MIDDLE HIGH GERMAN SERIES · VOLUME 27

Reinmar von Zweter

Reinmar von Zweter & Others

Die Gedichte Reinmars von Zweter

Reinmar von Zweter

With the Spruch Poets of the Thirteenth Century

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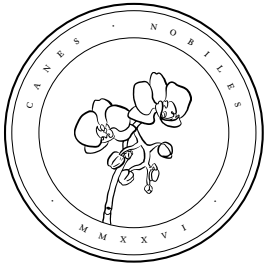
with a word-for-word interlinear English translation

preserving the original word order



CANES NOBILES · MMXXVI

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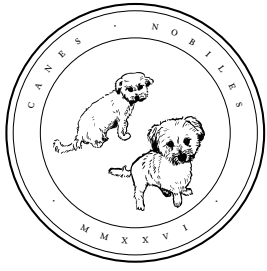

Volume 27 of the Canes Nobiles Middle High German interlinear texts

The Middle High German text follows Die Gedichte Reinmars von Zweter, herausgegeben von Gustav Roethe (Leipzig: S. Hirzel, 1887), the Leich and strophes 1 to 229, without the strophes Roethe prints as doubtful or spurious and his Lieder; Deutsche Liederdichter des zwölften bis vierzehnten Jahrhunderts, von Karl Bartsch, vierte Auflage besorgt von Wolfgang Golther (Berlin: B. Behr, 1901)

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

Reinmar's Leich and strophes stand in Roethe's order and under his numbers; the poets after him stand in Bartsch's order, each strophe cited in the outer margin by the line of its first verse in Bartsch's count of the poet's lines.

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REINMAR VON ZWETER

Die Gedichte Reinmars von Zweter

The Poems of Reinmar von Zweter

Der Leich

THE LEICH

Reinmar's one Leich, a hymn to the Trinity and to Love. God, three persons in one, is praised because Love compelled the Son to take flesh, die as a man, and win life for men. Love's cupbearer is the Holy Spirit, who washes sin with two waters, baptism and tears. The Leich praises the Virgin with the patriarchs' and prophets' figures, tells the Nativity and the magi, the sword of Simeon through Mary's heart, the Passion and the Resurrection, and sets Love with Mercy's counsel before God until the world ends, when Justice comes with even scales. It ends with a call to repent while there is grace, and a prayer to Mary and her Son.

Got unt dîn eben êwikeit
God and thy equal eternity

mit drin persônen underschriben,
with three persons distinguished,

sî des gelobt, daz unser leit
be of-that praised, that our sorrow

der drîer einer hât vertriben,
of-the three one has driven-away,

der dir ze kinde ist bî beliben.
who to-thee as child is by remained.

Der selbe wart durch dîn gebot
The same was through thy command

unt ouch durch unser heil versniten:
and also through our salvation circumcised:

des starp er mensche unt starp niht Got,
therefore died he man and died not God,

er starp nâch menschlîchen siten:
he died after human manners:

sîn sterben hât uns leben erstriten.
his dying has for-us life won.

Des vater Minne unt ouch des suns
Of-the father Love and also of-the son

der gotheit in ir herze dranc
of-the godhead into her heart pressed

unt clagte in beiden, wie daz uns
and lamented to-them both, how that us

der êrste val ze valle twanc:
the first fall to falling forced:

dar an uns allen misselanc.
there in to-us all failed.

Got hêrre unüberwundenlich,
God lord invincible,

wie überwant diu Minne dich!
how overcame the Love thee!

getorste ich sprechen, sô spræch ich:
dared I speak, so would-speak I:

'si wart an dir sô sigerîch,
'she became on thee so victorious,

daz si den val nam über sich'.
that she the fall took over herself'.

Daz uns ze vluoche was geschehen,
What to-us as curse was happened,

des hât diu Minne uns übertragen:
of-that has the Love us relieved:

des suln wir lobes der Minne jehen
therefore shall we praise to-the Love avow

unt immer mêr genâde sagen:
and ever more thanks say:

si hât getrœstet unser clagen.
she has comforted our lament.

Diu Minne ist sô durchliuhtic gar,
The Love is so translucent wholly,

daz nie sô trüebe ein herze wart,
that never so dim a heart became,

sô dürre noch sô vlinsic hart,
so dry nor so flinty hard,

wirt ir gewinket rehte dar,
(if)-is to-her beckoned rightly thither,

si macht ez balde himelvar.
she makes it quickly heaven-colored.

Wer die minne tuot bekant,
Who the love makes known,

den lât iu hie künden:
him let to-you here proclaim:

Gotes Geist ist er genant,
God's Spirit is he named,

twâhen kan er von sünden
wash can he from sins

mit zwein wazzers ünden.
with two of-water waves.

Daz ein daz ist der westertouf,
The one that is the baptism,

dâ man inne toufet:
where one in baptizes:

sô ist daz ander wazzers louf,
so is the other of-water course,

daz durch ougen loufet
that through eyes runs

unt diu wangn betroufet.
and the cheeks bedews.

Der minne schenke ist aller meist
Of-the love cupbearer is of-all most

der übersüeze Gotes Geist:
the over-sweet God's Spirit:

dem er die wil schenken,
to-whom he it will pour,

Den dürstet nâch der minne niht,
Him thirsts after the love not,

diu zuo den sünden hât gephliht;
which to the sins has pledged;

tôtlich ist ir trenken.
deadly is its drinking.

Diu minne ist guot, diu sünden gluot
The love is good, that of-sins glow

unt ir gelust erleschen tuot:
and their lust extinguish does:

diu aber ze sünden wecket muot,
which but to sins wakes mind,

der minne suln wir wenken.
that love shall we shun.

Durch minne wart der alde junc,
Through love became the old-one young,

der ie was alt ân ende:
who ever was old without end:

von himel tet er einen sprunc
from heaven did he a leap

her ab in diz ellende,
hither down into this exile,

ein Got unt drî genende
one God and three persons

Enphienc von einer meide jugent,
Received from a maid's youth,

daz geschach durch minne:
that happened through love:

ir gap des heilegen Geistes tugent
to-her gave of-the holy Spirit's power

minnebernde sinne:
love-bearing senses:

des wol dir, küniginne!
of-that well to-thee, queen!

Aller wunder sî geswigen!
Of-all wonders be silenced!

daz erde himel hât überstigen,
that earth heaven has surmounted,

daz sult ir vür ein wunder wigen!
that shall you for a wonder weigh!

Erd ob unt himel under
Earth above and heaven under

daz sult ir hân besunder
that shall you have apart

vür aller wundr ein wunder!
for of-all wonders a wonder!

An wem diz wunder sî geschehen?
On whom this wonder be happened?

des muoz man wol der megde jehen
of-that must one well to-the maiden avow

unt immer nâch ir gnâden stegen,
and ever after her graces climb,

Die Got lîphaft ze himel nam,
Whom God bodily to heaven took,

dar menschlich mensche nie bequam
where human man never came

…
(lacuna)

Von erden sô was si geborn
From earth so was she born
unt wart vogtîn ze himel erkorn:
and was protectress in heaven chosen:

des habe diu wâre minne danc,
of-that have the true love thanks,
diu Got zuo dirre liebe twanc.
that God to this love compelled.

si ist ein sterne von Jâcop,
she is a star of Jacob,
an ir lît aller engel lop,
on her lies of-all angels praise,

an ir lît aller liute ruom:
on her lies of-all people glory:
ir muoterbæren magetuom
her mother-bearing maidenhood

kan nieman vollen triuten
can no-one fully cherish
von engeln noch von liuten.
of angels nor of people.

Der patriarchen vorgehüge,
Of-the patriarchs foreknowledge,
prophêten lobes ein übervlüge,
prophets' praise an over-flight,

in weiz, ob ieman dar zuo tüge,
I-not know, whether anyone there to may-avail,

daz er dîn lop durchreichen müge:
that he thy praise reach-through may:

der die sunnen enphenget, den hâstû ganegenget.
who the sun kindles, him hast-thou brought-forth.

