

MIDDLE HIGH GERMAN SERIES • VOLUME 8

NEIFEN AND WINTERSTETTEN

GOTTFRIED VON NEIFEN
ULRICH VON WINTERSTETTEN

Die Lieder · Die Leiche und Lieder

Neifen and Winterstetten

The Refrain Songs and Leiche of the Swabian Court

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

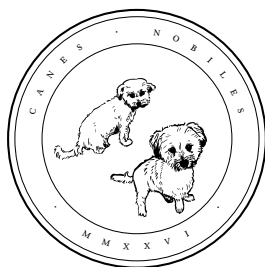


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Volume 8 of the Canes Nobiles Middle High German interlinear texts

The Middle High German text follows *Die Lieder Gottfrieds von Neifen*,
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Neifen set from a keying of the 1851 printing;
Winterstetten from a page scan of the 1882 printing

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Neifen's songs stand in Haupt's order and are cited in the outer margin by the page and line of his edition of 1851, as Neifen has been cited since; Winterstetten's *Leiche* and *Lieder* stand in Minor's order and are cited by his song number, each series counting from one. Minor's own list of *Druckfehler* is applied.

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GOTTFRIED VON NEIFEN

Die Lieder

The Songs

Owê, winter, dîn gewalt

ALAS, WINTER, THY POWER

Winter has made the heath and the flowers pale, and the poet says he would not grieve for the birds if the lady he loves loved him in return. All his joy lies with her, and she alone could turn his cares aside. He praises her against false women, and wishes that one of the good women would give him spirit enough for a song to pass down to his grandchildren. He closes by asking Love to make the game a shared one.

Owê, winter, dîn gewalt

3,1

Alas, winter, thy power

wil uns aber twingen!

will us again constrain!

heide und ouch die bluomen rôd

heath and also the flowers red

die sint nu worden val.

they are now become pale.

sô klag ich den grünen walt

so lament I the green wood

und der vogeles singen:

and the birds' singing:

dar zuo hât vil grôze nôd

there to has very great distress

diu liebe nahtegal.

the dear nightingale.

wê, waz klage ich tumber vogeles swære?

alas, what lament I foolish(-one) birds' grief?

ob eht ich der lieben liep in rehter liebe wære,

if only I to-the dear-one dear in true love were,

son klagte ich niht die vogeles noch der liechten bluomen schîn.

then would-lament I not the birds nor the bright flowers' shine.

Al mîn fröide lît an ir

All my joy lies on her

diu wol mac vertriben

who well can drive-away

swaz ich sorgen ie gewan:

whatever I of-cares ever gained:

der hât si gar gewalt.

of-that has she wholly power.

si ist diu minneclîche mir

she is the lovely-one to-me

liep vor allen wîben.

dear before all women.

des bin ich vil sender man

therefore am I very yearning man

in sorgen worden alt.

in cares become old.

daz mac diu vil kiusche wol erwenden.

that can the very modest-one well turn-aside.

wil diu guote mir ir helferîche helfe senden,

(if)-will the good-one me her help-rich help send,

son darf mich niht belangen der vil süeze bernden zît.

then needs me not to-long-for of-the very sweet bearing season.

Reiniu wîp diu sint sô gar

Pure women they are so wholly

von der diet gescheiden

from the folk separated

daz dâ heizent valschiu wîp:

that there are-called false women:

dêst mîn herze vrô.

thereat-is my heart glad.

nu ist diu guote valsches bar:

now is the good-one of-falsehood bare:

dâ von muoz mir leiden
there from must to-me grow-hateful

der vil valschen wîbe lîp.
the very false women's person.

mîn herze stüende hô,
my heart would-stand high,

ob mir der vil guoten einiu bræhte
if to-me of-the very good one brought

mit ir güete hôhen muot: wê wes ich danne gedæhte
with her goodness high spirit: ah of-what I then would-devise

mit sange, daz ez erben müeste an mînes kindes kint!
with song, that it descend might unto my child's child!

Frouwe Minne, tuot sô wol,
Lady Love, do so well,

lât mich des geniezen
let me thereof enjoy

daz ich der vil guoten bin
that I to-the very good-one am

mit stæte ân allen wanc.
with constancy without any wavering.

ob ich des geniezen sol,
if I thereof enjoy shall,

sô möht iuch verdriezen
so might you (it-)displease

daz si mînes herzen sin
that she my heart's mind

an fröiden machet kranc.
in joys makes weak.

si kan dehssen swingen in der mâze

she can swingle scutch in the measure

unde wil behüeten daz si niht bestieben lâze

and will take-care that she not grow-dusty let

ir rôten munt der mich vil dicke machet hôchgemuot.

her red mouth which me very often makes high-spirited.

Diu vil hêre wil mich lân

The very exalted-one will me let

nâch ir gruoze sterben,

for her greeting die,

ân aller slahte schulde gar.

without any kind-of guilt at-all.

des muoz ich trûric sîn

therefore must I sad be

unde in senden sorgen stân.

and in yearning cares stand.

in kan niht gewerben

I can not bring-it-about

daz ir wol stênden ougen klâr

that her well standing eyes bright

iht wellen ruochen mîn.

at-all will deign me.

daz klag ich dir, Minne, von der süezen.

that lament I to-thee, Love, of the sweet-one.

sît daz si mir niht enwil mîn sende swære bûezen,

since that she to-me not will my yearning grief assuage,

Minne, füege enzît daz ez werd ein gemeinez spil.

Love, bring-about in-time that it become a shared play.

Sumer, dîner fröidebernden wunne

SUMMER, THY JOY-BEARING DELIGHT

Summer's delight gladdens many a yearning heart, and the nightingale sings again now the snow is gone; but the poet's sorrow returns as before. He must forgo joy this summer unless the modest woman who has bound him relents, and he asks her to loose him with the hands that hold such power to help. He closes by putting himself in Love's charge, calling himself a child in these matters and asking her either to bind the lady or unbind him.

Sumer, dîner fröidebernden wunne

4,27

Summer, of-thy joy-bearing delight

fröut sich maneges senden herzen muot.

rejoices itself many-a yearning heart's spirit.

ob diu nahtegal iht singen kunne

whether the nightingale at-all sing can

gegen des wunneclîchen meijen bluot?

toward the delightful May's bloom?

jâ, si singet aber mê

yes, she sings again more

sît zergangen ist der snê.

since melted-away is the snow.

nu twinget mich mîn kumber aber als ê.

now constrains me my affliction again as before.

Wie möht ich den kumber mîn erlîden,

How might I the affliction my endure,

ich entæte ez durch ein reine wîp?

I not-did it for a pure woman?

disen sumer muoz ich fröide mîden,

this summer must I joy avoid,

ez enwende ir kiuscher wîbes lîp
it unless-turn-aside her modest woman's person

diu mich her betwungen hât
who me hitherto constrained has

unde mich in sorgen lât,
and me in cares leaves,

und an ir einer al mîn fröide stât.
and on her alone all my joy stands.

Sît ich bin gebunden mit den banden
Since I am bound with the bonds

daz die senden heizent minnebant,
which the yearning-ones call love-bonds,

sô mac si mich lœsen mit ir handen,
so may she me loose with her hands,

sît si treit sô helferîche hant.
since she bears so help-rich (a-)hand.

frouwe ob allen frouwen mîn,
lady above all ladies mine,

wendent mînen senden pîn;
turn-aside my yearning pain;

durch iuwer zuht lânt mich bî fröiden sîn.
for your breeding let me with joys be.

Disiu liet wil ich der lieben singen
These songs will I to-the dear-one sing

der ich lange her gesungen hân.
to-whom I long hitherto sung have.

si kan beidiu dehsen unde swingen.
she can both swingle and scutch.

dur ir güete sol si mich erlân

for her goodness shall she me release

daz ich niht in sorgen sî.

so-that I not in cares be.

sît ir wont diu fröide bî,

since with-her dwells the joy by,

vil sælic wîp, nu tuo mich sorgen vrî.

very blessed woman, now make me of-cares free.

Sît an mîner herzenlieben frouwen

Since on my heart's-dear lady

gar mîn heil und al mîn leben lît,

wholly my weal and all my life lies,

Minne, sô lâ dîne güete schouwen

Love, so let thy goodness be-seen

unde scheide disen süezen strît.

and settle this sweet strife.

Minne, mîn dich underwint,

Love, of-me thyself take-charge,

wan ich bin der sinne ein kint.

for I am of-the senses a child.

nu bint die guoten alde mich enbint.

now bind the good-one or me unbind.

Wir suln aber schône enpfâhen

WE SHALL RECEIVE MAY FAIRLY

The poet calls for a fair welcome to May and curses whoever would begrudge people joy. A woman's loving glance can cure yearning grief, and he asks a red mouth to laugh so that his care may vanish. He then asks pure women to pity him because his lady has told him to keep away, and closes by lamenting to Love that she has refused him her greeting and her favor.

5,25 Wir suln aber schône enpfâhen

We shall again fairly receive

Meijen, der kan fröide bringen

May, who can joy bring

und vil maneger hande wunne,

and very of-many a-kind delight,

lichte bluomen, rôsen rôt.

bright flowers, roses red.

sît daz uns wil fröide nâhen,

since that to-us will joy draw-near,

sô suln wir mit fröiden singen.

so shall we with joys sing.

wê im der uns fröide erbunne!

woe to-him who us joy begrudges!

dem sî werndiu fröide tôt.

to-him be lasting joy dead.

wol im der uns fröide mêre,

well to-him who us joy increases,

sît man lützel fröide hât!

since one little joy has!

wê im der uns trûren lêre!

woe to-him who us mourning teaches!

wol im der uns leit verkêre,
well to-him who us suffering turns-away,
 sât diu werlt mit trûren stât!
since the world with mourning stands!

Lieplîch blicken von den wîben
Loving glancing from the women
 dar und dan mit spilnden ougen,
thither and thence with playing eyes,
 daz kan sende swære bûezen
that can yearning grief assuage
 und freut sende siechen man.
and gladdens yearning sick man.
 ez kan sendiu leit vertrîben,
it can yearning sufferings drive-away,
 swâ ein man sîn liep siht tougen
wherever a man his dear-one sees secretly
 unde minneclîchen grûezen
and lovingly greet
 unde ez lachelîch siht an.
and it laughingly looks at.
 lache, daz mir sorge swinde,
laugh, that from-me care vanish,
 lachelîch, ein rôter munt.
laughingly, a red mouth.
 sât dîn lachen mich enbinde
since thy laughing me unbinds
 von den sorgen, daz ich vinde
from the cares, that I find
 fröide, dast ein lieplîch funt.
joy, that-is a loving finding.

Reiniu wîp, durch iuwer güete

Pure women, for your goodness

lânt mich senden iuch erbarmen

let me yearning you move-to-pity

daz mich diu vil wolgetâne

that me the very well-formed-one

hât geheizen hinnân für,

has bidden hence forth,

ob mich daz durch niht enmüete

if me that for nothing troubled

wan daz man mich siht sust armen

except that one me sees thus poor

in den fröiden fröiden âne;

in the joys joys without;

daz ich leider an mir spür.

which I sadly on myself feel.

hinnân für, daz wort mir wendet

hence forth, that word from-me turns

fröide, ich bin an fröiden tô.

joy, I am in joys dead.

hinnân für, daz wort mich sendet

hence forth, that word me sends

in den tô, ob ez niht wendet

into the death, if it not turns-aside

ir munt gar durchliuhtic rô.

her mouth wholly translucent red.

Ich gesach von rôtem munde

I saw from red mouth

nie sô lachelîchez lachen

never so laugh(ing)-(-a) laugh(ing)

als diu minneclîche lachet

as the lovely-one laughs

swâ si liebe lachen wil.

wherever she love laugh will.

baz dan ich erdenken kunde

better than I devise could

kan si liebe liebe machen.

can she love love make.

swâ si liebe liebe machet,

wherever she love love makes,

dâ hebt sich der wunnen spil.

there arises itself the delights' play.

Minne, wer daz si iht lache

Love, grant that she at-all laugh

swenne ich si mit ougen sehe.

whenever I her with eyes see.

wiltu daz mir sorge swache,

(if)-wilt-thou that from-me care weaken,

süeziu Minne, an ir daz mache

sweet Love, on her that make

daz si dir gewaltes jehe.

that she to-thee of-power acknowledge.

Ich muoz wol von schulden sorgen

I must well with reason worry

wie mir von der minneclîchen,

how to-me from the lovely-one,

nâch der ich zallen zîten brinne,

after whom I at-all times burn,

mîner swære werde buoz.

of-my grief become remedy.

beidiu âbent und den morgen

both evening and the morning

sorge wil mir niht entwîchen.

care will from-me not depart.

daz klag ich der süezen Minne

that lament I to-the sweet Love

daz diu minneclîche ir gruoze

that the lovely-one her greeting

mir verseite und ouch ir hulde.

to-me refused and also her favor.

daz tuot mînem herzen wê.

that does to-my heart woe.

wære ez doch von mîner schulde

were it yet by my fault

daz ich kumber von ir dulde,

that I affliction from her suffer,

son geklagte ichz niemer mê.

then would-lament I-it never more.

Sælic sî diu heide!

BLESSED BE THE HEATH

The poet blesses the heath, the water-meadow, and the small birds' song, and says the flowers and foliage that winter bound with frost now stand in full display. He recalls a messenger who told him he would be glad, and a time when sorrow was exiled from his heart. He asks a red mouth to laugh so that his yearning grief may pass, and says God was in a glad humor when he shaped that mouth so evenly. He closes by asking Love to constrain the lady as she has constrained his senses.

Sælic sî diu heide!

Blessed be the heath!

7,15

sælic sî diu ouwe!

blessed be the water-meadow!

sælic sî der kleinen vogellîne süezer sanc!

blessed be the small little-birds' sweet song!

bluomen, loup, diu beide

flowers, foliage, they both

stânt in maneger schouwe,

stand in many-a showing,

die der kalde winder hiure mit sîm frôste twanc.

which the cold winter this-year with its frost constrained.

dien ist an ir fröiden wol gelungen.

to-them has in their joys well succeeded.

alsô möhte ouch ich an mînen fröiden wider jungen,

so might also I in my joys again grow-young,

trôste mich ein rôter munt nâch dem mîn herze ie ranc.

comforted me a red mouth for which my heart ever strove.

Mir was wie mîn swære

To-me was as-though my grief

hete ein lieplîch ende,

bad a loving end,

dô mir seite ein bote, ich solte in fröiden frælich sîn.

when to-me told a messenger, I should in joys glad be.

ich was fröidebære,

I was joy-bearing,

sorge was ellende

care was in-exile

in mîm herzen, dô ich wânde, ir mundes rôter schîn

in my heart, when I thought, her mouth's red shine

der wold in mîn herze lieplîch lachen.

it would into my heart lovingly laugh.

alsô kan diu Minne ein wunder an uns beiden machen.

so can the Love a wonder on us both work.

Minne, tuo mir swie du wellest; der gewalt ist dîn.

Love, do to-me as thou wilt; the power is thine.

Rôter munt, nu lache,

Red mouth, now laugh,

daz mir sorge swinde;

that from-me care vanish;

rôter munt nu lache, daz mir sendez leit zergê.

red mouth now laugh, that from-me yearning suffering pass-away.

lachen du mir mache,

laughing thou to-me make,

daz ich fröide vinde;

that I joy find;

rôter munt, nu lache, daz mîn herze frô bestê.

red mouth, now laugh, that my heart glad remain.

sît dîn lachen mir gît hôchgemüete,

since thy laughing to-me gives high-spirit,

neinâ, rôter munt, sô lache mir durch dîne güete
nay, red mouth, so laugh to-me for thy goodness

lacheliche, ræselehte: wes bedörfte ich mê?
laughingly, rosily: of-what would-need I more?

Minnenclich gedinge

Lovely hope

fröit mich mange stunde,
gladdens me many-an hour,

daz mich tröeste ein rôter munt des ich noch nie vergaz.
that me comfort a red mouth which I still never forgot.

minnenclich gelinge,
loving success,

ob ich daz dâ funde,
if I that there found,

sône kunde mir ûf erde niemer werden baz.
then could to-me on earth never become better.

rôter munt, hilf mir von senden nœten.
red mouth, help me from yearning distresses.

âne got sô kan dich niemen alse wol gerœten;
except God so can thee no-one so well redder;

got der was in fröiden dô er dich als ebene maz.
God he was in joys when he thee so evenly measured.

Wolde mir diu hêre

Would to-me the exalted-one

sende sorge ringen,
yearning care lighten,

daz næme ich für der vogele sanc und für der bluomen schîn.
that would-take I above the birds' song and above the flowers' shine.

und si nâch mîner lêre
and she after my teaching

ruochte fröide bringen
deigned joy to-bring

mir, sô wær mîn trûren kranc und wolte in fröiden sîn.
to-me, so were my mourning weak and would in joys be.

hilf mir, helferîchiu süeze Minne;
help me, help-rich sweet Love;

twinc die lieben sam si hât betwungen mîne sinne,
constrain the dear-one as she has constrained my senses,

unze si bedenke mînen senelîchen pîn.
until she consider my yearning pain.

Walt heid anger vogele singen
WOOD, HEATH, MEADOW, BIRDSONG

Winter has ruined the forest, the heath, the meadow, and the birds' singing, and the poet turns from that lament to his own: he is unwelcome to the woman he would gladly be dear to. He recalls how her eyes shone like the sun through his own into his heart, and asks Love how she means to make good the binding. He ends by asking good women to wish that the haughty one teach him the road out of grief into love.

Walt heid anger vogele singen

8,23

Wood heath meadow birds' singing

sint verdorben von des kalten winters zît.

are ruined by the cold winter's season.

dâ man bluomen sach ûf dringen,

where one flowers saw up press,

da ist ez blôz: nu schouwent wie diu heide lît.

there is it bare: now behold how the heath lies.

daz klag ich: sô klage ich mîne swære,

that lament I: so lament I my grief,

daz ich der unmære

that I to-her unwelcome

der ich gerne lieb in herzen wære.

to-whom I gladly dear in heart were.

frowe Minne, daz ist allez dîn gewalt.

lady Love, that is all thy power.

Bar mîn herze ie bernde wunne,

Bore my heart ever bearing delight,

daz was swenne ich sach ir wunneclîchen schîn

that was whenever I saw her delightful shine

unde ir ougen sam der sunne

and her eyes like the sun

dur mîn ougen liuhten in daz herze mîn.

through my eyes shine into the heart my.

dar nâch wart mir leit in kurzen stunden.

there after became to-me grievous in short hours.

owê Minne wunden!

alas Love's wounds!

wie hâst du sus dich mîn underwunden

how hast thou thus thyself of-me taken-charge

daz ich sender siecher bin noch fröiden bar!

that I yearning sick am still of-joys bare!

Bant diu Minne mich der süezen

Bound the Love me to-the sweet-one

und lât die vil lieben sunder trûren gân,

and lets the very dear-one without mourning go,

Minne, wie wilt duz gebüezen?

Love, how wilt thou-it amend?

Minne, ich hânz dâ für, ez sî niht guot getân.

Love, I have-it there for, it be not well done.

Minne, hilf enzît: ich muoz verderben

Love, help in-time: I must perish

unde an fröiden sterben.

and in joys die.

sol ich niht den rôten kus erwerben,

(if)-shall I not the red kiss win,

so ist mîn fröiden strâze in riuwen pfat gebant.

then is my joys' street into rues' path paved.

Lôs in rehter wîbes güete

Merry in true woman's goodness

sach ich zeinem mâle ir kiuschen wîbes lîp.

saw I at-one time her modest woman's body.

dâ von fröit sich mîn gemüete,

there from rejoices itself my spirit,

daz ich dâhte 'jâ du reine sælic wîp,

that I thought 'yes thou pure blessed woman,

du maht mir wol mînen kumber wenden

thou canst to-me well my affliction turn-aside

unde helfe senden.'

and help send.'

frouwe Minne, trœstent mich vil senden,

lady Love, comfort me very yearning,

wan ich stân von iuvern schulden fröidelôs.

for I stand by your fault joyless.

Wer kan mich nu frô gemachen?

Who can me now glad make?

niemen danne ir minneclîcher rôter munt.

no-one but her lovely red mouth.

wil mir der von herzen lachen,

(if)-will to-me it from heart laugh,

dâ von werde ich sender siecher wol gesunt.

there from become I yearning sick well sound.

guoten wîp, nu wünschent daz diu hêre

good women, now wish that the exalted-one

mich die strâze lêre

me the street teach

wâ ich ûzer leide in liebe kêre.

where I out-of suffering into love turn.

Minne hilf daz mich diu liebe ir liebe wer.

Love help that me the dear-one her love grant.

Hî, wie wunnenclich diu heide

HEY, HOW DELIGHTFUL THE HEATH

The heath has clothed itself against May, and the grief of leaves, grass, flowers, and birds alike has vanished; the poet wishes his own care could go as easily. He recalls the rosy greeting he once had and his thought that her eyes must cure him, and praises women as the one cure for yearning. He laments the hour that never brought him a kiss, reproaches Love for wounding him, and ends by telling the world he bears it hatred, since men now go free of love's snare.

9,26 Hî, wie wunnenclich diu heide

Hey, how delightfully the heath

sich mit manegem spæhen kleide

itself with many-a splendid dress

gegen dem meigen hât bekleit!

against the May has clothed!

loup gras bluomen vogellîn beide,

foliage grass flowers little-birds both,

die man sach in manegem leide,

which one saw in many-a suffering,

gar verschwunden ist ir leit.

wholly vanished is their suffering.

alsô mehte ouch mir verschwinden

so might also from-me vanish

sorge, diu von fröide ie swant;

care, which through joy ever vanished;

wolde fröide sorge enbinden,

would joy care unbind,

sît daz fröide ie sorge enbant,

since that joy ever care unbound,

sô wurd ich von sorgen frî.

so would-become I from cares free.

Dô mîn ouge erkôs die süezen,

When my eye espied the sweet-one,

dô wart mir ein lieplich grüezen,

then became to-me a loving greeting,

røeseleht ein rôter gruoz.

rosy a red greeting.

dô dâht ich 'diu ougen müezen

then thought I 'the eyes must

dir vil senden kumber büezen:

to-thee much yearning affliction assuage:

anders dir wirt niemer buoz

otherwise to-thee becomes never remedy

sorgen, ez enwende ir güete.'

of-cares, it unless-turn-aside her goodness.'

dannoch was ir güete guot.

even-then was her goodness good.

sam der rôse in touwen blüete

like the rose in dew bloomed

was ir munt rôt als ein bluot.

was her mouth red as a bloom.

owê, dannoch was ich vrô.

alas, even-then was I glad.

Wer kan froelich frô belîben

Who can gladly glad remain

wan bî reinen lieben wîben?

except among pure dear women?

hî, wie süeze ein name wîp!

hey, how sweet a name woman!

wîp kan sendiu leit vertriben.

woman can yearning sufferings drive-away.

wol ir reinen lieben lîben!

well to-their pure dear persons!

och, si hânt sô lieben lip
oh, they have so dear (a-)body

daz mich nâch in muoz belangen!
that me after them must long!

bî in ist diu wîle unlanc.
with them is the while not-long.

swâ liep liep hât umbevangen,
wherever dear-one dear-one has embraced,

dast ein süezer umbevanc,
that-is a sweet embrace,

lieplich nâch der minne ger.
lovingly after the love's desire.

Wê der gar verlornen stunde,
Woe for-the wholly lost hour,

daz mir senden niene enkunde
that to-me yearning not-at-all could

lieplich küssen werden kunt
loving kissing become known

von ir rôsevarwen munde!
from her rose-colored mouth!

owê, Minne, daz dîn wunde
alas, Love, that thy wounds

mich sô lange hânt verwunt!
me so long have wounded!

ich bin von dir ungeheilet;
I am by thee unbealed;

ich gewan gein dir nie heil.
I gained toward thee never weal.

Minne, daz du sîst verteilet!
Love, that thou be condemned!

habe ouch dir der minne ein teil.

have also thyself of-the love a portion.

du verwundest mich niht mê.

thou woundest me not more.

Waz touc minneclîchez singen?

What avails lovely singing?

wâ sint wîp die kunnen twingen?

where are women who can constrain?

wâ sint man die minne ie twanc?

where are men whom love ever constrained?

wer kan stæte fröide bringen?

who can steadfast joy bring?

wer kan sorge ûz herzen dringen?

who can care out-of hearts press?

minne ie sorge ûz herzen dranc

love ever care out-of hearts pressed

von der wîbes ougen blicken,

by the women's eyes' glances,

dâ man sach ein süezen blic.

where one saw a sweet glance.

si went sich der minne entstricken:

they intend themselves of-the love to-unbind:

man sint sunder minne stric.

men are without love's snare.

welt, dâ von trag ich dir haz.

world, there from bear I thee hate.

Wer gesach ie wunneclîcher mê den süezen meigen?

WHO SAW EVER A MORE DELIGHTFUL MAY

No one ever saw a fairer May or heard the birds sing better, and many a heart rejoices at it — every one but the poet's. He tells his darling she is laying waste her own free property in him, says he has served her since childhood, and asks Love for help. He calls on delightful women and glad-spirited laymen to wish that his darling would part him from his cares, and ends by asking Love to ask her what he has done to her.

11,6 Wer gesach ie wunneclîcher mê den süezen meigen?

Who saw ever more-delightful more the sweet May?

wer gesach ie baz bekleit den walt und ouch die wunnenclîchen heide?

who saw aye more clad the wood and also the winsome heath?

wer gehôrte ie baz diu kleinen vogellîn gesingen

who heard ever better the small little-birds sing

gegen der wunneclîchen wunne in

against the delightful delight in

maneger süezer wunneclîcher wîse?

many-a sweet delightful melody?

dâ gegen frôit sich manic herze, wan daz mîne aleine

there against rejoices itself many-a heart, except that mine alone

daz muoz iemer trûric sîn, ez wende ir wîplich güete

that must ever sorrowful be, unless turn-it-aside her womanly goodness

diu mich senden mit gewalde lange her betwungen hât.

which me yearning with force long hitherto constrained has.

Owê, triutelehter lîp, sol ich alsus verderben!

Alas, darling person, shall I thus perish!

owê, spilnder ougen schîn! hei, munt gevar nâch wunneclîchen rôsen!

alas, playing eyes' shine! hey, mouth colored after delightful roses!

herzen trût, ir wüestet an mir iuwer vrîgez eigen.

heart's darling, ye lay-waste in me your free property.

wie zimt wîbes güete daz, ob ich in senden sorgen sus verdirbe?

how befits woman's goodness that, if I in yearning cares thus perish?

liebiu frowe, ich habe iu lange her gedient von kinde:

dear lady, I have you long hitherto served from childhood:

des lât mich geniezen; seht, sô wurde ich fröide rîche.

of-that let me enjoy; see, so become I in-joy rich.

ob des niht geschiht, sô muoz mîn spilendiu fröide ein ende hân.

if that not happens, so must my playing joy an end have.

Ir vil wunnenlîchen wîp, ir wolgemuoten leigen,

Ye very delightful women, ye glad-spirited laymen,

wünschent daz mîs herzen trût mich von

wish that my heart's darling me from

den senelîchen sorgen scheide:

the yearning cares separate:

sô bit ich die guoten daz si lâze mir gelingen.

so beg I the good-one that she let to-me succeed.

süeziu Minne, ob daz geschiht,

sweet Love, if that happens,

dar umbe ich dîne werden tugende prîse.

there for I thy worthy virtues praise.

Minne, du weist wol, ez ist diu liebe diech dâ meine.

Love, thou knowest well, it is the dear-one whom-I there cherish.

Minne, hilf daz mir diu hêre træste mîn gemüete.

Love, help that to-me the exalted-one comfort my spirit.

ob des niht geschiht, sô wirt mir sender sorgen niemer rât.

if that not happens, so becomes to-me of-yearning cares never remedy.

Owê, Minne, sol ich niht den rôten kus erwerben

Alas, Love, shall I not the red kiss win

und den süezen umbevanc, dar zuo ir minneclîchen lîp den lôsen!

and the sweet embrace, there to her lovely body the merry-one!

süeziu Minne, maht du herzeliep an mir erzeigen?

sweet Love, canst thou heart's-love in me show?

nu waz treit dich für, ob ich nâch der vil herzelieben lieben stirbe?

now what carries thee forward, if I for the very heart-dear dear-one die?

Minne, ich muoz verderben, ob ich niht die fröide vinde.

Love, I must perish, if I not the joy find.

ach dur got, vil sælic wîp, noch helfent helfecliche!

oh for God, very blessed woman, still help helpfully!

süeziu Minne, frâge si dur got waz ich ir habe getân.

sweet Love, ask her for God what I to-her have done.

Nu stêt diu liebe heide bar

NOW THE HEATH STANDS BARE

The heath is bare of flowers and roses and the birds suffer, but the poet asks why he laments birdsong rather than his own unrewarded service. Reward him or not, she remains his comfort and his lady, and her glance holds him so that he cannot part from her; he praises her beauty as God's work and says a loving kiss and embrace make yearning care weak. She has been secretly in his heart's ground since he first chose her, and for her favor he would gladly carry a glowing iron.

Nu stêt diu liebe heide bar

11,34

Now stands the dear heath bare

der wunnenclichen bluomen und der liechten rôsen rô.

of-the delightful flowers and of-the bright roses red.

der walt hât sich enkleidet gar:

the wood has itself unclothed wholly:

des lident aber diu kleinen vogellin vil grôze nô.

therefore suffer again the small little-birds very great distress.

waz klage ich tumber voege sanc?

what lament I foolish-one birds' song?

wan klage ich niht die swæren zît

why lament I not the heavy season

daz ich der minneclichen hân gedienet allez âne danc?

that I the lovely-one have served all without thanks?

Si lône mir, si lône niht,

She reward me, she reward not,

sô ist si doch mîs herzen trôst und ouch diu vrowe mîn.

so is she yet my heart's comfort and also the lady mine.

ich diene ouch ir, swaz mir geschiht.

I serve also her, whatever to-me happens.

si muoz diu êrste und ouch mîn leste unz an mîn ende sîn.
she must the first and also my last up to my end be.

ir ougen blic der vie mich sô
her eyes' glance it caught me so

daz ich von ir niht scheiden mac,
that I from her not part can,

swie selten mich diu herzeliebe hât gemacht frô.
however seldom me the heart's-love has made glad.

Ach herre got, wie schœne ein wîp!
Ah lord God, how fair a woman!

jâ milter got, wie rehte minnenclîch ist si gestalt!
yes gracious God, how truly lovely is she formed!

jâ süezer got, wie lieb ein lîp!
yes sweet God, how dear a person!

gesach in got, der ir vil reinen lîbes hât gewalt!
regard him God, who over-her very pure person has power!

ir spiegellichten ougen klâr,
her mirror-bright eyes clear,

sold ich diu mit gewalte an sehen,
should I them with force upon look,

sô swüere ich wol daz mir gewüehse niemer grâwez hâr.
so would-swear I well that to-me would-grow never gray hair.

Wie gar unmâzen sanfte tuot
How wholly beyond-measure gently does

ein lieplich küssen unde ein minneclîcher umbevanc!
a loving kissing and a lovely embrace!

si liebent lîp und hœhent muot.
they endear the-body and raise the-mind.

dâ wirt diu sende sorge bî dem ungemüete kranc.
there becomes the yearning care beside the ill-humor weak.

swâ liep bî herzeliebe lît

wherever dear-one by heart's-love lies

ie nâher und ie nâher baz,

ever nearer and ever nearer better,

dâ muoz diu sende sorge lân der fröide gar den strît.

there must the yearning care leave to-the joy wholly the strife.

Sist tougen in mîs herzen grunt

She-is secretly in my heart's ground

die ich von êrst ze herzelieber frouwen mir erkôs.

whom I from first as heart-dear lady for-me chose.

dâ von sô wirt ez ungesund.

there from so becomes it unsound.

waz schât der lieben daz si schoene ist unde dâ bî lôs?

what harms the dear-one that she fair is and there by merry?

von liebe kan ich niht gesagen:

of love can I not tell:

mir wart sô liebes nie niht mêt;

to-me became so of-dear never anything more;

des wolde ich ûf genâde gerne ein glüendez îsen tragen.

therefore would I upon favor gladly a glowing iron carry.

Loup gras bluomen voegele singen

FOLIAGE, GRASS, FLOWERS, BIRDSONG

Leaves, grass, flowers, and birdsong stand before the wood and in the water-meadows, and red roses on the heath, yet there one may still behold the frost; and the poet laments another distress, the lovely woman who should greet him lovingly and does not. He asks Love to help him toward her favor, recalls the one time he saw her, when her love's arrow shot into his heart, and praises the delight found in women. Since his singing has not succeeded he will leave off and part from her, saying that had he been a wild beathen his faithfulness would have been better rewarded.

12,33 Loup gras bluomen voegele singen

Foliage grass flowers birds' singing

vor dem walde und in den ouwen,

before the wood and in the water-meadows,

ûf der heide rôsen rô,

on the heath roses red,

die der meige uns kan bringen,

which the May to-us can bring,

dâ mac man den rîfen schouwen.

there can one the frost behold.

doch klag ich ein ander nô,

yet lament I an other distress,

von der minnenclîchen süezen,

from the lovely sweet-one,

diu mich lieplîch solde grüezen.

who me lovingly should greet.

Minne, daz solt du mir bûezen,

Love, that shalt thou to-me amend,

sît ich mich der lieben ie ze dienste bôt.

since I myself to-the dear-one ever for service offered.

Sît mîn sendez herze weinet

Since my yearning heart weeps

nâch der lieben diech dâ meine

after the dear-one whom-I there cherish

(wê war umbe tuot ez daz?),

(alas where for does it that?),

unde ir herze ist unvereinet

and her heart is not-agreed

daz ez nâch dem mîn iht weine,

that it after the mine at-all weep,

Minne, sich, daz ist dîn haz,

Love, see, that is thy hatred,

den ich sender siecher dulce

which I yearning sick-one suffer

gar ân alle mîne schulde.

wholly without all my fault.

Minne, hilf mir umbe ir hulde,

Love, help me toward her favor,

daz si mich nâch wîbes güete tröeste baz.

that she me after woman's goodness comfort better.

Solde ich sie vil minneclîche

Should I her very lovely

sehen als ich si zeinem mâle

see as I her at-one time

sach, sô wær mîn fröide grôz

saw, so were my joy great

unde wære in sælden rîche.

and were in blessings rich.

wan daz mich ir minne strâle

except that me her love's arrow

in daz sende herze schôz,

into the yearning heart shot,

dast diu unverheilet wunde.

that-is the unbealed wound.

ob ir trôst mir die verbunde

if her comfort to-me it bound-up

mit ir rôsevarwen munde,

with her rose-colored mouth,

wê, wer wære an fröiden danne mîn genôz!

alas, who were in joys then my equal!

Ich wæn iemen kunne erdenken

I doubt anyone can devise

waz man wunne bî den wîben

what one delight with the women

vindet; si gênt hôhen muot.

finds; they give high spirit.

swer den sorgen welle entwenken,

whoever the cares would escape,

der sol stæte an in belîben,

he shall constant with them remain,

wan si sint für trûren guot.

for they are against mourning good.

swem si lieplich blickent tougen

to-whom they lovingly glance secretly

in diu herzen mit den ougen,

into the hearts with the eyes,

daz weiz ich wol sunder lougen

that know I well without denial

daz ez von gemuoten wîben sanfte tuot.

that it from glad-spirited women gently does.

Ich hân minnenclîch gesungen

I have lovingly sung

der vil lieben und der Minne:

to-the very dear-one and to-the Love:

doch lât si mich trûric stân.

yet lets she me sorrowful stand.

so ist mir senden niht gelungen

so is to-me yearning not succeeded

an mîs herzen kûniginne:

with my heart's queen:

dâ von wil ich singen lân

there from will I singing let

unde wil mich von ir scheiden.

and will me from her part.

got der gebe gelücke uns beiden.

God he give fortune to-us both.

wære ab ich ein wilder heiden,

were but I a wild beatben,

mîner triuwe solte ich baz genozzen hân.

of-my faith should I better enjoyed have.

Sich hât aber diu süeze zît verkêret

THE SWEET SEASON HAS TURNED

The sweet season has turned, the heath that stood adorned with flowers is changed, the small birds' sorrow grows, and the wood is not sounded with song; so the poet's joy must depart. He praises mutual love: whoever loves a dear one for true love's sake has heaven's kingdom here on earth, and a loving embrace feels sweet to two lovers as the night lengthens. The strophe breaks off in a lacuna, and he closes by begging the sweet, pure one for help before his life perishes.

14,8 Sich hât aber diu süeze zît verkêret.

Itself has again the sweet season turned.

schowent an die wunnenclichen heide

behold upon the delightful heath

diu mit manegen bluomen stuont beschœnet;

which with many flowers stood adorned;

kleiner vogele trûren aber mêret,

of-small birds mourning again increases,

dien der kalte winter tuot sô leide;

to-whom the cold winter does so grievously;

so ist der walt mit sange niht bedœnet.

so is the wood with song not sounded.

alsô muoz ouch mir mîn fröide entwîchen,

so must also from-me my joy depart,

daz mir nie von der vil minnenclichen

that to-me never from the very lovely-one

konde werden mîner swære rât.

could become of-my grief remedy.

Wie kan iemer iemen sanfter werden

How can ever anyone easier become

dan der liep durch rehte liebe minnet

than he-who dear-one for true love loves

unde im liep in liebe fröide mêret?

and to-whom dear-one in love joy increases?

der hât himelrîche hie ûf erden,

he has heaven's-kingdom here on earth,

ob er sich gein liebe wol versinnet

if he himself toward love well bethinks

unde in liep in liebe liebe lêret.

and him dear-one in love love teaches.

Minne kan sich liep dur liebe lieben.

Love can herself dear-one for love endear.

daz tuot si niht wan eht minnedieben.

that does she not except only to-love-thieves.

rehtiu liebe ist valscher liebe gran.

true love is of-false love the-thorn.

Ez tuot sanfte ein lieplich umbevâhen

It does gently a loving embracing

zwein gelieben, sît diu naht sô langet,

to-two lovers, since the night so lengthens,

lieplich smûcken nâch der liebe willen,

lovingly nestling after the love's will,

solte ichz tuon, ich seite wol wie nâhen.

should I-it do, I would-tell well how closely.

sît daz liep bî liebe niht belanget,

since that dear-one by dear-one not longs,

liep kan ...

dear-one can (lacuna)

...

(lacuna)

...

(lacuna)

Beschiht des niht, so muoz ich eine

Happens that not, so must I alone

sterben in vil kurzer vrist.

die in very short term.

sît du bist

since thou art

diu süeze reine

the sweet pure-one

diu mir fröide geben sol,

who to-me joy give shall,

hîlfâ, helferîchez wîp,

help, help-rich woman,

ê daz mir der lîp

before that to-me the life

verderbe: süeziu frowe, sô tuost du wol.

perish: sweet lady, so doest thou well.

Waz vervâhet

WHAT DOES MAY AVAIL ME?

May draws near and gives many hearts joy, but flowers and birdsong are too weak a comfort for the poet. He says God laid a wonder especially on the woman whose sweet person has bound his spirit, and that she turns from him the best joy, the joy her pure virtues should have won him. He will sing a lovely song to greet May all the same, and asks her rosy mouth to settle the strife and help him in time.

Waz vervâhet

What avails

15,6

mich des wunnenclichen meigen zît,

me the delightful May's season,

der uns nâhet

which to-us draws-near

unde manegen herzen fröide gît?

and to-many hearts joy gives?

bluomen unde vogele sanc,

flowers and birds' song,

der beider

of-them both

trôst ist leider

the-comfort is sadly

mînen fröiden alze kranc.

to-my joys all-too weak.

Mîn gemüete

My spirit

hât betwungen ir vil süezer lîp.

has constrained her very sweet person.

sô mit güete

so with goodness

sô mit schoene wart nie bezzer wîp.

so with beauty became never (a-)better woman.

alse mir mîn herze seit,

as to-me my heart tells,

daz wunder

that wonder

hât besunder

has especially

got mit flîze an si geleit.

God with zeal on her laid.

Jâ verkêret

Yes turns

mir ein wîp die besten fröide mîn,

from-me a woman the best joy mine,

der ich gêret

by-whom I honored

von ir reinen tugenden solde sîn.

by her pure virtues should be.

diu hât sô betwungen mir

she has so constrained to-me

die sinne

the senses

mit ir minne

with her love

daz ich trûren muoz nâch ir.

that I mourning must after her.

Ich wil singen

I will sing

gegen dem meigen minneclîchen sanc.

against the May lovely song.

swære ringen

grief lighten

kan si nâch der ie mîn herze ranc.

can she after whom ever my heart strove.

trôste mich diu frowe mîn,

comforted me the lady mine,

diu guote

the good-one

wolgemuote,

glad-spirited,

seht, sô wolte ich frœlîch sîn.

see, so would I glad be.

Mit ir gruoze

With her greeting

mehte si mir wenden swæren pîn,

could she from-me turn heavy pain,

der sô suoze

which so sweetly

fröite mir daz sende herze mîn.

gladdened to-me the yearning heart mine.

ræselehter rôter munt,

rosy red mouth,

scheit den strît

settle the strife

und hilf enzît

and help in-time

mir: sô bin ich wol gesunt.

me: so am I quite sound.

Sælic sælic sî diu wunne

BLESSED BE THE DELIGHT

The poet blesses the delight, May, birdsong, meadow, and wood, and calls on the young to dance. Nothing cures yearning like a kiss and an embrace, but the poet cries alarm against Love, who bound him and now lets him go sorrowing. He tells the lady she counted it a game, and closes by praising woman's goodness, telling her that her rose-colored mouth, if it laughed, would bloom like a rose in dew.

16,9 Sælic sælic sî diu wunne,

Blessed blessed be the delight,

sælic sî des wunnebernden meigen zît,

blessed be the delight-bearing May's season,

sælic sî der vogeles singen,

blessed be the birds' singing,

sælic sî diu ouwe, sælic sî der walt!

blessed be the water-meadow, blessed be the wood!

man siht bluomen manicvalt

one sees flowers manifold

durch daz grüne gras ûf dringen,

through the green grass up press,

mêr dan ich erdenken kunne.

more than I devise can.

tanzen springen

to-dance to-spring

suln die jungen widerstrî.

shall the young-ones in-rivalry.

Niemen niemen kan erdenken

No-one no-one can devise

waz für senelichez trûren bezzer sî

what against yearning mourning better be

danne ein kus von rôtem munde

than a kiss from red mouth

und dar zuo ein minneclîcher umbevanc.

and there to a lovely embrace.

dâ wirt sendez trûren kranc;

there becomes yearning mourning weak;

ez frôit ûf von herzen grunde

it gladdens up from heart's ground

ermel flechten, bein verschrenken.

sleeves to-plait, legs to-cross.

in der stunde

in that hour

wirt diu liebe sorgen frî.

becomes the dear-one of-cares free.

