

MIDDLE HIGH GERMAN SERIES • VOLUME 9

THE FIRST SWISS MINNESINGERS

Die Schweizer Minnesänger

The First Swiss Minnesingers

*The Swiss Love Lyric after Walther,
from Ulrich von Singenberg to Otto zum Turne*

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

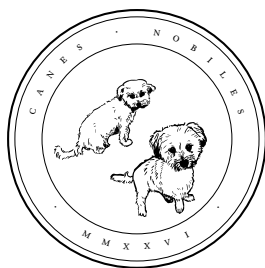


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Volume 9 of the Canes Nobiles Middle High German interlinear texts

The Middle High German text follows *Die Schweizer Minnesänger, mit Einleitung und Anmerkungen herausgegeben von Karl Bartsch* (Frauenfeld: J. Huber, 1886)

Set from page scans of the 1886 printing

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

The poets stand in Bartsch's order and each song is cited in the outer margin by the number Bartsch gives it, under the roman numeral of its poet.

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Ulrich von Singenberg

Thirty-four pieces, a third of the volume. The love songs open with a plea that the lady not let him despair and turn to an apostrophe to Love herself; several are cast as dialogue, and the lady answers him in her own voice. Among them stand two dawn songs, a Spruch on rich and poor, one on the World's deceit, and one that likens a king to a cask whose hoops are sprung, so that it holds no good wine. He laments Ulrich von Sax, and twice names his master Walthar von der Vogelweide. A dialogue closes the section: the lady questions his sorrow and withholds comfort, and he warns that whoever does not love in return is lost.

Vrouwe sælden rîche,

II,1

Lady of-blessings rich,

wie mugt ir sô langez leit an mir vertragen?

how may ye so long sorrow on me endure?

tuot sô sæliclîche

do so blessedly

unde lât mich niht an vröiden gar verzagen.

and let me not of joys wholly despair.

wan verderbent ir mich sô,

for ruin ye me so,

daz wirt iu verkêret

that is to-you turned-ill

von den besten, die noch gerne wæren frô.

by the best, who still gladly were glad.

Vrouwe, ich bin der eine,

Lady, I am the one,

der sich niemer tac von iu gescheiden wil.

who himself never day from you parted will.

sol daz helfen cleine,

shall that help little,

dar zuo wære doch der güete an iu ze vil.

there to were yet of-the goodness in you too much.

ich weiz wol, ir sint sô guot,

I know well, ye are so good,

daz mich noch enzîte

that me yet in-time

hôher trôst von iu gemachet hôhgemuot.

high comfort from you makes high-spirited.

Vrouwe, ich ger niht mêre

Lady, I desire nothing more

wan sô vil (und wurde daz, sô wære hin

but so much (and became that, so were gone

al mîn herzesêre,

all my heart-sorrow,

von der ich doch iemer ungescheiden bin),

from which I yet ever unparted am),

daz ir iuch mich næment an

that ye you me would-take on

unde iu lieber wære

and to-you dearer were

danne in al der welte sî kein ander man.

than in all the world be any other man.

Vrouwe, ob ich verdirbe,

Lady, if I perish,

waz habt ir od iemen denne desten mê?

what have ye or anyone then the more?

unde ein leit erwirbe,

and a sorrow win,

daz ir selbe müezent spreken 'wê mir wê!

that ye yourselves must speak 'woe to-me woe!

wie hân ich alsus getobet,

how have I thus raged,

daz ich den verderbe,

that I him ruin,

der mich dicke und ander vrouwen hât gelobet!

who me often and other ladies has praised!"

Mir tuot mîn lop sô selten wol,

To-me does my praise so seldom well,

II,2

daz mich wunderlîchen wundert

that me wondrously wonders

wie daz sô gevar.

how that so fares.

wê daz ich niht geniezen sol

woe that I not benefit shall

daz ich sî ûz hân gesundert

that I her out have singled

mir ze vröuden gar,

to-me to joys wholly,

und ich an si alleine lônnes hân gedinget!

and I on her alone of-reward have hoped!

swie mir ir trôst die vröude niene bringet,

however to-me her comfort the joy not-at-all brings,

sô wirt daz leit an mir gesehen,

so is the sorrow on me seen,

daz leider leit vor maniger zît

that sadly sorrow for many-a time

an nihte niemen ist geschehen.

in anything to-no-one is happened.

Solt ich geniezen daz ich bin

Should I benefit that I am

unde ie was mit rehten triuwen

and ever was with right faith

wîbes êre vrô,

of-woman's honor glad,

sô möhte sî mir hinnen hin

so might she to-me henceforth on

wol mîn leit mit liebe niuwen,

well my sorrow with love renew,

stüende ez iender sô

stood it anywhere so

...

(lacuna)

...

(lacuna)

man sæhe an mir den hôhen muot,

one would-see on me the high spirit,

der alle, die niht nides pflegent,

whiche all, who no envy practice,

von schulde müeste dunken guot.

by right must seem good.

11,3 Klagelîche swære clage ich der vil lieben ûf ir güete,

Lamentable grief lament I to-the very dear-one on her goodness,

daz sî mir sî wende, wan sî swæret sêre mîn gemüete.

that she to-me it turn, for it weighs-down sorely my spirit.

swenne ich ûf der strâze

whenever I on the street

geselleclîche var

companionably fare

und sî wizzen lâze

and them know let

wie cleine man mîn nimet war,

how little one of-me takes heed,

sô sagent sî mir alle, waz in liebes sî geschehen,

so say they to-me all, what to-them of-dear is happened,

daz ez mich mûet, wan ich in niuwet guotes kan verjehen.

so-that it me vexes, for I to-them nothing of-good can avow.

herzeliebiu vrouwe,

heart-dear lady,

nu füege ez sô

now bring it so

daz ich noch gedenke

that I yet think

‘sô wol geschach mir dô!’

‘so well happened to-me then!’

Daz vrô mîn muot von herzen sî,

That glad my spirit from heart be,

des müeze diu vil werde sæliclîche leben,

for-that may the very worthy-one blessedly live,

diu mich von maneger sorge vrî

who me from many-a care free

gemachet hât und ouch vil lieben trôst gegeben,

made has and also very dear comfort given,

daz lieber nieman von sô reinem wîbe kam,

so-that dearer no-one from so pure woman came,

dô sî mir alle unvrôide mit sô stæter vrôide nam.

when she from-me all unjoy with so steadfast joy took.

II,4

ich sage iu, wære ez also ich hân gesaget,

I say to-you, were it as I have said,

sô möhte nû mîn endelôsiu clage wol sîn verdaget.

so might now my endless lament well be silenced.

Der werden wirde wirdet mich,

Of-the worthy-one's worth makes-worthy me,

ûf die sî sich mit allen guoten dingen wiget.

on which she herself with all good things poises.

waz lobe ich? sî lobt selbe sich

what praise I? she praises herself herself

mit diu daz sî sô stætelîche ir güete phliget.

with that that she so steadfastly her goodness practices.

ir sælde sældet lîp und êre swem sî wil:

her blessing blesses body and honor to-whom she will:

diu selbe sælde vreut ein teil mich mêre denne vil.

the same blessing gladdens a deal me more than much.

ich sage iu, wære ez also ich hân gesaget,

I say to-you, were it as I have said,

sô möhte nû mîn endelôsiu clage wol sîn verdaget.

so might now my endless lament well be silenced.

‘Ir sprâchet ie den frouwen wol:

‘Ye spoke ever of-the ladies well:

hab ich des iht genozzen, daz vergelte iu got.

(if)-have I of-that aught enjoyed, that repay to-you God.

vil gerne ouch ichz gedienen sol,

very gladly also I-it earn shall,

wan sô deich drumbe niht ensî der welte spot.

but so that-I therefore not be of-the world mockery.

ich engewan noch nie gein iu deheinen muot:

I conceived yet never toward you any spirit:

mirst anders inneclîche liep, swer iu iht liebe tuot.
to-me-is otherwise inwardly dear, whoever to-you aught of-love does.

ich sage iu, ist ez also ich hân gesaget,
I say to-you, is it as I have said,

so endarf noch iuwer endelôsiu clage niht sîn verdaget.
so needs still your endless lament not be silenced.'

Hövesche vrouwen hohgemuote

II,5

Courtly ladies high-spirited

habent ze boten jungen mannen mich gesant,
have as messenger to-young men me sent,

daz ir helfe in kome ze guote,
that their help to-them come to good,

sô daz sî noch vröide bringen in diu lant,
so that they yet joy bring into the lands,

und ich mich des vür sî ze gîsel gebe,
and I myself for-that for them as hostage give,

daz sis ân alle schulde sîn,
that they-of-it without all fault be,

ob ieman trûreclîchen lebe.
if anyone mournfully lives.

Dannoch bâten sî mich mêre

Yet-further asked they me more

künden den, die werdeclîcher minne gern,
make-known to-those, who of-worthy love desire,

daz sî dur ir selber êre
that they for their own honor

spottes unde lügelîcher mære enbern.
of-mockery and of-lying tales forbear.

swer mich des âne valsche dur sî gewert,
whoever me of-that without falsehood for them grants,

der habe gemeine ir aller wunsch,
he have in-common of-them all wish,

daz er erwerbe swes er gert.
that he obtain whatever he desires.

Solde ich iemer vröide erwerben
Should I ever joy win

an der vröide rîchen, daz wær an der zît:
on the joy rich-one, that were in the time:

lât sî jugent an mir verderben,
(if)-lets she youth on me perish,

sost lîht allez durre daz nû grüene lît.
then-is perhaps all dry that now green lies.

swer schiere gît dar nâch sô man sîn gert,
whoever quickly gives there after as one of-it desires,

als ich die wîsen høre jehen,
as I the wise-ones hear avow,

diu gâbe ist maneger gâbe wert.
the gift is of-many-a gift worth.

Minne, minneclîche Minne,
Love, lovely Love,

minne mich, sît ich von herzen minne dich.
love me, since I from heart love thee.

mich (ich minne dîne sinne)
me (I love thy mind)

minne: wilt dû danne dîne minne an mich
love: wilt thou then thy love on me

unminneclîchen kêren, Minne, owê!
unlovingly turn, Love, alas!

so ist Minne ir minne unminneclîch,

so is Love her love unloving,

wil sî daz vröide an mir zergê.

(if)-wills she that joy on me vanish.

Swer rehten wiben dienen sol,

Whoever right women serve shall,

dem wart nie an der welte baz.

to-him became never in the world better.

nû hât mich got des gêret wol,

now has me God of-that honored well,

wirt es iht mêre danne daz.

(if)-becomes of-it aught more than that.

got weiz wol deich an nihte niht wan gar daz beste tæte,

God knows well that-I in anything nothing but wholly the best did,

swie sî niht wan ein wênic mich gein liuterlîcher liebe lieber hæte.

though she not but a little me toward pure love dearer held.

Gît got der lieben den gedanc,

(if)-Gives God to-the dear-one the thought,

daz sî mir wirt als ich ir bin,

that she to-me becomes as I to-her am,

swaz ich gesinge ald ie gesanc,

whatever I sing or ever sang,

daz sî alsam ein niht dâ hin:

that be as a nothing there away:

ich sunge ein niuwez in ir namen, daz man sô gerne hôrte,

I would-sing a new-one in her name, that one so gladly would-hear,

daz mit gewalte senede leit dem vröide gernden von dem herzen stôrte.

that with force yearning woe the joy craving from the heart drove.

II,6

Dur nôt diu liebe liebet mir

Of necessity the dear-one grows-dear to-me

von tage ze tage baz und ie baz,

from day to day better and ever better,

sît nieman vinden kunde an ir

since no-one find could in her

nâch mîner ougen kûr ein daz:

after of-my eyes' choice a that:

niht wan daz eine daz, daz ich ie meinde. wirt des ende,

nothing but the one that, that I ever meant. becomes of-that end,

sô wurde ich seneder sorgen vrî und ouch diu sâlden rîche missewende.

so become I yearning cares free and also the blessings rich blemish.

II,7 Frouwe, ich wære gerne vrô:

Lady, I were gladly glad:

daz mac âne iuwer helfe niht gesîn.

that may without your help not be.

‘wê wie wære iu danne sô?

‘woe how were to-you then so?

dâ ist niht an, nemt ander trœster danne mîn.’

there is nothing in, take other comforter than mine.’

âne got enkan mich niht getrœsten wan ir eine.

except God can me not comfort but you alone.

‘lât selchen spot, dêswâr ich ahte ûf iuwer claffen harte cleine.’

‘leave such mockery, truly I heed on your chatter very little.’

Nein, vil süeze frouwe, nein,

Nay, very sweet lady, nay,

stætēm vriunt sol nieman alsô gar versagen.

to-steadfast friend shall no-one so wholly refuse.

‘wenne wart ich des enein,

‘when became I of-that agreed,

daz ich iuwer swære wolde helfen tragen?’

that I your grief would help bear?’

wizzent daz, ich werde vür, wirt sî von iu niht ringer.

know that, I become gone, becomes it by you not lighter.

‘ich sage iuz baz, dur selche nôt verlür ich niht den cleinen vinger.’

‘I say to-you-it better, for such need would-lose I not the little finger.’

Ir sult selchen spot verbern:

Ye shall such mockery forbear:

jô hât mir der ernest gar den schimpf genomen.

yea has from-me the earnest wholly the jest taken.

‘nû wes sol man iuch gewern

‘now of-what shall one you grant

daz ir sprechent daz iu swære sî benomen?’

that ye speak that from-you grief be taken?’

des kan ich iuch wol gewîsen, nemt ir mich ze râte.

of-that can I you well instruct, take ye me to counsel.

‘verdenke ich mich, als ich doch sol, sô volge ich iu des râtes spâte.’

‘bethink I myself, as I yet shall, so follow I you of-the counsel late.’

Daz mîn rât und ouch mîn clage

That my counsel and also my lament

iuch sô cleine wiget, waz tuot mir anders wê?

to-you so little weighs, what does to-me otherwise woe?

‘zürnent ir ob ich versage

‘are-angry ye if I refuse

daz mir niene enkumet, sô wirt des zornes mê.’

that to-me not-at-all comes, so becomes of-the anger more.’

sît nû zorn niht frumet, sô süene ich gerne ûf iuwer güete.

since now anger not avails, so make-peace I gladly on your goodness.

‘ich hân gesworn daz ich vor lôser manne tucke mich behüete.’

‘I have sworn that I against of-roguish men tricks myself guard.’

Bæser tücke ist mir niht kunt,

Of-evil tricks is to-me not known,

ich hân iu gedienet âne valschen wanc.

I have you served without false wavering.

‘wære ez wâr daz iuwer munt

‘were it true that your mouth

gegen mir sprichet, des sagt ich iu gerne danc.’

toward me speaks, of-that said I to-you gladly thanks.’

Hulfe ez iht ich swüere iu daz ich niht kan wan die rihte.

Helped it aught I would-swear to-you that I nothing can but the straightness.

‘sô sult ir niht verkunnen iuch dar umbe guoter zuoversihte.’

‘so shall ye not despair yourselves there for of-good confidence.’

II,8 Swen wunder daz ich sî geswigen,

Whom wonder that I am silent,

der vrâge mich, ich kan imz wol bescheiden.

he ask me, I can to-him-it well explain.

mir hânt diu wîp vil gar verzigen,

to-me have the women very wholly denied,

daz mir dur nôt daz singen muoz erleiden.

so-that to-me of necessity the singing must grow-loathsome.

sî ieman nû der sanges ger,

(if)-be anyone now who of-song desires,

der wünsche daz mich noch diu liebe süeze wer

he wish that me yet the dear sweet-one grant

des ich zir güete hân gegert:

of-that I of-her goodness have desired:

sô singe ich vrô und mache ir hôhen werde wert.

so sing I glad and make her high worth prized.

Ich suohte lieb, dô vant ich leit:

I sought joy, then found I sorrow:

wil daz diu guote mit ir güete wenden,

(if)-wills that the good-one with her goodness turn,

sô sî dir, trûren, widerseit.

so be to-thee, mourning, defied.

wer mac mit senfte unsenfte nôt verenden?

who may with gentleness harsh distress end?

mîn herze was vil nâch verzaget

my heart was very nearly despaired

dâ von daz mir sô dicke sêre wart versaget.

there from that to-me so often sorely was refused.

nû lâze eht ez sîn wanken sîn:

now let only it its wavering be:

ez wanke hin, ez wanke her, sist wider in.

it waver thither, it waver hither, she-is back in.

Kund ich der werden werdekeit

Could I of-the worthy-one's worth

gewirden nâch der werde als ichs erkenne,

honor after the worth as I-it know,

daz wære ir tûsentvalt bereit,

that were to-her thousandfold made-ready,

enphunde ich ir genâden eteswenne.

felt I her grace sometime.

gewalt der sol genædic sin:

power it shall gracious be:

des hât mîn alsô vil diu süeze frouwe min,

of-that has over-me so much the sweet lady mine,

wil sî mir als unz her versagen,

(if)-will she to-me as until hither refuse,

daz ich die swære niemer langer mac getragen.

that I the grief never longer may bear.

Nû stêt doch rehter güete wol

Now stands yet to-right goodness well

daz sî den guoten vriunt niht lange swære.

that she the good friend not long grieve.

sit ich den zwîvel lâzen sol,

since I the doubt leave shall,

sô lâze ouch sî die zwîvellîchiu mære.

so leave also she the doubtful tales.

daz ich sô dicke unliebe spür,

that I so often unlove feel,

des was ich nâch an allen mînen vröiden vür,

of-that was I nearly in all my joys gone,

wan daz mich der gedinge enlât

but that me the hope not-releases

daz selten von dem guoten iht wan guotes gât.

that seldom from the good aught but of-good goes.

Diu liebe liebet sich san mir

The dear-one endears herself straightway to-me

daz mir die lieben nieman kan erleiden.

that to-me the dear-one no-one can make-loathsome.

der selben liebe dinge ich zir:

of-the same love hope I to-her:

geruohte siz sô nâch genâden scheiden,

deigned she-it so after grace decide,

sô schiede ich mich von seneder nôt.

so parted I myself from yearning distress.

sus muoz ich kumber liden unz an mînen tôt.

thus must I affliction suffer until to my death.

ich sihe si hân sô sûeze leben

I see her have so sweet life

daz âne ir trôst mir nieman fröide kan gegeben.

that without her comfort to-me no-one joy can give.

Wie hôhes muotes ist ein man,

How of-high spirit is a man,

der sich zuo herzeclichen liebes schoenem libe hât geleit!

who himself to heartfelt love's fair body has laid!

zer vröude ich niht gelichen kan:

to-the joy I nothing liken can:

mirst elliu vreude gar enniht gein dirre, swaz mir ieman seit.

to-me-is all joy wholly nothing against this, whatever to-me anyone says.

swer sich sô wünneclicher wünne wol für wâr gevreuwen mac,

whoever himself of-so delightful delight well for true rejoice may,

der hât die naht niht angst wan daz in vertriben sol der tac.

he has the night no fear but that him drive-away shall the day.

Geseliclicher umbevanc

Companionable embrace

mit blanken armen sunder wân tuot senede herze hôhgemuot.

with white arms without doubt makes yearning hearts high-spirited.

dâ wirt daz ungemüete kranc,

there becomes the ill-spirit weak,

swâ minneclicher minne kus sô lieplich lieb ân ander tuot.

where of-lovely love's kiss so lovingly dear one another makes.

swer sich sô wünneclicher wünne wol für wâr gevreuwen mac,

whoever himself of-so delightful delight well for true rejoice may,

der hât die naht niht angst wan daz in vertriben sol der tac.

he has the night no fear but that him drive-away shall the day.

Der tac mich leider hât betaget

The day me sadly has dawned-on

sô selten nâch der êren sige, daz ich niht vreude mac verjehen.

so seldom after the honor's victory, that I no joy may avow.

vil sælic man, der des niht claget

very blessed man, who of-that not laments

und ime sin herze mac gesagen, waz ime ze liebe ist geschehen!

and to-him his heart may say, what to-him to joy is happened!

swer sich sô wünneclicher wünne wol für wâr gevreuwen mac,

whoever himself of-so delightful delight well for true rejoice may,

der hât die naht niht angst wan daz in vertriben sol der tac.

he has the night no fear but that him drive-away shall the day.

Der süeze wehsel under zwein,

The sweet exchange between two,

den werdiu minne vüegen kan, wie rucket der daz herze enbor!

which worthy love bring-about can, how lifts it the heart aloft!

diu beide ir muotes sint al ein:

they both of-their spirit are all one:

ich kan nâch wunsche erdenken niht zer welte sælde dirre vor.

I can after wish devise no in-the world blessing this before.

swer sich sô wünneclicher wünne wol für wâr gevreuwen mac,

whoever himself of-so delightful delight well for true rejoice may,

der hât die naht niht angst wan daz in vertriben sol der tac.

he has the night no fear but that him drive-away shall the day.

‘Der tac wil scheiden, ritter wert,

‘The day will part, knight worthy,

von liebe liep; ez muoz eht sin. wol ûf, lâz ir daz herze hie,

from love love; it must only be. well up, leave to-her the heart here,

diu dîn ze friunde hât gegert:

who of-thee as friend has desired:

sô wil ouch dir ir herze lân diu triuwen dir gewancte nie.

so will also to-thee her heart leave she in-faith to-thee wavered never.

die leiste ouch ir, als ez dîn werder lip vil wol geleisten mac,
them perform also to-her, as it thy worthy body very well perform may,
 mit schiere komene. ez mac niht langer hie gesin: ich sihe den tac.'
with quick coming, it may not longer here be: I see the day.'

Der vil sælde rîchen

II,10

To-the very of-blessing rich-one

wil ich dienen ûf ir sæliclîchen trôst.

will I serve on her blessed comfort.

waz kan sich gelîchen

what can itself liken

dem, den vreude ûz senenden sorgen hât erlôst?

to-him, whom joy out-of yearning cares has released?

der nie nôt nâch herzeclîcher liebe erleit,

who never distress after heartfelt love suffered,

der kan ouch niht wizzen waz gelücke

he can also not know what fortune

wünnencîlicher wünne gât zuo werdekeit.

of-delightful delight gives to worth.

Sit der guoten güete

Since the good-one's goodness

sich sô gûetet unde mêret alle tage,

itself so betters and increases all days,

sô muoz mîn gemüete

so must my spirit

sîn gehœhet ûf den trôst, daz ich bejage

be heightened on the comfort, that I win

lieplîch liep nâch leide alsô daz sî mir gebe

lovely joy after sorrow so that she to-me give

minneclîch ir gruoz. wê, wie ich danne vrœlîch

lovingly her greeting. woe, how I then gladly

al mîn langez trûren widerlebe!

all my long mourning out-live!

Swer an guoten wîben

Whoever in good women

hohen muot noch herzeliep niht vinden kan,

high spirit nor heart-joy not find can,

der muoz wol belîben

he must well remain

ungevrœit von werden vrœiden als ein man,

ungladdened of worthy joys as a man,

der sich aller wünne wol verkunnen muoz.

who himself of-all delight well despair must.

waz tuot in der welte rehten mannen alsô

what does in the world to-right men so

wol sô minneclîcher wibes gruoz?

well as of-lovely woman's greeting?

Wê wer sol mich grüezen,

Woe who shall me greet,

sit der werde gruoz sô volle sælde git?

since the worthy greeting so full blessing gives?

dâ wil ich der süezen

there will I to-the sweet-one

umbe dienen, wande an ir mîn vröide lît:

for serve, for on her my joy lies

sô gedinge ich daz sî mir genâde tuot.

so hope I that she to-me grace does.

in wils niht gedingen, ich wil wizzen, daz si mir mit liebe lônnet:

I will-it not hope, I will know, that she to-me with love rewards:

sist sô guot.

she-is so good.

Kunde ich sô gesingen

Could I so sing

daz doch under sehen zwêne diuhte guot,

that yet among six two seemed good,

sô wolt ich mich twingen,

so would I myself constrain,

möhte ez anders niht gesin, ût hôhen muot.

might it otherwise not be, to high spirit.

sol ich niht ersingen wan der liute haz,

(if)-shall I nothing win-by-song but the people's hate,

sô gezimet der guoten wol an sælden unde an

so beseems to-the good-one well in blessings and in

êren daz sî mir ersetze daz.

honors that she to-me make-good that.

Vreut iuch, vreut iuch, fröide rîchen,

Rejoice you, rejoice you, of-joy rich-ones,

die dâ sîn von schulden vrô!

who there are by right glad!

möhte ich mich wol iu gelîchen,

might I myself well to-you liken,

wê wie gerne ich tæte alsô!

woe how gladly I would-do so!

al die wîle mich diu guote

all the while me the good-one

vremeden wil, son wirt mir niemer wol ze muote.

estrangle will, then becomes to-me never well to spirit.

waz dar umbe? ist ez nû sus, sô was ez lîhte anders dô.

what there about? is it now thus, so was it perhaps otherwise then.

Wolde ein sûeze wip ir êre

Would a sweet woman her honor

lân an friunde werden schîn,

let on friend become manifest,

sô engerte ich liebes mêre

so not-desired I of-joy more

hinnen dar; sô muoz ich sin

hence thither; so must I be

sam der sich ze vröiden twinget.

as he himself to joys constrains.

swelh man niht von herzen noch von muote singet,

whatever man not from heart nor from spirit sings,

da ist der lûterliche valsch verdecket in gemâlen schrîn.

there is the pure falsehood hidden in painted shrine.

Wer kan nû den slüzzel vinden,

Who can now the key find,

der mir vröide entsliezen sol?

which to-me joy unlock shall?

wolte si sichs underwinden,

would she herself-of-it undertake,

daz kunt ir genâde wol,

that knows her grace well,

diu mich êret unde unêret,

who me honors and dishonors,

diu mich heilet ob sî wil und ouch versêret,

who me heals if she will and also wounds,

sô daz ich die herzeclîchen swære unendelîchen dol.

so that I the heartfelt grief endlessly endure.

Wir sun danken wibes gûete,

We shall thank woman's goodness,

hân wir êre, hân wir guot,

(if)-have we honor, have we goods,

wan sî hœhent manic gemûete,

for they heighten many-a spirit,

daz doch niemen hôhgemuot

that yet no-one high-spirited

âne ir werden trôst gesæhe.

without their worthy comfort would-see.

ist daz trœsten mir von ungelücke unnæhe,

(if)-is that comforting to-me from misfortune far,

sost doch wâr daz niht sô dicke lieb nâch herzeleide tuot.

then-is yet true that nothing so often dear after heart-sorrow does.

Ich wær ê vil lange muotes

I were before very long of-spirit

unde an vröiden gar verzaget,

and in joys wholly despaired,

wan daz ich diu wunder guotes

but that I the wonders of-good

an ir weiz, swie sî versaget,

in her know, however she refuses,

daz sî mich wol zeiner stunde

that she me well at-a hour

von der langen und der leiden swære enbunde,

from the long and the grievous grief would-unbind,

in der ich ûf guot gedinge dicke an sorgen bin betaget.

in which I on good hope often in cares am dawned-upon.

II,12 Sumer unde sumerwünne

Summer and summer-delight

wünnent niht ze rehte sich,

delight not to right themselves,

noch die vogel in ir künne,

nor the birds in their kind,

noch die liute, dunket mich.

nor the people, seems to-me.

nû waz sol ich danne singen,

now what shall I then sing,

obe ich gerne singen wil,

if I gladly sing will,

sît unvuoge wil verdringen

since impropriety will crowd-out

alliu vröidehaften spil?

all joyful games?

Höveschlich tanzen, vröelich lachen

Courtly dancing, glad laughing

was bi niuwen zîten wert:

was in recent times prized:

daz wil wætlich widerswachen,

that will likely decline-again,

sô daz mans ze nihte gert.

so that one-it to nothing desires.

rouben, brennen, übel râten,
robbing, burning, ill counseling,

daz ist nû ein gæber site:
that is now an acceptable custom:

doch die enz dâ gerne tâten
yet those it there gladly did

was dô wæn ich baz dâ mite.
was then ween I better there with.

Waz kan wibe unt wibes êren
What can to-woman and woman's honor

unde ir güete sin gelich,
and her goodness be like,

diez ze guote wellen kêren?
who-it to good will turn?

dan ist niht sô sælden rich.
there is nothing so of-blessings rich.

obe daz iender wirt gecrenket,
if that anywhere is weakened,

daz liht einiu missetuot,
that perhaps one does-amiss,

swer dâ crankes zuo gedenket
whoever there of-weak to thinks

allen wîben, dast niht guot.
to-all women, that-is not good.

Ich weiz eine in hôhem muote,
I know one in high spirit,

diust sô gar ein wîbîn wîp,
who-is so wholly a womanly woman,

unde ir sin stât sô ze guote,
and her mind stands so to good,

solde eht iemer wîbes lîp
should only ever woman's person

herze vreun, daz sî wol solde
heart gladden, that she well should

mannes herze machen vrô.
man's heart make glad.

erst niht man, der daz niht wolde:
he-is no man, who that not would:

alse ich bin, ich wolte ez sô.
as I am, I would it so.

Sun die alten vür die jungen
(if)-Shall the old before the young

vreude gern, daz missezimt:
joy desire, that misbeseems:

da ist des rehtes reht verdrungen,
there is the right's right crowded-out,

swa'z unwæger für genimt.
where-it worse fore takes.

doch wirt mit der wægern schanze
yet is with the better chance

manic vil wætlich spil verlorn
many-a very goodly game lost

unde an trügellichem glanze
and in deceitful gleam

dicke sûr für süeze erkorn.
often sour for sweet chosen.

II,13 Wie gern ich mit vröiden wære,
How gladly I with joys were,

wære unvröide niht sô weit!
were unjoy not so wide!

nust den rîchen vreude unmære:

now-is to-the rich joy indifferent:

mære ist swer ir niht engert.

notable is whoever of-it not desires.

ob ich an mir selbem vunde

if I in me self found

daz ich hôhes muotes mich gern underwunde,

that I of-high spirit myself gladly undertook,

sône vunde ich niht den niunden, der mirs gunde.

so found I not the ninth, who to-me-it granted.

Ich muoz lieben unde leiden

I must to-dear and to-hateful

leiden trôst von schulden geben:

hateful comfort by right give:

triuwe und êre virret beiden.

faiþ and honor removes-far from-both.

beiden nieman kan geleben,

to-both no-one can live-up,

alten siten, jungen liuten:

to-old ways, to-young people:

swer diu beidiu nû wil mit ein ander triuten,

whoever the both now will with one another cherish,

der wirt gar ze spotte, kan ers niht verkiuten.

he becomes wholly to mockery, can he-it not reconcile.

Liezen sich die touben wîsen

Let themselves the foolish direct

wîsen ûf der sælden vart,

direct on the blessing's road,

sô kund ich ir leben geprîsen.

so could I their life praise.

prîsen wir ir touben art,
praise we their foolish nature,

daz mac wol ir tugent geriuwen.
that may well their virtue rue.

dô man alte sach dur zuht die jungen bliuwen,
when one old-ones saw for discipline the young beat,

dô stuond ez an êren baz und ouch an triuwen.
then stood it in honor better and also in faith.

Wer sol sich an valschen kêren?
Who shall himself to false-ones turn?

kêren sich die valschen dran,
turn themselves the false-ones thereto,

die niht gern wan valscher êren!
who nothing desire but of-false honors!

êren craft nie man gewan
of-honors power never man won

wan der eine, der des vâрте,
but the one, who of-that strove,

daz er sô mit triuwe und ouch mit zuht gebârte
that he so with faith and also with decorum bore-himself

daz er nie an ir betagete noch bejârte.
that he never in it day-aged nor year-aged.

Wê daz wir sô cranke werben!
Woe that we so weakly strive!

werben anders danne alsô!
strive otherwise than so!

êst ze jungest niht wan sterben:
it-is at last nothing but dying:

sterben alse lihte vrô,
to-die as easily glad,

sô daz wir die tage verswenden

so that we the days squander

âne vreude und doch mit sorgen niht verenden.

without joy and yet with cares not end.

waz sol trûren vür daz nieman kan erwenden?

what avails mourning against that no-one can turn-away?

‘Swer minnecliche minne

‘Whoever lovely love

mit minneclîchem liebe habe,

with lovely dear-one has,

der sol sich des niht sûmen, sô der tac ûf gê,

he shall himself of-that not delay, when the day up goes,

ern twinge sîne sinne

he constrain his senses

sîns herzeclîches liebes abe,

of-his heartfelt love away,

dur daz sin künfteclîchiu vreude werde als ê:

so that his future joy become as before:

sô mac diu vriuntschaft wernde wol belîben;

so may the friendship lasting well remain;

ouch sint gewis, swaz man wil übertriben,

also be sure, whatever one will overdo,

daz dâ daz wol vil lîhte am ende wirt ein wê.’

that there that well very easily at-the end becomes a woe.’

‘Nû hœrent, trûtgeselle!’

‘Now hear, dear-companion!’

sô sprach daz wünneclîche wîp:

so spoke the delightful woman:

‘wie nâhe mir daz wecken an min herze gât!

‘how near to-me the waking to my heart goes!’

II,14

ich welle sône welle,

I will so-not will,

sô vürhte ich daz dîn minne mich

so fear I that thy love me

an vröiden gar verderbe, diu niht mâze hât.

in joys wholly ruin, which no measure has.

ich wæne an mir diu mâze welle unmâzen:

I ween in me the measure will grow-measureless:

wiltû mich alsô dicke senede lâzen,

(if)-wilt-thou me so often yearning leave,

daz ist ein dinc, daz mir den lîp niht lange lât.'

that is a thing, that to-me the life not long leaves.'

'Owê, mîns herzen herze,

Alas, of-my heart's heart,

dû wilt min herze brechen abe,

thou wilt my heart break off,

wan ê dir iht geschehe, sô müeze mir geschehen

for before to-thee aught happen, so may to-me happen

ein unverheilet smerze,

an unbealed pain,

dâ man niht vür gebieten kan.

there one nothing against command can.

sus stêt gein dir mîn wille, des muoz ich verjehen.'

thus stands toward thee my will, of-that must I avow.'

dâ wart ein lieplich kus nâch herzesêre,

there was a lovely kiss after heart-sorrow,

dar nâch mit rechter güete in weiz waz mêre:

there after with right goodness I-not know what more:

dâ sol man nâch gedenken unde niht gesehen.

there shall one after think and not see.