Dû blüende gerte von Jessê,
Thou blooming rod of Jesse,

diu nie gewan gelîchen mê
which never had equal more

noch nimmer mê gewinnen mac,
nor ever more win may,

dîn lîp brâht uns die süezen vruht,
thy body brought us the sweet fruit,

des himel unt erde ist gêret.
of-which heaven and earth is honored.

Des künec Dâvîdes harphenclanc
The king David's harp-sound

unt Salomônes minnesanc
and Solomon's love-song

mit lobe gar an dir einen lac:
with praise wholly on thee alone lay:

mit dir wart Êven sündensuht
with thee was Eve's sin-sickness

vriuntlîchen verkêret.
kindly reversed.

Swâ si hât gesêret, dâ hâstû heil gemêret.
Wherever she has wounded, there hast-thou healing increased.

Minnenbürde sunder swære, minnenbürde sünden lêre
Love-burden without heaviness, love-burden of-sins empty

unt doch rehtiu minnenbürde
and yet true love-burden

Wart getragen von dir al einer, dû vil reine unt er vil reiner,
Was carried by thee all alone, thou very pure and he much purer,

mit dem dû gebürdet würde.
with whom thou burdened were.

Er Got der minne, er minnenschenke,
He God of-the love, he love-cupbearer,

in tet diu minne alsô gelenke,
him made the love so supple,

daz er sich in dîn herze vielt,
that he himself into thy heart folded,

der aller elementen wielt.
who of-all elements ruled.

Sît daz minne uns hât geneiget
Since that love to-us has inclined

den des süeze sünde veiget
him whose sweetness sin dooms

unt des helfe trûren sweiget,
and whose help sorrow silences,

als er vil dicke erzeiget,
as he very often shows,

des si er gebenedîjet!
of-that be he blessed!

Aller Cristen stimme schrîe
Of-all Christians voice cry

zuo dir muotermeit Marîe,
to thee mother-maid Mary,

daz dîn helfe uns sünden vrîe
that thy help us of-sins free

durch die eingotegen drîe,
through the one-godded three,

diu Cristen glouben drîjet!
which Christian faith threefolds!

Minne, dîn viur ist durchzündec,
Love, thy fire is through-kindling,

Minne, dîn craft ist durchgründec,
Love, thy power is through-grounding,

dû bist ouch als überwündec,
thou art also so all-conquering,

daz nieman lebt sô sündec,
that no-one lives so sinful,

wiltû dich underwinden sîn,
(if)-wilt-thou thyself undertake of-him,

ern werde Gotes unt ouch dîn.
unless-he become God's and also thine.

Dû île, Minne, kum her abe,
Thou hasten, Love, come hither down,

brinc uns dîn süeze unt ervar,
bring us thy sweetness and find-out,

wie sich dîn gerndiu diet gehabe:
how itself thy yearning people fares:

Minne, der ruoch unt nim ir war!
Love, of-them care and take their heed!

In der herze sünde ist swære,
In whose heart sin is heavy,

die tuo aller sünden lære:
them make of-all sins empty:

Minne, den gip sinne,
Love, to-them give senses,

dâ von ir heil beginne!
there from their salvation may-begin!

Sünde enbirt wol Minne namen,
Sin forgoes well Love's name,

Minne sol sich sünden schamen:
Love shall herself of-sins be-ashamed:

sünde enist niht minne,
sin is not love,

Minne ist ir tœtærinne.
Love is her slayer.

Dô Minne des niht wolde enbern,
When Love of-that not would forgo,

sin solde Got ir bete gewern,
unless-her should God her prayer grant,

dô muoste er sîner tohter gern
then must he his daughter desire

menschlîchen zeiner muoter:
humanly as-a mother:

Sus wart diu tohter muoter sîn
Thus became the daughter mother his

unt ouch der vater ir kindelîn:
and also the father her little-child:

Minne, der rât der was ouch dîn:
Love, the counsel that was also thine:

wâ wart ie rât sô guoter?
where was ever counsel so good?

Dô dirre junge was geborn,
When this young-one was born,

dô wart versüenet al der zorn,
then was atoned all the wrath,

der von Âdâmes valle
which from Adam's fall

Ûf al der werlde was gelegen,
On all the world was laid,

der wart durch disen jungen degen
that was through this young warrior

versüenet al mit alle
atoned all with all

mit grôzer vröuden schalle
with great joy's sound

Wart er enphangen schône
Was he received beautifully

von aller engel dône:
by of-all angels tune:

er wart genant Jêsus Crist:
he was named Jesus Christ:

der Got was unt immer ist
who God was and ever is

sunder menschlîchen list,
without human craft,

wart vermært in kurzer vrist.
was proclaimed in short time.

Ein sterne wîste künege drî
A star guided kings three

von Saba unt von Arabî
from Sheba and from Arabia

ze Bethlehem, aldâ er was,
to Bethlehem, where he was,

des sîn muoter meit genas:
of-whom his mother maid delivered:

golt, wîrouch, mirren brâhten sie
gold, frankincense, myrrh brought they

unt legeten sich im ûf ir knie.
and laid themselves to-him on their knees.

Hôhen künegen, armer diet
To-high kings, to-poor people

wold er sich beiden künden,
would he himself to-both make-known,

dô er den velthirten beschiet,
when he to-the field-shepherds told,

wie unt wâ si in vünden:
how and where they him should-find:

hie erkenne ich daz der selbe Crist
here perceive I that the same Christ

gelîche veile uns allen ist.
equally available to-us all is.

Swaz Ysaias von im sanc,
Whatever Isaiah of him sang,

den sîn geburt ze sange twanc,
whom his birth to song compelled,

daz ist allez worden wâr
that is all become true

unt ouch Sibillen sprüche gar
and also Sibyl's sayings wholly

an disem süezen kinde.
in this sweet child.

Sîn geburt ist sanges wert:
His birth is of-song worthy:

des aller engel vröude gert,
which of-all angels joy desires,

daz ist diser himelhabe,
that is this heaven-haven,

der durch uns wart ein crippenknabe
who for us became a crib-boy

vor esel unt vor rinde:
before ass and before ox:

wart, welch ein stalgesinde!
look, what a stable-household!

Crist, lâz uns geniezen,
Christ, let us profit,

daz sich dîn starke goteheit
that itself thy strong godhead

durch minne lie besliezen
through love let enclose
in unser armen forme cleit!
in our poor form's garment!

des lâ dich niht verdriezen
of-that let thee not weary
unt lâ der süezen minne regen
and let of-the sweet love rain
in unser herze vliezen.
into our heart flow.

Wir Cristen heizen nâch dir, Crist!
We Christians are-called after thee, Christ!
sît daz dû unser gnanne bist,
since that thou our namesake art,

sô heb uns ûf — wir sîn erlegen —
so lift us up we are fallen
durch dîner süezen minne craft
through thy sweet love's power
unt vüer uns hin von sünden wegen,
and lead us away from sins' ways,
dar in wir sîn sô kerkerhaft:
there in we are so imprisoned:

lêr uns umb sünde riuwe phlegen
teach us for sin repentance keep
durch dîner sîten bluotes regen,
through thy side's blood's rain,

Den dû reiner unde guoter lieze schouwen dîne muoter
Which thou pure and good let behold thy mother

mit ansehenden ougen:
with beholding eyes:

Wie daz durch ir sêle wuote unt ir ouch ir herze gluote!
How that through her soul raged and to-her also her heart glowed!

daz truoc si vil tougen,
that bore she very secretly,

Unz daz er si doch gewerte mit dem Sîmeônes swerte
Until that he her yet granted with the Simeon's sword

marter der si gerte:
torment which she desired:

diu marter, die si sehende leit,
the torment, which she seeing suffered,

in swertes wîs ir herze sneit.
in sword's way her heart cut.

Die hât Minne al überwunden
That has Love all overcome

an dem criuze mit vünf wunden,
on the cross with five wounds,

den si doch gesunden
whom she yet healed

unt lebende brâht ûz sînem grabe
and living brought out-of his grave

ze himel in sînes vater habe.
to heaven into his father's haven.

Dâ hât diu Minne den gewalt,
There has the Love the power,

daz si unt der Barmunge rât
that she and of-the Mercy counsel

vor Gote sint sô manicvalt,
before God are so manifold,

daz er durch si tuot unde lât,
that he for them does and leaves,

unz disiu werlt ein ende hât.
until this world an end has.

