn.

Lanze he grieved a very proud little-maid.

eine kleine rîsen guot

a small veil good

zarte er ab ir houbet,

tore he from her head,

dar zuo einen bluomenhuot:

there to a flower-hat:

wer het im daz erloubet?

who had to-him that allowed?

Owê sîner hende!

Alas of-bis hands!

daz sî sîn verwâzen!

that they be cursed!

die vinger müezen werden vlorn

the fingers must be lost

dâ mit er gezerret hât den schedelîchen zar!

there with he torn has the harmful tear!

hiete er ir gebende

bad he her head-dress

ungezerret lâzen,

untorn left,

daz krenzel hiete ouch sî verkorn.

the little-wreath bad also she forgiven.

er ist ungevüeger danne wîlen Engelmâr,

he is ruder than once Engelmâr,

der gewalticlichen nam

who violently took

den spiegel Vriderûne:

the mirror from-Vriderûn:

des bin ich dem dörper gram,

for-that am I to-the peasant hostile,

dem selben Walberûne.

to-the same Walberûn.

Dise alten schulde

These old offenses

wecket mir diu niuwe;

wakes for-me the new-one;

ez hât ein geiler getelinc

it has a wanton yokel

hiwer an mir erwecket swaz mir leides ie geschach.

this-year on me awakened whatever to-me of-harm ever befell.

ê ichz langer dulde,

before I-it longer endure,

seht des mîne triuwe,

see of-that my troth,

gespringe ich zuo zim in den rinc,

leap I to to-him into the ring,

er bestât sîn buoze daz er ir ze vrouwen jach,

he undertakes his atonement that he her as lady claimed,

der ich lange gedienet hân

her-whom I long served have

her mit ganzer stæte.

hither with whole constancy.

wolde er sî geruowet lân,

would he her at-peace leave,

wie rehte er danne tæte!

how rightly he then would-do!

Wê waz hât er muochen!

Alas what has he of-vexation!

sî kumt im niht ze mâze.

she comes to-him not to measure.

zwiu sol sîn pîneclîch gebrech?

to-what serves his painful swaggering?

im enmac gehelfen niht sîn hovelîch gewant.

him can help not his courtly garment.

er sol im eine suochen

he shall for-himself one seek

diu in werben lâze.

who him woo let.

diu sînen rôten buosemblech

the his red breast-plates

diu sint ir ungenæme gar, dar zuo sîn hüffelbant.

they are to-her displeasing wholly, there to his hip-belt.

enge ermel treit er lanc,

narrow sleeves wears he long,

die sint vor gebræmet,

they are in-front trimmed,

innen swarz und ûzen blanc.

inside black and outside white.

mit sîner rede er vlæmet.

with his speech he plays-the-Fleming.

Sî klagent daz der winder

THEY LAMENT THE WINTER'S SHARPNESS

Others lament the winter; the poet laments his hard-hearted lady, whom he calls a shameless vagabond and a bait-trap of sins. Her court has filled with false folk, and troth and good bearing are gone from it; her honor is lame in every limb and lies in a puddle. Her name is World-Sweetness, and this is the last of eighty tunes he will sing her. A feud settled by the prince has sent the village dandies to buy armor in Vienna.

Sî klagent daz der winder

They lament that the winter

kæme nie vor manger zît

came never before many-a time

scherpfer noch sô swinder.

sharper nor so fierce.

sô klag ich mîn vrouwen, diu ist herticlich gemuot.

so lament I my lady, she is hard-heartedly minded.

sist wider mich ze strenge.

she-is against me too harsh.

got ir ungenâden niht

God her disfavor not

immer gar verhenge

ever wholly permit

nâch ir willen über mich. sist wirser danne guot.

after her will over me. she-is worse than good.

ich hân mîniu jâr

I have my years

ir gedienet âne mâze.

her served without measure.

82,3

niemen sol mir wîzen, ob ich mîne vrouwen lâze.

nobody shall me blame, if I my lady leave.

dâ vinde ich liebes lônnes niht als grôz als umbe ein hâr.

there find I of-dear reward not as great as about a hair.

Verschamtiu umbetrîbe,

Shameless vagabond,

sünden schanden reizelklobe,

of-sins of-shames bait-trap,

lôsiu hoverîbe!

wanton court-wench!

dienet man ir immer, sî gelônnet nimmer wol.

serves one her ever, she rewards never well.

ir lôn ist sûeze selten.

her reward is sweet seldom.

vrouwen unde guotiu wîp

ladies and good women

habe ich niht ze schelten:

have I not to chide:

dise rede ich wol von mîner vrouwen sprechen sol.

this speech I well of my lady speak shall.

diust an êren kranc:

she-is in honors weak:

dem gebâret sî gelîche.

to-that behaves she alike.

do ichs alrest erkande, dô was sî sô tugentrîche

when I-her first knew, then was she so virtue-rich

daz ich ir mîniu liedelîn ze dienste gerne sanc.

that I to-her my little-songs in service gladly sang.

Nû hât sî sich verkêret.

Now has she herself changed.

schamelôser valscher diet

with-shameless false folk

ist ir hof gemêret.

is her court increased.

triuwe kiusche guot gelæze vindet niemen dâ.

truth chastity good bearing finds nobody there.

die wâren ê gesinde:

they were once household:

des ich noch gedenke wol

of-that I still remember well

aldâ her von kinde.

all-there hither from childhood.

swer sî nû vinden wil, der muoz sî suochen anderswâ.

whoever them now find will, he must them seek elsewhere.

sî sint von ir stat

they are from their place

ân ir willen hin gedrunge.

without their will away pressed.

wîlent was ein munt berihtet wol mit einer zungen:

once was a mouth furnished well with one tongue:

nû sprechent zwô ûz eime; des ir hof die menge hât.

now speak two out-of one; of-that her court the multitude has.

Mîn vrouwe ist wandelbære.

My lady is fickle.

got und elliū guoten dinc

God and all good things

diu sint ir gar unmære.

they are to-her wholly indifferent.

swer die besten minnet, demst sî nîdic und gehaz.

whoever the best loves, to-him-is she envious and hostile.

swer sich ze gote næhet,
whoever himself to God draws,

er sî eigen oder vrî,
he be bond or free,

der wirt von ir gesmæhet.
he is by her scorned.

zuht und êre stüende mîner vrouwen verre baz.
breeding and honor would-suit my lady far better.

sist der werke vrî
she-is of-the works free

diu nâch hôher wurde ringen.
which after high worth strive.

ich hoere niht ir lop ze hove schalleclîchen singen.
I hear not her praise at court resoundingly sung.

nû seht ob ich ze vrouwen wol an ir behalten sî.
now see whether I as lady well in her provided am.

Mîner vrouwen êre
My lady's honor

diust an allen liden lam
it-is in all limbs lame

unde strûchet sêre.
and stumbles sorely.

sist gevallen daz siz überwinden nimmer mac.
she-is fallen that she-it overcome never can.

sî lît in einer lachen,
she lies in a puddle,

daz sî niemen âne got
that her nobody without God

reine kan gemachen.
clean can make.

sî gewinnet nimmer mêre rehte süezen smac.
she gains never more truly sweet savor.

sinne rîchen man,

in-sense rich men,

hüetet iuch vor ir gelâze,

guard yourselves against her bearing,

stêt in iuwer huote dâ ze kirchen und ze strâze;

stand in your ward there at church and at street;

ir sælde rîchen vrouwen, verret iuch her wider dan.

you in-blessing rich ladies, remove yourselves hither back thence.

Ahzic niuwer wîse

Eighty new tunes

loufent mir nû ledic bî,

run to-me now idle by,

diech ze hôhem prîse

which-I to high praise

mîner vrouwen ... ze dienste gesungen hân.

to-my lady (lacuna) in service sung have.

ditz ist nû diu leste

this is now the last

die ich immer singen wil,

which I ever sing will,

an vröuden niht diu beste,

in joys not the best,

als ir an dem wunderlîchen sange müget verstân.

as you in the strange song may understand.

diust sô künstelôs

it-is so artless

beide an worten und an rîme

both in words and in rhyme

daz mans ninder singen tar ze terze noch ze prîme.

that one-it nowhere sing dares at terce nor at prime.

ich klage daz ich solhe vrouwen ie ze dienste erkôs.

I lament that I such-a lady ever for service chose.