Wâfen wâfen über die Minne!

Alarm alarm against the Love!

wâfen wil ich über si schrîen iemer mê.

alarm will I against her cry ever more.

ich was ir dâ her gebunden:

I was to-her there hitherto bound:

nu lât si mich trûreclîche vor ir gân.

now lets she me sorrowfully before her go.

si hât übele an mir getân.

she has ill to me done.

si muoz einem andern wunden

she must to-an other wound

herze muot und al die sinne.

heart spirit and all the senses.

wol befunden

well found-out

habe ich daz si tuot sô wê.

have I that she does so painfully.

Frouwe frouwe, sælic frouwe,

Lady lady, blessed lady,

herzen trût, ir sint mir lieb für elliu wîp:

heart's darling, ye are to-me dear above all women:

des ich selten hân genozzen:

of-which I seldom have enjoyed:

dâ von ich niht mêre fûrbaz singen wil.

there from I not more further sing will.

ez dûht iuch vil gar ein spil.

it seemed to-you very wholly a game.

iuch hât dicke mîn verdrozzen:

you has often of-me wearied:

des ich mich vil trûric schouwe.

of-which I myself very sorrowful see.

vor beslozzen

before shut

ist mir fröide und iuwer lîp.

is from-me joy and your person.

Wol dir, wol dir, wîbes gûete,

Well to-thee, well to-thee, woman's goodness,

wol dir, daz du sælic iemer müezest sîn!

well to-thee, that thou blessed ever mayest be!

wol dir, du kanst trûren swachen,

well to-thee, thou canst mourning weaken,

swâ diu Minne ein sendez herze hât verwunt.

wherever the Love a yearning heart has wounded.

dîn vil rôsevarwer munt,

thy very rose-colored mouth,

sô der lieplîch wolde lachen,

if it lovingly would laugh,

sam der rôse in touwen blüete.

like the rose in dew would-bloom.

fröide machen

joy to-make

kan dîn spilnder ougen schîn.

can thy playing eyes' shine.

Schouwent ûf den anger

BEHOLD UPON THE MEADOW

Winter is over, the heath is pregnant with roses, and the poet calls the courtly laymen out to dance. He asks the lady to take charge of his heart, and he asks Love to beg her to comfort him. He asks who can weaken sorrow and answers that it is her red mouth. He then praises women as the one thing good against grief, and ends by saying he still expects some dear thing to come to him.

17,17 Schouwent ûf den anger:

Behold upon the meadow:

winter wert niht langer;

winter lasts not longer;

kleine vogele twanger:

small birds it-constrained:

diu heide ist worden swanger;

the heath is become pregnant;

si birt uns rôsen rỗt.

she bears to-us roses red.

man hoert vogele singen,

one hears birds sing,

man siht bluomen entspringen,

one sees flowers spring-forth,

dur daz gras ûf dringen;

through the grass up press;

ir swære wil sich ringen,

their grief will itself lighten,

als in diu zît gebôt.

as to-them the season bade.

alsus enpfâhen wir den süezen meigen!

thus receive we the sweet May!

wol ûf, ir hübeschen leigen!

well up, ye courtly laymen!

wir suln die fröide heigen,

we shall the joy cherish,

vil frœlîch tanzen reigen.

very gladly dance round-dance.

ahî, solt ich mich zweigen

ah, should I myself pair

mit ir

with her

diu mir

who to-me

mac wenden sende nôt!

can turn-aside yearning distress!

Lât mir sorge swinden,

Let from-me care vanish,

lât mich fröide vinden,

let me joy find,

lât den krieg erwinden;

let the strife cease;

ir sult iuch underwinden

ye shall yourselves take-charge

mîs herzen, sælic wîp.

of-my heart, blessed woman.

frouwe, ir sult mir mêren

lady, ye shall to-me increase

fröide, leit verkêren,

joy, suffering turn-away,

hôchgemüete lêren.

high-spirit teach.

Minne, bit die hêren

Love, beg the exalted-one

daz mich ir kiuscher lîp

that me her modest person

træste: nu ist si doch mîn küniginne.

comfort: now is she yet my queen.

vil minnenclîchiu Minne,

very lovely Love,

træste mîne sinne,

comfort my senses,

sît ich nâch liebe brinne.

since I after love burn.

ob ich den trôst gewinne,

if I the comfort win,

der tac

that day

mir mac

to-me may

wol heizen leitvertrîp.

well be-called suffering's-driving-away.

Wer kan trûren swachen?

Who can mourning weaken?

wer kan fröide machen

who can joy make

mit vil lieben sachen?

with very dear things?

wer kan lieplîch lachen?

who can lovingly laugh?

ir mundes rôter schîn.

her mouth's red shine.

wer kan trûren wenden?

who can mourning turn-away?

wer kan sorge swenden,

who can care make-vanish,

sende nôt volenden?

yearning distress bring-to-an-end?

wer kan helfe senden?

who can help send?

diu liebe frouwe mîn,

the dear lady mine,

diu mich hât von kinde her gebunden.

who me has from childhood hitherto bound.

si kan mîn herze wunden.

she can my heart wound.

daz habe ich wol befunden

that have I well found-out

daz ich bin überwunden

that I am overcome

nu unde zallen stunden.

now and at-all hours.

si sol

she shall

mir wol

to-me well

dur reht genædic sîn.

by right gracious be.

Wer kan leit vertriben?

Who can suffering drive-away?

wer kan frô beliben?

who can glad remain?

niemen wan bî wîben.

no-one except among women.

des wol ir süezen liben!

therefore well to-their sweet persons!

si sint für trûren guot:

they are against mourning good:

als des meigen blüete

like the May's bloom

fröit ir wîplich güete:

gladdens their womanly goodness:

si gënt hôchgemüete.

they give high-spirit.

daz got ir lîp behüete,

that God their person protect,

doch mir einiu tuot

yet to-me one does

selten liep, die ich mit triuwen meine.

seldom dear-(thing), whom I with faith cherish.

diu süeze und diu vil reine,

the sweet-one and the very pure-one,

der helfe ist gegen mir kleine,

whose help is toward me small,

der ich von Kindes beine

whom I from child's leg

gedienet hân aleine,

served have alone,

daz sie

so-that she

noch nie

still never

getrôste mir den muot.

comforted to-me the spirit.

Ach wan solte ich schouwen

Ah if-only should I behold

liep mîs herzen frouwen!

dear-one my heart's lady!

in den grünen ouwen,

in the green water-meadows,

in luft und ouch in touwen

in air and also in dew

wart lieberz nie gesehen

was dearer never seen

daz sô lieplîch wære,

that so lovely were,

guot für sende swære,

good against yearning grief,

sam diu sældebære.

as the blessing-bearer.

wie wol ich daz bewære,

how well I that would-prove,

kund ich ze rehte spehen

could I in truth spy

ir munt, ir keln und ouch ir liechten wangen!

her mouth, her throat and also her bright cheeks!

diu hânt mich gevangen.

they have me caught.

nâch ir muoz mich belangen.

after her must me long.

het ich den trôst enpfangen,

had I the comfort received,

sô wær mîn leit zergangen.

so were my suffering passed-away.

ich hân

I have

noch wân

still expectation

daz mir wil liep beschehen.

that to-me will dear-(thing) happen.

Nu schouwent wie diu heide

NOW BEHOLD HOW THE HEATH

Cold winds have ruined the heath and stripped the wood and the linden, and the poet says an embrace would do him good this year. A kiss between two lovers would be a fine thing; a dear one, he says, should make him such a loving end. He recalls that when he first saw her his heart was free of care, and closes by telling Love that his queen should long since have rewarded him.

19,32 Nu schouwent wie diu heide

Now behold how the heath

mit liehter ougenweide

with bright eye-pasture

sint verdorben und der kleinen vogeline sanc.

are ruined and the small little-birds' song.

daz schaffent kalde winde.

that cause cold winds.

der walt und ouch diu linde

the wood and also the linden

die sint nu beide ir grünen loubes aber worden kranc.

they are now both of-their green foliage again become weak.

jârlanc tæte sanfte ein umbevâhen,

this-year would-do gently an embracing,

ein lieplich drücken nâhen.

a loving pressing close.

ich hân gedingen daz mir werde ein süezer umbevanc.

I have hope that to-me become a sweet embrace.

Swiez mir sô wol ergienge

However-it to-me so well went

daz si mich umbevienge,

that she me would-embrace,

sô müeste ich von den süezen fröiden sende sorge lân.

so would-have-to I from the sweet joys yearning care leave.

ob ich den trôst dâ funde

if I the comfort there found

dâ von mîn leit verswunde,

there from my suffering would-vanish,

sô wold ich ûz herzeleide in herzeliebe gân.

so would I out-of heart's-suffering into heart's-love go.

ich hân trôst daz mich ir wîplich güete

I have comfort that me her womanly goodness

vor sender nôt behüete.

from yearning distress protect.

sus segen ich mich des morgens mit ir, sô ich wil ûf stân.

thus bless I myself in-the morning with her, when I will up stand.

Ein kus von rôten munde,

A kiss from red mouth,

der von des herzen grunde

which from the heart's ground

von zwein gelieben gienge, daz tât inneclîche wol.

from two lovers went, that would-do inwardly well.

swâ Minne ir liebe wæge

wherever Love their love weighed

gelîch und daz si pflæge

alike and that she practiced

fröide, dâ von wurden sendiu herzen fröiden vol.

joy, there from would-become yearning hearts of-joys full.

mir sol liep ein lieplich ende machen,

to-me shall dear-one a loving end make,

dâ von zwei herzen erlachen,

there from two hearts laugh-out,

der lieben mir, daz mîn ir, sît ich senden kumber dol.

the dear-one's to-me, that mine hers, since I yearning affliction suffer.

Dô ich die reinen guoten,

When I the pure good-one,

die süezen wolgemuoten,

the sweet glad-spirited-one,

von êrste an sach, dar nâch dô wart mîn herze sorgen bar.

from first upon looked, there after then became my heart of-cares bare.

dô hâte ich den gedingen

then had I the hope

daz si mich wolte dringen

that she me would press

hin an der fröide stat. des hât sî mich enterbet gar.

thither to the joy's place. of-that has she me disinherited wholly.

nim war, vrouwe Minne, wie ichz meine:

take note, lady Love, how I-it mean:

daz si sô rehte kleine

that she so truly little

mich senden trœstet unde ich doch mit triuwen diene dar.

me yearning comforts and I yet with faith serve there.

Owê, sol ich verderben

Alas, shall I perish

und in der sorge ersterben,

and in the care die,

frou Minne und ir vil sælic wîp, wie stât iu beiden daz?

lady Love and ye very blessed woman, how stands to-you both that?

vil minnenclichiu Minne,

very lovely Love,

sprich daz mîn kûneginne

say that my queen

durch wîbes güete sich gein mir ein teil bedenke baz.

for woman's goodness herself toward me a part bethink better.

nu waz touc mîn gar ze langez bîten?

now what avails my wholly too long waiting?

ez wær wol in den zîten

it were well in the times

daz si mir solte lônen. Minne treit den alten haz.

that she to-me should reward. Love bears the old hatred.

Ich hœr aber die vogele singen

I HEAR THE BIRDS AGAIN

The birds sing again and flowers press through the grass, and the poet will be joy-rich if the lovely woman treats him well. He asks the blessing-bearer for comfort, saying his hope lies in her sweetness, and that a kiss from her red mouth would heal the wound that same mouth gave him. He tells Love she has taken his heart and mind, and asks the red mouth to speak, since it knows his prayer.

- 21,2 Ich hœr aber die vogele singen,
I bear again the birds sing,
in dem walde suoze erklingen;
in the wood sweetly ring-out;
dringen siht man bluomen durch daz gras.
press sees one flowers through the grass.
was diu sumerwunne in leide,
was the summer's-delight in suffering,
nu hât aber diu liebe heide
now has again the dear heath
beide bluomen unde rôsen rô.
both flowers and roses red.
meige kumt mit maneger bluot.
May comes with many-a bloom.
tuot mir wol diu minnenclîche,
(if)-does to-me well the lovely-one,
seht, sô wirde ich fröiderîche,
see, so become I joy-rich,
sunder nôt vil maneger sorgen frî.
without distress very many of-cares free.

Gunde mir diu sældebære

Granted to-me the blessing-bearer

daz ir trôst mir fröide bære,

that her comfort to-me joy would-bear,

swære wolde ich sender siecher lân.

grief would I yearning sick-one leave.

hân ich trôst, der ist doch kleine,

(if)-have I comfort, it is yet small,

sine trœste mich aleine.

unless-she comfort me alone.

reine sælic wîp, nu trœstet baz.

pure blessed woman, now comfort better.

Minne, hilf: êst an der zît.

Love, help: it-is at the time.

sît mîn trôst lît an der süezen,

since my comfort lies with the sweet-one,

sô mac si mir swære bûezen.

so can she to-me grief assuage.

nu durch waz tuot si mir also wê?

now for what does she to-me so painfully?

Ob ir rôter munt mir gunde

If her red mouth to-me granted

daz sîn kus die nôt enbunde,

that its kiss the distress would-unbind,

wunde von der minne wurde heil.

wound from the love would-become whole.

heil gelücke sælde und êre

weal fortune blessing and honor

het ich sender iemer mêre.

had I yearning-one ever more.

hêre sælic wîp, nu trœstent baz.

exalted blessed woman, now comfort better.

owê, süezer rôter munt,

alas, sweet red mouth,

wunt wart ich von dînen schulden,

wounded became I by thy fault,

do ich der lieben muoste hulden.

when I to-the dear-one had-to do-homage.

leit sint daz diu mich noch machent grâ.

sufferings are they which me still make gray.

Wunder kanst du, süeziu Minne.

Wonders canst thou, sweet Love.

Minne, in dîner glüete ich brinne;

Love, in thy glow I burn;

sinne herze muot hâst du mir hin.

senses heart spirit hast thou from-me away.

in mîn herze sunder lougen

into my heart without denial

sach ein wîp mit spilnden ougen

looked a woman with playing eyes

tougen. dannoch was gemeit mîn lîp.

secretly. even-then was glad my person.

herzen trût, nu tuot sô wol:

heart's darling, now do so well:

sol ich sender frô belîben,

(if)-shall I yearning glad remain,

sô sult ir von mir vertrîben,

so shall ye from me drive-away,

sælic wîp, die nôt, sô wurde ich frô.

blessed woman, the distress, so become I glad.

Wie zimt nu der süezen hêren
How befits now to-the sweet exalted-one

daz si mich kan trûren lêren?
that she me can mourning teach?

mêren möhte si wol fröide mir.
increase might she well joy for-me.

ir vil minneclîchez lachen
her very lovely laughing

kan mir sendez trûren swachen.
can from-me yearning mourning weaken.

machen möhte si mich sorgen bar.
make might she me of-cares bare.

owê süezer rôter munt!
alas sweet red mouth!

wunt bin ich an hôchgemüete.
wounded am I in high-spirit.

rôter munt, dur dîne güete
red mouth, for thy goodness

nu sprich dar: du weist wol mîne bete.
now speak there: thou knowest well my prayer.

Sumer, uns hât dîn schœne

SUMMER, THY BEAUTY

Summer has brought flowers and birdsong and freed wood, meadow, and heath from distress, but the poet's lady leaves him without comfort. He says an embrace would make people see him glad, and that instead he finds only hateful refusal. He closes with a strophe praising women, who give lasting high spirits, can turn grief away, and can send a dear one.

22,15 Sumer, uns hât dîn schœne

Summer, to-us has thy beauty

bluomen brâht und vogeles dœne.

flowers brought and birds' tones.

walt anger heide in grüne stât:

wood meadow heath in green stands:

die hât du brâht ûz nœten.

them hast thou brought out-of distresses.

nu wil mich mîn frouwe tœten,

now will me my lady kill,

diu mich âne trôst in sorgen lât.

who me without comfort in cares leaves.

mich hât bevangen minneclîche ir lîp.

me has caught lovingly her person.

mit lieben dingen

with dear things

kan si twingen.

can she constrain.

hilf trœsterinne, sælic wîp.

help comfortress, blessed woman.

Solt ich ein wîp umvâhen

Should I a woman embrace

lieplîch, ich weiz wol wie nâhen,

lovingly, I know well how nearly,

meht ez sô minneclîch geschehen

might it so lovingly happen

daz mich ir trôst enpfienge,

that me her comfort received,

trût mîn liep, und daz ergienge,

darling my dear-one, and that came-about,

man müeste mich iemêre frœlîch sehen.

one would-have-to me evermore glad see.

nu vinde ich niht wan hazzelîch versagen.

now find I nothing but hateful refusing.

mir nimt ir minne

from-me takes her love

fröide und sinne.

joy and senses.

des muoz ich senden kumber tragen.

therefore must I yearning affliction bear.

Wîp und wîbes güete

Women and woman's goodness

sendent werendez hôchgemüete:

send lasting high-spirit:

wîp kunnen fröiden wunder geben:

women can of-joys wonders give:

wîp kunnen fröide machen;

women can joy make;

wîp kunnen friunde friuntlîch lachen:

women can to-friends friendly laugh:

wîp liebent manne lîp unt leben.

women endear to-man body and life.

wîp, waz dîn triuwe wirde und êre gât!

woman, what thy faith worth and honor gives!

wîp, du kanst wenden

woman, thou canst turn-away

leit, liep senden.

suffering, dear-one send.

waz an wîben fröide lît!

what in women joy lies!

Wê dir, winter ungehiure
WOE TO THEE, MONSTROUS WINTER

Winter has scattered what stood in joy, and that is a grief to the small birds. The poet asks when the lady his heart uneasily does without will lighten his griefs, and he asks Love to heal his wounds and to beg her radiant person to bear him joy. He says his way is turned toward her, and closes by claiming that no fairer creature was ever born, and that his wound would be whole if he could win her.

Wê dir, winter ungehiure,

Woe to-thee, winter monstros,

23,8

wê dir, daz du sîst verteilet!

woe to-thee, that thou be condemned!

heide und ouwe ist bluomen bar.

heath and water-meadow is of-flowers bare.

swaz mit fröiden stuont noch hiure

whatever with joys stood still this-year

daz hâst du vil gar zerteilet;

that hast thou very wholly scattered;

swaz der süeze meige bar,

whatever the sweet May bore,

daz ist allez hin geleit

that is all away laid

von den sûren kalden winden.

by the sour cold winds.

du wilt an uns niht erwinden.

thou wilt on us not cease.

dast dien kleinen vogelen leit.

that-is to-the small birds grievous.

Wê der nâhe gênder swære!

Woe for-the near going grief!

wenne wil si mir diu ringen

when will them to-me she lighten

der mîn herze unsanfte enbirt?

whom my heart uneasily lacks?

si sint mir ein teil ze swære.

they are to-me a bit too heavy.

in den sorgen muoz ich ringen.

in the cares must I wrestle.

ob si dan niht fröide birt

if she then not joy bears

mir vil sældelosen man,

to-me very blessing-less man,

sô verdirbe ich an dem lîbe.

so perish I in the body.

ist daz ich niht frô belîbe,

(if)-is-it that I not glad remain,

râtent ob ich fûrbaz man.

counsel whether I further plead.

Minne, heile mîne wunden

Love, heal my wounds

die ich dulde zallen mâlen,

which I suffer at-all times,

wiltu daz ich sorge enber.

(if)-wilt-thou that I care lack.

sît du dichs hâst underwunden,

since thou thyself-of-it hast taken-charge,

bit ir lîp den lichtgemâlen

beg her body the bright-colored

daz er mir noch fröide ber,

that it to-me still joy bear,

sît er sich mîn underwant.

since it itself of-me took-charge.

frouwe süeze sældebære,

lady sweet blessing-bearing,

iuwer lôn ist mir gebære;

your reward is to-me fitting;

so ist ouch mîn dienest ziu gewant.

so is also my service to-you turned.

Si mac mir wol helfe senden.

She can to-me well help send.

sît ich lebe in maneger sende,

since I live in many-a yearning,

so ist mîn wec hin zir gebant.

so is my way away to-her turned.

si mac trœsten mich vil senden.

she can comfort me very yearning-one.

sît ich ir mîn herze sende,

since I to-her my heart send,

daz diu süeze Minne ie bant,

whith the sweet Love ever bound,

seht, sô wurde ich noch gemeit,

see, so would-become I still glad,

wære daz ichs umbevienge

were that I-her embraced

und daz siz für guot enpfinge,

and that she-it for good received,

diu durch kiusche unkiusche ie meit.

who for modesty immodesty ever avoided.

Si mac sich des wol vermezzen

She can herself of-this well boast

daz sô schœniu crêatiure

that so fair creature

nie wart bî maneger zît geborn.

never was in many-a time born.

man sol si niht zuo den mezzen

one shall her not with them measure

den diu selbe schœne ist tiure.

to-whom the same beauty is scarce.

alle untugent hât si verborn:

all vice has she renounced:

si hât sælde, si hât heil.

she has blessing, she has weal.

hei, gewunne ich noch die künde

ha, gained I still the acquaintance

daz ich si erwerben künde,

that I her win could,

seht, so wær mîn wunde heil.

see, so were my wound whole.

Merkent wunder iemer mêre

MARK A WONDER

When the poet last saw the woman he loves he was so dismayed that he could not speak, and he asks how that came about. The second strophe turns to praise: a woman's honor, goodness, beauty, and worth give high spirits to men who are ready for virtue, and she gladdens as the summer season does at worthy May's bloom.

Merkent wunder iemer mêre.

24,21

Mark a-wonder ever more.

do ich die lieben jungest sach,

when I the dear-one last saw,

dô was ich verzagt sô sêre

then was I dismayed so sorely

deich vor liebe niht entsprach.

that-I for love not spoke.

ich was ir ze sehenne frô:

I was her to behold glad:

des erschrac mîs herzen lêre.

thereat took-fright of-my heart the-teaching.

wâfen, wie geschach mir sô?

alarm, how happened to-me so?

Wîbes êre, wîbes güete,

Woman's honor, woman's goodness,

wîbes schoene, ir werdekeit,

woman's beauty, her worth,

gît den mannen hôchgemüete,

gives to-the men high-spirit,

die gein tugenden sint bereit.

who toward virtues are ready.

si fröit als diu sumerzît

she gladdens like the summer-season

gegen des werden meigen blüete.

toward the worthy May's bloom.

âhî, waz der fröiden gît!

ah, what of-the joys gives!

Seht an die heide

LOOK AT THE HEATH

The heath and wood are clothed, the maidens go glad, and the poet orders away the snow that hurt the flowers and the clover where the birds sat. He will sing again to the dear one in hope, and says a kiss from her mouth is redder than a blossom. He tells Love she has bound him and asks who taught his lady to increase his pain, then closes by asking Love to comfort him and the red mouth to say yes.

Seht an die heide,

Look at the heath,

seht an den grünen walt.

look at the green wood.

lichter ougenweide

of-bright eye-pasture

der habent si gewalt.

of-it have they power.

bluomen, loup, diu beide,

flowers, foliage, they both,

mit manegem hübschen kleide

with many-a courtly dress

sô sint si bekleit.

so are they clothed.

dien tet vil leide

to-them did very grievously

der lange winter kalt.

the long winter cold.

balde hinnen scheide

quickly hence depart

sîn twingen manicvalt.

his constraining manifold.

24,35

valwe löcke reide

pale locks curled

trânt junge stolze meide:

wear young proud maidens:

des sint si gemeit.

therefore are they glad.

var hin verwâzen,

go away accursed,

vil gar verteilter snê!

very wholly condemned snow!

du muost uns aber lâzen

thou must to-us again leave

die bluomen und den klê

the flowers and the clover

ûf des meigen strâzen

upon the May's streets

(dien tæte du vil wê),

(to-them didst thou very painfully),

dâ die vogele sâzen,

where the birds sat,

ir sanc gein sange mâzen.

their song against song measured.

die frôuwent sich als ê.

they rejoice themselves as before.

Mich wil betwingen

Me will constrain

daz mich dur liebe ie twanc,

what me for love ever constrained,

daz ich nu muoz ringen

so-that I now must strive

dar nâch mîn herze ie ranc.

there after my heart ever strove.

ich wil aber singen

I will again sing

der lieben ûf gedingen.

to-the dear-one upon hope.

mîn trôst an ir lît.

my comfort with her lies.

lâ mir gelingen,

let me succeed,

sît daz mir nie gelanc,

since that to-me never succeeded,

Minne, an lieben dingen:

Love, in dear things:

sô wirt mîn trûren kranc.

so becomes my mourning weak.

si kan swære ringen,

she can grief lighten,

die sorge ûz herzen dringen.

the care out-of hearts press.

mir wære lônes zît.

to-me were of-reward the-time.

kus von ir munde,

a-kiss from her mouth,

ich wæne er sanfte tuot.

I think it gently does.

der ist zaller stunde

it is at-all hours

noch rœter danne ein bluot.

still redder than a bloom.

eyâ, Minne wunde,

alas, Love's wound,

du machest ungemuot.

thou makest ill-humored.

ob dîn trôst mir gunde

if thy comfort to-me granted

daz mir ein kus die bunde,

that to-me a kiss it bound-up,

sô diuhte si mich guot.

so would-seem she to-me good.

Mich hât gebunden

Me has bound

der süezen Minne bant.

of-the sweet Love bond.

minneclîchez wunden,

lovely wounding,

nâch dir mîn herze ie swant.

after thee my heart ever pined.

si hât niht erwunden,

she has not ceased,

sich habe mîn underwunden

itself (unless-)have of-me taken-charge

ir munt rôsenrôt.

her mouth rose-red.

Minn unde ir kunden

Love and her acquaintances

die sint mir wol erkant.

they are to-me well known.

hete ich helfe funden,

had I help found,

sô wær mîn dienst bewant.

so were my service turned-to-account.

nu hât si mich wunden

now has she me wounded

in trûren zallen stunden.

into mourning at-all hours.

dâ von lîde ich nôt.

there from suffer I distress.

mich hât versêret

me has wounded

ir liehter ougen schîn.

her bright eyes' shine.

wer hât gelêret

who has taught

die lieben frouwen mîn

the dear lady mine

daz ir güete mêret

that her goodness increases

mir lange wernden pîn?

to-me long lasting pain?

Minne, swer dich êret,

Love, whoever thee honors,

des muot wirt gar verkêret.

his spirit is wholly turned.

nu bin ich doch dîn.

now am I yet thine.

Owê der swære

Alas for-the grief

die ich von minnen hân!

which I from love have!

der ich sanfte enbære,

which I gladly lacked,

wan ein vil lieber wân

except a very dear expectation

der ist fröidebære.

which is joy-bearing.

dâ bi ist mir gevære

there by is to-me dangerous

diu Minne unde ir haz.

the Love and her hatred.

sist mir ze swære:

she-is to-me too heavy:

dâ von ich trûric gân.

there from I sorrowful go.

ob ich sinnic wære,

if I sensible were,

des solte ich mich erlân.

of-that should I myself release.

minneclîchez mære

a-lovely tale

mir bernde fröide bære.

to-me bearing joy would-bear.

nu tröeste du mich baz,

now comfort thou me better,

lieplîchiu Minne

loving Love

(mîn sendez herze ist wunt),

(my yearning heart is wounded),

sît daz ich brinne

since that I burn

nâch liebe zaller stunt.

after love at-all hours.

sorgen trœsterinne,

of-cares comfortress,

dir ist mîn jâmer kunt:

to-thee is my misery known:

trœste mîne sinne,

comfort my senses,

daz ich den kus gewinne.

that I the kiss win.

sprich jâ, rôter munt.

say yes, red mouth.

Lop von mängen zungen

PRAISE FROM MANY TONGUES

Praise was sung to May this year by the birds in the green wood, and frost, snow, and the cold winter have driven them out; many a heart stands sorrowful, and the poet's own heart mourns for the shine of her very red mouth. He has not succeeded with the lady who has power over him, and he asks Love for counsel. He has striven long for that mouth, and his heart's wound has never grown whole; he closes by asking the lady what he has done to her.

27,15 Lop von mängen zungen

Praise from many tongues

wart dem meigen hiure gesungen

was to-the May this-year sung

von dien vogelen dur den grüenen walt.

by the birds through the green wood.

die hât nu betwungen

them has now constrained

unde jæmerlich verdrungen

and pitifully driven-out

rîfe, snê, dar zuo der winter kalt.

frost, snow, there to the winter cold.

des vil manic herze trûric stât.

therefore very many-a heart sorrowful stands.

dar zuo trûret ouch daz mîne

there to mournings also that mine

nâch dem fröidebernden schîne

after the joy-bearing shine

der von ir vil rôtem munde gât.

which from her very red mouth goes.

Mir was fröide entsprungen.

To-me was joy sprung-up.

leider nu ist mir niht gelungen

sadly now is to-me not succeeded

an der lieben diu mîn hât gewalt.

with the dear-one who over-me has power.

wær mîn sanc erklungen

were my song rung-out

ir, sô müeste ich wider jungen:

to-her, so would-have-to I again grow-young:

sust bin ich in sorgen worden alt.

thus am I in cares become old.

frouwe Minne, gip mir dînen rât,

lady Love, give me thy counsel,

alde ich lebe in sendem pîne.

or I live in yearning pain.

frouwe, ûf die genâde dîne

lady, upon the favor thine

diene ich dir, swiez mir dar umbe ergât.

(if)-serve I thee, however-it to-me there for goes.

Ich hân mîne stunde

I have my hours

vil gerungen nâch dem munde

much striven after the mouth

der sô lieplîch ist, durliuhtic rôt,

whîch so lovely is, translucent red,

daz mir nie enkunde

that to-me never could

werden heil mîs herzen wunde:

become whole of-my heart the-wound:

dâ von lîde ich sender sende nôt.

there from suffer I yearning-one yearning distress.

Minne, sich, du lâst mich trûric gân.

Love, see, thou lettest me sorrowful go.

trôst, der sælden übergulde,

comfort, of-the blessings the-crown,

frouwe, gênt mir iuwer hulde,

lady, give to-me your favor,

wan ez muoz doch an iu eine stân.

for it must yet with you alone rest.

Ob ir trôst mir gunde

If her comfort to-me granted

daz ein kus die nôt enbunde

that a kiss the distress would-unbind

die diu herzeliebe mir gebôt,

which the heart's-love to-me commanded,

und sich underwunde

and itself took-charge

liebe und dar an niht erwunde,

love and there on not would-cess,

sô geschiede ich noch von sender nôt,

so would-part I still from yearning distress,

die ich von der herzelieben hân

which I from the heart-dear-one have

gar ân alle mîne schulde.

wholly without all my fault.

frouwe, sende nôt ich dulde.

lady, yearning distress I suffer.

nu dur got, waz hân ich iu getân?

now for God, what have I to-you done?

Heide und ouwe stuont mit blüete

HEATH AND WATER-MEADOW STOOD IN BLOOM

Heath and meadow have gone pale, and winter means to force the small birds' sweet singing into silence; but the poet laments another distress and longs for her love more than for bright red roses. He praises the wonder that lies in women, whose goodness can drive yearning distress from a yearning heart, and says that Love frees hearts of care and binds two into one. He then addresses woman herself and Love in turn, and recalls that when he last sat before his lady he could not speak for love.

Heide und ouwe stuont mit blüete

28,18

Heath and water-meadow stood with bloom

gegen des süezen meigen güete:

toward the sweet May's goodness:

die sint beide worden val.

they are both become pale.

dar zuo wil der winter twingen

there to will the winter constrain

kleiner vogle süezez singen,

of-small birds sweet singing,

daz si swîgent über al.

so-that they are-silent over all.

daz solt ich von schulden klagen:

that should I with reason lament:

sô klag ich ein ander nôt.

so lament I an other distress.

solt ab ichz der lieben sagen,

should but I-it to-the dear-one tell,

mich jâmert nâch ir minne mê

me it-longs after her love more

dan nâch den liechten rôsen rôt.

than after the bright roses red.

Wê waz wonders lît an wîben,

Ah what of-wonder lies in women,

sît ir güete kan vertriben

since their goodness can drive-away

sendem herzen sende nôt!

to-yearning heart yearning distress!

der in lieplîch siht in ougen

who to-them lovingly looks into eyes

mit gewalde und dâ bî tougen,

with force and there by secretly,

dem ist al sîn trûren tôt.

to-him is all his mourning dead.

ist im rehtiu liebe bî,

(if)-is to-him true love near,

sô ist beiden danne wol.

so is to-both then well.

Minne tuot si sorgen frî;

Love makes them of-cares free;

si stricket beidiu herze in ein

she binds both hearts into one

und wendet kumberlîche dol.

and turns-away sorrowful endurance.

Wîp, dîn minnenclîch gebâren

Woman, thy lovely bearing

kan der senden herzen vâren:

can the yearning hearts assail:

wîp, du bist ein süezer nam:

woman, thou art a sweet name:

wîp, du kanst wol fröide mêren:

woman, thou canst well joy increase:

wîp, du kanst wol fröide lêren:

woman, thou canst well joy teach:

dir ist wîplich êre zam.

to-thee is womanly honor fitting.

wîp, du gîst ouch hôhen muot:

woman, thou givest also high spirit:

wîp, du gist ouch fröiden vil:

woman, thou givest also of-joys much:

wîp, du bist für trûren guot:

woman, thou art against mourning good:

des muoz ich iemer sælic sîn.

therefore must I ever blessed be.

du bist der welte wunnespil.

thou art of-the world the-delight-play.

Süeze Minne, mîne sinne

Sweet Love, my senses

jâmert nâch der lieben minne.

it-longs after the dear-one's love.

Minne, hilf, êst an der zît.

Love, help, it-is at the time.

Minne, du kanst trûren swenden,

Love, thou canst mourning make-vanish,

hôchgemüete in herze senden:

high-spirit into hearts send:

Minne, dîn gewalt ist wît.

Love, thy power is wide.

Minne, ich bin dir undertân:

Love, I am to-thee subject:

Minne, wis gewaltic mîn.

Love, be in-power over-me.

owê Minne, solte ich hân

alas Love, should I have

ir minneclîchen wîbes lîp,

her lovely woman's person,

sô wâr mîn trûren gar dâ hin.

so were my mourning wholly there away.

Minne, weist du wen ich meine?

Love, knowest thou whom I cherish?

Minne, ez ist diu liebe aleine,

Love, it is the dear-one alone,

der ich mich für eigen jach;

to-whom I myself as property confessed;

Minne, ez ist diu minnenclîche,

Love, it is the lovely-one,

Minne ez ist diu sældenrîche.

Love it is the blessing-rich-one.

weist du, Minne, waz beschach

knowest thou, Love, what happened

dô ich jungest was bî ir

when I last was with her

unde ich vor der lieben saz?

and I before the dear-one sat?

Minne, sich, dô tæt du mir

Love, see, then didst thou to-me

daz ich vor liebe niht ensprach

so-that I for love not spoke

und ich mîn selbes gar vergaz.

and I of-my self wholly forgot.

Nu siht man aber die heide val

NOW THE HEATH GROWS PALE

The heath is pale, the wood is paling, the small birds have fallen silent, and winter will constrain the nightingale; beside that the poet laments the grief his heart's love gives him. He praises two hearts that are of one mind, and asks Love why she works no wonder on him. He asks a red mouth to laugh so that his grief may pass, and closes by praising 'of one mind' as a loving word and the treasure of love.

Nu siht man aber die heide val;

Now sees one again the heath pale;

nu siht man valwen grünen walt;

now sees one grow-pale green wood;

nu høert man niht der kleinen vogele singen.

now hears one not the small birds sing.

die sint geswigen über al.

they are fallen-silent over all.

ir stimme diu was manicvalt.

their voice it was manifold.

die nahtegal die wil der winter twingen.

the nightingale her will the winter constrain.

der nôt klag ich, und dâ bî mîne swære,

of-that distress lament I, and there by my grief,

die mir diu herzeliebe tuot.

which to-me the heart's-love does.

dâ von sô bin ich ungemuot.

there from so am I ill-humored.

nust si doch guot

now-is she yet good

diu liebe unwandelbære.

the dear unchangeable-one.

29,36

Wâ wart ie herzen mê sô wol

Where became ever to-hearts more so well

dan dâ zwei sendiu herzen sint

than where two yearning hearts are

einmüetic nâch der süezen Minne willen?

of-one-mind according-to the sweet Love's will?

si sint sô tougen fröiden vol,

they are so secretly of-joys full,

doch machet si diu Minne blint.

yet makes them the Love blind.

si kan in beiden herzeleit wol stillen.

she can to-them both heart's-suffering well still.

si fröuwent sich besamen und niht besunder.

they rejoice themselves together and not apart.

swâ herzeliep bî liebe lît,

wherever heart's-dear-one by dear-one lies,

daz wunnebernde fröide gât,

which delight-bearing joy gives,

dast âne strît,

that-is without strife,

dâ tuo diu Minne ein wunder.

there may-do the Love a wonder.

Sît daz diu Minne wunder kan,

Since that the Love wonders can,

war umbe tuot si wunder niht

where fore does she a-wonder not

an mir und an der minneclîchen süezen?

on me and on the lovely sweet-one?

nu bin ich doch ir dienstman,

now am I yet her serving-man,

swie man mich in dien sorgen siht.

however one me in the cares sees.

daz mac diu minneclîche mir wol bûezen.

that can the lovely-one to-me well amend.

vil hêriu Minne, twinc die frôidenriche,

very exalted Love, constrain the joy-rich-one,

daz si niht gar in wunnen swebe

that she not wholly in delights float

ê daz si mir ir hulde gebe.

before that she to-me her favor give.

die wîle ich lebe

the while I live

ich diene ir eigenlîche.

I serve her as-a-bondman.

Wâ wart ie mündelîn sô rôt?

Where became ever a-little-mouth so red?

wâ wart ie baz gestalter lîp?

where became ever better formed a-body?

wâ wurden ie sô frœlîch stêndiu ougen,

where became ever so gladly standing eyes,

diu mich hânt brâht in grôze nôt?

which me have brought into great distress?

genâde, minneclîchez wîp:

mercy, lovely woman:

ach hete ich iuwer süeze minne tougen!

oh had I your sweet love secretly!

nu wizzent daz ich gerne bî iu wære.

now know that I gladly with you were.

genâde, rôsevarwer munt:

mercy, rose-colored mouth:

wan machest du mich niht gesunt?

why makest thou me not sound?

sprich zeiner stunt

say at-one time

‘ich wil dir bûezen swære.’

I will to-thee assuage grief.

Nu lache, daz ich frô bestê;

Now laugh, that I glad remain;

nu lache, daz mir werde wol;

now laugh, that to-me become well;

vil rôter munt, nu lache lachelîche;

very red mouth, now laugh laughingly;

nu lache, daz mîn leit zergê:

now laugh, that my suffering pass-away:

so wirde ich sender frôiden vol.

so become I yearning of-joys full.

nu lache daz mir ungemüete entwîche;

now laugh that from-me ill-humor depart;

nu lache, daz mîn sendiu sorge swinde;

now laugh, that my yearning care vanish;

nu lache mich ein wê nec an,

now laugh me a little at,

sît ich dir niht entwenken kan,

since I thee not escape can,

ich sender man,

I yearning man,

sît ich dich lieplîch vinde.

since I thee lovely find.

Einmüetic dast ein lieplîch wort;

Of-one-mind that-is a loving word;

einmüetic dast der Minne gir;

of-one-mind that-is of-the Love the-desire;

einmüetic sendiu herzen fröide lêret;

of-one-mind yearning hearts joy teaches;

einmüetic dast der liebe ein hort,

of-one-mind that-is of-the love a treasure,

swie doch diu minneclîche mir

however yet the lovely-one to-me

mit wîbes güete selten fröide mêret;

with woman's goodness seldom joy increases;

einmüetic mange süeze fröide machet;

of-one-mind many-a sweet joy makes;

einmüetic fröit ze maneger stunt;

of-one-mind gladdens at many-a time;

einmüetic dast ein lieplîch funt,

of-one-mind that-is a loving finding,

swâ rôter munt

wherever red mouth

gein liebe lieplîch lachet.

toward love lovingly laughs.

Willekomen sî uns der meige

WELCOME BE THE MAY

May is welcome and brings many kinds of bloom, but the poet must perish in that delight unless her mouth turns it aside. He hopes to live to see her give him a joyful end, and says a word from her would make him glad forever. Whatever sorrow he bears could be remedied if the blessing-bearer willed it, and he closes by wishing he could watch her at her flax now and then.

31,27 Willekomen sî uns der meige,

Welcome be to-us the May,

der uns bringet manger hande bluot,

who to-us brings of-many a-kind bloom,

bluomen unde maneger leige

flowers and of-many a-sort

daz dien kleinen vogelen sanfte tuot.

which to-the small birds gently does.

doch muoz ich verderben in dien wunnen gar,

yet must I perish in the delights wholly,

ez enwende mir ir munt vil minnenclîchen rôsevar.

it unless-turn-aside from-me her mouth very lovely rose-colored.

Wîbes ougen blic in gûete

Woman's eyes' glance in goodness

siht vil dicke in sendes herzen tor.

looks very often into of-yearning heart the-gate.

swie diu hêre mîn gemüete

though the exalted-one my spirit

alsô selten zucket hôhe enbor,

so seldom snatches high aloft,

doch hab ich gedinge daz ich noch gelebe

yet have I hope that I still live-to-see

daz mir diu vil minneclîche ein fröiderîchez ende gebe.

that to-me the very lovely-one a joy-rich end give.

Wil si mînen kumber wenden,

(if)-Will she my affliction turn-away,

sô bin ich an fröiden wol gesunt,

so am I in joys quite sound,

unde ir gütlich helfe senden

and her kindly help send

sô daz ir vil rôsevarwer munt

so that her very rose-colored mouth

spreche ein wort dâ von ich iemer frô bestê.

speak a word there from I ever glad remain.

tuot si des niht diu vil reine, seht, sô ist mir iemer wê.

(if)-does she of-that not the very pure-one, see, so is to-me ever woe.

Swaz ich kumbers unde swære

Whatever I of-affliction and grief

lîden muoz, des mac wol werden rât,

suffer must, of-that may well become remedy,

swie si wil, diu sældebære

if she will, the blessing-bearer

diu mîn sendez herze bî ir hât.

who my yearning heart with her has.

si kan dehßen swingen beide als si sol.

she can swingle scutch both as she shall.

solde ichs underwîlen schouwen, wê wie wære mir sô wol!

should I-her at-times behold, ah how were to-me so well!

Owê liechten tage

ALAS, BRIGHT DAYS

The bright days, the red flowers, the birdsong, and the green wood are gone and the long winter is come. Beside the birds' distress the poet laments that the blessing-bearer disinherits him of her favor, and asks Love to turn her sweet hatred aside. He praises the name of woman and the high spirits it gives, and ends by saying that his lady will leave him unrewarded in yearning care, so that he must borrow love.