Dar nâch sô gât diu Rehtikeit
There after so goes the Justice

mit vil gelîcher wâge vür:
with very even scale forth:

ez sî uns liep, ez sî uns leit,
it be to-us dear, it be to-us grievous,

si bringet mit ir willekür
she brings with her free-choice

si zwei in unser sünden spür.
them two into our sins' track.

Erbarme dich, mensch, über dich:
Have-pity thee, man, on thyself:

dû bist noch in genâden tagen:
thou art still in grace's days:

Got derst noch sô barmunge rîch,
God he-is still so in-mercy rich,

wiltû dich sündenriuwic tragen,
(if)-wilt-thou thyself sin-repentant bear,

son darftû niht an im verzagen.
so needst-thou not of him despair.

Nû helfe uns, diu nie müede wart
Now may-help us, she-who never weary became

ze biten umb unser missetât:
to pray for our misdeed:

daz ist diu, diu dô truoc verspart
that is she, who then bore locked

in ir, der uns erarnet hât:
in her, who for-us earned has:

al unser heil an in zwein stât!
all our salvation on them two stands!

Ich seite iu gerne, ich weiz wol waz

GOD AND THE INCARNATION

Twelve strophes of praise and prayer. The true Love compelled God to send his Son into death, and a maid's chastity and humility drew the message down to her. The Passion breaks hell, and Adam's souls rejoice at Gabriel's Ave. Of the Father's many virtues the poet chooses one to praise, his mercy. He sets out the Trinity, God as ring, roof, and ground, and the four evangelists with their figures, Matthew the man, Mark the lion, Luke the calf, and John the eagle. He prays that God, who must first give the will he asks of men, grant salvation to the poet's kin and to all Christians. Last he pictures heaven's host, the Trinity, Christ's mother, and all the saints, whom he prays to see.

Ich seite iu gerne, ich weiz wol waz: 1
I would-tell you gladly, I know well what:

diu wâre Minne Got betwungen hât, nû merket daz!
the true Love God compelled has, now mark that!

Erbermede unde Güete, die clagten Gote, wir wæren gar verlorn.
Mercy and Goodness, they lamented to-God, we were wholly lost.

Diu wâre Minne Got enbôt,
The true Love to-God sent-word,

daz er uns sante sînen sun her nider in den tôt
that he to-us should-send his son here down into the death

unt uns von helle erlôste: dar zuo het in diu wâre Minne erkorn.
and us from hell should-redeem: there to had him the true Love chosen.

Nu seht, alsô gewaltic ist diu Minne:
Now see, so mighty is the Love:

verswige ich daz, war tæte ich mîne sinne?
should-keep-silent I that, where would-use I my senses?

in twanc sîn gotelîchiu wirde,
him compelled his godly dignity,

daz er uns menschen wart genôz:
that he to-us men became fellow:

der künec ob allen künegen grôz
the king over all kings great

der ervulte gar der wâren Minne ir girde.
he fulfilled wholly of-the true Love her desire.

2 Dô wonte ein magt ûf erde hie,
Then dwelt a maid on earth here,

diu sante ir boten ûz nâch Gotes sun, — nû merket wie! —
who sent her messengers out after God's son, now mark how!—

ir kiusche unt ir dêmüete, ir zuht, ir scham, ir grôze reinikeit.
her chastity and her humility, her breeding, her modesty, her great purity.

Die latten Got mit ganzer craft,
They lured God with whole strength,

alsô daz er ir sante die hôchgelobten boteschaft;
so that he to-her sent the high-praised message;

daz si in magt gebære, daz wart ir von dem engel dô geseit.
that she him as-maid should-bear, that was to-her by the angel then told.

Dô die boten diu lieben mære vernâmen
When the messengers the dear tidings heard

unt si in ganzen glouben des bequâmen,
and they into whole faith of-it came,

der heilege Geist der enphienc sô schône
the holy Spirit he received so beautifully

daz kint mit manegen tugenden sô:
the child with many virtues so:

daz wonte undr ir brusten dô,
that dwelt under her breasts then,

unz si in gebar: waz geben wir ir ze lône?
until she him bore: what give we to-her as reward?

Dô Got her zerde wolte komen 3
When God hither to-earth would come

unt in gebar ein magt, die er im ze muoter hete genomen,
and him bore a maid, whom he for-himself as mother had taken,

dô huop sich unser sælde, an sînem lîbe huop sich ungemach.
then rose itself our blessedness, in his person rose itself hardship.

Am vrônen criuze er leit den tôt,
On-the holy cross he suffered the death,

dâ mit er uns erlôste ûz grôzer angst, ûz grôzer nôt:
there with he us redeemed out-of great fear, out-of great distress:

er gewan uns sæliclîchen, mit allem rehte er dô die helle brach.
he won us blessedly, with all right he then the hell broke.

Do erschein ein lieht, daz sante er uns ze trôste,
Then appeared a light, that sent he to-us for comfort,

dâ mit er vil manege sêle erlôste.
there with he very many souls redeemed.

sîn güete werde uns noch ze teile
his goodness become to-us yet as share

unt ouch sîn bluot, ê wir vervarn,
and also his blood, before we pass-away,

daz uns die sêle sol bewarn
that for-us the soul shall preserve

mit vröuden dort in êwiclîchem heile!
with joys there in eternal salvation!

Âdam unt manec verlorne sêl 4
Adam and many-a lost soul

vröute daz in der helle, dô der engel Gabriêl
rejoiced that in the hell, when the angel Gabriel

Avê Marîen kunte, daz reine wort, unt si in magt gebar,
Ave to-Mary announced, the pure word, and she him as-maid bore,

Den hôchgelobten reinen Got,
The high-praised pure God,

des menscheit an dem criuze leit den tôt nâch dem gebot,
whose manhood on the cross suffered the death after the command,

als in diu Minne lêrte unt im gebôt, daz wart ervüllet gar.
as him the Love taught and to-him commanded, that was fulfilled wholly.

Sîn sünden blôzer lîp der lie sich tœten,
His of-sins bare body it let itself kill,

sîn unschuldic tôt half uns ûz nœten:
his innocent death helped us out-of distresses:

er brach die hell nâch sînr urstende:
he broke the hell after his resurrection:

dô wart vil manic sêle erlôst.
then was very many-a soul redeemed.

nû bite ich dich, vil süezer trôst,
now pray I thee, very sweet comfort,

daz dû mir gebest wâr riwe vor mînem ende.
that thou to-me may-give true repentance before my end.

Got vater, dîner manegen tugent
God father, of-thy many virtues

unt dînes suns, die der begangen hât in sîner jugent,
and of-thy son, which he performed has in his youth,

dern ist dekein sô cleine, si ensî dannoch menschen lobe ze grôz.
of-them is none so small, it unless-be still for-men's praise too great.

Der hân ich eine erwellet mir:
Of-them have I one chosen for-myself:

getorste ichz, hêrre, die wolt ich nû gerne loben an dir:
dared I-it, lord, it would I now gladly praise in thee:

diu selbe tugent ist alsô grôz, daz si dir selben ist genôz.
the same virtue is so great, that it to-thee thyself is equal.

Si was ie unt ist noch dîn râtgebinne
She was ever and is still thy counselor

unt ob allen tugenden küniginne:
and over all virtues queen:

mit hulden muoz ich dir si nennen:
with favor must I to-thee her name:

ez ist dîn reiniu barmekeit,
it is thy pure mercy,

diu unser tegelîchez leit
which our daily sorrow

dich, hêrre, tuot genædiclîch erkennen.
thee, lord, makes graciously to-know.

Got vater, sun, heiliger geist, 6
God father, son, holy spirit,

dû aller guoter dinge anegenge unt ende weist,
thou of-all good things beginning and end knowest,

dich gebar von einem worte ein reiniu magt nâch muoterlîcher traht.
thee bore from a word a pure maid after motherly bearing.

Diu geburt dir einen wol gezam:
The birth to-thee alone well befitted:

dîn menscheit an dem criuze den tôt durch uns an sich genam:
thy manhood on the cross the death for us upon itself took:

du erstüende an dem dritten tage, dîn tôt den unsern übervaht.
thou arose on the third day, thy death the ours overcame.