Nû nimt genuoge wunder

Now takes many wonder

wer diu selbe vrouwe sî

who the same lady be

diech mit sange besunder

whom-I with song especially

mit mînem hôhen lobe sô rehte wol getiuret hân.

with my high praise so truly well exalted have.

sî heizet Werltsüeze.

she is-called World-Sweetness.

daz mich unser herre got

that me our lord God

vor ir befrien müeze!

from her free may!

guotiu wîp diunhabent mir ze leide niht getân.

good women they-have to-me for harm not done.

mîner vrouwen nam

my lady's name

derst von wîben underscheiden.

it-is from women distinguished.

mir und mêre liutes muoz wol in ir dienste leiden.

to-me and more of-people must well in her service grow-loathsome.

swâ man lop erkennet, da ist ir lop unlobesam.

wherever one praise knows, there is her praise unpraiseworthy.

Ich hiet ein urliuqe,

I had a feud,

daz ich lange hân getragen

which I long have borne

mit vil grôzer smiuge.

with very great cowering.

daz hât mir versüenet wol der vürste ûz Ôsterlant.

that has for-me settled well the prince out-of Austria.

die geilen dorfsprenzeln,

the wanton village-dandies,

die dâ wâren in dem geu

who there were in the district

alle voretenzeln,

all lead-dancers,

der vüeret iegeslîcher nû ein îsenîn gewant

of-them wears each-one now an iron garment

in die herevart

into the campaign

dâ der vürste hin gebiutet.

where the prince thither summons.

jungiu wîp, ir werdet selten mê von in getriutet.

young women, you will-be seldom more by them caressed.

sî sint nû hereliute, Bereliep und Irenwart.

they are now army-men, Bereliep and Irenwart.

Irenwart und Uoge,

Irenwart and Uoge,

die von rehte solten phlegen

who by right should tend

bûwes mit ir phluoge,

tillage with their plow,

die sach man ze Wiene koufen currît unde platen.

them saw one at Vienna buying cuirass and plates.

Uoge der kouft eine,

Uoge he buys one,

dar zuo zwei vil dickiu leder

there to two very thick leathers

vür diu schinebeine.

for the shin-bones.

man muoz im ze Ruste mêre tanzes vor gestaten.

one must to-him at Ruste more of-dance before grant.

er hât einen neven

he has a kinsman

dâ bî im ze Michelhûsen.

there by him at Michelhûsen.

wil der rihter hôher bî der Persenicke mûsen,

will the judge higher by the Persenicke prowl,

da ist ir vil die strît ûf kirchtagen kûnnen heven.

there is of-them many who strife on church-days can raise.

Swer einen vogel hæte

Whoever a bird had

der mit sange dur daz jâr

which with song through the year

sînen willen tæte,

his will did,

dem solt er underwîlen zuo dem vogelhûse sehen

for-it should he betimes to the birdhouse look

und gæbe im guote spîse;

and give it good food;

sô kûnd ouch der selbe vogel

so could also the same bird

singen sûeze wîse;

sing sweet tunes;

sô müeste man dem voge le guoter meisterschefte jehen.

so must one to-the bird of-good mastership grant.

sunge er sînen sanc

sang it its song

immer schône gegen dem meien,

ever fair toward the May,

sô solte man in sumer und den winter lûte heien.

so should one it summer and the winter loudly cherish.

guoter handelunge wîzen ouch die voge le danc.

for-good treatment know also the birds thanks.

Owê, lieber sumer, dîner sîeze bernden wunne

ALAS, DEAR SUMMER

Glad-Mood travels from land to land in mourning, looking for anyone who lives in whole joys; she has searched all the German lands and found nobody, and now sends her scouts into Austria to learn whether prince Friedrich still keeps them. The dandies have vanished from Tulln's field, all but Hildemâr, whose laced cap is sewn outside with little birds in silk and holds his long curled locks at night. If they seize him, the cap tears and the birds fly.

Owê, lieber sumer, dîner sîeze bernden wunne,

85,6

Alas, dear summer, of-thy sweetness bearing delight,

die uns dirre winder mit gewalte hât benomen!

which from-us this winter with force has taken!

lebt ab iemen der ez zwischen iu versüenen kunne?

lives but anyone who it between you reconcile could?

ez ist manic herze gar von sînen vröuden komen,

it is many-a heart wholly from its joys come,

diu sich vröuten gegen der zît

which themselves rejoiced toward the season

immer gein dem meien.

ever toward the May.

winder nieman vröude gît

winter to-nobody joy gives

wan den stubenheien.

but to-the stove-buggers.

Vrômuot vert in trûren nû von lande hin ze lande

Glad-Mood travels in mourning now from land thither to land

ob sî iemen vinde der in ganzen vröuden sî.

whether she anyone find who in whole joys be.

wer ist nû sô sicher dêr ir sînen boten sande
who is now so assured that-he to-her his messenger sent

der ir kûnde, sî sî alles ungemaches vrî?
who to-her announce, she be of-all discomfort free?

wer ist nû sô vreuden rîch
who is now so in-joys rich

dâ sî sî gesinde
where she be household

wan der vürste Vriderîch?
but the prince Friedrich?

kom dâ sî den vinde.
come there she him find.

Sî hât mit versuochen elliu tiutschiu lant durchwallen,
She has with searching all German lands traversed,

dazs eht leider niemen gar in ganzen vröuden vant.
that-she just alas nobody wholly in whole joys found.

swar si ie kam, dâ vant sî niht wan trûren bî in allen.
wherever she ever came, there found she nothing but mourning among them all.

nû hât sî ir speher ûz in daz Ôsterlant gesant.
now has she her scouts out into the Austrian-land sent.

die varnt wider unde vür
they travel back and forth

alle tougenlîchen,
all secretly,

ob si in vröuderîcher kûr
whether they in joy-rich state

vinden Vriderîchen.
find Friedrich.

Wil er sî behalten, sî wil gerne dâ belîben.

Will he her keep, she will gladly there remain.

sî was in dem willen dô der bote von ir schiet.

she was in the intent when the messenger from her parted.

sî und ir gespilen wellen dâ die zît vertriben.

she and her playmates will there the time pass.

wê, wer singet uns den sumer niuwîu minneliet?

woe, who sings to-us the summer new love-songs?

daz tuot mîn her Træstelîn

that does my lord Træstelîn

und mîn hoveherre.

and my court-lord.

der gehelfe solte ich sîn:

their helper should I be:

nu ist der wille verre.

now is the will far.

Weiz ab iemen war die sprenzelære sîn verschwunden?

Knows but anyone whither the dandies be vanished?

der wæn in dem lande ninder einer sî beliben.

of-them think-I in the land nowhere one is remained.

wê, waz man ir hiete ûf Tulnære velde vunden!

woe, what one of-them would-have on Tulln's field found!

ez ist wol nâch mînem willen, sint sî dâ vertriben.

it is well after my will, are they thence driven.

alle dûhten sî sich wert

all thought they themselves worthy

mit ir langem hâre,

with their long hair,

hiuwer tumber danne vert.

this-year more-foolish than last-year.

seht an Hildemâre.

look at Hildemâr.

Der treit eine hûben, diu ist innerthalp gesnûeret

He wears a cap, it is within laced

und sint ûzen vogelîn mit sîden ûf genât.

and are outside little-birds with silk on sewn.

dâ hât manic hendel sîne vinger zuo gerüeret

there has many-a little-hand its fingers to stirred

ê sî sî gezierten; daz mich niemen liegen lât.

before they it adorned; that me nobody lie lets.

er muoz dulden mînen vluoch

he must suffer my curse

der ir ie gedâhte,

who of-it ever thought,

der die sîden und daz tuoch

who the silk and the cloth

her von Walhen brâhte.

hither from Italy brought.

Habt ir niht geschouwet sîne gewunden locke lange,

Have you not beheld his curled locks long,

die dâ hangent verre vür daz kinne hin ze tal?

which there hang far before the chin down to valley?

in der hûben ligent sî des nahtes mit getwange

in the cap lie they of-the night with constraint

und sint in der mâze sam die krâmesîden val.

and are in the measure like the shop-silk pale.

von den snüeren ist ez reit

from the lacings is it curly

innerthalp der hûben,

within the cap,

volleclîche hände breit,

fully hand's broad,

so ez beginnet strûben.

when it begins to-bristle.

Er wil ebenhiuzen sich ze werdem ingesinde

He will match himself to worthy household

daz bi hoveliuten ist gewahsen unde gezogen.

which among court-folk is grown and reared.

begrîfents in, sî zerrent im die hûben alsô swinde,

seize-they him, they tear from-him the cap so swiftly,

ê er wænet sô sint im diu vogelîn enpflogen.

before he thinks so are from-him the little-birds flown-away.

solhen kouf an solhem gelt

such-a bargain at such-a price

niemen sol versprechen.

nobody shall refuse.

jâ hât vil daz Marhvelt

indeed has many the Marchfeld

solher zûgelbrechen.

of-such bridle-breakers.