32,14 Owê liechten tage,
Alas bright days,
owê bluomen rỗt,
alas flowers red,
owê vogẽle sanc,
alas birds' song,
owê grüener walt!
alas green wood!
nu wirt aber kalt,
now becomes again cold,
nu der winter lanc.
now the winter long.
dast der vogẽle nỗt
that-is the birds' distress
unde ir meistiu klage.
and their greatest lament.
noch klag ich die schulde
still lament I the fault
daz diu sældebære
that the blessing-bearer
enterbet mich ir hulde.
disinherits me of-her favor.

daz sint mîne swære,

that are my griefs,

die ich von ir dulde.

which I from her suffer.

Minne, wende ir süezen haz!

Love, turn-away her sweet hatred!

Minne, frouwe mîn,

Love, lady mine,

tuo mir helfe kunt.

do to-me help known.

hilf et an der zît:

help only at the time:

bit daz reine wîp

beg the pure woman

daz ir kiuscher lîp

that her modest person

gein mir lâze den strît

toward me leave the strife

unde ir rôter munt

and her red mouth

mir tuo helfe schîn.

to-me do help visible.

seht, sô wolde ich singen

see, so would I sing

der vil reinen süezen,

to-the very pure sweet-one,

diu kan swære ringen,

who can grief lighten,

dâ bî kumber büezen.

there by affliction assuage.

sol mir wol gelingen,

(if)-shall to-me well succeed,

Minne, sich, des bist du wer.

Love, see, of-that art thou the-warrant.

Wîp, dîn süezer nam

Woman, thy sweet name

und dîn werdekeit

and thy worth

gît vil hôhen muot

gives very high spirit

dem der tugende hât,

to-him who virtues has,

der untugende lât.

who vices leaves.

wê wie wol daz tuot!

ah how well that does!

dem wirt tugent bereit

to-him becomes virtue ready

und diu rehte scham.

and the true shamefastness.

reiner wîbe güete

of-pure women goodness

kan wol fröide lêren

can well joy teach

(si gît hôchgemüete),

(she gives high-spirit),

dâ bî fröide mêren.

there by joy increase.

got mir si behüete,

God to-me her protect,

die der ich wol guotes gan.

her to-whom I well of-good grant.

Mich hât lieber wân

Me has dear expectation

in die fröide brâht

into the joy brought

daz ich wânde sîn

so-that I thought to-be

von den armen gar.

from the wretched-ones wholly.

nu wird ich gewar

now become I aware

an der vrouwen mîn,

with the lady mine,

ir ist ungedâht;

to-her is not-thought;

si wil lônnes lân

she will of-reward leave

mich in senden sorgen.

me in yearning cares.

mir ist wê ze muote.

to-me is woe in spirit.

iemer an dem morgen

ever in the morning

sô sorg ich nâch guote.

so worry I after good.

ich muoz minne borgen.

I must love borrow.

vrouwe mîn, wie stêt daz dir?

lady mine, how stands that with-thee?

Nu ist diu heide wol bekleidet

NOW THE HEATH IS WELL CLOTHED

The heath is clothed with roses and its grief is gone in May's bloom, but women's goodness gladdens more, being so good against yearning griefs. Whatever the poet has sung of women was sung for one woman, and he could remain glad if she would say so. He closes by asking sweet Love whether she can bind the woman who bound his yearning heart.

33,33 Nu ist diu heide wol bekleidet

Now is the heath well clothed

mit vil wunneclichen kleiden:

with very delightful clothes:

rôsen sint ir besten kleit.

roses are her best dress.

dâ von ir vil sorgen leidet,

there from her much of-cares grows-bateful,

wan si was in mangeln leiden:

for she was in many sufferings:

gar verschwunden ist ir leit

wholly vanished is her suffering

von des liechten meigen blüete:

by the bright May's bloom:

der hât manger hande bluot.

which has of-many a-kind bloom.

noch fröit baz der wîbe güete,

still gladdens better the women's goodness,

wan diu sint für sendiu leit sô guot.

for they are against yearning sufferings so good.

Swaz ich ie gesanc von wîben,

Whatever I ever sang of women,

daz geschach von einem wîbe,

that happened because-of one woman,

diust mir lieb für elliu wîp.

she-is to-me dear above all women.

von ir mac ich frô belîben,

by her can I glad remain,

wil si daz ich frô belîbe,

wills she that I glad remain,

daz si spreche 'frô belîp,'

that she say 'glad remain,'

sô wold ich in fröiden singen

so would I in joys sing

als ich her in fröiden sanc.

as I hitherto in joys sang.

si mac mir wol swære ringen,

she can to-me well grieve lighten,

nâch der ie mîn sendez herze ranc.

after whom ever my yearning heart strove.

Süeze Minne, maht du binden

Sweet Love, canst thou bind

die von der ich bin gebunden,

her by whom I am bound,

diu mîn sendez herze bant?

who my yearning heart bound?

lât si mich genâde vinden,

lets she me favor find,

die ich doch hân selten funden

which I yet have seldom found

sît ichs in dem herzen vant

since I-her in the heart found

alse rehte minnenclîchen?

so truly lovely?

si ist sô rehte minnenclîch:

she is so truly lovely:

ich wil si dar zuo gelîchen,

I will her there to compare,

si ist den lieben wîben gar gelîch.

she is to-the dear women wholly like.

Ich wolde niht erwinden

I WOULD NOT TURN BACK

The poet rides out in cool winds toward the town of Winden and sees a maiden winding yarn. She tells him that he suits her in secret and in the open, blesses the woman who bore him, and tells him to leave off wrestling on the arbor: he would break the stone wall of Botenlouben more easily. She ends by asking whether the war he was to settle is settled, and swearing that the world will pass away before they part.

Ich wolde niht erwinden,

I would not turn-back,

ich rit ûz mit winden

I rode out with winds

hiure in küelen winden

this-year in cool winds

gegen der stat ze Winden.

toward the town at Winden.

ich wolt überwinden

I would overcome

ein maget sach ich winden,

a maiden saw I winding,

wol si garn want.

well she yarn wound.

Dô sprach diu sældebære

Then spoke the blessing-bearer

‘du bist mir gebære

‘thou art to-me fitting

stille und offenbære.

secretly and openly.

34,26

du bist fröidebære.

thou art joy-bearing.

kûme ich dich verbære.

hardly I thee could-forgo.

diu dich ie gebære,

she-who thee ever bore,

got der gebe ir guot.

God he give her good.

Ir sunt iuch erlouben

Ye shall yourselves renounce

ringens ûf der louben.

of-wrestling upon the arbor.

lânt die linden louben.

leave the lindens' foliage.

ir sunt mir gelouben,

ye shall me believe,

hânt ir den gelouben,

have ye the belief,

ir brechent Botenlouben

ye break Botenlouben

lîhter die steinwant.

more-easily the stone-wall.

Du solt mir bescheiden,

Thou shalt to-me declare,

ist der krieg gescheiden

is the war settled

den du soltest scheiden?

which thou shouldst settle?

du bist sô bescheiden,

thou art so discerning,

diu welt muoz ê verscheiden

the world must sooner pass-away

ê daz wir uns scheiden,

before that we us part,

trûtgeselle guot.'

darling-companion good.'

Wol den wolgemuoten wîben
WELL TO THE GLAD-SPIRITED WOMEN

The poet blesses glad-spirited women and the men whom women make high-spirited, since women's goodness drives yearning distress away; but his lady does not do so for him. He will not give up joy for that, since she has so much of woman's goodness, and closes by welcoming the delight May brings and crowning May for the joy May's coming gives the world.

35,17 Wol den wolgemuoten wîben,
Well to-the glad-spirited women,
wol dien mannen die durch wîp sint hôchgemuot,
well to-the men who through women are high-spirited,
sît ir gûete kan vertriben
since their goodness can drive-away
sende nôt: des mir diu hêre niht entuot.
yearning distress: which to-me the exalted-one not does.
nu ist siz doch diu liebe aleine
now is she-it yet the dear-one alone
diech vor allen wîben meine.
whom-I above all women cherish.
frouwe sælic, frouwe reine,
lady blessed, lady pure,
trœestent mich; nu sît ir doch sô guot.
comfort me; now are ye yet so good.

Solde ich dâ von fröide lâzen,
Should I there from joy leave,
sît diu welt an fröiden wil zergân?
since the world in joys will pass-away?

nein, ich wil mich sorgen mâzen

no, I will myself of-cares moderate

dur die lieben der ich her gedienet hân.

for the dear-one whom I hitherto served have.

si hât sô mange wîbes gûete,

she has so much of-woman's goodness,

si ist gelîch des meigen blüete,

she is like the May's bloom,

swie diu hêre mîn gemüete

though the exalted-one my spirit

lât sô lange in senden sorgen stân.

lets so long in yearning cares stand.

Willekomen sî uns diu wunne

Welcome be to-us the delight

die der meige bringet und diu schœne zît,

which the May brings and the fair season,

baz dan ich erdenken kunne.

better than I devise can.

schouwent wie der walt und ouch diu heide lît

behold how the wood and also the heath lies

mit sô mangeln bluomen schœne.

with so many flowers fair.

dâ hîrt ich der vogeles dœne.

there heard I the birds' tones.

dar umb ich den meigen krœne,

there for I the May crown,

sît sîn kunft der welte fröide gât.

since his coming to-the world joy gives.

Waz fröit mich der vogele güete

WHAT GLADDENS ME IN THE BIRDS' GOODNESS?

Birdsong and May's shine cannot gladden the poet while his own joy is turned aside, and he asks that God guard his lady's honor even so. He would do whatever earns her favor, since one word from her red mouth would unbind him. He praises the comfort women give against yearning care, and closes by saying that only her mouth can make him glad.

36,4 Waz fröit mich der vogele güete

What gladdens me the birds' goodness

und des wunneclîchen meigen schîn?

and the delightful May's shine?

sol mîn fröiderîch gemüete

shall my joy-rich spirit

und mîn spilndez herze erwendet sîn,

and my playful heart turned-aside be,

daz tæt mir ein wîp mit güete.

that would-do to-me a woman with goodness.

daz got noch ir êren hüete,

that God still her honor guard,

swie si mir nu treit vil senden pîn.

though she to-me now bears very yearning pain.

Swâ mit ich verdienen kunde

Where with I earn could

der vil schœnen hulde, daz tæt ich,

of-the very fair-one the-favor, that would-do I,

sît daz mînes herzen wunde

since that of-my heart the-wounds

unverheilet stênt, si heile mich.

unbealed stand, she heal me.

dâ von mich ein wort enbunde,

there from me a word would-unbind,

ob si spræche ûz rôtem munde

if she spoke out-of red mouth

‘trûtgeselle, ez ist zît lônēs wider dich.’

‘darling-companion, it is time of-reward toward thee.’

Mir mac sorge ûz herzen dringen

To-me can care out-of heart press

rôter munt, dîn minnenclîcher gruoꝝ.

red mouth, thy lovely greeting.

lât dîn lachen mir gelingen

lets thy laughing to-me succeed

an ir minne, so ist mir swære buoꝝ.

in her love, so is to-me of-grief remedy.

ir vil minneclîchez twingen

her very lovely pressing

an die brust, daz mac mich bringen

to the breast, that can me bring

an die stat dâ minne frôuwen muoꝝ.

to the place where love rejoice must.

Wer kan trûren baz verswenden

Who can mourning better make-vanish

danne ein reine minneclîchez wîp?

than a pure lovely woman?

trôst von wîben der kan wenden

comfort from women it can turn-away

sende sorge. ir kiuscher wîbes lîp

yearning care. her modest woman's person

der mac mir wol helfe senden.

it can to-me well help send.

sô nîg ich den lieben henden.

so bow I to-the dear hands.

wîp, mîn fröide von der sorge trîp.

woman, my joy from the care drive.

Kan mich iemen frô gemachen?

Can me anyone glad make?

jâ, der lieben munt durluhtic rôt.

yes, of-the dear-one the-mouth translucent red.

sô muoz al mîn trûren swachen,

so must all my mourning weaken,

scheidet mich ir trôst von sender nôt.

parts me her comfort from yearning distress.

man siht mich vil frœlich lachen,

one sees me very gladly laugh,

daz mîn herze muoz erkrachen,

so-that my heart must burst-out,

machet mich diu liebe in fröiden rôt.

makes me the dear-one in joys red.

Rîfe und anehanc

FROST AND HOAR-ICE

Frost has constrained the beath and silenced the birds, and the poet laments the wood, which stands unclothed. Harder still is the grief that the girl can cause who carries water from the well. He broke her jug and she bore it, then told him lovingly that her lady struck her five times on his account. He offers to take her away out of distress; she answers that she would sooner be killed than lose her lady's love, and that once she is paid the shilling and the shift she is owed she will show him help.

Rîfe und anehanc

Frost and hoar-ice

37,2

hât die heïde betwûngen,

has the beath constrained,

daz ir liechter schîn

so-that her bright shine

nâch jâmer ist gestalt,

after misery is formed,

und der vogele sanc,

and the birds' song,

dîe mit fröiden wol sungen,

who with joys well sang,

die sint nu geswîn.

they are now silent.

dar zuo klag ich den walt:

there to lament I the wood:

der ist unbekleit.

it is unclothed.

dannoch kan si füegen

even-then can she cause

herter herzeleit

harder heart's-suffering

díu daz wázzer in krüegen

she-who the water in jugs

von dem brunnen treit. nâch der stêt aller mîn gedanc.

from the well carries. after her stands all my thought.

Ich brach ir den kruoc,

I broke to-her the jug,

dô si gienc von dem brúnnen.

when she went from the well.

ich wart fröidenrîch,

I became joy-rich,

dô ich die lieben sach.

when I the dear-one saw.

dô si daz vertruoc,

when she that endured,

mír was sorge zerrûnnen.

to-me was care run-out.

harte minnenclîch

very lovingly

diu liebe dô sprach

the dear-one then spoke

‘ich hân erebeit:

I have hardship:

daz ist von iuweren schulden.

that is by your fault.

mîn frouwe tuot mir leit,

my lady does to-me suffering,

dáz ich állez muoz dúlden,

whích I all must suffer,

diu mich gester fûnf stunt dur den iuwern willen sluoc.'

who me yesterday five times for the your will struck.'

'Nu tuo den willen mîn;

'Now do the will mine;

sô hilf ich dir ûz nœten:

so help I thee out-of distresses:

und var sant mir hinne;

and go with me hence;

sô bist dû âne zorn.'

so art thou without anger.'

'des enmac niht sîn.

'of-that can nothing be.

ê liez ich mich ertœten.

sooner would-let I myself be-killed.

mîner frouwen minne

my lady's love

wær iemer mê verlorn.

were ever more lost.

einen schillinc sol

a shilling owes

si mir unde ein hemde;

she to-me and a shift;

daz weiz ich vil wol.

that know I very well.

dáz wær állez mir frémde.

that were all to-me foreign.

sô mir daz nu wirdet, sô tuon ich iu helfe schîn.'

when to-me that now becomes, then make I to-you help visible.'

Owê winter, daz dîn kraft

ALAS, WINTER, THY STRENGTH PREVAILS

Winter is victorious over the birds, the flowers, and the wood, and the poet cries alarm — though the woe he complains of is given him by the well-formed dear one, not by winter. He recalls that many years ago her bright clear eyes glanced secretly into his heart and her rose-colored mouth made its laughing known to him. That was when he sickened of love's wounds, and those wounds still stand unbound by the dear one.

38,4 Owê winter, daz dîn kraft

Alas winter, that thy strength

an uns ist sô sigehaft!

against us is so victorious!

owê kleiner vogellîne singen!

alas of-small little-birds singing!

owê liechten bluomen rỗt,

alas bright flowers red,

dien der meige daz gebôt

to-whom the May that bade

daz si dur daz gras ûf muosten dringen!

that they through the grass up must press!

nu ist der walt sîs grünen loubes âne.

now is the wood of-its green foliage without.

wâfenâ!

alarm!

ja ist mir dâ

yes is to-me there

dicke wê und anderswâ.

often woe and elsewhere.

daz tuot mir diu liebe wolgetâne.

that does to-me the dear well-formed-one.

Es ist nu vil manic jâr

It is now very many-a year

daz ir liechten ougen klâr

that her bright eyes clear

in mîn herze lieplîch blihten tougen

into my heart lovingly glanced secretly

unde ir rôsevarwer munt

and her rose-colored mouth

gegen mir tet sîn lachen kunt:

toward me made its laughing known:

dar ûz spilten ir wol liechten ougen.

there out played her quite bright eyes.

seht, dô wart ich siech von minnewunden:

see, then became I sick from love-wounds:

wâfenâ!

alarm!

dêst mir dâ

that-is to-me there

dicke wê und anderswâ:

often woe and elsewhere:

die stânt noch von der lieben unverbunden.

they stand still by the dear-one unbound.

Sumer, nu wil dîn gewalt

SUMMER, NOW THY POWER

Summer's power will clothe the wood, the meadow, and the heath, and many a proud maiden goes with curled locks and a red mouth. The poet's joy had nearly gone; he longs for the darling one, asks joy of her mouth, and says he would curse whoever begrudged it him. He calls her mouth redder than a blossom and asks the pure blessed woman to comfort him better. He would run a thousand miles to find his way out of love's bonds, and ends by asking Love, to whom he has been bound since childhood, not to wound him now.

38,26 Sumer, nu wil dîn gewalt

Summer, now will thy power

walt den anger und die heide

wood the meadow and the heath

beide kleiden: dast dien kleinen vogelen nôt.

both clothe: that-is to-the small birds need.

man siht bluomen manicvalt,

one sees flowers manifold,

valt an maneger stolzen meide:

a-fold on many-a proud maiden:

reide löcke tragents unde mündel rôt.

curled locks wear-they and little-mouth red.

seht, der fröide was vil nâch zergangen.

see, the joy was very nearly passed-away.

ach mîs herzen! jâ muoz mich belangen

oh my heart! yes must me long

nâch dem triutelehten lîbe. owê, wan wære er mîn!

after the darling person. alas, if-only were it mine!

Wil si daz mich leit verber,

Wills she that me suffering spare,

ber mir fröide von ir munde.

bear to-me joy from her mouth.

wunde von der minne wirt vil schiere heil.

a-wound from the love becomes very quickly whole.

daz ir güete mich gewer,

that her goodness me grant,

wer ist der mir des verbunde?

who is he-who to-me that would-begrudge?

kunde ich fluochen, dem wunscht ich daz im unheil

could I curse, to-him would-wish I that to-him misfortune

wære bî vil lange unz an sîn ende.

were near very long until at his end.

süeziu Minne, süeze helfe sende.

sweet Love, sweet help send.

des ist nôt, sît ich von dînen schulden sorge ie leit.

of-that is need, since I by thy fault care ever suffered.

Ach wie ist sô gar lieb guot

Oh how is so wholly dear good

(guot nâem ich niht für diech meine:

(goods would-take I not for her-whom-I cherish:

si eine trœste mich: daz ist der Minne haz)

she alone comfort me: that is of-the Love the-hatred)

ir munt rœter danne ein bluot!

her mouth redder than a bloom!

bluot des meigen fröit mich kleine.

bloom of-the May gladdens me little.

reine sælic wîp, nu trœstent baz.

pure blessed woman, now comfort better.

beschiht daz niht, sô muoz ich gar verderben.

happens that not, so must I wholly perish.

sol ich niht den rôten kus erwerben

shall I not the red kiss win

und den triutelehten lîp, sô wurde ich frôiden bar.

and the darling person, so become I of-joys bare.

Râtent wie ich daz ervar.

Counsel how I that find-out.

var ich umbe in allem lande?

travel I about in all lands?

rande ich tûsent mîle, ez wær bewendet wol,

should-run I a-thousand miles, it were turned-to-account well,

wie ich des genæme war

how I of-that would-take note

war ich kêrte ûz minnebande.

whither I should-turn out-of love's-bonds.

brande si mich niht, sô hete ich senfte dol:

should-burn she me not, so would-have I gentle endurance:

sus hât mich diu minneclîche enzündet.

thus has me the lovely-one kindled.

ich enweiz wes si sich an mir sündet:

I not-know of-what she herself against me sins:

laschte si mich mit ir minne, mir wær deste baz.

should-vench she me with her love, to-me were so-much better.

Minne, ich diene dir: du solt

Love, I serve thee: thou shalt

solt mir geben minneclîchen.

wages to-me give lovingly.

rîchen maht du mich an frôiden, des ist zît.

enrich canst thou me in joys, of-that is time.

ob mir daz dîn helfe erholt,

if to-me that thy help procures,

holt bin ich dir inneclîchen;

favorable am I to-thee inwardly;

wîchen muoz von mir leit daz mir nâhe lît.

depart must from me suffering which to-me near lies.

minneclîchiu Minne, ich was gebunden

lovely Love, I was bound

dir von kinde ie. wiltu mich nu wunden,

to-thee from childhood ever. wilt-thou me now wound,

waz touc danne stætiu triuwe? Minne, daz verbir.

what avails then constant faith? Love, that forbear.

Nu klag ich der kleinen vogele swære

NOW I LAMENT THE SMALL BIRDS' GRIEF

The poet laments the birds, the flowerless heath, and the delightful woman who has robbed him of joy, and tells Darling-Love that the fault is hers. Only her darling self and her red mouth can amend it. He asks when Love will comfort him and make her mouth laugh, and ends by recalling that the hour he first saw her was a sweet one.

39,35 Nu klag ich der kleinen vogele swære;

Now lament I of-the small birds the-grief;

nu klag ich, diu heide ist bluomen lære;

now lament I, the heath is of-flowers empty;

sô klag ich daz mich diu wunneclîche sældebære

so lament I that me the delightful blessing-bearing-one

hât beroubet gar der fröiden sinne.

has robbed wholly of-the joys' sense.

sich, dâ bist du schuldic an, Trûtminne,

see, there art thou guilty on, Darling-Love,

sît du weist daz ich sô gar in dîner glüete brinne.

since thou knowest that I so wholly in thy glow burn.

daz mac mir dîn triutelehter lîp mit liebe bûezen

that can to-me thy darling person with love amend

unde ir rôter munt. der sol mich grûezen.

and her red mouth. it shall me greet.

tuont diu zwei des niht, sô klage ichz doch der reinen süezen.

do those two that not, so lament I-it yet to-the pure sweet-one.

Si mac mir wol mînen kumber wenden

She can to-me well my affliction turn-away

unde ir minneclîche helfe senden.

and her lovely help send.

owê, Minne, wenne wilt du trœsten mich vil senden?

alas, Love, when wilt thou comfort me very yearning?

wenne wilt du mir mîn trûren swachen?

when wilt thou to-me my mourning weaken?

wenne wiltu sïeze frïide machen

when wilt-thou sweet joy make

alsô daz ir rôter munt mir lieplîch wolde lachen?

so that her red mouth to-me lovingly would laugh?

triutelehter lîp, du lâ mich liebe frïide vinden.

darling person, thou let me dear joy find.

du maht mich von sender nôt enbinden:

thou canst me from yearning distress unbind:

wilt du, herzen trût, sô mac mir sendez leit verschwinden.

wilt thou, heart's darling, so can from-me yearning suffering vanish.

Nu waz hilfet swaz ich klage der hêren?

Now what helps whatever I lament to-the exalted-one?

sin wil mir enheine fröide mêren.

she will to-me no joy increase.

süeze Minne, maht du doch die minneclîchen lêren

sweet Love, canst thou yet the lovely-one teach

daz si füege daz mir leit entwîche,

that she cause that from-me suffering depart,

sich, sô werde ich noch an fröiden rîche.

see, so become I still in joys rich.

tuot si daz, so werde ich frô, diu süeze minneclîche,

does she that, so become I glad, the sweet lovely-one,

alsô daz mir wurde ein gruoz von ir vil rôtem munde

so that to-me would-become a greeting from her very red mouth

unde ir kus mîs herzen nôt enbunde.

and her kiss of-my heart the-distress would-unbind.

dô ich si von êrste an sach, daz was ein süeziu stunde.

when I her from first upon looked, that was a sweet hour.

Nu siht man die heide breit

NOW THE BROAD HEATH

The heath is adorned and the wood full of birds, and yet the poet suffers yearning distress once again. He recalls a red mouth that laughed lovingly toward him, and says that a woman, her darling wanton self, constrains him to sing, and the king besides. He praises the rosy greeting that ends yearning care, asks his queen to let the strife against him cease, and closes by saying that his singing has availed him nothing, since she thinks he cannot serve her.

Nu siht man die heide breit

40,25

Now sees one the heath broad

wol beschœnet

well adorned

mit den liechten bluomen manicvalt:

with the bright flowers manifold:

meige hât sich z'in gekleit:

May has himself to-them dressed:

wol bedœnet

well sounded

mit den vogelen stêt der grüne walt:

with the birds stands the green wood:

in den ouwen

in the water-meadows

mac man schouwen

can one behold

rôsen rôt.

roses red.

ach dur got, sô lîde ich aber senelîche nôt.

oh for God, so suffer I again yearning distress.

Ich sach einen rôten munt

I saw a red mouth

lieplîch lachen

lovingly laugh

gegen mir senden: des ist niht ze lanc.

toward me yearning: of-that is not too long.

dâ von wart mir fröide kunt

there from became to-me joy known

(trûren swachen

(sorrowing to-weaken

kan si), dô daz in mîn herze dranc.

can she), when that into my heart pressed.

ich muoz singen:

I must sing:

des wil twingen

thereto will constrain

mich ein wîp,

me a woman,

und der künec dar zuo, ir triutelehter lôser lîp.

and the king there to, her darling merry person.

Owê ræselehter gruoß,

Alas rosy greeting,

wie du lachest!

how thou laughest!

sô du herzeliebe lachen wilt,

when thou heart's-love laugh wilt,

dâ wirt sender sorgen buoz.

there becomes of-yearning cares remedy.

sô du machest

when thou makest

daz diu liebe gegen der liebe spilt

that the dear-one toward the dear-one plays

nâch gewinne,

after gain,

da ist eht Minne

there is only Love

nâhe bî

near by

unde machet zwei geliebe herzenswære frî.

and makes two lovers of-heart's-grief free.

Herzentrût, mîn künigin,

Heart's-darling, my queen,

lât erwinden

let cease

gegen mir noch den senelîchen strît,

toward me still the yearning strife,

sît ich iuwer eigen bin.

since I your property am.

fröide vinden

joy to-find

wolte ich, frouwe, daz wær an der zît.

would I, lady, that were at the time.

umbevâhen

to-embrace

lieplîch nâhen,

lovingly to-draw-near,

daz tuot wol,

that does well,

unde nâher baz, ob ichz mit hulden sprechen sol.

and nearer better, if I-it with favor say may.

Swaz ich her gesungen hân,

Whatever I hitherto sung have,

daz vervâhet

that avails

mich vil kleine: dast mîs herzen klage.

me very little: that-is of-my heart the-lament.

dâ von muoz ich singen lân.

there from must I singing leave.

si versmâhet

she disdains

daz mîn herze si in liebe trage.

that my heart her in love bear.

jâ si denket

yes she thinks

(daz mich krenket

(that me weakens

vil der tage)

many of-the days)

daz ich ir niht gedienen müge: daz ist mîs herzen klage.

that I to-her not serve may: that is of-my heart the-lament.

Sumer, dîn gewalt wil swinden

SUMMER, THY POWER WILL VANISH

Summer's power is failing, the linden is pale, and the nightingale leaves off singing; and so the sweet one brings the poet many cares. He tells the lady she is the one lady he means before all women, and asks her to let him profit by it. He lives in yearning care evening and morning, but a dear expectation and a lovely hope gladden him, and all his joy lies in succeeding with her.

Sumer, dîn gewalt wil swinden.

Summer, thy power will vanish.

42,1

daz mac man wol an der linden

that can one well on the linden

kiesen: diu ist worden val.

perceive: it is become pale.

ûf dem walde und in den ouwen

upon the wood and in the water-meadows

dâ mac man die rîfen schouwen.

there can one the frost behold.

dar zuo lât diu nahtegal

there to leaves the nightingale

ir vil fröiderîchez singen:

her very joy-rich singing:

des wil si der winter twingen.

of-that will her the winter constrain.

sô kan mir diu süeze bringen

so can to-me the sweet-one bring

sorgen vil dem herzen mîn.

of-cares many to-the heart mine.

Frouwe, ir sît mîn frouwe aleine

Lady, ye are my lady alone

diech vor allen wîben meine.

whom-I before all women cherish.

des sult ir geniezen lân

of-that shall ye enjoy let

mich. ich lebe in senden sorgen

me. I live in yearning cares

beide âbent und den morgen.

both evening and the morning.

doch fröit mich ein lieber wân

yet gladdens me a dear expectation

unde ein minneclîch gedînge,

and a lovely hope,

daz diu süeze Minne twinge

that the sweet Love constrain

sô daz mir an iu gelînge;

so that to-me with you succeed;

dar an al mîn fröide lît.

there on all my joy lies.

Swaz der winter sorgen bringe
WHATEVER CARES THE WINTER BRINGS

Whatever winter does to the bright red flowers and the small birds, the poet laments another distress: the woman to whom he has always offered his service holds his grief far too light. He says her lovely mouth has constrained him, that nothing has succeeded with her, and that grief became known to him when he found so sweet a thing in the lovely young woman — and he ends by telling his own heart that she has wounded it.

Swaz der winter sorgen bringe

42,21

Whatever the winter of-cares bring

dien vil liechten bluomen rô̯t,

to-the very bright flowers red,

swaz er kleiner vogeles twinge,

whatever he of-small birds constrain,

doch klag ich ein ander nô̯t.

yet lament I an other distress.

der ich mich ze dienste ie bôt,

to-whom I myself for service ever offered,

derst mîn swære gar ze ringe:

to-her-is my grief wholly too light:

des bin ich an fröiden tô̯t.

therefore am I in joys dead.

Owê, jâ hât mich betwungen

Alas, yes has me constrained

ir vil minneclîcher munt.

her very lovely mouth.

an ir ist mir niht gelungen.

with her is to-me not succeeded.

swære diust mir worden kunt,

grief it-is to-me become known,

sît ich vant sô süezen funt

since I found so sweet a-find

an der minneclîchen jungen.

in the lovely young-one.

herze, diu hât dich verwunt.

heart, she has thee wounded.

Ich solt aber dur die süezen

I SHOULD GREET MAY AGAIN

The poet would greet May, wood, heath, meadow, and birdsong again if only his lady would let him succeed and assuage his sorrow. He asks sweet Love how he can remain glad while her love weakens his senses, and asks the lady to heal the wounds of his heart. He says her goodness comforts him slowly, and that even a small kiss would free him of many cares.

Ich solt aber dur die süezen

I should again for the sweet-one

grüezen meigen walt heid ouwe

greet May wood heath water-meadow

und der kleinen vogele süezez singen,

and the small birds' sweet singing,

lieze eht mir an ir gelingen

would-let only to-me with her succeed

trût mîn trôst, mîs herzen frouwe,

darling my comfort, of-my heart the-lady,

daz si mînen kumber wolde büezen:

that she my affliction would assuage:

seht, sô wurde ich fröiderîche.

see, so would-become I joy-rich.

trûter lîp, nu tuo genædeclîche:

darling person, now do graciously:

rôter munt, du maht mîn leit verdringen.

red mouth, thou canst my suffering drive-out.

42,35

Süeziu Minne, sît dîn minne

Sweet Love, since thy love

sinne krenket zallen stunden,

senses weakens at-all hours,

wie solde ich iemer danne frô belîben?

how should I ever then glad remain?

lieber lîp vor allen lîben,

dear person before all persons,

heilent mir mîns herzen wunden,

heal to-me of-my heart the-wounds,

daz mîn fröide lige an dem gewinne.

so-that my joy lie in the gain.

tuot ir daz, sô wirde ich fröidebære.

do ye that, so become I joy-bearing.

sælic wîp, nu scheident mich von swære.

blessed woman, now part me from grief.

Minne, du maht mir mîn leit vertriben.

Love, thou canst to-me my suffering drive-away.

Ich hân fröide von ir eine.

I have joy from her alone.

seine trœstet mich ir güete.

slowly comforts me her goodness.

dâ von muoz mir spilndiu fröide swinden.

there from must to-me playing joy vanish.

lieze si mich gnâde vinden,

would-let she me favor find,

seht, sô fröite mîn gemüete,

see, so would-gladden my spirit,

daz mir wurde ir rôter kus, ein kleine;

that to-me would-become her red kiss, a little;

sô wær ich vil manger sorgen âne.

so were I of-very many cares without.

triutelehter lîp, ich lebe in wâne

darling person, I live in expectation

daz ich fröide von iu müge enpfinden.

that I joy from you may feel.

Nu hât Meige walt heid ouwe

NOW MAY HAS CLOTHED WOOD AND HEATH

May has clothed wood, heath, and meadow in splendid garments, and so has the poet's lady clothed herself in a dress that becomes her. He wishes he could find himself among the clothes she wears, and says that if the joy in him perishes he must die of grief. He asks her to send him the clothes and the darling one with them, and closes by asking Love to beg her to comfort him.

43,27 Nu hât Meige walt heid ouwe

Now has May wood heath water-meadow

wol bekleit mit maneger wunneclîchen spæhen wât.

well clothed with many-a delightful splendid garment.

alsô hât mîs herzen frouwe

so has of-my heart lady

sich bekleit mit kleide daz ir wunneclîch an stât.

herself clothed with a-dress which to-her delightfully on stands.

wîp- lîch güete, schœne und êre,

woman- -ly goodness, beauty and honor,

dâ bî reinen muot,

there by pure spirit,

diz gewant treit diu vil hêre;

this garment wears the very exalted-one;

daz ir edelem herzen sanfte tuot.

which to-her noble heart gently does.

bî den kleiden lât sich vinden

with the clothes lets itself be-found

der vil triutelehte lôse lîp.

the very darling merry person.

Ach, solt ich mich senden vinden

Oh, should I myself yearning find

bî den kleiden diu diu reine minneclîche an treit,

with the clothes which the pure lovely-one on wears,

sô mües al mîn leit verschwinden

so would-have-to all my suffering vanish

unde wurde an mangan fröiden denne wol gemeit.

and would-become in many joys then quite glad.

sol diu fröide an mir verderben,

shall the joy in me perish,

dast mîs herzen nôt,

that-is of-my heart the-distress,

sô muoz ich in jâmer sterben.

so must I in misery die.

owê süezer munt durliuhtic rôt,

alas sweet mouth translucent red,

wie mich jâmert nâch den kleiden,

how me it-longs after the clothes,

sît si stânt der lieben alsô wol!

since they stand to-the dear-one so well!

Wil si mînen kumber wenden,

Will she my affliction turn-away,

diu vil reine minneclîche der ich eigen bin,

the very pure lovely-one to-whom I property am,

sô sol si diu kleit mir senden

so shall she the clothes to-me send

bî dem triutelehten lîbe; so ist mîn leit dâ hin.

with the darling body; so is my suffering there away.

kan mich iemen frô gemachen?

can me anyone glad make?

jâ, ir rôter munt.

yes, her red mouth.

wil mir der von herzen lachen,

(if)-will to-me it from heart laugh,

sô wird ich an fröiden wol gesunt.

so become I in joys quite sound.

süeze Minne, bit die hêren

sweet Love, beg the exalted-one

daz si trœste mich vil senden man.

that she comfort me very yearning man.

Ez fuor ein büttenære

A COOPER TRAVELED FAR

A cooper travels into foreign lands and gladly binds casks wherever he finds the ladies. The host asks what he can do, and he answers that he is a cooper and would bind any man's cask who granted it. He carries his hoops, his hoop-driver, and his wedge, which the woman takes in her hand; and when the host's cask has been bound, beside and below, she says he is not slack and that she was never bound better.

Ez fuor ein büttenære

There traveled a cooper

der was sô minnebære,

he was so love-worthy,

daz er dâ gerne bant.

that he there gladly bound.

vil verre in frömdiu lant.

very far into foreign lands.

swâ er die vrouwen vant,

wherever he the ladies found,

44,20

Dô sprach der wirt mære

Then spoke the host worthy

‘ich bin ein büttenære:

‘I am a cooper:

sîn vaz ich im bundè.’

his cask I to-him would-bind.’

zuo zim waz er kundè.

to him what he could.

swer mir des gundè,

whoever to-me of-that would-grant,

Dô truoc er sîne reife

Then carried he his hoops

mit sînem umbesweife

with his going-about

ein guot geschirre tragen.

a good tool carry.

und sînen tribelslagen.

and his hoop-driver.

kund er sich wol bejagen,

could he himself well support,

Sinen tribelwegge

His hoop-wedge

mit sîner slehten egge.

with its smooth edge.

got hât iuch har gesant.'

God has you here sent.'

den nam si in die hant

it took she into the hand

si sprach 'heilant,

she said 'savior,

Dô si dô gebunden

When they then bound

nebent unde ouch unden,

beside and also below,

mir wart nie gebunden baz.'

to-me was never bound better.'

dem wirte sîn vaz

to-the host his cask

si sprach 'ir sint niht laz.

she said 'ye are not slack.

Von Walhen fuor ein pilgerîn

A PILGRIM CAME FROM ITALY

A pilgrim comes from Italy with his little mantle and his shoes cut to pieces, and asks for lodging in love's name. The host says he is no good pilgrim and that he finds him loathsome there. The pilgrim asks what the host's matins and genuflections are worth if he will not care for a poor pilgrim, and the song breaks off in a lacuna.

Von Walhen fuor ein pilgerîn

45,8

From Italy traveled a pilgrim

mit sînem kôtzelnê.

with his little-mantle.

zerhouwen wâren im die schuo;

cut-to-pieces were to-him the shoes;

er was sô rehte fîne.

he was so truly fine.

er bat der hereberge in der minne.

he asked for-the lodging in the love.

‘ja enist er niht guot pilgerîn’

‘yes is he not good pilgrim’

sprach der wirt: ‘vil leit ist er mir hinne.’

said the host: ‘very hateful is he to-me here.’

‘Waz hilfet iuwer mette gân

‘What helps your matins going

daz ir des armen pilgerîns

that ye of-the poor pilgrim

er bat ...

he asked (lacuna)

und iuwer venjen suoehen;

and your genuflections seeking;

hie inne niht welt ruochen?’

here within not will deign?’

...

(lacuna)

Uns jungen mannen sanfte mac

THINGS MAY GO AMISS WITH US YOUNG MEN

The poet says things may easily go amiss for young men with ladies, and tells how about midday he heard a woman swingling flax. He bade her good morning and she bowed to him, so he turned in; she then told him there were no women there, that he had come wrong, and that she would rather see him hang than have his will of her. Each strophe closes on the swingling refrain.

45,21 Uns jungen mannen sanfte mac

To-us young men easily can

an frouwen misselingen.

with ladies (it-)go-amiss.

ez kam umb einen mitten tac,

it happened about a mid day,

dô hôrte ich eine swingen:

then heard I a-woman swingle:

wan si dahs,

for she scutched,

wan si dahs, si dahs, si dahs.

for she scutched, she scutched, she scutched.

Guoten morgen bôt ich ir;

Good morning offered I to-her;

ich sprach 'got müeze iuch êren.'

I said 'God may you honor.'

zehant do neic diu schoene mir;

at-once then bowed the fair-one to-me;

dar in sô muoste ich kêren:

there in so had-to I turn:

wan si dahs,

for she scutched,

wan si dahs, si dahs, si dahs.

for she scutched, she scutched, she scutched.

Si sprach 'hien ist der wîbe niht:

She said 'here is of-the women none:

ir sint unrehte gegangen.

ye are wrongly gone.

ê iuwer wille an mir geschiht,

before your will on me happens,

ich sæhe iuch lieber hangen.'

I would-see you rather hang.'

wan si dahs,

for she scutched,

wan si dahs, si dahs, si dahs.

for she scutched, she scutched, she scutched.

Winter, du wilt aber twingen

WINTER, THOU WILT CONSTRAIN AGAIN

Winter will constrain the flowers and the birdsong that were heard in the water-meadow, and the poet's high spirits are weak; yet his joy will lighten through the woman he has always striven for. He tells the blessed woman that she takes too little note of him with her playing eyes, and asks her not to let him perish, since he means her with faith.

46,3 Winter, du wilt aber twingen

Winter, thou wilt again constrain

bluomen und der vogele sanc,

flowers and the birds' song,

die man hôrte suoze erklingen

which one heard sweetly ring-out

in der ouwe, dêst niht lanc.

in the water-meadow, that-is not long,

nu ist mîn hôchgemüete kranc.

now is my high-spirit weak.

doch wil sich mîn fröide ringen

yet will itself my joy lighten

durch die nâch der ich ie ranc.

for her after whom I ever strove.

Sælic wîp suez unde reine,

Blessed woman sweet and pure,

schœne und minneclîchen var,

fair and lovelily colored,

owê daz ir mân sô kleine

alas that ye of-me so little

nement mit spilnden ougen war!

take with playing eyes note!

ich diend ie mit triuwen dar.

I served ever with faith there.

sît ich iuch mit triuwen meine,

since I you with faith cherish,

lânt mich niht verderben gar.

let me not perish wholly.

Lichter sumer, dîn süeze wunne
BRIGHT SUMMER, THY SWEET DELIGHT

The poet tells bright summer that its sweet delight will be among many joys: the birds sing again, the trees stand fair in bloom, and May's goodness bears much hatred toward winter. The birds' distress is over, but the poet laments another, since her translucent red mouth will not increase his joy. He asks sweet Love to teach her, so that his grief may pass away.

46,17 **Lichter sumer, dîn süeze wunne**

Bright summer, thy sweet delight

wil bî mangel fröiden sîn.

will among many joys be.

baz dan ich gedenken kunne

better than I think can

singent aber diu vogellîn.

sing again the little-birds.

dâ bî siht man schône in blüete

there by sees one fair in bloom

boume stân. des meigen güete

trees stand. the May's goodness

treit dem winter manegen haz.

bears to-the winter much hatred.

Nu ist der vogle nôt zergangen.

Now is the birds' distress passed-away.

noch klag ich ein ander nôt.

still lament I an other distress.

wê, jâ muoz mich des belangen

alas, yes must me of-this long

daz ir munt durliuhtic rô

that her mouth translucent red

mir niht wil diu fröide mêren.

to-me not will the joy increase.

süeze Minne, maht du lêren

sweet Love, canst thou teach

si, daz mir mîn leit zergê?

her, so-that from-me my suffering pass-away?

Michn trœstet niht der walt und ouch diu heide

NEITHER WOOD NOR HEATH COMFORTS ME

Neither the wood nor the heath nor the small birds comfort the poet, and besides that the lovely one can constrain him. He asks what the dear modest one means by it, since she is the sweet and pure one, and why she will not let him succeed better with her. He says she can share her womanly goodness and heal the wounds her love shot into him, and asks her to remember that he has seldom enjoyed a woman's goodness.

46,31 Michn trœstet niht der walt und ouch diu heide,

Me comforts not the wood and also the heath,

michn trœstet niht der kleinen voge le singen:

me comforts not the small birds' singing:

den tuot der kalte winter aber leide.

to-them does the cold winter again grievously.

dâ bi kan mich diu minneclîche twingen.

there by can me the lovely-one constrain.

waz went ir daz diu liebe kiusche meine?

what think ye that the dear modest-one means?

nu ist siz doch diu sœze, diu vil reine:

now is she-it yet the sweet-one, the very pure-one:

wan lât si mir durch wîbes gûete baz an ir gelingen?

why lets she to-me for woman's goodness better with her succeed?