Swer dar an zwîvel, der denke an diu wunder,
Whoever there of doubts, he think of the wonders,

diu dû tæte unt vor den Juden besunder,
which thou didst and before the Jews especially,

unt geloube in drîen namen dich eine,
and believe in three names thee one,

daz dîn gewalt ist âne zil:
that thy power is without limit:

hilf mir, des ich dich biten wil,
help me, of-that I thee ask will,

daz riuwe unt bîht uns von den sünden reine.
that repentance and confession us of the sins may-cleanse.

7 Got aller guoter dinge ursprinc,
God of-all good things source,

Got aller wîte unt aller lenge ein umbegânder rinc,
God of-all width and of-all length an encircling ring,

Got aller hœhe ein dach, Got aller tiefe ein endelôser grunt!
God of-all height a roof, God of-all depth an endless ground!

Nû sich ûz dîner goteheit
Now look out-of thy godhead

her nidere, hêrre, in dîne tiure gekouften Cristenheit,
here down, lord, into thy dearly bought Christendom,

durch die dîn eineborner sun wart an dem vrône criuze wunt!
for which thy only-born son was on the holy cross wounded!

Mit sînem bluote mehelte er uns ze briuten:
With his blood betrothed he us as brides:

die liebe soltû, hêrre, an uns triuten
the love shalt-thou, lord, in us cherish

durch den, der uns dir hât gevrîet
for-the-sake-of him, who us for-thee has freed

von helle unt ûz des tievels cloben:
from hell and out-of the devil's claws:

den sulen wir mit samt dir loben
him shall we along with thee praise

vür einen Got unt doch die namen gedrîet.
for one God and yet the names threefold.

8 Jêsus, dû Gotes underbot,
Jesus, thou God's mediator,

Jêsus, dû menschenkint unt Got unt ebenmehtic Got,
Jesus, thou man's-child and God and equal-mighty God,

dû himelsippe vaterhalp, dû erdensippe muoterhalp,
thou heaven-kin father's-side, thou earth-kin mother's-side,

Dû vaterhalp Jôhannes ar,
Thou father's-side John's eagle,

dû lewe Marcus, dû muoterhalp Mathêus mensche gar,
thou lion Mark, thou mother's-side Matthew man wholly,

hie mit bezeichenunge an Lûcas stat geformet als ein kalp!
here with signification in Luke's stead formed as a calf!

Die vier êwangelisten unt ir bilde
The four evangelists and their figures

sint ungelêrten liuten gar ze wilde.
are to-unlearned people wholly too strange.

waz ar, waz lewe, waz mensche meine,
what eagle, what lion, what man may-mean,

waz kalp betiute an Lûcas stat,
what calf may-signify in Luke's stead,

der ane Crist ie missetrat,
whoever about Christ ever misstepped,

wær im daz kunt, der wurd gar zwîvels eine.
were to-him that known, he would-become wholly of-doubt free.

Mathêus menschen bilde hât: 9
Matthew man's figure has:

wie Got ein mensche wart, von im uns daz geschriben stât
how God a man became, of him to-us that written stands

in manegem êwangeljô, diu Got selber sprach durch sînen munt.
in many-a gospel, which God himself spoke through his mouth.

Wie Got alsam ein kalp vertruoc
How God as a calf endured

den tôt an der menscheit, wie man in an daz criuze sluoc,
the death in the manhood, how one him on the cross nailed,

daz machet Lûcas kalp mit sîner schrift von Cristes tôde uns kunt.
that makes Luke's calf with his writing of Christ's death to-us known.

Wie er von tôde erstuont mit lewen crefte,
How he from death arose with lion's strength,

daz schrîbet Marcus lewe mit meisterschefte:
that writes Mark's lion with mastery:

Jôhannes ar von der gotheite
John's eagle of the godhead

die hôhen wîsheit niht enspart:
the high wisdom not spared:

in arn wîs Gotes himelvart
in eagle's way God's heavenward-journey

dô gap unt gît noch maneger sêle geleite.
then gave and gives still to-many-a soul guidance.

Got hêrre, swes dû an uns gerst,
God lord, whatever thou of us desirest,

des mugen wir dich niht wol gewern, ê daz dû uns gewerst,
that can we thee not well grant, before that thou us grantest,

wiltû von uns reine gedanke, reinen muot unt reinez leben.
(if)-wilt-thou from us pure thoughts, pure mind and pure life.

Wâ suln wir, hêrre Got, daz nemen?
Where shall we, lord God, that take?

dîn reinikeit diu welle uns reinen sô daz wir dir zemen!
thy purity it may-will us purify so that we to-thee befit!

wiltû daz wir nâch dînem willen leben, den willen muost uns geben.
(if)-wilt-thou that we after thy will live, the will must-thou to-us give.

Wer kan iht guotes âne dich beginnen?
Who can anything of-good without thee begin?

wes herze mac dich sunder dich geminnen?
whose heart can thee without thee love?

wie kunnen wir dir, hêrre, geleisten
how can we to-thee, lord, perform

iht guotes âne dîn volleist,
anything of-good without thy help,

die uns ze gebene hât dîn geist?
which to-us to give has thy spirit?

den selben geist lâ, hêrre Got, uns geisten!
the same spirit let, lord God, us inspirit!

Got hêrre, gip uns hiute heil, 11
God lord, give us today salvation,

sô daz uns müeze werden alles des gebetes ein teil,
so that to-us may become of-all the prayer a share,

des hiute wirt gesprochen, sô wît diu Cristenheit begriffen hât.
which today is spoken, as wide the Christendom embraced has.

Vater unde muoter mîn,
Father and mother mine,

bruoder unde swester, sulen ouch dar inne sîn,
brother and sister, shall also there in be,

dar zuo mîne mâge: über al die mîn gebet ze rehte stât.
there to my kinsmen: over all whom my prayer by right stands.

Dar zuo sô wünsche ich des den Cristen allen,
There to so wish I this to-the Christians all,

daz si in houbetsünden iht vervallen,
that they into mortal-sins not fall,

unt daz wir werden alsô vunden,
and that we be so found,

sô Got an dem gerihte stê,
when God at the judgment stand,

daz wir vor immer wernder wê
that we from ever lasting woe

mit sîner craft des tages dâ werden enbunden.
with his power of-the day there be released.

Hei wie wunniclich ein schar, 12
Hey how blissful a host,

dâ diu vil reine Trinitât in ein gesament gar
where the very pure Trinity in one gathered wholly

ze voller angesihte unt ouch diu edele muoter bî gestât,
to full sight and also the noble mother by stands,

Diu aller güete ist übervluot,
Who of-all goodness is overflowing,

ich meine Cristes muoter, diu dâ bezzer ist dan guot;
I mean Christ's mother, who there better is than good;

prophêten, patrîarchen; der engel schar ouch dâ vil schœne hât;
prophets, patriarchs; of-the angels host also there very beautifully has;

Zwelf boten unde vier êwangelisten,
Twelve apostles and four evangelists,

marteræ re unt ander guote Cristen,
martyrs and other good Christians,

bîhtære, megde, witwen, vrouwen
confessors, maidens, widows, ladies

unt alle Gotes heilegen gar:
and all God's saints wholly:

hêrre Got, nû hilf uns dar,
lord God, now help us thither,

daz wir si dort mit vröuden müezen schouwen!
that we them there with joys may behold!

Got vater unser, dâ dû bist

THE PATERNOSTER AND THE VIRGIN

Ten strophes. The first renders the Lord's Prayer line by line. The rest praise Mary: her royal birth, her purity that outshines all, her lap that held him whom heaven could not contain, Gabriel's greeting, the sweet Emmanuel. Eve's bite is now fully lamented, since a maid has borne God and stays a maid. The poet names five of Mary's joys, from the angel's greeting to her being led home, and calls all Christians to serve one Lady without envy. Whoever would lie lovingly should kneel to her, whose goodness becomes his mattress and coverlet. He hails her as heaven's lady, reconciler, and portress, who with her Son shields us from sin. Last comes an Ave Maria prayed in his own voice.