Allez daz den sumer her mit vreuden was

ALL THAT WAS JOY IN SUMMER

Everything that was glad in summer now mourns, and nobody in the world lives free of sin. The poet renounces the service of an honorless lady, telling her to let a thousand young men serve in his place: she is older than a thousand years and more foolish than a child of seven. He prays instead for God's escort, since the World's devotees are all fools, then turns to the peasants Limizûn and Holerswam and their studded finery.

86,31 Allez daz den sumer her mit vreuden was,

All that the summer hither with joys was,

daz beginnet trûren gein der winderlangen swæren zît.

that begins to-mourn toward the winter-long heavy season.

sanges sint diu vogelîn geswigen über al.

of-song are the little-birds silent over all.

gar verdorben sint die bluomen und daz gras.

wholly spoiled are the flowers and the grass.

schouwet waz des kalten rîfen oben ûf dem walde lît.

see what of-the cold frost above on the wood lies.

ez ist wol von schulden, ist diu grüne heide val.

it is well with cause, is the green heath pale.

daz ist ein gemeiniu klage

that is a common lament

diu mich vröuden wendet:

which me of-joys turns:

deist an mînem lesten tage

that-is at my last day

leider unverendet.

alas unended.

Sî nimt immer wunder waz diu klage sî

Them takes ever wonder what the lament be

diech durch bezzerunge mînen lieben vriunden hân geseit.

which-I for betterment to-my dear friends have said.

daz wil ich bescheiden, daz ir sprechet 'ez ist wâr.'

that will I explain, that you say 'it is true.'

in der werlde niemen lebet sünden vrî:

in the world nobody lives of-sins free:

ja ist ez sô ie lenger sô ie bœser in der kristenheit.

indeed is it so ever longer so ever worse in the Christendom.

mîne tage swindent unde kurzent mîniu jâr.

my days dwindle and shorten my years.

solde ich dâ bî vröuden phlegen

should I there by joys pursue

diu von herzen gienge,

which from heart went,

dienest lâzen under wegen

service leave by the-wayside

der mich baz vervienge?

which me better would-profit?

Wæne ich sündehafter in den riuwen baden,

Think I sinful-one in the repentance to-bathe,

sô wil sî mîn vrouwe deich ir kinden singe niuwen sanc.

then wills she my lady that-I to-her children sing new song.

sô muoz ich mich ir gewaltes mit verzîhen wern.

then must I myself her power with renouncing defend.

sî gedarf mich nimmer mê an sich geladen

she needs me never more to herself invite

in ir dienst: umbe ein scheiden sô stêt aller mîn gedanc.

into her service: about a parting so stands all my thought.

ich bin in dem willen daz ich wil die sêle nern,

I am in the intent that I will the soul save,

diech von gote geverret hân

which-I from God estranged have

mit üppeclîchem sange.

with wanton song.

der engel müeze ir bî gestân

the angel may to-it by stand

und hüete ir vor getwange.

and guard it from constraint.

Êrelôsiu vrouwe, wê waz welt ir mîn?

Honorless lady, woe what want you of-me?

lât iu tûsent junge dienen hinne vür an mîner stat.

let to-you thousand young-ones serve hence forth in my place.

ich wil einem herren dienen des ich eigen bin.

I will a lord serve whose I own am.

ich enwil niht langer iuwer senger sîn.

I will no longer your singer be.

daz ich iu ze dienest ie sô mangan geilen trit getrat,

that I for-you in service ever so many-a wanton step stepped,

daz ist mînes heiles, mîner sêle ungewin.

that is of-my salvation, of-my soul loss.

daz ich iuch dô niene vlôch,

that I you then not-at-all fled,

daz ist mîn meistiu swære,

that is my greatest sorrow,

und mich ze herren niht enzôch

and me to lord not drew

des lôn noch bezzer wære.

whose reward yet better were.

Mîn frouwe diu ist elder danne tûsent jâr

My lady she is older than thousand years

unde ist tumber dan bî siben jâren sî ein kindelîn.

and is more-foolish than at seven years be a little-child.

mit sô swacher fuore wart mir frouwe nie bekant.

with so poor conduct was to-me lady never known.

sî hât mich verleitet an daz ende gar

she has me misled to the end wholly

und hât noch gedingen zeinem iemer wernden diener mîn.

and has still hope for-an ever lasting servant mine.

alsô sagte mir ein bote, den het sî mir gesant

so told to-me a messenger, whom had she to-me sent

unde enbôt mir offenbâr

and offered to-me openly

ir dienest unde ir minne:

her service and her love:

dô widersagte ich ir vil gar,

then renounced I to-her right wholly,

sî valschiu triegærinne.

she false deceiver.

Sit die wîsen alle heizent gotes kint

Since the wise all are-called God's children

(wære ich danne wîs, sô kæme ich mit in an der kinder schar

(were I then wise, so came I with them into the children's company

zuo der samenunge: da ist mir leider verre hin)

to the assembly: there is to-me alas far thither)

und der Werlde holden alle tôren sint,

and the World's devoted all fools are,

herre got von himelrîche, gip mir dîn geleite dar;

lord God of heaven-realm, give me thy escort thither;

kraft ob allen kreften, nû gesterke mir den sin,

strength above all strengths, now strengthen for-me the mind,

daz ich mîner sêle heil
that I of-my soul salvation

um dich verdienen müeze
through thee earn may

und immer wernder wunne teil
and ever lasting bliss's share

durch willen dîner süeze.
for sake of-thy sweetness.

Swenne ich an ein trûren wende mînen muot,
Whenever I to a mourning turn my spirit,

sô kumt einer unde sprichet 'guote, singet etewaz.
then comes one and says 'good-man, sing something.

lât uns mit iu singen. tuot uns vröudehelfe schîn.
let us with you sing. make to-us joy-help manifest.

swaz man nû gesinget daz ist niht ze guot.
whatever one now sings that is not too good.

mîne vriunde sprechent, ir gesunget wîlen verre baz.'
my friends say, you sang once far better.'

sî nimt immer wunder war die dörper komen sîn
them takes ever wonder whither the peasants gone are

die dâ wâren hie bevor
who there were here before

ûf Tullnære velde.
on Tulln's field.

ez vert noch einer in ir spor,
it travels still one in their track,

des üppekeit ich melde.
whose wantonness I tell.

Erst geheizen rehtes namen Limizûn,

He-is called of-right name Limizûn,

er und einer sîn geselle, derst getoufet Holerswam.

he and one his companion, be-is christened Holerswam.

ern ist niender hie der ie gesæhe ir beider gaten.

he is nowhere here who ever saw their both's match.

des einen hâr ist reide val, des andern brûn.

of-the one hair is curly pale, of-the other brown.

erst noch tœrscher danne der uns Vriderûn ir spiegel nam

be-is yet more-foolish than be-who from-us Vriderûn her mirror took

oder jene die ze Wiene wîlen kouften platen.

or those who at Vienna once bought breastplates.

ir beider brîsem sint beslagen

their both's lacings are studded

wol mit knophelînen,

well with little-buttons,

zweier zîle alumbe den kragen,

of-two rows all-round the collar,

dazs ot verre schînen.

that-they just fur shine.

Ir hûete ir rœcke ir gûrtel die sint zinzerlîch,

Their hats their coats their belts they are dainty,

ir swert gelîche lanc, ir schuohe unz ûf daz knie ergânt gemâl:

their swords alike long, their shoes up to the knee reach painted:

alsô truogen sis den sumer ûf den kirchtagen.

so wore they-them the summer on the church-days.

ûppicliches muotes sint sî ellentrîch:

of-wanton spirit are they valor-rich:

dâ zuo wænent sî sîn kûnftic von der Treisem hin ze tal.

there to think they to-be coming from the Traisen thither to valley.

wie moht mîn vrou Sûezel Limezûnen daz vertragen

how could my lady Sûezel to-Limezûn that endure

daz er an ir hende spranc

that he at her hand leapt

den reien? von der tschoyen

the round-dance? out-of the joy

sîn haupt er zædeclîchen swanc

his head he loathsomely swung

gein ir zem turloien.

toward her at-the turloy.

Owê liebiu sumerzît

NOT A FLOWER LEFT ON THE HEATH

The heath has not a flower left to cover her shame, and Willekint and Amelolt have embroiled the poet with lying tales. Every holiday brings the peasants together: Fridebreht's sword-bilt tore a sleeve at the crooked round, and Ber of Bernriute wishes only for a fight. The song ends with a long look at the weapons — a misericord that stabbed the good one on a rib as it left the sheath, and a poisoned Waidhofen blade.