‘Sol ich nû von dir scheiden,

‘(if)-Shall I now from thee part,

sô muoz doch ungescheiden sin

so must yet unparted be

getriuwes herzen triuwe, der ich hân gepflegen

of-faithful heart faith, which I have kept

gein dir, sît minne uns beiden

toward thee, since love to-us both

gesellicliche liebe erwarp.’

companionable love won.’

‘sô hân ich alles trôstes mich an dich bewegen:

‘so have I of-all comfort myself on thee resolved:

mich kan niht wan dîn eines trôst getræsten.

me can nothing but thy one comfort comfort.

ich bin den besten obe: daz wirt zem bœsten,

I am the best above: that becomes to-the worst,

wirt mir von dir niht herzeclicher triuwen segē.’

becomes to-me from thee no of-heartfelt faith blessing’

‘Min vröude und mîne sinne,

‘My joy and my senses,

min lîp, mîn leben, min sælde gar

my body, my life, my blessing wholly

hât sô dîn liep in banden daz ich dir niht mac

has so thy love in bonds that I to-thee not may

entwenken stæter minne,

escape of-steadfast love,

und alsô stæter daz mir ie

and so steadfast that to-me ever

dîn liep, dîn leit, dîn swære vür daz mîne wac.

thy joy, thy sorrow, thy grief more-than the mine weighed.

nû lâ mich, frouwe, varn mit dînen hulden!

now let me, lady, fare with thy favor!

mir wære ein jâr ein tac bî dir von schulden.

to-me were a year a day by thee by right.

nû mages eht hie niht mêr gesîn. wol ûf, êst tac!

now may-it only here not more be. well up, it-is day!

II,15 Von vröiden vreut mîn herze sich,

From joys gladdens my heart itself,

swenn ich die vröiden rîchen sihe:

whenever I the of-joys rich-one see:

iedoch dar under twinget mich

yet there under constrains me

ein leit, des ich dur nôt vergihe.

a sorrow, of-which I of necessity avow.

ist sî schoene und ist sî guot,

(if)-is she fair and is she good,

deste wirs tuot mir versagen:

the worse does to-me refusing:

wære sî alt arm und ungemuot,

were she old poor and ill-spirited,

sô möht ich sî wol verclagen.

so might I her well lament-away.

Ir ist daz ofte vor gesaget,

To-her is that often before said,

daz ich ir gerne dienen wil.

that I her gladly serve will.

verdulte mir ein süeze maget

allowed to-me a sweet maid

daz ich ir teilte vor ein spil,

that I to-her dealt before a game,

widerspræche danne'n teil

gainsaid then-the part

niht, sô solde er stæte sin.

not, so should it steadfast be.

niemer wirde ich doch ir schimphes geil,

never become I yet of-her jesting merry,

diu sô hât geschimphet mîn.

who so has jested of-me.

Mîn gemüete hœhet sich:

My spirit heightens itself:

II,16

hôhe müeze ir werder lîp an sælden stên,

high may her worthy person in blessings stand,

diu sô werdecliche mich

who so worthily me

kan getroesten, daz mîn trûren muoz zergên.

can comfort, that my mourning must vanish.

swie sî nâch ir minneclîchen güete wil gebâren,

however she after her lovely goodness will bear-herself,

sô widerjunge ich swaz ich galtet bin in leiden jâren.

so grow-young-again I whatever I aged am in grievous years.

Leider jâre wirt mir buoz

Of-grievous years becomes to-me remedy

sô diu liebe rehte liep erkennen wil,

when the dear-one right love know will,

unde ir süezen mundes gruoze

and her sweet mouth's greeting

mich sô grüezet, daz mir vröide mêret vil.

me so greets, that to-me joy increases much.

nâch dem gruoze wil ich alsô strîteclîche werben,

after the greeting will I so strenuously strive,

wirt mir sîn niht, daz man mich ûf der verte siht verderben.

(if)-becomes to-me of-it nothing, that one me on the way sees perish.

II,17 Ich wil mit fröide rîchem muote

I will with of-joy rich spirit

singen alle wîle ein wîp.

sing all while a woman.

ir güete kêre mirz ze guote,

her goodness turn to-me-it to good,

diu mîn herze und al den lîp

who my heart and all the body

âne valsch in ir gewalt betwungen hât,

without falsehood into her power constrained has,

sô daz mir nie liebers wart zer welt geborn.

so that to-me never dearer was in-the world born.

nimt sî nû ze guotes wîbes herzen rât,

(if)-takes she now to of-good woman's heart counsel,

sô dinge ich daz mîn stætez lieb an ir niht sî verlorn.

so hope I that my steadfast love on her not be lost.

Swie vil ein wîp unvröide machet

However much a woman joylessness makes

einem man der stæte hât,

to-a man who steadfastness has,

sô sîn dan eines ane lachet

so she-him then once on laughs

sô daz ez von herzen gât,

so that it from heart goes,

sost sîn drîzecjæric leit mit liebe hin.

then-is his thirty-year sorrow with love gone.

daz geloube ich allez bî mir selbem wol.

that believe I wholly by me self well.

trôste sî mich noch der eigen ich dâ bin,

comforted she me yet whose own I there am,

sô gulte ich wol mit liebe swaz ich leides gelten sol.

so would-pay I well with love whatever I of-sorrow pay shall.

Verteilet mich diu schœne ir güete

Denies me the fair-one her goodness

hinnen hin als ouch dâ her,

hence on as also there hither,

sô twinget liebe mîn gemüete

so constrains love my spirit

sô daz ich des niht enber,

so that I of-that not forgo,

ich enhabe vür guot swaz sî an mir begê

I hold for good whatever she on me do

unde mich niht wan des besten zir versehe.

and me nothing but of-the best of-her expect.

swie sî wil, sô wil ich daz min fröide stê

however she will, so will I that my joy stand

noch niemer lieb noch guot ân ir genâde mir beschehe.

and never joy nor good without her grace to-me happen.

Swaz ie diu welt nâch vröide ûf hôhen muot gewarp,

Whatever ever the world after joy for high spirit strove,

sin werbe ouch noch, deist als ein niht.

it strive also still, that-is as a nothing

wan daz nie gar ein senede leit an mir verdarp

but that never wholly a yearning sorrow on me perished

von maneger fremeder ungeschicht,

from many-a strange mishap,

sô vunde ich daz,

so found I that,

des ich mich noch vil wol verwæne an mînem muote,

of-which I myself still very well presume in my spirit,

daz ich mich nie gevreute baz,

that I myself never rejoiced better,

geschæhe ouch mir von der vil werde lebenden iht ze guote.

happened also to-me from the very worthily living-one aught to good.

Wol dingen unde iedoch niht vollen wol geleben,

Well to-hope and yet not fully well to-live,

sô vürhte ich lîhte ein ende nemen.

so fear I easily an end take.

der selbe trôst ist mir ze mîner nôt gegeben:

the same comfort is to-me for my distress given:

sol daz der lieben wol gezemen,

(if)-shall that to-the dear-one well beseem,

sô wundert mich.

so wonders me.

sol ich sô zwîvellicher vröide an sî gedingen,

(if)-shall I so doubtful joy on her hope,

sô sol sî baz bedenken sich:

so shall she better bethink herself:

ichn kunde von den mæren niemer guotes niht gesingen.

I could of the tidings never of-good aught sing.

‘Swer zürnet sô, daz ez gât vür die êre sîn,

‘Whoever is-angry so, that it goes against the honor his,

der übersiht der wîsen rât.

he overlooks of-the wise counsel.

sold iuwer dienest vloren an mir einer sîn,

should your service lost on me one be,

sô wære ouch daz ein missetât.

so were also that a misdeed.

vergezzet ir

forget ye

dur daz der vuoge, ob ich an iu kein vuoge tæte,

for that of-the fitness, if I on you no fitness did,

sô wæne ich wære bezzer mir,

so ween I were better for-me,

ich hæte iuch liep, dann ich den haz von schulden ûf mir hæte.'

I held you dear, than I the hate by right on me had.'

Got herre, du geschüefe mich:

II,19

God lord, thou createdst me:

daz weiz ich unde bin sô tump daz ich nie wolte erkennen dich.

that know I and am so foolish that I never would know thee.

wie möhte ich iemer tumber sîn?

how might I ever more-foolish be?

sô weiz ich daz ich brœde bin:

so know I that I frail am:

sô weiz ich daz ich niht enwas und niht enwirde. owê, der sin

so know I that I nothing was and nothing become. alas, the mind

mac wol die tôrheit machen schîn,

may well the folly make manifest,

daz ich mich selben tœre! des wird ich vil lihte ertoeret.

that I myself self fool! of-that am I very easily befooled.

swie sîn genâde mîne unsælde niht zerstoeret,

however his grace my unbledness not destroys,

des craft dur güete wonders vil begangen hât,

whose power through goodness of-wonder much wrought has,

sô kan mîn armen sünders niemer werden rât.

so can of-me poor sinner never become remedy.

Dô got den rîchen rîche schuof,

When God the rich rich made,

dô schuof erz sô, daz er bekande in rehter nôt des armen ruof,

then made he-it so, that he knew in right distress of-the poor cry,

wolt er sîn iht bedurfen mêr.

would he of-it aught need more.

dâ bî gab er in eine wal:

there by gave he to-them a choice:

der welt gelust in hôher fuore hie und vallen dort ze tal

of-the world delight in high conduct here and to-fall there to valley

in iemer wernde herzesêr.

into ever lasting heart-sorrow.

diz ist in vor geteilet; neme daz eine swer der welle:

this is to-them before dealt; take the one whoever of-them will:

swer sich genideret, dem wirt hœhe nâch gevelle,

whoever himself lowers, to-him becomes height after fall,

und swer sich hœhet, daz der dâ genidert wirt,

and whoever himself heightens, that he there lowered becomes,

dâ jâmer unde senede leit ân ende swirt.

where misery and yearning sorrow without end festers.

Der rihter wirt dur daz genant

The judge is for that named

von gote ein rihter, daz er rehte rihten sol und dâ zehant,

by God a judge, that he rightly judge shall and there forthwith,

swâ er vernimpt daz wære wâr,

wherever he hears that were true,

und sol dem valschen volgen niht

and shall the false-one follow not

der in dur vriunt, dur guot, durch haz getriuwes râtes übersiht.

who him for friend, for good, for hate of-faithful counsel overlooks.

...

(lacuna)

...

(lacuna)

...

(lacuna)

...

(lacuna)

...

(lacuna)

Der welte vogt, des himels künic, ich lobe iuch gerne

Of-the world warden, the heaven's king, I praise you gladly

II,20

daz ir mich hânt erlâzen des daz ich niht lerne,

that ye me have released of-that that I not learn,

wie dirre und der an vrömden stat ze mînem sange scherne.

how this-one and that in strange place at my song scoff.

mîn meister claget sô sêre von der Vogelweide,

my master laments so sorely of the Vogelweide,

in twinge daz, in twinge jenz, daz mich noch nie getwanc.

him constrains this, him constrains that, which me yet never constrained.

den lânt sî bî sô rîcher kunst an habe ze cranc,

him let they beside so rich art in goods too weak,

daz ich mich kûme ûf ir genâde von dem mînem scheide.

that I myself hardly on their grace from the mine part.

sus heize ich wirt und rîte hein: da ist mir niht wê.

thus am-called I host and ride home: there is to-me not woe.

dâ singe ich von der heide und von dem grünen klê.

there sing I of the heath and of the green clover.

daz stætent ir mir, milter got, daz es mir iht zergê.

that make-steadfast ye to-me, gentle God, that of-it to-me aught vanish.

II,21 Nû gerte ich niht der welte mê,

Now would-desire I nothing of-the world more,

wan daz ich wilen solte sehen

but that I at-times should see

der mir daz herze nie vergaz,

her-whom to-me the heart never forgot,

sît sî mir tuot mit guote wê

since she to-me does with good woe

und ir mîns willen wart verjehen

and to-her of-my will was avowed

mit vorhte, als ich ir wort entsaz:

with fear, as I her word dreaded:

dô was ir wort, ir werc sô minnenclîch und allez ir gebâren,

then was her word, her work so lovely and all her bearing,

der iemer nâch dem wunsche schœnes wîbes solte vâren,

who ever after the wish of-fair woman should seek,

der kunde sî nâch mînem dunke schœner niht gemachen.

he could her after my thinking fairer not make.

mich vröwete, wære ich halber tôt, geruohte mich sô

me would-gladden, were I half dead, deigned me so

sælic wîp von herzen an gelachen.

blessed woman from heart on to-laugh.

Sô süeze lachen süezet mir

So sweet laughing sweetens to-me

daz jâr, die wîle und ouch daz leben,

the year, the while and also the life,

deich sorge twinge ûf hôher stên.

that-I care constrain up higher stand.

ich weiz die süezen sælde an ir,

I know the sweet blessing in her,

diu selhe fröide kan gegeben,

which such joy can give,

von der wol trûren muoz zergên.

from which well mourning must vanish.

wie möhte alsô bescheidenlicher güete iht arges widerstrîten,

how might so discerning to-goodness aught of-ill strive-against,

in der sî reineclîche lebet mit sælden zallen zîten?

in which she purely lives with blessings at-all times?

ez müeste wol sîn ûz der mâze nâhe gênde ein swære,

it must well be out-of the measure near going a grief,

dâ alsô werdes wîbes trôst, den sî wol gæbe, ruohte sis,

where so of-worthy woman's comfort, which she well would-give, deigned she-it,

niht guot ze buoze wære.

not good for remedy were.

Gedinge sorge vlêhen tuot

Hope care entreating makes

mich vor den jâren werden alt:

me before the years become old:

owê mir wê! daz vüeget sî,

alas to-me woe! that brings-about she,

daz sî mich weiz alsô gemuot,

that she me knows so disposed,

swie sêre sî mir tuot gewalt,

however sorely she to-me does violence,

daz ir mîn herze ist stæte bî.

that to-her my heart is steadfastly by.

nû sî eht stæte: ich wil mit sige od âne sic belîben.

now be only steadfast: I will with victory or without victory remain.

mir mac mîn guot gedinge noch die sorge wol vertriben:

to-me may my good hope yet the care well drive-away:

ob ir genâde mir genædeclîche wirt erzeiget,

if her grace to-me graciously is shown,

daz flêhen sûeze am ende wirt, sost allez daz ich wê geschrê,

the entreating sweet at-the end becomes, then-is all that I woe cried,

mit vrôiden gar gesweiget.

with joys wholly silenced.

II,22 Diu hôhgemuote hœhet sich mit tugenden sô,

The high-spirited-one heightens herself with virtues so,

daz sich mîn herze hœhen muoz von schulden.

that itself my heart heighten must by right.

owê wan wæren nû die edelen jungen vrô!

alas would were now the noble young glad!

sô möhte ich ir gedienen wol ze hulden.

so might I to-her serve well to favor.

wie möhte ich eine ir hôhez lop ze vollem werde bringen?

how might I alone her high praise to full worth bring?

in kunde ez niht in tûsent tûsent jâren gar gesingen.

I could it not in thousand thousand years wholly sing.

dar umbe hæte ich vrôide gerender helfe gerne und ouch ir rât:

there fore would-have I of-joy desiring help gladly and also their counsel:

waz obe ir eteslîcher ouch ûf liep gedinge mir gelîchen kumber hât?

what if them some-one also on joy hope me like affliction has?

Mîn kumber, der mich ie sô kumberlîchen twanc,

My affliction, which me ever so grievously constrained,

den mac diu minneclîche wol verenden.

that may the lovely-one well end.

ich sunge, ich sagete ir alsô hovelîchen danc,

I would-sing, I would-say to-her so courtly thanks,

geruohte sî mîn ungemüete wenden,

deigned she my ill-spirit turn,

des sich ir ôre müeste ervrewen und ouch ir herze erlachen.

of-which itself her ear must rejoice and also her heart laugh-out.

owê wie kan sî sælic wîp sô hôch gemüete machen!

alas how can she blessed woman so high spirit make!

er sol ze rehte lange mezzen, der an sî sô ebene maz,

he shall to right long measure, who on her so evenly measured,

daz er an ir zer welte nie nâch vollem

that he on her in-the world never after full

wunsche weder des noch des vergaz.

wish or of-this or of-that forgot.

Swaz ieman weiz, ich weiz ein wîp sô vollekomen

Whatever anyone knows, I know a woman so perfect

an lîbe, an schœne, an êren unde an muote,

in body, in beauty, in honors and in spirit,

wirt mir von ir genâden swære niht benomen,

is to-me from her grace grief not taken,

daz mir niht anders mac geschehen ze guote.

that to-me nothing else may happen to good.

in weiz waz wunders ieman hie bevor an wîben sæhe:

I-not know what of-wonder anyone here before in women saw:

mich dunket des daz nieman in der welte baz geschæhe,

me seems of-that that to-no-one in the world better could-happen,

mir möhte an ir ze vröideclîchen vröiden also wol geschehen,

to-me might in her to joyful joys as well happen,

solt ich der wünneclicîchen trôst mit liebem ende

should I of-the delightful-one comfort with dear end

mir ze heile noch gesehen.

to-me to weal yet see.

II,23 Sælde rîche sælic wîp,
Of-blessing rich blessed woman,

wie dû lêrest herzeliebe widerleben!
how thou teachest heart-love live-again!

sælde vröide herze lîp
blessing joy heart body

hâte ich einem wîbe in ir gewalt gegeben.
had I to-a woman into her power given.

bin ich dâ beswæret, wê wie sol ich daz gesagen?
am I there aggrieved, woe how shall I that say?

dâ wil ichz alrêste gote und dar nâch al der welte clagen.
there will I-it first to-God and there after to-all the world lament.

Minneclich gebâren wil
Lovely bearing will

mich verderben, daz ich an der guoten sach.
me ruin, which I on the good-one saw.

daz ir schœne ie wart sô vil,
that her beauty ever became so much,

daz hât mir gemachet swære und ungemach.
that has to-me made grief and distress.

doch hât mich behabet an liebem wâne noch der wân,
yet has me held in dear fancy still the fancy,

daz nieman grôz lieb enmac ân under wîlent leit gehân.
that no-one great joy may without at times sorrow have.

Süezer vröide ich was gewent:
To-sweet joy I was accustomed:

wol im der mich alsô suoze widerwene!
well to-him who me so sweetly unaccustom!

des muot werde als unversent,
whose spirit become as unyearning,

also sêre sich dur nôt der mîne sene.

as sorely itself of necessity the mine yearns.

vrœlich lachen unde gütlich sprechen muoz mir geben

glad laughing and kindly speaking must to-me give

trôst, der trœste, und ouch enzît, wan anders muoz ich senede leben.

comfort, which comforts, and also in-time, for otherwise must I yearning live.

Al der welte nieman kan

All the world no-one can

sô gebâren, daz sî alle dunke guot:

so bear-himself, that to-them all seem good:

dur waz nâme ich mich des an,

for what should-take I myself of-that on,

daz nieman getet noch niemer mê getuot?

that no-one did nor ever more does?

ich vûer in der mâze, des mich diuhte wol gevarn,

I would-fare in the measure, of-that me would-seem well fared,

möhte ich zuo der meisten menege mîner vuoge mich gescharn.

might I to the greatest throng of-my fitness myself rank.

Waz sol singen oder sagen

What avails singing or saying

alder iht des hôhem muote wol gezimt?

or aught of-that to-high spirit well beseems?

ich sold anders mich bejagen,

I should otherwise myself maintain,

sît es nieman war nâch sînem werde nimt.

since of-it no-one heed after its worth takes.

hæte ab ez diu werde hôchgemuote alleine wert,

held but it the worthy high-spirited-one alone dear,

sô wær allez daz geschehen dar an, des mir daz herze gert.

so were all that happened there in, of-which to-me the heart desires.

Clage ich mîne seneden clage,

Lament I my yearning lament,

diu mich twinget unde ie herzecliche twanc,

which me constrains and ever heartfely constrained,

mit der clage ich niht bejage

with the lament I nothing win

noch bejagete nie wan wîlent smæhen danc.

nor won ever but at-times scant thanks.

sol ich sô mit leide ûf liep gedinge lange leben,

(if)-shall I so with sorrow on joy hope long live,

sô mac mir diu liebe ir trôst vil schiere unschedeliche geben.

so may to-me the dear-one her comfort very quickly harmlessly give.

Sælic wîle, sælic zît,

Blessed while, blessed time,

sælic allez daz der süezen stunt geschach,

blessed all that of-the sweet hour happened,

dô sî, diu mir sælde git,

when she, who to-me blessing gives,

ein sô süeze sælic wort ze mir sprach,

a so sweet blessed word to me spoke,

daz mich iemer werdeclicher vröide hœhen muoz:

which me ever of-worthier joy heighten must:

ouch nîg ich ir willecliche, wirt mir state, unz an den vuoz.

also bow I to-her willingly, becomes to-me occasion, down to the foot.

II,24 Der ich diene und al dâ her gedienet hân,

Whom I serve and all there hither served have,

sît ich von kinde alrêrest dienen kunde,

since I from child first serve could,

diust sô liep, sô guot und ouch sô wol getân,

she-is so dear, so good and also so well fashioned,

daz man den allen niht geliches vunde.
that one to-them all nothing of-like would-find.

sî liebet sich von tage ze tage:
she endears herself from day to day:

dêst ir site, der ich sô holdez herze trage,
that-is her way, to-whom I so fond heart bear,

daz sî sô süezer süeze wenet,
that she so to-sweet sweetness accustoms,

daz man sich noete nâch der lieben liebe senet.
that one oneself of-necessity after the dear-one's love yearns.

Waz diu werde minneclîcher minne gît
What the worthy-one of-lovely love gives

dem, der sî nâch ir werde kan geminnen!
to-him, who her after her worth can love!

dâ bî sô vil wünneclîcher wünne lît,
there by so much of-delightful delight lies,

daz sich des nieman zende kan versinnen.
that himself of-it no-one to-end can conceive.

wie kunde ich werden hôhgemuot
how could I become high-spirited

âne ir trôst, sît sî sô gar nâch wunsche tuot?
without her comfort, since she so wholly after wish does?

dur daz hân ich mir ir ergeben,
for that have I myself to-her given,

wan sî sô wol gelieben kan dem man sîn leben.
for she so well endear can to-the man his life.

Dæhte ich iemer, ine verdæhte ir güete niht,
Thought I ever, I would-think-out her goodness not,

die man an der vil minneclîchen vindt.
which one in the very lovely-one finds.

er muoz lachen, swer ir under ougen siht;
he must laugh, whoever her under eyes sees;

des sî sich nâch ir sælden underwindet,
whom she herself after her blessing undertakes,

dem tuot sî liep und êre schîn.
to-him makes she joy and honor manifest.

wol mich des! sô sælic ist diu frouwe mîn,
well me of-that! so blessed is the lady mine,

swen sî mit willen vröide wert,
whom she with will joy grants,

dem gît sî vröiden swaz er ir zer welte gert.
to-him gives she of-joys whatever he of-her in-the world desires.

Diz ist mîn vrô Welt, die ich sô sêre lobe,
This is my lady World, whom I so greatly praise,

und in der dienest ich nû lange schîne.
and in whose service I now long appear.

swer sî minnet, der ist allen vröiden obe:
whoever her loves, he is to-all joys above:

sî hât vil süezer wunnen in ir schrîne.
she has many of-sweet delights in her coffer.

des mac ir prîs wol hôhe stân:
of-that may her praise well high stand:

ouch sint gewis, swie hôhe ich sî geprîset hân,
also be sure, however high I her praised have,

swel man ir besten lôn enphât,
whatever man her best reward receives,

daz sin ze jungest an dem bæsten ende lât.
that she-him at last at the worst end leaves.

Uns ist unsers sanges meister an die vart

To-us is of-our song master on the journey

den man ê von der Vogelweide nande,

whom one before of the Vogelweide named,

diu uns nâch im allen ist vil unverspart.

which to-us after him all is very unbarred.

waz frumet nû swaz er ê der welte erkande?

what avails now whatever he before to-the world made-known?

sîn hôher sin ist worden cranc:

his high mind is become weak:

nû wûnschen ime dur sînen werden hoveschen sanc,

now wish for-him for his worthy courtly song,

sît dem sîn vröide sî ze wege,

since to-him his joy be on way,

daz sîn der süeze vater nâch genâden phlege.

that of-him the sweet father after grace take-care.

Swaz wîbes êre wol gezam,

Whatever woman's honor well besemed,

II,25

dar ûf stuont ie mîn muot, daz ich daz mêrte.

there on stood ever my spirit, that I that might-increase.

sô vil man danne mich vernam,

so much one then me heard,

sô was mîn wort dâ bî, swâ man sî êrte.

so was my word there by, wherever one them honored.

doch bin ich des noch âne ir lôn vil nâch von ir gescheiden,

yet am I of-that still without their reward very nearly from them parted,

wan also vil als ichs erwarp mit eiden.

but so much as I-it won with oaths.

daz solde eht sîn:

that should only be:

waz umbe daz? die wîle ich lebe, sô hânt sî doch den dienest mîn.

what about that? the while I live, so have they yet the service mine.

Wan sol in dienen umbe daz,

One shall them serve for that,

daz niht sô guotes lebet alsam die guoten,

that nothing so of-good lives as the good-ones,

und dur die guoten sol man baz

and for the good-ones shall one better

die andern êren danne sîs doch muoten.

the others honor than they-of-it yet claim.

ich weiz die einen, daz des nieman niemer dôrfte erdriezen,

I know the one, that of-that no-one ever should weary,

ez solden hundert tûsent wol geniezen

it should hundred thousand well benefit

der sælekeit,

of-the blessedness,

die got mit werdem vlîze an sî nâch allem wunsche hât geleit.

which God with worthy zeal on her after all wish has laid.

Ich bin der guoten undertân

I am to-the good-one subject

und allen guoten vrouwen dur ir êre.

and to-all good ladies for their honor.

sol mich daz anders niht vervân,

shall me that otherwise nothing avail,

wan daz diu guote twinge mich sô sêre?

but that the good-one constrain me so sorely?

der guoten gûete wende mir den kumber, den ich dulde,

the good-one's goodness turn to-me the affliction, which I endure,

sô wirt mir schiere ir haz alsam ir hulde.

so becomes to-me quickly her hate as her favor.

daz wende enzît:

that turn in-time:

êst alse ein slac in einen bach, sô niht vervât swaz man mir gît.

it-is as a blow into a brook, when nothing avails whatever one to-me gives.

Funde ich vröide volge, ich vreute gerne mich;

Found I of-joy following, I would-gladden gladly myself;

tröste eht mich ein wênic baz diu guote.

comforted only me a little better the good-one.

nûne wellent niht die jungen vreuwen sich:

now will not the young gladden themselves:

wære in alse ez solde wol ze muote,

were to-them as it should well to spirit,

sô möht ich ûz hôhem muote singen,

so might I out-of high spirit sing,

hulfen sî mir lachelîchen der vil werden lop ze werde bringen.

helped they me smilingly of-the very worthy-one praise to worth bring.

Wart ie iht sô reine alsam ein reinez wîp

Became ever aught so pure as a pure woman

diu nâch sælden kêret ir gemüete?

who after blessings turns her spirit?

dâ vür wil ich iemer setzen mînen lîp,

there for will I ever set my life,

daz sich niht gelîchen mac ir güete.

that itself nothing liken may to-her goodness.

nieman kan sî nâch ir werde gêren.

no-one can her after her worth honor.

werdez wîp, nû wirde ouch mich: wan wirde ich iemer wert,

worthy woman, now make-worthy also me: for become I ever worthy,

daz muost dû lêren.

that must thou teach.

Süeze wîp, dô dich mîn ouge alrêst gesach,

Sweet woman, when thee my eye first saw,

dô gap ich mich dir als eigenlîche,

then gave I myself to-thee so as-own,

daz ich dir die eigenschaft nie sît zerbrach:

that I to-thee the ownership never since broke:

des soltû mich armen machen rîche.

of-that shalt-thou me poor make rich.

ez ist reht daz man genâde vinde:

it is right that one grace find:

swer sich ûf genâde gât, dâ vûeget sich daz ers ze guote enphinde.

whoever himself on grace gives, there fits itself that he-it to good feel.

Noch enpfant ich nie ze guote, leider mir,

Yet felt I never to good, sadly for-me,

daz an ir niht schînet wan des besten.

that on her nothing shows but of-the best.

doch envant ich wandels niender niht an ir

yet found I of-blemish nowhere aught on her

wan daz eine, dazs ir strît sô vesten

but the one, that-she her strife so firm

alsô strîteclîchen gegen mir kêret,

so contentiously toward me turns,

sît mîn herze ân allen wanc die liebe an sî sô stæteclîche mêret.

since my heart without all wavering the love on her so steadfastly increases.

Sol von rehter güete wahren ander guot,

(if)-Shall from right goodness grow other good,

sone geschiht mir niemer niht wan guotes.

then happens to-me never aught but of-good.

ich weiz sî, die guoten, alsô hôhgemuot,

I know her, the good-one, so high-spirited,

dazs ouch mich gemachet hôhes muotes.

that-she also me makes of-high spirit.

des wil ich unzwîvelliche dingen:

of-that will I undoubtingly hope:

sist sô sælic, daz mir niemer kunde an ir ze sælden misselingen.

she-is so blessed, that to-me never could on her to blessings miscarry.

‘Ich wil mînem vater gerne râten wol

I will to-my father gladly counsel well

daz er hinnen vûr sich sanges mâze.

that he hence forth himself of-song refrain.

ez ist billich daz ich in verwesen sol

it is fitting that I him replace shall

und er sich an mînen dienest lâze.

and he himself on my service rely.

ich wil vûr in dienen sîner frouwen:

I will for him serve his lady:

habe er daz er heime habe und lâze uns jungen âventiure schouwen.’

have he that he at-home have and let us young adventure behold.’

‘Rüedelîn, dû bist ein junger blippenblap:

‘Rüedelîn, thou art a young prattler:

dû muost dînen vater lâzen singen.

thou must thy father let sing.

er wil sîne hövescheit vüeren in sîn grap:

he will his courtliness carry into his grave:

des müest dû dich mit verlornen dingen.

of-that must thou thyself with lost hope.

er wil selbe dienen sîner frouwen:

he will himself serve his lady:

dû bist ein viereggot gebûr: des muost dû holz an eime reine houwen.’

thou art a square churl: that must thou wood on a balk hew.’

II,27 Rehter liebe ûz stætem muote
Of-right love out-of steadfast spirit
 der hân ich dâ her gephegen,
of-that have I there hither practiced,
 die verstêt man mir zunguote:
it interprets one to-me to-ill:
 nû wil ich mich ir bewegen,
now will I myself of-it renounce,
 ich wil vrî von hinnen sîn.
I will free from hence be.
 swes ich sî, der sî ouch mîn:
whose I be, he be also mine:
 sît mich güete nienc enfrumet,
since me goodness not-at-all avails,
 waz ob mir unguete baz ze guote kumet?
what if to-me ungoodness better to good comes?

Wê daz ich der süezen mære
Woe that I of-the sweet tidings
 von der werden sol gedagen,
of the worthy-one shall be-silent,
 diu mich dûhten ie gebære,
which to-me seemed ever seemly,
 daz muoz ich doch iemer clagen.
that must I yet ever lament.
 nû waz clage ich, sît sî mir
now what lament I, since she to-me
 niht engan? joch gunde ich ir
nothing grants? yet granted I to-her
 rehte als ich mir selbem gan:
just as I to-me self grant:
 dêst niht guot, sol ich beswichen sîn dar an.
that-is not good, shall I deceived be there in.

Waz bedörfte ich langer stæte
What needed I longer steadfastness

dien die mir niht stæte sint?
to-those who to-me not steadfast are?

swer daz sô vergebene tæte,
whoever that so in-vain did,

seht der diuhte mich ein kint,
see he would-seem to-me a child,

alse ich hân dâ her getân.
as I have there hither done.

wan wil mich ze tôren hân:
one will me for fool have:

swer daz sî, der hüete sich,
whoever that he guard himself,

dêst mîn rât, ê daz er rehte erzürne mich.
that-is my counsel, before that he rightly anger me.

Ich wil in dem vierden liede
I will in the fourth song

an ein ende ir muot erspehen:
to an end her spirit espy:

der mirz noch nâch willen schiede,
who to-me-it yet after will decided,

daz liez ich zem fünften sehen.
that let I to-the fifth see.

ich bin beidenthalp bereit
I am on-both-sides ready

al dar nâch daz lôz geseit.
all there after the lot says.

seit ez wol, sô singe ich baz:
(if)-says it well, so sing I better:

misseseit ez aber mir, ich singe ouch daz.
mis-says it but to-me, I sing also that.

Ich muoz von verdiender schulde

I must from deserved fault

mich der lieben schuldic sagen:

myself to-the dear-one guilty declare:

des wil ich gern umbe ir hulde

of-that will I gladly for her favor

schuldeclîche buoze tragen.

guilty penance bear.

mîn unvuoge vüeget wol

my impropriety brings-about well

daz mich nieman trœsten sol.

that me no-one comfort shall.

wan ein trôst, dâ dinge ich an:

but one comfort, there hope I on:

daz sich wîbes güete niht gelîchen kan.

that itself woman's goodness nothing liken can.

II,28 Frouwe, sælic frouwe,

Lady, blessed lady,

frouwe mînes herzen und der sinne gar,

lady of-my heart and of-the senses wholly,

welt ir daz ich schouwe

(if)-will ye that I behold

langen kumber unde ân alle vröide var,

long affliction and without all joy fare,

sô sît stæte an der getât

so be steadfast in the deed

als ir mir lange hânt getân: seht sô wirt ouch niemer sorgen rât.

as ye to-me long have done: see so becomes also never of-cares remedy.