Diu minneclîche mac wol mit mir teilen

The lovely-one can well with me share

ir wîbes güete die si hât beslozen.

her woman's goodness which she has locked-up.

si mac mir mîne sêrewunden heilen,

she can to-me my sore-wounds heal,

die si mir mit ir minne hât geschozzen.

which she to-me with her love has shot.

vil sælic wîp, nu wende mîne swære:

very blessed woman, now turn-away my grief:

und tuost du daz, sô wirde ich fröidebære.

and doest thou that, so become I joy-bearing.

gedenke daz ich wîbes güete selten hân genozen.

consider that I of-woman's goodness seldom have enjoyed.

Nu siht man die grünen heide

NOW THE GREEN HEATH

The green heath is clothed and adorned, the little birds sing again in the water-meadows, and the flowers spring. Many rejoice at the delight while the poet lives in yearning grief for a lady who can laugh so sweetly and be modest and womanly at once. He asks Love to make the lady, who broke secretly into his heart with her bright eyes, assuage his grief, and to sue for her favor.

47,10 Nu siht man die grünen heide

Now sees one the green heath

wol bekleidet, wol geschoenet:

well clothed, well adorned:

schouwent an den grünen walt!

look at the green wood!

nu høert man diu vogelîn singen

now hears one the little-birds sing

in den wunneclîchen ouwen,

in the delightful water-meadows,

diu der kalte winter twanc:

whom the cold winter constrained:

die siht man in wunnen beide:

them sees one in delights both:

vogele sanc mit fröiden dœnet,

birds' song with joys sounds,

wan ir stimme ist manicvalt:

for their voice is manifold:

nu siht man die bluomen springen:

now sees one the flowers spring:

der mac man ein wunder schouwen,
of-them can one a wonder behold,
 sît der liebe sumer ist hie.
since the dear summer is here.

Manger fröit sich gegen der wunne:
Many-a-one rejoices himself toward the delight:

sô leb ich in sender swære
so live I in yearning grief

nâch der lieben frouwen mîn,
after the dear lady mine,

diu dû kan sô suoze lachen,
who there can so sweetly laugh,

swenne ir rôter munt erlachtet
whenever her red mouth laughs-out

unde er liebe lachen sol.
and it love laugh shall.

baz dan ich erdenken kunne
better than I devise can

kan si wol, diu sældenbære,
can she well, the blessing-bearer,

kiusche und dû bî wîplîch sîn.
modest and there by womanly be.

si kan mir die fröide machen
she can to-me the joy make

daz mîn herze an fröiden krachet.
so-that my heart in joys bursts.

frouwe Minne, dar zuo sprich.
lady Love, there to speak.

Minne, hilf daz mir diu hêre,
Love, help that to-me the exalted-one,

diu mir in mîn herze tougen
who to-me into my heart secretly

mit ir liechten ougen brach,
with her bright eyes broke,

mîne sende swære bûeze
my yearning grief assuage

die ich von der schœnen dulde.
which I from the fair-one suffer.

doch fröit mich ein lieber wân,
yet gladdens me a dear expectation,

daz si mir mîn leit verkêre,
that she to-me my suffering turn-away,

wan ich hân, dast âne lougen,
for I have, that-is without denial,

von ir sendez ungemach.
from her yearning discomfort.

Minne, sprich daz si mich grüeze;
Love, say that she me greet;

Minne, wirp mir umbe ir hulde:
Love, sue for-me for her favor:

sost mir senden siechen baz.
so-is to-me yearning sick-one better.

Nu wol ûf! grûezen

NOW WELL UP! LET US GREET

The poet calls for a greeting to the sweet season that will end winter's pain and bring birdsong, flowers, and sunshine where the cold snow was. On the slope the nightingale sings high and soft in a manner wholly of praise, and the maidens and laymen are to round-dance the summer long. May's bloom and summer's goodness give the little birds high spirits but help the poet little, for only the pure one could comfort his heart, and her brown hair, clear eyes, and red mouth have wounded him to the ground.

Nu wol ûf! grûezen

Now well up! greet

der uns bûezen

who to-us assuage

der uns wil bringen

who to-us will bring

bluomen springen,

flowers' springing,

dâ man sach ê

where one saw before

dâ siht man gras,

there sees one grass,

(brûevent daz)

(mark that)

Vor hin in walde

Forth away in wood

hoert man balde

bears one soon

wir den sûezen

we the sweet-one

wil des winters pîn,

will the winter's pain,

voege singen,

birds' singing,

und der sunnen schîn.

and the sun's shine.

den kalten snê,

the cold snow,

von touwe naz

from dew wet

die bluomen und den klê.

the flowers and the clover.

48,9

ûf der halde

upon the slope

wunneclîchen schal.

delightful sound.

in süezer wîse
in sweet manner

hôte, lîse,
high, soft,

der vogele sanc
the birds' song

hin gegen dem meigen.
away toward the May.

wir sun reigen
we shall round-dance

gar von prîse,
wholly of praise,

singt diu nahtegal.
sings the nightingale.

derst niht ze kranc
it-is not too weak

megde, leigen,
maidens, laymen,

den lieben sumer lanc.
the dear summer long.

Des meigen blüete,
The May's bloom,

hôchgemüete
high-spirit

daz hilft mich kleine,
that helps me little,

trœste aleine
should-comfort alone

ir brûnez hâr,
her brown hair,

ir rôter munt
her red mouth

biz an den grunt,
down to the ground,

des sumers güete,
the summer's goodness,

gît den vogellîn.
gives to-the little-birds.

wan diu reine
for the pure-one

noch daz herze mîn.
still the heart mine.

ir ougen klâr,
her eyes clear,

hât mich verwunt
has me wounded

swie frô ich doch gebâr.
however glad I yet bore-myself

Winter, du wilt aber vil verderben

WINTER, THOU WILT DESTROY AGAIN

Winter will destroy the bright flowers and a woman will kill the poet's joy, the woman he cherished in joy-rich years. Since the world's joy is vanishing he might leave off singing, except for the one woman his heart has striven after. He praises her bearing and laughing and asks whether anyone ever saw lovelier greeting from so red a mouth. Each strophe closes on the refrain naming her the good one and the pure one.

Winter, du wilt aber vil verderben

49,14

Winter, thou wilt again much destroy

liechter bluomen, die doch schoene wâren;

of-bright flowers, which yet fair were;

unde ein wîp diu wil mich fröide ersterben,

and a woman she will me joy kill,

der ich pflac in fröiderîchen jâren:

whom I cherished in joy-rich years:

diu gúote, diu gúote, diu gúote, diu réine,

the good-one, the good-one, the good-one, the pure-one,

die ich mit ganzen triuwen iemer meine.

whom I with whole faith ever cherish.

Sît diu welt an fröiden wil verschwinden,

Since the world in joys will vanish,

sô möht ich wol lâzen ungesungen.

so might I well leave unsung.

wan ein wîp, dēswâr ich wolte erwinden,

except a woman, truly I would cease,

nâch der ie mîn herze hât gerungen.

after whom ever my heart has striven.

diu gúote, diu gúote, diu gúote, diu réine,
the good-one, the good-one, the good-one, the pure-one,

die ich mit ganzen triuwen iemer meine.
whom I with whole faith ever cherish.

Wol gebâren unde lieplich lachen,
Well bearing and lovingly laughing,

lieplich blicken dar und dan mit güete,
lovingly glancing thither and thence with goodness,

daz kan diu vil guote wol gemachen.
that can the very good-one well make.

gegen ir trôste fröit sich mîn gemüete.
toward her comfort rejoices itself my spirit.

diu gúote, diu gúote, diu gúote, diu réine,
the good-one, the good-one, the good-one, the pure-one,

die ich mit ganzen triuwen iemer meine.
whom I with whole faith ever cherish.

Wer gesach ie von sô rôtem munde
Who saw ever from so red a-mouth

minneclicher lachen unde grüezen?
lovelier laughing and greeting?

den kust ich vil gerne, ob si mirs gunde,
it would-kiss I very gladly, if she to-me-it granted,

diu mir mînen kumber kan gebüezen:
who to-me my affliction can assuage:

diu gúote, diu gúote, diu gúote, diu réine,
the good-one, the good-one, the good-one, the pure-one,

die ich mit ganzen triuwen iemer meine.
whom I with whole faith ever cherish.

Diu reine ist vrî vor aller missewende,

The pure-one is free from all fault,

der ich dienen wil gar eigenlîche.

whom I serve will wholly as-a-vassal.

ich bite si daz si mir helfe sende:

I beg her that she to-me help send:

tuot si daz, sô wirde ich fröiderîche.

does she that, so become I joy-rich.

diu gúote, diu gúote, diu gúote, diu réine,

the good-one, the good-one, the good-one, the pure-one,

die ich mit ganzen triuwen iemer meine.

whom I with whole faith ever cherish.

Nu siht man aber die wunneclîchen heide

NOW THE DELIGHTFUL HEATH AGAIN

The heath is adorned again, the little birds sing in the wood and rejoice toward May's bloom, while the poet yearns after the pure one's goodness. He says that all one could wish for lies with women, whose pure goodness drives grief away. He recalls how her mouth and eyes caught him and Love pressed in after them, then asks Love and the blessing-bearer what they gain if he perishes, and closes by singing to spite the false and the unfaithful.

50,7 Nu siht man aber die wunneclîchen heide

Now sees one again the delightful heath

in spæher wât mit bluomen wol beschœnet.

in artful garment with flowers well adorned.

man hœrt diu vogellîn in dem walde singen:

one hears the little-birds in the wood sing:

den tet der kalte winter vil ze leide:

to-them did the cold winter much to suffering:

nust aber der walt mit sange wol bedœnet:

now-is again the wood with song well sounded:

den hœrt man in diu ôren suoze erklingen:

it hears one into the ears sweetly ring-out:

si frœunt sich gegen des sûezen meigen blüete.

they rejoice themselves toward of-the sweet May the-bloom.

sô sent sich mîn gemüete

so yearns itself my spirit

nâch der vil reinen güete.

after the very pure goodness.

daz si mir got behüete.

that her to-me God protect.

Swaz iemen seit, sô lît der wunsch an wîben.

Whatever anyone says, so lies the perfection with women.

si kunnen in diu herzen lieplîch lachen;

they can into the hearts lovingly laugh;

ir lôslicîh ougenblic tuot fröidenricîhe;

their roguish glance makes joy-rich;

ir reiniu güete kan wol leit vertriben;

their pure goodness can well suffering drive-away;

sô siz mit güete wellent lieplîch machen,

when they-it with goodness will lovingly make,

der fröide ich in der welte niht gelîche.

to-that joy I in the world nothing compare.

âhî, daz tuot mir niht diu reine süeze

ah, that does to-me not the pure sweet-one

die ich mit sange grüeze.

whom I with song greet.

got mir des helfen müeze

God to-me of-this help may

daz si mir kumber büeze.

that she to-me affliction assuage.

Ir wol gerœter munt, ir liechten ougen,

Her well reddened mouth, her bright eyes,

ir kel, ir kinne, ir rœselehtiu wangen

her throat, her chin, her rosy cheeks

die hânt daz sende herze mîn betwungen.

they have the yearning heart mine constrained.

dô si dar in geblihten lieplîch tougen,

when they there in glanced lovingly secretly,

dar nâch zehant dô wart ich ir gevangen.

there after at-once then was I of-her captured.

dar zuo dô kam diu Minne drin gedrunge;

there to then came the Love therein pressed;

si sprach 'nu habe ich mich dîn underwunden.'

she said 'now have I myself of-thee taken-charge.'

daz hân ich wol befunden

that have I well found-out

an mînen senden wunden:

on my yearning wounds:

die stênt noch unverbunden.

they stand still unbound.

Waz treit iuch für, frou Minne, ob ich verdirbe?

What carries you forth, lady Love, if I perish?

waz hilfet ez iuch, süeziu sældenbære?

what helps it you, sweet blessing-bearer?

durch got, nu bin ich doch verselt iu beiden.

for God, now am I yet made-over to-you both.

waz treit iuch für, frou Minne, ob ich erstirbe?

what carries you forth, lady Love, if I die?

waz hilfet iuch mîn lange werndiu swære?

what helps you my long lasting grief?

mich jâmert, sol mîn herze von iu scheiden,

me it-grieves, shall my heart from you part,

sît ich iu hân gedienet manege stunde.

since I to-you have served many-an hour.

hei kus von rôtem munde,

bey kiss from red mouth,

ob mir dîn trôst des gunde

if to-me thy comfort of-this granted

daz mich diu liebe enbunde!

that me the dear-one would-unbind!

Ich wil den valschen und den ungetriuwen

I will to-the false-ones and to-the unfaithful-ones

ze leide singen, und den edeln jungen

to suffering sing, and to-the noble young-ones

ze liebe und der vil lieben diech dâ minne.

to love and to-the very dear-one whom-I there love.

ir valschez herze kan den valsch wol briuwen.

their false heart can the falsehood well brew.

sô wê in wart, sô wê der valschen zungen!

so woe to-them became, so woe to-the false tongues!

diu valschet in ir herze und in ir sinne.

it falsifies in their heart and in their senses.

daz schât mir niht. ob mich diu süeze reine

that harms me not. if me the sweet pure-one

wil meinen, als ich meine

will cherish, as I mean

si lieben alterseine,

her to-love all-alone,

sô schât ir haz mir kleine.

so harms her hatred me little.

Nu ist manic herze vrô
NOW MANY A HEART IS GLAD

Many a heart is glad but the poet's must sorrow unless her goodness comforts it; all his comfort lies with one pure woman. The day of all his blessing lies with the woman who wounded his heart, and he says he would be glad to embrace her without Love's consent. Having said it, he takes it back as grievous, and asks Love to speak a kindly word to her on his behalf.

51,20 Nu ist manic herze vrô,
Now is many-a heart glad,
wan daz mîne daz muoz iemer trûric sîn,
except that mine that must ever sorrowful be,
ez enwende ir güete alsô
it unless-turn-aside her goodness so
daz ir güete tröeste mir daz herze mîn.
that her goodness comfort to-me the heart mine.
hei nahtegal!
bey nightingale!
süezen schal
sweet sound
bringet uns des meigen zît.
brings to-us of-the May the-season.
al mîn tröst an einem reinen wîbe lît.
all my comfort with a pure woman lies.

Aller mîner sælden tac
Of-all my blessings the-day
lît an der diu mir daz herze hât verwunt.
lies with her who to-me the heart has wounded.

niemen mich getrœsten mac

no-one me comfort can

wan diu schœne unde ir rôserôter munt.

except the fair-one and her rose-red mouth.

hei wære ab daz

hey were but that

âne ir haz

without her hatred

daz ichs umbevienge alsô,

that I-her would-embrace so,

Minne, sunder dînen danc, sô wære ich frô.

Love, without thy consent, so were I glad.

Minne, 'sunder dînen danc,'

Love, 'without thy consent,'

habe ich daz gesprochen, daz ist mir vil leit.

have I that spoken, that is to-me very grievous.

nu sich an, mîn lîp ist kranc:

now look on, my body is weak:

niemen mich getrœstet wan ir werdekeit.

no-one me comforts except her worth.

hei Minne, sprich

hey Love, speak

wider mich;

toward me;

sprich ein gûetlîch wort zuo ir,

speak a kindly word to her,

daz diu reine sûeze tuo genâde an mir.

that the pure sweet-one do favor to me.

Sol ich disen sumer lanc

SHALL I BE BURDENED WITH CHILDREN

The speaker would rather be dead than spend the summer burdened with children and kept from the round-dance under the lindens. The nurse is asked to take the little child so that it does not weep, and to lighten the singer's grief, since she alone can give freedom from these cares. Each strophe closes on the cradle refrain, which hushes the child and rocks it.

52,7 Sol ich disen sumer lanc

Shall I this summer long

bekumbert sîn mit kinden,

burdened be with children,

sô wær ich vil lieber tỗt.

so were I much rather dead.

des ist mir mîn fröide kranc.

therefore is to-me my joy weak.

sol ich niht zen linden

shall I not at-the lindens

reigen, owê dirre nỗt!

round-dance, alas for-this distress!

wigen wagen, gigen gagen,

rock rock, fiddle fiddle,

wenne wil ez tagen?

when will it dawn?

minne minne, trûte minne, swîc, ich wil dich wagen.

love love, darling love, bush, I will thee rock.

Amme, nim daz kindelîn,

Nurse, take the little-child,

daz ez niht enweine,

that it not weep,

alse lieb als ich dir sî.

as dear as I to-thee be.

ringe mir die swære mîn:

lighten to-me the grief mine:

du maht mich aleine

thou canst me alone

mîner sorgen machen frî.

of-my cares make free.

wigen wagen, gigen gagen,

rock rock, fiddle faddle,

wenne wil ez tagen?

when will it dawn?

minne minne, trûte minne, swîc, ich wil dich wagen.

love love, darling love, bush, I will thee rock.

Diu nahtegal diu sanc sô wol

THE NIGHTINGALE SANG SO WELL

A single strophe. The nightingale and the other small birds sang so well that they should be thanked for it forever, and hearing them the poet thought of his lady, who is the queen of his heart.

52,25 Diu nahtegal diu sanc sô wol

The nightingale she sang so well

daz man irs iemer danken sol

that one to-her-of-it ever thank shall

und andern kleinen vogellîn.

and to-other small little-birds.

dô dâhte ich an die frouwen mîn:

then thought I on the lady mine:

diu ist mîs herzen künigîn.

she is of-my heart the-queen.

ULRICH VON WINTERSTETTEN

Die Leiche

The Leiche

Ûf lieben wân ich alles gân

THE FIRST LEICH: ON DEAR EXPECTATION

The poet walks always in hope of a greeting from the lady, and asks Lady Love to constrain her mind and her heart so that she will still his yearning distress. He says death would have been far better for him, had he made his confession, than to stay long in grief without knowing the end; he says that unless her red mouth and her goodness grant him a loving kiss his grief is pitiable, and he must either die or win joy-bearing well-being from her. He crowns her beauty above all women, and closes by asking young and old whether she ought to help him: the bold all answer yes, and otherwise his hair turns gray.

Ûf lieben wân ich alles gân

1

On dear expectation I always go

der schœnen under ougen,

the fair-one before the-eyes,

ân allen wanc ist mîn gedanc

without any wavering is my thought

bî ir, dâst âne lougen.

with her, that-is without denial.

nu dinge ich doch daz sî mir noch

now hope I yet that she to-me still

genâde welle erzougen.

favor may show.

unt wurde mir ein gruoze von ir

and should-be to-me a greeting from her

mit minneblicken tougen:

with love-glances secretly:

Seht, sô würde jâmers bürde

See, so would of-misery the-burden

von mir alsô gar verjagt,

from me thus wholly be-driven-off,

daz ich tumber mînen kumber

that I foolish my affliction

hete vil schiere dâ von verklagt.

had very quickly there from lamented-away.

frouwe Minne, twinge ir sinne

lady Love, constrain her mind

unde ir herze daz si mir

and her heart that she to-me

mit ir willen müeze stillen

with her will may still

sende nôt diech hân von ir.

yearning distress which-I have from her.

Ich hân den wân der mich niht lât

I have the expectation which me not leaves

von dir: tuo mir nu selhen rât

from thee: do to-me now such counsel

daz mîne pîne wider dich

that my pain toward thee

unt herzen- smerzen enden sich.

and heart- -pain end themselves.

Frouwe, dîn lachen daz mehte mir machen

Lady, thy laughing that could to-me make

der fröuden vil, geswachen die nôt

of-the joys much, weaken the distress

von der ich wachen muoz dicke bien sachen,

from which I wake must often by-the things,

dâ von mîn herze muoz krachen. der tôt

there from my heart must crack. the death

Wære lihte (ob ich die bihte

Were perhaps (if I the confession

hete getân) mir bezzer noch vil,

had made) to-me better still much,

danne ich wære lange in swære

than I were long in grief

und ich niht kunde wizzen daz zil:

and I not could know the end:

wande ich lange leitlich blange

for I long grievous longing

dar zuo siuftebernde klage

there to sigh-bearing lament

solde mîden. ich muoz lîden

should avoid. I must suffer

disen kumber alle tage.

this affliction all the-days.

Nu wol! ich sol vil gerne hân

Now well! I shall very gladly have

durch dich swaz mich mac nôt bestân!

for thee whatever me may of-distress befall!

Nieman kan mîn gemüete

No-one can my spirit

sô gar betwingen. küniginne,

so wholly subdue. queen,

hilf dar inne mînem sinne,

help there in my mind,

ê daz ich tumber wüete.

before that I foolishly rage.

lâ mir gelingen, tröstærinne,

let me succeed, comfortress,

sît ich brinne in dîner minne,

since I burn in thy love,

Als in der glüete ich mich verbrüete.

As in the glow I myself scorch.

wil mir niht dîn rôter munt

will to-me not thy red mouth

und ouch dîn güete (die got behüete!)

and also thy goodness (which God protect!)

tuon ein lieplich küssen kunt:

make a loving kissing known:

sost mîn swære klagebære

then-is my grief lamentable

mînen friunden und ouch mir,

to-my friends and also to-me,

ich muoz sterben alde erwerben

I must die or win

fröudeberndez heil an ir.

joy-bearing weal from her.

Tuot sî mich frî vor selher nôt,

Makes she me free from such distress,

daz ist ein list mir für den tôt.

that is a device to-me against the death.

vil süeze, büeze mir den pîn!

very sweet-one, assuage to-me the pain!

du solt mir holt von schulden sîn:

thou shalt to-me favorable by rights be:

Wan ich dich meine, vil süeze reine,

For I thee cherish, very sweet pure-one,

mit triuwen. fröude erscheine du mir,

with faith. joy show thou to-me,

daz ich al eine die swære iht beweine.

that I all alone the grief not bewail.

mîn wille derst niht kleine gên dir.

my will that-is not small toward thee.

Dâ von kêre dur dîn êre

There from turn for thy honor

mir ze guote mînen sanc!

to-me to good my song!

wil dîn hulde mîn unschulde

will thy favor my innocence

erkennen, sost mîn trûren kranc.

acknowledge, then-is my mourning weak.

frouwe, ich krœne dîne schœne

lady, I crown thy beauty

sunderbâr für elliu wîp:

singularly before all women:

vor in allen muoz gevallen

before them all must please

mir dîn minneclîcher lîp.

me thy lovely body.

Nemt war wie gar ir kiuscher muot

Take note how wholly her modest spirit

vor schanden banden ist behuot!

from disgraces' bonds is protected!

si hât den rât der fröude birt,

she has the counsel which joy bears,

swie er mir her- nâch kûme wirt.

though it to-me here- -after hardly comes.

Dâ von trûret unde sûret

There from mournings and sours

mir der muot und ouch daz leben.

to-me the spirit and also the life.

junge und alde, erteilent balde,

young and old, judge quickly,

ob sî mir helfe sule geben!

whether she to-me help ought give!

Die frechen sprechen alle 'jâ'!

The bold-ones say all 'yes'!

dês wâr mîn hâr wirt anders grâ.

truly my hair turns otherwise gray.

Sumerzît uns gât âne widerstrît

THE SECOND LEICH: SUMMER GIVES US DELIGHT

Summer gives delight where the cold snow had done the birds harm, and the meadow now wears May's handiwork. The poet's heart stands in the scale of grief, his spirit sunk by a lady who will not make her help plain, and he asks Love to constrain her. He praises her glance, her youth, and her virtue, asks her to behold his distress in time, and promises a round-dance among clerics and laymen if she relents. The Leich closes in a lacuna and a cry that his heart must break if nothing comes of it.

Sumerzît uns gât âne widerstrît

2

Summer-season to-us gives without contradiction

vil der wunnen in dien landen wît.

much of-the delights in the lands wide.

kalder snê tet ê kleinen vogelîn wê,

cold snow did before to-small little-birds woe,

gar zergangen was der grüene klê.

wholly passed-away was the green clover.

dâ von gar stuont bar liechter bluomen schar

there from wholly stood bare of-bright flowers the-host

der anger unwunneclîchen var.

the meadow undelightfully colored.

seht, der hât die wât diu im wol an stât

see, it has the garment which to-it well on stands

von des lichten meien hantgetât.

from the bright May's hand-work.

Der kalde winder lanc diu kleinen vogelîn twanc,
The cold winter long the small little-birds constrained,

dar zuo allen ir gesanc
there to all their song

daz ir hôher muot wart kranc:
so-that their high spirit became weak:

des hab er undanc.
for-that may-have he ill-thanks.

dar zuo der grüne walt des argen rîfen kalt
there to the green wood of-the wicked frost cold

harte schedelîche engalt:
very harmfully paid:

wan sîn loup daz wart gevalt
for its foliage that was felled

vil unt ungezalt.
much and uncounted.

der vogelîne dôz unt ir vil süezer kôs
of-the little-birds the-noise and their very sweet chatter

der ist alsô nu vil grôz.
it is so now very great.

werst an fröuden ir genôz?
wert-thou in joys their equal?

sî sint sorgen blôz.
they are of-cares bare.

alsô wære ouch ich, bedæhte iemer sich
so were also I, would-bethink ever herself

ein vil reine wîp dur mich.
a very pure woman for me.

diu hât gegen mir ir gerich:
she has toward me her vengeance:

dâst ungemenlich.
that-is joyless.

Deist mîn klage diech trage nu vil manege tage,

That-is my lament which-I bear now very many days,

daz mîn herze stât in jâmers wage.

that my heart stands in of-misery the-scale.

dirre pîn muoz sîn leider lange mîn,

this pain must be sadly long mine,

wil si mir niht tuon ir helfe schîn.

will she to-me not make her help visible.

Sus hât mîn frouwe guot versenket mînen muot,

Thus has my lady good sunk my spirit,

daz er leider ist unfruot.

so-that it sadly is unwise.

waz touc mir des meien bluot,

what avails to-me the May's bloom,

ob si niht entuot

if she not does

durh mich ein kleine dinc: si spreche 'frœlich sprinc!

for me a small thing: she may-say 'gladly spring!'

ich wil lônên dir, nu sinc!

I will reward thee, now sing!

frouwe Minne, sî des twinc

lady Love, her of-this constrain

âne widerwinc.

without resistance.

Mîn sinne, Minne, die erouge ich dir:

My senses, Love, them show I to-thee:

verborgen sorgen, sich, daz gîstu mir,

bidden cares, see, that givest-thou to-me,

wan ich hân von ir

for I have from her

niht mê wan wê, sît Minne mir gebôt

nothing more but woe, since Love to-me commanded

deich kunne unwunne unt seneliche nôt

that-I should-know undelight and yearning distress

biz ir mündel rôt

until her little-mouth red

Vil suoze in gruoze lache mich an.

Very sweetly in greeting laugh me at.

sost sorgen vart mir gar verspart,

so-is of-cares the-journey to-me wholly barred,

von leide ich scheide sender man.

from suffering I part yearning man.

dêswâr mir wart nie wîp sô zart.

truly to-me became never a-woman so tender.

Mir wære kumber gar unmære,

To-me were affliction wholly indifferent,

swie ir munt nâch rôsen wolgevar

if her mouth after roses well-colored

der swære tete mich senden lære

of-the grief made me yearning empty

die ich hân getragen lange har.

which I have borne long hitherto.

Ûf sô rehte lieben wân

Upon so truly dear expectation

wil ich fröude hân unt muoz mîn trûren fürder stân.

will I joy have and must my mourning away stand.

ich wil âne sorge leben,

I will without care live,

nâch dien fröuden streben, wil sî mir hôchgemüete geben,

after the joys strive, will she to-me high-spirit give,

So gewinne ich fröuden vil, ob mir diu liebe wil

So win I of-joys much, if to-me the dear-one will

teilen noch ir minne spil,

share still her love's play,

nâch der ich dâ harte kil

after whom I there hard pine

âne trôstes zil.

without of-comfort a-goal.

sist der minne ein blüendez zwî: swach in dem lande sî,

she-is of-the love a blooming twig: wherever-I in the land be,

sô gedenke ich dicke: 'ahî!

so think I often: 'ah!

solde ich ir nu wesen bî,

should I to-her now be near,

sorgen wurde ich frî.'

of-cares would-become I free.'

Ir blic den stric mir hât geriht der minne daz ist wâr,

Her glance the snare to-me has set of-the love that is true,

dar in ich bin gevallen gar ân allen valschen vâr.

there in I am fallen wholly without any false guile.

Wil sî, sost frî mîn lîp vor selhem bande:

Will she, so-is free my body from such a-bond:

ir jugende tugende erwelt hât für die schande.

her youth virtues chosen has above the disgrace.

Wan sol vil wol gedenken ir zem besten in dem lande,
For shall very well think of-her at-the best in the land,
 swer reht erspeht ir lîp und ouch ir kiusche wol erkande.
whoever rightly spies-out her body and also her modesty well knew.

Lâ, frouwe, mich des niht engelten deich bin tumber sinne,
Let, lady, me of-this not pay that-I am of-foolish sense,
 wan ich vergizze doch vil selten ze guote dîn dar inne.
for I forget yet very seldom to good of-thee there in.

Mîn muot ist guot, swie tump er sî gên dir, dâst âne lougen:
My spirit is good, however foolish it be toward thee, that-is without denial:
 nim war, wie gar ich dir ze dienste bin gebunden tougen.
take note, how wholly I to-thee for service am bound secretly.
 swenn ich an dich gedenke, sost mîn sorgen gar verschwunden:
whenever I on thee think, so-is my cares wholly vanished:
 dar nâch wirt gâch ze fröuden mir aldâ zen selben stunden.
there after becomes urgent to joys to-me right-there at-the same hours.

Alsô wirt frô mîn herze gar unt mîn gemüete:
So becomes glad my heart wholly and my spirit:
 sî hât den rât den man dâ heizet wîbes güete.
she has the counsel which one there calls woman's goodness.

Ir ougen vil tougen mir blickent dur mîn herze,
Her eyes very secretly to-me glance through my heart,
 Ir lachen kan machen mir bitterlîche smerze.
Her laughing can make to-me bitter pain.

si wil mich vil nâch ûf den tôt betwingen.

she will me very nearly upon the death constrain.

wil sî dâ bî mir swære niht enringen,

will she there by to-me grief not lighten,

Son kan nieman geprüeven wol mîn hovelîchez singen.

Then can no-one judge well my courtly singing.

nu wende unt ende mîne klage! lâ mir an dir gelingen!

now turn and end my lament! let to-me with thee succeed!

Frouwe, schouwe enzît die nôt, ê liebe enkliebe daz herze mîn.

Lady, behold in-time the distress, before love cleave the heart mine.

diu swære wære mîn bitter tât: vil sûeze, bûeze mir den pîn.

the grief were my bitter death: very sweet-one, assuage to-me the pain.

Nu sich an mich, trœstærinne!

Now look on me, comfortress!

dîn minne die sinne hât mir alsô hin genomen,

thy love the senses has from-me thus away taken,

daz ich ir gar stên leider bar.

so-that I of-them wholly stand sadly bare.

dur dich wil ich leben dar inne.

for thee will I live there in.

beginne, gewinne der fröuden mir lâ wider komen,

begin, win of-the joys to-me let again come,

daz trûren schar hin balde var.

so-that sorrowing's host away quickly go.

Sô wolde ich frœlich singen den kinden disen reigen,
So would I gladly sing to-the children this round-dance,
 tanzen lachen springen bî phaffen unt bî leigen.
dance laugh spring among clerics and among laymen.

Ich möhte, töhte mir mîn sanc, noch mêre hân gemachet
I might, would-avail to-me my song, still more have made
 von ir diu mir tuot fröude kranc unt mîne sinne swachet.
of her who to-me makes joy weak and my senses weakens.
 ich sage die klage dien friunden mîn: die mugen daz alle schouwen
I tell the lament to-the friends mine: they may that all behold
 daz nie vervie mîn langer pîn gên mîner lieben frouwen,
that never availed my long pain toward my dear lady,
 nu wende, volende unt swende die nôt, dêswâr ald ich verdirbe,
now turn, fully-end and make-vanish the distress, truly or I perish,
 ich dulde ân schulde nâch hulde den tôt, ob ich ir niht erwirbe.
I suffer without guilt after favor the death, if I of-her not win.

Sol mîn singen mir niht bringen wol gelingen
Shall my singing to-me not bring good succeeding
 guot gedingen âne twingen: daz lât iuch erbarmen!
good hope without constraining: that let you pity!
 mîn trôst ist kleine. frouwe reine, die ich meine,
my comfort is small. lady pure, whom I cherish,
 fröude erscheine mir al eine! tröeste mich vil armen!
joy show to-me all alone! comfort me very poor-one!

got wolde, ich solde an dînen wunneclîchen blanken armen
God would, I should on thy delightful white arms
 nâch lône schône minneclîche ganze naht erwarmen!
after reward fairly lovingly a-whole night grow-warm!

sô wære unmære swære mir und wolde ouch von dien armen
so were indifferent grief to-me and would also from the arms

...

(lacuna)

... heiâ nu hei!

(lacuna) heigh now hey!

geschiht es niht, sost gar ein wiht mîn

happens it not, so-is wholly a nothing my

fröude unt muoz mîn herze enzwei!

joy and must my heart in-two!

Nemnt war wie gar was der meige vollenbrâht

THE THIRD LEICH: MAY WAS BROUGHT TO FULLNESS

May was brought to fullness and the birds sang on the green twig, but now the meadow is left bare and the shade is taken from the children under the lindens. The poet praises the lady's smiling, her laughing, and her eyes, crowns her above May's bloom, and asks her to glance at him often. The Leich then turns into a dance: he calls the clerics and laymen to the round-dance in the street, names Guote, Gêse, Angenêse, Gîsel, Jiutel, Hille, and Anne to the ring, and ends as his heart wants to break in two with the string.

3 Nemnt war wie gar was der meige vollenbrâht,

Take note how wholly was the May brought-to-fullness,

des wât zergât, die der sumer hât erdâht.

whose garment passes-away, which the summer has devised.

der sneit sîn kleit beide ûf berge und in diu tal.

he cut his dress both upon mountains and in the valleys.

dâ sanc erklanc der vil lieben nahtegal.

there song rang-out of-the very dear nightingale.

Aller sorgen frî ûf grüenem zwî

Of-all cares free upon green twig

ir muot was guot, ze sange snel.

her spirit was good, to song quick.

dâ bî wunnen spil si dônde vil,

there by of-delights the-play she sounded much,

ir stimme diu was hel

her voice it was clear

unt was fröudenvol. si sanc sô wol,

and was joy-full. she sang so well,

ir schal ergal al in den walt.

her sound rang-out all into the wood.

kleiner vogelîn dôz der was sô grôz,

of-small little-birds the-noise it was so great,

si wâren fröudenbalt.

they were joy-bold.

Ir singen kund bringen der welte hôhen muot.

Their singing could bring to-the world high spirit.

diu ouwe mit touwe stât leider unbehuoet,

the water-meadow with dew stands sadly unprotected,

der anger niht langer mac bluomen liechte getragen,

the meadow not longer can flowers bright bear,

diu heide stêt leide: des muoz ich lerhen klagen.

the heath stands grievously: for-that must I to-larks lament.

dien kinden bî linden der schate ist nu benomen,

to-the children by lindens the shade is now taken-away,

die enkunnen der wunnen nu leider niht bekommen.

they can of-the delights now sadly not attain.

ir krenzel, ir swenzel die wâren sô gemeit,

their garlands, their trains they were so splendid,

der winder hinhinder si twinget: dâst mir leit.

the winter behind them constrains: that-is to-me grievous.

ich tumber den kumber liez ich wol alsô sîn,

I foolish the affliction would-let I well thus be,

gâb hiure mir stiure mîn süeze troestârîn,

would-give this-year to-me support my sweet comfortress,

diu wendet und endet wol mînes herzen nôt.

she turns-away and ends well of-my heart the-distress.

nein, süeze, daz bûeze mit dînem munde rôt!

no, sweet-one, that assuage with thy mouth red!

Dîn smieren kan zieren schône dich, vil sælic wîp.

Thy smiling can adorn fairly thee, very blessed woman.

dîn lachen machen kan wol senden siechen man.

thy laughing make can well yearning sick man.

dîn ougen vil tougen kunnen wol dur ganzen lîp

thy eyes very secretly can well through whole body

in herzen smerzen füegen: frouwe, sich dar an!

into heart pain bring: lady, look there on!

dîn jugende mit tugende hât sô minneclîchen schîn.

thy youth with virtue has so lovely shine.

ich krœne, schœne, dich für al des meien bluot.

I crown, fair-one, thee above all the May's bloom.

ach reine, nu meine mich, vil liebe frouwe mîn!

oh pure-one, now cherish me, very dear lady mine!

von leide scheide, tröeste mînen senden muot!

from suffering part, comfort my yearning spirit!

Unde tuostû daz, dêswâr sô wirt mir baz

And doest-thou that, truly so becomes to-me better

unt swindet mîn leit,

and vanishes my suffering,

sît ich nie vergaz, swâ man die güete maz,

since I never forgot, wherever one the goodness measured,

dîner werdekeit.

of-thy worth.

ich bin dir undertân, und dâbî sunder wân

I am to-thee subject, and there-by without doubt

dir ze dienste erborn:

to-thee for service born:

du solt geniezen lân mich, frouwe, daz ich hân

thou shalt enjoy let me, lady, that I have

dich mir ûz erkorn.

thee for-me out chosen.

Vor in allen gevallen muoz mir dîn wîplich sin.

Above them all please must to-me thy womanly sense.

nu ahte unt trahte wie ich dîn eigen bin,

now heed and consider how I thy property am,

und lâze die strâze mir noch ze wunne zemen!

and let the street to-me still to delight befit!

dîn êre von sêre sol mich ze fröuden nemen.

thy honor from soreness shall me to joys take.

Diu Minne mîn sinne enzucket mir mit ungewinne,

The Love my senses snatches from-me with loss,

êst wunder besunder, behabe ich den lîp dar under.

it-is a-wonder especially, keep I the life there under.

vil süeze, daz büeze, ê daz ich verderben müeze!

very sweet-one, that assuage, before that I perish must!

ich stirbe, verdirbe, ist daz ich niht heil erwirbe.

I die, perish, is-it that I not weal win.

Sus muoz ich in sorgen vil dicke worgen den âbent,

Thus must I in cares very often choke the evening,

den morgen und elliu zît,

the morning and all time,

diu liebe, diu reine, die ich dâ meine, mir fûeget den klagelîchen strît.

the dear, the pure, whom I there cherish, me causes the lamentable strife.

ach frouwe, gedenke! die swære verkrenke,

oh lady, consider! the grief weaken,

sît ich niht wenke mit dienste an dir.

since I not waver with service toward thee.

dur wîplich êre mir leit verkêre mit fuoge nâch hovelîcher gir.

for womanly honor to-me suffering turn-away with propriety after courtly desire.

Ach frouwe, dîn schouwe gelîchet den rôsen in touwe,

Oh lady, thy aspect resembles the roses in dew,

dîn gûete der blûete des meigen und dîn gemûete.

thy goodness the bloom of-the May and thy spirit.

Nemnt war gar dar wie mich diu schœne twinget swar ich var!

Take note wholly there how me the fair-one constrains whither I travel!

mîn muot guot fruot wirt an mir, ob si lobelîche tuot.

my spirit good wise becomes in me, if she praiseworthy does.

Ich singe, ich ringe mit manegem dinge nâch lônës stat:

I sing, I strive with many-a thing after reward's place:

dur triuwe gip niuwe mir fröude, der ich dich ie bat!

for faith give anew to-me joy, of-which I thee ever begged!

Nu lône mir schône dur rehte wîbes krône

Now reward me fairly for true woman's crown

unt wîse mich lîse ze fröuden, sît ich dich prîse!

and guide me softly to joys, since I thee praise!

Mit willen soltû mir stillen die senden nôt unt mîne klage,

With willingness shalt-thou to-me still the yearning distress and my lament,

sô würde mir jâmers bürde geringet diech dâ trage!

so would-be to-me of-misery the-burden lightened which-I there bear!

mirst ande daz dir ze phande mîn herze stêt sô lange her,

to-me-is vexation that to-thee in pledge my heart stands so long hither,

daz lâze nâch Minnen mâze mir ledic, dâst mîn ger!

that let after Love's measure to-me free, that-is my desire!

Nu blicke mir dicke (daz læset die minnenstricke)

Now glance to-me often (that looses the love-snares)

mit ougen vil tougen unt tröeste mich sunder lougen!

with eyes very secretly and comfort me without denial!

Diu sint sô klære (daz spriche ich zewâre

They are so clear (that say I truly

vil offenbâre und ist wol schîn)

very openly and is well plain)

dîn licht anlütze für trûren nütze, daz ist an dem gelouben mîn.

thy bright countenance against mourning useful, that is in the belief mine.

dîn munt nâch rôsen gevar kan kôsen wol

thy mouth after roses colored can converse well

sunder lôsen der tugende wort:

without flattery the virtue's words:

nu grüeze mich suoze mit süezem gruoze,

now greet me sweetly with sweet greeting,

sô finde ich mîner fröuden hort.

so find I my joys' treasure.

Swer wunne kunne rehte spehen an wîbe lîbe und ouch ir muot,

Whoever delight can rightly spy in woman's body and also her spirit,

ir zühte tühte muoz er jehen, vor schanden banden sist wol behuot.

her breeding's fitness must he confess, from disgraces' bonds she-is well protected.

mit kluogen fuogen sist erzogen nâch êre lêre tugenderîch,

with clever proprieties she-is brought-up after honor's teaching virtue-rich,

ir wirde girde ist umbetrogen, ir minne sinne hât zühteclich.

her worth's desire is undeceived, her love senses has courteously.

Lop kan si verschulden wol:

Praise can she deserve well:

wan sist aller tugenden vol

for she-is of-all virtues full

diu vil reine fruht.

the very pure fruit.

ach si ist sô rehte guot,

oh she is so truly good,

doch beswært si mir den muot,

yet burdens she to-me the spirit,

fröude hât von mir fluht.

joy has from me flight.

Minne, süeze tröestærîn,

Love, sweet comfortress,

tuo mir dîner helfe schîn,

do to-me of-thy help visible,

alder ich bin tât.

or I am dead.

twinc die lieben alse mich

constrain the dear-one like me

oder ez wirt ungementlich:

or it becomes unpleasant:

ich lebe in sender nôt.

I live in yearning distress.

Mich krenket, versenket, swie Minne mîn niht gedenket.

Me it-weakens, sinks, though Love of-me not thinks.

ê liebe zerkliebe, mîn herze gar zerstiebe.

before love cleave-apart, my heart wholly fly-apart.