Owê liebiu sumerzît,

Alas dear summer-season,

daz er sî verwâzen

that he be cursed

der mir dîn ze heile und ouch ze vröuden niene günne!

who to-me thee for weal and also for joys not-at-all grants!

des ist manic herze gram

of-that is many-a heart grieved

daz nû trûren muoz.

which now mourn must.

schouwet wie diu heide lît:

see how the heath lies:

der ist niht verlâzen

to-her is nothing left

aller bluomen dâ sî mit ir scham verdecken künne.

of-all flowers there she with her shame cover could.

wê dem winder ders ir nam!

woe to-the winter who-them from-her took!

schiere werde uns buoz

soon become to-us relief

sîn und aller der die mir die guoten vrömden machen.

of-him and of-all those who to-me the good-one estranged make.

89,3

den enwirde ich nimmer innerclîchen holt.

to-them become I never inwardly kind.

Willekint und Amelolt

Willekint and Amelolt

habent mich beworren dâ mit lûgelîchen sachen.

have me embroiled there with lying matters.

Wê, war umbe tuont sî daz?

Woe, what for do they that?

möhte sis verdriezen!

might it-them irk!

jâ engêt ir doch mîn singen leider niht sô nâhen

indeed goes to-her yet my singing alas not so near

als ez ir doch solde gên,

as it to-her yet should go,

wære ich sælic man.

were I blessed man.

selten ich ir ie vergaz:

seldom I her ever forgot:

möhte ich sîn geniezen!

might I of-it enjoy!

jâne kan mich doch mîn dienst gegen ir niht vervâhen.

indeed can me yet my service toward her not avail.

sîne wil des niht verstên

she will of-that not understand

daz mîn lieber wân

that my dear expectation

lît an ander niemen niwan an ir einer lîbe.

lies on other nobody but on her one's person.

ine gestên ir mîner triuwen nimmer abe.

I stand to-her of-my troth never off.

nû seht ob siz vür dienst habe.

now see whether she-it for service holds.

si ist in mînem herzen immer liebist aller wîbe.

she is in my heart ever dearest of-all women.

Disiu rede lige alsô;

This speech lie so;

lâzen wirs belîben;

let we-it remain;

sprechen, wê waz tuon ab ich den tumben getelingen?

speak, woe what do but I to-the foolish yokels?

von den hân ich bæsen wert,

from them have I evil worth,

swelhen ende ich var.

whichever way I travel.

alle wæren sî sîn vrô,

all were they of-it glad,

möhten sî vertrîben

might they drive-away

mich von mînen vrôuden und von lieber stat verdringen.

me from my joys and from dear place push.

wol ir der mîn herze gert

hail to-her whom my heart desires

stille und offenbâr!

secretly and openly!

ine geloube niht daz sî gehengen an ir vinden.

I believe not that they consent in her find.

bezzer wære in, liezen sî mich âne nôt.

better were for-them, left they me without trouble.

ich gemaches alle rôt

I make-them all red

die dâ mit ir rûnent, wellent sî sîn niht erwinden.

who there with her whisper, will they of-it not cease.

Immer an dem vîretage

Ever on the holiday

sost ir samenunge.

so-is their gathering.

swaz der dörper ist in einem wîten umbesweife

whatever of-the peasants is in a wide circuit

koment mit ein ander dar

come with one another thither

alle ûf mînen tratz.

all in my despite.

wê mir sîn, vil irrer krage!

woe to-me of-it, very deranged fellow!

Fridebreht der junge

Fridebreht the young

greif ir an daz künne, in weiz nâch wiu der tôre greife.

grasped her at the privates, I-not know after what the fool grasped.

sîne vürhtent umbe ein hâr

they fear about a hair

niemens widersatz.

nobody's resistance.

doch mac er und etelîcher dâ vil wol bestrûchen,

yet may he and some-one there very well stumble,

daz im bezzer wære, und hete er ez verborn.

that to-him better were, and had he it forborne.

sînes swertes helze vorn

of-his sword's hilt in-front

zarte ir bî dem krumben reien einen kleinen stûchen.

tore from-her at the crooked round-dance a small sleeve.

Do er an sîner geile spranc

When he in his wantonness leapt

an dem umbeswanke,

at the swinging-round,

dô begreif ez in und zarte in ûz unz an daz ende.
then caught it it and tore it out up to the end.

owê daz man imz vertreit,
alas that one to-him-it endures,

einem tœrschen kragen!
a foolish fellow!

ez geschach niht sunder danc,
it happened not without will,

ez ergie mit danke.
it went with will.

daz verwizzen im genuoge zeiner missewende.
that reproach to-him many as-a disgrace.

waz im liute widerseit!
what to-him people defiance-declare!

wil sî sich beklagen,
will she herself complain,

sî gemachet im sîn umbesæzen vil unwæge.
she makes to-him his neighbors very unfriendly.

möhte ein tøre sîn gehelze slifen zuo
might a fool his bilt grind to

ê deiz solhen schaden tuo!
before that-it such harm do!

wir vertrüegen daz sîn swert in einem korne læge.
we would-endure that his sword in a grain-field lay.

Dâ ir bî ein ander sît,
Where you by one another are,

tumbe getelinge,
foolish yokels,

dâ sult ir iuch hûeten wol vor einem tœrschen knehte.
there shall you yourselves guard well against a foolish lad.

der gêt alrest hiwer her vür

he goes first this-year hither forth

und ist geheizen Ber.

and is called Ber.

der ist lanc und ahselwît,

he is tall and shoullder-broad,

gâtic übeler dinge,

greedy of-evil things,

unde wünschet daz er kome da er im genuoc gevehete.

and wishes that he come where he for-himself enough might-fight.

er kumt kûme in zer tür.

he comes hardly in at-the door.

phî, wer brâhte in her?

hie, who brought him hither?

er ist Hildeboldes swester sun von Bernriute,

he is Hildebold's sister's son from Bernriute,

der dâ wart erslagen umbe ein ingewer.

who there was slain about a ginger-root.

daz tet jener Willeher.

that did that-one Willeher.

er tuot mort, kumt er dâ sich gesament tumbe liute.

he does murder, comes he where themselves gather foolish people.

Allez Tulnære velt

All Tulln's field

daz hât niht sô tumbes

it has nothing so foolish

von der Treisem hin ze tal engegen Zeizenmûre

from the Traisen thither to valley toward Zeiselmauer

swâ sî sint die selben drî.

wherever they are the same three.

noch ist ir einer dâ,

yet is of-them one there,

dem gêt wol sîn schîbe enzelt

for-whom goes well his wheel ambling

slehtes unde krumbes,

of-straight and of-crooked,

unde ist doch von allen vieren anen ein gebûre.

and is yet from all four ancestors a peasant.

erst ir dicke nâhen bî.

he-is to-her often near by.

dâ von sô werde ich grâ.

there from so become I gray.

erst noch tumber danne die uns in den anger sprungen.

he-is yet more-foolish than those-who to-us into the meadow leapt.

sâht ir den der Vriderûn ir spiegel nam?

saw you him who from-Vriderûn her mirror took?

jener der gebârt alsam.

that-one he behaves likewise.

erst ir einer der mich hât von lieber stat verdrungen.

he-is of-them one who me has from dear place pushed.

Er treit eine buosemsnuor

He wears a breast-cord

von alrôten sîden,

of all-red silk,

Fridebreht der junge, und ein misencorden lange;

Fridebreht the young, and a misericord long;

daz gêt hinden verre dan

it goes behind far thence

unde ist kopherrôt.

and is copper-red.

ich sage iu wie er vert gevuor

I tell you how he last-year fared

(des muoz ich in nîden),

(for-that must I him envy),

dô sich der tanz zeliê und daz ez was in dem gedrange
when itself the dance broke-up and that it was in the throng

daz man sitzen solde gân
that one to-sit should go

dâ er hin gebôt.
where he thither bade.

ine gesach mir nie bî mînen jâren alsô leide
I saw to-me never in my years so grievously

als ich mir zewâre an der vil guoten sach,
as I to-me truly on the very good-one saw,

die er ûf ein rippe stach
whom he upon a rib stabbed

mit dem selben mezzêr, daz gie hinden ûz der scheide.
with the same knife, it went behind out-of the sheath.

Er treit einen mæcheninc,
He wears a sword,

der snîdet als ein schære
it cuts like a shears

und einen guoten fridehuot von haselînen zeinen.
and a good peace-hat of hazel twigs.

einen vilz den hât er dar
a felt it has he there

ûf alsô schône gezogen.
on so fairly drawn.

ez schrôtet mangan îsenrinc
it cuts many-an iron-ring

und machet wambeis lære.
and makes doublets empty.

swâ ir sît, ir muget iuch wol mit êren ab im leinen.
wherever you are, you may yourselves well with honor from him lean.

dörper, nemt des selben war:
peasants, take of-that same heed:

er heizet ...;

he is-called (lacuna);

sîn swert daz ist gelüppet; er ist mort den ez erreicht;

his sword it is poisoned; he is death to-him-whom it reaches;

der muoz an der selben stat geligen tô.

he must at the same place lie dead.

ist daz niht ein grôziu nô.

is that not a great distress?

ez ist ein Weidhovære, wol gehertet unde geweichet.

it is a Waidhofen-blade, well hardened and softened.