Got vater unser, dâ dû bist 13
God father our, there thou art

in dem himelrîche gewaltic alles des dir ist,
in the heaven-kingdom mighty of-all that to-thee is,

geheiligt, sô werde dîn nam, zuo müeze uns komen daz rîche dîn!
hallowed, so become thy name, to may to-us come the kingdom thine!

Dîn wille werde dem gelîch
Thy will be the like

hie ûf der erde als in den himeln, des gewer unsich!
here on the earth as in the heavens, that grant us!

nû gip uns unser tegelich brôt unt swes wir dar nâch dürftic sîn!
now give us our daily bread and whatever we there after needy are!

Vergip uns allen sament unser schulde,
Forgive us all together our debts,

als dû wilt, daz wir durch dîne hulde
as thou wilt, that we for thy favor

vergeben, der wir ie genâmen
forgive, of-whom we ever took

deheinen schaden, swie grôz er sî:
any harm, however great it be:

vor sünden kor sô mache uns vrî
from sins' temptation so make us free

unt lœse uns ouch von allem übele! Âmen!
and deliver us also from all evil! Amen!

14 Ich wil iu singen, merket daz,
I will to-you sing, mark that,

von unser vrouwen lobe, daz wir si êren deste baz:
of our lady's praise, that we her honor the better:

von küneges künne ist si geborn, des müezen mir die wîsen jehen.
of king's kin is she born, of-that must to-me the wise avow.

Got der geschuof nie niht sô clâr,
God he created never anything so bright,

sin überliuhte ez allez: daz ist endelîchen wâr:
unless-she outshone it all: that is assuredly true:

sô kiusche unt ouch sô reine wart nie küniginne mê gesehen.
so chaste and also so pure was never queen more seen.

Si kan niht zürnen, si kan vil wol süenen,
She can not be-angry, she can very well reconcile,

si machet manegen dürren muot vil grüenen:
she makes many-a dry mind very green:

ir süeze süezet alle siure:
her sweetness sweetens all sourness:

der himel unt erde was ze grôz,
to-whom heaven and earth was too great,

den enphienc diu maget in ir schôz;
him received the maid in her lap;

nû sprechet an: wâ wart ie magt sô tiure?
now speak out: where was ever maid so precious?

Ô wol dir, Gabrîêles munt! 15
O well to-thee, Gabriel's mouth!

dû tæte ein kint der reinen minniclîchen megde kunt:
thou madest a child to-the pure lovely maiden known:

dêst reiner herzen wunne unt Cristen sêle ein immer wernder hort.
that-is of-pure hearts bliss and of-Christian souls an ever lasting hoard.

Ez was der süeze Emanûêl,
It was the sweet Emmanuel,

den dû Marîen kundest, vil werder engel Gabrîêl!
whom thou to-Mary announcedst, very worthy angel Gabriel!

'Got mit uns'! des güete wart nie vollobt von menschen zungen wort.
'God with us'! whose goodness was never fully-praised by men's tongues' word.

Wol uns der grôzen êren, daz der reine
Well for-us of-the great honor, that the pure

Got wart menschenkint mit uns gemeine!
God became man's-child with us in-common!

im wart vil maneger hande swære
to-him became very many-a kind-of heaviness

âne sünden brœde bekant:
without sins' frailty known:

Jêsus Crist ist er genant,
Jesus Christ is he named,

Marîen sun, der süeze unt vröudebære.
Mary's son, the sweet and joy-bearing.

Grôz wunder, daz uns ist geschehen 16
Great wonder, that to-us is happened

von einer megde, des mir alle Cristen müezen jehen!
from a maiden, of-which to-me all Christians must avow!

den des himels wîte nie umbevie, diu ende nie gewan
whom the heaven's width never encompassed, which end never had

Noch mit der hœhe in umbevie
Nor with the height him encompassed

noch mit der wîten tiefen grundelôsen helle nie,
nor with the wide deep groundless hell ever,

den umbevie ir cleiner lîp: dâ merket alle wunder an!
him encompassed her small body: there mark all wonders in!

Si leite in minniclîchen zuo ir schôzen; —
She laid him lovingly to her lap;—

waz wunders mac dem wunder sich genôzen? —
what of-wonder may with-the wonder itself compare?—

kintlîchen leite er sich zir brusten,
childlike laid he himself to-her breasts,

muoterlîchen sougte si in,
motherly suckled she him,

si wante ir ougen dicke an in:
she turned her eyes often on him:

wir habenz dâ vür, si hiels in unde kusten.
we have-it there for, she embraced him and kissed-him.

17 Nû sî vrôn Êven biz verclagt,
Now be lady Eve's bite fully-lamented,

sît daz mensche ist worden Got von einer reinen magt:
since that man is become God from a pure maid:

diu magt ist muoter worden, sô daz ir megtlich êre ist ganz beliben.
the maid is mother become, so that her maidenly honor is whole remained.

Ir kiusche wîzer liljenglanz
Her chastity's white lily-gleam

ist unverwest unt ouch sîn gotelîchiu flamme ganz:
is unwithered and also his godly flame whole:

sô minniclîcher orden wart nie von muoter lîbe mêr geschriben.
so lovely order was never by mother's body more written.

Si hât den starken Got uns überwunden,
She has the strong God for-us overcome,

daz sîn gewalt ist sô von ir gebunden,
that his power is so by her bound,

daz er niht wan genâde biutet:
that he nothing save grace offers:

vride unt stæte suone er gît.
peace and steadfast reconciliation he gives.

waz êren an ir kiusche lît!
what of-honors in her chastity lies!

nû wol im wart, der si von herzen triutet!
now well to-him became, who her from heart cherishes!

Marîa, küniginne hêr, 18
Mary, queen noble,

dû lâz uns geniezen, daz diu werlt in rehter ger
thou let us profit, that the world in right desire

gert, vrouwe, dîner helfe: nû hilf uns ouch durch al die vröude dîn;
desires, lady, thy help: now help us also through all the joy thine;

Der ich dir vünve nenne hie:
Of-which I to-thee five name here:

diu êrste, daz dîn heilic lîp den hôhen gruoz enphie,
the first, that thy holy body the high greeting received,

den dir der engel brâhte, daz dû Gotes muoter soltest sîn;
which to-thee the angel brought, that thou God's mother shouldst be;

Diu ander, daz dû Jêsum Crist gebære;
The second, that thou Jesus Christ bore;

diu dritte, dazt in grôzen vröuden wære,
the third, that-thou in great joys were,

dô man dir seite sîne urstende;
when one to-thee told his resurrection;

diu vierde was sîn himelvart;
the fourth was his heavenward-journey;

diu vünfte an dir ervüllet wart,
the fifth in thee fulfilled was,

dô er dich hein vuorte âne missewende.
when he thee home led without fault.

19 Ez ist vil manegem minner leit,
It is very to-many-a lover grievous,

ob ieman sîner vrouwen dienet ûf genædikeit:
if anyone his lady serves upon grace:

wand er wil eine ir einer dienen umb ir hulde unt umb ir gruoz.
for he will alone her alone serve for her favor and for her greeting.

Nû grîfen alle Cristen zuo
Now reach all Christians to

unt dienen mîner vrouwen, dienen spâte, dienen vruo,
and serve my lady, serve late, serve early,

mit mînem guoten willen si tuot in allen aller sorgen buoz.
with my good will she makes to-them all of-all cares amends.

Der diener keiner sol den andern nîden,
Of-the servants none shall the other envy,

si suln alle unkiusche ouch gar vermîden:
they shall all unchastity also wholly avoid:

sist rein, sin muotet niht wan reines,
she-is pure, she desires nothing save purity,

ir wont diu wâre minne bî,
to-her dwells the true love by,

si ist alles wandels vrî:
she is of-all blemish free:

er sælic man, dem si gewinket eines!
he blessed man, to-whom she beckons once!

Swer gerne minniclîchen lige 20
Whoever gladly lovingly would-lie

unt in den selben vröuden doch den sünden an gesige,
and in the same joys yet the sins over triumph,

den wîse ich an ein bette, dâ er vil maneger vröude nietet sich:
him direct I to a bed, where he very many-a joy enjoys himself:

Lege sich ûf sîniu baren knie
Lay himself on his bare knees

unt ruofe tugentlîch zuo der magt, diu sünde nie begie,
and call virtuously to the maid, who sin never committed,

spreche anders niht wan: 'vrouwe,
say otherwise nothing save: 'lady,

durch dîne grôze güete erhœre mich!'
through thy great goodness hear me!'