Ich bin versêret: diu sorge mir mêret,

I am wounded: the care to-me increases,

gedinge si kêret der fröuden hin dan

hope she turns of-the joys away away

wil Minne verleiten mit arebeiten mich alsô fröudelôsen man?

will Love mislead with hardships me thus joyless man?

ich hân nu lange mit mînem gesange

I have now long with my singing

der fröuden gedrange gefolget nâch:

the joys' throng followed after:

des ist diu Minne mîn meisterinne und ist ir iemer von mir gâch.

therefore is the Love my mistress and is to-her ever from me haste.

Nu singen, nu singen, dannoch harte erspringen

Now to-sing, now to-sing, even-then mightily to-spring

den reigen, den reigen, phaffen unde leigen!

the round-dance, the round-dance, clerics and laymen!

nu lâze, nu lâze uns reigen an der strâze!

now let, now let us round-dance on the street!

die rîfen, die rîfen, die went uns hie begrîfen.

the frosts, the frosts, they will us here seize.

Hoppen unt zoppen zer stuben dâ wir finden die!

To-hop and to-shuffle to-the room where we find them!

gesungen, gesprungen wirt dâ baz danne hie.

sung, sprung becomes there better than here.

schouwen die frouwen, die helfent uns den reigen treten,

behold the ladies, they help us the round-dance tread,

wunder bisunder kumt ir dar ungebeten:

a-wonder especially comes of-them there unbidden:

Guote, Guote mit vil hôhem muote,

Guote, Guote with very high spirit,

Gêse, Gêse dar zuo Angenêse,

Gêse, Gêse there to Angenêse,

Gîsel ein rîsel hât sî gemachet also glanz,

Gîsel a hair-net has she made so bright,

Jiutel ein biutel den bringets an den tanz.

Jiutel a purse it brings-she to the dance.

Hille vil stille diu kumt geslichen zuoze uns dar,

Hille very quietly she comes crept to us there,

Anne kumt danne: sô grôz sô wirt diu schar.

Anne comes then: so great so becomes the crowd.

Stolzen leigen, alsô tuot: singent diz gedœne!

Proud laymen, thus do: sing this tune!

klâren megde, ir lânt niht abe, ir tretent an den rinc!

bright maidens, ye leave not off, ye tread into the ring!

ie der man nem in den muot sîne frouwen schœne,

each the man take into the spirit his lady fair,

ie der dirnen wirt ein knabe, alsust ein jungelinc.

each of-the girls becomes a lad, thus a youth.

Lânt den seiten vor bereiten, wie man dâ palliere!

Let the strings first be-tuned, how one there flourish!

swer niht langen muge gedrangen, der gê für die tür!

whoever not long can press, he go out-of the door!

nâch der gîgen sol er sîgen, swer ez kundewiere.

after the fiddle shall he sink, whoever it lead.

lazzâ! wîchen! er sol slîchen schône in lobes kûr!

softly! give-way! he shall glide fairly in of-praise the-choice!

Erwinden! erwinden! ez wirt den kinden

To-^{cease!} to-^{cease!} it becomes to-the children

ze lange ze lange und ouch ze strange.

too long too long and also too hard.

‘Verirret, verirret ist daz, der seite erkirret.

Astray, astray is that, the string screeches.

nu hoeren, nu hoeren! er wil uns ertœren.’

now to-hear, now to-hear! he will us befool.’

Gesungen den jungen het ich wol mê: waz hulfe daz?

Sung to-the young-ones would-have I well more: what would-help that?

swer gerne in lerne, dem gelinge deste baz!

whoever gladly of-them learn, to-him succeed so-much better!

mîn herze von smerze wil mit dem seiten rehte enzwei:

my heart from pain will-(break) with the string right in-two:

des wüefet und rüefet ez lûte: ‘heiâ hei!’

therefore wails and cries it loudly: ‘beigh hey!’

Swer die wunne wol prüeven kunne, der sî des gemant

THE FOURTH LEICH: WHOEVER CAN JUDGE THE DELIGHT

The season is delightfully formed, the meadow strewn with flowers, and the wild frost gone; but the poet's grief still makes him sigh, and he chokes in cares many a morning. He addresses Love and the lady by turns, and says that if her comfort came his spirit would stand high. He crowns her, asks her red mouth to take his heart out of distress, and complains that her ear does not receive his song. The Leich closes with a long dance: he names Uot, Guot, Jiute, Hille, Wille, Hetze, Metze, Nêse, Gêse, and Götelint, sets the clerics and laymen treading, and stops when the string goes in two.

4 Swer die wunne wol prüeven kunne, der sî des gemant:

Whoever the delight well judge can, be be of-this reminded:

wan diu zît ist wunneclîch gestalt.

for the season is delightfully formed.

wan mac schouwen an velt, an ouwen (daz ist mir bekant)

one can behold on field, on water-meadows (that is to-me known)

die sint komen ûz leide.

they are come out-of suffering.

vogele singen vil suoze erklingen hoert man über al,

birds' singing very sweetly ring-out hears one over all,

sît ir stimme diuzet dur den walt.

since their voice roars through the wood.

wie gar schône in süezem dône schellet nahtegal

how wholly beautifully in sweet tone rings nightingale

unt lerne über heide.

and lark over heath.

Der anger lît ân allen strît mit bluomen wol bespreit,
The meadow lies without all dispute with flowers well strewn,

der meie dise varwe gît.
the May this color gives.

diu heide lachet unde machet maneger hande kleit,
the heath laughs and makes of-many a-kind a-garment,

daz ir trûren swachet.
so-that its mourning weakens.

der boume bluot diu ist sô guot und ouch daz grüne gras
of-the trees the-bloom it is so good and also the green grass

daz dien ougen sanfte tuot.
which to-the eyes gently does.

dem wîtgevilde rîfen wilde sint, swie vil der was,
to-the wide-field frosts wild are, however much of-them was,

unde snês unbilde.
and of-snow the-monstrousness.

An diesen stunden sint gar enbunden
At these hours are wholly unbound

unden und ouch oben berge unt elliu grüne tal.
below and also above mountains and all green valleys.

noch ist mîn swære gar siuftebære:
still is my grief wholly sigh-bearing:

wære diu zergangen, seht, sô wolde ich singen.
were it passed-away, see, so would I sing.

ich muoz in sorgen vil mangan morgen
I must in cares very many-a morning

worgen, sît ir munt mich niht entræstet über al.
choke, since her mouth me not comforts over all.

des lîde ich kumber, ich sender tumber.
therefore suffer I affliction, I yearning foolish-one.

krumber nôt mich niht mac senelîcher twingen.
more-crooked distress me not can more-yearningly constrain.

Von minne sinne mir zerrinne wil,

From love senses to-me run-out will,

si hazzet, lazzet mich gar âne zil.

she hates, wearies me wholly without end.

diu reine meine danne ein kleine mich

the pure-one may-cherish then a little me

unt stille ir wille wol bedæhte sich:

and quietly her will well bethought itself:

So wurde ich frô.unt kæme ezsôdaz mir noch wurde ir trôst,

So would-become I glad. and would-come it so that to-me still would-become her comfort,

seht, sô stüende mîn gemüete hô.

see, so would-stand my spirit high.

wil sî mir swenden sorge wenden, sô wurd ich erlôst.

will she to-me make-vanish care turn-away, so would-become I released.

unt müeste mîn leit sich enden.

and would-have-to my suffering itself end.

si sælic wîp, der nû mîn lîp ist lieblich undertân,

she blessed woman, to-whom now my person is lovingly subject,

diu mac vil wol heizen leitvertrîp.

she can very well be-called suffering's-driving-away.

si reine frouwe in liehter schouwe sol mir fröude lân.

she pure lady in bright showing shall to-me joy leave.

si gelîchet rôsen im touwe.

she resembles roses in-the dew.

Ich krœene, schœene frouwe, dich! du bist sô minneclich,

I crown, fair lady, thee! thou art so lovely,

dîn jugende tugende nietet sich unt bist ouch fröudenrich.

thy youth of-virtue delights itself and art also joy-rich.

mit êren mêren kanstû wol dîn lop, mit wirde vol.

with honors increase canst-thou well thy praise, with worth full.

vil sœze, bœze sende dol, sît ich dir dienen sol.

very sweet-one, assuage yearning endurance, since I thee serve shall.

Ich künde stünde die dû tuost an mir,

I make-known the-hours which thou doest to me,

sît daz dû mich bünde in selhe gir.

since that thou me boundest into such desire.

ich schîne in pîne: daz ist leider wâr

I appear in pain: that is sadly true

ûf die besten triuwe mîne.

upon the best faith mine.

nu geile, heile mir die wunde mîn!

now gladden, heal to-me the wound mine!

von der sorge meile wolde ich sîn.

from the care's stain would I be.

ich lîde nîde von dir sunderbâr:

I suffer enmity from thee especially:

sælic frouwe, die vermîde

blessed lady, that avoid

Unt gip mir rât! mîn herze hât gedinge hin ze dir,

And give me counsel! my heart has hope away to thee,

swie dîn güete mich in sorgen lât.

however thy goodness me in cares leaves.

ich möhte ersterben, sol mîn werben niht erschiezen mir,

I might die, shall my wooing not prosper for-me,

und in leide alsus verderben.

and in suffering thus perish.

ez ist ein nôt, sol ich den tôt alsus verdienet hân,

it is a distress, shall I the death thus deserved have,

sît diu Minne trûren mir gebôt.

since the Love mourning to-me commanded.

diu Minne stœret unde tœret mich ân allen wân,

the Love disturbs and befools me without all doubt,

sît daz si mich niht enhœret.

since that she me not hears.

Ez ist ein wunder, sol ich bisunder

It is a wonder, shall I especially

under mînen danc verderben: seht, daz muoz ich klagen.

under my will perish: see, that must I lament.

ach frouwe, scheide von senedem leide

oh lady, part from yearning suffering

beide mir den muot und alle mîne sinne,

both to-me the spirit and all my senses,

sît ich erschricke, sô dîne blicke

since I take-fright, when thy glances

dicke mir ein minneclîchez lachen went versagen,

often to-me a lovely laughing will refuse,

und ich gedenke: ach sender Schenke,

and I think: oh yearning Schenk,

wenke niht an dienste, sô bejagestû minne.

waver not in service, so gainest-thou love.

Durch êre kêre noch von sêre mir

For honor turn still from soreness to-me

gemüete! güete wîplich niht embir!

the-spirit! of-goodness womanly not be-without!

unt mache lache, sorge swache, ahî!

and make laughter, care weaken, ah!

mîn bürde würde lîhter vil dabî.

my burden would-become lighter much there-by.

Vil reine fruht, dur dine zuht lâ mich in fröuden sin,
Very pure fruit, for thy courtesy let me in joys be,

sô hât elliu sorge von mir fluht.
so has all care from me flight.

dîn munt nâch rœete var von nœete neme daz herze mîn,
thy mouth after redness colored from distress take the heart mine,

ê diu Minne mich ertœete.
before the Love me should-kill.

nu sich dar zuo (êst niht ze fruo), vil reine ein sælic wîp,
now look there to (it-is not too early), very pure a blessed woman,

alde in weiz niht waz ich sender tuo.
or I know not what I yearning do.

ach got, wie lange selhe plange hât mîn sender lîp!
oh God, how long such longing has my yearning person!

nu hilf daz diu zergange!
now help that it pass-away!

Nemnt war gar dar, war mir daz herze meine
Take note wholly there, whither to-me the heart means

den muot! wie kleine mîn guot mich tuot behuot,
the spirit! how little my good me makes protected,

sît ich lîden muoz alsô langez nîden von ir.
since I suffer must so long envying from her.

ir haz laz baz daz herze mîn vermæret,
her hatred let better the heart mine be-told-of,

dâbî unt swæret sam blî, swie frî ich sî.
there-by and griefs like lead, however free I be.

ir gemüete hât niht güete gên mir.
her spirit has not goodness toward me.

nust mîn sin hin in senelîchen dingen,
now-is my mind away in yearning things,

ô wê! sît bringen mac klê niht mê als ê
oh woe! since bring can clover not more as before

selhe wunne, dâ von mir trûren kunne zergân.
such delight, there from to-me mourning could pass-away.

mîn strît gît nît, sît daz ich nâch ir minne
my strife gives envy, since that I after her love

sô ranc unt sinne betwanc. ir danc ist kranc
so strove and senses subdued. her thanks is weak

al dar under gên mir sunder wân.
all there under toward me without doubt.

Minneclichiu reine, nu sich unt meine du mich, sît ich an dich
Lovely pure-one, now look and cherish thou me, since I toward thee

sinne kêre, gip süeze lêre unt rât!
senses turn, give sweet teaching and counsel!

lât si mich in kumber bestân, ich tumber muoz lân den wân. ich hân
lets she me in affliction remain, I fool must leave the dream. I have

grôzen smerzen, den sî in herzen mir lâ. *t.*
great pain, which she in heart to-me leaves.

Ach ich tôre, sît ir ôre
Oh I fool, since her ear

niht enphâhet unt versmâhet mînen sanc.
not receives and disdains my song.

diu vil schœne mîne dôene
the very fair-one my tones

hœret kûme, ich versûme manegen danc.
bears hardly, I neglect many-a thanks.

sît ir ougen niht wen ougen

since her eyes not want to-show

mir ein smieren, lieplich zwieren: aldâ von

to-me a smiling, lovely twinkling: right-there from

muoz ich erben ein verderben

must I inherit a perishing

in dem sinne, ich bin minne niht gewon.

in the mind, I am of-love not accustomed.

Ich trage die klage vil minneclich,

I bear the lament very lovingly,

sît kleine diu reine mir fröude gât.

since little the pure-one to-me joy gives.

guot muot tiuret mir unt herzen gir:

good spirit is-precious to-me and of-heart the-desire:

swer der niht enhât, dâst grôz unrât.

whoever of-them not has, that-is great want.

Wie sol mîn herze frô bestân,

How shall my heart glad remain,

sol mir der smerze niht zergân

shall to-me the pain not pass-away

unt mir niemer fröude gelân?

and to-me never joy be-left?

sol ich den kumber iemer hân,

(if)-shall I the affliction ever have,

sô lebe ich gar in sorgen schar.

so live I wholly in of-cares the-host.

sol ich verderben von der tât

shall I perish from the deed

daz mich mîn werben niht vervât,

that me my wooing not avails,

gît mir Minne deheinen rât:

gives to-me Love no counsel:

mîn muot dar inne trûric stât

my spirit there in sorrowful stands

und ist mîn leit unmâzen breit.

and is my suffering beyond-measure broad.

Ich bin âne lieben wâne,

I am without dear expectation,

minnen drücke: ein ungelücke dâst an mir.

of-love the-pressing: a misfortune that-is in me.

ich gedinge daz si bringe

I hope that she bring

mir noch wenne trôst, erkenne baz an ir:

to-me still sometime comfort, know better in her:

wie gezæme daz si næme

how it-would-befit that she would-take

mich in hulde, sît ich schulde niene trage;

me into favor, since I guilt not-at-all bear;

unt si spræche waz si ræche

and she would-speak what she would-avenge

diu vil kluoge, daz si fuoge mir versage.

the very clever-one, that she seemliness to-me refuse.

Got wolde, ez solde ir mündel rôt

God would, it should her little-mouth red

erlân mich herzeclîcher nôt.

release me of-heartfelt distress.

Minne in sinne mir gebôt

Love in senses to-me commanded

deich hân den kumber ûf den tôt.

that-I have the affliction unto the death.

Frouwe, swache mir diu leit
Lady, weaken to-me the sufferings

unde mache mir fröude breit.
and make to-me joy broad.

von der sache wird ich gemeit:
by the thing become I glad:

unt wirt mir heil, sô bin ich geil.
and becomes to-me weal, so am I blithe.

Gunne wunne mir dur zuht
Grant of-delight to-me for courtesy

sost von mir elliu ungenuht.
so-is from me all excess.

lâze mâze, reine frucht,
let measure, pure fruit,

mir! zuo dir hât mîn herze fluht.
to-me! to thee has my heart flight.

Trût, du setze mich ûz klage
Darling, thou set me out-of lament

und ergetze mich alle tage
and recompense me all days

unde letzte mir sorgen wage!
and put-an-end to-me of-cares the-scale!

unt kumt ez sô, ich werde frô.
and comes it so, I become glad.

schupfe, gupfe leit hindan!
push, toss suffering hence!

wîse mich lîse ûf Minnen ban,
guide me softly upon of-Love the-path,

sît ich noch fröude nie gewan.
since I still joy never gained.

sô wirt mîn muot unmâzen guot.
so becomes my spirit beyond-measure good.

swinde embinde mir den stric,
quickly unbind to-me the snare,

løese und æse den selben ric,
loose and free the same band,

den mir tuot dîner ougen blic.
which to-me does of-thy eyes the-glance.

dô ich dich sach, dô schrei ich 'ach!'
when I thee saw, then cried I 'oh!'

Liep ân ende, sorge wende
Dear-one without end, care turn-away

mir vil armen: wan erbarmen zimt dir wol.
from-me very poor-one: for to-pity befits thee well.

dâ von leite (niht enbeitel!)
there from lead (not tarry!)

mich von swære! gerne ich wære fröudenvol.
me from grief! gladly I were joy-full.

Swâ quâle nimt twâle, dâ wirt man grâ:
Wherever torment takes delay, there becomes one gray:

Nie pîn mîn sendez herze verlie.
Never pain my yearning heart left.

Tuo sorgen, frouwe, mir noch buoz!
Do of-cares, lady, to-me still remedy!

vil gerne ich schouwe dînen gruoze.
very gladly I behold thy greeting.

unz ûf den fuoz dir nîgen muoz,
down to the foot to-thee bow must,

vil sælic wîp, mîn sender lîp.

very blessed woman, my yearning person.

sît ich dich prîse, frouwe guot,

since I thee praise, lady good,

von leide wîse mir den muot!

from suffering guide to-me the spirit!

vor sorgen fluot bin ich behuot,

from of-cares the-flood am I protected,

unt wirt mir schîn diu helfe dîn.

and becomes to-me visible the help thine.

Gerne ich sunge mê unt brunge

Gladly I would-sing more and would-bring

dien, die singent unde dringent, disen sanc

to-them, who sing and press, this song

durh ir êre für: mîn lêre

for their honor forth: my teaching

werdent hœne, diz gedœne ist in ze lanc.

become scornful, this tune is to-them too long.

ich gedinge, der ich singe,

I hope, to-whom I sing,

daz si lerne doch vil gerne disen tanz.

that she learn yet very gladly this dance.

diu vil guote wolgemuote

the very good-one glad-spirited-one

in ir jugende hât an tugende lobes kranz.

in her youth has in virtue of-praise the-garland.

Wol ûf, ir kint, sint frô! sô muoz buoz sorgen sîn.

Well up, ye children, be glad! so must remedy of-cares be.

trûren, var hin! sin, muot, tuot geil, heil werde schîn!

mourning, go away! sense, spirit, do blithe, weal become visible!

wâ ist nu Uot unt Guot unt tuot uns sorgen bar?

where is now Uot and Guot and makes us of-cares bare?

Jiute unt Hille unt Wille stille koment dar!

Jiute and Hille and Wille quietly come there!

Springent froelich an den tanz! hiur ist der sumer glanz.

Spring joyfully to the dance! this-year is the summer bright.

dâ wirt diu fröude ganz, man siht dô manegen kranz.

there becomes the joy whole, one sees there many-a garland.

Frouwen, nu singent, unt dringent und springent hübsche trite!

Ladies, now sing, and press and spring courtly steps!

rihtent ze minne die sinne dar inne mit guotem site!

direct to love the senses there in with good manner!

Pfaffen, leigen, tretent an, dien got der sælden gan!

Clerics, laymen, tread on, to-whom God of-the blessing grants!

er ist gar ein sælic man der mit den liuten kan.

he is wholly a blessed man who with the people knows-how.

Under dien linden bî hübschen kinden sorge muoz swinden,

Under the lindens among courtly children care must vanish,

lachen machen kunnen, wunnen wol diu kint.

laughter make can, delights well the children.

êrent den meigen, singent den reigen, ir sult iuch zweigen,

honor the May, sing the round-dance, ye shall yourselves pair,

Hetze, Metze, Nêse, Gêse, Götelint!

Hetze, Metze, Nêse, Gêse, Götelint!

Ich wil hoeren, es ist zît: ich hân der liute nît.

I will listen, it is time: I have of-the people enmity.

wan des reigen ist ze vil, des ich erwinden wil.

for of-the round-dance is too much, of-which I cease will.

ir sint müede, dunket mich: ez ist ungementlich.

ye are weary, seems to-me: it is unpleasant.

schrîent alle 'heîâ hei!' nu ist der seite enzwei.

cry all 'beigh hey!' now is the string in-two.

Minne twinget mich mit al ir kraft daz ich

THE FIFTH LEICH: LOVE CONSTRAINS ME

Love constrains the poet with all her strength to sing again of the lady he must love, and he asks Love to turn his sorrow away and to constrain the pure fruit toward him. He says her strength is a host against which he has no defense, that his joy has lain down long, and that he stands joy-bare wherever he is in the lands. He blesses her red mouth and wishes he might kiss it a thousand times over, and closes by asking Love to join him to love or he will stand joyless and cry out, his heart going in two.

5 Minne twinget mich mit al ir kraft daz ich

Love constrains me with all her strength so-that I

aber singe von der frouwen mîn

again sing of the lady mine

die ich minnen muoz. wil sî, sô mac ir gruoze

whom I love must. wills she, so can her greeting

machen ringe mir den pîn.

make light to-me the pain.

Minne, wilt du mir nâch mînes herzen gir

Love, wilt thou to-me after of-my heart the-desire

kumber wenden? ach wan kâme ez sô!

affliction turn-away? oh if-only would-come it so!

der ich dienen sol, diu mac mir harte wol

whom I serve shall, she can to-me very well

helfe senden für die drô.

help send against the threat.

Minne mac dem man, dem sî des vil wol gan,
Love can to-the man, to-whom she of-this very well grants,

trôst erzeigen, dem siz willeclîchen tuot.
comfort shew, to-whom she-it willingly does.

dâ von kaphe ich dar: nu nimet si mîn niht war,
there from gaze I there: now takes she of-me not note,

sî wil neigen mir den muot.
she will incline to-me the spirit.

Minne, tuoz durh zuht und twinc die reinen frucht,
Love, do-it for breeding and constrain the pure fruit,

daz si meine mich ûf herzelieben trôst.
that she cherish me upon heart-dear comfort.

ich bin âne wer, ir kraft ist mir ein her,
I am without defense, her strength is to-me a host,

ob ich seine wurde erlôst.
whether I slowly become released.

Minne ist sô gestalt unt sô manicvalt,
Love is so formed and so manifold,

daz sî mich machet alt: dar zuo bin ich gezalt
that she me makes old: there to am I reckoned

von ir schulden, sî tuot mir sô wê.
by her fault, she does to-me so painfully.

Minne, hilf enzît, sît mir sorge nît
Love, help in-time, since to-me care's enmity

gar âne widerstrît nâhe dem herzen lît:
wholly without resistance near the heart lies:

ich muoz dulden sende klage.
I must suffer yearning lament.

Minne, tuo mir schîn dur die fuoge dîn,
Love, make to-me visible for the seemliness thine,

sul ich dîn eigen sîn, fröude dem herzen mîn
shall I thy property be, joy to-the heart mine

eteswenne, daz mir leit zergê.
sometime, so-that from-me suffering pass-away.

Minne, sît ich dol grôzer sorgen zol,
Love, since I suffer of-great cares the-toll,

mache mich fröuden vol, sît ich sô rehte wol
make me of-joys full, since I so truly well

leit erkenne manege tage.
suffering know many days.

Minne, hilf enzît! mîn fröude nider lît
Love, help in-time! my joy down lies

nu vil lange, sît dîn tröesten ie mich meit.
now very long, since thy comforting ever me avoided.

ich bin unerlôst: ich habe ûf dînen trôst
I am unreleased: I have upon thy comfort

mit gesange herzeleit.
with song heart's-suffering.

Minne, tuo mîn war, od ich stên fröudenbar
Love, take of-me note, or I stand of-joys-bare

iemer mêre, swâ ich in dien landen bin.
ever more, wherever I in the lands am.

nu gedenke an mich und tröeste minneclich
now think on me and comfort lovingly

durh dîn êre mir den sin!
for thy honor to-me the mind!

Ach herzeliebe Minne, nim war wie gar mîne sinne
Oh heart-dear Love, take note how wholly my senses

stellent ûf die gewinne, daz mir fröuden iht zerrinne.
set upon the gain, so-that to-me of-joys nothing run-out.

sold ich die minneclîchen frouwen schouwen tougenlîchen,
should I the lovely lady behold secretly,

sorge mir müeste entwîchen unt fröute mich herzeclîchen.
care from-me would-have-to depart and would-gladden me heartily.

Ich vil tumber kumber muoz lîden:

I very foolish affliction must suffer:

mîden wil mich der fröuden gemüete

avoid will me of-the joys the-spirit

liep, nu scheide Sorge unt leide beide von mir dîn gûete!

dear-one, now part care and suffering both from me thy goodness!

sît ich singe, ringe mir swære! lære fröuden bin ich zaller stunde.

since I sing, lighten to-me grief! empty of-joys am I at-all hours.

dâ von lache, Sorge mir swache, mache fröude mir kunde.

there from laugh, care to-me weaken, make joy to-me known.

Wâ sol ich liebe nu finden, sît mir von dir fröude wil swinden?

Where shall I love now find, since to-me from thee joy will vanish?

liep, dû solt mich enbinden! dar an solt dû niht erwinden!

dear-one, thou shalt me unbind! there on shalt thou not cease!

noch gip mir fröuden lère lieplich, sît ich dur dîn êre

still give to-me of-joys teaching lovingly, since I for thy honor

sanc singe, swar ich kêre; scheide mich von herzesêre!

song sing, wherever I turn; part me from heart's-soreness!

Schœne dœne sing ich dir gerne: lerne, frouwe, den sanc, diech krœne!

Fair tones sing I thee gladly: learn, lady, the song, which-I crown!

swinde enbinde mich an dem herzen! smerzen lîde ich von kinde.

quickly unbind me at the heart! pains suffer I from childhood.

Trût, lâ mich mîn gemüete ougen tougen dîner güete,

Darling, let me my spirit show secretly to-thy goodness,

ê daz ich sender wüete: Minne, mich dâ vor behüete!

before that I yearning rage: Love, me there from protect!

sol mir dîn süeze sûren, mîn muot der tuot niht wan trûren.

shall to-me thy sweetness sour, my spirit it does nothing but mourning.

bi selken nâchgebûren mac ich langer niht getûren.

with such neighbors can I longer not endure.

Dâ von wende, swende mir sorge! borge, frouwe,

There from turn, make-vanish to-me care! spare, lady,

mir lieplich vor swæren

to-me lovingly from grieve

dîne blicke mîdent mich dicke, schricke sint mir gevære.

thy glances avoid me often, frights are to-me dangerous.

ôwê wâfen! strâfen ich dulde. schulde machet mir niht wan diu minne.

alas alarm! rebuke I bear. guilt makes me naught but the love.

frouwe, sweine die nôt al eine, meine noch mîne sinne!

lady, diminish the distress all alone, mean still my senses!

Trût minneclich unt reine unt vil süeze,

Darling lovely and pure and very sweet,

gar sældenrich ob mich dîn güete grüeze:

wholly blessing-rich if me thy goodness greet:

jo bin ich tôt, sol ich lieb niht erwerben,

yes am I dead, shall I love not win,

ez ist ein nôt, sol ich alsus verderben.

it is a distress, shall I thus perish.

Ouge mir, Minne, gewinne! niht sinne mir swache!

Show to-me, Love, gain! not senses to-me weaken!

rôs in dem touwe, nu schouwe mich, frouwe, unt lache!

rose in the dew, now behold me, lady, and laugh!

vor ungemüete behüete dîn güete mir sinne!

from ill-humor protect thy goodness to-me the-senses!

lâ mir gelingen an dingen, diu bringen gewinne!

let me succeed in things, which bring gain!

Sælic sî dîn rôter munt!

Blessed be thy red mouth!

sold ich den küssen tûsentstunt, ah!

should I it kiss a-thousand-times, ah!

sô wær ich von sender nôt.

so would-be I (freed-)from yearning distress.

sus bin ich an fröuden tôt, ôwî!

thus am I in joys dead, alas!

tugenderichiu reiniu fruht,

virtue-rich pure fruit,

ir sunt ougen alle zuht an mir!

ye shall show all breeding on me!

ich wold âne sorge sîn,

I would without care be,

wurde mir genâde schîn von ir.

would-become to-me favor visible from her.

Frouwe, nu tuo mir sô,

Lady, now do to-me so,

daz ich vil sender werde frô!

that I very yearning become glad!

du bist sô tugenderîche:

thou art so virtue-rich:

wilt dû, sô muoz zergân

wilt thou, so must pass-away

mîn leit unt ouch mîn trûric wân

my suffering and also my sorrowful expectation

unt fröu mich herzeclîche.

and gladden me heartily.

Minne, tuo minneclich:

Love, do lovingly:

ze liebe lieplich füege mich,

to love lovingly join me,

ald ich stên fröuden âne

or I stand of-joys without

unt schrîe 'heiâ hei!'

and cry 'heigh hey!'

mîn sendez herze muoz enzwei

my yearning heart must in-two

unt lebe in leidem wâne.

and live in grievous expectation.

ULRICH VON WINTERSTETTEN

Die Lieder

The Songs

Ich wil aber disen sanc singen der Minne

I WILL SING THIS SONG TO LOVE

The poet cannot be silent, and says it is worse with him than before: never was he so constrained in body and senses. He asks whether he must perish if she will not let him win a greeting from her red mouth, and complains that he has gone gray from it. He asks Love to let him succeed and the pure fruit to comfort his mind, since he is bound to her. Each strophe closes on the refrain telling the dear one to look to it, since it is not too early.

Ich wil aber disen sanc singen der Minne.

1

I will again this song sing to-the Love.

ich mac niht gewîgen mê:

I can not be-silent more:

mir ist wirs dann ê.

to-me is worse than before.

nie sô sêre mir betwanc lîp unde sinne

never so sorely me constrained body and senses

diu vil liebe sunder wân.

the very dear-one without doubt.

ach wie solz ergân?

oh how shall-it go?

ach got, sol ich sus verderben?

oh God, shall I thus perish?

lât si mich niht erwerben

lets she me not win

daz mich grüeze ir mündel rôt,

that me greet her little-mouth red,

seht, sô bin ich tât.

see, so am I dead.

liep, sich dar zuo, êst niht ze fruo, alsô tuo!

dear-one, look there to, it-is not too early, thus do!

Ach waz ich der sorgen trage! ôwê, wie kleine

Oh what I of-the cares bear! alas, how little

mich vervâhet, swaz ich kan!

me avails, whatever I can!

ach ich sender man!

oh I yearning man!

ach waz hilfet, swaz ich sage! ôwê, diu reine

oh what helps, whatever I say! alas, the pure-one

tuot mîn herze trâge frô.

makes my heart slowly glad.

ach wie kumt daz sô?

oh how comes that so?

ach, Minne, lâ mir gelingen!

oh, Love, let me succeed!

ich bin grâ von den dingen,

I am gray from the things,

daz diu liebe smâhet mich

that the dear-one scorns me

alsô vesteclich.

so firmly.

liep, sich dar zuo, êst niht ze fruo, alsô tuo!

dear-one, look there to, it-is not too early, thus do!

Mir ist ungemach beschert lange mit leide,

To-me is discomfort allotted long with suffering,

daz ich niht geruowen mac

so-that I not rest can

weder naht noch tac.

neither night nor day.

ich bin fröuden gar behert: Minne, nu scheide

I am of-joys wholly deprived: Love, now part

mich von sender arebeit

me from yearning hardship

die mîn herze treit!

which my heart bears!

ach reine fruht, daz verkêre!

oh pure fruit, that turn-away!

wîplich zuht an mir êre!

womanly breeding in me honor!

sît ich dir gebunden bin,

since I to-thee bound am,

trœste mir den sin!

comfort to-me the mind!

liep, sich dar zuo, êst niht ze fruoz, alsô tuo!

dear-one, look there to, it-is not too early, thus do!

Sumerwunne, sô du dîne liechten tage erglenzen wilt

SUMMER-DELIGHT, WHEN THOU SHINEST

When summer makes its bright days shine and the sun presses May through the green shield of leaves, the poet wishes the fair one were beside him. He says thoughts of the dear one raise his mind, that she has the shine of rose and lily on her body, and that no woman was ever reckoned her equal in virtue. He asks her to let him profit by his service and faith, and says only one small thing burdens him: she is too severe toward his prayer. Each strophe closes by wishing God would let it go so this year.

2 Sumerwunne, sô du dîne liechten tage erglenzen wilt

Summer-delight, when thou thy bright days make-shine wilt

(waz kan in der welte danne hûgelîcher sîn?)

(what can in the world then more-cheerful be?)

unt diu sunne dringet liechten meien dur den grünen schilt

and the sun presses bright May through the green shield

der von louben schaten birt dien kleinen vogellîn

whith from foliage shade bears to-the small little-birds

diu dar under singent schœne fröuderîche dœne:

whith there under sing fair joy-rich tones:

sô gedenke ich: heiâ hei! wær hie bî mir diu schœne

so think I: heigh hey! were here by me the fair-one

der ich vil gedienet hân bî mîner zît, sô wurde ich frô.

whom I much served have in my time, so would-become I glad.

jâ rîcher got von himele, wan gienge ez hiure alsô!

yes mighty God of heaven, if-only would-go it this-year so!

Die gedanke nâch der lieben hœhent dicke mir den muot

The thoughts after the dear-one raise often to-me the spirit

(tôren reht ist vil gewûnschen, des er niht enhât):

(of-a-fool right is much to-wish, of-what he not has):

daz sint kranke, fröudebar unt sint doch underwîlent guot.
they are weak, joy-bare and are yet at-times good.

manic man gedenket dicke dar sîn herze stât.
many-a man thinks often there his heart stands.

ich gedenke dicke dar unt wünsche daz diu süeze
I think often there and wish that the sweet-one

mînen senden kumber, den ich dur si lîde, bûeze:
my yearning affliction, which I for her suffer, assuage:

der ich vil gedienet hân bî mîner zît, sô wurde ich frô.
whom I much served have in my time, so would-become I glad.

jâ rîcher got von himele, wan gienge ez hiure alsô!
yes mighty God of heaven, if-only would-go it this-year so!

Touwic rôse gegen der sunnen, diu sich ûz ir belgelîn
Dewy rose toward the sun, which herself out-of her little-busk

hât zerspreitet, stânt die wîzen liljen nâhe bî:
has spread, stand the white lilies near by:

diu vil lôse hât mit güete dirre zweier bluomen schîn
the very merry-one has with goodness of-these two flowers the-shine

an ir lîbe unt ist aller missewende frî.
on her body and is of-all fault free.

wan mac sî wol nennen zuo dem wunsche gegen dem Grâle.
one can her well name to the perfection beside the Grail.

sô gedenke ich alles lieb: wâr hie diu liehtgemâle
so think I always dear-one: were here the bright-colored-one

der ich vil gedienet hân bî mîner zît, sô wurde ich frô.
whom I much served have in my time, so would-become I glad.

jâ rîcher got von himele, wan gienge ez hiure alsô!
yes mighty God of heaven, if-only would-go it this-year so!

Frouwe, ich bin dîn eigen diener iemer sît dâ her gewesen.

Lady, I am thy own servant ever since then hither been.

sît ich die vil minneclîchen sach sô wol gestalt,

since I the very lovely-one saw so well formed,

mîner sin der hât ir lîp vor allen frouwen ûz erlesen.

my mind it has her person before all ladies out chosen.

ez enwart an tugenden nie kein wîp zuo zir gezalt.

it became in virtues never any woman to her reckoned.

lieze sî mich dienstes unde triuwen noch geniezen

should-let she me of-service and faith still enjoy

(der mich beider gegen der lieben niemer wil verdriezen)

(of-which me both toward the dear-one never will weary)

der ich vil gedienet hân bî mîner zît, sô wurde ich frô

whom I much served have in my time, so would-become I glad

jâ rîcher got von himele, wan gienge ez hiure alsô.

yes mighty God of heaven, if-only would-go it this-year so.

Diu vil reine sældebære, der ich eigen diener bin,

The very pure blessing-bearer, to-whom I own servant am,

diu ist gar ân allen wandel ganzer tugende vol.

she is wholly without all blemish of-whole virtue full.

wan ein kleine daz beswæret leider dicke mir den sin:

except a little that burdens sadly often to-me the mind:

sist gên mîner bete ze strenge, daz bevinde ich wol.

she-is toward my prayer too severe, that find I well.

nu beginnet maneger sprechen 'daz tuot sî mit êren';

now begins many-a-one to-say 'that does she with honor';

daz sint schalke, dar an sol diu liebe sich niht kêren,

they are knaves, there on shall the dear-one herself not turn,

der ich vil gedienet hân bî mîner zît, sô wurde ich frô.

whom I much served have in my time, so would-become I glad.

jâ rîcher got von himele, wan gienge ez hiure alsô!

yes mighty God of heaven, if-only would-go it this-year so!

Nust diu liehte heide val

NOW THE BRIGHT HEATH IS PALE

The heath is pale and frost will constrain it; winter drives out the nightingale's sweet song and comes on with a strong host, the knife by the haft. The poet asks why he laments the birds and the heath when his own grief has become lamentable, and asks the lady to part him from the long-lasting grief her estranging looks give him. The song breaks off in a lacuna.

Nust diu liehte heide val,

Now-is the bright heath pale,

rîfe wil si twingen.

frost will her constrain.

singen muoz ich aber von des winters krefte.

sing must I again of the winter's strength.

süezen sanc der nahtegal

sweet song of-the nightingale

wil er gar verdringen.

will he wholly drive-out.

bringen kan er leit mit sîner meisterschefte.

bring can he suffering with his mastery.

nement war wie winter gegen uns ziehe!

take note how winter against us draws!

leider kreftic ist sîn schar:

sadly strong is his host:

sost der sumer schiehe.

so-is the summer timid.

fliehe! winter hât daz mezzet bî dem hefte.

flee! winter has the knife by the haft.

3

Waz klag ich der vogele sanc

What lament I the birds' song

und die liechten heide

and the bright heath

beide, sît mîn leit ist worden klagebære?

both, since my suffering is become lamentable?

nâch der ie mîn herze ranc,

after whom ever my heart strove,

diu tuot mir sô leide.

she does to-me so grievously.

scheide, frouwe, mîne lange wernden swære!

part, lady, my long lasting grief!

swanne ih sihe ir liechten ougen blicke

whenever I see her bright eyes' glances

von mir swenken, ich vergihe

from me swing, I confess

daz ich danne erschricke.

that I then take-fright.

dicke tuot ir fremden grôz mich fröuden lære.

often does her estranging great me of-joys empty.

...

(lacuna)

‘Ist iht mêre schœnes’, sprach ein altez wîp
IS THERE ANYTHING FAIRER, SAID AN OLD WOMAN

An old woman rails at the Schenk, whose songs are bawled day and night in her street, and her daughter asks why, since he harms no one. The mother answers that he tried to take the girl from her last year and that she is not the fairest he has ever courted. The daughter sings a courtly song all the same and says she will go to the harvest or elsewhere; between the strophes the poet mocks the old woman as a wagon of old hides.

‘Ist iht mêre schœnes’, sprach ein altez wîp, 4
‘Is (there-)anything more of-fair,’ said an old woman,
‘dann des der Schenke singet? dâst ein wunder grôz.
‘than what the Schenk sings? that-is a wonder great.
wê mir dis gedœnes daz lîp
woe to-me of-this tune which to-me through the body
unt dur diu ôren dringet, des mich ie verdrôz.
and through the ears presses, of-which me ever it-wearied.
wan si gelfent sînen sanc tac unde naht in dirre gazzen,
for they bawl his song day and night in this street,
und ist er doch hübschem sange niht geslaht: man sol in hazzen.’
and is he yet to-courtly song not akin: one shall him hate.’
daz erhôrte ich sâ:
that heard I straightway:
‘alter hiute wagen, des bistû sô grâ!’
‘of-old hides a-wagon, therefore art-thou so gray!’

‘Hœrâ’, sprach diu junge, ‘wes bist im gehaz?’
‘Hear-now’, said the young-one, ‘why art to-him hostile?’
dur got mich des bescheide, liebez müeterlîn.
for God me of-this inform, dear little-mother.

ober iht guotes sunge, wen beswæret daz?

if-be anything good should-sing, whom burdens that?

jâ tuot er nieman leide. er muoz frœlich sîn!

yes does he to-no-one grievously, he must glad be!

‘dâ wolt er dich vernent mir genomen hân an mînem bette.

‘there wanted he thee last-year from-me taken have in my bed.

kumt der übele tiuvel her, ich wil dich lân, ê deich dich rette.’

(if-)comes the evil devil here, I will thee leave, before that-I thee rescue.’

daz erhôrte ich sâ:

that heard I straightway:

‘alter hiute wagen, des bistû sô grâ!’

‘of-old hides a-wagon, therefore art-thou so gray!’

‘Liebiu muoter schoene’, sprach daz megetîn,

‘Dear mother fair’, said the little-maiden,

‘du solt dich baz bedenken: erst unschuldic dran.

‘thou shalt thee better bethink: he-is innocent of-it.

niht sô rehte hœne! liebe, lâz ez sîn!

not so truly scornful! dear-one, let it be!

du zürnest sant dem Schenken der dâ singen kan.

thou art-angry with the Schenk who there sing can.

ûf mîn triuwe, ez was im ûz der mâze leit, ez tet sîn bruoder.’

upon my faith, it was to-him beyond the measure grievous, it did his brother.’

d’alte sprach ‘ir keiner hât bescheidenheit, unt wære ein fuoder.’

the-old-one said ‘of-them none has discretion, and were-it a cartload.’

daz erhôrte ich sâ:

that heard I straightway:

‘alter hiute wagen, des bistû sô grâ!’

‘of-old hides a-wagon, therefore art-thou so gray!’

‘Du gestant dien liuten umbe ir tôrheit bî,’

‘Thou standest to-the people about their folly by,’

sô sprach der megde muoter, ‘du bist missevarn.

so said of-the maiden the-mother, ‘thou art gone-astray.

waz sol ez betiuten? du bist alze frî.

what shall it mean? thou art all-too free.

du minnest niemen guoter, vil unsælic barn.

thou lovest none of-the-good, very unblest child.

wænest dir der Schenke gebe sînen sanc den er dâ singet?

thinkest to-thee the Schenk give his song which he there sings?

du bist niht diu schœnste diu in ie betwanc ald noch betwinget.’

thou art not the fairest who him ever constrained or still constrains.’

daz erhôrte ich sâ:

that heard I straightway:

‘alter hiute wagen, des bistû sô grâ!’

‘of-old hides a-wagon, therefore art-thou so gray!’