Winder, dîniu meil
WINTER, THY BLEMISHES

Winter's blemishes spoil the wood and the heath, and the poet asks how a woman can think it fitting never to take his song kindly. His hair has gone gray because of the yokels, and Engelmâr still keeps Vriderûn's mirror. From the Elbe to the Po no land holds so many insolent villagers as one small circle in Austria. He asks his lady to close her ears to Kûnebreht and Engekleht, and closes on the rose that hid an uncouth thorn.

92,11 Winder, dîniu meil,
Winter, thy blemishes,
diu verderbent uns den walt,
they spoil for-us the wood,
die bluomen und die heide sam.
the flowers and the heath likewise.
sumer, dîn gesinde ist allez worden vreuden lôs.
summer, thy household is all become of-joys bare.
manic herze geil
many-a heart merry
hât ze trûren sich gestalt,
has to mourning itself set,
den allen freude wol gezam.
to-them all joy well suited.
wie zimt einem wîbe diech vûr elliu wîp erkôs
how beseems a woman whom-I before all women chose
daz sî nie
that she never
mîr vervie
to-me took
mînen sanc ze guote,
my song for good,

den ich ir mit dienste willeclîchen sanc,

which I to-her with service willingly sang,

unde stên noch hiute in mîner huote

and stand still today in my ward

daz si an mîner stæte nindert vindet dwerhen schranc.

that she in my constancy nowhere finds crosswise barrier.

Sol mîn stætikeit

Shall my constancy

und der lange dienst mîn

and the long service mine

erwerben niht wan ir versagen,

win nothing but her refusal,

sô muoz mich von schulden riuwen daz ichs ie began.

so must me with cause rue that I-it ever began.

mirst iedoch geseit,

to-me-is however said,

die dâ stæte können sîn,

they who constant can be,

daz sî gelücke wol bejagen.

that they fortune well win.

vrouwe Sælde, ûf dînen trôst ich noch die guoten man

lady Fortune, upon thy comfort I yet the good-one admonish

daz si ir strît

that she her strife

unde ir nît

and her spite

gein ir vriunden lâze.

toward her friends leave.

tuot sî daz, sô wirt daz ende lîhte guot.

does she that, so becomes the end perhaps good.

schaffe ir ungenâden eine mâze.

set to-her disfavours a measure.

wê daz immer wîp an guoten vriunden missetuot!

woe that ever woman toward good friends does-wrong!

Schouwet an mîn hâr,

Look at my hair,

daz gevar ist als ein îs:

it colored is like an ice-field:

daz grâwet mir, des ist niht rât,

it grays for-me, of-that is no remedy,

wande mir von getelingen niwan leit geschach.

because to-me from yokels nothing-but harm befell.

jener Engelmâr,

that-one Engelmâr,

von des schulden bin ich grîs,

by whose fault am I gray,

der hiute noch den spiegel hât

who today still the mirror has

den er dörper Vriderûnen von der sîten brach.

which he peasant from-Vriderûn from the side broke.

von der zît

from that time

immer sît

ever since

wart ich nimmer mêre,

became I never more,

ich enhiete ein iteniuwez herzenleit.

I unless-bad an ever-new heart-sorrow.

daz ist mînes leides herzensêre

that is of-my sorrow heart-pain

von der liebe die mîn herze zuo sîm liebe treit.

from the love which my heart to its beloved bears.

Von hinne unz an den Rîn,

From hence up to the Rhine,

von der Elbe unz an den Phât,

from the Elbe up to the Po,

diu lant diu sint mir elliu kunt.

the lands they are to-me all known.

diu enhabent niht sô mangan hiuzen dorfman

they have not so many-an insolent village-man

als ein kreizelîn

as a little-circle

wol in Æsterrîche hât.

well in Austria has.

da ist inne manic niuwer vunt.

there is within many-a new device.

seht, daz brüevet einer der mir lützel guotes gan.

see, that contrives one who to-me little of-good grants.

Wankelbolt,

Wankelbolt,

selten holt

seldom kind

was er mir mit triuwen.

was he to-me with troth.

er ist scharemeister in dem Lugetal.

he is troop-master in the Lugetal.

daz mac in æden gouch vil wol geriuwen.

that may him wretched gawk very well rue.

kumt er mir ze râme, ich dürkel im die hirnschal.

comes he to-me to aim, I pierce for-him the skull.

Bî dem Lugebach

By the Lugebach

einer mit gewalte vert:

one with force travels:

der wænet in den lûften sweben.

he thinks in the skies to-float.

sîne triuwe habent aberhâken als ein gêr.

his troths have barbs like a spear.

michel ungemach

great discomfort

was mir ie von im beschert.

was to-me ever from him allotted.

daz ist im noch vil unvergeben;

that is to-him still very unforgiven;

daz beweinent viere und dar zuo etelicher mêr.

that bewail four and there to some-one more.

lachtet an

smiling upon

er den man

he the man

snîdet mit der zungen.

cuts with the tongue.

wê der muoter diu mir in ze schaden truoc!

woe to-the mother who to-me him for harm bore!

nû bin ich beswæret von dem jungen,

now am I burdened by the young-one,

daz ich hân von sînen schulden ninder gênden phluoc.

that I have through his fault nowhere going plow.

Von der stæte mîn

From the constancy mine

bin ich leides überladen.

am I with-sorrow overladen.

vriunt, nû hœret mîne klage:

friends, now hear my lament:

râtes unde lêre der bedorfte ich nie sô wol.

of-counsel and of-teaching them needed I never so well.

Erphe und Adelwîn

Erphe and Adelwîn

tuont mir ungedienet schaden.

do to-me undeserved harm.

daz altet mich ê mîner tage.

that ages me before my days.

niemen sol des wânen deichz mit guotem willen dol.

nobody shall of-that think that-I-it with good will suffer.

Künebreht,

Künebreht,

Engekneht,

Engekneht,

zwêne tozelære,

two blusterers,

die muotent dîner êren: vrouwe, den versage.

they crave of-thy honors: lady, to-them refuse.

daz ist mînes lieben herzen swære,

that is of-my dear heart sorrow,

der ich tougenliche vil in mînem herzen trage.

of-which I secretly much in my heart bear.

Dîner ôren tür

Of-thy ears' door

müezen dir verslozzzen sîn,

may to-thee closed be,

dazs immer iht von in vernemen,

lest-they ever aught from them bear,

die mîn wider dich gedenken anders danne wol.

who of-me toward thee think otherwise than well.

nû lâ die rede vür,

now let the speech pass,

herzenliebiu vrouwe mîn,

heart-dear lady mine,

die dir ze hoeren niht gezemen.

which for-thee to hear not beseem.

solher l  r man guoten vriunden gerne volgen sol.

such-a counsel one to-good friends gladly follow shall.

ditze j  r

this year

sunderb  r

especially

wurbens umbe ir minne,

wooded-they for her love,

diu mir hiute und immer ist v  r elliu w  p.

who to-me today and ever is before all women.

vrouwe, m  nes herzen k  neginne,

lady, of-my heart queen,

d   solt nimmer man getroesten wan m  n eines l  p.

thou shalt never man console but my one's person.

Liebe mir geschach.

Love to-me happened.

w  r diu liebe als   beliben!

were the love so remained!

ich kom d   ich vil r  sen sach:

I came where I many roses saw:

seht, der brach ich eine; diu wart schiere d   verlorn.

see, of-them broke I one; it was soon then lost.

leit und ungemach

sorrow and discomfort

h  t mir vreude vil vertriben.

has from-me joy much driven.

ich sage iu wie mir n   geschach.

I tell you how to-me now happened.

do ich s   brach, d   tet mir w   ein ungev  ieger dorn,

when I it broke, then did to-me woe an uncouth thorn,

daz ich wil

so-that I will

hiuwer vil

this-year very

gewisse rôsen brechen,

carefully roses break,

ichne sehe ob iz der rehten einiu sî.

unless-I see whether it of-the right-ones one be.

sumelîche rôsen kunnen stechen;

some roses can prick;

rehte rôsen die sint aller wandelunge vrî.

right roses they are of-all change free.

Des sumers und des winders beider vîentschaft

THE ENMITY OF SUMMER AND WINTER

Nobody can settle the enmity of summer and winter, and the winter has come with his friends and declared war on everyone. So the poet declares his own defiance to his lady and will seek a lasting joy that can bring him to God's favor. Whatever he sings now is a lament-song, for age has parted him from youth: when the wolf grows old the crow rides him. Joy went out of the land with Vriderûn's mirror, and Love is arraigned at the end.