Wie kunde er baz geligen unt geminnen?
How could he better lie and love?

mac er die vrowen erwerben unt gewinnen,
may he the lady attain and win,

diu kan wol wernde vröude machen:
she can well lasting joy make:

ir güete vröut ie baz unt baz,
her goodness gladdens ever better and better,

ir güete wirt sîn materaz,
her goodness becomes his mattress,

sô wirt ob im ir güete sîn declachen.
so becomes over him her goodness his coverlet.

Dû sünden blôz, dû valsches bar, 21
Thou of-sins bare, thou of-falsehood free,

dû himelvrowe gewaltic über al der engel schar,
thou heaven-lady mighty over all the angels host,

des himels unt der erde unt swes dîn kint dar inne begriffen hât!
of-the heaven and of-the earth and whatever thy child there in embraced has!

Dû Cristes muoter, reiniu magt,
Thou Christ's mother, pure maid,

du erliuhtest vinster naht, als si mit sunnen sî betagt,
thou lightest dark night, as-if it with sun be dawned,

dû gruntvest stæter triuwen, dû schirmærinne Gotes hantgetât!
thou foundation of-steadfast faith, thou protectress of-God's handiwork!

Du süenærinne Cristen, Juden, heiden,
Thou reconciler of-Christians, Jews, heathens,

diu wol daz übel ze guote kan bescheiden,
who well the evil to good can resolve,

dû portnærîn, vor helle banden
thou portress, before hell's bonds

gar sünder trôst, dîn helfe ich spür:
wholly sinners comfort, thy help I trace:

dû unt dîn sun, des heiles tür,
thou and thy son, of-the salvation door,

sint unser schirm vor sünden unt vor schanden.
are our shield before sins and before shames.

22 Gegrüezet sîstû, künigîn,
Greeted be-thou, queen,

Marîa, ganzer tugende ein durchliuhtiger sunnenschîn!
Mary, of-whole virtue a radiant sunshine!

dû bist ouch volliclîchen aller genâde ein immer wernder hort.
thou art also fully of-all grace an ever lasting hoard.

Unser hêrre sî mit dir,
Our lord be with thee,

sô daz ir mit einander beidiu sît genædic mir
so that you with one-another both are gracious to-me

unt von mir sündære geruocht vernemen mîniu clagenden wort!
and from me sinner deign hear my lamenting words!

Dîn hôhe gnâde, vrouwe, an mir erzeige,
Thy high grace, lady, on me show,

ê mich diu wilde tôdes angest neige:
before me the wild death's fear bow:

gebenedît vor allen wîben
blessed before all women

sî dîn reiner, kiuscher lîp!
be thy pure, chaste body!

dû muotermagt unt niht ein wîp,
thou mother-maid and not a woman,

gesegent sî dîn vruht vor allen lîben!
blessed be thy fruit before all bodies!

Er ist ein sældenrîcher man

LOVE AND THE LADY

Sixteen strophes on love. A man is blessed when he serves a lady who keeps measure, but some women love raiders, fools, or the rich. Hope and doubt drive the poet's mind; he would take a sweet Yes from his lady in place of her No, a word harder than stone. Like Tristan, he has drunk love out of her eyes, and only her red mouth can heal him. He asks her to look into his heart. Love is praised as mistress of land, sea, and air, as the one school whose rod tames wild men, and as the best word of all. Pure women are worthier than the sun, and a chaste woman is woman, lady, and angel at once. The poet teaches women their virtues and how to tell good men from bad.

23 Er ist ein sældenrîcher man,
He is a blessedness-rich man,

der mit stætem dienste wil wesen vrouwen undertân,
who with steadfast service will be to-ladies subject,

ob sich des underwindet ein reine wîp, diu rehter mâze phligt.
if herself of-that undertakes a pure woman, who right measure keeps.

Sumlîch sint aber sô gemuot,
Some are but so minded,

swaz si hiute unprîsent, daz si daz morne dunket guot.
whatever they today dispraise, that to-them that tomorrow seems good.

wie sol man den gewarten? den hât Unmâz volliclîch an gesigt!
how shall one those attend? them has Immoderation fully over triumphed!

Diu eine minnet brennen, dander rouben,
The one loves burning, the-other robbing,

disiu mint den vrechen, diu den touben,
this-one loves the bold, that-one the senseless,

sumlîche welnt zen hübschen phlihten,
some choose to-the courtly duties,

sumlîche minnent die tumben gar,
some love the foolish wholly,

etlîche nement der rîchen war:
some take of-the rich heed:

er sælic man, der sich dâ mac verrihten!
he blessed man, who himself there can set-right!

Gedinge hœhet mir den muot; 24
Hope raises for-me the mind;

nû nidert in ein sorge, diu mir vil dicke unsanfte tuot:
now lowers it a care, which to-me very often painfully does:

swen ich in hôhem wâne mit vröuden bin, sô trüebet mich ein leit.
when I in high hope with joys am, so dims me a sorrow.

Den wehsel trîbet mîn gedanc
The exchange drives my thought

hin unde her, der zwîvel mich ie herzeclîchen twanc.
hither and thither, the doubt me ever heartily forced.

kund ich mich des vereinen mit ir, daz si sô lange mir verseit,
could I myself of-that agree with her, that she so long to-me refuses,

Hôrt ich ein süezez Jâ noch von ir munde,
Should-hear I a sweet Yes yet from her mouth,

daz si vil minniclîchen sprechen kunde,
which she very lovingly speak could,

diu reine süeze wol getâne,
the pure sweet well made-one,

daz næm ich vür ein wârez Nein:
that would-take I for a true No:

daz wort ist herter dan ein stein:
that word is harder than a stone:

swas vil geschiht, dâ wirt man vriundes âne.
where-of-it much happens, there becomes one of-friend without.

25 Tristram der leit vil grôze nôt,
Tristan he suffered very great distress,

von eines wîbes minne lac er vil jæmerlîchen tôt:
from a woman's love lay he very wretchedly dead:

daz quam von sînen triuwen: der selben minne ûz eime glase er tranc.
that came from his faith: of-the same love out-of a glass he drank.

Daz selbe ouch ich getrunken hân
That same also I drunk have

ûz mîner vrouwen ougen, des ich in grôzem kumber stân:
out-of my lady's eyes, of-which I in great trouble stand:

des mac mir niht gehelfen des meien schîn noch cleiner vogellîn sanc.
of-that can me not help the May's shine nor of-little birds song.

Si hât mich verwundet alsô sêre
She has me wounded so sorely

durch mîn herze mit ir minnegêre,
through my heart with her love-spear,

ezn sî daz mich ir trôst noch heile,
unless-it be that me her comfort yet heal,

ich wære anders schiere tôt,
I would-be otherwise soon dead,

wan ir vil süezer munt sô rôt
unless her very sweet mouth so red

der werde noch mir senedem man ze teile.
it become yet to-me longing man as share.

26 Vrouwe, mîner vröuden heil,
Lady, of-my joys salvation,

mînes lîbes wunne unt aller mîner sælden teil,
of-my person's bliss and of-all my blessedness share,

dîn güete mich betwinget, daz ich dir immer spriche lobes wort.
thy goodness me compels, that I to-thee ever speak praise's words.

Ob allen vrouwen sælic wîp,
Over all ladies blessed woman,

in wîplîcher vuore minniclîcher schœner lîp,
in womanly bearing lovely beautiful person,

der werdikeit ein bluome, wîplîcher zuht unt êren ganzer hort,
of-the worthiness a flower, of-womanly breeding and honors whole hoard,

Dîn rôter munt, dîn liehter ougen blicke
Thy red mouth, thy bright eyes' glances

hânt mich verwundet in der minne stricke,
have me wounded in the love's snares,

sô daz ich herz unt al die sinne
so that I heart and all the senses

in dîn genâde hân gegeben.
into thy grace have given.

swie dû wilt, sô wil ich leben;
however thou wilt, so will I live;

ich bin dîn dienst, dû mîn gebietærinne!
I am thy service, thou my commandress!