Sît ir mich sô lêret,

Since ye me so teach,

daz ich stæteclîche mîner êren pflege,

that I steadfastly of-my honor take-care,

des sît iemer gêret:

of-that be ever honored:

wol ouch mich daz ir mich wîset rehte wege.

well also me that ye me show right ways.

ir hânt wol gerâten mir:

ye have well counseled to-me:

swer also rehte râten kan, dur des rât ich gerne unvuoge enbir.

whoever so rightly counsel can, for whose counsel I gladly impropriety forgo.

Ir welt mir verkêren

Ye will to-me misconstrue

swaz ich singe und ouch gesage: dast âne wer.

whatever I sing and also say: that-is without defense.

sold och ich iuch lêren,

should also I you teach,

ich beswunge iuch sô mit mîner ruoten ber,

I would-whip you so with my rod's stroke,

daz ir hôrtent mîne clage,

that ye would-bear my lament,

die ich nû lange hân geclaget ûf wîplîche güete mîne tage.

which I now long have lamented on womanly goodness my days.

‘Wisse ich nu den willen,

‘Knew I now the will,

wie ir villen woltent, alsô vilte ouch ich,

how ye flog would, so would-flog also I,

sol man kint gestillen.

shall one child quiet.

doch verstên ich nû alrêrest rehte mich.

yet understand I now first rightly myself.

ich bin selcher ruote vrî:

I am of-such rod free:

des lobe ich got, daz ez sô stê, daz ich noch mîn selber frouwe sî.'

of-that praise I God that it so stand that I still of-me self lady be.'

Sælde schoene güete

Blessing beauty goodness

hânt die meisterschaft vil gar an iuch geleit,

have the mastery very wholly on you laid,

daz mich mîn gemüete

that me my spirit

dar noch dar, wan dar sô striteclichen treit,

thither nor thither but thither so contentiously bears,

daz ich habe den strîr verlân.

that I have the strife given-up.

tuot ir mir sus, tuot ir mir sô, daz heiz ich doch allez wol getân.

(if)-do ye to-me thus, do ye to-me so, that call I yet all well done.

II,29 Ob ich der guoten guotes gan,

If I to-the good-one of-good grant,

daz wîzet nieman wîser mir.

that blames no-one wise to-me.

sît ich ir künde alrêrst gewan,

since I her acquaintance first won,

sô hâte ich hôhen muot von ir.

so had I high spirit from her.

nû bite ich alle, die mir guotes gûnnen oder êren,

now ask I all who to-me of-good grant or of-honor,

daz sî mir heiles wûnschen zir
that they to-me of-weal wish toward-ber

und ir ir dinc dur mich ze guote kêren.
and to-ber her affair for me to good turn.

Betrogeniu Welt, dû hâst betrogen
Deceiving World, thou hast deceived

II,30

mich und ouch vor mir manigen man:
me and also before me many-a man.

ich hân dur dich mich dem erlogen,
I have for thee myself to-him forsworn

der mich mit nôt zuo zim gewan.
who me with distress to himself won.

owê, des briche ich leider an mir selben triuwe.
alas of-that break I sadly on me self faith.

nû sende, erbarmeherzer got, mir des sô stæte riuwe,
now send merciful God to-me of-that so steadfast repentance

daz ich der welte widersage
that I to-the world renounce

und ich mit dîner süezen muoter volleist noch
and I with thy sweet mother's aid yet

den iemer wernden lôn bejage.
the ever lasting reward win.

Wol im der denket waz er was
Well to-him who thinks what he was

und ist und aber schiere wirt.
and is and again soon becomes:

der siht in ein betrogen glas,
he sees into a deceiving glass

swer solhen fürgedanc verbirt

whoever such forethought forbears

dêr sich zer êweclichen fröide niht bereitet,

that-he himself to-the eternal joy not prepares,

sît nieman rehte wizen mac wie lange im wirt gebeitet.

since no-one rightly know may how long to-him is waited.

hie mite ich mich alrêrest man:

here with I myself first admonish:

vergizze ich des, sô ist doch âne zwîvel guot,

forget I of-that, so is yet without doubt good

gedenkent ander liute dran.

think other people thereon.

Swer weiz und doch niht wizen wil,

Whoever knows and yet not know will,

der sleht sich mit sîn selbes hant.

he strikes himself with his own hand.

des wîsheit ahte ich zeime spil,

whose wisdom count I for-a game

daz man diu wihtel hât genant:

that one the goblins has named.

er lât uns schouwen wunders vil, der ir dâ waldet.

he lets us behold of-wonder much who of-them there rules.

swer sich niht in der vrist verstêt, wie schiere daz veraldet,

whoever himself not in the while understands, how quickly that ages

daz ez im zeime troume wirt,

that it to-him to-a dream becomes:

der sî gewis, enliegent unser meister niht,

he be sure, lie our masters not,

derst beide hie und dort verirt.

he-is both here and there astray.

Ichn weiz niht guotes wan ein guot:

I know nothing of-good but one good,

dem guote wære ich gerne zuo.

to-the good were I gladly by.

des guotes güete sanfte tuot

of-that good's goodness gently does

beidiu den âbent unde fruo,

both the evening and early

und under zwischen zallen stunden stæteclîche:

and in between at-all hours steadfastly.

nû mache mich der uns geschuof des selben guotes rîche.

now make me he us created of-that same good rich.

êst varnde guot mit dem wir varn:

it-is faring good with which we fare.

nû füege, herre, mir des stæten guotes iht

now grant, lord, to-me of-that steadfast good aught

ald ich muoz iemer wesen arn.

or I must ever be poor.

Swenn aller herren herre kumet

When of-all lords lord comes

mit zorne und er uns eischet gelt,

with anger and he from-us demands payment,

sô wirt daz reht vil kurz gedrumet:

so is the judgment very short cut.

dar an gedenke, brædiu Welt,

there on think, frail World,

und wizzest daz, daz er dâ sînen anden richet.

and know that, that he there his grievance avenges.

swer sælic sî, der denke hin zem winkel dâ er sprichet
whoever blessed be, he think thither to-the corner where he speaks

‘ir rehten, gênt zer zeswen mîn,
‘ye righteous go to-the right mine,

und müezen, die mir dienst dô verseiten,
and may those to-me service then denied

in daz winster viur verfluochet sîn.’
into the left fire cursed be.

In weiz sô guoter gâbe niht
I know so of-good gift none

als uns der herre hât gegeben,
as to-us the lord has given,

den unser bræde als übersiht,
whom our frailty so overlooks

daz wir im niht ze willen leben.
that we to-him not to will live.

er gît uns lîp, er gît uns guot, er gît uns êre,
he gives to-us body, he gives to-us goods, he gives to-us honor.

er gît uns hœren unde sehen, er gît uns sin: waz mêre?
he gives to-us hearing and seeing, he gives to-us mind: what more?

er gît uns wilt, er gît uns zam,
he gives to-us wild, he gives to-us tame.

er tuot uns vliegend unde vliezend undertân: swer dem niht gît,
he makes to-us flying and flowing subject: whoever to-him nothing gives,

hab ime die scham.
have to-him the shame.

Diu fröide fröit unlange zît
The joy gladdens short time

die disiu welt zer besten hât:
whom this world for-the best holds.

swem got ein leben nâch wunsche gît,
to-whom God a life after wish gives,

nû seht wie gâhes daz zergât!
now see how swiftly that vanishes.

der hiute in swebenden fröiden swebet an allen sachen,
who today in floating joys floats in all things,

der mac sîns herzeliebes lihte morgen nien erlachen.
he may of-his heart's-love perhaps tomorrow not-at-all laugh-out.

diz ist ein nôt vor aller nôt,
this is a distress before all distress,

daz wir dar an niht denken: ja ist daz mære ie
that we there on not think: yea is the tale ever

doch ze jungest niht wan 'er ist tût.'
yet at last nothing but 'he is dead.'

Sol ich mich rihten nâch dem â,
(if)-Shall I myself order after the a,

daz kan ich wol gezeigen wâ:
that can I well show where.

dâ kêre ich ûf des meisters slâ
there turn I on the master's track

der ê sanc von der nebelkrâ.
who before sang of the hooded-crow.

vind ich niht meisterschefte dâ,
(if)-find I no mastery there,

noch kêre ich mich her wider sâ
yet turn I myself hither back at-once

und klophe ich anderswar dar nâ.
and knock I elsewhere there after.

II,31

Genuoge sprechent 'sing als ê,
Many speak 'sing as before,
 prüef uns die bluomen und den klê.'
describe to-us the flowers and the clover.'
 die wellent niht daz ich verstê,
they will not that I understand
 waz mir dar an ze herzen gê.
what to-me there on to heart goes.
 swie vil ich in hie vor geschrê,
however much I to-them here before cried,
 daz tet in in den ôren wê.
that did to-them in the ears woe.
 nû wil ich si niht touben mê.
now will I them not deafen more.

Ich mac wol sprechen baz owî
I may well speak better alas
 dann ieman der nû lebende sî.
than anyone who now living be.
 mir wont ein ungemüete bî,
to-me dwells an ill-spirit by
 daz swære machet als ein blî.
that heavy makes as a lead
 und hæte ich mîner crefte drî,
and had I of-my strength three:
 ich dorte als ein erfroren zwî,
I would-wither as a frozen twig.
 diu liebe tuo mich sorgen vrî.
the dear-one make me of-cares free.

Ich vreute mich: dô stuont ez sô.

I rejoiced myself: then stood it so.

owê wan wærez alse dô,

alas would were-it as then,

sô stüende mîn gemüete hô.

so would-stand my spirit high.

dur vorhte lieze ich noch dur drô

for fear would-leave I nor for threat

in wurde noch wol alse vrô.

I became yet well as glad.

zuo mînen fröiden, der sint zwô,

to my joys of-them are two,

bæt ich die schœnen ûf ein strô.

asked I the fair-one on a straw.

Ich mac wol wunder schrîen wû

I may well wonder cry woo

daz ich bin sô verdorben nû.

that I am so ruined now.

jâ hêrre got, wan woldes dû

yea lord God, would wouldst-it thou

daz ich niht læge in leides drû!

that I not lay in of-sorrow snare!

in hân den acker noch den bû,

I-not have the field nor the tillage:

mîn sleht ist allez worden rû.

my smooth is wholly become rough.

des muoz ich liden spottes hû.

of-that must I suffer of-mockery boot.

II,32 Der guote wîn wirt selten guot wan in dem guoten vazze:

The good wine becomes seldom good but in the good vessel:

wirt daz bereit ze rehte wol, sô habet ez den wîn.

(if)-is that prepared to right well, so holds it the wine.

dar umbe wunder nieman, ob ich an dem kûnege hazze,

there fore wonder no-one if I on the king find-fault.

hât er ein herze, als sî dâ sagent, sol daz niht werden schîn.

(if)-has he a heart as they there say, shall that not become manifest,

im sint die reife alsô vertriben, er welle ræzer sîn,

to-him are the hoops so driven-off, he would sharper be:

so ist vaz und tranc ein wiht.

so is vessel and drink a nothing.

guot wîn mac ie sô lange ligen, daz man in seiger siht.

good wine may ever so long lie that one it sour sees.

Ez nam ein witewe einen man hievor in alten zîten.

It took a widow a man before in old times:

dô kam vil ritter unde frouwen dur ir liebe dar.

then came many knights and ladies for their love thither.

als dô der briutegome kan, des wart ein michel strîten,

as then the bridegroom came, of-that arose a great striving

wie sî der briute bunden: des zerwurfen sî sich gar.

how they to-the bride bound: of-that fell-out they themselves wholly.

ze jungest bant sir selber, daz ir niht dar an enwar.

at last bound she-to-herself self, that to-her nothing there on went-amiss.

hêr kûnic, nû sît gemant,

lord king, now be admonished

daz ir dehein gebende zam wan daz sir selber bant.

that to-her no beaddress suited but that she-to-herself self bound.

Der künic behielte küneges namen, dern in behalten hieze,

The king would-keep of-king name, he-who it keep bade,

und lebte ouch swie sin hiezen leben, die in hânt in ir pfliht.

and would-live also as they-him bade live who him have in their charge.

nust billich daz er des gein rehten liuten wol genieze:

now-is fitting that he of-that toward right people well benefit.

wan sol von schulde in êre geben dâ man si dran gesiht.

one shall by right to-him honor give where one it thereon sees.

werd aber er sin selbes man, sô lône in anders niht

(if)-becomes but he of-bis own man, so reward him otherwise nothing

wan alse ir rât nû sî,

but as their counsel now be.

und swer in sælden roube, den mach er der êren vrî.

and whoever him of-blessings robs, him make he of-the honors free.

Sî jehent 'daz böeser kom ie nâch.' daz hât sich nû verkêret,

They say that worse came ever after: that has itself now reversed,

wan vindet nû daz man nie vant hie vor bî Karles zît.

one finds now that one never found here before in Charles' time.

sich hânt des halp der lande reht ze hove wol gemêret.

themselves have of-that on-account of-the lands laws at court well increased.

ez was ê sleht alsam ein hant, nust drunder michel strît.

it was before smooth as a hand: now-is thereunder great strife.

swâ man dem ungetriuwen man die triuwe wider gît,

wherever one to-the unfaithful man the faith back gives,

da ist daz gerihte guot:

there is the judgment good:

wan nieman kan geschaden, swer für guot hât swaz er tuot.

for no-one can do-harm whoever for good holds whatever he does.

Dâ hin dâ her wart nie sô wert in allen tiuschen landen:

There thither there hither became never so prized in all German lands:

swer nû dâ hin dâ her niht kan, derst an dem spil betrogen.

whoever now there thither there hither not can, he-is at the game cheated.

ê wâren künige, die niht dâ hin dâ her bekanden:

before were kings who not there thither there hither knew.

nu sint si en list wol komen an intwerhes umben bogen.

now are they to-the craft well come in crosswise about-the bow.

ez hæten hie bevor die grôzen vürsten niht gelogen

it had here before the great princes not lied

dur liute noch dur lant:

for people nor for land.

nû ist in meistic allen wol dâ hin dâ her bekant.

now is to-them mostly all well there thither there hither known.

II,33 Vil maniger mich berihtet,

Very many-a-one me instructs

der niht berihten kan

who not instruct can

sich selben also er solde:

himself self as he should:

des alte ich vor den tagen.

of-that age I before the days.

wie gar er mich vernihtet,

how wholly he me annihilates

der mir niht guotes gan,

who to-me no good grants

und giht wie vil er wolde

and avows how much he would

mit mîner kunst bejagen

with my art win

in vremeneden landen werdekeit. nû bin ich sô gesite,

in strange lands worth. now am I so mannered:

hân ich hie guot und êre,

(if)-have I here goods and honor,

daz nim ich vür daz mêre

that take I before the more

dar umbe ich iemer dur daz jâr des tievels zîte lite.

there fore I ever through the year the devil's hours suffered.

Gelêrter vürsten crône

Of-learned princes crown

mit ûz erwelter tugent,

with out chosen virtue,

mit zuht, mit kunst, mit güete,

with breeding, with art, with goodness

hât got hin zim genomen.

has God thither to-him taken.

der lebte hie vil schône

he lived here very fair

mit alter kunst in jugent.

with old art in youth:

nâch lobe stuont sîn gemüete:

after praise stood his spirit,

des was er zêren komen.

of-that was he to-honors come.

von Sax hêr Uolrich was sin name, der nâch sælden warp.

of Sax lord Ulrich was his name, who after blessings strove.

nû phlege sîn got der rîche:

now take-care of-him God the rich:

des wünschen inneclîche,

of-that wish inwardly,

sît tiurre vürste sin genôz nie manege zît verdarp.

since dearer prince his equal never many-a time perished.

II,34 Hât ieman leit als ich ez hân?

Has anyone sorrow as I it have?

nein, ist ez alse ich mich versinne.

nay, is it as I myself betink.

‘sagt an, wiest iuwer leit getân?’

‘say on, how-is your sorrow made?’

seht, dâ verderbet mich diu Minne.

see, there ruins me the Love.

‘wie mac iuch verderben daz nieman gesach?’

‘how may you ruin that no-one saw?’

gedanke vüegent wol gemach und ungemach.

thoughts bring-about well ease and distress.

‘ist ime danne alsô?’

‘is to-him then so?’

jâ, ich wurde lîhte noch von herzelieben mæren vrô.

yea, I would-become perhaps yet from heart-dear tidings glad.

‘Wer kan iu selhiu mære sagen,

‘Who can to-you such tidings say,

diu ir welt haben vür guotiu mære?’

which ye will have for good tidings?’

daz kan diu mir nie half getragen

that can she-who to-me never helped bear

mîn leit, wan sî daz ichs verbære.

my sorrow, but be that I-it forbore.

‘wer hât iuch betwungen ûf die selben nôt?’

‘who has you constrained to the same distress?’

der lieben güete, ir schoene und ouch ir munt sô rôt.

the dear-one’s goodness, her beauty and also her mouth so red.

‘waz kan iuch daz vervân?’

‘what can you that avail?’

leider lîhte niemer niht: sô hân ich doch den lieben wân.

sadly perhaps never anything: so have I yet the dear fancy.

‘Ir muget wol wænen swes ir welt:

‘Ye may well fancy whatever ye will:

in trœste iuch niht dêz iuch vervâhe.’

I comfort you not that-it you avail.’

min wân ist noch niht ûz gezelt:

my fancy is yet not out counted:

dar zuo gêt mir min lieb ze nâhe.

there to goes to-me my love too near.

‘ez vert lîhte, êst hiure verrer danne vert.’

‘it fares perhaps, it-is this-year further than last-year’

wie wære ich danne an liebe leides sô gewert?

how were I then in love of-sorrow so granted?

‘als ouch vil maneger ê.’

‘as also very many-a-one before.’

nein, den was nâch herzeliebe niht sô herzeclîche wê.

nay, to-them was after heart-love not so heartfelty woe.

‘Ist halbez wâr daz ir dâ claget,

‘(if)-Is half true that ye there lament,

sost iuwer ungemach niht cleine.’

then-is your distress not little.’

êst gar als ich iu hân gesaget:

it-is wholly as I to-you have said:

ir sitz diech dâ von herzen meine.

ye are-it whom-I there from heart mean.

‘drumbe entuon ich niht wan also ich tæte doch.’

‘therefore do I nothing but as I did yet.’

waz obe ir iuch vil lîhte baz bedenket noch?

what if ye you very perhaps better bethink yet?

‘war umbe tæte ich daz?’

‘where fore would-do I that?’

dur daz ir an dirre welt nie mêre an niht getætet baz.

for that ye in this world never more in anything did better.

‘Ez diuhte iuch lîhte baz getân

‘It would-seem to-you perhaps better done

dann ich mich guotes dran versinne.’

than I myself of-good thereon conceive.’

al selhen zwîvel sult ir lân,

all such doubt shall ye leave,

welt ir behalten gotes minne.

will ye keep God’s love.

‘die wil ich behalten gerne: wiset, wie.’

‘that will I keep gladly: show, how.’

dâ habt lieb den der iuch von herzen minnet ie.

there hold dear him who you from heart loves ever.

‘daz ist noch baz verborn.’

‘that is yet better forborne.’

swer niht minnet den, der in von herzen minnet, derst verlorn.

whoever not loves him, who him from heart loves, he-is lost.

Wernher von Teufen

Five songs. The first and third call young and old to be glad of summer — the nightingale's song, the flowering heath — and the second laments the winter that robs the meadow of that joy; each turns from that to a lady whose favor would end his mourning. The fourth praises Love's reward as better than gold and asks her to constrain the woman who constrains him. The last is a riddle: he loves one thing and hates two, and it ends on a line of vocables.

Lieben kint,

Dear children,

III,1

sint frœlîch vrô enegen der lieben sumerzît!

be joyfully glad toward the dear summertime!

nahtegal

nightingale

schal ist sô sûeze daz er hôhgemüete git.

song is so sweet that it high-spirits gives.

schouwent an,

look on,

stolzen man

proud men

unde reine frouwen,

and pure ladies,

welh ein kleit

what a garment

treit heide und anger, dâ bî schônent sumerouwen!

wears heath and meadow, there by adorn summer-meadows!

Nu sint frô:

Now be glad:

sô wære ich gerne, trôste mich diu frouwe mîn,

so were I gladly, comforted me the lady mine,

der ich wol

to-whom I well

sol sprechen, swie si mich doch lâit in sorgen sîn.

shall speak, however she me yet lets in cares be.

minneclîch,

lovely,

tugende rîch

virtue rich

ist diu liebe guote:

is the dear good-one:

sî was ie

she was ever

hie lieb vor allem liebe mir in mînem muote.

here dear before all dear to-me in my spirit.

Lieplîch var

Lovely colored

gar sint der lieben wengel, der min herze sanc.

wholly are the dear-one's cheeks, of-whom my heart sang.

sist sô guot,

she-is so good,

tuot sî genâde an mir, sô wirt mîn trûren kranc.

(if)-does she mercy on me, then becomes my mourning weak.

wandels vrî

of-fault free

sô ist sî,

so is she,

diu vil sûeze reine:

the very sweet pure-one:

wünschent daz

wish that

baz tröeste mich diu liebe, diech mit triuwen meine.

better comfort me the dear-one, whom-I with faith cherish.

Ich sach die bluomen wunneclîch entspringen

I saw the flowers delightfully spring-up

III,2

bî schœner zît, der walt was wol geloubet:

at fair season, the wood was well leaved:

die fröide wil der winter kalt verdringen,

that joy will the winter cold drive-out,

er hât den anger sîner kraft beroubet.

it has the meadow of-its power robbed.

dâ bî hât mich entânet mîner sinne

there by has me robbed of-my senses

mîns herzen trôst und ouch mîn küniginne.

my heart's comfort and also my queen.

ir rôter munt

her red mouth

hât mich verwunt,

has me wounded,

daz ich in rehter liebe bin ertoubet.

so-that I in true love am stunned.

War zuo klag ich die bluomen ûf der heide?

Where to lament I the flowers on the heath?

wan klage ich niht den kumber, den ich dulde?

why lament I not the affliction, which I endure?

daz mir ein frouwe tuot sô vil ze leide

that to-me a lady does so much to sorrow

und diu mich hazzet âne mîne schulde.

and who me hates without my fault.

wie wol sî doch kan herzeleit vertriben!

how well she yet can heart's-sorrow drive-away!

sî ist ein krône ob allen reinen wîben.

she is a crown over all pure women.

ir wengelîn

her little-cheeks

gênt liechten schîn:

give bright shine:

nâch leide wære ich vrô, het ich ir hulde.

after sorrow were I glad, had I her favor.

III,3 Fröit iuch beide, junge und alt:

Gladden yourselves both, young and old:

winter kalt

winter cold

hinnen ist gescheiden.

hence is departed.

schouwent an den walt:

look on the wood:

velt und anger stêt bekleit,

field and meadow stands clothed,

bluomen breit

flowers wide

siht man ûf den heiden:

sees one on the heaths:

daz ist mir geseit.

that is to-me told.

bluomen wîz dur grüeniu rîs

flowers white through green twigs

brehent unde smierent.

shine and smile.

iuch zierent,

yourselves adorn,

ir jungen, niht âne vlîz!

ye young-ones, not without zeal!

Dâ bî høert man vogeles sanc

There by hears one birds' song

sunder wanc

without wavering

klingen in der ouwe,

ring in the water-meadow,

die der winter twanc.

whom the winter constrained.

ir gemüete stêt vil hô:

their spirit stands very high:

rehte alsô

just so

wær mir ob mîn frouwe

were to-me if my lady

mich noch tæte frô,

me yet made glad,

diu mir ie ze herzen hie

who to-me ever in heart here

nâhe lac verborgen:

near lay hidden:

von sorgen

from cares

geschieht ir trôst mich noch nie.

parted her comfort me yet never.

Von ir dulde ich ungemach,

From her endure I hardship,

manic ach

many-an alas

füeget mir diu reine:

causes to-me the pure-one:

dêst mîn fröide swach.

that-is my joy weak.

seht daz muoz verdulden ich

see that must endure I

zühteclich,

decorously,

wan sist wandels eine,

for she-is of-fault free,

dâ bî minneclich.

there by lovely.

wol gestalt und niht ze balt

well shaped and not too bold

ist mîn trœsterinne:

is my comfortress:

mîn sinne

my senses

sî zucket mir mit gewalt.

she snatches from-me with force.

Der vil süezen mündel rôet

The very sweet-one's little-mouth red

mir den tôet

to-me the death

füeget unde smerzen:

causes and pain:

ouwê sender nôet!

alas of-yearning distress!

sol der klagelîcher pîn
shall the lamentable torment

wesen min,
be mine,

fröide mînem herzen
joy to-my heart

muoz unmære sîn.
must unwelcome be.

mînen lîp sî sælic wîp
my person she blessed woman

hât vil gar betwungen:
has very wholly subdued:

verdrungen
driven-out

hât fröide von mir ir lîp.
has joy from me her person.

Mîn vil sendez herze klagt
My very yearning heart laments

gar verzagt,
wholly despairing,

daz ich der unmære,
that I to-her unwelcome,

diu mir wol behagt.
who to-me well pleases.

sol der ungemeine strît
shall the unshared strife

lengiu zît
longer time

wern, vil sende swære
last, very yearning grief

mich dem tôde gît.
me to-the death gives.

wær ich ir liep als sî mir,
were I to-her dear as she to-me,

leit mir gar verswunde,
sorrow from-me wholly would-vanish,

trôst funde
comfort would-find

min herze nâch sîner gir.
my heart after its desire.

III,4 Diu süeze Minne süezen solt
The sweet Love sweet reward

ir dienestmanne gât:
to-her servant gives:

ir lôn ist bezzer danne golt,
her reward is better than gold,

daz wizzent âne strît.
that know-ye without dispute.

sint undertænic Minne, werden leigen:
be subject to-Love, worthy laymen:

sî kan wol fröide in sendiu herzen heigen,
she can well joy in yearning hearts plant,

vîl grôzen kumber balde drûz verseigen.
very great affliction quickly there-out drain.

Diu Minne tiuret werden man
The Love ennobles worthy man

und hæhet senden muot.
and heightens yearning spirit.

ir lône ich niht gelîchen kan:
to-her reward I nothing liken can:

erst bezzer danne guot.
it-is better than good.

diu Minne jâmer unde leit verdringet.

the Love misery and sorrow drives-out.

min sendez herze nâch ir lône ringet:

my yearning heart after her reward strives:

ich muoz verderben, ob er mich verswinget.

I must perish, if it me passes-by.

Vil süeze Minne, hilf enzît!

Very sweet Love, help in-time!

min fröide ist leider kranc.

my joy is alas weak.

mîn trôst, mîn leben an dir lit:

my comfort, my life on thee lies:

twinc die diu mich ie twanc,

constrain her who me ever constrained,

daz sî mich noch genâde lâze vinden.

that she me yet mercy let find.

wil sî mich niht von herzeleide enbinden,

will she me not from heart's-sorrow unbind,

daz kan ich âne tôt niht überwinden.

that can I without death not overcome.

Der welte guot ist mir ein wiht,

The world's goods is to-me a nothing,

wan daz vil reine wîp:

except that very pure woman:

mîn stætez herze des vergiht

my steadfast heart thereof avows

und ouch mîn sender lîp.

and also my yearning person.

sî ist mir lieb und lieb vor allem guote,

she is to-me dear and dear before all goods,

sî wont mir zallen zîten in dem muote:

she dwells to-me at-all times in the spirit:

mîn sendez herze ie nâch ir minne wuote.

my yearning heart ever after her love raged.

Der böesen haz und ouch ir nît

The wicked-ones' hate and also their envy

ich gerne dulden wil

I gladly endure will

dur die, diu mir sô nâhe lît:

for her, who to-me so near lies:

sist mîner fröiden spil.

she-is of-my joys play.

vil grôzen kumber dulde ich von ir schulden.

very great affliction endure I through her fault.

swaz mir von ir geschiht, daz muoz ich dulden:

whatever to-me from her happens, that must I endure:

ich ranc und ringe ouch iemer nâch ir hulden.

I strove and strive also ever after her favor.

Wil sî, sô bin ich sorgen bar:

Wills she, then am I of-cares bare:

wil sî, sô bin ich tôt.

wills she, then am I dead.

sist mînes herzen wunne gar,

she-is of-my heart delight wholly,

sî kan wol wenden nôt.

she can well turn distress.

sî kan dur ganzen lîp wol herze wunden.

she can through whole body well heart wound.

an sî muoz ich gedenken zallen stunden:

on her must I think at-all hours:

ir minne hât mich senden man gebunden.

her love has me yearning man bound.

Ich minne in mînem muote ein dinc und hazze dâ bî zwei: III,5

I love in my spirit one thing and hate there by two:

des einen sol dur got mich nieman vrâgen,

of-the one shall for God's-sake me no-one ask,

daz ander sage ich für ein spel. nu merkent, alle meister, waz daz sî.

the other tell I as a riddle. now mark, all masters, what that be.

dêswâr, ich ahte ûf mundes minne niht ein ei:

truly, I value on mouth's love not an egg:

swes herze mîn ze schaden doch wil lâgen,

whoever's heart for-me to harm yet will lie-in-wait,

da enkan mîn guoter wille volleclichen niemer mêre werden bî.

there can my good will fully never more be by.

mîn munt dem selben munde enkit

my mouth to-the same mouth not-speaks

als er mich vrâget, in der selben triuwe.

as it me asks, in the same faith.

sin wille in mînem herzen lit

its will in my heart lies

und bin im des wol iemer ebenniuwe.

and am to-it thereof indeed ever equally-new.

sus lache er mir, sô lache ich ime: des sîn beide vrô!

thus laugh he to-me, so laugh I to-him: thereof be-we both glad!

nû lâze ez dort und singe ez hie: triôs triên trisô!

now leave it there and sing it here: triôs triên trisô!

Der Taler

Three songs. The first greets the springing flowers and sets the lady's shine before them all. In the second he says he laments neither flowers nor clover but his own grief: a lady bade him wear a leather jerkin on bare skin for a year and go one day without food, water, or wine, and now she mocks him for it. The third is a dialogue over which of two messengers, Küenzlîn or Heinzlîn, will carry his song.

IV,¹ Die bluomen springent, vogele singent aber als ê.

The flowers spring-up, birds sing again as before.

diu heide hât vil kleide, bluomen unde klê.

the heath has much clothing, flowers and clover.

zît schoene: süezer dœne ist aber vol der walt.

season fair: of-sweet melodies is again full the wood.

diu zît vil fröiden gît: sist wunneclîch gestalt.

the season much of-joys gives: it-is delightfully shaped.

wir müezen grüezen aber die wunneclîchen zît:

we must greet again the delightful season:

die heiden kleiden wen sich schône wider strît.

the heaths clothe will themselves fairly in rivalry.

diu bluot tuot in den ougen und in herzen wol:

the bloom does in the eyes and in hearts well:

der walt gestalt ze fröiden ist der dœne vol.

the wood shaped for joys is of-the melodies full.

ich schouwe, frouwe, dich vür al der bluomen schîn:

I behold, lady, thee before all the flowers' shine:

dîn minne sinne roubet mir, daz herze mîn.

thy love senses robs from-me, the heart mine.

ich meine, reine frouwe, dînen rôten munt:

I cherish, pure lady, thy red mouth:

dîn ougen tougen liuhtent in mîs herzen grunt.

thine eyes secretly shine into my heart's ground.

von leiden scheiden muoz mich noch diu frouwe min:
from sorrows part must me yet the lady mine:

ich krøene ir schøene vür des liechten meien schîn.
I praise her beauty before the bright May's shine.

In mac niht lân den lieben wân:
I can not leave the dear expectation:

den muoz ich an mîn ende hân.
that must I to my end have.

dîn munt verwunt wol tûsentstunt
thy mouth wounded well thousand-times

hât mich: des bin ich ungesund.
has me: thereof am I unsound.

Ich wil vil gerne dienen ûf genâde dir:
I will very gladly serve on mercy thee:

des lône schône, frouwe, dur dîn tugende mir.
thereof reward fairly, lady, through thy virtue me.

ein lachen machen kan dîn liechter munt sô rôr:
a laughter make can thy bright mouth so red:

nu bûeze, süeze frouwe, mîne sende nôr.
now amend, sweet lady, my yearning distress.

genende, wende sêre mir vil sendem man:
take-heart, turn pain from-me very yearning man:

ich wil vil gerne singen swaz ich guotes kan
I will very gladly sing whatever I of-good can

Dur dich. sich har an mîniu leit
Through thee. look hither on my sorrows

sint michel grôz lanc unde breit.
are mighty great long and broad.

dîn liechter schîn muoz iemer sîn

thy bright shine must ever be

mîn meie und mîniu blüemelin.

my May and my little-flowers.

Vür trûren mûren muoz ich mit der tugende dîn:

Against mourning wall must I with the virtue thine:

nu sich an mich od ich muoz iemer trûric sîn.

now look on me or I must ever mournful be.

ich üebe trüebe sorge und dâ bî arebeit,

I practice gloomy cares and there by travail,

dîn wille stille danne mîniu sendiu leit.

thy will still then my yearning sorrows.

Diu zît gât fröide und dâ bî hôhen muot.

The season gives joy and there by high spirit.

wâ? dâ schouwent in des meien bluot.

where? there behold in the May's bloom.

Wol gestalt stêt nu der walt und ouch der plân:

Well shaped stands now the wood and also the plain:

von ir güete ring gemüete ich dicke hân.

from her goodness light spirit I often have.

Ir ist der munt

Hers is the mouth

tûsentstunt

thousand-times

rœter danne ein rœselin.

redder than a little-rose.

ach und ach!

ah and ah!

dô ich sach

when I saw

und si sprach

and she spoke

‘du solt willekomen sîn!’

‘thou shalt welcome be!’

ich sach dar

I looked thither

offenbar

openly

als ein star:

as a starling:

ich sprach ‘gnâde, frouwe mîn!’

I spoke ‘thanks, lady mine!’