95,6 Des sumers und des winders beider vîentschaft

The summer's and the winter's both's enmity

kan ze disen zîten niemen understân.

can at these times nobody prevent.

der winder der ist aber hiwer mit sînen vriunden komen;

the winter he is again this-year with his friends come;

er ist hie mit einer ungevüegen kraft.

he is here with an immoderate force.

erne hât dem walde loubes niht verlân

he has to-the wood of-leaves nothing left

und der heide ir bluomen unde ir liechten schîn benomen.

and from-the heath her flowers and her bright shine taken.

sîn unsenftikeit

his harshness

ist ze schaden uns bereit.

is for harm to-us ready.

ir sît in iuwer huote; er hât uns allen widerseit.

you be in your ward; he has to-us all defiance-declared.

Alsô hân ich mîner vrouwen widersagt.

So have I to-my lady defiance-declared.

sî bedarf mîn niht ze dienstmanne jehen.

she needs me not as service-man claim.

ich gediene ir willeclîchen nimmer einen tac,

I serve her willingly never one day,

sît sî guoten vriunt in vîndes stricke jagt.

since she good friend into enemy's snare drives.

ich wil mir ein lange wernde vröude spehen

I will for-me a long lasting joy espy

diu mich hin ze gotes hulde wol bringen mac.

which me thither to God's favor well bring can.

die verliust sî mir.

that loses she for-me.

deste wirs getrouwe ich ir.

the worse trust I her.

sî sol wizen daz ich ir ze vrouwen wol enbir.

she shall know that I of-her as lady well do-without.

Ist daz niht ein wandel an der vrouwen mîn?

Is that not a blemish in the lady mine?

swer ir dienet, dem ist kranker lôn beschert.

whoever her serves, to-him is poor reward allotted.

sî verleitet manegen daz er in dem drûhe lît.

she misleads many-a-one that he in the trap lies.

des muoz leider liebes lônnes âne sîn

of-that must alas of-dear reward without be

der ouch in ir dienste hin ze helle vert.

he-who also in her service thither to hell travels.

er ist sælic swer sich von ir verret bî der zît,

he is blessed whoever himself from her removes in the time,

daz er ze mittem tage

that he at mid day

sînen phenninc hie bejage,

his penny here earn,

den er um die vesperzît verdienet mit im trage.

which he about the vesper-time earned with him bear.

Swaz ich nû gesinge daz sint klageliet.

Whatever I now sing that are lament-songs.

dâ envreut sich lützel leider iemen von.

there rejoices himself little alas anyone of.

ê dô sang ich daz daz guoten liuten wol gezam.

before then sang I that which to-good people well suited.

sît daz mich daz alter von der jugende schiet,

since that me the age from the youth parted,

dô muos ich dulden des ich ê was ungewon.

then must I suffer that-which I before was unused-to.

niemen sich verzîhe, im geschehe vil lihte alsam.

nobody himself renounce, to-him befall very easily likewise.

wirt er als ich grâ,

becomes he as I gray,

sô ist missebieten dâ.

so is ill-treatment there.

sô der wolf inz alter kumt, sô rîtet in diu krâ.

when the wolf into-the age comes, then rides him the crow.

Ê dô kômen uns sô vreuden rîchiu jâr,

Before then came to-us so in-joys rich years,

dô die hôchgemuoten wâren lobesam.

when the high-spirited were praiseworthy.

nu ist in allen landen niht wan trûren unde klagen.

now is in all lands nothing but mourning and lamenting.

sît der ungevüege dörper Engelmâr

since the uncouth peasant Engelmâr

der vil lieben Vriderûne ir spiegel nam,

from-the very dear Vriderûn her mirror took,

dô begunde trûren vreude ûz al den landen jagen,

then began mourning joy out-of all the lands to-drive,

daz sî gar verswant.

that she wholly vanished.

mit der vreude wart versant

with the joy was sent-away

zuht und êre; disiu driu sît leider niemen vant.

breeding and honor; these three since alas nobody found.

Der mir hie bevor in mînen anger wuot

He-who to-me here before into my meadow waded

und dar inne rôsen zeinem kranze brach

and there within roses for-a wreath plucked

unde in hôher wîse sîniu wineliedel sanc,

and in high melody his love-songs sang,

der beswârte nie sô sêre mir den muot

he grieved never so sorely to-me the spirit

als ein dinc daz ich von Willekinde sach.

as a thing which I of Willekint saw.

der spranc wol den krumben reien an ir hende blanc.

he leapt well the crooked round-dance at her hand white.

dô swanc er den vuoz,

then swung he the foot,

des mîn vreude swinden muoz.

of-which my joy dwindle must.

er und Gätzeman gewinnent nimmer mînen gruo.

he and Gätzeman gain never my greeting.

Er spranc winsterthalben an ir wîzen hant.

He leapt on-the-left at her white hand.

houbet unde hals gie im vil vaste entwer,

head and neck went to-him very greatly crosswise,

dem gelîche als der des lîbes niht gewalten mac.

to-that like as he-who of-the body not control can.

dô wart mir der œde krage alrest bekant.

then was to-me the wretched fellow first known.

wê, wer brâht in ie von Atzenbrucke her?

woe, who brought him ever from Atzenbrugg hither?

dâ hât er gesungen vor vil manegen vîretac.

there has he sung before very many-a holiday.

des tuot er wol schîn,

of-that makes he well show,

er wil alsô tiuwer sîn

he will so precious be

als der durch daz rœckel trat der lieben vrouwen mîn.

as he-who through the little-frock stepped of-the dear lady mine.

Minne, wer gap dir sô rehte sûezen namen,

Love, who gave thee so truly sweet name,

daz er dir dâ bî niht guoter witze gap?

that he thee there by not good wit gave?

Minne, hôhe sinne solten dîn geleite sîn.

Love, high thoughts should thy escort be.

ich muoz mich ze mangen stunden vûr dich schamen.

I must myself at many-an hour for thee be-ashamed.

dû verliusest dicke dînen riutelstap.

thou lovest often thy wedding-staff.

daz dû swachen vriunden gîst dîn hærîn vingerlîn,

that thou to-base friends givest thy bairen little-ring,

des ist dîn êre kranc.

of-that is thy honor weak.

daz dû, vrouwe, habest undanc!

for-that thou, lady, have no-thanks!

in dîn hærîn vingerlîn ein kneht den vinger dranc.

into thy hair-en little-ring a lad the finger pressed.

Daz siz niht dem ritter an den vinger stiez

That she-it not to-the knight on the finger thrust

dô iz in der niuwe und in der wirde was!

when it in the newness and in the worth was!

dannoch hete siz dem knehte wol vür vol gegeben.

even-then had she-it to-the lad well for full given.

ich weiz rehte niht war umbe sî daz liez.

I know rightly not where fore she that left.

lîhte was der kneht ir ougen spiegelglas.

perhaps was the lad of-her eyes mirror-glass.

minne ist sô gewaltic dâ sî hin beginnet streben;

love is so mighty where she thither begins to-strive;

minne ist sô gemuot,

love is so minded,

der mit werke ir willen tuot,

he-who with deed her will does,

daz sî dâ hin minnet dâ ir êre ist unbehuot.

that she there thither loves where her honor is unguarded.

Owê, sumerwunne
ALAS, SUMMER-DELIGHT

The poet must do without the summer and the well-formed one at once, and says no man ever parted more painfully from a woman. He does not believe her scorn is meant from the heart. Berhttram, young Gôze, and one he dare not name press him from her favor, and one of their fellows from upper Birbaum trod through her frock at the hem and went at her hand through the whole dance, whispering in her ear.

97,9 Owê, sumerwunne,

Alas, summer-delight,

daz ich mich dîn ânen muoz

that I myself of-thee deprive must

(der mir dîn enbunne,

(who to-me thee begrudge,

dem enwerde nimmer buoz

to-him become never relief

herzenlîcher leide)

of-heartfelt sorrows)

und der wolgetânen

and of-the well-formed-one

nâch der ie mîn herze ranc!

after whom ever my heart strove!

sol ich mich ir ânen,

shall I myself of-her deprive,

daz ist under mînen danc.

that is against my will.

swenne ich von ir scheide

whenever I from her part

sô geschiet nie man unsanfter mê von einem wîbe.

so parted never man more-painfully more from a woman.

bezzet wære mir der tût

better were to-me the death

danne ein seneclichiu nôt

than a longing-filled distress

lange alsô belibe.

long so remain.