Sich umbe dich, vil sælic wîp, 27
Look around thee, very blessed woman,

in mînem herzen: vindest dû ieman dâ wan dînen lîp,
in my heart: (if)-findest thou anyone there save thy person,

sô lâ mich gar verderben, mit ungenâden an mîn ende leben!
so let me wholly perish, with disfavor to my end live!

Sîst aber dû dâ gewaltic mîn,
(If)-art but thou there mighty of-me,

vil sælic wîp, sô lâ mich baz in dînen hulden sîn!
very blessed woman, so let me better in thy favor be!

in kan niht wol gewerben; dîn tugende hânt mîn herze dir gegeben.
I can not well woo; thy virtues have my heart to-thee given.

Daz hâstû, sælic vrouwe, gar durchgangen:
That hast-thou, blessed lady, wholly passed-through:

ich hân dich dicke schône drin gevangen:
I have thee often beautifully therein caught:

swenne ich sô lieb an dich gedâhte,
whenever I so dearly of thee thought,

sô wart mir eine wîle baz:
so was to-me a while better:

dar nâch ich dicke trûric saz:
there after I often sorrowful sat:

diz kurze liep mir langez leit ie brâhte.
this short joy to-me long sorrow ever brought.

28 Sît triuwe ist al der werlde guot,
Since faith is of-all the world good,

sît triuwe ist al der sælden dach, getriuwelîchen muot
since faith is of-all the blessedness roof, faithful mind

hân ich gein der vil guoten, diu mînes herzen küniginne ie was
have I toward the very good-one, who of-my heart queen ever was

Unt immer muoz ân ende sîn
And ever must without end be

mir liep, vor allen vrouwen liep, diu liebe vrouwe mîn,
to-me dear, before all ladies dear, the dear lady mine,

si minniclîch, si guote, mîn triuwe ist vester dan ein adamas
she lovely, she good, my faith is firmer than an adamant

Gein ir: sist mînes wunsches paradîse
Toward her: she-is of-my wish paradise

unt mîner wunne gar ein blüendez rîse
and of-my bliss wholly a blooming branch

unt mînes altrs ein süeziu jugende,
and of-my age a sweet youth,

mîner sælde ein hôher vunt,
of-my blessedness a high find,

mîner vröude ein wernder grunt:
of-my joy a lasting ground:

mich trœst ir schœn, ir kiusche unt ouch ir tugende.
me comforts her beauty, her chastity and also her virtues.

Der guoten wîbe werdikeit 29
The good women's worthiness

wil ich mit worten unt mit sange immer machen breit
will I with words and with song ever make broad

von getriuwes herzen grunde durch die vil herzelieben vrouwen mîn,
from faithful heart's ground for the very heart-dear lady mine,

An der mîn hôhstiu vröude stât:
On whom my highest joy stands:

ir kiusche, ir schœne, ir minniclîcher lîp beslozzen hât
her chastity, her beauty, her lovely person enclosed has

mîn herze sît der stunde, daz mich enphienc ir liehter ougen schîn.
my heart since the hour, that me received her bright eyes' shine.

Dâ wart ich alsô minniclîch enphangen,
There was I so lovingly received,

dâ von mîn trûren was vil gar zergangen:
there from my sorrowing was very wholly dissolved:

swâ si nû sî, diu minniclîche,
wherever she now be, the lovely-one,

si ist mir in dem herzen bî;
she is to-me in the heart near;

ir lîp ist alles wandels vrî:
her person is of-all blemish free:

dâ von bin ich an hôhem muote rîche.
there from am I in high spirit rich.

Wir wellen, daz diu Minne sî 30
We will, that the Love be

in dem wâge unt ûf der erde unt ouch den lüften bî,
in the sea and on the earth and also the airs by,

dar zuo in himelrîche, sô ist si wert, vrô Minne, unt ouch vil liep.
there to in heaven-kingdom, so is she worthy, lady Love, and also very dear.

Sît si der meisterschefte phligt,
Since she the mastery keeps,

daz si den hôhen künegen als den armen an gesigt,
that she the high kings as the poor over triumphs,

son darf ouch ich niht zürnen, unt stilt si mir gedanke alsam ein diep.
so need also I not rage, and (if)-steals she me thoughts like a thief.

Nû sprechet an: ob man vrôn Minnen sæhe,
Now speak out: if one lady Love saw,

waz man ir gewaldes danne jæhe,
what one of-her power then would-avow,

sît si sô tougenlîchen twingen
since she so secretly compel

mac beidiu wîp unde man.
can both women and men.

diu Minne wol gevüegen kan
the Love well join can

liep unde leit, die zuo ir habent gedingen.
joy and sorrow, which to her have hope.

31 Alle schuol sint gar ein wint
All schools are wholly a wind

wan diu schuole al eine, dâ der Minne junger sint:
save the school all alone, where the Love's disciples are:

diu ist sô künsterîche, daz man ir muoz der meisterschefte jehen.
that is so art-rich, that one to-her must the mastery avow.

Ir besem zamt sô wilden man,
Her rod tames so wild man,

daz er nie gehôrte noch gesach, daz er daz kan:
that he never heard nor saw, that he that can:

wâ hât ieman mêre sô hôher schuole gehœret oder gesehen?
where has anyone more so high school heard or seen?

Diu Minne lêrt die vrouwen schône grüezen,
The Love teaches the ladies beautifully greet,

diu Minne lêret manegen spruch vil süezen,
the Love teaches many-a saying very sweet,

diu Minne lêret grôze milte,
the Love teaches great generosity,

diu Minne lêret grôze tugent,
the Love teaches great virtue,

diu Minne lêret, daz diu jugent
the Love teaches, that the youth

kan ritterlîch gebâren under schilte.
can knightly bear-itself under shield.

Minne ist ein daz beste wort, 32
Love is a the best word,

Minne ist ein übergulde, ob allen tugenden kamerhort,
Love is an overgilding, over all virtues treasury-hoard,

Minne ist ein sloz der sinne, dâ mite man guotiu werc besliezen sol.
Love is a lock of-the senses, there with one good works lock shall.

Sist lêremeister reiner site,
She-is teaching-master of-pure manner,

si wont den kiuschen liuten unt der Stæte gerne mite,
she dwells to-the chaste people and to-the Constancy gladly with,

Untriuwe unt ir gesinde, diu schiuhet Minne, den ist mit übel wol.
Faithlessness and her household, they shun Love, to-them is with evil well.

Minne ist als edel, daz wizzet sicherlîchen,
Love is so noble, that know certainly,

ir kan in der werlde niht gelîchen
to-her can in the world nothing be-like

wan daz man nennet wîbes bilde,
save that one names woman's image,

unt ist den wîsen liuten zam;
and is to-the wise people tame;

si sterket êre, triuwe unt scham
she strengthens honor, faith and shame

unt ist dâ bî vil manegem tôren wilde.
and is there by to-very many-a fool wild.

33 Wîbes minne ist rehter hort;
Woman's love is right hoard;

swer sich versinne, der wege in hie unt dort ûf elliu ort;
whoever himself bethinks, he weigh it here and there on all places;

sô muoz er mir bekennen, daz wîbes minne niht gelîchen kan.
so must he to-me acknowledge, that woman's love not be-likened can.

Vrouwen lachen bringet gelt,
Ladies' laughing brings payment,

daz mannes herze in vröuden gein ir lachen vert in zelt,
that man's heart in joys toward their laughing goes in ambling,

dâ mite si von den sinnen vrouwen bringent manegen wîsen man.
there with they from the senses ladies bring many-a wise man.

Wîp, mit scham sich vür dich ûf die erden;
Woman, with shame look before thee on the earth;

wiltû mannes sünden über werden,
(if)-wilt-thou of-man's sins over become,

sô minne Got in herzen tougen,
so love God in heart secretly,

sô minnet er dîn kiuschen lîp:
so loves he thy chaste body:

sô hôhe minnent reiniu wîp:
so highly love pure women:

zuht meisterschaft zimt wol in vrouwen ougen.
breeding mastery befits well in ladies' eyes.