In klage niht bluomen noch den klê:

I lament not flowers nor the clover:

si koment ze meien aber als ê.

they come at May again as before.

mir tuot ein ander swære wê.

to-me does an other grief woe.

ich wil al der welte klagen:

I will to-all the world lament:

mich hiez ein frouwe ein currît tragen

me bade a lady a leather-jerkin wear

an blôzer hût, wil ich iu sagen,

on bare skin, will I to-you tell,

IV,2

ein jâr, und ouch ân ezzen sîn
a year, and also without eating be

den einen tac: mîn fröuwelîn
the one day: my little-lady

verbôt mir wazzer unde wîn.
forbade to-me water and wine.

Nu ich hân geleistet ir gebot,
Now I have performed her command,

nu bin ich leider aber ir spot.
now am I alas again her mockery.

lânt iuchz erbarmen, herre got.
let yourselves-it move-to-pity, lord God.

daz mîn diu schoene niht enwil
that of-me the fair-one nothing wills

und si mich effet alse vil,
and she me mocks so much,

daz ist mir noch ein kindes spil.
that is to-me still a child's play.

der Nîfer lobt die frouwen sîn,
the Neifner praises the lady his,

ir rœselehtez mündelîn:
her rosy little-mouth:

sô singent alle ir tugende schrîn.
so sing all their virtue's shrine.

Dâ hânt si guotiu kleider an:
There have they good clothes on:

sô sint si deste baz getân:
so are they the better formed:

sô muoz mîn liep in vetzen gân.
so must my dear-one in rags go.

der mirz nu schiede ûf lieben wân,
who to-me-it now would-settle on dear expectation,

sô hancte ich ir ein schûrliz an,
then would-hang I for-her a smock on,

wolt si sam mir in schochen gân.
would she with me into haycocks go.

ir stât ir rôter munt sô wol:
her stands her red mouth so well:

sît mich nu der verderben sol,
since me now it destroy shall,

wan wære er swerzer danne ein kol!
would-that were it blacker than a coal!

Küenzlîn, bring mir mînen sanc
Küenzlîn, bring for-me my song

IV,3

der minneclîchen frouwen,
to-the lovely lady,

nâch der mîn sendez herze ie ranc:
after whom my yearning heart ever strove:

daz hât si mir verhouwen.
that has she for-me cut-down.

ahî solt ich die schœnen noch nâch mînem willen schouwen!
ah should I the fair-one yet after my will behold!

bring ir den brief und sing ir ûf gedœene.
bring her the letter and sing her to melody.

du maht vil gerne loufen dar, du sæh nie wîp sô schœne.
thou mayst very gladly run thither, thou sawest never woman so fair.

‘Wan sendent ir daz Heinzlîn dar?
‘Why send ye the Heinzlîn thither?

daz singet alsô suoze,
it sings just-as sweetly,

ez kan diu selben lieder gar
it knows the same songs wholly

und hât ouch wol die muoze.
and has also well the leisure.

well ers niht tuon, sô volgent mir und vallent im ze fuoze.
will be-it not do, then follow me and fall to-him at foot.'

daz Heinzlîn sprach zem Küenzlîn dô von zorne
the Heinzlîn spoke to-the Küenzlîn then in anger

'gâ du dâ hin, mich murte lîhte ein man in sînem korne.'
'go thou there thither, me would-murder perhaps a man in his corn.'

Küenzlîn, wilt du mich nu lân,
Küenzlîn, wilt thou me now leave,

sô wilt du mich vertriben.
then wilt thou me drive-away.

du solt in diu kornvelt gân
thou shalt into the cornfields go

und solt des roggen rîben.
and shalt of-the rye rub.

dâ gât ein sûeze zît har zuo, dâ maht vil wol belîben.
there goes a sweet season here to, there mayst-thou very well remain.

dar zuo iz du der apfel und der krieche:
there to eat thou of-the apples and of-the plums:

des mac ein kneht vil wol genesen, des solt du zuo dir liechen.
thereon may a lad very well thrive, thereof shalt thou to thee draw.

Pfeffel

A single song in three strophes. Joy has woken after long sleep in Austria, raised up by prince Frederick, whose open hand has made many rich; the poet wishes Fortune would know him again, for his own goods have shrunk while gifts go all around him. He then turns to instruct a young man — serve God, honor all women, keep clear of mockery, and be slow to anger — and closes on a red mouth whose laughter wounded him, the shrine of his own good fortune.

Vreude diust erwachet,

Joy she-is awakened,

diu ê verborgen lac

which formerly hidden lay

sô lange in Osterlant:

so long in Austria:

die hât uns ûf erhaben

her has for-us up raised

der fürste Friderîch.

the prince Frederick.

des maniger wol erlachtet,

thereat many-a-one well laughs-out,

der sîn ist worden rîch:

who of-him is become rich:

er kan die siechen laben

he can the sick refresh

mit miltegebender hant.

with bountiful hand.

gelebte ich noch den tac,

might-live I yet the day,

daz mich vrô Sælde erkande,

that me lady Fortune recognized,

V,1

als si eteswenne pflac!

as she sometime used-to!

mîn habe ist worden kleine.

my property is become small.

mir ist von schulden ande,

to-me is with reason grief,

sô man al umbe gît

when one all around gives

und mich verkiuset eine:

and me passes-over alone:

daz lenget mir die zît.

that lengthens for-me the time.

Junc man, ich wil dich lêren,

Young man, I will thee teach,

swie tump ich selbe sî,

however foolish I myself be,

des dîn lîp werde hât.

whereby thy person worth has.

wilt du behalten daz,

wilt thou keep that,

sô solt du dienen got

then shalt thou serve God

und alle frouwen êren.

and all ladies honor.

lâ blîben swachen spot,

let be base mockery,

wis an zorne laz,

be in anger slow,

minne wîsen rât,

love wise counsel,

wis bæser worte vrî.

be of-evil words free.

swâ du sehest die besten,
wherever thou seest the best,

dâ solt du wonen bi,
there shalt thou dwell by,

nein unde jâ behalten.
no and yes keep.

du solt in êren glesten,
thou shalt in honor shine,

vür schande habe den huot:
against disgrace have the guard:

sô maht mit vreuden alten
then mayst-thou with joys grow-old

und wirt dîn ende guot.
and becomes thy end good.

Ich sach lieplîche lachen
I saw lovingly laugh

ein rôtez mündelîn:
a red little-mouth:

daz was sô wol gevar,
that was so well colored,

dâ von mîn herz wart wunt.
there from my heart became wounded.

ir liehter ougen blic
her bright eyes' glance

mac mir wol trûren swachen.
may for-me well mourning weaken.

mich vienc ir minnen stric.
me caught her love's snare.

si ist lieplich zaller stunt
she is lovely at-every hour

und alles valsches bar:
and of-all falsehood bare:

ich wil ir diener sîn.

I will her servant be.

swenne ich sie an schouwe

whenever I her on look

(si ist mîner sælden schrîn),

she is of-my blessings shrine,

so enzündet mich ir minne,

then kindles me her love,

si rôse in meien touwe,

she rose in May's dew,

erbluot von süezer fruht,

blossomed from sweet fruit,

daz ich vor liebe brinne:

so-that I for love burn:

si hât sô reine zuht.

she has so pure breeding.

Kraft von Toggenburg

Seven songs. The first turns on roses and a laughing red mouth: the flowers of the heath are pale beside the roses his lady wears, and no May gives what her laughter gives. Four more lament that his singing has availed nothing, that winter has silenced the birds, and that summer's return gladdens him little. The last two play on guot — he laments neither flowers nor clover but goods, and then says what he calls goods: his lady, and women and honor, without which all goods are nothing.

Hât ieman ze fröiden muot,

Has anyone toward joys spirit,

VI,1

der sol kêren ze der grüenen linden:

he shall turn to the green linden:

ir wol blüenden sumerbluot

her well blooming summer-bloom

mac man dâ bi loubeschaten vinden.

may one there by leaf-shade find.

daz liebet kleiner vogele schal,

that endears of-little birds sound,

der schallet unde singet:

which rings and sings:

dâ von sendes herzen muot

there from of-yearning heart's spirit

ûf alsam diu wolken hôhe swinget.

up just-as the clouds high swings.

Uf der heide ist bluomen vil:

On the heath is flowers many:

dem der meie sorge mac geringen,

to-whom the May care can lessen,

der vint maniger fröide spil,

he finds of-many-a joy play,

wolde eht mich sô sende leit niht twingen.

would only me so yearning sorrow not compel.

ich wære hôhes muotes rich

I were of-high spirit rich

mit fröiden fröidebære,

with joys joy-bearing,

wolde ein reine sælic wîp

would a pure blessed woman

niht sô vil gelachen mîner swære.

not so much laugh-at my grief.

Lache, ein rôsewarwer munt,

Laugh, a rose-colored mouth,

sô daz mir dîn lachen nien enswache

so that to-me thy laughter not-at-all weaken

mîne fröide und mîn gesunt,

my joy and my soundness,

daz daz noch dîn gütlich lachen mache.

that that yet thy kindly laughter make.

der meie und al der bluomen schîn

the May and all the flowers' shine

diu künden mînem muote

they could to-my spirit

alsô vil niht fröide geben

so much not joy give

sô dîn lachen, meines duz in guote.

as thy laughter, meanest thou-it in good.

Bluomen loup klê berge und tal

Flowers foliage clover mountain and valley

und des meien sumersüeziu wunne

and the May's summer-sweet delight

diu sint gegen dem rôsen val

they are against the roses pale

sô mîn vrowe treit: diu liehte sunne

that my lady wears: the bright sun

erlischet in den ougen mîn,

is-extinguished in the eyes mine,

swann ich den rôsen schouwe,

whenever I the roses behold,

der blüet ûz einem mündel rôt

which bloom out-of a little-mouth red

sam die rôsen ûz des meien touwe.

as the roses out-of the May's dew.

Swer dâ rôsen ie gebrach,

Whoever there roses ever plucked,

der mac wol in hôhgemüete lösen.

he may well in high-spirit make-merry.

swaz ich rôsen ie gesach,

whatewer I of-roses ever saw,

dâ gesach ich nie sô lösen rôsen.

there saw I never so merry roses.

swaz man der brichet in dem tal

whatewer one of-them breaks in the valley

dâ si diu schœne machet,

where them the fair-one makes,

sâ zehant ir rôter munt

straightway at-hand her red mouth

einen tûsentstunt sô schœnen lachet.

one thousand-times so fair laughs.

VI,2 Der cleinen vogle freude ist grôz,
The little birds' joy is great,
 si freuwent sich der liechten tage,
they gladden themselves of-the bright days,
 die al der welte bringent hôhgemüete.
which to-all the world bring high-spirit.
 dar under stên ich freuden blôz:
there among stand I of-joys bare:
 swaz ich singe alde ich sage,
whatever I sing or I say,
 mich trœstet niht eis reinen wîbes güete.
me comforts not of-a pure woman's goodness.
 mich helfent niht die bluomen ûf der heide,
me help not the flowers on the heath,
 michn trœste baz ein reine wîp:
unless-me comfort better a pure woman:
 diu hât betwungen mir den lîp,
she has subdued to-me the person,
 daz ich unsanfte von ir minnen scheide.
that I uneasily from her love part.

Got weiz wol daz ich stæte bin
God knows well that I steadfast am
 und iemer stæte wesen wil
and ever steadfast be will
 an der vil minneclîchen frouwen reine.
to the very lovely lady pure.
 al mînen muot und mînen sin
all my spirit and my mind
 hât si bî ir, dâst niht ein spil:
has she by her, that-is not a play:
 des muoz ich dicke stên an freuden eine.
thereof must I often stand in joys alone.

mich hilfet niht swaz ich der guoten singe,
me helps nothing whatever I to-the good-one sing,

si tuot als si sich niht verstê:
she does as-if she herself not understood:

daz tuot mir wol von schulden wê,
that does to-me well with reason woe,

wand ich mit stæte nâch ir minne ringe.
for I with steadfastness after her love strive.

Swaz ich der guoten ie gesanc,
Whatever I to-the good-one ever sang,

daz hât mich noch vervangen niht:
that has me yet availed nothing:

si lâet mich leben in sorgen alze lange.
she lets me live in cares all-too long.

wurde mir ir habedanc,
became to-me her thanks,

sô het ich noch ze freuden pflîht
so bad I yet toward joys share

und diende ir gerne wol mit mînem sange.
and served her gladly well with my song.

in mac der wol getânen niht vergezzen.
I can the well formed-one not forget.

si hât daz herze min verwunt,
she has the heart mine wounded,

si unde ir rôsewarwer munt:
she and her rose-colored mouth:

sus hât diu minneclîche mich besezzen.
thus has the lovely-one me beset.

Ich minne ein wîp nu manige tage

I love a woman now many days

und diene ir ouch, swaz mir geschiht:

and serve her also, whatever to-me happens:

nu merkent ob ez sî ein herzeswære.

now mark whether it be a heart's-sorrow.

diz ist daz ich iu allen clage:

this is that I to-you all lament:

si weiz ez unde engiht es niht:

she knows it and avows of-it not:

ich fürhte des, ich sî ir gar unmære.

I fear that, I be to-her wholly unwelcome.

doch wil ich ir ze dienste gerne singen;

yet will I her in service gladly sing;

wan seit, ez sî ze freuden guot

for one-says, it be toward joys good

swer habe ûf minne stæten muot:

whoever have on love steadfast spirit:

der müeze ouch mir noch stæte freude bringen.

he may also to-me yet steadfast joy bring.

Schier wurde mîner sorgen rât

Soon would-be of-my cares remedy

nâch der vil lieben frouwen mîn,

after the very dear lady mine,

wolde si baz bedenken mîne swære.

would she better consider my grief:

ich diende ir, Minne, ûf dînen rât

I served her, Love, on thy counsel

und wart noch nie der helfe dîn

and became yet never of-the help thine

gewar, daz si mir dheine fröide bære.

aware, that she to-me any joy bore.

des muoz ich senelîche swære dulden

thereof must I yearning grief endure

nâch ir vil süezem mündel rôt.

after her very sweet little-mouth red.

noch hilf mir, Minne, ûz der nôt,

yet help me, Love, out-of the distress,

sît ez gar allez kumt von dînen schulden.

since it wholly all comes from thy fault.

Heide und anger und diu tal

Heath and meadow and the valleys

VI,3

diu hât der winter aber val

them has the winter again pale

gemachet und die ouwen,

made and the water-meadows,

und ouch dar zuo den grünen walt,

and also there to the green wood,

der ê mit fröiden was bestalt;

which before with joys was appointed;

dâ mac man inne schouwen

there may one within behold

vil kalden rîfen, der kan voge le sweigen

very cold hoarfrost, which can birds silence

ir süezen sanges sunder wân.

their sweet song without doubt.

nu muoz ich kumber mit in hân,

now must I affliction with them have,

diu liebe enwelle mînen kumber neigen.

the dear-one unless-she my affliction lower.

Der sumer urloup hât genomen:

The summer leave has taken:

mit freuden müeze er wider komen

with joys may it again come

mir unde manigem mêre;

to-me and to-many-a-one more;

und daz diu liebiu frouwe mîn

and that the dear lady mine

noch wende mînen senden pîn,

yet turn my yearning torment,

diu guote und diu vil hêre,

the good-one and the very exalted,

der ouch mîn herze nie vergezzen wolde

whom also my heart never forget would

noch niemer mê vergezzen wil.

and never more forget will.

si hât sô maneger tugende vil:

she has of-so many virtues much:

ich dinge, ir minne werde mir ze solde.

I hope, her love become to-me for reward.

Wie künde lieber mir geschehen,

How could dearer to-me happen,

dann ob ich wîlent möhte sehen

than if I sometime might see

ein wîp schœn unde reine.

a woman fair and pure.

diu hât mîns herzen freude hin;

she has of-my heart joy away;

dâ von ich âne freude bin:

there from I without joy am:

daz ahtet si vil cleine.

that heeds she very little.

waz wil diu minneclîche eht an mir enden?

what will the lovely-one only on me end?

des muoz mich iemer wunder hân.

thereof must me ever wonder have.

si wil gewalt an mir begân,

she will force on me commit,

wil si niht schiere mînen kumber wenden.

will she not soon my affliction turn.

Swie selten liebe mir geschiht,

However seldom love to-me happens,

doch habe ich guote zuoversiht

yet have I good confidence

ze mîner frouwen minne.

toward my lady's love.

ich dinge daz si mir verjage

I hope that she for-me drive-away

vil senden kumber, den ich trage

very yearning affliction, which I bear

in herzen unde in sinne.

in heart and in mind.

mich kan von senden sorgen nieman bringen,

me can from yearning cares no-one bring,

ez tuo diu minneclîche alsô,

it do the lovely-one so,

diu machet mich wol, wil si, frô.

she makes me well, wills she, glad.

mir kan mîn swære niemen baz geringen.

to-me can my grief no-one better lessen.

Diu Minne wil daz ich sî frô.

The Love wills that I be glad.

wie tuot si sælderîche sô

how does she blessing-rich so

daz si mir trûren machet?

that she to-me mourning makes?

sin twinget niht ein reine wîp

she compels not a pure woman

sô sêre als si tuot mînen lîp,

so sorely as she does my person,

nâch der mîn herze krachet.

after whom my heart cracks.

in disen zwein sô kan ich niht gebâren,

in these two so can I not bear-myself,

in herzen sen und ûzen vrô.

in heart yearn and outside glad.

wie tuot si reine guote sô?

how does she pure good-one so?

si wil mich lân in disen zwein verjâren.

she will me let in these two grow-old.

VI,4 Diu liebiu sumerwunne ist komen

The dear summer-delight is come

mit liechter ougen weide;

with of-bright eyes pasture;

wir hân der vogle sanc vernomen,

we have the birds' song heard,

in tet der winter leide;

to-them did the winter sorrow;

si frôwent sich der vil schœnen zît,

they gladden themselves of-the very fair season,

diu mich dâ freut vil kleine:

which me there gladdens very little:

ein swære an mînem herzen lît,
a grief on my heart lies,
 die kan mir nieman drabe genemen,
which can from-me no-one thence take,
 wan diu vil guote alleine.
but the very good-one alone.

Wurd aber mir ir helfe erkant,
Were but to-me her help known,
 sô hôrte man mich singen
so would-hear one me sing
 ûz hôhem muote sâ zehant
out-of high spirit straightway at-hand
 von minneclîchen dingen.
of lovely things.
 ê mac ich wol gesingen niht
before may I well sing nothing
 daz frœlîch sî gesungen,
that joyful be sung,
 mir gebe diu liebe an freuden pflîht,
to-me give the dear-one in joys share,
 nâch der mîn herze manigen tac
after whom my heart many-a day
 mit stæte hât gerungen.
with steadfastness has striven.

Sît al mîn fröude an ir nû lît,
Since all my joy on her now lies,
 sô solde si baz êren
so should she better honor
 mich senden man, jâ wære es zît,
me yearning man, yea were of-it time,

und al mîn leit verkêren.

and all my sorrow turn.

wil sî niht wenden mînen pîn,

will she not turn my torment,

sô hât mîn freude ein ende,

so has my joy an end,

sin tuo mir schiere helfe schîn,

unless-she do to-me soon help manifest,

ê daz mîn fröide alsô zergê:

before that my joy so pass-away:

vil sælic wîp, daz wende!

very blessed woman, that turn!

VI,5 Mir ist leide,

To-me is grievous,

daz der winter beide

that the winter both

walt und ouch die heide

wood and also the heath

hât gemachet val.

has made pale.

sîn betwingen

his constraining

lât bluomen niht entspringen

lets flowers not spring-up

noch die voge le singen

nor the birds sing

ir vil süezen schal.

their very sweet sound.

alsus verderbet mich ein sælic wîp,

thus destroys me a blessed woman,

diu mich lât

who me leaves

âne rât,

without remedy,

den si hât;

which she has;

des zergât

thereof passes-away

an fröiden gar mîn lîp.

in joys wholly my person.

Mîner swære

Of-my grief

schiere ich âne wære,

soon I without were,

sold ich die sældebære

should I the blessing-bearing-one

schouwen âne leit.

behold without sorrow.

diu vil hêre

the very exalted

hât schœne zuht und êre:

has beauty breeding and honor:

der wunsch und dannoch mêre

the perfection and yet more

ist gar an si geleit.

is wholly on her laid.

rôsewengel, mündel rôr si hât,

rose-cheeks, little-mouth red she has,

val hâr lanc,

blond hair long,

kele blanc,

throat white,

sîten kranc:

sides slender:

mîn gedanc

my thought

an ir vil hôhe stât.

on her very high stands.

Ich wil singen

I will sing

mêre ûf guot gedingen:

more on good hope:

sol mir wol gelingen,

shall to-me well succeed,

daz muoz an ir geschehen.

that must on her happen.

si kan machen

she can make

trûric herze lachen,

mournful heart laugh,

grôze sorge swachen:

great care weaken:

des muoz man ir jehen.

of-that must one to-her avow.

wurde mir ir werder trôst geseit,

were to-me her worthy comfort promised,

seht, für wâr

see, for true

offenbâr

openly

mîniu jâr

my years

wolde ich gar

would I wholly

mit fröiden sîn gemeit.

with joys be gay.

Ich clage niht bluomen noch den klê,

I lament not flowers nor the clover,

ich clage niht wunneclîche tage,

I lament not delightful days,

ich clage ein ander schulde:

I lament an other cause:

ich clage, mir ist nâch guote wê:

I lament, to-me is after goods woe:

daz ist vor aller nôt mîn clage,

that is before all distress my lament,

die ich unsanfte dulde.

which I uneasily endure.

guot wil an fröiden mich verhern;

goods will in joys me lay-waste;

wold aber mich diu guote nern,

would but me the good-one save,

sô wære ich rich, gæb mir diu schœne ir hulde.

so were I rich, gave to-me the fair-one her favor.

VI,6

Mir ist niht lieber danne guot:

To-me is nothing dearer than goods:

des wil ich niemer mich geschamen,

of-that will I never myself be-ashamed,

swâ man ez seit ze mære.

wherever one it says as tidings.

swie selten ez mir liebe tuot,

however seldom it to-me love does,

doch minne ich ez durh sînen namen:

yet love I it for its name:

guot ist unwandelbære.

goods is unchangeable.

nu merkent waz ich heize guot,

now mark what I call goods,

des doch vil maniger niht entuot:

of-that yet very many-a-one not does:

mîn frouwe ist guot, bî der ich gerne wære.

my lady is good, by whom I gladly were.

VI,⁷ Gegen der liechten sumerzât

Toward the bright summer-season

heide lît

beath lies

mit vil manigen bluomen wunneclîch gevar.

with very many flowers delightfully colored.

dâ bî singent vogellîn

there by sing little-birds

süeze dœne manicvalt:

sweet melodies manifold:

junc und alt

young and old

fröiwent sich der liechten sumerwunne gar.

gladden themselves of-the bright summer-delight wholly.

nu muoz ich in sorgen sîn:

now must I in cares be:

swie diu heide stêt gebluot,

however the heath stands bloomed,

doch beswæret mir den sin

yet grieves to-me the mind

daz ich bin

that I am

âne guot:

without goods:

dar an lît vil guot gewin.

there on lies very good gain.

Het ich guot, sô fröite ich mich.

Had I goods, so gladdened I myself.

lobelich

praiseworthy

ist daz guot, des ich ze dirre werlte ger,

is the goods, which I in this world crave,

wan ez bringet fröiden vil.

for it brings of-joys many.

wîp und êre ich meine: guot,

woman and honor I mean: goods,

hôhen muot

high spirit

füegent disiu beide, seht, des bin ich wer,

bring these both, see, of-that am I surety,

dâ bî maniger hande spil.

there by of-many kind play.

sunder êre und âne wîp

without honor and without woman

allez guot ist gar ein wiht:

all goods is wholly a nothing:

swâ man siht

wherever one sees

wîbes lîp,

woman's body,

waz dâ guotes von geschiht!

what there of-good from happens!

Der von Wengen

Three pieces, none of them love songs. The first asks in what right priests and laymen live who will not honor the pope, reminds the king that the Roman realm was left in his keeping, prays to the mother of all Christendom, and complains that the wicked rich now stand before worthy men. The second thanks Walther von Klingen for keeping faith and bounty in the land, and praises the lords of Kyburg to the Thurgau. The third greets a new moon whose coming makes many a poor man rich.

In welhen rehten wen die pfaffen und die leigen leben,

VII,1

In what rights think the priests and the laymen to-live,

wen si den bâbest, den uns got ze vater hât gegeben,

when they the pope, whom to-us God as father has given,

niht êren unde sîn gebot

not honor and his command

volenden unde volgen des er lêret?

fulfill and follow of-that he teaches?

man sol in lân geniezen daz er wol die kristenheit

one shall him let enjoy that he will the Christendom

mac binden unde enbinden. sîn gewalt der ist sô breit,

can bind and unbind. his power that is so broad,

swaz er gebiutet, daz wil got:

whatever he commands, that wills God:

er wil den minnen dort, swer in hie êret.

he will him love there, whoever him here honors.

er sol uns künden sîniu wort:

he shall to-us proclaim his words:

er wil mit im gewinnen und verliesen.

he will with him win and lose.

es ist vergezzen hie und dort,

it is forgotten here and there,

swaz ieman wider gote tuot, swâ er daz wil verkiesen.
whatever anyone against God does, wherever he that will remit.

sît daz der bâbest den gewalt von sînem schepfer hât,
since that the pope the power from his creator has,

sô ist diu kristenheit verlorn,
so is the Christendom lost,

diu in von sînem reht vertriben lât.
which him from his right drive lets.

Got hât ûf erde an zwêne man die kristenheit gelân.
God has on earth to two men the Christendom left.

der bâbest der sol unser sêle in sîner huote hân:
the pope he shall our soul in his keeping have:

sô sol den lîb und unser guot
so shall the body and our goods

ein vogt von Rôme schirmen mit gerihte.
an advocate of Rome shield with judgment.

nû hât uns einer sô gerihet, daz diu kristenheit
now has us one so judged, that the Christendom

an allen orten hie und dort hât kumber unde leit,
in all places here and there has affliction and sorrow,

daz er niht gotes willen tuot:
that he not God's will does:

des scheidet er in dan von sîner pflihte.
thereby parts he him then from his duty.

vil werder künic, nu seht derzuo:
very worthy king, now look thereto:

er hât an iuch gelâzen rœmschez rîche.
he has to you left the-Roman realm.

ir schaffet daz man rehte tuo.
ye bring-about that one rightly do.

unreht gewalteclîche vert, daz wendent endeliche:
wrong forcefully fares, that turn-ye finally:

sô lât iuch unser herre got bî im gekrœnet stân.
so lets you our lord God by him crowned stand.

ez ist ein hôhe sælekeit,
it is a high blessedness,

ob ir sult hie und dort gekrœnet gân.
if ye shall here and there crowned go.

Genâde, frouwe muoter, al der rehten kristenheit:
Mercy, lady mother, of-all the true Christendom:

dîn helfe ist den helfe gernden selten ie verseit.
thy help is to-the help craving seldom ever denied.

dîn tugent ob allen tugenden stât
thy virtue above all virtues stands

sô hôhe daz eht niht sô hôhes reiget.
so high that indeed nothing so high reaches.

dîn trôst der wiselôsen trôst ist aldâ her gewesen:
thy comfort the guideless-ones' comfort is ever since been:

gein dîner güete ist gelîcher güete niht gelesen.
against thy goodness is like goodness not read.

swaz ieman guoter buoche hât,
whatever anyone of-good books has,

diu hânt niht âne got sô guot erzeiget.
they have nothing except God so good shown.

lop al der kristenheite gar,
praise of-all the Christendom wholly,

ze himelrîche ein werdiu küniginne,
in heaven's-realm a worthy queen,

ein spiegel glanz der engelschar,
a mirror bright of-the angel-host,

Kristes muoter, reiniu maget, hilf mir der wâren minne.
Christ's mother, pure maid, help me to-the true love.

lâ mich der lobe geniezen, diu ich hân von dir geseit:
let me of-the praises enjoy, which I have of thee spoken:

diu tiurent unde prîsent wol.

they ennoble and praise well.

got hât noch mêrren prîs an dich geleit.

God has yet greater praise on thee laid.

Ich hazze ein dinc, daz böese man vor biderben mannen stât,

I hate one thing, that wicked man before worthy men stands,

und ist mir leit daz böese wîp vor biderben wiben gât.

and is to-me grievous that wicked woman before worthy women goes.

Artûs enschuof ez niht alsô:

Arthur ordained it not so:

man hâte dô die liute nâch ir muote.

one held then the people after their spirit.

kam in des werden küniges hof ein wol gemuoter man,

came into the worthy king's court a well disposed man,

den kunde daz gesinde wol nâch sîner werde hân:

him could the household well after his worth hold:

der künic enpfeng in selbe hô,

the king received him himself highly,

er hâte in wol mit lîbe und ouch mit guote.

he held him well with person and also with goods.

nu brechen wir daz süeze reht,

now break we the sweet right,

daz wir die rîchen böesen hôhe grüezen.

that we the rich wicked highly greet.

si grüezent uns als einen kneht:

they greet us as a servant:

si wellent uns mit gruoze noch mit guote kumber büezen.

they will us with greeting nor with goods affliction amend.

ir werden ritter, sitzent stille, swâ si zuo iu gân:

ye worthy knights, sit still, wherever they to you go:

hânt si in herzen reht verniht,
have they in hearts right destroyed,
 sin wellen iuch mit ritters rehte hân.
unless-they will you with knight's right hold.

Danc habe der werde Klinger, dar gehûset hât
Thanks have the worthy Klinger, there housed has

VII,2

triuwe milte und dâ bî zuht: die wil er wol behalten,
faith bounty and there by breeding: those will he well keep,

daz er si von dem lande niht vertriben lât.
that he them from the land not driven lets.

des lâze in got nâch sînem willen wunneclîchen alten!
therefor let him God after his will delightfully grow-old!

si hazzet leider manic man,
them hates alas many-a man,

vor den er si behalten wil: daz ist in allen swære.
from whom he them keep will: that is to-them all grievous.

wie schône erz in gebieten kan!
how fairly he-it to-them command can!

er möhte ir niemer baz gepflegen, ob er ein keiser wære.
he might them never better tend, if he an emperor were.

ir werden frowen, ir sulnt im wûnschen guoter zît,
ye worthy ladies, ye shall to-him wish of-good time,

sît hôhiu tugent in sînem sîezen herzen lît.
since high virtue in his sweet heart lies.

er ist erbarmic und ist doch den friunden guot:
he is compassionate and is yet to-the friends good:

sælde hât in wol dâ her vor aller missetât behuot.
blessing has him well there since from all misdeed guarded.

Got êre iuch Turgöun, daz ir sô stæten muot

God honor you Thurgau, that ye so steadfast spirit

ze Kiburc hânt den herren wert: si machent iuch noch rîche.

to Kyburg have the lords worthy: they make you yet rich.

si hulfen iuch von nôt, gewunnens iemer guot,

they helped you from distress, won-they ever goods,

daz wurde iu niemer vor verspart, daz wizzent sicherlîche.

that would-be to-you never before withheld, that know-ye certainly.

nu lât si niezen iüwer habe

now let them enjoy your property

...

(lacuna)

...

(lacuna)

si werdent schiere unkumberhaft: sost iu ir guot gemeine.

they become soon affliction-free: so-is to-you their goods common.

ûf alsô guot gedinge sult ir stæte sîn.

on so good hope shall ye steadfast be.

sît unverzagt an den vil milten herren mîn.

be undaunted toward the very bountiful lords mine.

si hânt nâch êren ie verzert ir huoben gelt:

they have after honor ever spent their hides' revenue:

ir hânt ir kleider und ir ors vil manigz gefüeret über velt.

ye have their clothes and their horses very many carried over field.

Ein niuwer mâne hât nâch wunsche sich gestalt:

VII,3

A new moon has after perfection itself shaped:

er hât gevangen harte werdeclîche.

it has begun very worthily.

sîn schoene kunft gemachet manigen armen rîche.

its fair coming makes many-a poor-one rich.

danne geloubet mir vür wâr daz ich iu sage:

then believe me for true that I to-you say:

sîn wunneclîchiu zît diu machet hôhen muot,

its delightful season it makes high spirit,

er wil im lande lop und êre bringen.

it will to-the land praise and honor bring.

Heinrich Teschler

Thirteen songs, the second largest section. Most are songs of long service unrewarded: he has spent his best years in one woman's service since he was a child, and stands less worthy of her now than when he began. Two arraign Love herself, who directed him away from a friend's distress to the woman who has ruined him and has since given no help. There is a watchman's dawn song, a song whose refrain holds that his heart stays with her however far he is, and a closing song in which the love is returned and both pledge faith.

VIII,1 Swem von liebe friuntlîch meinen si beschehen,
To-whom from love friendly intent be happened,
der selbe fröuwe sich sô liep geschehener sachen:
that same-one rejoice himself so dear of-happened things:
mir ist des ze sinne und wil sîn iemer jehen,
to-me is of-that to mind and will of-it ever avow,
ez müge vil fröide an reht gemuoten man wol machen.
it may much joy on rightly disposed man well make.
swer von liebe ie sölher wunne teil gewan
whoever from love ever of-such delight share won
und er daz mit zühten tougen tragen kan,
and he that with decorum secretly bear can,
seht, der dunket mich zer welt ein sælic man
see, that-one seems to-me in-the world a blessed man
und sol im wol von schulden allez trûren swachen.
and shall to-him well by right all mourning weaken.

Hete ich sender man ie sölhes liebes iht
Had I yearning man ever of-such dear anything
von eines herzen lieben wibes güete enpfangen,
from a heart dear woman's goodness received,

sô het ich bescheidenlîcher fröiden pflîht.

so had I of-discerning joys part.

ouwê, nu muoz mich maniger schœnen zît erlangen,

alas, now must me of-many-a fair season yearn,

sît daz ich ein wîp ze liebe mir erkôs,

since that I a woman for love to-me chose,

daz ich noch von ir stên alles liebes blôz.

that I still from her stand of-all dear bare.

wê wer kônde mir an fröiden sin genôz,

woe who could to-me in joys be equal,

ob mir von herzeliebe iht liebes wære ergangen!

if to-me from heart-love anything of-dear were happened!