Si begunde singen hovelich ein liet

She began to-sing courtly a song

ûz rôserôtem munde, diu vil stolze maget.

out-of rose-red mouth, the very proud maiden.

sî lie suoze erklingen, daz von sorgen schiet

she let sweetly ring-out, which from cares parted

ein liet daz sî wol kunde. sî was unverzaget.

a song which she well knew. she was undismayed.

‘ôwê’, sprach diu muoter, ‘wes hâstû gedâht? du wilt von hinnen.

‘alas,’ said the mother, ‘what hast-thou thought? thou wilt from hence.

Schenken lieder hânt dich ûz dien sinnen brâht: du wilt endrinnen.’

of-the-Schenk songs have thee out-of the senses brought: thou wilt escape.’

sî sprach: ‘muoter, jâ!

she said: ‘mother, yes!

ich wil in die erne oder anderswâ.’

I will into the harvest or elsewhere.’

Der sumer mit gewalde hât

SUMMER HAS CLOTHED WOOD AND MEADOW

Summer has clothed wood and water-meadow, and the meadow stands flowered in May-dew. The poet's ill humor is too great: he stands bare of his lady's help, left long in yearning griefs like a wild heathen. He praises her modesty, beauty, and bearing, says he never saw a lovelier woman, and tells how her bright glance bound him in love's snare so that he cannot untwist himself. Each strophe closes by saying his lady is good, however she makes him ill-humored.

5 Der sumer mit gewalde hât

The summer with power has

bekleidet walt und ouwe.

clothed wood and water-meadow.

der anger wol geblüemet stât

the meadow well flowered stands

in süezem meientouwe.

in sweet May-dew.

diu heide breit hât grüne kleit

the heath broad has green dress

an sich geleit (ist mir geseit)

on itself laid (is to-me told)

in wunneclîcher schouwe.

in delightful showing.

mîn frouwe ist guot, swie sî doch tuot mich ungemuot.

my lady is good, however she yet makes me ill-humored.

Mîn ungemüete ist gar ze grôz,

My ill-humor is wholly too great,

als ich iuch wil bescheiden.

as I you will inform.

ich stên ir helfe leider blôz,

I stand of-her help sadly bare,

diu mich in senden leiden

who me in yearning sufferings

mit fremder tât ân allen rât,

with estranging deed without all counsel,

swiez mir ergât, nu lange lâ

however-it to-me goes, now long leaves

als einen wilden heiden.

as a wild beathen.

mîn frouwe ist guot, swie sî doch tuot mich ungemuot.

my lady is good, however she yet makes me ill-humored.

Ich lobe ir kiusche und ouch ir lîp,

I praise her modesty and also her body,

ir schœne und ir gebâren,

her beauty and her bearing,

ichn sach nie minneclîcher wîp

I saw never lovelier woman

bî allen mînen jâren.

in all my years.

swie daz mich nie ir lop vervie,

though that me never her praise availed,

doch sanc ich ie dort unde hie,

yet sang I ever there and here,

swâ ie die besten wâren.

wherever ever the best-ones were.

mîn frouwe ist guot, swie sî doch tuot mich ungemuot.

my lady is good, however she yet makes me ill-humored.

Sol ich niht herzeliep bejagen

Shall I not heart's-love gain

noch hôhe fröude erwerben,

nor high joy win,

sô mac ich doch von schulden klagen

so can I yet with reason lament

unt muoz von leide ersterben.

and must from suffering die.

kumt ir gerich sô grimmedlich

(if-)comes her vengeance so grimly

als über mich, sô scham si sich,

as over me, so may-be-ashamed she herself,

sol ich alsus verderben.

shall I thus perish.

mîn frouwe ist guot, swie sî doch tuot mich ungemuot.

my lady is good, however she yet makes me ill-humored.

Mich bant ir liechter ougen blic

Me bound her bright eyes' glance

unt wil mich niht enbinden.

and will me not unbind.

ich want mich in ir minne stric

I wound myself into her love's snare

und kan mich niht entwinden.

and can myself not untwist.

sus wart ich wunt zer selben stunt.

thus became I wounded at-the same hour.

hei rôter munt, nu tuo mir kunt,

bey red mouth, now make to-me known,

sül ich genâde finden?

shall I favor find?

mîn frouwe ist guot, swie sî doch tuot mich ungemuot.

my lady is good, however she yet makes me ill-humored.

Komen ist der winter kalt

THE COLD WINTER IS COME

Winter has come, and where the green wood stood there is now dry brushwood; the heath and meadow are bare. The poet asks why he laments May's bloom rather than the mind a woman has hewn down in him, and says he bears heart's love and heart's grief in an unequal balance: she counterweighs his love slowly and weighs his grief fully. Her lovely bearing weakens his high spirits, and he asks her to give him her greeting laughingly; each strophe closes on the sorrow he must bear and lament.

Komen ist der winter kalt

6

Come is the winter cold

der vil manic herze hât erschrecket.

which very many-a heart has frightened.

dâ ê stuont der grüne walt,

where before stood the green wood,

daz ist nu mit dürrem rîse besteecket.

that is now with dry brushwood covered.

diu heide stât ir varwe bar,

the heath stands of-its color bare,

der anger al der bluomen schar,

the meadow of-all the flowers' host,

die rîfen sint gevallen dar:

the frosts are fallen there:

des hât sich des meien zît enblecket.

of-that has itself the May's season stripped.

sol ich tumber disen kumber

shall I foolish this affliction

iemer tragen, daz muoz ich klagen.

ever bear, that must I lament.

Waz klag ich des meien bluot,

Why lament I the May's bloom,

die rifiere, die vil liechten ouwen?

the streams, the very bright water-meadows?

wan klag ich niht mînen muot

why lament I not my spirit

den mir mit gebærden hât verhouwen

which to-me with gestures has bewn-down

ein wîp diu vil genâden hât,

a woman who much of-favors has,

swie sî mich doch der âne lâ?

though she me yet of-it without leaves?

wie zimt ir selhiu missetât,

how befits to-her such a-misdeed,

sol man mich in leide langer schouwen?

shall one me in suffering longer behold?

sol ich tumber disen kumber

shall I foolish this affliction

iemer tragen, daz muoz ich klagen.

ever bear, that must I lament.

Herzeliep und herzeleit

Heart's-love and heart's-suffering

trage ich, doch mit ungelîcher wâge:

bear I, yet with unequal balance:

swaz mîn herze liebe treit,

whatever my heart of-love bears,

seht, daz widerwîget mîn frouwe trâge;

see, that counterweighs my lady slowly;

swaz aber ich leides hân von ir,

whatever but I of-suffering have from her,

daz wîget si vollecliche mir.

that weighs she fully to-me.

mîn leit daz ist ir herzen gir,
my suffering that is her heart's desire,
 swie ich doch mit dienste ir hulden lâge.
though I yet with service her favors sought.
 sol ich tumber disen kumber
shall I foolish this affliction
 iemer tragen, daz muoz ich klagen.
ever bear, that must I lament.

Ir gebâren minneclich
Her bearing lovely
 kan mîn hôchgemüete wol geswachen
can my high-spirit well weaken
 und ir lachen inneclich
and her laughing inward
 daz kan sî sô rehte sûeze machen.
that can she so truly sweetly make.
 ir spiegellichten ougen klâr,
her mirror-bright eyes clear,
 ir rôter munt mich sunderbâr
her red mouth me especially
 verderben wil, dâst leider wâr.
destroy will, that-is sadly true.
 wenne wil mir der ze fröuden lachen?
when will to-me it to joys laugh?
 sol ich tumber disen kumber
shall I foolish this affliction
 iemer tragen, daz muoz ich klagen.
ever bear, that must I lament.

Mir tuot inneclîchen wê,

To-me does inwardly woe,

muoz ich ir daz künden mit gesange:

must I to-her that make-known with song:

wil si daz ich singe mê,

wills she that I sing more,

der ich hân gesungen her vil lange,

to-whom I have sung hitherto very long,

si gebe mir lachelîche ir gruoze.

she may-give to-me laughingly her greeting.

zehant sô wirt mir sorge buoz

at-once so becomes to-me of-care remedy

unt nîge ir nider unz ûf den fuoz.

and bow to-her down as-far-as upon the foot.

frouwe, füege daz mîn leit zergange!

lady, cause that my suffering pass-away!

sol ich tumber disen kumber

shall I foolish this affliction

iemer tragen, daz muoz ich klagen.

ever bear, that must I lament.

‘Swer nu verholner minne phliget

WHOEVER PRACTICES HIDDEN LOVE

A watchman on the battlement sings a warning to whoever practices hidden love: it is time to part, and let a lover give a dear kiss and go. The woman cries out at the waking, embraces her friend, and asks whether she will ever hold him again. In the third strophe her eyes redden and she bedews his breast with tears, and he presses her cheek to his, calls her a sweet comfortress, swears his faith is steadfast, kisses her, and departs.

‘Swer nu verholner minne phliget,

‘Whoever now of-hidden love practices,

7

den wil ich warnen: es ist zît

him will I warn: it is time

daz er von liebe scheide.

that he from love part.

ob er den lîp niht ringe wiget,

if he the life not lightly weighs,

sô hüete er sich, swer tougen lît:

so may-guard he himself, whoever secretly lies:

alsus warn ich si beide.’

thus warn I them both.’

sô sanc ein wahter an der zinne wol.

so sang a watchman on the battlement well.

‘sît ich geliebe warnen sol,

‘since I lovers warn shall,

sô gebe ein liep vil lieben kus

so may-give a dear-one very dear kiss

mit nâhem unbevange

with near embracing

unt scheide sich von liebe alsus.’

and part itself from love thus.’

'Sô wê mir!' sprach daz reine wîp,
'So woe to-me!' said the pure woman,

'diz wecken tuot mir alsô wê,
'this waking does to-me so woe,

wie wil der tac sô gâhen!
how will the day so hasten!

sî umbevienc ir friundes lîp,
she embraced her friend's body,

si sprach: 'sol ich dich iemer mê
she said: 'shall I thee ever more

mit armen umbevâhen?'
with arms embrace?'

vil minneclîchen er si umbevienc,
very lovingly he her embraced,

manc kus dâ herzeclîch ergienc.
many-a kiss there heartily happened.

si lâgen beide dem gelich,
they lay both to-that like,

wie sî die naht mit liebe
how they the night with love

der minne phlægen fröuden rich.
of-the love practiced of-joys rich.

Der frouwen ougen wurden rôet,
The lady's eyes became red,

daz si ir lieben friundes brust
so-that she her dear friend's breast

mit trehen gar berêrte.
with tears wholly bedewed.

des heldes triuwe im daz gebôt
the hero's faith to-him that commanded

daz si vil dicke wart gekust,
that she very often was kissed,

als in diu Minne lêrte.

as them the Love taught.

er druhte ir liehtez wengel an daz sîn,

he pressed her bright little-cheek against that his,

er sprach: 'vil süeze trœstærîn,

he said: 'very sweet comfortress,

mîn herze an dir niht wenken kan,

my heart toward thee not waver can,

mîn triuwe ist gegen dir stæte.'

my faith is toward thee steadfast.'

er kuste si und schiet von dan.

he kissed her and parted from thence.

Minne füeget dicke leit

LOVE OFTEN CAUSES GRIEF

Love causes grief with yearning hardship and has the power to make the poet bold in joys or write him off. He tells how a red mouth greeted him lovingly at one hour and how Love's arrow struck him grimly through the heart. He praises the lady as high-spirited, protected from misdeed, and full of all virtue, and says whoever spends time with the dear one must always speak well of women. Each strophe closes by declaring himself Love's and asking her favor.

8 Minne füeget dicke leit

Love causes often suffering

mit vil sender arebeit

with very yearning hardship

der mîn herze ein wunder treit.

of-which my heart a wonder bears.

Minne diu hât den gewalt:

Love she has the power:

wil se, ich werde an fröuden balt,

wills she, I become in joys bold,

anders ich bin abe gezalt.

otherwise I am off reckoned.

Minne, swer dich minnet und dich mîden muoz,

Love, whoever thee loves and thee avoid must,

der ist unversinnet, wirt im kumbers buoz,

he is out-of-his-senses, becomes to-him of-affliction remedy,

er vermîdet dînen gruoze.

he avoids thy greeting.

ich bin dîn, Minne, habe genâde mîn!

I am thine, Love, have mercy of-me!

Mich gruozt ein vil rôter munt

Me greeted a very red mouth

minneclîche zeiner stunt:

lovingly at-one hour:

sît was ie mîn herze wunt.

since was ever my heart wounded.

alsô traf diu Minne mich

so struck the Love me

mit ir strâle grimmedich

with her arrow grimly

in mîn herze tougenlich.

into my heart secretly.

von der Minne gruoze mir diu nôt geschach,

from the Love's greeting to-me the distress happened,

diu mir dâ sô suoze dur mîn herze brach.

which to-me there so sweetly through my heart broke.

ôwê daz ichs ie gesach!

alas that I-her ever saw!

ich bin dîn, Minne, habe genâde mîn!

I am thine, Love, have mercy of-me!

Ir zimt wol swaz sî getuot,

To-her befits well whatever she does,

sist mit zühten hôchgemuot,

she-is with breeding high-spirited,

vor untæte wol behuot.

from misdeed well protected.

Minne hât gehûset dar:

Love has lodged there:

sist nâch schœne lichtgevar,

she-is according-to beauty bright-colored,

an ir ist der wunsch vil gar.

in her is the perfection very wholly.

swer die zît vertriben bî der lieben sol,

whoever the time to-pass with the dear-one shall,

der muoz allen wîben iemer sprechen wol,

he must to-all women ever speak well,

wan sist aller tugende vol.

for she-is of-all virtues full.

ich bin dîn, Minne, habe genâde mîn!

I am thine, Love, have mercy of-me!

Sumer wil uns aber bringen

SUMMER WILL BRING US AGAIN

Summer brings green wood and birdsong, and mountain and valley are loosed from winter's bonds; all the world rejoices but the poet alone. He says he will tell everyone that his lady lives in great sins toward him, that no loving greeting ever came to him, and that he will take his leave of her and turn his singing to another woman. He then rebukes Love as fallen asleep toward him, and asks her to heal the wound her arrow gave. Four strophes close on the saying that whoever serves long without reward loses many a tune; the last reverses it, promising reward from a lady of true virtue.

Sumer wil uns aber bringen

9

Summer will to-us again bring

grüenen walt unt vogle singen,

green wood and birds' singing,

anger hât an bluomen kleit,

meadow has on flowers' dress,

berc unt tal in allen landen

mountain and valley in all lands

sint erlöst ûz winters banden,

are released out-of winter's bonds,

heide rôte rôsen treit.

heath red roses bears.

sich fröut al diu welt gemeine

itself rejoices all the world in-common

nieman trûret wan ich eine,

no-one mournings except I alone,

sît mir diu vil süeze reine

since to-me the very sweet pure-one

frumt sô manic herzeleit.

causes so many-a heart's-suffering.

swer vil dienet âne lôn
whoever much serves without reward

mit gesange, tuot erz lange,
with song, does he-it long,

der verliuset manegen dôn.
he loses many-a tune.

Ich wil al den liuten künden
I will to-all the people make-known

daz si lebt mit grôzen sünden,
that she lives with great sins,

der ich ie was undertân,
to-whom I ever was subject,

die sî hât an mir verschuldet
which she has toward me incurred

sît mîn herze kumber duldet.
since my heart affliction suffers.

des wil sî sich niht enstân.
of-that will she herself not acknowledge.

wie mac sî die sünde büezen?
how can she the sin atone?

wir wart nie ein lieplich grüezen.
to-us became never a loving greeting.

dâ von wir uns scheiden müezen,
there from we us part must,

ich wil urloup von ir hân.
I will leave from her have.

swer vil dienet âne lôn
whoever much serves without reward

mit gesange, tuot erz lange,
with song, does he-it long,

der verliuset manegen dôn.
he loses many-a tune.

Frouwe, diu mir vor in allen

Lady, who to-me before them all

wîlent muoste wol gevallen,

formerly had-to well please,

noch vernemt ein liedelîn!

still hear a little-song!

ir sint âne loughen schœne,

ye are without denial fair,

doch ist schœne dicke hœne:

yet is beauty often scornful:

daz ist leider an iu schîn.

that is sadly in you plain.

nu wil ich mîn singen kêren

now will I my singing turn

an ein wîp diu tugende lêren

to a woman who virtues teach

kan und alle fröude mêren:

can and all joy increase:

seht, der diener wil ich sîn.

see, her servant will I be.

swer vil dienet âne lôn

whoever much serves without reward

mit gesange, tuot erz lange,

with song, does he-it long,

der verliuset manegen dôn.

he loses many-a tune.

Werdü Minne, ich wil dich strâfen:

Worthy Love, I will thee rebuke:

du bist gegen mir harte entslâfen.

thou art toward me quite fallen-asleep.

sît ich strûhte in dîniu bant,

since I stumbled into thy bonds,

ich bin dîner wîse ein tôre;

I am of-thy manner a fool;

mîn sanc gât dir für dîn ôre,

my song goes to-thee past thy ear,

dîner helfe ich nie bevant.

of-thy help I never found.

hilf, ich bin mit spilnden ougen

help, I am with playing eyes

wunt inz herze sunder lougen.

wounded into-the heart without denial.

daz tet mir ein wîp sô tougen,

that did to-me a woman so secretly,

an der ist wol dienst bewant.

on whom is well service bestowed.

swer vil dienet âne lôn

whoever much serves without reward

mit gesange, tuot erz lange,

with song, does he-it long,

der verliuset manegen dôn.

he loses many-a tune.

Minne, heile mîne wunden

Love, heal my wounds

diu mir in vil kurzen stunden

which to-me in very short hours

von der strâle dîn geschach!

from the arrow thine happened!

mich hât ob zwein liechten wangen

me has above two bright cheeks

sêre ir ougen blic gevangen.

sorely her eyes' glance caught.

ach waz ich dar under sach

oh what I there under saw

einen munt von rœte brinnen!

a mouth from redness burn!

daz betwanc mich in dien sinnen,

that constrained me in the senses,

daz ich sî muoz iemer minnen.

so-that I her must ever love.

ir blic dur mîn herze brach.

her glance through my heart broke.

swer vil dienet lange zît,

whoever much serves long time,

ist sîn frouwe in tugenden schouwe,

is his lady in virtues' showing,

wizzent, daz si lôn im gât!

know, that she reward to-him gives!

Ich solde den liechten sumer loben

I SHOULD PRAISE THE BRIGHT SUMMER

The poet should praise the summer, which has flowered the land and brought peace and wisdom, and he calls on the Swabians to take up the old breeding again. His lament is that her eyes, her bright color, and her red mouth wounded him, and that she has never spoken a word to him. He complains that his lament goes unjudged for all the king's good justice: a case the judge does not know goes straightway unjudged, and he will not name her. Each strophe closes by saying that to whomever he sings and however it rings, he bears a lament.

- 10 Ich solde den liechten sumer loben,
I should the bright summer praise,
des hân ich mich versûmet her.
of-that have I myself neglected hitherto.
daz lant ist niden und dâ bi oben
the land is below and there by above
geblüemet nâch mîs herzen ger.
flowered after of-my heart (the-)desire.
diu zît uns bringet niuwe frucht.
the season to-us brings new fruit.
frid unde fruot ist uns bereit.
peace and wisdom is to-us ready.
ir Swâben, nemt die alten zuht
ye Swabians, take the old breeding
her für, sô tragent ir êren kleit!
here forth, so wear ye honor's dress!
mit zühten sult ir sîn gemeit.
with breeding shall ye be glad.

swem ich singe, swiez erklinge,
to-whomever I sing, however-it ring-out,
 swaz ich sage, doch trage ich klage.
whatever I say, yet bear I lament.

Mîn klage ist daz mich hât verwunt
My lament is that me has wounded
 ir minneclîcher ougen schîn,
her lovely eyes' shine,
 ir liehtiu varwe, ir rôter munt
her bright color, her red mouth
 enmitten in daz herze mîn.
right-in into the heart mine.
 an schœne, an kiusche und ouch an zuht
in beauty, in modesty and also in breeding
 ist si für elliu wîp gelobet.
is she above all women praised.
 ir wunnebernden reinen fruht
her delight-bearing pure fruit
 an tugenden nieman überobet,
in virtues no-one surpasses,
 wan daz si an mir senden tobet.
except that she in me yearning rages.
 swem ich singe, swiez erklinge,
to-whomever I sing, however-it ring-out,
 swaz ich sage, doch trage ich klage.
whatever I say, yet bear I lament.

Mîn klage ist daz ich sende nôt
My lament is that I yearning distress
 von der vil herzelieben hân,
from the very heart-dear-one have,

unt si mir daz noch nie enbôt,
and she to-me that still never bade,

ich solde in ir genâden stân.
I should in her favors stand.

ir rede ist gegen mir gar verswigen:
her speech is toward me wholly silent:

daz sî nie wort ze mir gesprach,
that she never (a-)word to me spoke,

sus hât diu liebe mir verzigen.
thus has the dear-one to-me refused.

daz ist mîn klagendez ungemach.
that is my lamenting discomfort.

ôwê daz ichs ie gesach!
alas that I-her ever saw!

swem ich singe, swiez erklinge,
to-whomever I sing, however-it ring-out,

swaz ich sage, doch trage ich klage.
whatever I say, yet bear I lament.

Mîn klage ist ungerihtet mir,
My lament is unjudged for-me,

swie guot gerihte der künic hât.
however good justice the king has.

ob ich nu klagte daz von ir
if I now complained that of her

daz sî mich in den sorgen lâet,
that she me in the cares leaves,

wer æhtet sî dann ûffen reht?
who outlaws her then upon-the law?

wan sî wirt von mir niht genant.
for she is by me not named.

nu lânt gerihte wesen sleht,
now let justice be plain,

ezn sî dem rihter wol erkant,
unless-it be to-the judge well known,
 sost ungerihtet sâ zehant.
so-is unjudged straightway at-once.
 swem ich singe, swiez erklinge,
to-whomever I sing, however-it ring-out,
 swaz ich sage, doch trage ich klage.
whatever I say, yet bear I lament.

Mîn klage diu mac wol enden sich,
My lament it can well end itself,
 ob diu vil herzeliebe wil.
if the very heart-dear-one will.
 si tuot gên mir unminneclich,
she does toward me unlovingly,
 daz ist ân ende und âne zil.
that is without end and without goal.
 ach got, wie lange sol daz wern
oh God, how long shall that last
 daz sî tuot ungenâde an mir?
that she does disfavor to me?
 in mac ir hulde niht embern
I can her favor not lack
 unt hân doch kleinen trôst von ir.
and have yet little comfort from her.
 sus hindert sich mîns herzen gir.
thus hinders itself of-my heart (the-)desire.
 swem ich singe, swiez erklinge,
to-whomever I sing, however-it ring-out,
 swaz ich sage, doch trage ich klage.
whatever I say, yet bear I lament.

Es ist niht lanc daz ich mit einer minneclîchen frouwen

IT IS NOT LONG SINCE I SPOKE WITH A LADY

The poet tells how he lately fell into courtly talk with a lady he loves, putting his words and works in her power and calling her his gold and jewel. She answers that he has said as much to a thousand ladies, that she knows the woman he sings to, and that his love is common everywhere. He swears many oaths that she is the one; she replies that he should praise ladies where he is better believed, and that the woman he truly serves calls him unsteadfast. He asks her to comfort his senses; she tells him to go, calls his protest an outright lie, and parts from him.

11 Es ist niht lanc daz ich mit einer minneclîchen frouwen

It is not long that I with a lovely lady

begunde hübscher klaffe vil, die ich von Herzen minne.

began of-courtly talk much, whom I from heart love.

ich sprach: 'lânt iuwer tugende an mir und iuwer güete schouwen!

I said: 'let your virtues on me and your goodness be-seen!

ich binz der iu dâ dienen wil in muote und in dem sinne.

I am-it who to-you there serve will in spirit and in the sense.

an worten und an werken hânt ir mîn gewalt.

in words and in works have ye of-me power.

iuwer tugent manicvalt

your virtue manifold

sol mich des geniezen lân,

shall me of-this enjoy let,

daz ich iuch vor allen frouwen in dem Herzen hân.

that I you before all ladies in the heart have.

ich bin iu holt, ir sint mîn golt,

I am to-you favorable, ye are my gold,

mîn hort, mîn edel gesteine.

my treasure, my noble jewel.

ûffen sêle und ûffen lîp

upon-the soul and upon-the body

unt dar zuo ûf elliu wîp

and there to upon all women

ahte ich gegen iu sicherlîchen kleine.’

esteem I toward you assuredly little.’

Si sprach: ‘die rede hânt ir wol tûsent frouwen ê gekündet;

She said: ‘this speech have ye well to-a-thousand ladies before made-known;

ir wænet lihte tæren mich, ir sint ein lugenære!

ye think easily to-fool me, ye are a liar!

der ir dâ singent und iu hât daz herze gar enzündet,

she-to-whom ye there sing and to-you has the heart wholly kindled,

diu ist iu lieber vil dann ich. mirst iuwer klaffe unmære.

she is to-you dearer much than I. to-me-is your talk indifferent.

ir wænet daz ich sî der mære ein gœichelîn.

ye think that I be of-the tales a little-fool.

êst ein ander danne mîn.

it-is an other than mine.

ich erkenne sî vil wol,

I know her very well,

diu iu dicke tuot daz herze in leide jâmers vol.

who to-you often makes the heart in suffering of-misery full.

ir gouchgovolt, der sint ir holt,

your fools’-brood, to-them are ye favorable,

und ahtet sî vil kleine

and esteems she very little

ûffen iuvern toerschen lîp:

upon-the your foolish person:

wan sist gar ein biderbe wîp.

for she-is wholly a worthy woman.

iuwer minne ist allenthalp gemeine.’

your love is everywhere common.’

Dô swuor ich manegen eit: si wære diu der ich dâ singe,
Then swore I many-an oath: she were she to-whom I there sing,

unt sprach: 'ir sulnt mich schelten niht, wan ich bin iuwer eigen.
and said: 'ye shall me chide not, for I am your property.

ich bin iu herzeclîchen holt, swie mir dar an gelinge.
I am to-you heartily favorable, however to-me there on succeed.

swaz iemer mir dâ von geschiht, ich wil iu dienst erzeigen:
whatever ever to-me there from happens, I will to-you service show:

wan in gesach ûf erde nie sô reine fruht.
for I saw upon earth never so pure fruit.

schœne unt alle wîplich zuht
beauty and all womanly breeding

hât got selbe an iuch geleit,
has God himself on you laid,

swie daz ir mir nû ein teil der zûhte hânt verseit.
though that ye to-me now a part of-the breeding have refused.

ich bin iu holt, ir sint mîn golt,
I am to-you favorable, ye are my gold,

mîn hort, mîn edel gesteine.
my treasure, my noble jewel.

ûffen sêle und ûffen lîp
upon-the soul and upon-the body

unt dar zuo ûf elliu wîp
and there to upon all women

ahte ich gegen iu sicherlîchen kleine.'
esteem I toward you assuredly little.'

Si sprach: 'ir soltent frouwen loben dâ man iu baz geloubet
She said: 'ye should ladies praise where one you better believes

und iuwern dienst bieten dar dâ man iuch dienstes bæte.
and your service offer there where one you of-service would-beg.

ich weiz wol: wâ sî wont, diu iuch der sinne gar berobet,
I know well: where she dwells, who you of-the senses wholly robs,

dâ nîmt man iuwer kleine war; si giht, ir sint unstæte.
there takes one of-you little note; she says, ye are unsteadfast.

ein biderbe wîp mac an iu werwort finden wol.
a worthy woman can in you contradiction find well.

dâ von man iuch schiuchen sol.
there from one you shun shall.

ir hânt ungetriuwen muot;
ye have unfaithful spirit;

dâ von iu diu minneclîche unminneclîchen tuot.
there from to-you the lovely-one unlovingly does.

ir gouchgovolt, der sint ir holt,
your fools'-brood, to-them are ye favorable,

und ahtet sî vil kleine
and esteems she very little

ûffen iuweren toerschen lîp.
upon-the your foolish person.

wan sist gar ein biderbe wîp.
for she-is wholly a worthy woman.

iuwer minne ist allenthalp gemeine.
your love is everywhere common.'

Ich sprach: 'vil liebiu frouwe mîn, nu trœstet mir die sinne!'
I said: 'very dear lady mine, now comfort to-me the senses!'

si sprach: 'ir sunt von hinnen gân! wie lange went irz trîben?
she said: 'ye shall from hence go! how long will ye-it carry-on?

sold ich für fremden kumber sîn gên iu ein trœstærinne,
should I for another's affliction be toward you a comfortress,

des müeste ich iemer laster hân gên allen guoten wîben.
of-that would-have-to I ever reproach have toward all good women.

jan bin ichz niht dur die ir lîdent selken pîn.'
yes am I-it not for whom ye suffer such pain.'

ich sprach: 'jâ ir, frouwe mîn!'
I said: 'yes ye, lady mine!'

si sprach: 'daz ist rehte erlogen:

she said: 'that is utterly lied:

ir hânt enunther dâ mit vil manic wîp betrogen.

ye have hereabouts there with very many-a woman deceived.

nun saget mir niht, swaz iu geschiht:

now say to-me nothing, whatever to-you happens:

wan ich geloube iu kleine.

for I believe you little.

iuwer trûgehafter lîp,

your deceitful person,

hât betrogen manic wîp.'

has deceived many-a woman.'

alsus schiet von mir diu süeze reine.

thus parted from me the sweet pure-one.

Sumerwunne ist hin gekêret
SUMMER-DELIGHT HAS TURNED AWAY

Summer-delight has turned away, winter will seize the flowers and the clover, and the little birds are wounded by the frost. The poet bears his sigh-bearing care unhidden and does not know what Love is avenging in shattering his joy. He addresses the dear one in his heart, eyes, and senses, saying that he must love her however her favor treats him. He praises her bearing, beauty, and modesty, and complains that the rule that the powerful should be gracious is broken in his case. Each strophe closes by saying that if his heart is to stay glad, Love must let his senses rest.

Sumerwunne ist hin gekêret,

Summer-delight is away turned,

winter wil begrîfen

winter will seize

lichte bluomen unt den klê.

bright flowers and the clover.

kleine vogellîn sint versêret

small little-birds are wounded

von den kalten rîfen.

by the cold frosts.

dâ bî siht man ouch den snê.

there by sees one also the snow.

ôwê wunneclîcher ougenweide

alas of-delightful eye-pasture

die man sach ûf anger und ûf heide!

which one saw on meadow and on heath!

die stânt nû in leide.

they stand now in suffering.

daz tuot mînem herzen wê.

that does to-my heart woe.

12

sol mîn herze frô bestân,
(if)-shall my heart glad remain,
 sô muoz Minne mîne sinne ruowen lân.
so must Love my senses rest let.

Ôwê siuftebærer sorgen
Alas of-sigh-bearing care
 diu mîn herze twinget!
which my heart constrains!
 ach ich fröudelôser man!
oh I joyless man!
 die trag ich vil unverborgen,
it bear I very unbidden,
 sît mîn herze ringet
since my heart strives
 dar nâch des mir Minne erban.
there after which to-me Love begrudges.
 in weiz noch niht waz diu Minne richet,
I know still not what the Love avenges,
 daz si mîne fröude sô zerbrichet,
that she my joy so shatters,
 sît mîn zunge ir sprichet
since my tongue to-her speaks
 niht wanz beste sô ich kan.
nothing but-the best as I can.
 sol mîn herze frô bestân,
(if)-shall my heart glad remain,
 sô muoz Minne mîne sinne ruowen lân.
so must Love my senses rest let.

Liep in herzen, lieb in ougen,

Dear-one in heart, dear-one in eyes,

lieb in mînen sinnen,

dear-one in my senses,

lieb vor valsche wol behuot,

dear-one from falsehood well protected,

lieb in liebe! sunder lougen,

dear-one in love! without denial,

lieb, ich muoz dich minnen,

dear-one, I must thee love,

swie mir dîn genâde tuot,

however to-me thy favor does,

liebez lieb, dû hâst mich mit gewalte

dear dear-one, thou hast me with force

lieplich brâht in sorge manicvalte:

lovingly brought into care manifold:

liebez lieb, nu walte

dear dear-one, now exercise

liebe gegen mir, frouwe guot.

love toward me, lady good.

sol mîn herze frô bestân,

(if)-shall my heart glad remain,

sô muoz Minne mîne sinne ruowen lân.

so must Love my senses rest let.

Guot gebâren, schoene an lîbe

Good bearing, beauty in body

hât diu minneclîche,

has the lovely-one,

kiusche in herzen sunder wân.

modesty in heart without doubt.

wer gesach an keinem wîbe

who saw in any woman

diu sich ir gelîche

who herself to-her resemble

unt die tugende möhte hân,

and the virtues might have,

der si phliget, mîn frouwe unwandelbære?

which she practices, my lady unchangeable?

alle frouwen lâzen âne swære:

all ladies leave without grief:

ez sint wâriu mære,

there are true tales,

der muoz ich ir bî gestân.

of-them must I to-her by stand.

sol mîn herze frô bestân,

(if)-shall my heart glad remain,

sô muoz Minne mîne sinne ruowen lân.

so must Love my senses rest let.

Ez ist dicke daz gesprochen:

It is often that spoken:

swer gewaltic wære,

whoever powerful were,

der solt ouch genædic sîn.

he should also gracious be.

diz reht ist an mir gebrochen:

this right is in me broken:

diu vil sældenbære

the very blessing-bearer

diu ist gar gewaltic mîn,

she is wholly powerful over-me,

unt hân doch genâde dâ niht funden.

and have yet favor there not found.

wan ir trôst ist gegen mir gar verschwunden,

for her comfort is toward me wholly vanished,

diu mir zallen stunden

she to-me at-all hours

tuot ir ungenâde schîn.

makes her disfavor visible.

sol mîn herze frô bestân,

(if)-shall my heart glad remain,

sô muoz Minne mîne sinne ruowen lân.

so must Love my senses rest let.

Tougenlîchen lac verborgen

A KNIGHT LAY HIDDEN

A knight lies bidden with a dear one, and the watchman sings that whoever lies here unguarded should be lovingly waked if he would keep his life. The lady takes fright, saying the bright day will drive from her the man who lies asleep on her arms; she kisses him and says the watchman makes the morning known. In the third strophe the kiss is repaid, she asks him to show his knight's honor upon her, and he answers by leaving her his joy as a pledge.

13 Tougenlîchen lac verborgen

Secretly lay bidden

bî liebe ein ritter wolgemuot.

by a-dear-one a knight glad-spirited.

dâ von phlac der wahter sorgen.

there from had the watchman cares.

er sanc: 'swer hie lît umbehuot,

he sang: 'whoever here lies unguarded,

ob der behalten wil den sînen lîp,

if he keep will the his life,

sô wecke in minneclîchen, reine wîp!

so wake him lovingly, pure woman!

er ist ze lange hie gelegen:

he is too long here lain:

dâ von sô gebe er dir den morgensegen!

there from so give he thee the morning-blessing!

Des erschrac diu minneclîche.

Of-this took-fright the lovely-one.

si dâhte: 'ôwê der leiden zît!

she thought: 'alas for-the hateful time!

erst entslâfen senfteclîche,

he-is fallen-asleep gently,

der hie an mînen armen lît.

who here on my arms lies.

den wil der liehte tac von mir verjagen:

him will the bright day from me drive-away:

dâ von muoz ich an fröuden gar verzagen.'

there from must I in joys wholly despair.'

si kuste in slâfent an den munt

she kissed him sleeping on the mouth

unt sprach: 'der wahter tuot den morgen kunt.

and said: 'the watchman makes the morning known.

Dâ wart ir der kus vergolten,

There was to-her the kiss repaid,

ein widerküssen dâ geschach.

a counter-kissing there happened.

ach si lâgen als si solten!

oh they lay as they should!

diu frouwe ûz rôtem munde sprach:

the lady out-of red mouth said:

'tuo ritters êre an mir vil senden schîn!'

'make knight's honor on me very yearning visible!'

er sprach: 'vil herzeliebe frouwe mîn,

he said: 'very heart-dear lady mine,

ich wil dir mîne fröude lân:

I will to-thee my joy leave:

sich, liep, diu sol dir hie ze phande stân!'

see, dear-one, it shall to-thee here in pledge stand!'

Sumer, dîner lieben künfte

SUMMER, OF THY DEAR COMING

The poet is glad of summer's coming and has grafted May's bloom to praise it in song, though his sorrow lasts too long. Bright flowers and birdsong do not help; he sees dancing and round-dancing but ill humor dwells within him, and Love's arrow has wounded him more than once. He wonders whether the pure one means him in her heart as she does with her eyes, and would be content to win a dear glance and die in her greeting. He says he never saw a fairer woman, and ends by saying her confessors have no right sense, since they repay love with unlove.

14 Sumer, dîner lieben künfte

Summer, of-thy dear coming

bin ich frô, du hâst gewalt.

am I glad, thou hast power.

dîner hôhen sigenünfte

of-thy high victory

frôut sich anger unt der walt:

rejoices itself meadow and the wood:

in dem walde hœrt man singen,

in the wood hears one sing,

kleine vogelîn suoze erklingen,

small little-birds sweetly ring-out,

ûf dem anger schône entspringen

on the meadow fairly spring-forth

siht man bluomen manicvalt.

sees one flowers manifold.

diu zît wart nie sô wol gezieret.

the season was never so well adorned.

ich hân des meien bluot erzwieret:

I have of-the May the-bloom grafted:

die wil ich prîsen mit gesange,

it will I praise with song,

swie doch mîn kumber wert ze lange.

however yet my affliction lasts too long.

ich bin tump daz ich mîn langez leit den liuten singe.

I am foolish that I my long suffering to-the people sing.

manger sprichet: 'seht, dêst wâr, ez wiget in harte ringe.'

many-a-one says: 'see, that-is true, it weighs to-him very lightly.'

ich wær sicherlîchen tô: wan daz mich nert gedinge,

I were assuredly dead: except that me sustains hope,

daz ich noch den kumber mîn ze liebem ende bringe.

that I still the affliction mine to a-dear end bring.

sol ich iemer frô bestân,

(if)-shall I ever glad remain,

sô muoz Minne unt diu vil minneclîche mich von sorgen lân.

so must Love and the very lovely-one me from cares let.

Lichte bluomen, zît des meijen,

Bright flowers, season of-the May,

vogele singen hilfet niht.

birds' singing helps not.

sihe ich tanzen unde reijen,

see I dance and round-dance,

swes diu welt ze fröuden giht,

whatever the world to joys says,

doch sô trûrent mir die sinne:

yet so mourning to-me the senses:

ungemüete wont mir inne,

ill-humor dwells to-me within,

sît mir von der süezen Minne

since to-me from the sweet Love

weder lieb noch trôst geschiht.

neither love nor comfort happens.

mich hât der wessen Minne strâle
me has of-the sharp Love the-arrow

verwundet niht zem êrsten mâle.
wounded not at-the first time.

der alte kumber hât mich sêre
the old affliction has me sorely

verwunt: waz sol diu rede nu mêre?
wounded: what shall the speech now more?

Minne wil ir alten ungenâde an mir nu niuwen,
Love will her old disfavor on me now renew,

ich gelepte nie sô gar in kumberlîchen riuwen,
I lived never so wholly in sorrowful rues,

sî wil mir in sendem herzen grôze sorge briuwen:
she will to-me in yearning heart great care brew:

der ich ie getriuwe was, diu wil mir niht getriuwen.
to-whom I ever faithful was, she will to-me not be-faithful.

sol ich iemer frô bestân,
(if)-shall I ever glad remain,

sô muoz Minne unt diu vil minneclîche mich von sorgen lân.
so must Love and the very lovely-one me from cares let.

Mich nimt wunder, ob diu reine
Me takes wonder, whether the pure-one

habe gesetzet in ir muot
have set in her spirit

daz si mich in herzen meine
that she me in heart cherish

sam si mit den ougen tuot.
as she with the eyes does.

seht, sô muoz ich gar verderben.
see, so must I wholly perish.

möhte ich lieben blic erwerben,
might I a-dear glance win,

dar nâch in ir gruoze sterben,

there after in her greeting die,

sô wær doch daz ende guot.

so were yet the end good.

si smâhet mich mit liechten ougen;

she scorns me with bright eyes;

wær ich ir in ir herzen tougen,

were I to-her in her heart secretly,

sô müesten ougen nâch dem herzen

so would-have-to eyes after the heart

mir büezen kumberlîchen smerzen,

to-me assuage sorrowful pains,

den ich nu vil lange hân von sus getânen sachen:

whích I now very long have from thus done things:

diu vil liebe wolte mir ze fröuden nie gelachen.

the very dear-one would to-me to joys never laugh.

doch muoz ich ir mit gedanke nahtes dicke erwachen,

yet must I of-her with thought at-nights often awake,

daz man möhte hoeren mir daz herze ûz jâmer krachen.

so-that one might hear to-me the heart out-of misery crack.

sol ich iemer frô bestân,

(if)-shall I ever glad remain,

sô muoz Minne unt diu vil minneclîche mich von sorgen lân.

so must Love and the very lovely-one me from cares let.

Swâ man minneclîche lachet,

Wherever one lovingly laughs,

hât dâ Minne niht gewalt,

has there Love not power,

sost ir hôher prîs verswachet,

so-is her high praise weakened,

sol si dâ sîn abe gezalt.

shall she there be off reckoned.

wan mac wol an mîner frouwen

one can well in my lady

minneclîchez lachen schouwen.

lovely laughing behold.

ist diu minne an ir verhouwen,

is the love in her cut-away,

sost si doch dar nâch gestalt.

so-is she yet there after formed.

swer ir vil liechten ougen sæhe,

whoever her very bright eyes saw,

wie der nâch mînem sinne jæhe!

how he after my sense would-speak!

diu schœne hât vil hôchgemüete,

the fair-one has much high-spirit,

kusch unde rehte wîbes güete.

modesty and true woman's goodness.

in gesach nie schœner wîp unt alsô wol gebâren,

I saw never fairer woman and so well bear-herself,

in gesach sô rôten munt bî allen mînen jâren,

I-not saw so red a-mouth in all my years,

in gesach nie wîbes lîp sô reinen unt sô klâren:

I saw never woman's body so pure and so clear:

doch kan sî wol mit gebærden mannes herzen vâren.

yet can she well with bearings man's heart assail.

sol ich iemer frô bestân,

(if)-shall I ever glad remain,

sô muoz Minne unt diu vil minneclîche mich von sorgen lân.

so must Love and the very lovely-one me from cares let.