Klagte ich nû besunder

Lamented I now especially

waz ich leides ie gewan, —

what I of-sorrow ever won,—

ich hân ez vür wunder

I have it for wonder

daz mir maneger niht engan

that to-me many-a-one not grants

ob mir lieb geschæhe

if to-me joy befell

von dem besten wîbe

from the best woman

diech mit ougen ie gesach.

whom-I with eyes ever saw.

sî hât an ir lîbe

she has in her body

des man ie ze guote jach.

that-which one ever for good claimed.

swie sî mich versmæhe,

however she me scorn,

ich geloube niht daz siz alsô von herzen meine.

I believe not that she-it so from heart means.

ich getrouwe ir als ich sol

I trust her as I shall

lônes und genâden wol:

of-reward and of-favor well:

hulfe ab ez mich kleine!

helped but it me little!

Ich bin in von schulden

I am to-them with cause

immer nâdic unde gram,

ever envious and hostile,

die mich von ir hulden

who me from her favor

dringent: daz ist Berhtram

press: that is Berhtram

und der junge Gôze

and the young Gôze

und der ungenande,

and the unnamed-one,

des ich nennen niht entar,

whom I to-name not dare,

der daz gerne wande,

who that gladly hindered,

næme sî mîn inder war.

took she of-me ever heed.

sîner spiezgenôze

of-his spear-fellows

der sweimet einer von dem oberisten Birboume,

of-them roams one from the uppermost Birbaum,

der sî umbe ir minne bat.

who her for her love asked.

durch daz röckel er ir trat
through the little-frock he to-her stepped

dâ niden bî dem soume.
there below by the hem.

Dâ sî bî dem tanze
Where she at the dance

gie, er gie ir an der hant.
went, he went to-her at the hand.

von dem ridewanze
from the ridewanz

kom sîn vuoß ûf ir gewant;
came his foot upon her garment;

daz lac an der erde.
it lay on the ground.

von dem umbeslîfen,
from the gliding-round,

daz den jungen sanfte tuot,
which to-the young sweetly does,

wart er von der phîfen
became he from the pipe

üppic unde hôchgemuot,
wanton and high-spirited,

wande er gie im werde.
because he went to-him worthily.

selten kom sîn munt mit rûnen dankes ûz ir ôren:
seldom came his mouth with whispering willingly out-of her ears:

des vil sêre mich verdrôz.
of-that very sorely me vexed.

er und ouch sîn spiezgenôz
he and also his spear-fellow

sint guoter sinne tôren.
are of-good sense fools.

Von der Persenicke

From the Persenicke

nider unz an daz Ungertor

down up to the Hungary-gate

in der dörper dicke

in of-the peasants throng

weiz ich ninder zwêne vor

know I nowhere two before

die mit ebenhiuze

who with rivalry

sich zuo zin gelîchen.

themselves to to-them equal.

jâ wæn inder zwêne knaben

indeed think-I anywhere two lads

in allen diutschen rîchen

in all German realms

bezzer ez mit wîben haben

better it with women have

niht gein einer griuze.

not toward a grain.

Engelmâr gewan ez niht sô guot mit Vriderûne

Engelmâr had it not so good with Vriderûn

als ez doch der eine hât.

as it yet the one has.

er verdürkel ir die wât

he pierce for-her the garment

ê daz er gerûne!

before that he whisper!

Owê dirre nô!

ALAS FOR THIS DISTRESS

The bright summer days are transformed and a woman has robbed the poet of his senses as the winter robs the land: she draws him as the lodestone draws iron, which ships must flee. Irenber of Botenbrunn has renewed the poet's hatred, and she has forsworn them both with all inconstant men. The song ends as a petition to prince Friedrich for a small house to keep the chest of silver he gave, to be earned with hand and tongue.

Owê dirre nô!

99,1

Alas of-this distress!

wie hânt sich verwandelôt

how have themselves transformed

dise liechten sumertage!

these bright summer-days!

von sô senelîcher klage

from so longing-filled lament

trûret manic herze daz in hôhem muote was.

mourns many-a heart which in high spirit was.

deist ab elliu jâr

that-is but all years

daz der winder offenbâr

that the winter openly

uns beroubet âne wer

us robs without defense

mit gewalticlichem her.

with mighty host.

er benimt uns vil der schoenen bluomen unde gras.

he takes from-us many of-the fair flowers and grass.

alsô hât ein wîp

so has a woman

mich beroubet gar der sinne,

me robbed wholly of-the senses,

an den triuwen, unde ich sî sô herzenlichen minne.

upon the troth, and I her so heartily love.

wie wart ungenædic ie sô minneclîcher lîp?

how became ungracious ever so lovely person?

Ich bin zweier schaden

I am with-two harms

von ir schulden überladen,

by her fault overladen,

die mir alze swære sint.

which to-me all-too heavy are.

ich bin tumber danne ein kint

I am more-foolish than a child

daz ich hân gedienet âne lôn und âne danc.

that I have served without reward and without thanks.

so ist der dritte schade,

so is the third harm,

sæhe sî mich ûf dem rade,

saw she me upon the wheel,

sî gespræche nimmer ach;

she would-speak never ah;

des sî selbe mir verjach.

that-which she herself to-me avowed.

owê daz ir lop von mînem munde ie sus erklauc!

alas that her praise from my mouth ever thus rang!

sî tuot als der stein

she does as the stone

der daz îsen an sich ziuhet;

which the iron to itself draws;

von sîner grôzen kraft man in mit scheffen sêre vliuhet
from its great power one it with ships sorely flees

alsô ziuhet sî mich zuo ir im gelîch enein.
so draws she me to her to-it like alike.

Wâ nû vriundes rât,
Where now friend's counsel,

sît sî niht genâden hât?
since she no favor has?

wiech mit disem dinge tuo,
how-I with this thing do,

dâ bedörfte ich râtes zuo.
there needed I of-counsel to.

râte ein ieglich vriunt alsô diu rede wære sîn.
counsel every single friend as-if the matter were his.

scheide ich nû von ir,
part I now from her,

sît ich herzenlîche gir
since I heartfelt longing

nâch ir werden minne hân,
after her worthy love have,

daz enist niht guot getân.
that is not well done.

wê war umbe lieze ich nû den langen dienest mîn?
woe where fore left I now the long service mine?

ich wil vûrebaz
I will henceforth

mîn gelücke noch versuochen,
my fortune yet try,

ob dâ vrouwe Sælde mînes heiles welle ruochen.
whether there lady Fortune of-my weal will deign.

mir hât hiwer ein getelinc geniuwet mînen haz.
to-me has this-year a yokel renewed my hatred.

Daz ist Irenber,

That is Irenber,

vert von Botenbrunnen her

travels from Botenbrunn hither

durch sîn höfschen dâ her abe,

for his courting there hither down,

ein vil hiuzer dorfknahe.

a very insolent village-lad.

guoter wîbe minne müeze im nimmer werden teil.

of-good women love may to-him never become share.

deist ein swinder vluoch.

that-is a fierce curse.

ine kunde ez an ein buoch

I could it in a book

nimmer halbez hân geschriben

never half have written

daz er wunders hât getriben

which he of-wonder has driven

hiuwer mit der lieben dâ die jungen wâren geil.

this-year with the dear-one where the young were merry.

ob er sich ertobet

though he himself rages

nâch ir minne underwunnen,

after her love undertaken,

erst ir ungewert. nû höfsche er hin gein Botenbrunnen:

he-is of-her unrequited. now court he thither toward Botenbrunn:

sî hât mich und in und alle unstæte man verlobet.

she has me and him and all inconstant men forsworn.

Bræche sî den eit,

Broke she the oath,

lieze ir mîne sicherheit

let to-her my assurance

vor ir vriunden hôhe staben

before her friends high be-sworn

daz ichs immer wolde haben

that I-her ever would hold

liep vor allem liebe hin dâ liep ein ende hât,

dear before all dearness thither where dearness an end has,

mähte iz ir gezemen

might it to-her beseem

daz siz alsô wolde nemen

that she-it so would take

als ich ir geteilet hân,

as I to-her offered have,

sô hiet al mîn lieber wân

so had all my dear expectation

sich nâch mînem willen wol volendet. nûne lât

itself after my will well ended. now lets

jener Irenber

that-one Irenber

mir niht wol an ir gelingen.

for-me not well with her succeed.

jâne wil ich nimmer mêre wîbes lop gesingen,

indeed will I never more of-woman praise sing,

ob sî mich verzîhet unde ir minne jenen wer.

if she me refuses and her love to-that-one grants.

Herze, dirst ze gâch.