Sælic wîp, ich bin noch gar der sælden arn,

Blessed woman, I am still wholly of-the blessings poor,

daz mir von dir ie wurde ein kleinez hôhgemüete:

that to-me from thee ever became a small high-spirit:

des lâ mir vil sendem manne widervarn

of-that let to-me very yearning man befall

lieplîcher dîngen eteswaz von dîner güete.

of-lovely things somewhat from thy goodness.

sich, sô werde ich aller fröide wol gemeit

see, so become I of-all joy well gay

und in hôhem muote wüetend âne leit,

and in high spirit raging without sorrow,

und iedoch mit fuoge in der bescheidenheit,

and yet with fitness in the discretion,

sô daz ich dîner êren niemer missehüete.

so that I thy honor never mis-guard.

VIII,2 Ich hân vertriben die mînen besten zît dâ her von einem kinde,
I have spent the my best time there hither from a child,

got weiz wol, niht wan in der lieben dienste gar,
God knows well, not but in the dear-one's service wholly,

und bin ir doch unwerder nu dan dô ichs êrst began.
and am to-her yet less-worthy now than when I-it first began.

ich bin belîben alsô dâ her, daz ich von ir niht dankes vinde;
I am remained thus there hither, that I from her no thanks find;

sî stêt gein mir vil leider aller güete bar:
she stands toward me very sadly of-all goodness bare:

daz hât geswachet sêre mich vil helfelôsen man.
that has weakened sorely me very helpless man.

ouwê, jâ dâhte ich, dô ich sî des êrsten mir erkôs,
alas, yea thought I, when I her of-the first to-me chose,

sî hete wunder güete und wære milter sinne.
she had wondrous goodness and were of-gentle mind.

wie ez darumbe sî, des bin ich sît wol worden inne:
how it thereabout be, of-that am I since well become aware:

ir ungenâde ist sunder schulde gegen mir al ze grôz.
her ungraciousness is without fault toward me all too great.

Ach, herter muot, waz hât dîn diu gütlich gestalte zûhte rîche!
Ah, hard spirit, how-much has of-thee the kindly shaped breeding rich-one!

nieman enwîze mir, ob mich des wunder neme:
no-one blame to-me, if me of-that wonder take:

ich hân sô lange her gedient ir edelen werdekeit.
I have so long hither served her noble worth.

dêswâr, sî tuot an ir getriuwm statem friunde unminneclîche
truly, she does to her faithful steadfast friend unlovingly

und ander danne guotes wibes güete zeme,
and otherwise than good woman's goodness beseems,

daz sî niht ahtet mîner lange wernden arebeit.
that she not heeds of-my long lasting travail.

ob ichz mit hulden sprechen tar, sî hât gesündet sich
if I-it with leave speak dare, she has sinned herself

und hât vil grôze herte an mir dâ her begangen
and has very great hardness on me there hither committed

daz ich ie was dur sî mit sender nôt sô gar bevangen
in-that I ever was through her with yearning distress so wholly beset

und sî dar under ein vil lützel nie getrôste mich.
and she there under a very little never comforted me.

Bin ich unfrô, sich, Welt, diu schulde ist der vil minneclîchen süezen.
Am I unglad, see, World, the fault is the very lovely sweet-one's.

het ich gein der ie missevarn bî mînen tagen,
had I toward her ever transgressed in my days,

sô hete ich nœte zît, gedinge und arebeit verlorn.
so had I of-necessity time, hope and travail lost.

wær ez alsô, son solte sî mir niemer sende swære bûezen,
were it so, then should she to-me never yearning grief remedy,

wan daz ich iemer wernde riuwe solte tragen.
but that I ever lasting repentance should bear.

sît aber ich ie gein ir noch alle unvuoge habe verborn
since however I ever toward her still all impropriety have forborne

und ie daz beste habe getân, sol mich daz niht gevromen,
and ever the best have done, shall me that not profit,

sô lât iuch wol genuoten liute daz erbarmen,
so let you well disposed people that pity,

des ich von rehten rîchen solte, daz ich des muoz armen,
of-that I by right grow-rich should, that I of-it must grow-poor,

und daz mir trûren kumet dâ von mir fröide solte komen.
and that to-me mourning comes there from to-me joy should come.

VIII,3 Hei schœner gruoꝛ, hei lôser ougen blic,
Hey fair greeting, hey roguish eyes' glance,
 ouwê, vil minneclichez lachen,
alas, very lovely laughter,
 wie hânt ir mich sô gar verlâzen und verkorn!
how have ye me so wholly forsaken and renounced!
 ich bin gevallen in der sorgen stric
I am fallen into the cares' snare
 von dien vil schedelîchen sachen,
from the very harmful things,
 daz ich iuch sunder mîne schulde hân verlorn.
that I you without my fault have lost.
 vil sælic wîp, gar unverschulde lîde ich dînen zorn:
very blessed woman, wholly undeserved suffer I thy anger:
 sol der an mir gewinnen wernden sic,
shall it on me win lasting victory,
 daz tuot mîn leben alsô verswachen,
that does my life so weaken,
 daz ich vil lieber wolte sîn noch ungeborn.
that I much rather would be yet unborn.

Guot wîp, sît ich dîn kûnde alrêst gevie,
Good woman, since I thy acquaintance first took,
 sît wær du mir in mînem muote
since wert thou to-me in my spirit
 daz liepste liep zer welte alleine und keinez mê.
the dearest dear-one in-the world alone and none more.
 nâch dir gewarb ich offenbæres nie:
after thee wooed I openly never:
 diu zuht was ie in mîner huote
the decorum was ever in my keeping
 noch bin ouch niht der einer (dazz in übel ergê!),
still am also not of-the ones (that-it to-them ill go!),

die sich von wîben rüement anders danne in wol an stê.
who themselves of women boast otherwise than to-them well on stands.

durch dich sprach ich lop allen wîben ie,
for thee spoke I praise to-all women ever,

durch dich gedâhte ich ir ze guote,
for thee thought I of-them to good,

durch dich tet mir ir êre wol, ir laster wê.
for thee did to-me their honor well, their reproach woe.

Got weiz wol, in verdiente nie den haz,
God knows well, I deserved never the hate,

den du ân alle mîne schulde,
which thou without all my fault,

vil liebest alles liebes, hâst an mich geleit.
very dearest of-all dear, hast on me laid.

durluhtic mîner ougen spiegelglas,
radiant of-my eyes mirror-glass,

sît ich den unverschulte dulde,
since I it undeserved endure,

sô tuoz dur wîbes güete und swende mîniu leit.
so do-it through woman's goodness and destroy my sorrows.

gip mir her wider des mich beroubet hât dîn werdekeit,
give to-me hither back of-that me robbed has thy worth,

des ie mîn sendez herze gernde was:
of-which ever my yearning heart desirous was:

ich mein dîn wunnebernden hulde,
I mean thy delight-bearing favor,

die du mir hât muotwillend âne reht verseit.
which thou to-me hast willfully without right denied.

VIII,⁴ Hie vor dô was mîn wûnschen allez sô,
Here before then was my wishing wholly so,
 daz ich die lieben solte sehen:
that I the dear-one should see:
 dô was sî guot und ich ir güete vrô.
then was she good and I of-her goodness glad.
 sît her ist mir von ir beschehen
since hither is to-me from her happened
 deich nu ein anderz lobende bin:
that-I now an other praising am:
 daz heizet 'ouwê, daz ichs ie gesach!'
that is-called 'alas, that I-her ever saw!'
 wer möhte haben sô senften sin,
who might have so gentle mind,
 daz in niht muote solich ungemach
that him not trouble such distress
 als mir, in weiz durch waz, von ir beschiht.
as to-me, I-not know through what, from her happens.
 nu swie diu swære sî getân,
now however the grief be made,
 des kan ich tumber mich enhaben niht,
of-it can I foolish myself refrain not,
 diu welt diu müeze es künde hân.
the world it must of-it knowledge have.

Ir reinen wîp, ir wol gemuoten man,

Ye pure women, ye well disposed men,

vernemet von ir mîn sende klage.

bear of her my yearning lament.

ich habe ir, als ich beste mich versan,

I have to-her, as I best myself understood,

gedienet alle mîne tage,

served all my days,

und swiez ze leste doch gevar,

and however-it at last yet fare,

die zît und ouch des lîbes arebeit

the time and also the body's travail

ân allen valsch mit triuwen gar

without all falsehood with faith wholly

und ouch mit rehter stæte an sî geleit.

and also with right steadfastness on her laid.

ouwê, nu tuots alrêste dem gelîch

alas, now does-she now-first that like

sam sî niht wizze, wer ich sî.

as-if she not knew, who I be.

ist dan mân sanc dur nôt niht klage rich,

is then my song of necessity not lament rich,

sît ich gein ir bin schulden frî?

since I toward her am of-fault free?

Noch klage ich einez, daz mir nâher gât,

Yet lament I one-thing, that to-me nearer goes,

daz mir vil scham und smerzen birt.

that to-me much shame and pain bears.

der gruoze, den al diu welt von ir enpfât,

the greeting, which all the world from her receives,

des nieman guoter âne wirt,

of-which no good-one without becomes,

seht, der ist mir von ir verseit.

see, that is to-me by her denied.

des sunderbæren ich geswîgen wil,

of-the special I be-silent will,

der mich doch wîlent niht vermeit:

which me yet once not shunned:

des ich von ir genâden hete vil.

of-which I from her grace had much.

nun kan ich leider anders noch enmac,
now-not can I sadly otherwise or may,

wan al der welte siz geklaget,
but to-all the world be-it lamented,

daz triuwe stæte und alse manic tac
that faith steadfastness and so many-a day

sô krankez lônên hânt bejaget.
so poor reward have won.

VIII,5 Wâfen, Minne, wie hât du mir sô getân!

Alas, Love, how hast thou to-me so done!

solhen ruof und klage ich nœte von dir hân:
such cry and lament I of-necessity of thee have:

wan du wîstest mich von vriundes ungemach
for thou didst-direct me from friend's distress

unde riete, des ist lanc, mir an ein wîp,
and didst-counsel, of-that is long, to-me to a woman,

daz ich dar ergap daz herze und al den lip.
that I thither gave-up the heart and all the body.

wê waz ich dô trostes mich ze dir versach!
woe what I then of-comfort myself to thee expected!

dar diene ich sît, daz ich mîn stæte nie zerbrach.
thither served I since, so-that I my steadfastness never broke.

ouwê leider, daz hât mich vervangen niht,
alas sadly, that has me availed not,

wan daz man mich trûric und verdorben siht
but that one me sad and ruined sees

dâ von daz mir helfe nie von dir beschach.
there from that to-me help never from thee happened.

Nu trahte, Minne, ob ich von dir dur nôt niht klage,
Now consider, Love, whether I of thee of necessity not lament,

wa ist mîn fröide hin und mîne besten tage?
where is my joy away and my best days?

dêst ân allen danc von dînen schulden vür.
that-is without all consent by thy fault gone.

got weiz wol daz ich mich niht versinnen kan,
God knows well that I myself not understand can,

sît daz ich mîs liebes minne alrêst began,
since that I of-my dear-one's love first began,

daz ich daz mit keinen sachen ie verlür,
that I it by any means ever lost,

daz ich gein stæter minn sô wernde unliebe spür.
that I toward steadfast love so lasting unlove feel.

Minne, woltest du mir noch ze staten komen,
Love, wouldst thou to-me yet to aid come,

swie grôzen schaden ich dîner sinne habe genomen,
however great harm I of-thy devising have taken,

wie gern ich ûf bezzerunge daz verkür!
how gladly I on amendment that would-forgive!

Frouwe Minne, ich wil dir noch getriuwen baz:
Lady Love, I will thee yet trust better:

hîlf dur dîne güete mir erwerben daz,
help through thy goodness me obtain that,

daz mich diu liebe ir minne in solher mâze wer;
that me the dear-one her love in such measure grant;

daz ich ir liep eht inrenthalp des herzen sî,
that I to-her dear only within the heart be,

und sî wilent tûeje friuntlich grûezen bî
and she at-times do friendly greeting beside

und ich ir lîbes minne ûf ir genâde enber.
and I her body's love on her mercy forgo.

sî müeze mich vergên, ob ich ir anders ger.

she may me pass-by, if I of-her otherwise desire.

liep vor allem liebe, sælic vrouwe mîn,

dear before all dear, blessed lady mine,

dur dîne tugent sô tuo mir sölhe minne schîn:

through thy virtue so make to-me such love manifest:

der bin ich dîn, swie du mir sist, ze vollen wer.

of-that am I thine, however thou to-me beest, to full surety.

VIII,6 Si jehent, ich habe doch vollen teil

They say, I have indeed full share

der welte volge und ouch die kunst:

the world's approval and also the art:

war umbe ich swîge und niht ensinge als wilent ê?

where fore I am-silent and not sing as once before?

si redent ir zuht: got gebe in heil

they speak their breeding: God give to-them weal

und daz ez in gein liebes gunst

and that it to-them toward love's favor

baz dan mir noch gelungen si ze leste ergê.

better than to-me yet succeeded is at last go.

in zwîvel niht, und wisten si

I doubt not, and knew they

wie rehte kranc dar an gewesen ist mîn gelinge,

how right weak there in been is my success,

sî stüenden mir des alle bî

they would-stand to-me in-that all by

daz es mir nôt tuot daz ich swîge und niht ensinge:

that of-it to-me need does that I am-silent and not sing:

sus wunder nieman ob ich sanges abe gestê.

thus wonder no-one if I of-song off stand.

Als mir in die gedanke kumet

When to-me into the thought comes

waz ich ir liebe schaden habe,

what I of-her love harm have,

dur die mîn herze senelichen kumber treit,

through whom my heart yearning affliction bears,

und mich daz nie niht hât gefrument,

and me that never at-all has profited,

wan daz ich bin gewahsen abe

but that I am dwindled away

an fröide, diu der welt ie was von mir bereit,

in joy, which to-the world ever was by me made-ready,

sô wurde sinne und witze bar:

so I-become of-sense and wit bare:

wie möhte ich dann gesingen ûz sô trüebem muote?

how might I then sing out-of so gloomy spirit?

mîn neme ir helfe bezzer war,

of-me take her help better heed,

daz mir doch eteswaz von ir beschehe ze guote,

that to-me yet somewhat from her happen to good,

sô ist mîn fröide und al mîn singen hin geleit.

so is my joy and all my singing away laid.

Sît daz ich nu niht bringen mac

Since that I now not bring may

der welte fröiden rîchen sanc,

to-the world of-joys rich song,

dêswâr sô muoz ouch klagesanges sîn geswigen.

truly so must also of-lament-song be kept-silent.

ob ich des ie dâ her gepflac,

if I of-it ever there hither practiced,

dar an sô was mîn witze kranc:

there in so was my wit weak:

daz muoz nu hinnen vür von mir geruowet ligen.
that must now hence forth by me rested lie.

waz touc ze sange ein trüebez klagen?
what avails to song a gloomy lamenting?

ein siufteberndez liet, ein fröidelôs gedœne?
a sigh-bearing song, a joyless melody?

geschiht mir leit, ich wils gedagen:
happens to-me sorrow, I will-it keep-quiet:

kumt liep, mit fröiden rîchem sange ich daz bekrœne.
comes joy, with of-joys rich song I that crown.

von dirre zît sô muoz der site an mir gesigen.
from this time so must the custom on me prevail.

VIII,7 Ein wahter sanc 'diu naht wil hin:

A watchman sang 'the night will away:

wol ûf swer iender tougen lît,
well up whoever anywhere secretly lies,

und sî gereit; ich sihe den tac ûf dringen.
and be ready; I see the day up press.

herz und gedanc und al den sin
heart and thought and all the mind

twing er von liebe, dëst mîn strît,
constrain he from love, that-is my contention,

vür kûmftic leit, vür starkez misselingen.
against coming sorrow, against strong mishap.

mâze sich alsô der minne,
measure himself so of-the love,

daz unmâze niht gesige,
that excess not prevail,

sô daz er nâch ungewinne
so that he after loss

dur sîn liep ze lange iht lige.
for his love too long at-all lie.

dur got, wol ûf, êst scheidens zît!

for God, well up, it-is of-parting time!

bescheidenheit diu hoeret zallen dingen.'

discretion it belongs to-all things.'

'Sô wê mir, tac, der künfte dîn!'

'So woe to-me, day, of-the coming thine!'

diu vrouwe ûz trüebem muote sprach:

the lady out-of gloomy spirit spoke:

‘jâ wilt du mich der hœhsten fröide pfenden.

‘yea wilt thou me of-the highest joy despoil.

du bist ein slac der fröiden mîn:

thou art a blow of-the joys mine:

sô leide mir noch nie geschach.

so sorely to-me yet never happened.

ouwê, sît dich nu nieman kan erwenden,

alas, since thee now no-one can turn-away,

sô wache, vriunt, mîn trûtgeselle,

so wake, friend, my dear-companion,

trœste mich vil senedez wîp.

comfort me very yearning woman.

ich vürhte des, der tac der welle

I fear of-that, the day he will

mir enpfrömden dînen lîp.

from-me estrange thy person.

daz ist mîn hœhstesz ungemach:

that is my highest distress:

nu wache und sich, diu naht diu wil sich enden.'

now wake and see, the night she will herself end.'

Der selben stunt wart niht gespart,

Of-the same hour was not spared,

dâ wurde nâhen bî gelegen:

there was near by lain:

fröid unde spil ergienc dâ von in beiden.

joy and play went-on there from them both.

dâ tet in kunt ir edel art,

there made to-them known their noble nature,

wes liep bî liebe solte pflegen.

of-what love by love should practice.

dô was daz zil, daz sî sich muosten scheiden.

then was the term, that they themselves must part.

sich schieden dô diu zwei gemeinen

themselves parted then the two companions

mit bescheidenlîchen siten:

with discreet manners:

doch muosten siu sich ê vereinen,

yet must they themselves first agree,

daz sî sich niht lange miten.

that they themselves not long avoided.

des wart dâ sicherheit gewegen

of-that was there surety pledged

mit triuwen vil und ouch mit manigen eiden.

with faiths many and also with many oaths.

VIII,8 Frouwe Minne, nâch der grôzen swære

Lady Love, after the great grief

mîner seneden ie getragenen arebeit,

of-my yearning ever borne travail,

der ich niulîche vil unsanfte entladen bin,

of-which I lately very painfully unburdened am,

dem gelîch als ich niht müede wære,

that like as I not weary were,

hâst du aber al ze balde ûf mich geleit

hast thou again all too soon on me laid

des sich erkumet mîn lîp, mîn herze und al mîn sin.

of-which itself is-dismayed my body, my heart and all my mind.

ich meine eins reinen süezen wîbes niuwen minnelast.

I mean a pure sweet woman's new love-burden.

ouwê, war umbe hâst du, liebe, daz getân?

alas, where fore hast thou, love, that done?

ich bin doch dem noch sender swære selten ie gebrast.

I am yet be-to-whom still of-yearning grief seldom ever lacked.

du soltest mich billîche ein teil geruowen lân:

thou shouldst me rightly a part rest let:

dîn last ist mir kûme tragebære

thy burden is to-me hardly bearable

von der ê getragenen bürde unsenftekeit,

from the before borne burden's harshness,

diu hât mir lîp und al den muot vil nâch dâ hin.

which has to-me body and all the spirit very nearly there away.

Frouwe Minne, gwaltic meisterinne,

Lady Love, mighty mistress,

sît dîn wille an mir dekeine mâze enkan,

since thy will on me no measure knows,

in müeze senede nôt nâch werdem wibe tragen,

unless-I must yearning distress after worthy woman bear,

sô geruoche des, daz ich gewinne

so deign of-that, that I win

dîne helfe, die ich leider nie gewan:

thy help, which I sadly never won:

tuo mich dur dîne güete bezzer heil bejagen

make me through thy goodness better weal win

dan du in mîner alten sache tætest wilent ê.

than thou in my old case didst once before.

nu tuo mir zweijer buozen eine und habe danc:

now do to-me of-two remedies one and have thanks:

du füege daz der lieben werde mir geliche wê

thou bring-about that to-the dear-one become to-me alike woe

und uns gemeineclîche twinge dîn getwanc,

and us in-common constrain thy constraint,

oder nim von ir die mîne sinne,

or take from her the my senses,

daz ich minnen vrî werd und ein ledic man:

that I of-love free become and an unbound man:

dêswâr son mag ich arges niht von dir geklagen.

truly then may I of-ill nothing of thee complain.

Frouwe Minne, wol mich iemer mêre,

Lady Love, well me ever more,

sît daz mich betwingen sülen dîniu bant,

since that me constrain shall thy bonds,

daz daz umb ein sô rehte sælic wip geschiht.

that it about a so truly blessed woman happens.

des sag ich dir lop, genâde und êre,

of-that say I to-thee praise, thanks and honor,

daz du hâst mîn herze an sölhe stat gesant,

that thou hast my heart to such place sent,

dâ man bî schoene vil und wunder güete siht,

where one beside beauty much and wondrous goodness sees,

und dâ diu schoene minneclîche zir gesellet hât

and where the beauty loveliness to-her joined has

und ouch der güete stêt güetlîch gebâren bî,

and also to-the goodness stands kindly bearing by,

dâ man ze vollen vîndet swaz ze lobenne an wibe stât

where one to full finds whatever to praise in woman stands

und dâ man alles valsches âne ist unde frî.

and where one of-all falsehood without is and free.

süeze Minne, gip mir rât und lêre,
sweet Love, give to-me counsel and teaching,
 wie ich ir mit schoener fuoge tuo bekant
how I to-her with fair fitness make known
 daz ich si minne ân aller valscher liebe pflieht.
that I her love without of-all false love part.

Valschelôser minne kraft

VIII,9

Of-guileless love power
 trage ich einem wibe
bear I to-a woman
 stille und âne ir wizzent manige stunt.
silently and without her knowing many-an hour.
 dâ bî tuot mich kumberhaft
there by makes me affliction-full
 an muot und an lîbe
in spirit and in body
 daz ich irs niht tar gemachen kunt.
that I to-her-it not dare make known.
 si ist der êren alse rîche gar
she is of-the honors so rich wholly
 und hât ir sô wunder,
and has of-them so wondrous-much,
 daz mich daz tuot under,
that me that puts under,
 sô daz ich genenden niht getar.
so that I venture not dare.

Dannoch ist ein ander nôt

Yet-still is an other distress

(daz ich der engelde,

(that I of-it suffer,

sölher vorhte wurde ich niemer vrî),
of-such fear become I never free),

daz ir lieplich munt sô rôet
that her lovely mouth so red

mich ûz zorne melde,
me out-of anger betray,

swie gütlich er doch gestellet sî.
however kindly it yet formed be.

seht, diu vorhte tuot mich ouch verzagen,
see, the fear makes me also despair,

daz sî niht wirt inne
that she not becomes aware

mîner stæten minne,
of-my steadfast love,

diech ir lange tougen habe getragen.
which-I to-her long secretly have borne.

Alsus ist diu liebe mir
Thus is the dear-one to-me

sunder valsch mit triuwen
without falsehood with faith

liep, daz sis niht weiz noch nie bevant.
dear, that she-it not knows nor ever perceived.

dise liebe wil ich ir
this love will I to-her

iemer gerne niuwen:
ever gladly renew:

waz dann, ist mîn liebe ir niht bekant?
what then, is my love to-her not known?

und ob mir dar umbe wê geschiht,
and if to-me there fore woe happens,

dulde ich dâ von smerzen

endure I there from pains

lîbes unde herzen,

of-body and heart,

doch minn ich sî deste minre niht.

yet love I her the less not.

Wâfen daz ich seneden pîn

Alas that I yearning pain

sô vergebene lîde

so in-vain suffer

sam ich her vil ofte habe geliten

as I hitherto very often have suffered

durch die lieben vrouwen mîn,

for the dear lady mine,

sô daz ich vermîde,

so that I forbear,

sam ich nu vil lange habe vermiten,

as I now very long have forborne,

daz ich ir dâ von nie niht gewuoc.

that I to-her there of never at-all spoke.

ach, ich tôre tumber,

ah, I fool foolish,

daz ich disen kumber

that I this affliction

ie sô lange unendelich getruoc!

ever so long fruitlessly bore!

Wie daz mîn unwiser muot

How that my unwise spirit

sich des niht bedenket,

itself of-it not bethinks,

VIII,10

mache ich ir mîn leit mit fuoge erkant,
make I to-her my sorrow with fitness known,

daz ir daz niht schaden tuot
that to-her it no harm does

noch an êren krenket:
nor in honor weakens:

dar zuo hat vrô Sælde an sî gewant
there to has lady Blessing on her bestowed

sô vil süezer güete und senftekeit,
so much of-sweet goodness and gentleness,

daz ich umb die schulde
that I for the fault

von ir niht endulde
from her not suffer

melde noch kein ander herzeleit.
betrayal nor any other heart-sorrow.

Lîhte ergêt mir liebes iht,
Perhaps befalls to-me of-dear aught,

weiz diu wol getâne
knows the well fashioned-one

gegen ir mîn vil senedez ungemach.
toward her my very yearning distress.

anders wirt der liebe pfliht
otherwise becomes the love's part

alles endes âne:
of-all end without:

wâfen denne daz ichs ie gesach!
alas then that I-her ever saw!

nein dur got, lât stân, ich wilz doch ê
nay for God, let stand, I will-it yet before

mit gefüegen dingen
with fitting things

ir ze künde bringen
to-her to knowledge bring

ûf ir milten güete, swiez ergê.
on her gracious goodness, however-it go.

Fröiden bilde und ir gebærde,
Of-joys image and their bearing,

VIII,11

fröiden schîn treit ûzerthalp der welte vor mîn lîp:
of-joys show bears outwardly to-the world before my person:

dâ bî ringet mit beswærde
there by wrestles with grievance

tougen innerthalp daz herze durch ein sælic wîp,
secretly inwardly the heart for a blessed woman,

von der ungenâde ich vinde
from whose ungraciousness I find

niht wan werndes leides pîn.
nothing but of-lasting sorrow pain.

sô bin ich der welt gesinde:
so am I of-the world retainer:

der tuon ich mîn fröide schîn,
to-it make I my joy manifest,

und iedoch mit der geværde,
and yet with the peril,

daz daz herze dultet leit, der fröiden widerkîp.
that the heart endures sorrow, of-the joys adversary.

Sus muoz ich mich fröiden twingen

Thus must I myself to-joys constrain

dur der welte liebe: doch ist solchiu fröide ein niht,

for the world's love: yet is such joy a nothing,

diu mit sô verdâhten dingen

whiche with so contrived things

und mit trügelisten nâch der welte gunst geschiht.

and with deceits after the world's favor happens.

sô der lîp der welte lachet,

when the person to-the world laughs,

so ist ez umb daz herze alsô,

so is it about the heart thus,

daz ez in den sorgen krachet:

that it in the cares cracks:

sölcher fröide bin ich vrô.

of-such joy am I glad.

möhte ich trôst von liebe erringen,

might I comfort from love win,

sô het ich mit beiden wârer ganzer fröiden pflieht.

so had I with both of-true whole joys part.

Welt, nu lâz mich des geniezen,

World, now let me of-that have-benefit,

daz ich dîner fröiden leiter unde venre ie was,

that I of-thy joys leader and standard-bearer ever was,

und solt mir mit wunsch erschiezen

and shouldst for-me with wish avail

und mit worten gegen der lieben, der ich nie vergaz,

and with words toward the dear-one, whom I never forgot,

daz sî mir von sendem leide

that she for-me from yearning sorrow

mînen ungetrôsten muot

my uncomforted spirit

durch ir süezen güete scheide:

through her sweet goodness part:

welt, ob sî daz durch dich tuot,

world, if she that for thee does,

sô wil ich dir êrst ûf sliezen

so will I to-thee first up unlock

fröiden hort, daz du von mir nie wurde erfröiwet baz.

of-joys heard, so-that thou by me never wert gladdened better.

Swie frömede mîn lîp der minneclîchen süezen sî,

However distant my person to-the lovely sweet-one be,

mîn herze ist ir doch stæte bî.

my heart is to-her yet steadfastly by.

VIII,12

Daz ich sô gar selten zuo zir kêre,

That I so wholly seldom to to-her turn,

daz lâz ich, got weiz wol, durch ir êre,

that leave I, God knows well, for her honor,

daz ich die behalde und niht versêre.

that I her keep and not wound.

sî wizze, enwære daz,

she know, were-not that,

ich wonte ir bî baz unde baz.

I would-dwell her by better and better.

swie frömede mîn lîp der minneclîchen süezen sî,

however distant my person to-the lovely sweet-one be,

mîn herze ist ir doch stæte bî.

my heart is to-her yet steadfastly by.

Durch guot und für arger huote melden

For good-intent and against of-evil watch betraying

siht man bi der lieben mich sô seldom.

sees one by the dear-one me so seldom.

des sol sî mich lâzen niht engelden:

for-that shall she me let not pay:

bedenket sî sich wol,

bethinks she herself well,

dur reht ich des geniezen sol.

by right I of-that benefit shall.

swie frömede mîn lîp der minneclîchen süezen sî,

however distant my person to-the lovely sweet-one be,

mîn herze ist ir doch stæte bî.

my heart is to-her yet steadfastly by.

Wê geschehe der huote, diu mich scheide

Woe happen to-the watch, which me parts

von ir schœnes lîbes ougen weide!

from her fair body's eyes' pasture!

loup gras bluomen ouwe walt und heide,

leaf grass flowers meadow wood and heath,

diu dunkent mich ein niht

they seem to-me a nothing

gein mînes liebes angesiht.

against of-my dear-one's countenance.

swie frömede mîn lîp der minneclîchen süezen sî,

however distant my person to-the lovely sweet-one be,

mîn herze ist ir doch stæte bî.

my heart is to-her yet steadfastly by.

Liep, du hâst mich gar gewert:

Beloved, thou hast me wholly granted:

swaz liebe ich hân ze dir gegert,

whatever love I have of thee desired,

des hâst du dich dur mich verwegen.

of-that hast thou thyself for me resolved.

des sî mîn lîp und al mîn leben

therefore be my body and all my life

ze widergelte dir ergeben:

to requital to-thee given:

der solt du gar vür eigen pflegen.

of-them shalt thou wholly as own have-charge-of.

hier under sîst gemant an triuwe, an stæte,

here under beest admonished to faith, to steadfastness,

der pflic gein mir als du vil gerne ie tæte,

of-them hold toward me as thou very gladly ever didst,

sô wil ouch ich diu beide dir

so will also I the both to-thee

ûz herzeclîcher liebe gir

out-of heartfelt love's desire

mit voller wâge widerwegen.

with full weight repay.

Liep, dir sol niht wesen leit

Love, to-thee shall not be grievous

ob ich dich triuwe und stætekeit

that I thee faith and steadfastness

gein mir ze leisten habe gemant.

toward me to perform have admonished.

daz kumet von missetriuwen niht:

that comes from mistrust not:

daz weiz der in diu herzen siht.

that knows he-who into the hearts sees.

mir ist dîn muot, dîn herze erkant

to-me is thy spirit, thy heart known

sô rehte ganz, sô veste und sô vermezzen,

so truly whole, so firm and so resolute,

daz du niht triuwe und stæte maht vergezzen.

that thou not faith and steadfastness canst forget.

daz ich daz weiz sô sicherlich,

that I that know so surely,

daz ist ein dinc, daz iemer mich

that is a thing, that ever me

hin zuo dir bindet und ie bant.

thither to thee binds and ever bound.

Liep, ich weiz dins lobes mêt,

Love, I know of-thy praise more,

(vil lange wernde ez dir bestê):

(very long lasting it to-thee remain):

daz hât dîn lîp und ouch dîn muot.

that has thy body and also thy spirit.

dîn lîp hât schoene und guote jugent,

thy body has beauty and good youth,

dîn muot wisheit und ganze tugent;

thy spirit wisdom and whole virtue;

sus bistu beidenthalp behuot.

thus art-thou on-both-sides guarded.

waz hulfe ein übermæzic lop gesungen?

what would-help an excessive praise sung?

diz lop, swie kurze ez si mit rede getwungen,

this praise, however short it be with speech compressed,

ez ist doch vollen wît und breit

it is yet full wide and broad

und hât dâ bî mât und wârheit:

and has there by measure and truth:

daz solt du hân von mir vür guot.

that shalt thou have from me as good.

Heinrich von Stretlingen

Three songs, two of them with refrains. In the first he sends the nightingale to sing into his lady's ear, and every strophe closes on two lines of vocables. In the second he has given her spirit, goods, body, and life, and each strophe says so again. The third says that neither birdsong nor the green heath helps him, and asks others to join him in entreating her.

IX,¹ Nahtegal, guot vogellîn,

Nightingale, good little-bird,

mîner frouwen solt du singen in ir ôre dar,

to-my lady shalt thou sing into her ear thither,

sît si hât daz herze mîn

since she has the heart mine

und ich âne fröide und âne hôhgemüete var.

and I without joy and without high-spirit go.

sî daz niht wunder,

be that no wonder,

son weiz ich frömder dinge niht,

so know I of-strange things nothing,

daz man dar under hie besunder dicke vrô mich siht.

that one there among here in-particular often glad me sees.

deilidurei faledirannurei,

deilidurei faledirannurei,

lidundei faladaritturei!

lidundei faladaritturei!

Frouwe, bluomen unde klê

Lady, flowers and clover

unde heide, diu sô wünneclîche grüene lît,

and heath, which so delightfully green lies,

die wen muoten unde mê

those will request and more

daz diu vogellîn wol singen suoze wider strît.

that the little-birds well sing sweetly in rivalry.

des fröit sich sêre

thereof gladdens itself greatly

mîn muot daz si sint fröide rîch.

my spirit that they are joy rich.

al dur ir êre singe ich mêre, sît sist minneclîch.

all through her honor sing I more, since she-is lovely.

deilidurei faledirannurei,

deilidurei faledirannurei,

lidundei faladaritturei!

lidundei faladaritturei!