Ob diu liebe fürhtet sünde,

If the dear-one fears sin,

dem tuot sî doch niht gelich.

to-that does she yet not alike.

hât si guoter liute kûnde,

has she of-good people acquaintance,

die sint mit ir sünden rich,

they are with their sins rich,

daz si ir niht gebent ze buoze,

that they to-her not give as penance,

daz si müeste mir vil suoze

that she must to-me very sweetly

lachen und in liebem gruoze

laugh and in dear greeting

gegen mir nîgen minneclîch.

toward me bow lovingly.

ir bihter hânt niht rehter sinne:

her confessors have not right senses:

si geltent minne mit unminne;

they repay love with unlove;

sô wirt der sünde deste mêre.

so becomes of-the sin the more.

si solten wîsen rehte lêre.

they should show right teaching.

ob si mir ir gruoze verseit, der ich hân wol gesprochen,

if she to-me her greeting refuses, of-whom I have well spoken,

sâ zehant wirt minne mit unminne an mir gerochen.

straightway at-once is love with unlove on me avenged.

sî hât an getriuwen friunde triuwe gar zerbrochen:

she has on a-faithful friend faith wholly broken:

dâ von ist mîn hôher muot in leide gar betrochen.

there from is my high spirit in suffering wholly buried.

sol ich iemer frô bestân,

(if)-shall I ever glad remain,

sô muoz Minne unt diu vil minneclîche mich von sorgen lân.

so must Love and the very lovely-one me from cares let.

Ich wil der vil lieben singen disen sanc

I WILL SING THIS SONG TO THE DEAR ONE

The poet sings to the woman who has secretly wounded his heart and who can make grief weak in all things. He asks why he would praise her if he could not prove it by her breeding, since she is free of blame and her heart is full of virtue. He compares her body to the rose in May's dew and the lily in bloom, offers to be her servant, and says he never saw more delightful eye-pasture than her little red mouth. Each strophe closes by saying she has overcome him in a short time.

15 Ich wil der vil lieben singen disen sanc,

I will to-the very dear-one sing this song,

diu mîn herze tougenlîchen hât verwunt.

who my heart secretly has wounded.

sî kan swære an allen dingen machen kranc,

she can grief in all things make weak,

nieman kan sich ir gelîchen: dâst mir kunt.

no-one can himself to-her compare: that-is to-me known.

nu war umbe lobte ich sî,

now where for praised I her,

möhte ichs niht bewæren

might I-it not prove

mit ir zühten wol?

with her breeding well?

sist vor allem tadel frî

she-is from all blame free

unt vor böesen mæren,

and from evil tales,

dâ bî ist ir herze tugenden vol.

there by is her heart of-virtues full.

frouwe, ir hânt mich überwunden sunderbâr

lady, ye have me overcome especially

iu ze dienste in kurzen stunden: daz ist wâr.

to-you for service in short hours: that is true.

Tugenderîchiu reine frouwe, sælic wîp,

Virtue-rich pure lady, blessed woman,

ougent an mir iuwer güete und alle zuht!

show on me your goodness and all breeding!

als diu rôse in meien touwe ist iuwer lîp,

as the rose in May's dew is your body,

unt der gilge in wunneblüete an sîner frucht.

and the lily in delight-bloom in its fruit.

ich wil iuwer diener sîn

I will your servant be

nâch dem süezen lône

after the sweet reward

daz ir trœstent mich

that ye comfort me

und ir wendent mînen pîn,

and ye turn-away my pain,

aller tugende ein krône

of-all virtues a crown

gar ân allen wandel minneclich!

wholly without all blemish lovely!

frouwe, ir hânt mich überwunden sunderbâr

lady, ye have me overcome especially

iu ze dienste in kurzen stunden: daz ist wâr.

to-you for service in short hours: that is true.

Wunneclîcher ougenweide ich nie gesach

Of-more-delightful eye-pasture I never saw

danne der vil wolgetânen mündel rỗt.

than of-the very well-formed-one the-little-mouth red.

sist vor allem herzeleide ein schirm, ein dach:

she-is against all heart's-suffering a shelter, a roof:

swer si siht, der muoz sich ânen sender nỗt.

whoever her sees, he must himself rid of-yearning distress.

wil diu Minne mir gestân

will the Love to-me stand

gên der minneclîchen,

toward the lovely-one,

seht, sô wurde ich frỗ.

see, so would-become I glad.

sô wold ich die sorge lân

so would I the care let

ûz dem herzen slîchen.

out-of the heart slip.

minneclîchiu Minne, füege ez sô!

lovely Love, cause it so!

frouwe, ir hânt mich überwunden sunderbâr

lady, ye have me overcome especially

iu ze dienste in kurzen stunden: daz ist wâr.

to-you for service in short hours: that is true.

Sumer ouget sîne wunne

SUMMER SHOWS HIS DELIGHT

Summer shows his delight and the poet says that whoever can compose should judge what matter lies in wood and heath. He has found a fair treasure and his heart is with it, though the treasure gives him pain: his lady can hoard virtue and high spirit, but her bearing makes him old and she gives him nothing but cares. He ends by saying that Love is above all things and that nothing on earth escapes her trap, and asks her to constrain his treasure as she has constrained him. Each strophe closes on the old saying that where the heart dwells the treasure lies.

Sumer ouget sîne wunne,

Summer shows his delight,

daz ist an der zît.

that is at the time.

prûeve er wol, swer tihten kunne,

judge he well, whoever compose can,

waz materje lît

what matter lies

an dem walde und ûf der heide breit.

in the wood and on the heath broad.

wan mac schouwen wie die ouwen stânt bekleit,

one can behold how the water-meadows stand clothed,

waz der anger liechter bluomen treit.

what the meadow of-bright flowers bears.

êst ein alt gesprochen wort:

it-is an old spoken word:

swâ dîn herze wont, dâ lît dîn hort.

wherever thy heart dwells, there lies thy treasure.

Ich hab endelichen funden

I have at-last found

einen schoenen hort.

a fair treasure.

den kôs ich mir zeinen stunden:

it chose I for-me at-one hour:

nust mîn herze dort

now-is my heart there

bî dem horde der mir füeget pîn.

by the treasure which to-me causes pain.

diu vil reine, wandels eine muoz mir sîn

the very pure-one, of-blemish free must to-me be

hort in dem vil senden herzen mîn.

treasure in the very yearning heart mine.

êst ein alt gesprochen wort:

it-is an old spoken word:

swâ dîn herze wont, dâ lît dîn hort.

wherever thy heart dwells, there lies thy treasure.

Mîn hort kan wol tugende horden

My treasure can well virtues board

unde hôhen muot.

and high spirit.

diu mir ist ze horde worden,

she to-me is as treasure become,

dêst mîn frouwe guot,

that-is my lady good,

in der güete lôs und wolgestalt.

in whom goodness merry and well-shaped.

ir gebâren an den jâren mich tuot alt,

her bearing in the years me makes old,

swie ir tugende doch sî manicvalt.

however her virtue yet be manifold.

êst ein alt gesprochen wort:

it-is an old spoken word:

swâ dîn herze wont, dâ lit dîn hort.

wherever thy heart dwells, there lies thy treasure.

Maneger der hât hort verborgen,

Many-a-one he has treasure hidden,

des er trœstet sich.

of-which he comforts himself.

mîn hort gît mir niht wan sorgen

my treasure gives me nothing but cares

unde smâhet mich.

and scorns me.

mîn vil lieber hort ist mir alsô

my very dear treasure is to-me thus

gar unnütze. Minne schütze Cupîdô

wholly useless. Love's archer Cupid

traf mîn herze, sît bin ich unfrô.

struck my heart, since am I unglad.

êst ein alt gesprochen wort:

it-is an old spoken word:

swâ dîn herze wont, dâ lit dîn hort.

wherever thy heart dwells, there lies thy treasure.

Minne diust gewalteclîchen

Love she-is powerfully

allen dingen obe.

all things above.

ir kan niht ûf erde entwîchen,

her can nothing on earth escape,

ez gevâhe ir klobe.

it be-caught-by her trap.

wîsheit, hort diu beide nîgent ir.

wisdom, treasure they both bow to-her.

Minne süeze, kumber büeze nâch der gir!

Love sweet, affliction assuage after the desire!

twinge mînen hort gelîche mir!

constrain my treasure like me!

êst ein alt gesprochen wort:

it-is an old spoken word:

swâ dîn herze wont, dâ lît dîn hort.

wherever thy heart dwells, there lies thy treasure.

Winter leide grüne heide

WINTER HAS RUINED THE GREEN HEATH

Winter has grievously ruined the green heath and the wood, and the frost lies on the water-meadows. The poet grows old from such things but laments another distress: the dear one to whom he has always offered his service constrains him. He suffers the frights of grief often, must worry night and day because he may see her neither evening nor morning, and chokes unbidden in her bonds. The song breaks off in a lacuna.

Winter leide grüne heide

Winter grievously green heath

hât verderbet und den walt.

has ruined and the wood.

wan mac schouwen an den ouwen,

one can behold on the water-meadows,

dâ lît nu der rîfe kalt.

there lies now the frost cold.

ich wird alt von selken dingen.

I become old from such things.

noch klag ich ein ander nôt:

still lament I an other distress:

daz diu liebe mich wil twingen,

that the dear-one me will constrain,

der ich mich ze dienste ie bôt.

to-whom I myself for service ever offered.

ich wil singen, zôren bringen

I will sing, to-ears bring

daz ich nâch ir jâmers won.

that I after her of-misery am-accustomed.

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Jâmers schricke lîde ich dicke:

Of-misery the-frights suffer I often:

daz tuot mînem herzen wê.

that does to-my heart woe.

ich vil tumber disen kumber

I very foolish this affliction

lîden aber muoz als ê.

suffer again must as before.

swiez ergê, ich muoz doch sorgen

however-it go, I must yet worry

beide naht und ouch den tac,

both night and also the day,

daz ich âbent noch den morgen

that I evening or the morning

sî niht sol noch sehen mac.

her not shall nor see can.

unverborgen muoz ich worgen

unhidden must I choke

in ir banden, dunket mich.

in her bonds, seems to-me.

...

(lacuna)

Nust der arge winter hie

NOW THE WICKED WINTER IS HERE

Winter is here and tears May's delightful clothes away, and the poet asks how a man who must pass the long winter without a dear embrace can keep his joy from weakening. He mourns the loving nestling, the embrace, and the kindly kiss, and hopes her mind and womanly goodness will raise his spirit. He blesses her for her joy-rich spirit, her modesty, and her chosen goodness, and asks why she does not unbind his heart from yearning hardship when she finds him so defeated. Each strophe closes by saying dear hope makes him merry.

Nust der arge winter hie,

Now-is the wicked winter here,

der uns wil betwingen aber leider

who to-us will subdue again sadly

die bluomen unt den klê.

the flowers and the clover.

ôwê der zerfüert uns ie

alas he tears-away from-us ever

meien sîniu wunneclîchen kleider.

of-May his delightful clothes.

ich sorge, swiez ergê.

I worry, however-it go.

wizzent, swer den winter lanc

know, whoever the winter long

alsô muoz vertriben

thus must pass

âne lieben umbevanc,

without dear embrace,

wie mac der belîben,

how can he remain,

18

sîn fröude enwerde kranc?

bis joy unless-becomes weak?

liep gedinge tuot mich geil,

dear hope makes me blithe,

ich gewinne heil.

I win weal.

Ôwê lieplich nâher smuc!

Alas loving near nestling!

ôwê minneclîchez umbevâhen!

alas lovely embracing!

und ôwê gütlich kus!

and alas kindly kiss!

ôwê herzeclîcher druc!

alas heartfelt pressing!

wenne sol ich sender den enphâhen?

when shall I yearning-one it receive?

noch singe ich umbe sus.

still sing I for nothing.

doch gedinge ich daz ir muot

yet hope I that her spirit

und ir wîplich güete,

and her womanly goodness,

diu mich frölich singen tuot,

whiche me gladly sing makes,

hœhe mîn gemüete:

raise my spirit:

si ist sô rehte guot.

she is so truly good.

liep gedinge tuot mich geil,

dear hope makes me blithe,

ich gewinne heil.

I win weal.

Wer gesach ie frouwen lip,
Who saw ever a-lady's person,
 der ir lachen alsô wol gezæme
which her laughing so well would-befit
 und ir vil werder gruoꝛ?
and her very worthy greeting?
 ez ist manic schœne wîp
there is many-a fair woman
 diu doch niender ist alsô genæme:
who yet in-no-way is so agreeable:
 des man ir sprechen muoꝛ.
of-that one to-her say must.
 swenne ir rôserôter munt
whenever her rose-red mouth
 und ir liechten ougen
and her bright eyes
 blickent in mîns herzen grunt
glance into of-my heart the-depth
 lachelîchen tougen,
laughingly secretly,
 sô werde ich wol gesunt.
so become I quite sound.
 lieb gedinge tuot mich geil,
dear hope makes me blithe,
 ich gewinne heil.
I win weal.

Wol dir, minneclîchiu fruht,
Well to-thee, lovely fruit,
 wol dir! dû hâst fröuderich gemüete
well to-thee! thou hast joy-rich spirit
 unt doch mit rehter scham,
and yet with true modesty,

wol dir! dû hâst wîplich zuht,
well to-thee! thou hast womanly breeding,
 wol dir! dû hâst ûzerwelte güete
well to-thee! thou hast chosen goodness
 mit rehter kiusche alsam,
with true modesty likewise,
 wol dir! dû bist ûzerkorn,
well to-thee! thou art out-chosen,
 lieb unwandelbære,
dear-one unchangeable,
 wol dir! wan dû bist für zorn
well to-thee! for thou art against anger
 unt für sende swære
and against yearning grief
 an dise welt erborn.
into this world born.
 lieb gedinge tuot mich geil,
dear hope makes me blithe,
 ich gewinne heil.
I win weal.

Wê war umbe tuot si daz,
Alas where for does she that,
 daz si mir daz herze niht enbindet
that she to-me the heart not unbinds
 von sender arebeit?
from yearning hardship?
 sicherlich ir stüende baz,
assuredly to-her it-would-stand better,
 sît si mich sô sigelôsen vindet,
since she me so victory-less finds,

daz sî mîn sendiu leit

that she my yearning sufferings

ûf genâde næme an sich,

upon favor would-take on herself,

doch in liebem trôste

yet in dear comfort

alsô daz diu guote mich

so that the good-one me

von den banden lôste:

from the bonds would-loose:

sô lepte ich wunneclich.

so would-live I delightfully.

liep gedinge tuot mich geil,

dear hope makes me blithe,

ich gewinne heil.

I win weal.

Heide, walt und anger wol bekleit
HEATH, WOOD, AND MEADOW WELL CLOTHED

The heath, wood, and meadow have stripped themselves and the little birds sorrow, but the poet bears a greater grief in being left in cares a long time by the blessing-bearer. He says he has no comfort from a dear one, since Love commanded him to serve and he is subject to her in faith, and he leaves himself to her favor. He praises her pure modesty and virtue-rich manner, and says no one has power over Love, who does woe often and well often. Each strophe closes by blessing the man who has comfort in love. The song breaks off in a lacuna.

19 Heide, walt und anger wol bekleit

Heath, wood and meadow well clothed

die hânt sich enblœzet, dêst mîn klage.

they have themselves stripped, that-is my lament.

kleiner vogelîn trûren ist mir leit,

of-small little-birds mourning is to-me grievous,

die der winter twinget alle tage.

whom the winter constrains all the-days.

noch trage ich in mînem herzen grôzer swære sunder strît,

still bear I in my heart greater grief without strife,

daz mich lât in sorgen diu vil sældenbære lange zît.

that me leaves in cares the very blessing-bearer a-long time.

wol im der ze liebe hât den trôst,

well to-him who to love has the comfort,

daz er sender leide wirt erlôst!

that he of-yearning suffering is released!

Wê mir, wê der siuftebernden nôt

Woe to-me, woe for-the sigh-bearing distress

daz ich trôst von liebe niht enhân,

that I comfort from a-dear-one not have,

sît diu Minne dienen mir gebôt,

since the Love to-serve to-me commanded,

der ich bin mit triuwen undertân!

to-whom I am with faith subject!

ich lân mich an ir genâde sicherlîchen, sist sô guot:

I leave myself to her favor assuredly, she-is so good:

wer mac nu an hôhen frôuden baz gerîchen mir den muot?

who can now in high joys better enrich to-me the spirit?

wol im der ze liebe hât den trôst,

well to-him who to love has the comfort,

daz er sender leide wirt erlôst!

that he of-yearning suffering is released!

Reine kiusche, tugenderîche site

Pure modesty, virtue-rich manner

sî hât in ir herzen rehte scham.

she has in her heart true shame.

sælde und êre wont der lieben mite

blessing and honor dwells the dear-one with

noch in rehter wîbes güete alsam.

still in true woman's goodness likewise.

mir kam in daz herze ir minneclîch gebâren, do ich si sach.

to-me came into the heart her lovely bearing, when I her saw.

des lîd ich vil sender nu bî manegen jâren ungemach.

therefore suffer I very yearning now for many years discomfort.

wol im der ze liebe hât den trôst,

well to-him who to love has the comfort,

daz er sender leide wirt erlôst!

that he of-yearning suffering is released!

Nieman mac der Minne hân gewalt.

No-one can of-the Love have power.

sî tuot dicke wê und ofte wol.

she does often woe and often well.

er mac wol ze sælden sîn gezalt,

he can well to blessings be reckoned,

den si tuot mit willen fröuden vol.

whom she makes with willingness of-joys full.

ich sol leider noch bevinden ob diu Minne fröude gebe:

I shall sadly still find-out whether the Love joy give:

sî tuot ungenâde mir in mînem sinne, swie ich lebe.

she does disfavor to-me in my mind, however I live.

wol im, der ze liebe hât den trôst,

well to-him, who to love has the comfort,

daz er sender leide wirt erlöst.

that he of-yearning suffering is released.

...

(lacuna)

Wol bekleidet stêt diu heide
THE HEATH STANDS WELL CLOTHED

The heath, meadow, and green wood stand clothed, and May was never fairer nor better formed. All the world rejoices toward the delightful season but the poet alone, since the woman he serves in whole faith will renew his sorrow. He says no one but God has such power over him as she has, and that anyone who reproached him for it would believe him if he were in his place. He ends by asking who ever saw a creature so fair, gracious, modest, and good. Each strophe closes by asking her to comfort him, since he loves her. The song breaks off in a lacuna.

Wol bekleidet stêt diu heide,

Well clothed stands the heath,

anger unt der grüene walt.

meadow and the green wood.

bî der lichten ougenweide

by the bright eye-pasture

hoert man stimme manicvalt

bears one voice manifold

in den ouwen vogelîn dôene.

in the water-meadows little-birds' tones.

meije enwart noch nie sô schœne,

May became still never so fair,

den ich mit gesange krœne,

which I with song crown,

noch sô rehte wolgestalt.

nor so truly well-formed.

frouwe, sich: dû solt mich

lady, see: thou shalt me

trœsten, sît ich minne dich!

comfort, since I love thee!

20

Sich fröut al diu welt gemeine

Itself rejoices all the world in-common

gegen der wunneclichen zît.

toward the delightful season.

nieman trûret wan ich eine,

no-one mournings except I alone,

sît si mir niht fröude gât,

since she to-me not joy gives,

der ich diene in ganzen triuwen:

whom I serve in whole faith:

diu wil mînen kumber niuwen.

she will my affliction renew.

ich leb in vil starken riuwen

I live in very strong rues

von den mæren iemer sît.

from the tidings ever since.

frouwe, sich: dû solt mich

lady, see: thou shalt me

trœsten, sît ich minne dich!

comfort, since I love thee!

Âne got sô hât mîn niemen

Except God so has over-me no-one

den gewalt als sî wol hât.

the power as she well has.

itewîzet mir daz iemen,

(if)-reproaches to-me that anyone,

stüende ez dem als ez mir stât,

stood it to-him as it to-me stands,

er geloupte mir zewâre,

he would-believe to-me truly,

der ich diene sunderbâre,

whom I serve especially,

wie diu mîner jungen jâre

how she of-my young years

fröude nider sîgen lâ!t

joy down sink lets!

frouwe, sich: dû solt mich

lady, see: thou shalt me

trœsten, sît ich minne dich!

comfort, since I love thee!

Wer gesach ie créatiure,

Who saw ever a-creature,

die man weiz in wîbes namen,

whom one knows in woman's name,

alsô schœene, alsô gehiure

so fair, so gracious

(diu darf sich des niht beschamen)

(she needs herself of-this not be-ashamed)

alsô kiusche und alsô guote,

so modest and so good,

alsô tugenthafte in muote

so virtuous in spirit

und an êren sô behuote?

and in honors so protected?

diust ein sælic wîp benamen.

she-is a blessed woman indeed.

frouwe, sich: dû solt mich

lady, see: thou shalt me

trœsten, sît ich minne dich!

comfort, since I love thee!

...

(lacuna)

Ich wil allen liuten betiuten mîs herzen klage

I WILL DECLARE MY HEART'S LAMENT

The poet will tell everyone the lament of his heart and how great a sorrow he bears for being kept from one woman: he lies in her love's snare. He asks where the fair one is, says he will greet her fairly with song however long she is a stranger to him, and praises her youth and virtue. He asks when her eyes will steal a secret glance at him and when he will live to see a loving kiss from her red mouth. Each strophe closes by naming her the rose above all women.

21 Ich wil allen liuten betiuten mîs herzen klage

I will to-all people declare of-my heart the-lament

unt wie grôzen kumber ich tumber nu trage,

and how great affliction I foolish now bear,

wie mich sorge twinget unt singet doch mir der lîp:

how me care constrains and sings yet to-me the person:

seht, daz muoz ich lîden durch mîden ein wîp.

see, that must I suffer for avoiding a woman.

des muoz ich dem jâmerschricke leider untertænic sîn.

therefore must I to-the misery-fright sadly subject be.

ich lig in ir minnen stricke, daz ist an mir worden schîn.

I lie in her love's snare, that is in me become plain.

si kan senden smerzen ûz herzen vertriben wol.

she can yearning pains out-of hearts drive-away well.

rôse ob allen wîben man si nennen sol.

rose above all women one her name shall.

Wâ ist nu diu schœne? ich dœne unt nîge ir gar.

Where is now the fair-one? I sound and bow to-her wholly.

ich wil aber grûezen die sûezen (nemnt war!)

I will again greet the sweet-one (take note!)

schône mit gesange. swiech lange ir fremde sî,
fairly with song. however-I long to-her a-stranger be,

doch sô hât ir jugende vil tugende, dâ bî
yet so has her youth much of-virtue, there by

hât si güete ein michel wunder in dem herzen zaller stunt,
has she goodness a great wonder in the heart at-all hours,

unt si doch vor ûz besunder mir daz herze hât verwunt.
and she yet before out especially to-me the heart has wounded.

si kan senden smerzen ûz herzen vertriben wol.
she can yearning pains out-of hearts drive-away well.

rôse ob allen wîben man si nennen sol.
rose above all women one her name shall.

Wenne sun ir ougen mir tougen ze blicke varn,
When shall her eyes to-me secretly to a-glance travel,

unt diu süeze junge mir swunge den arn
and the sweet young-one to-me would-swing the eagle

unt mich umbevienge: sô gienge mir sorge hin.
and me would-embrace: so would-go from-me care away.

seht, sô wolte ich scheiden von leiden den sin.
see, so would I part from sufferings the mind.

wâfenâ der lieben stunde, wenne sol ich die geleben,
alas for-the dear hour, when shall I it live-to-see,

daz ich von ir rôtem munde solte ein lieplich küssen nemen!
that I from her red mouth should a loving kissing take!

si kan senden smerzen ûz herzen vertriben wol.
she can yearning pains out-of hearts drive-away well.

rôse ob allen wîben man si nennen sol.
rose above all women one her name shall.

Winter, dîn gewalt

WINTER, THY POWER

Winter darkens the flowers, silences the little birds, and lays frost and snow where flowers were plucked. The poet asks what hope he has if his singing brings him no joy-rich success. Winter and snow do not hurt him so much as his other cares: he is still not granted what his heart desires, and the good one has so conquered his mind that he is unglad. The song breaks off in a long lacuna.

22 Winter, dîn gewalt

Winter, thy power

selwet bluomen manicvalt

darkens flowers manifold

(diu zît ist alsô gestalt)

(the season is thus formed)

unt diu vogellîn

and the little-birds

lîdent aber grôzen pîn,

suffer again great pain,

ir schal muoz geswigen sîn.

their sound must silenced be.

wan mac schouwen an den ouwen,

one can behold on the water-meadows,

dâ lît nu der snê,

there lies now the snow,

dâ man bluomen brach.

where one flowers plucked.

ûf der heide stênt mit leide

on the heath stand with suffering

rîfe unt ouch der snê.

frost and also the snow.

dâst mîn ungemach.

that-is my discomfort.

wes hab ich gedinge,

of-what have I hope,

sol mîn singen mir niht bringen

shall my singing to-me not bring

fröuderich gelinge?

joy-rich success?

Winter unt der snê

Winter and the snow

tuot mir niht sô rehte wê,

does to-me not so truly woe,

sorgen hab ich dannoch mê.

of-cares have I yet more.

swes mîn herze gert,

whatever my heart desires,

des bin ich noch niht gewert:

of-that am I still not granted:

êst unnæher danne vert.

it-is less-near than last-year.

diu vil guote mînem muote

the very good-one over-my spirit

sus hât an gesiget,

thus has on conquered,

daz ich bin unfrô.

so-that I am unglad.

...

(lacuna)

...

(lacuna)

...

(lacuna)

...

(lacuna)

...

(lacuna)

...

(lacuna)

...

(lacuna)

Sol ich nu verstumben dur den winter lanc?

SHALL I GROW DUMB FOR THE LONG WINTER

The poet asks whether he should fall silent through the winter and answers that he will sing this song. A high spirit has flown into him from a woman whose womanly goodness was never false, though she turns love to unlove through her steadfast hatred. He says Love weighs unequally between them, since he is more favorable to her than she to him, and he asks Love to weigh evenly and soon. He then asks the lady for a dear end and to turn his yearning grief away, secretly and aloud. Each strophe closes by saying she can weaken sorrowing and that her red mouth can laugh gladly. The song breaks off in a lacuna.

Sol ich nu verstumben dur den winter lanc?

23

Shall I now grow-dumb for the winter long?

dêswâr ich wil uns tumben singen disen sanc.

truly I will to-us fools sing this song.

mirst ein hôchgemüete in mînen lîp geflogen

to-me-is a high-spirit into my body flown

von ir diu wîbes güete ie was unbetrogen.

from her who of-woman's goodness ever was undeceived.

sist mir zallen zîten in dem sinne, der ich nie vergaz;

she-is to-me at-all times in the mind, whom I never forgot;

wan si wendet minne mit unminne durh ir stæten haz.

for she turns love with unlove through her steadfast hatred.

si kan trûren swachen, daz ist mir wol kunt;

she can mourning weaken, that is to-me well known;

ach, frœliche lachen kan ir rôter munt!

oh, gladly laugh can her red mouth!

Sî mac mir wol bringen fröuderîchen muot;

She can to-me well bring joy-rich spirit;

dar nâch wolt ich ir singen, swie si mir joch tuot.

there after would I to-her sing, however she to-me indeed does.

ez wigt ungelîche Liebe mir gên ir:

it weighs unequally Love to-me toward her:

ich bin ir sicherlîche holder dan si mir.

I am to-her assuredly more-favorable than she to-me.

Minne, wic gelîche mit der wâge, sît daz ich bin dîn!

Love, weigh evenly with the scale, since that I am thine!

neinâ, tuoz ê mich der zît betrâge, süeze trœstærîn!

nay, do-it before me the time may-weary, sweet comfortress!

si kan trûren swachen, daz ist mir wol kunt;

she can mourning weaken, that is to-me well known;

ach, frœlîche lachen kan ir rôter munt!

oh, gladly laugh can her red mouth!

Gip ein liebez ende mir, vil sælic wîp!

Give a dear end to-me, very blessed woman!

ân alle missewende lebt dîn kiuscher lîp.

without any fault lives thy modest person.

liep vor allen frouwen schœne minneclich,

dear-one above all ladies fair lovely,

lâ dîne tugende schouwen unde trœste mich!

let thy virtues be-seen and comfort me!

tuostû daz, sô bin ich fröudebære, mînes herzen trût:

doest-thou that, so am I joy-bearing, of-my heart darling:

liep, nu wende mîne sende swære stille und überlût.

dear-one, now turn-away my yearning grief secretly and aloud.

si kan trûren swachen, daz ist mir wol kunt;

she can mourning weaken, that is to-me well known;

ach, frœliche lachen kan ir rôter munt!

oh, gladly laugh can her red mouth!

...

(lacuna)

Ich wil aber singen!

I WILL SING AGAIN

The poet will sing again although he might better sigh and lament: neither meadow nor heath nor tabor nor fiddle gladdens him. The sweet pure one heeds him very little and does not take his song into her ear, which brings sorrow hastening into his heart. Greeting and loving glances pass him by, and neither sun nor moon can gladden him. He has sung and spoken the best he can, and asks Darling-Love either to make the dear one answer him alike or to let her depart from his thought. Each strophe closes on the cry that he has had grief since he first saw her.

24 Ich wil aber singen!

I will again sing!

doch möht ich von sus getânen dingen

yet might I of thus done things

baz siuften unde klagen.

better sigh and lament.

ôwê grôzer leide!

alas of-great sufferings!

mich fröut niht der anger noch diu heide

me gladdens not the meadow nor the heath

noch singen unde sagen;

nor singing and telling;

mich fröut niht der tamber noch diu gîge;

me gladdens not the tabor nor the fiddle;

höere ich harpfen unde rotten, an dem muote ich sîge:

bear I harps and rotates, in the spirit I sink:

von der reinen, der ich dicke nîge,

from the pure-one, to-whom I often bow,

muoz ich die swære tragen.

must I the grief bear.

ich hân leit und ungemach,

I have suffering and discomfort,

sît ich si von êrste gesach:

since I her from first saw:

ach und aber ach!

oh and again oh!

Diu vil sûeze reine

The very sweet pure-one

ahtet ûf mich senden harte kleine.

heeds upon me yearning very little.

dem tuot si wol gelich.

to-that does she well alike.

dâ begât si sünde:

there commits she sin:

swie vil ich der mit gesange kûnde,

however much I of-it with song make-known,

doch lebt si fremdeclich.

yet lives she distantly.

mir tuot wê daz si mich senden smâhet

to-me does woe that she me yearning scorns

unt diu liebe mînen sanc niht in ir ôre enphâhet.

and the dear-one my song not into her ear receives.

dâ von kumber mir in herzen gâhet:

there from affliction to-me into heart hastens:

des bin ich sorgen rich.

therefore am I of-cares rich.

ich hân leit und ungemach,

I have suffering and discomfort,

sît ich si von êrste gesach:

since I her from first saw:

ach und aber ach!

oh and again oh!

Gruoz von rôtem munde

Greeting from red mouth

der vergât mich leider zaller stunde:

it passes-by me sadly at-all hours:

des muoz ich fröude lân.

therefore must I joy leave.

lieplich ougenblicke

loving eye-glances

die vergânt mich zwirent alsô dicke:

they pass-by me twice so often:

wie sol mân leit zergân?

how shall my suffering pass-away?

mich fröut niht diu sunne noch der mâne,

me gladdens not the sun nor the moon,

nieman kan mich trœsten wan diu reine, valsches âne.

no-one can me comfort except the pure-one, of-falsehood without.

wil diu minneclîche wolgetâne,

(if)-wills the lovely well-formed-one,

sô mac ich frô bestân.

so can I glad remain.

ich hân leit und ungemach,

I have suffering and discomfort,

sît ich si von êrste gesach:

since I her from first saw:

ach und aber ach!

oh and again oh!

Ich hab ir gesungen

I have to-her sung

unt gesprochen vil mit lobender zungen

and spoken much with praising tongue

daz beste daz ich kan.

the best that I can.

wil si des vergezzen,

(if)-will she of-this forget,

sô hât ungemüete mich besezzen.

so has dejection me possessed.

Trûtminne, sich dar an!

Darling-Love, look there on!

wie sô daz diu liebe stê gelîche

how so that the dear-one stand alike

alder sô daz sî mir ûz gedanke gar entwîche.

or so that she to-me out-of thought wholly depart.

jâmer tuot vil dicke sorgenrîche

misery makes very often care-rich

mich fröudelôsen man.

me joyless man.

ich hân leit und ungemach,

I have suffering and discomfort,

sît ich si von êrste gesach:

since I her from first saw:

ach und aber ach!

oh and again oh!

Swer mir guotes gunne

Whoever to-me of-good grant

unt der mînen kumber merken kunne,

and who my affliction mark can,

der spreche ir iemer wol.

he speak of-her ever well.

der si lopt mit worten,

he-who her praises with words,

der hât mîne gunst an allen orten:

he has my favor in all places:

daz ich verdienen sol.

which I requite shall.

ich bin ir gebunden gar für eigen.

I am to-her bound wholly as property.

dem si guotes gan, der ist gescheiden von den veigen.

to-whom she of-good grants, he is parted from the doomed.

wolde sî genâde an mir erzeigen,

would she grace on me show,

sô wurde ich fröudenvol.

so would-become I joy-full.

ich hân leit und ungemach,

I have suffering and discomfort,

sît ich si von êrste gesach:

since I her from first saw:

ach und aber ach!

oh and again oh!

Sumerlîchiu wunne

SUMMER-LIKE DELIGHT

Summer-like delight adorns the green plain and May's sun has cut the clothes of mountain and valley, so that whoever will can see blue, red, green, and yellow on the meadow. However much May brings, the poet sorrows because Love and the dear one's red mouth constrain him. He says he is well in mind whenever he sees her, and asks the dear one to let love woo lovingly between them. He ends by praising her breeding, beauty, and womanly modesty. Each strophe closes by saying Love constrains his mind and womanly goodness snatches his spirit away.

Sumerlîchiu wunne

25

Summer-like delight

zieret wol den grünen plân.

adorns well the green plain.

berc unt tal sint bekleit.

mountain and valley are clothed.

nâch dem touwe sunne

after the dew sun

meijen disiu kleider sneit

of-May these clothes cut

sunder wân über al.

without doubt over all.

swer wil blâ rôet grünen gel schouwen

whoever will blue red green yellow behold

ûf dem anger, in den ouwen,

on the meadow, in the water-meadows,

der siht dâ wunnen vil.

he sees there delights much.

Minne twinget mir den sin:

Love constrains to-me the sense:

wîplich güete mîn gemüete zucket hin.

womanly goodness my spirit snatches away.

Swie vil meije bringet

However much May brings

fröuden unt sîn liechten tage,

of-joys and his bright days,

doch trûr ich von der nôt,

yet mourning I from the distress,

daz mich Minne twinget

that me Love constrains

unt der lieben munt sô rôet.

and of-the dear-one the-mouth so red.

dêst mîn klage sicherlich.

that-is my lament assuredly.

ich hân ir den muot erzeiget

I have to-her the spirit shown

daz sich ir gebôten neiget

so-that itself to-her commands bows

al mîn gir sunder wân.

all my desire without doubt.

Minne twinget mir den sin:

Love constrains to-me the sense:

wîplich güete mîn gemüete zucket hin.

womanly goodness my spirit snatches away.

Mir ist wol ze muote,

To-me is well in spirit,

swenne ich die vil lieben sihe,

whenever I the very dear-one see,

alle zît dur daz jâr.

all time through the year.

diu vil reine guote

the very pure good-one

tuot mich trûren, daz ist wâr.

makes me mourning, that is true.

ich vergihe sunder strît:

I confess without dispute:

sô sî tuot der nôt gelîche,

when she does to-the distress alike,

sân ich trûre herzeclîche;

at-once I mourning heartily;

sost mîn muot fröuden frî.

so-is my spirit of-joys free.

Minne twinget mir den sin:

Love constrains to-me the sense:

wîplich güete mîn gemüete zucket hin.

womanly goodness my spirit snatches away.

Liep, lâ liebe werben

Dear-one, let love woo

lieplich zwischent mir unt dir!

lovingly between me and thee!

liep, lâ mich lieb dir sîn!

dear-one, let me dear to-thee be!

lâ, lieb, niht verderben

let, dear-one, not perish

lieb und tuo dîn helfe schîn,

dear-one and make thy help visible,

frouwe, mir minneclîch!

lady, to-me lovingly!

ich bin ir sô gar verbunden,

I am to-her so wholly bound,

diu mich twinget zallen stunden,

who me constrains at-all hours,

daz si mir nicht den sin:

that she to-me not(-constrains) the sense:

Minne twinget mir den sin:

Love constrains to-me the sense:

wîplich güete mîn gemüete zucket hin.

womanly goodness my spirit snatches away.

Zuht und elliu schœne

Breeding and all beauty

hât mîn frouwe, ach sælic wîp,

has my lady, oh blessed woman,

wîplich scham ouch dâ bî.

womanly modesty also there by.

fûrbaz ich si krœne.

further I her crown.

sist vor missewende frî.

she-is from fault free.

lieber lîp, ob alsam

dear person, if likewise

...

(lacuna)

...

(lacuna)

...

(lacuna)

Minne twinget mir den sin:

Love constrains to-me the sense:

wîplich güete mîn gemüete zucket hin.

womanly goodness my spirit snatches away.

Winter, dîne kalde rîfen

WINTER, THY COLD FROSTS

Winter's frost, wind, and snow have taken the green, but the poet lets that be, since he suffers great pain from his lady. Could he wish himself a boon he would take her saying she was favorable to him, above whatever good anyone has, and that would gladden him more than all the Greeks' gold. He says joy does a noble man more good than all his wealth, and that he is unworthier this year than last. He ends by wishing he could kiss her secretly on mouth and eyes, which he would take above all the world. Each strophe closes on her refusing him her greeting and leaving him in pledge.

Winter, dîne kalde rîfen,

Winter, thy cold frosts,

kalde winde und ouch der snê,

cold winds and also the snow,

swaz die grüenes mugen begrîfen,

whatever they of-green may seize,

des ensiht man jârlanc mê

of-it not-sees one this-year more

in sô wunneclîchem schîne.

in so delightful a-brightness.

seht, daz lâze ich allez sîn:

see, that let I all be:

wan ich lîde grôze pîne

for I suffer great pain

von der liebun frouwen mîn.

from the dear lady mine.

des wil diu reine gelouben kleine,

of-that will the pure-one believe little,

26

wan si hât gemeinen gruoꝝ mir gar verzigen
for she has common greeting to-me wholly refused

unde lât mich sender nôꝛ ze phande ligen.
and lets me of-yearning distress in pledge lie.

von welhen schulden muoꝝ ich ez dulden? ald wâ von
by what faults must I it suffer? or where from

hât si mir ir gruoꝝ verseit? dêswâr ich bin es ungewon.
has she to-me her greeting refused? truly I am of-it unaccustomed.

Solde ich wûnschen mir ze heile
Should I wish to-me for salvation

dar nâch als mîn wille stât,
there after as my will stands,

sô næm ich ze mînem teile
so would-take I as my portion

für swaz iemen guotes hât,
above whatever anyone of-good has,

daz diu reine in wîbes gûete
that the pure-one in woman's goodness

spræche: 'liep, ich bin dir holt.'
would-say: 'dear-one, I am to-thee favorable.'

seht, daz fröute mîn gemüete
see, that would-gladden my spirit

baz dann al der Kriechen golt.
better than all the Greeks' gold.

des wil diu reine gelouben kleine,
of-that will the pure-one believe little,

wan si hât gemeinen gruoꝝ mir gar verzigen
for she has common greeting to-me wholly refused

unde lât mich sender nôꝛ ze phande ligen.
and lets me of-yearning distress in pledge lie.

von welhen schulden muoz ich ez dulden? ald wâ von
by what faults must I it suffer? or where from
 hât si mir ir gruoze verseit? dêswâr ich bin es ungewon.
has she to-me her greeting refused? truly I am of-it unaccustomed.

Nieman ahte mir gên guote
No-one esteem to-me against good
 fröude und fröuderîchen muot.
joy and joy-rich spirit.
 fröude in edeles mannes muote
joy in a-noble man's spirit
 tuot im baz dann al sîn guot.
does to-him better than all his good.
 wurde mir ein lieplich smieren
would-become to-me a loving smiling

von der frouwen mîn bekant
from the lady mine known
 unde ein minneclîchez zwieren,
and a lovely twinkling,
 daz næm ich für tûsent lant.
that would-take I above a-thousand lands.
 des wil diu reine gelouben kleine,
of-that will the pure-one believe little,

wan si hât gemeinen gruoze mir gar verzigen
for she has common greeting to-me wholly refused
 unde lât mich sender nôt ze phande ligen.
and lets me of-yearning distress in pledge lie.

von welhen schulden muoz ich ez dulden? ald wâ von
by what faults must I it suffer? or where from
 hât si mir gruoze verseit? dêswâr ich bin es ungewon.
has she to-me greeting refused? truly I am of-it unaccustomed.

Unwert unde gar unmære,

Unworthy and wholly unesteemed,

hiure unwerder danne vert,

this-year unworthier than last-year,

bin ich, der ich gerne wære

am I, he-who I gladly were

gar vor allen dingen wert.

wholly before all things worthy.

sî tuot niender dem gelîche

she does in-no-way to-that alike

sam si welle erhœren mich.

as-though she would hear me.

nû næm ich für tiutsche rîche

now would-take I above German realm

daz si baz bedæhte sich.

that she better would-bethink herself.

des wil diu reine gelouben kleine,

of-that will the pure-one believe little,

wan si hât gemeinen gruoze mir gar verzigen

for she has common greeting to-me wholly refused

unde lât mich sender nôt ze phande ligen.

and lets me of-yearning distress in pledge lie.

von welhen schulden muoz ich ez dulden? ald wâ von

by what faults must I it suffer? or where from

hât si mir ir gruoze verseit? dês wâr ich bin es ungewon.

has she to-me her greeting refused? truly I am of-it unaccustomed.

Frouwe schœne minneclîche,

Lady fair lovely,

frouwe kiusche wolgezogen,

lady modest well-bred,

frouwe in güete fröudenrîche,

lady in goodness joy-rich,

wunsch hât an iu niht gelogen.

perfection has in you not lied.

ach solt ich iuch küssen tougen

oh should I you kiss secretly

(daz wær unvergolten gelt)

(that were unrepaid payment)

an den munt unt in diu ougen,

on the mouth and in the eyes,

daz næm ich für al die welt!

that would-take I above all the world!

des wil diu reine gelouben kleine,

of-that will the pure-one believe little,

wan si hât gemeinen gruoze mir gar verzeigen

for she has common greeting to-me wholly refused

unde lât mich sender nôte ze phande ligen.

and lets me of-yearning distress in pledge lie.

von welken schulden muoz ich ez dulden? ald wâ von

by what faults must I it suffer? or where from

hât si mir ir gruoze verseit? dês wâr ich bin es ungewon.

has she to-me her greeting refused? truly I am of-it unaccustomed.

‘Der tac uns nâhet

THE DAY DRAWS NEAR

A watchman sings loudly that the day draws near and that whoever lies by a darling should rise quickly, since Slander was never still at such a thing. The woman cries that they must part and speaks with weeping eyes while an embrace passes between them, and the knight tells her to command him, since he is hers. She says she was never so pained in her senses and that she must worry after him from this morning on, and ends by asking him to think on her, since she means him in a true heart with faith.