Heart, to-thee-is too hasty.

volgest dû den ougen nâch

followest thou the eyes after

dâs ein schoene wîp ersehen,

where-they a fair woman espy,

sô verst in den sprûngen brehen

so farest-thou into the leaps flashing

unde gedenkest 'heyâ, het ich disen goldes grif!'

and thinkest 'heyâ, had I this of-gold grasp!'

so ist dir lûtzel kunt

so is to-thee little known

ob dîn lieber ougen funt

whether thy dear eyes' find

âne missewende sî:

without blemish be:

der gedanke bist dû frî.

of-that thought art thou free.

wirt dîn wille ervollet, sô geriuwet dich der wîf,

is thy will fulfilled, so rues thee the woman,

ist diu liebe gast

is the dearness guest

dâ diu schoene ist ingesinde.

where the beauty is household.

erst iemer sælic der sî beide an einem wîbe vinde.

be-is ever blessed who them both in one woman find.

solhes fundes mir an schœnem wîbe ie gebrast.

of-such find to-me in fair woman ever lacked.

Fürste Friderîch,

Prince Friedrich,

unde wære ez betelîch,

and were it askable,

umbe ein kleinez hieselîn

about a small little-house

dâ mîn silbers vollez schrîn

where my of-silver full chest

wære behalten inne, daz ich hân von dîner gebe,

were kept within, which I have from thy gift,

des wil ich dich biten:

of-that will I thee beg:

dû vernimz mit guoten siten;

thou hear-it with good manners;

wan ich hân in dîme göu

for I have in thy district

manege snæde sunderdröu.

many-a vile private-threat.

ich wil ez gedienen, al die wîle sô ich lebe

I will it earn, all the while so I live

hie mit mîner hant,

here with my hand,

hin ze gote mit mîner zungen

thither to God with my tongue

wirt in frônekôre ein lobeliet von dir gesungen,

is in holy-choir a praise-song of thee sung,

dâ von dû wirst in dem paradîse wîte erkant.

there from thou wilt-be in the paradise widely known.

Owê winder, waz dû bringest

ALAS, WINTER, WHAT THOU BRINGEST

Winter brings gloomy days and subdues the birds, and a woman who knows secret arts stands before the poet's eyes day and night and in his sleep, which is what has given him his gray lock. Eight dancers are named and told that in joys they are checkmate: the emperor's coming will fall on them like hail and their hair will be cut back to the old fashion of Charles's day, for he himself will fence the land and subdue it through Hungary and Bulgaria.

101,20 Owê winder, waz dû bringest

Alas winter, what thou bringest

trüeber tage und wie duz allez twingest

of-gloomy days and how thou-it all constrainest

daz den sumer mit vreuden was.

which the summer with joys was.

dû hâst vogeles vil betwungen,

thou hast birds many subdued,

dâ der walt was aller von besungen,

there the wood was all of sung-about,

dar zuo bluomen unde gras.

there to flowers and grass.

ich verklagte ez allez wol,

I would-get-over it all well,

wolte mich diu vrouwe mîne

would me the lady mine

scheiden von sô manegem kumberpîne

part from so many-a grief-pain

den ich von ir gwalte dol.

which I from her power suffer.

Sî kan zouberliste tougen.

She knows magic-arts secret.

si ist mir tac und naht vor mînen ougen,

she is to-me day and night before my eyes,

dem gelîch sam ich sî sehe.

to-that like as-if I her saw.

si ist mir in dem slâfe nâhen.

she is to-me in the sleep near.

solde ich sî mit armen umbevâhen,

should I her with arms embrace,

und daz minneclîch geschehe!

and that lovingly happen!

daz ist allez ein getroc

that is all a deception

daz mich in dem slâfe triuget

which me in the sleep deceives

und mir in dem lieben wâne liuget.

and to-me in the dear delusion lies.

dâ von hân ich grâwen loc.

there from have I gray lock.

Wê, wer singet nû ze tanze

Woe, who sings now to dance

jungen wîben und ze bluomenkranze?

to-young women and to flower-wreath?

sô sprecht aber an sîner stat.

so speak but in his place.

Walkêr Liupsun Hiltolf Rûte

Walkêr Liupsun Hiltolf Rûte

Wîgolt Wildunc Rîchper unde Trûte

Wîgolt Wildunc Rîchper and Trûte

iust gesagt an vreuden mat.

to-you-is said in joys checkmate.

des keisers komen ist iu ein hagel.

the emperor's coming is to-you a hail.

man tuot iuch des hâres âne

one does you of-the hair without

neben den ôren, hinden ob dem spâne.

beside the ears, behind above the nape.

ir geuphân, ir lât den zagel.

you peacocks, you leave the tail.

Ein gebot ich sanfte lîde,

A command I gladly suffer,

daz man Gâtzemanne alumbe snîde

that one to-Gâtzeman all-round cut

sîn wol valwez reidez hâr.

his well fallow curly hair.

im und sînen tanzgesellen

to-him and to-his dance-fellows

sol man hâr und kleider alsô stellen

shall one hair and clothes so set

nâch dem alten site gar

after the old custom wholly

alsô manz bî Karlen truoc.

as one-it under Charles wore.

swelhe sich dâ wider setzen,

whoever themselves there against set,

die sol man an lîbe und guote letzen

them shall one in body and goods harm

daz sis immer haben genuoc.

that they-of-it ever have enough.

Lât ir iu diu mære briunen:

Let you to-you the tidings gladden:

er wil selbe sticken unde ziunen,

he will himself stake and fence,

unde aldurch der Unger lant,

and all-through of-the Hungarians land,

nider durch die Bulgerîe,

down through the Bulgaria,

her wider ûz und durch die Rômânîe

hither back out and through the Romania

twinget iz sîn miltiu hant,

constrains it his bountiful hand,

er und al die Valben sîn,

he and all the Cumans his,

Tiutsche und alle sîne Unger.

Germans and all his Hungarians.

wolde er dannoch wîter, daz betwunger.

would he even-then farther, that subdued-be.

rihte der keiser um den Rîn!

set-right the emperor about the Rhine!

Marke, dû versinc!

MARCH, SINK THOU DOWN

A song from the March, whose land lies uneven and where the poet and many a Fleming must live uneasily: the man who read German booklets at home now rides out after fodder. He left a foolish wife behind, and he is not the only one who lives in care over how his wife stands at home. He turns his back on the March for Bavaria, asks Bishop Eberhart for a lasting peace, and grieves that it is long since he spoke to his Matze.

102,32 Marke, dû versinc!

March, thou sink!

dîn lant daz lît uneben.

thy land it lies uneven.

ich unde manec Flæminc

I and many-a Fleming

muoz hie unsanfte leben.

must here uneasily live.

der ê dâ heime tiutschiu büechel las,

he-who before there at-home German booklets read,

der muoz rîten umbe fuotergras;

he must ride about fodder-grass;

in riuwet daz er niht dâ heime enwas.

him rues that he not there at-home was.

Bischof, nû rûme ez hie,

Bishop, now clear it here,

daz dirz vergelte got.

that to-thee-it repay God.

ein wîp ich heime lie,

a woman I at-home left,

diu ist ein toerschiu krot.

she is a foolish toad.

die überredet vil lîhte ein ander man.

her persuades very easily a different man.

jâ garnet siz, verhenget sîn ir an,

indeed earns she-it, permits-one of-it to-her on,

und riuwet mich daz ich si ie gewan.

and rues me that I her ever won.

Jâ ist ir mêr wan ich

Indeed is of-them more than I

die ouch von hinnen strebent

who also from hence strive

alsô sô dünkent mich

so so thinks me

wan sî in sorgen lebent

for they in cares live

wiez umbe ir ieglîchs wîp dâ heime stê.

how-it about their each's woman there at-home stand.

diu sorge tuot eim armen knehte wê,

the care does to-a poor lad woe,

daz ieman fremder an sîn bette gê.

that anyone stranger to his bed go.

Ditz ist ein ringiu vart

This is an easy journey

die wir gein Beiern tuon.

which we toward Bavaria make.

her bischof Eberhart,

sir bishop Eberhart,

nû sî ein stætiu suon,

now be a lasting reconciliation,

sît ich der Marke den rûge hân gekert.

since I to-the March the back have turned.

des bat ich got: nû hât er mîchs gewert.

of-that begged I God: now has he me-it granted.

daz ungemach troumt mîner Matzen vert.

the discomfort dreamed to-my Matze last-year.

Sô wol dir, Beierlant!

So hail to-thee, Bavaria-land!

jâ wære ich gerne in dir.

indeed were I gladly in thee.

dâ hân ich wîp erkant

there have I women known

der ich unsanfte enbir.

whom I uneasily do-without.

sîn ist lanc deich ir keine nie gesach

of-it is long that-I of-them none ever saw

(des muoz mîn herze lîden ungemach),

(for-that must my heart suffer discomfort),

daz ich ze mîner Matzen niht ensprach.

that I to my Matze not spoke.