Süeze Minne, hilf enzît,

Sweet Love, help in-time,

daz diu sælderiche erkenne mîne grôze nôt.

that the blessing-rich-one know my great distress.

sît daz mîn trôst an dir lît,

since that my comfort on thee lies,

sô gefüege daz ir süezer munt durliuhtic rôt

so bring-about that her sweet mouth translucent red

der senden quâle

of-the yearning torment

in kurzen zîten werde gewar.

in short times aware become.

schiz dîne strâle zeinem mâle du weist selbe war.

shoot thy arrow at-one time thou knowest thyself whither.

deilidurei faledirannurei,

deilidurei faledirannurei,

lidundei faladaritturei!

lidundei faladaritturei!

IX,2 Ach, der ich ob allen frouwen

Ah, whom I above all ladies

ûf mîns endes zil

to my end's goal

dienen wil,

serve will,

diu hât âne schult verhouwen

she has without fault cut-down

mich sêr ûf den tôt:

me sorely to the death:

ach, der nô!t

ah, the distress!

ach, ûf genâde, swie si mir tuot,

ah, on mercy, however she to-me does,

habe ich muot guot lîp und leben

have I spirit goods body and life

ir ergeben.

to-her surrendered.

Ich wolt ir mit rede bescheiden,

I would to-her with speech make-clear,

waz ich herzeklage

what I heart's-lament

von ir trage:

from her bear:

si tet als ich wære ein heiden.

she did as-if I were a heathen.

ach, mîn fröide seic:

ah, my joy sank:

ich gesweic.

I fell-silent.

ach, ûf genâde, swie si mir tuot,

ah, on mercy, however she to-me does,

habe ich muot guot lip und leben

have I spirit goods body and life

ir ergeben.

to-her surrendered.

Sît mîn frouwe, die ich krœne,

Since my lady, whom I crown,

rede mir senden man

speech to-me yearning man

niht engan,

not grants,

mînen kumber ich ir dœne,

my affliction I to-her sing,

swar ich landes var,

wherever I of-land go,

offenbar.

openly.

ach, ûf genâde, swie si mir tuot,

ah, on mercy, however she to-me does,

habe ich muot guot lip und leben

have I spirit goods body and life

ir ergeben.

to-her surrendered.

Ir vil spiegellichten ougen

Her very mirror-bright eyes

hânt versêret mich

have wounded me

herzeclich.

to-the-heart.

ich muoz sterben sunder lougen:

I must die without denial:

ach, ir mündel rôt

ah, her little-mouth red

tuot mich tô!

makes me dead!

ach, ûf genâde, swie si mir tuot,

ah, on mercy, however she to-me does,

habe ich muot guot lîp und leben

have I spirit goods body and life

ir ergeben.

to-her surrendered.

Swie si mit gewalt mich twinge,

However she with force me compel,

mich kan wenden niht

me can turn not

kein geschiht.

any event.

ich muoz iemer ûf gedinge

I must ever on hope

sîn ir eigen kneht:

be her own servant:

daz ist sleht.

that is plain.

ach, ûf genâde, swie si mir tuot,

ah, on mercy, however she to-me does,

habe ich muot guot lîp und leben

have I spirit goods body and life

ir ergeben.

to-her surrendered.

Mich hilfet niht der vogle sanc

Me helps not the birds' song

noch diu vil grüne heide:

nor the very green heath:

mich twinget daz mich ê dâ twanc

me compels that me before there compelled

und tuot mir aber leide.

and does to-me again sorrow.

den âbent, den morgen

the evening, the morning

den stên ich mit sorgen

them stand I with cares

vor der vil minnenclîchen:

before the very lovely-one:

und næme si den dienest mîn,

and took she the service mine,

ich wolde an fröiden rîchen.

I would in joys grow-rich.

Ich solde wol in fröiden sîn,

I should well in joys be,

wold ez mîn liebiu frouwe.

would it my dear lady.

ir munt ist rôet, ir ougen schîn,

her mouth is red, her eyes bright,

diu ich sô selten schouwe.

whiche I so seldom behold.

si liebe, si reine,

she dear-one, she pure-one,

si trœstet mich kleine.

she comforts me little.

si wont mir in dem muote:

she dwells to-me in the spirit:

swaz ich ir gedienen kan,

whatever I her serve can,

si tuot mir niht ze guote.

she does to-me nothing to good.

Nu helfent mir die lieben biten,

Now help me the dear-one entreat,

die minnenclîchen frouwen,

the lovely lady,

daz si durch ir reinen siten

that she through her pure manner

mîn arbeit welle beschouwen,

my toil will look-upon,

den schaden, den kumber,

the harm, the affliction,

den ich von ir tumber

whiche I from her foolish

lîde bî mînen jâren.

suffer in my years.

owê, nu weiz ich leider niht,

alas, now know I sadly not,

wie ich mich sol gebâren!

how I myself shall bear!

Hesso von Rinach

Two songs. In the first the poet lays his complaint against Love herself, who ordered him to fix his mind where he must be destroyed, and appeals to the rose-colored cheeks and clear eyes that weaken him to drive his sorrow away. The second welcomes the thaw and asks the lady's grace: worthy women's love makes the spirit rich, and one word of hers would be worth more to him than the emperor's gold.

Klageliche nôt

Lamentable distress

X,1

clage ich von der Minne,

lament I of the Love,

daz si mir gebôt

that she to-me commanded

daz ich mîne sinne

that I my senses

dar bewante dâ man mich verderben wil.

thither should-turn where one me to-ruin wills.

hey minnen spil,

ah love's play,

durh dich lîde ich sendes kumbers al ze vil.

through thee suffer I of-yearning affliction all too much.

Wengel rôsenvar,

Little-cheeks rose-colored,

wol gestellet kinne,

well shaped chin,

ougen lûter klâr,

eyes pure clear,

minneclîchiu tinne

lovely

brow

hât si, diu mir krenket leben unde lîp.

has she, who to-me weakens life and body.

hey sælic wîp,

ah blessed woman,

dur dîn besten tugende mir mîn leit vertrîp.

through thy best virtues to-me my sorrow drive-away.

Süeze tröesterîn,

Sweet comforter,

tröeste mîne sinne

comfort my senses

dur die minne dîn.

through the love thine.

in der minne ich brinne,

in the love I burn,

von der minne fiure lîde ich sende nôt.

from the love's fire suffer I yearning distress.

hey mündel rôt,

ah little-mouth red,

wilt du mich niht tröesten, sich, sô bin ich tât.

wilt thou me not comfort, see, so am I dead.

X₂ Ich wil jungen kinden râten,

I will young children advise,

daz si balde fröwen sich:

that they boldly gladden themselves:

dâ wir ê den rîfen trâten,

where we formerly the hoarfrost trod,

dâ ist nu gar wunneclîch;

there is now wholly delightful;

dâ entspringent bluomen unde klê.

there spring-up flowers and clover.

kalde rîfen unde snê

cold hoarfrost and snow

sint zergangen aber alsam ê.

are melted-away again just-as before.

Ich wil mîner frouwen muoten,

I will of-my lady request,

daz si mir genædic sî.

that she to-me gracious be.

der vil reinen, der vil guoten

to-the very pure, to-the very good

wære ich gerne nâhe bî,

were I gladly near by,

lieze eht mich ir ungefüeger nît,

would-let only me her ungentle malice.

der mir alsô nâhe lît:

which to-me so near lies:

fröiden si mich roubet zaller zît.

of-joys she me robs at-every time.

Werder reiner wibe minne

Worthy pure women's love

machet fröide rîchen muot:

makes joy rich spirit:

des bin ich wol worden inne,

of-that am I well become aware,

daz nie wunne wart sô guot.

that never delight was so good.

alsô ich mich des versinnen kan,

as I myself of-that discern can,

son enwirdet niemer man

so becomes never man

rehte frô der minnen nie began.

truly glad who love never began.

Mînes lîbes ougen weide

Of-my body's eyes' pasture

dast diu liebiu frouwe mîn:

that-is the dear lady mine.

sol ich iemer komen von leide,

shall I ever come from sorrow,

daz muoz an ir hulden sîn,

that must on her favor be,

daz si spreche sus 'ich bin dir holt.'

that she speak thus I am to-thee devoted.

daz wær mir ein rîcher solt

that were to-me a rich reward

unde næme ez für des keisers golt.

and took it for the emperor's gold.

Walther von Klingen

Eight songs. He asks the lady to teach him joy or he is ruined, calls her his commandress, and traces his wound to a laughing red mouth and a first glance. Three set the season, winter or May, against his own grief, and one bids the heath, the birds, and the wood rejoice while he has found no comfort at all. The last two turn from his own case to women in general: nothing does the heart so much good, he will ask nothing of them that their honor does not allow, and he wants no reward but a fair greeting.

Swie diu zît sich wil verkêren,

However the season itself will turn,

sêren muoz daz sende herze mîn:

ache must the yearning heart mine:

wil mîn frouwe mich niht êren,

will my lady me not honor,

mêren muoz mîn senelîcher pîn.

grow must my yearning torment.

frouwe, ir tuont mir helfe schîn!

lady, ye make to-me help manifest!

frouwe, ir sult mich fröide lêren,

lady, ye shall me joy teach,

ald ich muoz verdorben sîn.

or I must ruined be.

XI,1

Ach, ich sach ein gütlich lachen

Ah, I saw a kindly laughter

machen minneclîch ein mündel rỗt:

make lovely a little-mouth red:

von dien minneclîchen sachen

from those lovely matters

krachen muoz daz herze mîn von nôt.

break must the heart mine from distress.

Minne jâmer mir gebôt,

Love misery to-me commanded,

daz mîn sin begunde swachen:

that my mind began to-weaken:

des bin ich an fröiden tôt.

thereof am I in joys dead.

Frouwe mîn, gebieterinne,

Lady mine, commandress,

minne hânt ir, dâ bî reine site;

love have ye, there by pure manner;

hœhent, frouwe, mîne sinne,

raise, lady, my senses,

minne ich iuch, des ich iuch iemer bite,

love I you, of-that I you ever entreat,

teilent mir die minne mite,

share to-me the love with,

der ich fröide noch gewinne:

whereof I joy yet win:

ach, die minne ich sanfte lite.

ah, that love I gently suffered.

Frouwe, ir sint sô wol bescheiden,

Lady, ye are so well discerning,

leiden sol iu guotes friundes leit.

be-grievous shall to-you good friend's sorrow.

fröide diu ist an uns beiden:

joy it is in us both:

scheiden sult ir mich von arebeit.

part shall ye me from travail.

al mîn fröide ist gunterfeit,

all my joy is counterfeit,

welt ir, frouwe, mich niht kleiden

will ye, lady, me not clothe

schiere in fröiderîchiu kleit.

soon in joy-rich garments.

Der vil süezen minne wunden

Of-the very sweet love wounds

funden habe ich ûf der fröiden tât:

found have I unto the joys' death:

in kan niemer wol gesunden,

I can never well grow-sound,

kunden müeze ir minnegerndiu nôt.

be-known may to-her love-craving distress.

trôste mich ir mündel rôt,

comforted me her little-mouth red,

sô wær al mîn leit verschwunden,

so were all my sorrow vanished,

swie si senen mir gebôt.

however she yearning to-me commanded.

Winter wil uns aber selwen

Winter will us again discolor

lichte bluomen ûf der heide breit;

bright flowers on the heath broad;

er wil ouch die boume velwen,

he will also the trees make-yellow,

die dâ hiure wâren vil gemeit.

which there this-year were very gay.

unbesungen sint diu tal,

unsung are the valleys,

dâ vil manic stimme erhal,

where very many-a voice rang,

dur diu ôren suoze in sendez herze ergal.

through the ears sweetly into yearning heart sounded.

Ouch klag ich die mîne swære,

Also lament I the mine grief,

diu mir senden man sô nâhe lit,

which to-me yearning man so near lies,

daz mîn frouwe ist fröidebære,

that my lady is joy-bearing,

und ir güete mir niht fröide git.

and her goodness to-me no joy gives.

diu vil liebe diu gât mir

the very dear-one she gives to-me

fröidebernde minnegir:

joy-bearing love-longing:

ach, ir minne süeze ich sender man embir!

ah, her love's sweetness I yearning man lack!

Elliu fröide kumt von wîben,

All joy comes from women,

diu dien mannen hôhgemüete birt:

which to-the men high-spirit bears:

ez kan nieman frô belîben,

it can no-one glad remain,

dem ir süeziu minne niht enwirt.

to-whom their sweet love not comes.

wîbes minne sanfte tuot,

woman's love gently does,

si gît fröiderîchen muot:

it gives joy-rich spirit:

guoter wibe minne ist bezzer danne guot.

of-good women love is better than goods.

Ez ist maneger hande minne:

It is of-many kind love:

nâch der besten minne senet mîn lîp;

after the best love yearns my person;

die hât mîn gebieterinne:

that has my commandress:

süeze minne hât si sælic wîp.

sweet love has she blessed woman.

al die minne der ich ger,

all the love which I crave,

die hât si, des bin ich wer:

that has she, of-that am I surety:

ich bin tôt, wil si, daz ich ir minne ember.

I am dead, wills she, that I her love lack.

Allez daz ich gerne schouwe,

All that I gladly behold,

dast ein wîp diu mich ungerne siht:

that-is a woman who me unwillingly sees:

ach si ungenædic frouwe,

ah she ungracious lady,

war umb trœstet si mich senden niht?

where about comforts she me yearning not?

sist mir âne schult gehaz:

she-is to-me without fault hostile:

wê, war umbe tuot si daz,

woe, where about does she that,

sît daz ich ze guote ir güete nie vergaz.

since that I to good her goodness never forgot.

XI,3 Fröit iuch, fröit iuch, grüeniu heide,

Gladden yourselves, gladden yourselves, green heath,

fröit iuch, voge, fröit iuch, grüener walt!

gladden yourselves, birds, gladden yourselves, green wood!

swaz iu ie geschach ze leide,

whatever to-you ever happened to sorrow,

daz tet iu der leide winter kalt.

that did to-you the hateful winter cold.

daz habt ir wol überwunden:

that have ye well overcome:

noch hân ich niht trôstes funden

yet have I no comfort found

an der lieben diu mich twinget mit gewalt.

in the dear-one who me compels with force.

Dô von êrst ir liechten ougen

When from first her bright eyes

lieplîch sâhen in daz herze mîn,

lovingly looked into the heart mine,

dô wând ich des âne lougen,

then thought I of-that without denial,

daz ich solde wol getrœstet sîn

that I should well comforted be

von ir: nû hât siz verkêret

by her: now has she-it turned

unde hât mich sô gelêret

and has me so taught

daz ich weiz waz sorgen ist und sender pîn.

that I know what care is and yearning torment.

Owê, fröiderîchez grüezen,

Alas, joy-rich greeting,

owê, minneclîcher rôter munt,

alas, lovely red mouth,

wenne wiltu swære bûezen

when wilt-thou grief amend

mir? ich bin nâch fröiden ungesunt

for-me? I am after joys unsound

von der lieben diech dâ minne.

from the dear-one whom-I there love.

nu ist siz doch mîn küniginne,

now is she-it yet my queen,

swie si hât daz sende herze mîn verwunt.

however she has the yearning heart mine wounded.

Minneclîchez umbevâhen

Lovely embracing

daz tuot von den reinen wîben wol.

that does from the pure women well.

swem si went mit küssen nâhen,

to-whom they think with kisses to-draw-near,

waz der ganzer stæte haben sol!

what he of-whole steadfastness have shall!

gegen der wunne ich niht gelîche,

with that delight I nothing liken,

swem ein wîp genædecliche

to-whom a woman graciously

fröide gît, des herze ist ganzer fröide vol.

joy gives, whose heart is of-whole joy full.

Süeziu Minne, twinc die hêren

Sweet Love, compel the exalted-one

daz erkenne mînen senden pîn.

that-she know my yearning torment.

du solt ir gemüete sêren

thou shalt her spirit make-sore

sam du hâst getân daz herze mîn.

as thou hast done the heart mine.

wirt ir kunt dîn minne-twingen,

becomes to-her known thy love-compelling,

sô muoz si mir sorge ringen:

so must she to-me care lessen:

dar nâch kurzer stunde wil ich frœlich sîn.

there after in-short while will I joyful be.

XI,4 Ich sach bluomen schône erspringen,

I saw flowers fairly spring-up,

daz ist vor dem walde schîn:

that is before the wood manifest:

dâ von muoz mîn herze ringen

there from must my heart strive

nâch der lieben frouwen mîn.

after the dear lady mine.

wil si mir genædic sîn,

will she to-me gracious be,

mit den vogelen wolde ich singen,

with the birds would I sing,

uns den lieben sumer bringen.

to-us the dear summer bring.

Gnâde, frouwe, ich muoz verderben

Mercy, lady, I must perish

jæmerliche und unverscholt.

piteously and undeservedly.

ist iu lieb daz ich muoz sterben

is to-you dear that I must die

(ich wart nie frouwen mê sô holt),

(I became never to-lady more so kind),

sô wær ze kupfer worden golt.

so were to copper turned gold.

lîhte wil si prîs erwerben,

perhaps will she praise win,

lât si mich in ir dienste sterben.

lets she me in her service die.

Meien blüete und ouch ir güete

May's bloom and also her goodness

sint ein andern wol gelîch;

are one another well alike;

swâ die rosen stênt in blüete,

wherever the roses stand in bloom,

die sint niht sô minneclich

they are not so lovely

als mîn lieb, des fröwe ich mich.

as my dear-one, of-whom gladden I myself.

doch beswæret mîn gemüete

yet grieves my spirit

daz man ir sô sêre hüete.

that one her so sorely guards.

Si verliesent alle ir huote,

They lose all their guard,

mag ich mich zuo ir versteln:

may I myself to her steal:

daz gefüezet wol diu guote;

that brings-about well the good-one;

wan sol friuntschaft sêre heln.

one shall love eagerly conceal.

elliu huote ist gar verlorn,

all guard is wholly lost,

ob ich die lieben vinde aleine:

if I the dear-one find alone:

sô schât uns ir hûeten kleine.

so harms to-us their guarding little.

Ach got, wie brinnet mir mîn herze

Ab God, how burns to-me my heart

nâch der lieben frouwen mîn!

after the dear lady mine!

noch mêre danne tûsent kerze:

yet more than a-thousand candles:

ach got, wan solde ich bî ir sîn!

ab God, if-only should I by her were!

si ist sô schœne und ouch sô fin

she is so fair and also so fine

als die vîol in dem merzen:

as the violet in the March:

dur si sô lîde ich manigen smerzen.

for her so suffer I many-a pain.

Solher swære, sô mich twinget,

Of-such grief, as me compels,

nieman sich verkunnen sol:

no-one himself despair shall:

diu mich wol von sorgen bringet,

she me well from cares brings,

swenn si wil, sô wirt mir wol.

whenever she wills, so becomes to-me well.

maniger mînen kumber klagt

many-a-one my affliction laments

mit süezen worten ûz dem munde,

with sweet words out-of the mouth,

der mir wol des tôdes gunde.

who to-me well the death would-grant.

Heide ist aber worden schœne,

Heath is again become fair,

si hât manger hande varwe kleit:

it has of-many kind color clothing:

vogele singent süeze dœne.

birds sing sweet melodies.

swie diu sumerwunne ist vil gemeit,

however the summer-delight is very gay,

dâ bî dulde ich sendiu leit.

there by endure I yearning sorrows.

XI,5

swie der meie vogeles frœne,
however the May birds exalt,
 ich hân nôt von liebe und arebeit.
I have distress from love and travail.

Wild und zam daz fröit sich sêre
Wild and tame that gladdens itself greatly
 gegen des wunneclîchen meien zît:
toward the delightful May's season:
 dannoch fröit sich michels mêre
yet gladdens itself much more
 swer bî herzeliebe tougen lît.
whoever by heart's-love secretly lies.
 ahî, waz dem fröide gât
ah, what to-him joy gives
 werder reiner wibe lêre
of-worthy pure women teaching
 machet mannes ungemüete wit.
makes man's ill-spirit for.

Wol gemuoten guoten wiben
Well spirited good to-women
 wünsche ich heiles sunder nît;
wish I of-weal without envy;
 unmuot kunnen si vertriben:
ill-spirit can they drive-away:
 wê waz wunne an wîben lît!
woe what delights in women lies!
 wîbes minne fröide gât:
woman's love joy gives:

got fûeg iemer hübschen lîben

God grant ever to-courtly persons

âne swære minneclîchiu zît.

without grief lovely season.

Manger giht in müeze blangen

Many-a-one says him must long

nâch den fröiden die man wilent vant.

after the joys which one formerly found.

derst mit sorgen umbevangen:

he-is with cares encompassed:

wurde ab im von wibe ein liep erkant,

were but to-him from woman a dear-one known,

bezzet fröide er nie bevant.

better joy he never found.

fröide ist noch sô niht zergangen,

joy is yet so not vanished,

wîp gên fröide als ie übr elliu lant.

women give joy as ever over all lands.

Wie mac mir sô liep gesin

How may to-me so dear be

ein wîp der ich unmære bin?

a woman to-whom I unwelcome am?

wil diu liebiu frouwe mîn

will the dear lady mine

hât mîne besten fröide hin.

has my best joy away.

wil si, mir mac trûren swinden:

wills she, to-me may mourning vanish:

lât si mich genâde vinden,

lets she me mercy find,

XI,6

ich bin vrô, dâ bî gemeit.

I am glad, there by gay.

wil diu liebe, ich hân ouch kumber unde leit.

wills the dear-one, I have also affliction and sorrow.

Minne und ouch unminne hât

Love and also unlove has

mîn frouwe, diu mir trûren gît;

my lady, who to-me mourning gives;

ir unminne mir niht lâ

her unlove to-me not leaves

ir minne, an der mîn fröide lît.

her love, on which my joy lies.

teilte mîn gebieterinne

shared my commandress

mir ir minneclîche minne,

to-me her lovely love,

sô wær al mîn trûren hin:

so were all my mourning away:

ir unminne machet daz ich trûric bin.

her unlove makes that I mournful am.

XI,7 Ich wil diu sældehaften wîp

I will the blessing-endowed women

niht biten wan des einen,

not entreat but of-the one,

daz si mir sîn genædic sô,

that they to-me be gracious so,

dazz âne ir laster sî.

that-it without their reproach be.

swelh wîp hât minneclîchen lîp,

whatever woman has lovely body,

hübschen unde reinen,

courtly and pure,

wie kunde ich dâ von werden frô,

how could I there from become glad,

ob si wurd êren frî?

if she became of-honor free?

bæt ieman reine frouwen guot

begged anyone pure ladies good

daz niht ir êren zæme,

that not their honor beseemed,

dem trüege ich selten holden muot:

to-him would-bear I seldom kindly spirit:

diu bete ist ungenæme,

that entreaty is unwelcome,

diu schaden ir êren tuot.

which harm their honor does.

Diu guoten wîp sint alse guot,

The good women are so good,

daz ich ir guoten güete

that I their good goodness

ze guote niht vergezzen wil

to good not forget will

unz an daz ende mîn.

until at the end mine.

ir süeze, ir edele, ir herze, ir muot,

their sweetness, their nobleness, their heart, their spirit,

daz liebet hôchgemüete:

that endears high-spirit:

ich wünsche in allen sælden vil;

I wish to-them all blessings many;

ich wil ir diener sîn.

I will their servant be.

nu gere ich anders niht von in
now crave I otherwise nothing from them

ze dienstlichem lône,
for servant-like reward,

wan swâ ich bî guoten frouwen bin,
but wherever I by good ladies am,

daz si mich grûezen schône:
that they me greet fairly:

dast mir ein guot gewin.
that-is to-me a good gain.

XI,8 Ez sint manger hande dœne,
It are of-many kind melodies,

die dâ liebent guoten muot;
which there endear good spirit;

dar ûz ich ir einen krœne,
there out I of-them one crown,

der dem herzen sanfte tuot:
which to-the heart gently does:

minneclîchiu rede ist guot
lovely speech is good

von den reinen wîben schoene;
of the pure women fair;

die tuont sendiu herzen fruot.
they make yearning hearts glad.

Mir tuot baz in mînen ougen
To-me does better in my eyes

guotiu wip dann anders iht;
good women than otherwise anything;

weder offenbâr noch tougen

neither openly nor secretly

nieman bezzer wunne siht.

no-one better delight sees.

mîn herz allen wîben giht,

my heart to-all women avows,

ez si wâr und âne lougen,

it be true and without denial,

niender si sô guotes niht.

nowhere be so of-good anything.

Wîp sint guot in mangen enden,

Women are good in many respects,

schœne und dâ bî tugende vol;

fair and there by of-virtue full;

ez begreif nie man mit henden

it grasped never man with hands

daz dem herzen tuo sô wol.

that to-the heart do so well.

swer ein guot wîp triuten sol,

whoever a good woman cherish shall,

der kan bezzers niht verenden:

he can better nothing accomplish:

minne gît dâ süezen zol.

love gives there sweet tribute.

Goeli

Four village songs in Neidhart's manner. Fridebolt and his fellows come to the dance with long swords; Fridebolt is told to lead the round, Otte is warned of Fridebolt's blade, and Lady Künze hears that her darling is no eagle. A maiden welcomes the summer weather and means to be champion at the linden, and Giselbreht is praised and abused by turns. Four fellows are named and mocked — Madelgôz with his club, Erkenbolt and Stære, Amelolt with his skull-cap, and Küenzelin the bailiff, who drives the round. The last song welcomes the nightingale, then laments a curly-haired villager who has robbed him of his love.

XII,1 Winter, hin ist dîn gewalt:

Winter, gone is thy power:

nu hât sumer sîn gezelt

now has summer his tent

ûf geslagen an die bineweide.

up pitched on the bee-pasture.

wol geloubet stât der walt,

well leaved stands the wood,

grüener varwe sint diu velt:

of-green color are the fields:

liehte bluomen springent ûf der heide.

bright flowers spring-up on the heath.

meie, ich fröwe mich dîner craft,

May, I gladden myself of-thy power,

du tuost sumer sigehaft:

thou makest summer victorious:

bî dem Rîne ûf gruonent werde und ouwe:

by the Rhine up grow-green island and water-meadow:

jârlanc kunt uns vröude und ougen schouwe:

this-year comes to-us joy and eyes' beholding:

du gîst uns vil süezer morgentouwe!

thou givest to-us very sweet morning-dew!

Vil der brünen clingen treit,

Many of-the burnished blades bears,

die verwettet hânt den tanz,

who wagered have the dance,

Fridebolt und sîne gumpânien,

Fridebolt and his companions,

lengiu swert, ze mâze breit,

long swords, in measure broad,

sleht, ze beiden eggen ganz:

smooth, at both edges whole:

si went sich vor allen vögeten vrîen.

they think themselves from all bailiffs to-free.

Otte, kom daz ôsterspil,

Otte, comes the Easter-game,

sô lâ mich den dînen rât besinnen:

then let me the thy counsel consider:

Künze diu hât friunde vil.

Künze she has friends many.

lâz an mich, dês wâr ez stât mit minnen:

leave to me, truly it stands with love:

Fridebolt, du füere den tanz von hinnen.

Fridebolt, thou lead the dance from hence.

Fridebolt, setz ûf den huot:

Fridebolt, set on the bat:

wol gemuoter, gang uns vor,

well spirited-one, go us before,

bint dîn ôstersahs zer linggen sîten.

bind thy Austrian-blade to-the left side.

wis durch Künzen hôhgemuot,

be for Künze high-spirited,

leite uns für daz dinkhoftor,

lead us before the court-gate,

lâ den tanz al ûf den wasen rîten.

let the dance all onto the turf ride.

werdest underdrungen dâ,

art pressed-under there,

sô lâ swertes knopf ûf brust erknellen:

then let sword's pommel on breast ring-out:

slach die stahelbîzen nâ,

strike the steel-biters near,

daz die Kolmerhüete ûf kopfe erhellen.

that the Kolmar-hats on head resound.

nieman lâ dir laster breit ûf wellen.

no-one let thee reproach broad up roll.

Vrô Künze, joch ist iuwer trût

Lady Künze, indeed is your darling

under valken niht ein ar

among falcons not an eagle

noch eins löwen klâ undr andern tieren.

nor a lion's claw among other beasts.

wie getorste er über lût

how dared he over loud

werden alde ie komen dar,

become or ever come thither,

dâ man sach die tenze rifelieren?

where one saw the dances circle?

dâ muoz er den troialdei

there must be the troialdei

selbe zwelfte von der linden rûmen.

self twelfth from the linden clear.

lîhte wirt im einz ald zwei,

easily comes to-him one or two,

wil sich einer in dem hanfe iht sûmen:

will himself one in the hemp at-all linger:

der bedarf zer rehten hant des dûmen.

he needs on-the right hand the thumb.

Der selbe teilet unde welt

The same divides and chooses

unde witert swie er wil,

and makes-weather however he wills,

dâ von sleht ouch im der hagel selten.

there from strikes also him the hail seldom.

vrô Künze, dast iu vor gezelt:

lady Künze, that-is to-you before told:

ir lobent Fridebolten vil;

ye praise Fridebolt much;

des mac Else und Elle wol engelten.

thereof may Else and Elle well suffer.

Fridebolt ist hin geleit:

Fridebolt is away laid:

sîner minne ist er vil gar erlochen.

of-his love is he very wholly drained.

Elle mir daz rîsel treit

Elle for-me the twig wears

einst alder zwirent in der wochen:

once or twice in the week:

Otten tanz der wart noch nie zerbrochen.

Otte's dance it was yet never broken.

'Nie versûmde noch vermeit

'Never neglected nor denied

Fridebolt sîn scharpfez ort:

Fridebolt his sharp point:

er vergaz nie swertes in der scheide.

he forgot never sword in the sheath.

swen sîn langez sahs versneit,

whom his long blade cut-through,

der gesprach nie ach noch wort:

he spoke never alas nor word:

Otte, daz mac dir wol komen ze leide.

Otte, that may to-thee well come to sorrow.

sich hebt ringen, striuchelstôz,

itself begins wrestling, stumble-thrust,

slach daz swert ûf herten stahel dicke.

strike the sword on hard steel thickly.

jener dirre und des genôz.

yon-one this-one and his comrade.

sêre mûejent mich ir wâfen blicke,

sorely trouble me their weapons' flashes,

ê deichs under ougen baz verbicke.'

before that-I-it under eyes better back.'

XII,2 'Willekomen, sumerweter sûeze!

'Welcome, summer-weather sweet!

der winter was lenge:

the winter was long:

er hât sîner kelte uns benüeget',

he has of-his cold us sated,'

sprach ein maget: 'schiere komen müeze
spoke a maiden: 'soon come may

diu zît daz ich genge
the season that I go

hin zem reien harte wol beclüeget.
thither to-the round-dance very well tricked-out.

niuwe betzeln unde rîse
new caps and veils

ich ze hâre binde.
I in hair bind.

wol sing ich des reien wîse
well sing I the round-dance's tune

nâch der ahselnote lîse:
after the shoulder-note softly:

nâch der gîgen tanze ich niht ze swinde
after the fiddle dance I not too swiftly

Jârlanc gruonet daz loup über egge
This-year greens the foliage over corner

vil schône ze walde:
very fairly in wood:

ûf dem anger hebent sich die tenze.
on the meadow begin themselves the dances.

lûte rüeret ez der sumberslegge:
loudly beats it the drum-beater:

gezouclîchen balde
trimly quickly

rispent unde revelent iuwer swenze,
curl and stitch your trains,

die wir tâlanc sunder lougen

which we today without denial

ûf dem wasen slîzen

on the turf wear-out

offenbâr und niht ze tougen.

openly and not too secretly.

wir suln spehen mit den ougen

we shall spy with the eyes

wer die sîn, die sich der tenze flîzen.

who they be, who themselves of-the dances take-pains.

Ich wil kempfe wesen zuo der linden

I will champion be at the linden

ze schalle und ze ruome,

for noise and for glory,

sam mir Elsen lîp und ouch ir sêle.

so-help me Else's body and also her soul.

wan muoz mich in sîner schare vinden:

one must me in his troop find:

her Kuonze ist ein bluome,

sir Kuonze is a flower,

swie doch alles lûtzet in vrô Bêle.

however yet always belittles him lady Bêle.

Giselbrehten, den si rüemet,

Giselbreht, whom she praises,

waz sol der ze schalle?

what avails he for noise?

erst von wîben gar vertüemet;

he-is by women wholly condemned;

swie sin crœnet unde blüemet,

however she-him crowns and extols,

erst ein schebel und sîner friunde ein galle?

he-is a skinflint and of-his friends a gall.'

‘Waz hât Else an Gîselbreht gerochen?

‘What has Else on Gîselbreht avenged?

des wundert mich sêre,

thereof wonders me sorely,

daz si in sô offenlichen strâfet.

that she him so openly rebukes.

si hât im sîn lop vil gar zerbrochen:

she has to-him his praise very wholly broken:

tüege des niht mêre.

let-her-do that not more.

er tanzet wol sô Kuonze heime slâfet.

he dances well when Kuonze at-home sleeps.

swâ man tanzet alder springet,

wherever one dances or springs,

da ist er vor in allen.

there is he before them all.

mit gewalte in nieman dringet.

with force him no-one presses.

...

(lacuna)

des muoz er uns kinden wol gevallen.

thereof must he to-us children well please.

Giselbreht, du solt den sumber rüeren.

Giselbreht, thou shalt the drum beat.

der dôn durch die hiute

the sound through the hides

machet lihte claffendiu gehelze.

makes easily clattering hilts.

ich wil den tanz durch daz gedrenge fûeren.

I will the dance through the throng lead.

sich samnent die liute:

themselves gather the people:

daz ir deheiner crœne alder kelze.

that of-them none crow or brag.

swer durch zuht niht tanzen welle

whoever for breeding not dance will

noch durch gemelliche,

nor for merriment,

der enmache enhein geschelle.

he make no clamor.

hie wirt lihte ein strûchgevelle,

here arises easily a stumbling-fall,

daz es sume spottes werdent rîche.'

that thereof some of-mockery become rich.'