27 ‘Der tac uns nâhet.

‘The day to-us draws-near.

swer niht versmâhet

whoever not disdains

disen warnesanc

this warning-song

den ich hie singe’

whiche I here sing’

(ein wâhter lûte

(a watchman loudly

sanc) ‘swer bî trûte

sang) ‘whoever by a-darling

lige an armen blanc,

lie in arms white,

der hebe sich ringe!

he raise himself quickly!

uns nâhet balde ein liehter tac.

to-us draws-near soon a bright day.

ich fürhte: Melde nie gelac

I fear: Slander never lay-still

ze solhem dinge.'

at such a-thing.'

'Ôwê uns beiden!

'Alas for-us both!

wir müezen scheiden!'

we must part.'

sprach daz reine wîp

said the pure woman

mit trehenden ougen.

with weeping eyes.

ein umbevâhen

an embracing

unt smucken nâhen

and nestling near

liep an liebes lîp

dear-one against dear-one's body

ergienc dâ tougen.

happened there secretly.

der ritter sprach zer frouwen sîn:

the knight said to-the lady bis:

'gebiut mir, lieb, wan ich bin dîn,

'command me, dear-one, for I am thine,

dâst âne lougen.'

that-is without denial.'

'Du scheidest hinnen!

'Thou partest hence!

in mînen sinnen

in my senses

wart mir nie sô wêl'

became to-me never so woe!"

sprach diu vil reine.

said the very pure-one.

'des muoz ich sorgen

'of-that must I worry

für disen morgen

for this morning

nâch dir iemer mê:

after thee ever more:

mîn fröude ist kleine.'

my joy is small.'

diu frouwe sprach: 'gedenke an mich,

the lady said: 'think on me,

sît ich in rehtem herzen dich

since I in true heart thee

mit triuwen meine!'

with faith cherish!"

Bî liebe lac

A KNIGHT LAY BY A DEAR ONE

A knight lies secretly with a dear one until the watchman sings that day is breaking, which both of them lament. An embrace passes with white arms and a heartfelt pressing, and the lady says that she and her yearning self will be free of joys forever if she may never lie so near him again. Their hearts break at the grief-bearing parting; he tells her to bear herself well and leaves his heart with her, and she answers by telling him to carry hers away, the exchange being made with a kiss.

Bî liebe lac

By a-dear-one lay

ein ritter tougenlîche

a knight secretly

die naht biz an den tac.

the night until at the day.

der minne enphlac

of-the love practiced

mit im diu minnelîche.

with him the lovely-one.

die minne er widerwac,

the love he requited,

biz daz der wahter sanc: 'ez tagt!'

until that the watchman sang: 'it dawns!'

daz von in beiden wart geklagt.

which by them both was lamented.

'ach herzeliebiu frouwe mîn,'

'oh heart-dear lady mine,'

sô sprach der ritter wolgemuot,

so said the knight glad-spirited,

'ich wæne ez müeze ein scheiden sîn.'

'I think it must a parting be.'

28

Es wart niht lanc

It was not long

daz dâ mit nâhem smucke

that there with near nestling

ergie ein umbevanc

happened an embrace

mit armen blanc

with arms white

unt herzeclîchem drucke

and heartfelt pressing

der lieb gên liebe twanc.

which dear-one toward dear-one constrained.

diu frouwe sprach: 'mîn sender lîp

the lady said: 'my yearning person

und ich vil siufteberndez wîp

and I very sigh-bearing woman

bin iemer mê an fröuden frî,

am ever more of joys free,

sol ich dir, herre, niemer mê

shall I to-thee, lord, never more

geligen alse nâhe bi!

lie so near by!

Ôwê und ach!

Alas and oh!

der jâmerbæren scheiden

of-the misery-bearing parting

ir beider herze brach.

of-them both the-heart broke.

daz dâ geschach

what there happened

von den gelieben beiden,

by the lovers both,

daz schuof in ungemach.

that caused to-them discomfort.

der ritter sprach: 'gehab dich wol!

the knight said: 'bear thee well!

dîn lîp ist maneger tugende vol:

thy person is of-many-a virtue full:

mîn herze dir belibet hie.'

my heart to-thee remains here.'

si sprach: 'sô fûer mîn herze hin!'

she said: 'so carry my heart away!'

der wehsel dâ mit kusse ergie.

the exchange there with a-kiss happened.

‘Verholniu minne sanfte tuot’

HIDDEN LOVE DOES GENTLY

A watchman on the battlement sings that hidden love is gentle but that lovers must part, and that whoever is secretly within should follow his teaching. The lady's clever serving-woman hears him and takes fright, carries the news to her lady, and tells her to hasten; the lady answers that it would be no sin to find them lying lovingly and that she does not know how he is to get away. The guest hears the speech where he lies on white arms, sleep fails him, and he cries out at having to leave; the senses of both are wounded and many tears are shed.

29 ‘Verholniu minne sanfte tuot’

‘Hidden love gently does’

(daz sanc ein wahter an der zinne)

(that sang a watchman on the battlement)

‘doch sol sich lieb von liebe scheiden.

‘yet shall itself dear-one from dear-one part.

dar nâch sô wende er sînen muot,

there after so turn he his spirit,

ist ieman tougenliche hinne;

(if-)is anyone secretly herein;

dêswâr sô tuot er wol in beiden.

truly so does he well to-them both.

er sol sorgen wier von hinnen kêre!

he shall worry how-he from hence turn!

êst an dem morgen: folge er mîner lêre!

it-is at the morning: follow he my teaching!

sît daz ich in warnen sol,

since that I him warn shall,

sô tuot er wol unt sint sîn êre.’

so does he well and is his honor.’

Der frouwen dienærinne kluoc

The lady's serving-woman clever

erhôte dâ des wahters singen.

heard there of-the watchman the-singing.

dar umbe erschrac diu vil getriuwe.

there for took-fright the very faithful-one.

diu mæx si hin zir frouwen truoc,

the news she away to-her lady carried,

si sprach: 'wol ûf unt lânt iu lingen!

she said: 'well up and let you hasten!

der tac ist komen.' dâ huop sich riuwe:

the day is come.' there raised itself rue:

'êst ân sünde' sprach diu tugenderîche,

'it-is without sin' said the virtue-rich-one,

'der in sô fünde ligen minneclîche.

'whoever them so found lying lovingly.

erst entslâfen, nu sich hie!

he-is fallen-asleep, now look here!

in weiz niht wie er hin entwîche?'

I know not how he away depart?'

Die rede erhôrte der werde gast,

The speech heard the worthy guest,

dâ er lac bî der minneclîchen

where he lay by the lovely-one

bî liebes brust an blanken armen.

by a-dear-one's breast on white arms.

dâ von im slâfes dô gebrast.

there from to-him of-sleep then it-failed.

er sprach: 'sol ich von hinnan strîchen,

he said: 'shall I from hence stride,

ôwê daz müeze got erbarmen!'

alas that may God pity!'

beider sinne wurden dâ versêret

of-both the-senses were there wounded

(daz schuof frou Minne) fröude gar verkêret.

(that caused lady Love) joy wholly reversed.

dâ schiet leit der wunnen spil,

there parted suffering the delights' play,

der trehene vil wart dâ gerêret.

of-the tears many was there shed.

Nû hât sich der sumer mit vil maneger hande kleide

NOW THE SUMMER HAS ADORNED ITSELF

Summer has adorned itself and the birds sing loudly in wood and heath. The poet asks what May's bloom avails against his grief, and when comfort will come from the good one. He asks how his heart's love sins against him when he has served her secretly from childhood, and recalls that he was once far more a member of joy's household. He tells worthy men to be gladly subject to virtue-rich pure women, and ends by naming her lovely laughing, brown brows, bright color, and red mouth as the cause of his pain. Each strophe closes by wishing it were otherwise.

Nû hât sich der sumer mit vil maneger hande kleide

30

Now has itself the summer with very many-a kind of-dress

wol gezieret: schouwent an den anger lichtgevar!

well adorned: behold at the meadow bright-colored!

lûte singent vogle im walde und ûf der grünen heide,

loudly sing birds in-the wood and on the green heath,

manic herze ist von der wunne worden sorgen bar.

many-a heart is by the delight become of-cares bare.

waz touc mir für leit des meijen blüete,

what avails to-me against suffering the May's bloom,

daz ich lange trage, ezn wende der vil reinen güete?

which I long bear, unless-it turn-aside of-the very pure-one the-goodness?

ôwê, liep, geschæhe daz, mir wurde baz!

alas, dear-one, should-happen that, to-me would-become better!

Trôst von der vil guoten wenne sol ich den enphâhen?

Comfort from the very good-one when shall I it receive?

liep von der vil lieben hete ich gerne, es wær wol zît.

love from the very dear-one would-have I gladly, it were well time.

wil si mînen dienest alsô vesticlich versmâhen,

will she my service so firmly disdain,

waz mir danne kumberlicher sorge in herzen lît!

what to-me then of-sorrowful care in heart lies!

neinâ, wünschent alle daz diu Minne

nay, wish all that the Love

mir gelîche twinge ir herze, ir muot und al ir sinne!

to-me alike constrain her heart, her spirit and all her senses!

ôwê, liep, geschæhe daz, mir wurde baz!

alas, dear-one, should-happen that, to-me would-become better!

Hân ich ir gedienet tougenlîche her von kinde,

(If-)have I to-her served secretly hitherto from childhood,

wê, wes sündet sich diu herzeliebe danne an mir!

alas, of-what sins herself the heart's-love then against me!

hie bîvor was ich vil baz der fröuden ingesinde:

here before was I much more of-the joys a-household-member:

dô liez mich diu Minne leben nâch mînes herzen gir.

then let me the Love live after of-my heart the-desire.

mir mac liep noch lieplich ende machen,

to-me can a-dear-one still a-loving end make,

trôste mich ein heinlich gruoze, ein winken unde ein lachen.

should-comfort me a secret greeting, a beckoning and a laughing.

ôwê, liep, geschæhe daz, mir wurde baz!

alas, dear-one, should-happen that, to-me would-become better!

Werden manne, ir sunt den tugenderîchen reinen wîben

Worthy men, ye shall to-the virtue-rich pure women

ûf genâde in dienste gerne wesen undertân.

upon favor in service gladly be subject.

nieman kan den liuten noch der welte frô beliben

no-one can to-the people nor to-the world glad remain

wan von liebes trôste, der sichs rehte wil enstân.

except by a-dear-one's comfort, whoever himself-of-it rightly will understand.

nust mân trôst von der vil lieben kleine:

now-is my comfort from the very dear-one small:

daz mac si mir wenden wol diu minneclîche aleine.

that can she to-me turn-away well the lovely-one alone.

ôwê, liep, geschæhe daz, mir wurde baz!

alas, dear-one, should-happen that, to-me would-become better!

Minneclîchez lachen, wunneclîcher ougen blicke,

Lovely laughing, delightful eyes' glances,

brûne brâwe, liehte varwe ûf wengel, mündel rôt

brown brows, bright color on little-cheek, little-mouth red

hât ein wîp: diu füeget mînen kumber alsô dicke,

has a woman: she causes my affliction so often,

daz ich lîde jâmers pîn unt dâ bî sende nôt.

that I suffer of-misery pain and there by yearning distress.

ach genâde, frouwe! ich bin dîn eigen:

oh mercy, lady! I am thy property:

dû solt mir nâch sender pîn ein fröudelîn erzeigen!

thou shalt to-me after yearning pain a little-joy show!

ôwê, liep, geschæhe daz, mir wurde baz!

alas, dear-one, should-happen that, to-me would-become better!

Heide und anger went niht langer bluomen tragen

HEATH AND MEADOW WILL BEAR NO MORE FLOWERS

Heath and meadow will bear flowers no longer and the cold winds drive the foliage away; frost and snow discolor the green heath, harm its summer garments, and bring woe to the little birds. The poet calls himself a fool, asks why he laments the flowers when he must choke in cares many a morning, and says his pains increase while the pure one comforts him little. He says that of a hundred thousand women none would please him better than the good glad-spirited one, and asks Love for sweet comfort. Each strophe closes on the saying that sweet greetings are good wherever a dear one glances secretly.

31 Heide und anger went niht langer bluomen tragen,

Heath and meadow will not longer flowers bear,

nû stêt blôz der grüne walt.

now stands bare the green wood.

kalde winde went geswinde hin verjagen

cold winds will swiftly away drive

leider loubes ungezalt.

sadly of-foliage uncounted.

rîfe und ouch der kalde snê

frost and also the cold snow

selwent beide grüne heide,

darken both green heath,

sumerkleide tuont si leide

to-summer-clothes do they suffering

unt den kleinen vogelîn wê.

and to-the small little-birds woe.

süeze grüeze sint sô guot,

sweet greetings are so good,

swâ liep tougen under ougen blicken tuot.

wherever a-dear-one secretly under eyes glance does.

Ach ich tumber! grôzer kumber tuot mir leit.

Oh I fool! great affliction does to-me suffering.

dâ von bin ich ungemuot.

there from am I ill-humored.

...

(lacuna)

ach wie wê daz selbe tuot!

oh how painfully that same does!

waz klag ich der bluomen schîn,

what lament I of-the flowers the-shine,

sît ich worgen muoz in sorgen

since I choke must in cares

manegen morgen unverborgen

many-a morning unhidden

von der lieben frouwen mîn.

from the dear lady mine.

süeze grüeze sint sô guot,

sweet greetings are so good,

swâ liep tougen under ougen blicken tuot.

wherever a-dear-one secretly under eyes glance does.

Sît die mîne starken pîne mêrent sich

Since the my strong pains increase themselves

unt mîn fröude swinden wil

and my joy vanish will

unt diu reine harte kleine trœstet mich:

and the pure-one very little comforts me:

daz ist mir ein hertez spil.

that is to-me a hard game.

wê wie sol ich frô bestân,

alas how shall I glad remain,

sît diu hêre mir niht lêre
since the exalted-one to-me no teaching

gît für sêre, swar ich kêre!
gives against soreness, wherever I turn!

dâ von muoz ich kumber hân.
there from must I affliction have.

süeze grüeze sint sô guot,
sweet greetings are so good,

swâ liep tougen under ougen blicken tuot.
wherever a-dear-one secretly under eyes glance does.

Wie mich wundert! sâhe ich hundert- tûsent wîp,
How me it-astonishes! should-see I a-hundred- thousand women,

mir geviele enkeine baz
to-me would-please none better

dan diu guote wolgemuote. schoenen lîp
than the good-one glad-spirited-one. a-fair body

hât diu liebe, wizzent daz!
has the dear-one, know that!

ich gesach nie reiner fruht.
I saw never purer fruit.

si kan machen frœlich lachen,
she can make glad laughing,

trûren swachen; bî den sachen
mourning to-weaken; among the things

hât mân frouwe wîplich zuht.
has my lady womanly breeding.

süeze grüeze sint sô guot,
sweet greetings are so good,

swâ liep tougen under ougen blicken tuot.
wherever a-dear-one secretly under eyes glance does.

Tumbe sinne mir diu Minne dicke gît:

Foolish senses to-me the Love often gives:

dâ von habe ich ungewin.

there from have I loss.

swaz ich singe, ungelinge zaller zît

whatever I sing, ill-success at-all time

nimet mir mîn fröude hin.

takes from-me my joy away.

Minne, gip mir süezen trôst:

Love, give me sweet comfort:

lâ die reinen, valsches einen

let the pure-one, of-falsehood empty

lieplich meinen mir bescheinen,

lovingly to-cherish to-me show,

sô wird ich der nôt erlöst.

so become I of-the distress released.

süeze grüeze sint sô guot,

sweet greetings are so good,

swâ liep tougen under ougen blicken tuot.

wherever a-dear-one secretly under eyes glance does.

Sumer zieret heide und anger unt den walt

SUMMER ADORNS HEATH AND MEADOW

Summer adorns heath, meadow, and wood and the nightingale is heard, and all the world rejoices while the poet's joy stays small. He strives after the favor of a woman who will not acknowledge it. He says her laughing, bright eyes, and red mouth make his heart crack a hundred thousand times, and that her lovely radiance once shot into his yearning heart the love-arrow he has carried ever since. He recalls the kindly greeting he had at that hour, and says she has not yet unbound the snare or healed the wounds. Each strophe closes by saying she is protected from falsehood and makes him sing.

32 Sumer zieret heide und anger unt den walt,

Summer adorns heath and meadow and the wood,

dâ von manic herze balt den lip cunrieret.

there from many-a heart bold the body arrays.

wan mac schouwen wol bekleidet berc unt tal;

one can behold well clothed mountain and valley;

dâ hoert man die nahtegal und in den ouwen.

there hears one the nightingale and in the water-meadows.

hie gên fröut sich al diu welt gemeine.

here toward rejoices itself all the world in-common.

dâ bî kleine ist mîn fröude zaller zît,

there by small is my joy at-all time,

sît daz mir niht trôstes gît diu süeze reine.

since that to-me not of-comfort gives the sweet pure-one.

sist vor valsche wol behuot,

she-is from falsehood well protected,

diu mich singen tuot.

she-who me sing makes.

Der ich singe und ouch vil gedienet hân,
To-her-whom I sing and also much served have,
 diu wil sich des niht enstân, war nâch ich ringe:
she will herself of-this not acknowledge, where after I strive:
 nâch ir hulden ringe ich alle mîne tage
after her favors strive I all my days
 alsô daz ich sorge trage. die muoz ich dulden,
so that I care bear. it must I suffer,
 biz daz ich noch lieben trôst gewinne
until that I still dear comfort win
 von ir minne. sost mîn sorge gar ein troum.
from her love. so-is my care wholly a dream.
 sus trag ich den jâmers soum in mînem sinne.
thus bear I the misery's burden in my mind.
 sist vor valsche wol behuot,
she-is from falsehood well protected,
 diu mich singen tuot.
she-who me sing makes.

Lieplich lachen, liechten ougen, rôter munt
Loving laughing, bright eyes, red mouth
 schaffent hunderttûsend stunt mîn herze erkrachen.
make a-hundred-thousand times my heart crack.
 guot gebâren, dâ bî wol gestalten lîp
good bearing, there by well formed body
 hât daz minneclîche wîp diu mîn kan vâren.
has that lovely woman who of-me can assail.
 sist der wunsch ûf erden sicherlîche.
she-is the perfection upon earth assuredly.
 frôudenrîche ist si, doch mit rehter zuht.
joy-rich is she, yet with true breeding.
 in weiz niender wîbes fruht diu ir gelîche.
I know nowhere woman's fruit who to-her resemble.

sist vor valsche wol behuot,

she-is from falsehood well protected,

diu mich singen tuot.

she-who me sing makes.

Zeinem mâle schôz ir minneclîcher schîn

At-one time shot her lovely shine

in daz sende herze mîn ir minnestrâle

into the yearning heart mine her love-arrow

die ich tumber iemer sidunt bî mir truoc,

which I foolish ever since with me carried,

alsô daz ichs nie gewuoc. den grôzen kumber

so that I-it never mentioned. the great affliction

trage ich und ouch ander klagende swære,

bear I and also other lamenting grief,

biz ein mære mir von der vil liebun kumt,

until a tale to-me from the very dear-one comes,

daz si mich ze frôuden frumt diu sældenbære.

that she me to joys profits the blessing-bearer.

sist vor valsche wol behuot,

she-is from falsehood well protected,

diu mich singen tuot.

she-who me sing makes.

Dô ir ougen santen mir ir lôsen blic,

When her eyes sent to-me their merry glance,

sâ zehant diu Minne ir stric warf an mich tougen.

straightway at-once the Love her snare threw on me secretly.

güetlich grüezen wart mir an der selben stunt:

kindly greeting became to-me at the same hour:

sît was ie mîn herze wunt von der vil süezen.

since was ever my heart wounded by the very sweet-one.

sî hât mir den stric noch niht enbunden

she has to-me the snare still not unbound

unt die wunden ungeheilet. wê mir, wê!

and the wounds unhealed. woe to-me, woe!

dâ von sorge ich, swiez ergê, ze manegen stunden.

there from worry I, however-it go, at many hours.

sist vor valsche wol behuot,

she-is from falsehood well protected,

diu mich singen tuot.

she-who me sing makes.

Walt und ouwe unt diu heide
WOOD, WATER-MEADOW, AND HEATH

Wood, water-meadow, and heath stand again in delightful garments, and the little birds are out of grief. Many wonder why the poet sorrows or from whom he has his yearning lament, though he tells the tale to none of his hundred neighbors; if her will toward him is sour, he says, it matters little to him whether he bears her a favorable heart. He tells the dear one he has pledged himself to her before all others and asks her to turn away the prating of the many who say she will not grant him anything. The song breaks off in a lacuna.

33 Walt und ouwe unt diu heide

Wood and water-meadow and the heath

die stênt aber in wunneclîcher wât.

they stand again in delightful garment.

in der schouwe lichter kleide

in the showing of-bright clothes

sich der anger nu gewarnet hât.

itself the meadow now equipped has.

elliu vogellîn sint ûz leide.

all little-birds are out-of suffering.

sost des veldes ougenweide

so-is of-the field the-eye-pasture

wol gezieret mit der grünen sât.

well adorned with the green sowing.

Manegen wundert, wes ich trûre

Many-a-one it-astonishes, why I mourning

ald von weme ich habe die senden klage?

or by whom I have the yearning lament?

ich hân hundred nâchgebûre

I have a-hundred neighbors

dien ich doch der mære niht ensage.

to-whom I yet the tale not tell.

ist ir wille gên mir sûre,

(if-)is her will toward me sour,

sô nimt mich des vil untûre,

so takes me of-that very little,

ob ich gên ir holdez herze trage.

whether I toward her a-favorable heart bear.

Liep ân ende, vor in allen

Dear-one without end, before them all

ich hân iemer mich zuo dir verphliht.

I have ever myself to thee pledged.

liep, nu wende maneges kallen!

dear-one, now turn-away of-many-a-one prating!

maneger sprichet, si gewer mich niht.

many-a-one says, she grant me not.

dâst ein ungefüegez schallen.

that-is an unseemly noise.

möhte ab ich ir wol gefallen,

might but I her well please,

sone ruochte ich wes ein böeser giht.

then-not would-deign I what an evil-one says.

...

(lacuna)

Winter wil uns aber twingen

WINTER WILL CONSTRAIN US AGAIN

Winter will constrain the heath and the green clover, and the poet says winter is so joy-empty that it bears greater grief; he wishes frost and snow would spare people. He asks why he laments, since his distress is greater, Love having bid him serve so pure a woman. Her glances have wounded his heart, and she swings loosely away and sinks him into grief a thousand times. He reproaches Love for constraining him though he is guiltless, and asks where she has put her senses. He ends by saying his lady's one lack is that she is too haughty toward him. Each strophe closes by declaring himself her servant.

34 Winter wil uns aber twingen

Winter will for-us again constrain

heide und ouch den grünen klê.

heath and also the green clover.

in dem walde vogelîn singen

in the wood little-birds' singing

tuont die kalden winde wê.

do the cold winds woe.

doch swie kranc der sumer wære,

yet however weak the summer were,

winter ist sô fröudenlære,

winter is so joy-empty,

daz er birt noch grôzer swære.

that he bears still greater grief.

mir wær liep daz uns verbære

to-me were dear that us would-spare

rîfe und ouch der kalde snê.

frost and also the cold snow.

frouwe mîn, ich wil dîn diener sîn.

lady mine, I will thy servant be.

Ach waz klage ich sender tumber,

Oh what lament I yearning fool,

sît noch grôzer ist mîn nôt?

since still greater is my distress?

ich lîd alze grôzen kumber,

I suffer all-too great affliction,

sît diu Minne mir gebôt

since the Love to-me commanded

dienen alsô reinem wîbe.

to-serve so pure a-woman.

wol ir minneclîchem lîbe,

well to-her lovely person,

ob si fröude mir beschîbe

if she joy to-me allot

unt die swære mir vertrîbe

and the grief from-me drive-away

mit ir liehtem mündel rô!t

with her bright little-mouth red!

frouwe mîn, ich wil dîn diener sîn.

lady mine, I will thy servant be.

Wunneclîcher ougen blicke

Delightful eyes' glances

hânt daz herze mîn gewunt,

have the heart mine wounded,

die mich smâhent alsô dicke:

which me scorn so often:

dâ von ist mir sorgen kunt.

there from is to-me of-cares known.

sô si lôslich von mir swenket

when she loosely from me swings

unt mich in den jâmer senket

and me into the misery sinks

unt mich an den fröuden krenket

and me in the joys weakens

unt mîn herze in riuwe ertrenket:

and my heart in rue drowns:

daz geschiht mir tûsent stunt.

that happens to-me a-thousand times.

frouwe mîn, ich wil dîn diener sîn.

lady mine, I will thy servant be.

Minne twinget âne schulde

Love constrains without guilt

mich vil senden siechen man:

me very yearning sick man:

wan ich warp ie nâch ir hulde,

for I strove ever after her favor,

daz ich ruowe nie gewan.

so-that I rest never gained.

Minne, liebes fûegærinne,

Love, of-a-dear-one bringer,

ach war tuost dû dîne sinne?

oh where putttest thou thy senses?

diene ich dir nâch ungewinne,

(if-)serve I thee after loss,

sô bist dû gên mir unminne,

so art thou toward me unlove,

sît ich dienen dir began.

since I to-serve thee began.

frouwe mîn, ich wil dîn diener sîn.

lady mine, I will thy servant be.

Diu vil guote unt diu vil reine,
The very good-one and the very pure-one,

minneclîche wolgezogen
lovely well-bred

hât niht bresten wan ein kleine
has not lack except a little

(für die wârheit ungelogen!):
(for the truth unlied!):

sist gên mir ein teil ze hêre!
she-is toward me a deal too haughty!

in weiz dâ niht wandels mêre.
I know there not of-blemish more.

swar ich doch der lande kêre,
wherever I yet of-the lands turn,

sô gib ich ir prîs und êre:
so give I her praise and honor:

sist an tugenden unbetrogen.
she-is in virtues unfeigned.

frouwe mîn, ich wil dîn diener sîn.
lady mine, I will thy servant be.

Wer gesach den winter ie

WHO EVER SAW THE WINTER SO LONG

The poet asks who ever saw a winter so long in passing, and says summer has now overcome it and found its strength, so that wood and water-meadow are clothed and the flowers spread in the dew. He calls on young and old to rejoice, but says he will never be truly glad while her arrow brings him torment and her ear does not hear his pain. He has sung gladly among the young without success, and ends by praising her as lovely and fair as roses in dew, though her goodness fills his spirit with floods of care. Each strophe closes by saying a sweet greeting would be a remedy. The song breaks off in a lacuna.

35 Wer gesach den winter ie

Who saw the winter ever

alsô langen unzergangen?

so long unpassed-away?

al mîn blangen nie vervie.

all my longing never availed.

den hât sumer sigehaft

it has summer victorious

überwunden an den stunden,

overcome at the hours,

er hât funden sîne kraft.

he has found his strength.

walt und ouwe sint nâch ruome wol bekleit,

wood and water-meadow are after fame well clothed,

in dem touwe manic bluome stêt gespreit,

in the dew many-a flower stands spread,

anger heide die sint beide

meadow heath they are both

mit ir kleide vil gemeit.

with their dress very glad.

süezer gruoz tæte buoz

sweet greeting would-do remedy

mir vil schricke, sît ich dicke

to-me of-much fright, since I often

lieplich blicke mîden muoz.

loving glances avoid must.

Fröut iuch, fröut iuch, junc und alt!

Rejoice you, rejoice you, young and old!

swem diu Minne lâze sinne,

to-whomever the Love let senses,

der gewinne sî er balt!

he may-win be he bold!

niemer wirde ich rehte frô,

never become I truly glad,

sît ir strâle mir die kwâle

since her arrow to-me the torment

zalles mâle fûeget sô.

at-every time causes so.

ach ich tôre! wie si tæret sinne mîn,

oh I fool! how she befools senses mine,

sît ir ôre niht enhœret mînen pîn!

since her ear not hears my pain!

von dem mære muoz mîn swære

from the tale must my grief

siuftebære leider sîn.

sigh-bearing sadly be.

süezer gruoz tæte buoz

sweet greeting would-do remedy

mir vil schricke, sît ich dicke

to-me of-much fright, since I often

lieplich blicke mîden muoz.

loving glances avoid must.

Ich hân dicke frœlich doch

I have often gladly yet

bî den jungen her gesungen:

among the young-ones hitherto sung:

ungelungen ist mir noch.

not-succeeded is to-me still.

des bin ich an frœuden tôt

therefore am I in joys dead

von ir schulden, nâch der hulden

by her fault, after whose favors

ich muoz dulden sende nôt.

I must suffer yearning distress.

ach wie kleine mich vervâhet swaz ich sage,

oh how little me avails whatever I say,

sît diu reine mich versmâhet alle tage,

since the pure-one me disdains all days,

sin enwende unde swende

unless-she turn-away and make-vanish

mir, volende mîne klage.

for-me, end my lament.

süezer gruoz tæte buoz

sweet greeting would-do remedy

mir vil schricke, sît ich dicke

to-me of-much fright, since I often

lieplich blicke mîden muoz.

loving glances avoid must.

Minneclîche schœne gar

Lovely fair wholly

ist mîn frouwe liechter schouwe

is my lady of-bright showing

sam in touwe rôsen var.

as in dew roses colored.

ir gebâren tuot mir wol,

her bearing does to-me well,

swie ir güete mîn gemüete

however her goodness my spirit

sorgen flüete machet vol.

of-cares floods makes full.

ach ich tumber, wie mir mêret sende nôt,

oh I foolish-one, how to-me increases yearning distress,

sît mîn kumber mich versêret ûf den tât.

since my affliction me wounds unto the death.

in der wîse wirde ich grîse,

in the manner become I gray,

sît îch prîse ir mündel rôt.

since I praise her little-mouth red.

süezer gruoze tæte buoze

sweet greeting would-do remedy

mir vil schricke, sît ich dicke

to-me of-much fright, since I often

lieplich blicke mîden muoze.

loving glances avoid must.

...

(lacuna)

Komen ist der winter kalt

THE COLD WINTER IS COME

Winter has come and felled much foliage, and where the poet was on the heath the frost and snow now lie. He asks what he rejoices at in singing again, and answers that hope gladdens him. He asks who ever saw a fairer woman, and reports her speech: she called him and his kind foolish, said his service gives high-spirited women no joy, and told him to go. When he asked whether he must part without a kiss she answered coarsely and said she would sooner have had him hanged than let him touch her dress. Each strophe closes by asking where she is, and answering that the good one is steadfastly in his mind. The song breaks off in a lacuna.

36 Komen ist der winter kalt

Come is the winter cold

(wâfenâ der leide!)

(alarm for-the sufferings!)

der uns twinget bluomen unde klê.

who to-us constrains flowers and clover.

loubes hât er vil gevalt.

of-foliage has he much felled.

ich was ûf der heide,

I was upon the heath,

dâ lît nu der rîfe unt ouch der snê.

there lies now the frost and also the snow.

wê mir, wê! wes fröuwe ich mich,

woe to-me, woe! of-what rejoice I myself,

daz ich aber singe?

that I again sing?

hete ich sinne, sô swig ich:

had I senses, so would-be-silent I:

wan daz mich gedinge

except that me hope

fröuwet, son gesunge ich niemer mê.

gladdens, then would-sing I never more.

hundert wundert, wâ si sî?

a-hundred it-astonishes, where she be?

in dem muote ist mir diu guote stæteclîchen bî.

in the spirit is to-me the good-one steadfastly by.

Wer gesach ie schœner wîp

Who saw ever fairer woman

alder baz geschaffen

or better made

danne als ich si zeinem mâle sach?

than as I her at-one time saw?

ir vil minneclîcher lîp

her very lovely person

huop gên mir sîn klaffen.

raised toward me its prating.

hœret wie diu tugenderîche sprach:

hear how the virtue-rich-one spoke:

‘ach und ach, wie tump ir sît!

‘oh and oh, how foolish ye are!

went irz iemer trîben?

will ye-it ever carry-on?

iuwer dienst niht fröude gât

your service not joy gives

hôchgemuoten wîben.

to-high-spirited women.

gât, ir tuot uns mîchel ungemach!’

go, ye do us great discomfort!’

hundert wundert, wâ si sî?

a-hundred it-astonishes, where she be?

in dem muote ist mir diu guote stæteclîchen bî.

in the spirit is to-me the good-one steadfastly by.

Dô diu rede ergienc alsus

When the speech went thus

mir begunde leiden:

to-me began to-grow-hateful:

wan mir was ir hulde gar verseit.

for to-me was her favor wholly refused.

ich sprach: 'solde ich âne kus

I said: 'should I without kiss

hinnan von iu scheiden?'

hence from you part?'

si sprach: 'los, wes ars er treit!

she said: 'hark, what an-arse he bears!

mir ist leit daz iemer man

to-me is grievous that ever a-man

sol dar an gedenken:

shall there on think:

alder der niht fuoge kan,

or he-who not fitness can,

jâ liez ich in henken

yes would-let I him hang

nû ê daz er ruorte an mîn kleit.'

now before that he touched on my dress.'

hundert wundert wâ si sî?

a-hundred it-astonishes where she be?

in dem muote ist mir diu guote stæteclichen bî.

in the spirit is to-me the good-one steadfastly by.

...

(lacuna)

‘Swie gerne ich wære

HOWEVER GLADLY I WOULD BE JOYFUL

A maiden laments that grief will not let her be joyful, calls the men wretches, and asks who can satisfy them: if a young man wooed a woman they would destroy it with evil words. She says it astonishes her that among a hundred there is not one who would increase a woman's honor, and that they are all grievous to women, boasters, and shameless. She ends by saying Love once gave joy to a man's mind all the year, but whoever seeks her now is accursed: the young call such a man a wretched little lover, and those who sang here before and strove after honor have been driven out.

37 ‘Swie gerne ich wære

‘However gladly I were

gar fröudebære,

wholly joy-bearing,

son lât mich swære,’

then-not lets me grief;

klagte ein maget.

lamented a maiden.

‘die man sint schüllen!

‘the men are wretches!

wer kans erfüllen

who can-it fill

die fûlen gûllen

the foul gullets

gar verzaget?

wholly dispirited?

wurbe ein junc man umbe ein wîp,

(if-)wooed a young man for a woman,

swâ sî daz hôrten,

wherever they that heard,

an allen orten

in all places

mit böesen worten

with evil words

si si zerstörten.

they it would-destroy.

got der schende ir lîp!

God he shame their person!"

Si sprach: 'mich wundert

She said: 'me it-astonishes

daz under hundred

that among a-hundred

niht ûz besundert

not out singled-out

ist ein man,

is a man,

der wîbes êre

who woman's honor

nâch zûhte lêre

after breeding's teaching

mit willen mêre.

with willingness increase.

nu seht an!

now look on!

sî sint endelich al samt

they are downright all together

bien wîben swære.

by-the women grievous.

die luoderære

the gluttons

sint ruomesære

are boasters

und uns gevære

and to-us dangerous

unt gar unverschamt.'

and wholly shameless.'

‘Hie vor gap Minne

‘Here before gave Love

fröude gewinne

joy gain

dem mannes sinne

to-the man’s mind

dur daz jâr.

through the year.

swer si nu suochet

whoever her now seeks

ald ir geruochet,

or of-her deigns,

der ist verfluochet,

he is accursed,

daz ist wâr!

that is true!

‘êst ein argez minnerlîn’

‘it-is a wretched little-lover’

sprechent die jungen.

say the young-ones.

die hie vor sungen,

they-who here before sang,

nâch êren rungen,

after honors strove,

die sint verdrungen:

they are driven-out:

daz ist worden schîn.’

that is become plain.’

Hete mich der winter baz verlâzen

HAD THE WINTER RELEASED ME BETTER

The poet would sing a courtly song toward the summer had winter released him better, but his high spirits are weak: a brother's death brings him great grief. His second grief is that the lords are so weak in mind that no courtly song is sung, and their reward no longer reaches those whose hearts once floated aloft in joy. His third is that the woman he has long served acts as if his service were indifferent to her. Rather than perish of any of the three, he says, he will try them all the better. Each strophe closes on his being firmly overladen with three kinds of harm. The song breaks off in a lacuna.

38 Hete mich der winter baz verlâzen

Had me the winter better released

gên dem sumer sunge ich hübschen sanc:

against the summer would-sing I courtly song:

nû muoz ich mich fröudensanges mâzen,

now must I myself of-joy-song abstain,

sît mîn hôchgemüete ist worden kranc.

since my high-spirit is become weak.

bruoder tôr birt mir grôze swære.

brother death bears to-me great grief.

wizzent daz ich fröude gar verbære:

know that I joy wholly forbear:

wan daz sterben ist gemeiniu nôr.

but the dying is a-common distress.

ich bin drîer hande schaden

I am of-three kinds of-harm

vaste überladen.

firmly overladen.

Sost ein ander swære diu mich twinget,

So-is an other grief which me constrains,

daz die herren muotes sint sô kranc

that the lords of-spirit are so weak

und ir tugende nieman dar zuo bringet

and their virtue no-one there to brings

daz man singe hovelîchen sanc.

that one sing courtly song,

hie bî vor was ir danc niht kleine:

here by before was their thanks not small:

nust ir lôn den leider ungemene,

now-is their reward to-those sadly uncommon,

dien ir herze in frôuden swêbte enbor.

to-whom their heart in joys floated aloft.

ich bin drîer hande schaden

I am of-three kinds of-harm

vaste überladen.

firmly overladen.

Sost der dritte schade mir gar ze swære:

So-is the third harm to-me wholly too grievous:

der ich lange her gedienet hân,

she-to-whom I long hitberto served have,

diu tuot rehte als ob ir sî unmære

she does exactly as if to-her be indifferent

swaz ich ir ze dienste habe getân.

whatever I to-her for service have done.

wære ir lôn gegen mir baz erschozzen,

were her reward toward me better prospered,

dienstes wære ich iemer unverdrozzen

of-service were I ever untiring

unde sunge ir noch vil manegen dôn.

and would-sing to-her still very many-a tune.

ich bin drîer hande schaden

I am of-three kinds of-harm

vaste überladen.

firmly overladen.

Ob ich nu verdurbe von der schulde

If I now perished from the guilt

daz der tôr mir ungenâde tuot

that the death to-me disfavor does

und ich darbe mîner frouwen hulde,

and I lack of-my lady's favor,

daz wær gar verzagtes mannes muot,

that were wholly of-a-dispirited man's spirit,

ald umb daz ich der grôzen schande

or about that I of-the great disgrace

sumelîcher hœre in tiutschem lande.

of-some hear in German land.

ich wils elliu driu versuochen baz!

I will-it all three try better!

ich bin drîer hande schaden

I am of-three kinds of-harm

vaste überladen.

firmly overladen.

...

(lacuna)

Sol ich iemer frô belîben âne swære

SHALL I EVER REMAIN GLAD

A single strophe. If the poet is ever to remain glad without grief it must come from the lovely one, who can drive yearning griefs away; wherever she is, ill humor must depart. If she wills, his joy is weak and his care long and broad. He asks the lovely lady to behold the sorrow he has told, and asks Love to constrain her senses so that she may mean him lovingly. The song breaks off in a lacuna.

Sol ich iemer frô belîben âne swære,

Shall I ever glad remain without grief,

daz muoz von der minneclîchen komen alsô.

that must from the lovely-one come thus.

si kan sendiu leit vertrîben: swâ si wære,

she can yearning sufferings drive-away: wherever she were,

dâ müest ungemüete entwîchen, sist sô frô.

there must ill-humor depart, she-is so glad.

wil si, sost mîn fröude kranc unt mîn leit,

wills she, so-is my joy weak and my suffering,

wil si, sost mîn sorge lanc unde breit.

wills she, so-is my care long and broad.

minneclîchiu frouwe, nu schouwe den kumber,

lovely lady, now behold the affliction,

den ich sender tumber hân geseit!

which I yearning fool have told!

39

werdiu Minne, twinge ir sinne, daz si mich

worthy Love, constrain her senses, so-that she me

lieplich meine, diu vil reine minneclich!

lovingly cherish, the very pure-one lovely!

...

(lacuna)

Es ist gar unmâzen lanc
IT IS LONG SINCE I SANG OF LOVE

The poet says it is long since he sang of love and that he has ill thanks for it, but when an embrace comes from her white arms his care is weak. No one could comfort him better than the woman he never forgot, and his heart is there and nowhere else. He tells her that her red mouth makes him sigh and that he is her property in service, and that since his eye first found her, her white hand laid a following-bond on him. He asks that no one turn him away, since his senses, body, and heart's desire follow her.

Es ist gar unmâzen lanc

40

It is wholly beyond-measure long

daz ich niht von liebe sanc: ich habe undanc.

that I not of love sang: I have ill-thanks.

sô mir wirt ein umbevanc

when to-me comes an embrace

von ir liechten armen blanc, mîn sorge ist kranc.

from her bright arms white, my care is weak.

wanne sol ich geleben die lieben stunde?

when shall I live-to-see the dear hour?

nieman kunde mich getroesten baz

no-one could me comfort better

danne diu der ich dâ nie vergaz, nu wizzent daz!

than she whom I there never forgot, now know that!

swaz ieman tuot, ich hân den muot:

whatever anyone does, I have the spirit:

mîn herze ist dâ, niht anderswâ.

my heart is there, not elsewhere.

Ach wie mir ie siuften tuot

Oh how to-me ever to-sigh makes

dîn munt rôet alsam ein bluot den mînen muot.

thy mouth red like a bloom the mine spirit.

du bist alse rehte guot

thou art so truly good

und mit stæte wol behuot vor valsches fluot.

and with steadfastness well protected from falsehood's flood.

frouwe, joch bin ich dienstlich gar dîn eigen:

lady, indeed am I in-service wholly thy property:

du kanst neigen herze mir und sin.

thou canst incline heart to-me and sense.

schouwe, wie gar ich dîn eigen bin ...

behold, how wholly I thy property am (lacuna)

ich mac niht baz, wan wizzent daz:

I can not better, but know that:

mîn herze ist dâ, niht anderswâ.

my heart is there, not elsewhere.

Liebez liep, dir sî bekant:

Dear dear-one, to-thee be known:

sît dich êrst mîn ouge vant, dîn wîziu hant

since thee first my eye found, thy white hand

leite an mich ein folgebant.

laid on me a following-bond.

daz beschach mir sâ zehant, des wis gemant!

that happened to-me straightway at-once, of-this be reminded!

Minne, diz bant stêt gar in dîner hende.

Love, this bond stands wholly in thy band.

nieman wende mich, geloubent mir!

no-one turn-away me, believe me!

sinne, mîn lîp unt des herzen gir die folgent dir.

senses, my body and of-the heart desire they follow thee.

waz sol des mê? swiez mir ergê:

what shall of-this more? however-it to-me go:

mîn herze ist dâ, niht anderswâ.

my heart is there, not elsewhere.