Dô huop sich der tanz von deme russe:

Then began itself the dance from the lout:

der dôn über biunde

the sound over enclosure

schal reht als ez in ein ander brunne;

rang just as-if it into one another burned;

hôte sprünge, rôte baggenknusse.

high springs, red cheek-blows.

die starken gêrfriunde

the strong spear-kin

schirmden mîn vrôn Bêlen vor der sunne.

shielded my lady Bêle from the sun.

Ringewipfel bî der stûchen

Ringewipfel by the sleeve

mîn vrôn Elsen fuorte.

my lady Else led.

hôher sprünge, sunder tûchen,

of-high springs, without ducking,

und nie hâres breit gestrûchen,
and never hair's breadth stumbled,
 fuor der weibell, dêr si niender ruorte.
fared the bailiff, so-that-he her nowhere touched.

Wol gezieret stât diu grüne heide,
Well adorned stands the green heath,
 daz loup über egge
the foliage over ridge
 kiust man bî den tolden wunneclîche.
perceives one by the crowns delightfully.
 jâ tuont uns die dörpel vil ze leide,
yea do to-us the villagers much to sorrow,
 gewinnent si hegge
win they increase

XII,3

hiure undr einander vil gelîche;
this-year among one-another very alike;
 der ich wil nennen vier genôz,
of-them I will name four fellows,
 die sint vil unbescheiden.
they are very senseless.
 einer heizet Madelgôz,
one is-called Madelgôz,
 der treit einen kolben grôz,
he bears a club great,
 der wil uns reigen bî der linden leiden.
he will to-us the-round by the linden spoil.

Welt ir wunder von den zweien hœren?
Will ye wonders of the two hear?
 die dunkent sich spæhe,
they think themselves fine,

sô si diu swert gespannent umbe sîten.

when they the swords buckle about sides.

dêst Erkenbolt mit sîm gesellen Stœren.

that-is Erkenbolt with his companion Stære.

die tretent sô wæhe

they step so daintily

und gênt dort hübeschen her von Hôhenlîten.

and go there courtly along from Hôhenlîten.

der dritte heizet Amelolt

the third is-called Amelolt

mit sînem hiubelhuote:

with his skull-cap:

der ist den zweien niht ze holt.

he is to-the two not too kind.

si habent ez wol umb in verscholt:

they have it well about him deserved:

ersnellet ers, ez kumt in niht ze guote.

overtakes he-them, it comes to-them not to good.

Der vierde daz ist Kûenzelin der weibêl

The fourth that is Kûenzelin the bailiff

(sîn hâr ist gecrispet),

(his hair is curled),

der uns zuo dem reigen vil getribet.

who us to the round much drives.

an der schar ist er ein rehter treibel.

in the troop is he a right driver.

gefuoclich er zispet;

fittingly he shuffles;

mit dem fuoze er schupfet unde rîbet.

with the foot he bobs and rubs.

jarâjâ! die ahselnoten

jarâjâ! the shoulde-notes

kan er wol ze prîse,

can he well for praise,

meisterlîch den houbetschoten

masterly the head-jerk

springen nâch des reien knoten:

spring after the round's knot:

hôher sprünge ist er ein angerwîse.

of-high springs is he a meadow-master.

Wis willekomen, nahtegal ein vrouwe,

Be welcome, nightingale a lady,

dîn dôn der ist rîche

thy sound it is rich

maniger süezen stimmen an dem morgen.

of-many sweet voices in the morning.

du zierest rehte wol die grünen ouwe,

thou adornest right well the green water-meadow,

swenn du sô wunneclîche

whenever thou so delightfully

singest und dîn trûren hâst verborgen.

singest and thy mourning hast hidden.

dâ von solt du des meien pflegen.

there from shalt thou of-the May take-care.

des vröut sich mîn gemüete;

thereof gladdens itself my spirit;

des habe ich mich vil gar verwegen:

thereof have I myself very wholly resolved:

die kalten rîfen sint gelegen,

the cold hoarfrosts have subsided,

diu heide stêt in wunneclîcher blüete.

the heath stands in delightful bloom.

XII,4

Ich wil iu klagen mîne schumpfentiure

I will to-you lament my defeat

von einem dörper spæhen:

of a villager fine:

der hât mich mîner liebe gar beroubet.

he has me of-my love wholly robbed.

so krûsen loc gesach ich vert noch hiure:

so curly lock saw I last-year nor this-year:

den selben krispel wæhen,

the same curl-head fine,

den ir bekennent bî des löwen houbet,

whom ye know by the lion's head,

derst wol anderhalp Franzeis,

he-is well half-again a-Frenchman,

ein stöuber under wîben.

a rouser among women.

sîn burse machet in puneis;

his purse makes him stinking;

sîn kursît ist ein schampeneis:

his surcoat is a Champagne-cloth:

wer künde uns vor dem dörper iht belîben?

who could to-us before the villager at-all remain?

Er hât gewunden krûse valwe locke,

He has twisted curly fallow locks,

am ende widerstürzet:

at-the end back-turned:

daz machet im diu hûbe mit den snüeren.

that makes to-him the coif with the cords.

wol gevalten sost er in dem rocke,

well folded so-is he in the coat,

vil ebene geschürzet.

very evenly girded.

nieman sol in ungetwagen rüeren.

no-one shall him unwashed touch.

er ist sô hæle, wurrâwei!

he is so slippery, wurrâwei!

wer künde im gelîchen?

who could to-him be-like?

lieber mîn her portenschei,

dear my sir portenschei,

ir sint ein süezer knappe, afei!

ye are a sweet squire, afei!

stêt in dem ringe und lât dar nâher strichen.

stand in the ring and let there nearer stride.

Heinrich von Frauenberg

Five songs. The first is a dawn song: a watchman sings toward morning, the lady asks whether the hateful day is up, and she bargains with him to let her beloved stay longer. The rest are songs of service refused. Her red mouth will not let him forget her; he calls her his heart's Easter day; and he warns that in letting him perish she sins against him, and that it stands on her own soul.

XIII,¹ Gegen dem morgen

Toward the morning

suoze ein wahter lûte sanc,

sweetly a watchman loudly sang,

dô er sach den orîôn,

when he saw the Orion,

dâ verborogen

there hidden

wîbes bilde zuo zim dranc

of-woman form to him pressed

... durh minnen lôn:

(lacuna) for love's reward:

‘frouwe hêre,

‘lady exalted,

jâ sult ir wachen:

yea shall ye wake:

ich sihe des nahtes krefte balde swachen,

I see the night's powers quickly weaken,

in singe nu niht mêre.’

I sing now not more.’

‘Wahter, schouwe’

‘Watchman, look’

sprach daz minneclîche wîp,

spoke the lovely woman,

‘ob der leide tac ûf gê.’

‘whether the hateful day up go.’

er sprach ‘frouwe,

he spoke ‘lady,

swer wol soldet mir den lîp,

whoever well pays to-me the person,

swenne ez taget, ich singe iu mê.

whenever it dawns, I sing to-you more.

ist der ritter

is the knight

hie inne, frouwe,

here within, lady,

vermîde ich danne mîner ougen schouwe,

avoid I then of-my eyes looking,

sô wirt iur fröide bitter.’

so becomes your joy bitter.’

‘Hôhem solde

‘High pay

warte mir, geselle mîn,’

expect from-me, companion mine,’

sprach diu frouwe wol getân,

spoke the lady well formed,

‘daz mîn holde

‘that my beloved

lange bî mir müge sîn,

long by me may be,

den ich umbevangen hân.

whom I embraced have.

wahter liebe,

watchman dear,

hilf mir in fristen

help me him preserve

mit dînen kluogen wol verholnen listen.

with thy clever well concealed arts.

wirt sant mir zeinem diebe.'

become with me a thief.

XIII,2 Uns ist kon diu zît,

To-us is come the season,

diu fröide uns bringen

which joy to-us bring

wil, der sumer mit sîner kraft.

will, the summer with its power.

dien vogeln er gât

to-the birds it gives

daz in wil erklingen

that to-them will ring-out

ir sanc suoze mit meisterschaft.

their song sweetly with mastery.

nu sunge ich vil gerne,

now would-sing I very gladly,

und hulfe ez mich iht:

if helped it me at-all:

wol zehen verne

well ten years-ago

den kumber ich lerne,

the affliction I learn,

swaz mir von der lieben geschiht.

whatever to-me from the dear-one happens.

Mîn herze hât nôt,

My heart has distress,

swie frô ich gebâre,

however glad I bear-myself,

nâch liebe nu manigen tac.

after love now many-a day.

ir munt rôsenrôt

her mouth rose-red

der schaffet ze wâre,

it brings-about in truth,

daz ich ir vergezzen niht mac.

that I her forget not can.

ir guot gebâren,

her good bearing,

ir lîp wol gestalt,

her body well shaped,

die kunnen mîn vâren:

they can for-me lie-in-wait:

und sol ez verjâren,

and shall it last-a-year,

mîn sorge diu wirt manicvalt.

my care it becomes manifold.

Ach solde ich geleben

Ah should I live-to-see

daz mir diu vil guote

that to-me the very good-one

von sorgen wolt scheiden den lip!

from cares would part the body!

si mehte mir geben

she might to-me give

wol fröide in dem muote:

well joy in the spirit:

die hât si vil sæligez wîp.

that has she very blessed woman.

ir lieplich lachen,

her lovely laughter,

ir wol stênder munt

her well standing mouth

die wellent mir machen

they will for-me make

mit frœlîchen sachen

with joyful things

deich bin iemer mêre gesunt.

that-I am ever more sound.

XIII,3 Ach mîner nôt! ich klagender man,

Ah of-my distress! I lamenting man,

wie solz ergân ze jungest mir?

how shall-it turn-out at last for-me?

ein sender tôt der wont mir an,

a yearning death it dwells to-me on,

sît ich der lieben hulde embir.

since I of-the dear-one's favor lack.

diu twinget sô daz herze mîn

she compels so the heart mine

sam diu kleinen vogellîn

as the little birds

mit sîner kraft der winter tuot:

with its power the winter does:

dâ von sô bin ich ungemuot.

there from so am I dispirited.

Waz sol mir lîp, waz sol mir guot,
What avails to-me body, what avails to-me goods,

sît ich dekeine ruowe hân?
since I no rest have?

daz beste wîp mir leide tuot,
the best woman to-me sorrow does,

die got ûf erde hât gelân.
whom God on earth has left.

sist schœne und alles wandels vrî:
she-is fair and of-all fault free:

swie ungenædic si mir si,
however ungracious she to-me be,

doch muoz ich ir sîn undertân,
yet must I to-her be subject,

mîn herze wil michs niht erlân.
my heart will me-of-it not release.

Ich muoz nu sîn in sender nôt,
I must now be in yearning distress,

sît ez diu herzeliebe wil.
since it the heart's-love wills.

dâ von ich bin an fröiden tô:
there from I am in joys dead:

daz ist der lieben gar ein spil,
that is to-the dear-one wholly a play,

und giht, si welle lônên mir
and says, she will reward me

dar nâch ich habe gedienet ir.
there after I have served her.

nu lâze eht sîn, si ist sô guot,
now let only be, she is so good,

daz si mir noch genâde tuot.
that she to-me yet mercy does.

XIII,⁴ Ich wil wünschen der vil guoten,
I will wish for-the very good-one,

daz si lange müeze leben.
that she long may live.

des wil ich ze gote muoten:
thereof will I to God request:

sô hât er mir wol gegeben.
so has he to-me well given.

sist mîns herzen ôstertac:
she-is of-my heart Easter-day:

âne die vil minnenclîchen
without the very lovely-one

nieman mich getrœsten mac.
no-one me comfort can.

Schœne, wert, gar minnenclîche
Fair, worthy, wholly lovely

so ist diu liebe frouwe mîn.
so is the dear lady mine.

sist sô gar der êren rîche
she-is so wholly of-the honors rich

(daz si sælic müeze sîn!)
(that she blessed may be!)

und ist ganzer tugende vol:
and is of-whole virtue full:

nieman kan sich ir gelîchen
no-one can himself to-her liken

der ich iemer dienen sol.
whom I ever serve shall.

Wenne sol der tac erschînen,

When shall the day appear,

daz ich die vil lieben sehe

that I the very dear-one see

wunnenclichen under mînen

delightfully under my

armen und daz si verjehe,

arms and that she avow,

daz si mir genædic sî?

that she to-me gracious be?

vrouwe Minne, ir sult sis twingen,

lady Love, ye shall her-of-it compel,

sint ir stæteclîche bî.

be to-her steadfastly by.

Sol von minnenclichem wîbe

Shall from lovely woman

XIII,5

mir vil senden man niht swære werden buoz?

to-me very yearning man not grief become remedy?

von ir triutelehten lîbe

from her lovely body

wart mir nie wan daz ich nâch ir siuften muoz.

became to-me never but that I after her sigh must.

von der ich den schaden hân

from whom I the harm have

pfligt gein mir niht stæter triuwen:

keeps toward me no steadfast faith:

des wil ich mich an ir lachen niht mê lân.

thereof will I myself on her laughter not more rely.

Mir wær doch daz leben swære,

To-me were yet the life grievous,

trôste mich ein anderz liebez trœsten niht,

comforted me an other dear comforting not,

wan ich weiz diu inren mære,

for I know the inner tidings,

daz die lieben nieman wan in êren siht.

that the dear-one no-one but in honor sees.

frô mich doch ein trœsten tuot:

glad me yet a comforting makes:

lîde ich nôt an mînem lîbe

suffer I distress in my body

mit gedulde, dast mir an der sêle guot.

with patience, that-is to-me in the soul good.

Waz sol ich ir mêre künden,

What shall I to-her more proclaim,

wan dazs an den triuwen mich verderben lât?

but that-she in the faith me perish lets?

si wil sich an mir versünden:

she will herself against me sin:

wizzent daz ez iemer ûf ir sêle stât.

know-ye that it ever on her soul stands.

alles wandels ist si vrî:

of-all fault is she free:

swie si mich an frôiden irre,

however she me in joys thwart,

got sî mir als ich der herzelieben si!

God be to-me as I to-the heart's-dear-one be!

Ir vil vrœlich stênden ougen

Her very joyfully standing eyes

diu hânt sô versêret mich vil senden man:

they have so wounded me very yearning man:

daz wil nieman mir gelouben.

that will no-one to-me believe.

dâ ist ouch der ungetriuwe schuldic an:

there is also the untrue-one guilty of:

deist ir rôsevarwer munt,

that-is her rose-colored mouth,

den si ûf mînen schaden spîset;

which she for my harm feeds;

der hât an dien ganzen triuwen mich verwunt.

it has in the whole faith me wounded.

Heinrich von Sax

Five songs. The first is a long dance-song: he asks worthy men and good women to bear how one woman has bound him, then sings the young a summer song — the clover has driven off the snow, and they should gather clover-flowers and dance the May under the linden — before turning back to the woman his joy depends on. Two more address Love directly: one says he would sooner be laid to roast on a gridiron than lose the lady, and one asks Love to constrain her heart as she has constrained his. The fourth asks the lady to unbind him. The last carries a refrain — mercy, lady mine — through five strophes.

XIV,¹ Ich bite iuch lieben guoten,
I entreat you dear good-ones,
daz ir vernement mînen pîn,
that ye bear my torment,
iuch werden hôhgemuoten,
you worthy high-spirited-ones,
die wiben holt von herzen sîn,
who to-women kind of heart are,
und ouch iuch guoten frouwen,
and also you good ladies,
daz ir geruochent mîne nôt
that ye deign my distress
dur iuwer gûete schouwen,
through your goodness to-behold,
wie gar ich bin an frôiden tôt.
how wholly I am in joys dead.

Ein wîp diu hât mich gebunden sô,

A woman she has me bound so,

deich gar ân alle fröide bin.

that-I wholly without all joy am.

mîn lîp muoz eht iemer sîn unfrô,

my person must only ever be unglad,

si tröeste mînen senden sin.

unless-she comfort my yearning mind.

Si ist sô guot,

She is so good,

daz mich mîn muot

that me my spirit

gein ir mit ganzen triuwen treit.

toward her with whole faith bears.

ir rôter munt

her red mouth

hât mich verwunt:

has me wounded:

des ist mîn ungemüete breit.

thereof is my ill-spirit broad.

Ir kel ist blanc;

Her throat is white;

der mîn gedanc

from-it my thought

von ir eht niht gewenken mac.

from her only not waver can.

des bin ich gar

thereof am I wholly

an fröiden bar,

in joys bare,

sin mache mînem herzen tac.

unless-she make to-my heart day.

Mîn muot und ouch gar daz herze mîn

My spirit and also wholly the heart mine

der süezen nien vergezzen kan.

of-the sweet-one not-at-all forget can.

vil guot ist diu liebe frouwe mîn:

very good is the dear lady mine:

ich bin ir eigen dienstman.

I am her own servant.

Mich hât versêret ir vil liechten ougen schîn,

Me has wounded her very bright eyes' shine,

mit minnen geschozzen in daz sende herze mîn.

with love shot into the yearning heart mine.

wil si, sô muoz ich âne hôhgemüete leben:

wills she, so must I without high-spirit live:

diu hêre diu mac mir ouch wol hôhe fröide geben.

the exalted-one she may to-me also well high joy give.

Seht, als hât diu reine

See, thus has the pure-one

mîn vor allen wîben gar gewalt,

of-me before all women wholly power,

diech mit triuwen meine,

whom-I with faith cherish,

und hab ouch mîn heil an si gezalt.

and have also my weal on her reckoned.

Sol mir wol gelingen,

Shall to-me well succeed,

daz muoz eht an ir genâden stân.

that must only on her mercy stand.

ich wil iemer singen,

I will ever sing,

unde diene ir gerne ûf lieben wân.

and serve her gladly on dear expectation.

Si hât mich gebunden sô in ir bant,

She has me bound so in her bond,

deich muoz eht ir gevangen sîn.

that-I must only her captive be.

mich lât wol ir helfe rîchiu hant

me lets well her of-help rich hand

ûz banden, wil diu frouwe mîn.

out-of bonds, wills the lady mine.

Nu helfent mir wûnschen, ir werden man,

Now help me wish, ye worthy men,

und ouch ir reinen guoten wîp,

and also ye pure good women,

sît mich eht niht anders getrœsten kan

since me only nothing else comfort can

wan ir vil minneclîcher lip,

but her very lovely body,

Daz mich noch diu reine trœste baz:

That me yet the pure-one comfort better:

daz stêt ir reinen güete wol,

that stands her pure goodness well,

sît ir ouch mîn herze nie vergaz

since her also my heart never forgot

noch niemer mê vergezzen sol.

nor ever more forget shall.

Ir umbevanc

Her embrace

mich schiede wol von sender nôt

me would-part well from yearning distress

mit armen blanc:

with arms white:

ich kuste ouch gerne ir mündel rôt.

I would-kiss also gladly her little-mouth red.

Swaz ich gesinge,

Whatever I sing,

daz fröwet mich in herzen niht,

that gladdens me in heart not,

ich tanze, ich springe,

I dance, I spring,

ê daz mir lieb von ir geschiht.

before that to-me dear from her happens.

Vil wê tuot mir, daz ich die frouwen mân

Very woe does to-me, that I the lady mine

sô lange vrede, dast mir ze lanc.

so long shun, that-is to-me too long.

mich fröwete baz ir vil liehter schîn

me would-gladden better her very bright shine

danne eht al der vogellîne sanc.

than only all the little-birds' song.

Sô wil ich doch dien jungen singen,

So will I yet to-the young sing,

waz der sumer wunne hât,

what the summer of-delight has,

dur daz si tanzen unde springen.

so that they dance and spring.

walt mit grüener varwe stât;

wood with green color stands;

Nahtegal

Nightingale

singet, der vil sanfte tuot.

sings, which very gently does.

hohen muot

high spirit

süezen schal

sweet sound

meien bluot

May's bloom

gît den vogelen über al.

gives to-the birds over all.

Heide breit

Heath broad

mit vil schoenen bluomen lit.

with very fair flowers lies.

fröide gît:

joy gives:

wol bekleit

well clothed

sumerzît

summer-season

dâ von suln wir sîn gemeit.

there from shall we be gay.

Der klê den snê von hinnen vertriben hât:

The clover the snow from hence driven has:

des suln wir alle mit schalle ouch in fröiden wesen.

thereof shall we all with ringing also in joys be.

Mit mir sult ir dâ diu grüne linde stât.

With me shall ye where the green linden stands.

dâ suln wir reien den meien, klêbluomen lesen.

there shall we round-dance the May, clover-flowers gather.

Dâ wirt diu kurzewîle guot,

There becomes the pastime good,

dar kumt schœner frouwen vil:

thither comes of-fair ladies many:

dâ wirt maneger wol gemuot

there becomes many-a-one well spirited

und ouch sorgen vrî.

and also of-cares free.

Ahî, nu sî vil sælic swer mit fröiden lebe!

Ah, now be very blessed whoever with joys live!

sint frô! lebt sô daz iu got hôhgemüete gebe.

be glad! live so that to-you God high-spirit give.

Man sol sich wol mit fröiden vröwen der sumerzît:

One shall oneself well with joys gladden of-the summer-season:

si hât den râd daz si wol hôhgemüete gât.

it has the means that it well high-spirit gives.

Der dôz wirt grôz, dâ wir zuo ein andern komen

The din becomes great, where we to one another come

under der linden: von kinden vil wol gemuot

under the linden: of children very well spirited

Die schar vil gar dâ sint, daz habe ich vernomen.

The troop very wholly there are, that have I heard.

ir frœlich singen, ir springen vil sanfte tuot.

their joyful singing, their springing very gently does.

Fröide und fröiderîch gemüete

Joy and joy-rich spirit

suln wir disen sumer hân:

shall we this summer have:

heide und anger schône in blüete,
heath and meadow beautifully in bloom,

dâ stênt bluomen wol getân.
there stand flowers well formed.

Uf der heide und in dem walde
On the heath and in the wood

singent kleiniu vogellîn
sing little birds

süeze stimme manicvalde:
sweet voices manifold:

des sun wir in fröiden sîn.
thereof shall we in joys be.

Nu seht wie mänge wunne
Now see how many-a delight

der sumer al der welte gât,
the summer to-all the world gives,

mê danne ich singen kunne.
more than I sing could.

waz süezer wunne an ime lît!
what of-sweet delight in it lies!

Er kan uns fröide machen,
It can to-us joy make,

der wunneclîche sumer guot:
the delightful summer good:

mit manicvalden sachen
with manifold things

gât er der welte hōhen muot.
gives it to-the world high spirit.

Diu tal, diu val den winter ê sint gewesen,

The valleys, which pale the winter before have been,

dâ siht man ze ringen ûf dringen klêbluomen vil.

there sees one in wrestling up press clover-flowers many.

Nu wol ûf, wol ûf, fröunt iuch der lieben zît,

Now well up, well up, gladden yourselves of-the dear season,

diu vil manigem herzen dicke sanfte tuot.

which very to-many-a heart often gently does.

Al mîn fröide an einem reinen wîbe lit,

All my joy on a pure woman lies,

diu mich dunket beidiu minneclîch und guot.

who to-me seems both lovely and good.

Ich wil ouch mit iu tanzen unde springen mê,

I will also with you dance and spring more,

swie mir in herzen niemer lieb dâ von beschê.

however to-me in heart never dear there from happen.

Ich wil ouch ûzen frô gebaren zaller zît,

I will also outwardly glad bear-myself at-every time,

und innan tûzen dâ mîn herze in sêre lit.

and within brood where my heart in sorely lies.

Sold aber ich geleben

Should but I live-to-see

daz diu liebe frouwe mîn

that the dear lady mine

mir fröide wolde geben,

to-me joy would give,

sô wold ich in fröiden sîn

so would I in joys be

Innen und ûze mit frœlichem muote,
Within and without with joyful spirit,
 ob diu vil reine, diu hêre, diu guote
if the very pure-one, the exalted-one, the good-one
 mich wold enbinden, diu sûeze, diu reine:
me would unbind, the sweet-one, the pure-one:
 sist wol gestellet, diu liebe, diech meine.
she-is well shaped, the dear-one, whom-I cherish.

Dâ von wil ich iemer mêr und âne wanc
There from will I ever more and without wavering
 ir dienen al die wîle und ich iemer lebe;
her serve all the while that I ever live;
 Wurde mir ir minneclîcher habedanc,
Became to-me her lovely thanks,
 daz wære mir ein lieber funt, ein rîchiu gebe.
that were to-me a dear find, a rich gift.

Si hât alleine mân für elliu wip gewalt,
She has alone of-me before all women power,
 die ich dâ meine: ich hân mân heil an si gezalt.
whom I there cherish: I have my weal on her reckoned.
 Mich mag ouch machen ir vil sûezez mündel rôc
Me may also make her very sweet little-mouth red
 in herzen lachen: wil si, ich bin an frôiden tôc.
in heart laugh: wills she, I am in joys dead.

Dis tanzes ist niht mêre,

Of-this dance is not more,

den ich von mîner frouwen hân gesungen.

which I of my lady have sung.

wünschent daz si noch mîn leit verkêre!

wish-ye that she yet my sorrow turn!

XIV,2 Vil süeziu Minne,

Very sweet Love,

dîn süezekeit

thy sweetness

hât mich getân

has me made

gar âne fröidebernden muot.

wholly without joy-bearing spirit.

ich hân die sinne

I have the senses

vil stæte breit

very steadfast broad

an dich gelân:

on thee left:

war wie wê mir diu liebe tuot.

look how woe to-me the dear-one does.

wende, frouwe, mîne nôt,

turn, lady, my distress,

ald ich bin an fröiden tô:

or I am in joys dead:

schaffe daz mich trœste der vil süezen mündel rô.

bring-about that me comfort the very sweet-one's little-mouth red.

Ich muoz belîben

I must remain

ân allen strît

without all dispute

vil undertân

very subject

der ich gar eigenlîchen bin.

to-whom I wholly properly am.

mihn kan vertriben

me can drive-away

kein haz noch nît:

no hate nor envy:

hâts ieman wân,

has-it anyone expectation,

der muoz dar an betrogen sîn.

he must there in deceived be.

in wil mich von ir scheiden niht:

I will me from her part not:

ist daz man mich in sorgen siht,

is that one me in cares sees,

waz dar umbe? ez kumt noch daz man mir fröiden giht.

what there about? it comes yet that one to-me of-joys avows.

Hey süezer meie,

Ab sweet May,

dîn kunft uns gît

thy coming to-us gives

vil wunnen breit,

much delight broad,

die man dâ heizet leitvertrîp.

which one there calls sorrow-driver.

von dîme geheie

from thy warmth

der anger lît

the meadow lies

gar wol bespreit

wholly well strewn

vil maniger hande bluomen kîp.

very of-many kind flowers' contest.

in den welden über al

in the woods over all

wâren die linden alle val,

were the lindens all pale,

dâ ir sûezen stimme singet nu diu nahtegal.

where her sweet voice sings now the nightingale.

Wil mich niht trœsten

Will me not comfort

mîns herzen trôst,

of-my heart's comfort,

an der vil gar

on whom very wholly

lît al mîns lîbes zuoversiht,

lies all of-my person confidence,

sô lege mich rœsten

so lay me to-roast

hin ûf den rôst,

thither on the gridiron,

und neme war,

and take heed,

daz mir nie wart sô liebes niht

that to-me never became so of-dear anything

in al der welte sam ir lîp.

in all the world as her person.

genâde, helferîchez wîp:

mercy, help-rich woman:

mit der dînen güete ûz mînem herzen swære trîp!

with the thy goodness out-of my heart grief drive!

Jâ muoz verderben

Yea must perish

mîn sender lîp:

my yearning person:

daz ist ein nôt,

that is a distress,

daz si des niht erkennen wil.

that she of-it not know will.

möht ich erwerben

might I obtain

daz noch ein wîp

that yet a woman

für mînen tôt

against my death

wolte bieten ir minnespil,

would offer her love-play,

sô wurde ich schiere wol gesunt

so became I soon well sound

und fröite mich der selben stunt:

and gladdened myself of-the same hour:

ich bite got, daz er mir füege den selben lieben funt.

I entreat God, that he to-me grant the same dear finding.

Ich sach s' an der mîn fröide lît

I saw her on whom my joy lies

bî andern schœnen frouwen gân;

by other fair ladies go;

si dûhte mich ân allen strît

she seemed to-me without all dispute

diu beste und dâ bî wol getân.

the best and there by well formed.

dâ was von frowen ein michel schar:

there was of ladies a mighty troop:

ich nam niht wan ir einer war,

I took nothing but of-them one heed,

mîn ougen blihten dicke dar.

my eyes glanced often thither.

Minne, süeziu füegerinne,

Love, sweet contriver,

du füege daz mîn werde rât!

thou grant that of-me become remedy!

du twinc ir herze und alle ir sinne

thou constrain her heart and all her senses

reht als si mich betwungen hât.

just as she me constrained has.

tuo mir ûf der sælden tür,

do to-me open the blessings' door,

sliuz zuo und lâ mich niht dâ für:

shut to and let me not there before:

sô sæze ich ûf der sælden kür.

so would-sit I on the blessings' choice.

Mich hât ein liechter ougen blic

Me has a bright eyes' glance

geschozen in daz herze mîn:

shot into the heart mine:

dâ leit si mir der minne stric,

there laid she for-me of-the love the-snare,

des muoz ich ir gevangen sîn.

thereof must I her captive be.

wer heilet hie (jâ bin ich wunt)?

who heals here (yea am I wounded)?

daz tuot ir rôsevarwer munt,

that does her rose-colored mouth,

sold ich den küssen tûsentstunt.

should I it kiss thousand-times.

Genigen sî der guoten dar,

Bowed be to-the good-one thither,

der ich vil eigenlîche bin:

to-whom I very properly am:

swar ich in dien landen var,

wherever I in the lands fare,

sô hât si dort herz unde sin

so has she there heart and mind

von mir gescheiden âne strît.

from me parted without dispute.

mîn trôst, mîn heil gar an ir lît:

my comfort, my weal wholly on her lies:

ir lîp fröit für des meien zît.

her person gladdens before the May's season.

Künde ich nu mit fuoge erwerben

Could I now with fitness obtain

daz ich ir gelæge bî!

that I to-her lay by!

geschiht des niht, ich muoz verderben:

happens of-that nothing, I must perish:

seht wie gerne ich bî ir sî!

see how gladly I by her be!

dur si sô lîde ich grôze nôt,
for her so suffer I great distress,
 in meit noch nie swaz si gebôt:
I avoided yet never whatever she commanded:
 si tröeste mich ald ich bin tôt.
may-she comfort me or I am dead.

XIV,4 Swie der walt nu stêt in blüete,
However the wood now stands in bloom,
 swie diu heide wol gezieret stê,
however the heath well adorned stand,
 swie der voge le hohgemüete
however the birds' high-spirit
 sî gehæhet, mir ist doch vil wê:
be heightened, to-me is yet very woe:
 ich muoz âne wer verderben,
I must without defense perish,
 in dien ganzen wunnen sterben;
in the whole delights die;
 mich enkan diu sumerzît
me can the summer-season
 niht von sender nôt gescheiden,
not from yearning distress part,
 der vil lieben welle leiden
to-the very dear-one should be-grievous
 daz mîn herze in banden lit.
that my heart in bonds lies.

Wolde mich diu guote enbinden,
Would me the good-one unbind,
 diu mîn herze in Minne banden hât,
who my heart in Love's bonds has,

könde ich die genâde vinden,
could I the mercy find,
 sô wurd aller mîner swære rât.
so became of-all my grief remedy.
 swie si mich enzît enbunde,
however she me in-time unbound,
 ê mîn fröide gar verschwunde,
before my joy wholly vanished,
 sô wold ich in wunnen sweben
so would I in delights float
 und ir reinen wîbes güete
and her pure woman's goodness
 prîsen wol mit hôhgemüete,
praise well with high-spirit,
 der ich wil für eigen leben.
to-whom I will as chattel live.

Swie gehaz sî mir diu guote,
However hostile be to-me the good-one,
 doch bin ich ir mit gedanken bî:
yet am I to-her with thoughts by:
 dâ vor kan si kleine huote
there before can she little guard
 hân, swie ungenædec si mir sî.
have, however ungracious she to-me be.
 wil si mich ze friunt versmâhen,
will she me as friend disdain,
 doch gedenke ich ir wol nâhen:
yet think I of-her well near:
 wirt mir anders niht von ir,
becomes to-me otherwise nothing from her,
 sô kan si mir niht entwenken,
so can she from-me not escape,

ine welle ir nâhe denken:

unless-I will of-her near think:

daz tuot ouch vil sanfte mir.

that does also very gently to-me.

Minne füeget hübschen lîben

Love grants to-courtly persons

liebez leben und dâ bî hôhen muot:

dear life and there by high spirit:

werden mannen, guoten wîben

to-worthy men, to-good women

wart ze hôhen frôiden nie sô guot,

became toward high joys never so good,

sô daz si mit stæten sinnen

as that they with steadfast senses

minneclîch ein ander minnen:

lovingly one another love:

deist ob allen frôiden gar.

that-is above all joys wholly.

ich wæn nieman bezzer wunne

I think no-one better delight

vinden alde erdenken kunne:

find or devise could:

ez tuot aller sorgen bar.

it makes of-all cares bare.

Sît der wunnen niht gelîchen

Since of-the delights nothing liken

kan gein hôhen êren, sælic wîp,

can against high honors, blessed woman,

sô sult ir mich frôiden rîchen,

so shall ye me of-joys enrich,

liebiu frouwe, und minnen mînen lîp.
dear lady, and love my person.

sît iuch meinet mîn gemüete,
since you cherishes my spirit,

minnent mich dur iuwer güete,
love me through your goodness,

alde ich bin an fröiden tô. *t*.
or I am in joys dead.

sol mir niht an ir gelingen,
shall to-me nothing with her succeed,

sô kan nieman mir geringen
so can no-one for-me lessen

mîne senelîchen nô. *t*.
my yearning distress.

Manger hande bluot
Of-many kind bloom

XIV,5

aber nu der meie hât;
again now the May has;

dâ bî hab ich sorge manicvalt:
there by have I care manifold:

al mîn hôher muot
all my high spirit

gar an einem wibe stât;
wholly on one woman stands;

diu vil liebe hât mîn gar gewalt.
the very dear-one has of-me wholly power.

gnâde, frouwe mîn,
mercy, lady mine,

tuo mir schiere helfe schîn:
make to-me soon help manifest:

wende mînen pîn,
turn my torment,
 alde ich muoz verdorben sîn.
or I must ruined be.

Frouwe guot, verjage
Lady good, drive-away
 mîne senelîchen nôt,
my yearning distress,
 diech in manicvalden sorgen hân
whiche-I in manifold cares have
 alle mîne tage:
all my days:
 dîn vil süezez mündel rô
thy very sweet little-mouth red
 mac mîn herze ûz allen sorgen lân.
may my heart out-of all cares let.
 gnâde, frouwe mîn,
mercy, lady mine,
 tuo mir schiere helfe schîn:
make to-me soon help manifest:
 wende mînen pîn,
turn my torment,
 alde ich muoz verdorben sîn.
or I must ruined be.

Mîner fröide hort,
Of-my joy board,
 tuoz dur dîne sælikeit
do-it through thy blessedness
 und enbinde mînen senden lîp.
and unbind my yearning person.

sprich daz süeze wort

speak the sweet word

‘ich wil wenden al dîn leit’:

I will turn all thy sorrow’:

sô bist iemer mêr ein sælic wîp.

so art-thou ever more a blessed woman.

gnâde, frouwe mîn,

mercy, lady mine,

tuo mir schiere helfe schîn:

make to-me soon help manifest:

wende mînen pîn,

turn my torment,

alde ich muoz verdorben sîn.

or I must ruined be.

Sît daz in ir bant

Since that into her bond

si mich hât gebunden sô,

she me has bound so,

daz ich muoz gar nâch ir willen leben,

that I must wholly after her will live,

der mir elliu lant

who to-me all lands

gæbe, ich wurde niemer frô,

would-give, I would-become never glad,

wil si mir niht hôhgemüete geben.

will she to-me no high-spirit give.

gnâde, frouwe mîn,

mercy, lady mine,

tuo mir schiere helfe schîn:

make to-me soon help manifest:

wende mînen pîn,

turn my torment,

alde ich muoz verdorben sîn.

or I must ruined be.

Beschæhe mir daz heil

Happened to-me the weal

an der lieben frouwen mîn,

with the dear lady mine,

daz mir wurde kunt ir schœner gruoꝝ,

that to-me became known her fair greeting,

und si spræche 'teil,

and she spoke 'share,

dar zuo sî daz wellen dîn:

there to be the willing thine:

dir mac schiere sorgen werden buoꝝ!'

to-thee may soon of-cares become remedy!'

gnâde, frouwe mîn,

mercy, lady mine,

tuo mir schiere helfe schîn:

make to-me soon help manifest:

wende mînen pîn,

turn my torment,

alde ich muoz verdorben sîn.

or I must ruined be.

Winli

Eight songs. The first asks Love to bring him where he may see his lady, then complains that the wood has renewed itself ten years over while he has won no new joy, and that he should have left when she bade him stay. The third carries a refrain through four strophes: parting does woe and must yet be. Others greet the May's bloom and the birds of the water-meadow and set a lady above the May itself, and one holds that women are the board where honor is sought. The last is spoken by the woman: day has come, her darling is parting, and she says what won her.

Minneclīchiu Minne,

XV,1

Lovely

Love,

nu füege durch güete

now bring-about through goodness

daz mich disiu liebe gesehe und ich sî,

that me this dear-one see and I her,

sô daz ich gewinne

so that I win

vrô niuwe gemüete,

glad new spirit,

daz ich dirre sorge werd êrlîchen vrî.

that I of-this care become honorably free.

kæme ich iemer dar dâ ich si fûnde,

came I ever thither where I her found,

niemêr ich erwûnde,

never-more I turned-back,

ich rette ze kûnde,

I spoke to acquaintance,

ob mich iender trûege mîn dienst nâher bî.

if me anywhere bore my service nearer by.

Nû hât sich geniuwet

Now has itself renewed

der walt zehen jâre,

the wood ten years,

daz ich niemer sît niuwe fröide gewan.

that I never since new joy won.

het ich des getriuwet,

had I of-that trusted,

daz sî mit dem vâre

that she with the guile

mich ir dienen hiez, dô sî mich ir gewan,

me her serve bade, when she me for-her won,

seht, sô hete ich mich an ir gerochen:

see, so had I myself on her avenged:

ich hete ir gebrochen,

I had to-her broken,

ich hete gesprochen

I had spoken

‘als ir mir sint vrouwe, als bin ich iu man.’

‘as ye to-me are lady, so am I to-you man.’

Daz habe ich versûmet:

That have I neglected:

ich tiure allen wiben,

I am-dear to-all women,

sî hât mich ze mâle unde bin ich ir bar.

she has me at once and am I of-her bare.

het ich dô gerûmet

had I then departed

dô sî mich hiez blîben,

when she me bade remain,

sô möhte ich nû dienen wol her oder dar.

so might I now serve well here or there.

des enmac niht sîn: ich muoz ir neigen.

of-that can not be: I must to-her bow.

sî mac mich wol zeigen

she may me well show

den liuten für eigen

to-the people as chattel

und mac mich schetzen: die maht hât sî gar.

and may me value: that power has she wholly.

Ich mac niht gelougen,

I may not deny,

ich sî ir gefangen:

I be to-her captive:

des engan ich nieman ûf ertrîche baz.

of-that grant I no-one on earth better.

und ist daz sô tougen,

and is that so secret,

daz sî mit ir wangen

that she with her cheek

noch mit ougen nie der gelîch engesaz.

nor with eyes ever the like sat.

seht wie guot gesellîn ist diu reine:

see how good companion is the pure-one:

allez daz ich meine,

all that I cherish,

daz meinet sî kleine;

that cherishes she little;

trag ich zuo zir holt, sô treit sî gein mir haz.

bear I toward to-her kindness, so bears she toward me hate.

Nimt daz niht ein ende,

Takes that not an end,

daz kostet ein sterben

that costs a dying

mich vil senden man: dar zuo bin ich gestalt.

me very yearning man: there to am I fashioned.

solken schaden wende,

such barm avert,

niht lâz mich verderben,

not let me perish,

minneclîchiu Minne: dû hâst ir gewalt.

lovely Love: thou hast of-her power.

alder ich wil kempfen vor dem rîche

or I will do-battle before the realm

mit ir sicherlîche,

with her certainly,

daz ich niht entwîche,

that I not yield,

ob ich lenger trûege die nôt manicvalt.

if I longer bore the distress manifold.

XV,2 Aber walt und ouch diu heide

Again wood and also the heath

krankent an ir kleide:

sicken in their clothing:

winter wil sî twingen.

winter will them constrain.

nahtegal diu lât ir singen

nightingale she leaves her singing

und diu bluot ir dringen.

and the bloom its pressing.

bî dem selben leide

by the same sorrow

klage ich mînes herzen swære:

lament I of-my heart's grief:

ouwê die sint alsô hert!

alas they are so hard!

swaz sî mir von êrst beschert,

whatever she to-me from first allotted,

daz was mir gevære.

that was to-me perilous.

Ich zîh als ein wîp alleine;

I accuse as-if a woman alone;

jâ sî süeze reine,

yea she sweet pure,

wes wil sî mich twingen?

of-what will she me constrain?

kan mir stæte lân gelingen

can to-me steadfastness let succeed

unde fröide bringen

and joy bring

nâch mîns herzen meine,

after of-my heart's intent,

sô hab ich der lieben hulde,

so have I of-the dear-one favor,

wan ich was ie an ir stæte.

for I was ever toward her steadfast.

sint daz gên ir missetæte,

are that toward her misdeeds,

sô sint mîne schulde.

so are my faults.

Jâ sî minneclîche guote

Yea she lovely good-one

kan sô stætem muote

can to-so steadfast spirit

sunder sich gelîchen,

apart itself liken,

daz ir lîp der minnenclîchen

that her person the lovely-one's

stæte lât berîchen

steadfastness lets enrich

inrenthalp der huote:

within the guard:

wand ir stæte wîbes gûete

for her steadfast woman's goodness

wirt sô reine wîbes mînne,

becomes so pure woman's love,

daz ich lîhte noch gewinne

that I perhaps yet win

von ir vrô gemüete.

from her glad spirit.

XV,³ Scheiden daz tuot wê und muoz doch sîn.

Parting that does woe and must yet be.

ich muoz den tôt erliden,

I must the death suffer,

sol ich sî lenger mîden,

shall I her longer avoid,

die vrouwen mîn:

the lady mine:

sî ist sô fîn.

she is so fine.

Manger leije blüete güete waltet

Of-many kind bloom's goodness rules

unde enthaltet sich aldur den sumer vrô.

and holds itself all-through the summer glad.

jô sô singent schône

yea so sing fairly

vogellîn in ir dône

little-birds in their melody

williclichen hô,

willingly high,

sô des meijen kunne wunne machet

when the May's kin delight makes

unde lachet suoze beide berg und tal:

and laughs sweetly both mountain and valley:

gal, schal und gebræhe

song, sound and clamor

machet harte wæhe

makes very finely

manic nahtegal.

many-a nightingale.

ûf der heide manigem kleide fröide gît

on the heath to-many-a garment joy gives

ouch der meije manger leije:

also the May of-many kind:

küene grüne lît der anger wider strît.

boldly green lies the meadow in rivalry.

Scheiden daz tuot wê und muoz doch sîn.

Parting that does woe and must yet be.

ich muoz den tôten erlîden,

I must the death suffer,

sol ich sî lenger mîden,

shall I her longer avoid,

die vrouwen mîn:

the lady mine:

sî ist sô fîn.

she is so fine.

O wach, sol ich iemer niemer schouwen

O woe, shall I ever never behold

mînes herzen frouwen nâch dem willen mîn!

of-my heart's lady after the will mine!

fîn sîn kan diu guote

fine be can the good-one

und in hôhem muote

and in high spirit

halten wîbes schîn.

hold woman's semblance.

ich muoz iemer klagen sagen, Minne,

I must ever lament say, Love,

daz sî mich der sinne hât beroubet gar.

that she me of-the senses has robbed wholly.

var dar unde luoge,

fare thither and look,

wie sî mich, diu kluoge,

how she me, the clever-one,

krenket sunderbar.

weakens exceedingly.

dâ von râte niht ze spâte, Minne, mir,

there from counsel not too late, Love, me,

wan ich kranke nâch ir danke:

for I sicken after her thanks:

füege, wüege daz ich vinde trôst an ir.

bring-about, weigh that I find comfort in her.

Scheiden daz tuot wê und muoz doch sin

Parting that does woe and must yet be

ich muoz den tôl erliden,

I must the death suffer,

sol ich sî lenger mîden,

shall I her longer avoid,

die vrouwen mîn:

the lady mine:

sî ist sô fîn.

she is so fine.

Wer wær mir geliche rîche guotes

Who were to-me alike rich of-goods

unde muotes? des kan ich mich niht entstân.

and of-spirit? of-that can I myself not conceive.

lân gân müeste ich swære,

let go must I grief,

swanne ich bî ir wære,

whenever I by her were,

unde in fröiden stân

and in joys stand

unde ir wol ze sinne minne wære,

and to-her well in mind love were,

waz sî liebes bære mir vil senden man!

what she of-dear bore to-me very yearning man!

hân kan sî gemüete,

have can she spirit,

unde ir wîbes güete

and her woman's goodness

stât ir lieplich an.

stands to-her lovingly on.

bî ir wære mir niht swære, möhte ez sîn,

by her were to-me no grief, might it be,

und sî solte, sam ich wolte,

and she should, as I would,

lachen machen frœlich mir daz herze mîn.

laughing make joyful for-me the heart mine.

Scheiden daz tuot wê und muoz doch sîn.

Parting that does woe and must yet be.

ich muoz den tôt erliden,

I must the death suffer,

sol ich sî lenger mîden,

shall I her longer avoid,

die vrouwen mîn:

the lady mine:

sî ist sô fîn.

she is so fine.

XV,4 Seht, des meijen blüete

See, the May's bloom

fröit die vogel in dien ouwen:

gladdens the birds in the water-meadows:

sô fröit mich ein minneclîchez wîp.

so gladdens me a lovely woman.

diu gît mir gemüete

she gives to-me spirit

unde lât mich an ir schouwen

and lets me on her behold

wunder, diu mir sprechent 'vrô belîp.'

wonders, which to-me speak 'glad remain.'

wes sol ich mich fröuwen mê?

of-what shall I myself gladden more?

sî went mit ir güete,

she thinks with her goodness,

daz sî zimet wol ze frouwen

that she beseems well as lady

unde heizet sendes leitvertrip.

and is-called of-yearning sorrow-driver.

Ich wil iemer mêre

I will ever more

hân die lieben zeinem meijen,

have the dear-one for-a May,

sît ir varwe kan sô stæte sîn.

since her color can so steadfast be.

swer mir daz verkêre,

whoever to-me that reverse,

der var in den meijen reijen

he fare into the May round-dance

unde lâ mich an der vrouwen mîn.

and leave me on the lady mine.

vil ist des ich minne an ir:

much is of-what I love in her:

sô des meijen êre

when the May's honor

varwe rêret stolzen leijen,

color sheds of-proud kind,

seht, sô gênt ir wengel liechten schîn.

see, so give her cheeks bright shine.

Sô der vogele kôsen

When the birds' chatter

von den kalten rîfen swachet,

from the cold hoarfrosts weakens,

und diu heide bar der bluomen lît,

and the heath bare of-the flowers lies,

dannoch sihe ich rôsen,

then-yet see I roses,

swanne ir rôtez mündel lachet,

whenever her red little-mouth laughs,

in der minne blüejēn wider strît.

in the love bloom in rivalry.

wer hât alsus fröide gar?

who has thus joy wholly?

von den zîtelôsen

from the meadow-saffrons

wart nie man sô vrô gemachet

was never man so glad made

als ich von der lieben zaller zît.

as I from the dear-one at-every time.

XV,5 Sich fröit manic vogellîn wilde

Itself gladdens many-a little-bird wild

gên des liechten meijen güete

toward the bright May's goodness

durch die sumerzît.

through the summer-season.

zieren kan sich daz gevilde:

adorn can itself the field:

schouwent an der boume blüete,

behold on the trees' bloom,

wie diu heide lît

how the heath lies

sô gar wunneclîch bekleidet,

so wholly delightfully clothed,

unde mir daz allez leidet

and to-me that all makes-grievous

der vil lieben strît.

of-the very dear-one strife.

Sô hat sî mich in ir huote,

So has she me in her keeping,

daz ich weder vil noch kleine

that I neither much nor little

mîner selbes bin.

of-my self am.

swie der lieben wirt ze muote,

however to-the dear-one becomes at spirit,

dar nâch muoz ich leben eine

there after must I live alone

sunder mînen sin.

without my mind.

wil sî daz ich fröide trîbe,

wills she that I joy practice,

daz stât an ir einer lîbe:

that stands on her one person:

sî hât mich dâ hin.

she has me there away.

Wære ich mîn als ir bisunder,

Were I my-own as hers apart,

ich enwolte ir wîbes güete

I would her woman's goodness

strîtes niht erlân.

of-strife not release.

nu lig ich gewaltes under:

now lie I of-force under:

sî hât mîn und ir gemüete,

she has my and her spirit,

daz ich niht enhân.

which I not have.

lîhte wirt ir noch ze sinne

perhaps becomes to-her yet to mind

daz sî mich tuot fröiden inne:

that she me makes of-joys aware:

ich hân lieben wân.

I have dear expectation.

XV,6 Sumerwunne,

Summer-delight,

nîc dem süezen meijen

bow to-the sweet May

dur sîn kleiden,

for his clothing,

wan er birt uns mänge bluot,

for he bears to-us many-a bloom,

rôte rôsen,

red roses,

vîolvar die gleijen,

violet-colored the gladioli,

unde ûf heiden

and on heaths

manger leije wunne fruot:

of-many kind delight goodly:

dâ bî sen ich nâch der lôsen,

there by yearn I after the merry-one,

diu mir liebet sam diu sunne,

who to-me is-dear as the sun,

dem sî wunneclîchen tuot.

to-whom she delightfully does.

Diu vil guote,

The very good-one,

seht, diu heizet fine:

see, she is-called fine:

wol den ougen,

well to-the eyes,

dar sî sich ze sehenne bôt.

to-which she herself to seeing offered.

süeze lœne

sweet rewards

in ir herzen schrîne

in her heart's shrine

treit sî tougen:

bears she secretly:

die sint guot für sende nôt.

they are good against yearning distress.

ich was der sî sach sô schœne:

I was he-who her saw so fair:

dâ von wart mir wol ze muote,

there from became to-me well at spirit,

ich sach sî vür rôsen rôt.

I saw her more-than roses red.

Süeze Minne,

Sweet Love,

jâ durch dîne güete

yea through thy goodness

wart an wîben

became in women

wîbes name nie sô guot.

woman's name never so good.

jâ sî hêre

yea she exalted

kan für meijen blüete

can more-than May's bloom

leit vertriben,

sorrow drive-away,

dem siz minneclîchen tuot.

to-whom she-it lovingly does.

ûz ir rôten mundes sinne

out-of her red mouth's sense

fröuwet mich ein küssen mêre

gladdens me a kiss more

baz dann al des meijen bluot.

better than all the May's bloom.

XV,7 Swer in leide sî verswachet,

Whoever in sorrow be weakened,

der gedenke enzît,

be think in-time,

waz an wîben êren lît.

what in women of-honor lies.

wizzent daz sin sendez herze erlachtet:

know-ye that his yearning heart laughs-out:

wîbes minne fröide machet,

woman's love joy makes,

wîbes êre ist wît.

woman's honor is wide.

swem ir güete helfe gît,

to-whom their goodness help gives,

wizzent daz des hôchgemüete erwachet.

know-ye that his high-spirit awakens.

wizzent daz von wîben leit zerspringet:

know-ye that from women sorrow bursts-apart:

wîp sint hort, dâ man nâch êren ringet.

women are heard, where one after honor strives.

Swer ein wîp mit triuwen minnet,

Whoever a woman with faith loves,

der hât fröiden vil,

he has of-joys many,

ob diu minneclîchiu wil.

if the lovely-one wills.

wizzent daz im herzeleit zerrinnet:

know-ye that to-him heart's-sorrow runs-out:

liep im sînen muot besinnet;

love to-him his spirit brings-to-reason;

sîner fröiden spil

of-his joys play

swendet im der sorgen vil

dispels for-him of-the cares many

und er niht wan herzeliep gewinnet.

and he nothing but heart's-love wins.

hîlf mir, sûeze minneclîchiu Minne,

help me, sweet lovely Love,

daz ich einer hulde noch gewinne.

that I of-one favor yet win.

Wenne sol ich fröide vinden?

When shall I joy find?

ich bin ungesund:

I am unsound:

trûren hât mich dar verwunt

mourning has me there wounded

dâ mich nieman rehte kan verbinden.

where me no-one rightly can bind-up.

wolte ab sich mîn underwinden

would but itself of-me take-charge

noch ir rôter munt,

yet her red mouth,

seht, diu fûnde wol den funt,

see, it would-find well the finding,

daz mîn leit, mîn sorgen müeste swinden.

that my sorrow, my cares must vanish.

Minne, hilf durch willen guoter wibe,

Love, help for sake of-good women,

daz sî mir noch sende nôt vertribe.

that she to-me yet yearning distress drive-away.

XV,8 'Owê des herzelichen leides,

Alas of-the heartfelt sorrow,

und ist ez tac als dû, mîn trût, nû von mir scheides,

and is it day as thou, my darling, now from me partest,

wem lâst dû danne ein senedez wîp?

to-whom leavest thou then a yearning woman?

ez mac dich wol von rehte erbarmen:

it may thee well by right move-to-pity:

ez umbevienc nie vrouwe mit ir blanken armen

it embraced never lady with her white arms

sô rehte liebes mannes lîp.

so truly dear man's body.

wie sol es iemer werden rât?

how shall of-it ever become remedy?

dîn zuht, dîn manheit und dîn milte

thy breeding, thy manhood and thy bounty

hât mich mit swerte und ouch mit sper

has me with sword and also with spear

ervohnten under helme und under schilte

won under helm and under shield

mit heldes hant in liehter wât.'

with hero's hand in bright garment.'

Gast

A single poem of eighteen lines, nearly all of them questions. What use is an emperor without justice, a pope without mercy, a king without a generous spirit, a prince without shame? The catalog runs on down through counts, freemen, vassals, knights, priests, merchants, cloisters, huntsmen, and falconers, and closes by naming the most useless of all: a king who will not judge rightly.

XVI,¹ Waz sol ein keiser âne reht, ein bâbest ân barmunge?

What use an emperor without justice, a pope without mercy?

waz sol ein künic ân milten muot, waz sol ein fürste ân scham?

what use a king without bountiful spirit, what use a prince without shame?

waz sol ein ungetriuwer munt, dar inne ein valsche zunge,

what use an untrue mouth, there within a false tongue,

diu mangem dicke schaden tuot? si macht gesunden lam.

whiche to-many-a-one often harm does? it makes the-healthy lame.

waz sol ein grâf, der niht kan tugende walten?

what use a count, who not can virtue command?

waz sol ein frîe, der sîn triuwe niemer wil behalten?

what use a freeman, who his faith never will keep?

waz sol ein rîcher dienstman, der sich niht schanden wert?

what use a rich vassal, who himself not from-shame guards?

waz sol ein ritter, der sîn tage mit laster hie verzert?

what use a knight, who his days with vice here consumes?

Waz sol ein schœnez wîp gar âne tugent und ân êre?

What use a fair woman wholly without virtue and without honor?

waz sol ein landes herre, der dekeine milte hât?

what use a land's lord, who no bounty has?

waz sol ein priester âne kunst der rechten gotes lêre?

what use a priest without knowledge of-the true God's teaching?

waz sol ein junger ritter, der niht ritterschaft begât?

what use a young knight, who no knighthood practices?

waz sol ein koufman, hât er niht gewinne?

what use a merchant, has he no gain?

waz sulent klôster unde bruoder ân die wâren minne?

what use cloisters and brothers without the true love?

waz sol ein bürge, der niht leisten wil dur sînen zorn?

what use a surety, who not perform will through his anger?

waz sol ein jager âne guote hunde und âne ein horn?

what use a huntsman without good hounds and without a horn?

waz sol ein valkenære, und hât er niendert vederspil?

what use a falconer, and has he no hunting-bird?

unnützer ist ein künic, ob er niht rehte rihten wil.

more-useless is a king, if he not rightly judge will.

Heinrich von Tettingen

Two songs. The first plays on liep in every line of its opening strophe — dear love, dear lady, dear sight — and says her beauty, goodness, and bearing have wounded him to death. The second greets the flowered heath and the birds' song and turns to the woman whose goodness would make him well. He ends by saying no one should call him foolish for loving so lovely a woman, and that a land might gladly fall into sorrow to win her.

XVII,¹ Liep, liebez liep, liebiu vrouwe,

Dear, dear love, dear lady,

liep, herzen trôst und der sinne,

dear, heart's comfort and of-the senses,

liep, liebez liep, liebiu schouwe,

dear, dear love, dear sight,

liep, daz mich roubet dur minne,

dear, that me robs through love,

hei, lieber lîp, sælic wîp,

ah, dear person, blessed woman,

liep, liebez liep, sendiu leit mir vertrîp.

dear, dear love, yearning sorrows for-me drive-away.

Liep, du bist mir nu vil lange

Dear, thou art to-me now very long

liep und hân dir vil gesungen.

dear and have to-thee much sung,

nâch dîner hulde ist mir ange:

after thy favor is to-me longing:

des hat mich Minne betwungen.

thereto has me Love compelled.

ach, frouwe mîn, sich, der pîn
ah, lady mine, see, the torment
 nimt fröide mir, sol ich lange alse sîn.
takes joy from-me, shall I long thus be.

Ir schœn, ir güete, ir gebâre
Her beauty, her goodness, her bearing
 hânt mich ze tôde verwundet:
have me to death wounded:
 des stirb ich in einem jâre,
thereof die I within one year,
 ob mich ir trôst niht gesundet.
if me her comfort not heals.

ach wâfenâ! sist mir dâ
ah alas! she-is to-me there
 lieb unde lît mînem herzen vil nâ.
dear and lies to-my heart very near

Daz diu zît ist alsô schœne,
That the season is so fair,
 dâ von siht man nu die heide
there from sees one now the heath
 wol geblüemet und den walt.
well flowered and the wood.
 dar zuo singent süeze dœne
there to sing sweet melodies
 kleine vogeles, den vil leide
little birds, to-whom very sorely
 tet hiur ê der winter kalt.
did this-year before the winter cold.
 si fröunt sich des meijen blüete:
they gladden themselves of-the May's bloom:

XVII,2

diu mich twinget doch mit güete,

who me compels yet with goodness,

daz diu trôste mîn gemüete,

that she comforted my spirit,

ich würd ouch ze fröuden balt.

I would-become also to joys bold.

Mir wirt alsô wol ze muote,

To-me becomes so well at spirit,

swanne ich die vil lieben süezen

whenever I the very dear sweet-one

sihe sô minneclîch getân.

see so lovely formed.

dâ kumt ez mir ouch ze guote,

there comes it to-me also to good,

wil si minneclîche bûezen

will she lovingly amend

daz ich senden kumber hân

that I yearning affliction have

von ir liebes wîbes minne.

from her dear woman's love.

liep, mîns herzen küniginne,

dear, of-my heart queen,

vüege daz ich noch gewinne

grant that I yet win

von dir trôst und lieben wân.

from thee comfort and dear expectation.

Daz mîn vrouwe mir gevellet,
That my lady to-me pleases,
 daz kumt von vil maniger güete
that comes from very much goodness
 und den tugenden, die si hât.
and the virtues, which she has.
 nâch ir brinnet unde wellet
after her burns and boils
 herze lîp und mîn gemüete.
heart body and my spirit.
 des mir schiere würde rât,
thereof to-me soon would-become help,
 wils an friundes triuwe denken:
will-she on friend's faith think:
 allez trûren, allez krenken
all mourning, all sickening
 müeste snelle mir entwenken,
must swiftly from-me vanish,
 ob si mich ze liebe enpfât.
if she me to love receives.

Nieman jehe, daz ich sî tumber,

No-one say, that I be foolish,

ob ich herzeclîche minnen

if I heartily love

ein sô minneclîchez wîp.

a so lovely woman.

ein lant solte gerne in kumber

a land should gladly into affliction

komen, möhte ez wol gewinnen

come, might it well win

alse reines wîbes lîp,

such pure woman's person,

diu sô manige vuoge hæte:

who so much fitness had:

zîzelwæhe si wol næte.

delicately she well sewed.

ach, daz ichs ir minne erbæte:

ah, that I-it of-her love might-beg:

wol lit ich dar umbe kîp!

well would-suffer I there for strife!

Otto zum Turne

A long poem praising a woman: reconciled with her and with Love, he would be richer than king or queen. Her praise is then built out of her parts: a noble falcon's brown eyes in a white casket, hands that have locked the paradise of love, a mouth so tenderly set that it makes only sweet speech, and two dimples she gives as a dowry to whomever she smiles on. Where she spends the year, no hoarfrost harms the blossom, and sorrow must leave the region. Near the end another voice breaks in — 'Sir Turner, let the speech be' — and he answers that for her sake he will let the sickly love be.

Der hôhen und der aller liebsten Minne

XVIII,1

To-the high and to-the all dearest Love

der wil ich iemer ûf genâde singen.

to-her will I ever on mercy sing.

ich weiz ein wîp, diu wont mir in dem sinne:

I know a woman, who dwells to-me in the mind:

und wolte sî mich der ze suone bringen,

and would she me with-her to reconciliation bring,

Sô daz sî mit mir wære und ouch mit triuwen,

So that she with me were and also with faith,

und daz sî beide tæten swaz ich hieze,

and that they both did whatever I bade,

mit lieben handelungen und mit niuwen,

with dear dealings and with new,

sô lange biz daz ich sî beide erlieze,

so long until that I them both released,

Sô wolte ich fröiden rîcher sîn

So would I of-joys richer be

dan künic oder künigîn.

than king or queen.

Der nahtegale wolte ich mich gelichen:

To-the nightingale would I myself liken:

wie künde an fröiden ieman mêr gerichen?

how could in joys anyone more grow-rich?

ich wære ouch rîcher danne ein man,

I were also richer than a man,

der leit noch liebe nie gewan.

who sorrow nor love never won.

Und solte ich mich dur sî niht vrô gebâren?

And should I myself for her not glad bear?

sist kiuscher danne ein kint von siben jâren:

she-is chaster than a child of seven years:

ir herze in solker süeze stât,

her heart in such sweetness stands,

daz ez noch niender gallun hât.

that it yet no gall has.

Ir wonet geist sô rehter guoter tiere,

In-her dwells spirit of-so truly good creatures,

sî hât den liuten sich geliebet schiere.

she has to-the people herself endeared quickly.

sî lachet als ein kindelîn,

she laughs like a little-child,

daz kroenet gegen der muoter sîn.

which babbles toward the mother its.

Ir lîp der ist sô jegerlich geschaffen,

Her body it is so stately fashioned,

ein steinin herze müeste an sî vergaffen.

a stony heart must at her be-lost-in-gazing.

swer sî des morgens an gesiht,

whoever her of-the morning on looks,

den tac im niemer leit geschiht.

that day to-him never sorrow happens.

Sî hordet zaller zît an tugenden baz

She boards at-every time in virtues better

gewærlich dan der baldest an gewalte.

truly than the boldest in power.

sî mordet swaz ir êren ist gehaz:

she murders whatever to-her honor is hostile:

sî flîzet sich, wie sî den prîs behalte.

she takes pains, how she the prize keep.

Eins edelen valken ougen brûn

A noble falcon's eyes brown

diu siht man blicken ûz dem wîzen kasten,

those sees one gleam out-of the white casket,

dar inne sich ein lieber wol ersæhe.

there within himself a dear-one well might-mirror.

dar umb gebræwet ist ein zûn,

there about browed is a fence,

dar under siht man liehtiu wengel rasten:

there under sees one bright cheeks rest:

sô wol im, dem ze wonenne dar geschæhe!

so well to-him, to-whom to dwell there might-happen!

Ir hende wiz die zient an sich

Her hands white they draw to themselves

die besten forme, dunket mich:

the best form, seems to-me:

sî hânt der minne paradîs beslozen

they have of-the love the-paradise locked

sô wol, daz sin doch nieman hât genozen.

so well, that of-it yet no-one has enjoyed.

ir arme die sint alsô karc,
her arms they are so sparing,
 daz sich noch nieman drin verbarc.
that himself yet no-one therein hid.

Ir mündel ist sô zart gestellet, daz
Her little-mouth is so tenderly set, that
 ez niht wan süeze fîne rede machet.
it nothing but sweet fine speech makes.
 zwei gründel stânt ir wengelinen baz:
two little-dimples suit her little-cheeks better:
 diu hât sî doch ze stiure swem sî lachet.
those has she yet as dowry to-whomever she laughs.

Swâ sî daz jâr mit willen ist,
Wherever she the year with willingness is,
 dâ mac man âne sorge sîn der rîfen,
there may one without care be of-the hoarfrosts,
 daz sî iht schaden boumen ald den blüeten.
that they any harm to-trees or to-the blossoms.
 ez wart nie man in langer frist
it became never man in long while
 sô kranc, dem sî die âdern wolte begrîfen,
so weak, whose she the veins would touch,
 des dörfte niemer arzât mê gehüeten.
of-him would-need never physician more take-care.

Swar sî dur kurzewîle vert,
Wherever she for pastime fares,
 dâ hât daz liep dem leide erwert,
there has the dear-one to-the sorrow forbidden,

daz ez muoz die riviére balde rûmen,
that it must the region quickly leave,
 und mac dâ niemer mensche mê gesûmen.
and may there never person more linger.
 sî trîbet daz gelückes rat,
she drives the fortune's wheel,
 dem sî dâ wil, den rehten pfat.
to-whom she there wills, the right path.

Ach, Minne, möhte ich ir gedienen sô,
Ah, Love, might I her serve so,
 daz sî mir noch daz paradîs entslûzze!
that she to-me yet the paradise would-unlock!
 dar inne ist man alsô rehte vrô,
there within is one so truly glad,
 ich weiz wol daz mich niemer dâ verdrûzze.
I know well that me never there would-weary.

Ach rîcher got, und wær daz wâr,
Ah rich God, and were that true,
 sô wolte ich noch den süezen hort betasten,
so would I yet the sweet board handle,
 den sî sô wirdeclichen hât behalten.
whiche she so worthily has kept.
 dar umbe wolte ich drîzic jâr
there for would I thirty years
 ze wazzer und ze brôte gerne vasten
on water and on bread gladly fast
 und ouch die wîle in einer prisûn alten.
and also the while in a prison grow-old.

'Her Tûrner, lânt die rede sîn.

'Sir Turner, let the speech be.

ein wîp durliuhtic unde fîn,

a woman radiant and fine,

diu sich vor allem wandel hât gefrîet

who herself from all fault has freed

und sich in stæte wirde hât gezwîet,

and herself in steadfast worth has grafted,

Der sol man billich holder sîn

To-her shall one rightly kinder be

dann einem tumben rîberlîn,

than to-a foolish little-wanton,

daz sich vor mannen noch vor wîben schamet

which itself neither-before men nor before women shames

und als ein wilder wolf ist ungezamet.'

and like a wild wolf is untamed.'

Für die sô wil ich guoten wân

For her so will I good expectation

zuo mîner lieben vrouwen hân:

to my dear lady have:

diu ist sô tûhtic und sô fîn,

she is so well-bred and so fine,

daz ich durch sî wil lân die kranken minne sîn.

that I for her will let the sickly love be.