34 Got hât mit hôher werdikeit
God has with high worthiness

gar sînen vlîz vür elliu dinc an reiniu wîp geleit,
wholly his diligence before all things on pure women laid,

daz si getiuret sint über allez daz daz in der werlde lebt.
that they made-precious are over all that which in the world lives.

Ir werdikeit ist sô geslaht,
Their worthiness is so natured,

daz ir lop hât übervlogen alles lobes maht,
that their praise has flown-over of-all praise might,

sô daz ir lop gelîche ob allem lobe schône als ein crône swebt.
so that their praise likewise over all praise beautifully as a crown hovers.

Diu reinen wîp sint werder dan diu sunne:
The pure women are worthier than the sun:

nieman lebt, der wîp volloben kunne
no-one lives, who women fully-praise can

noch ir lop müge vollen tihten:
nor their praise may fully compose:

daz in ûf erde iht sî gelîch
that to-them on earth anything be like

mit êren reines muotes rîch,
with honors of-pure mind rich,

wizze ieman daz, den bite ich michs berihten.
(if)-know anyone that, him ask I me-of-it to-inform.

Ein wîp, diu gar gevrîet hât 35
A woman, who wholly freed has

ir leben unt ouch ir lîp vor aller missezemender tât,
her life and also her body from all unbefitting deed,

die hât ir herze gevürstet, swie si niht lande noch der liute habe.
her has her heart made-princely, though she not lands nor of-the people have.

Sint ir gedanke unkiusche vrî,
(If)-are her thoughts of-unchastity free,

unkiuscher worte ir munt, sô jehen wir, daz si beide sî
of-unchaste words her mouth, so avow we, that she both be

ein engel unt ein wîp; des lobes gât ir nimmer guot man abe.
an angel and a woman; of-that praise goes her never good man off.

Swer si dan wîp, vrouwe unt engel nennet,
Whoever her then woman, lady and angel names,

der hât bekant, des ir Got selbe bekennet:
he has acknowledged, what to-her God himself acknowledges:

von lîbe ein wîp, von tugende ein vrouwe,
by body a woman, by virtue a lady,

ein engel an der reinikeit,
an angel in the purity,

dâ mite der geist ie an gestreit
there with the spirit ever against strove

vleischlîcher gir, als sunne tuot dem touwe.
of-fleshly desire, as sun does to-the dew.

36 Vrouwen lop ist reinez leben:
Ladies' praise is pure life:

sunder reinez leben sô kan in nieman lop gegeben.
without pure life so can to-them no-one praise give.

ir êrsten lobe ist einez wîplîchiu zuht, daz ander senfte site.
of-their first praise is one womanly breeding, the other gentle manner.

Diu zwei lege in ir sorgen schrîn,
The two lay in her cares' shrine,

dâ bî sol ouch diu schame süeze, hôchgelobte sîn:
there by shall also the shame sweet, high-praised be:

erbermede unt diu güete, dâ wîbent sich die vrouwen sêre mite.
mercy and the goodness, there womanize themselves the ladies greatly with.

Vor wilden blicken unt vor vrîen worten
From wild glances and from free words

suln si ir lobes hüeten zallen orten;
shall they their praise guard at-all places;

mit kiusche suln si übergulden
with chastity shall they overgild

ir lop, ir leben unt ouch ir lîp,
their praise, their life and also their body,

sô daz vrouwen lîp 'ein wîp'
so that ladies' body 'a woman'

geheizen müge: daz sprich ich in ir hulden.
be-called may: that speak I in their favor.

Ich wil iuch lêren, werdiu wîp; 37
I will you teach, worthy women;

der lêre der volgt: sô wirt getiuret iuwer reiner lîp:
the teaching that follow: so becomes made-precious your pure body:

besliezt in iuwerm herzen tugende, kiusche unt dar zuo reinen muot!
lock in your heart virtues, chastity and there to pure mind!

Dâ bî sult ir iuch sêre schamen:
There by shall you yourselves greatly be-ashamed:

sît dêmüet unde wol gezogen, daz prîset iuwern namen,
be humble and well bred, that praises your name,

getriuwe unt êrebære, daz stât iu wol unt ist ouch vrouwen guot.
faithful and honorable, that stands to-you well and is also to-ladies good.

Der werlde hort lît gar an reinen wîben,
The world's hoard lies wholly on pure women,

ir lop daz sol man hœhen unde trîben:
their praise that shall one raise and drive:

swaz Got geschuof ie crêâtiure,
whatever God created ever of-creature,

daz überguldent reiniu wîp:
that overgild pure women:

ez wart geborn sîn selbes lîp
there was born his own person

von einer magt: daz gap er in ze stiure.
from a maid: that gave he to-them as dowry.

Ir vrouwen, scheidet man von man! 38
You ladies, distinguish man from man!

seht wol gemuoten man mit êregernden ougen an,
look well minded men with honor-desiring eyes at,

die ungelîch gemuoten dien sult ir niht gelîch gern ane sehen.
the unlike minded them shall you not alike gladly at look.

Der guote ist dar umbe guot,
The good-one is there for good,

daz er von iuwer wirde wirt ie baz unt baz gemuot;
that he from your worth becomes ever better and better minded;

dâ bî sol dem versmæhten nimmer herzeliep von iu geschehen.
there by shall to-the despised never heart's-joy from you happen.

An swem ein vrouwe unrehtez leben erkenne,
On to-whomever a lady wrong life perceive,

diu criuze ir ôren, swâ man ir den nenne,
she cross her ears, wherever one to-her him name,

tuo zuo ir ougen unt ir herze,
shut to her eyes and her heart,

daz er dar în iht müge gephaden:
that he there into not may make-path:

lât si sich bringen ûf ir schaden
(if)-lets she herself be-brought to her harm

von êren wege, daz wirt ir herzen smerze.
from honors' way, that becomes to-her heart's pain.

Swer al der werlde werdikeit

WOMEN AND MEN

Seventeen strophes. A man loved by a pure woman is better off than an emperor. He counsels ladies to bear joy and sorrow with breeding and clothes a lady in virtues: a shift of loving God, a girdle of love, and a mantle of honor. A pure woman is a new Grail and a healing water. An unmarried woman may woo with chastity, and in marriage two souls share one body. A man who wants a mistress besides his wife should take Honor. A good woman's greeting is a poor knight's balsam. Men should love a woman's faith, not her rank, wealth, or beauty. The poet wishes ladies three things: no whispering, refusing and granting rightly, and knowing good men. He ends by turning men from the fickle lady to a pure one.

Swer al der werlde werdikeit 39
Whoever all the world's worth

gein eines wîbes wirde ûf eine gelîche wâge leit,
against a woman's worth on an equal scale lays,

die wolt ich lâzen schouwen, wie gar der werlde heil an vrouwen stât.
him would I let behold, how wholly the world's salvation on ladies stands.

Er ist ein sældenrîcher man,
He is a blessedness-rich man,

dem ein reinez wîp ir ungemeilten lîbes gan
to-whom a pure woman her unstained body grants

unt ouch ir edeler minne, diu von getriuwes herzen grunde gât.
and also her noble love, which from faithful heart's ground goes.

Dem ist noch baz dan ob er keiser wære:
To-him is yet better than if he emperor were:

dâ von sô müeste er dulten manege swære
there from so must he endure many-a heaviness

unt müeste manegiu dinc besorgen
and must many things attend-to

niht wan umb sîn eines lîp:
nothing save for his own person:

dâ vür minne er ein reine wîp
there before love he a pure woman

unt sorge niht umb scheiden gein dem morgen.
and care not for parting toward the morning.

40 Ich gibe iu vrouwen einen rât,
I give you ladies a counsel,

der hôchgemüete bringet unt doch lobelîchen stât:
which high-spirit brings and yet praiseworthily stands:

nû merket in vil ebene unt volget mir! ez wirt iu lîhte guot.
now mark it very evenly and follow me! it becomes for-you perhaps good.

Ir sult mit zühten sîn gemeit,
You shall with breeding be glad,

in wîplîcher güete tragen herzeliep und herzeleit,
in womanly goodness bear heart's-joy and heart's-sorrow,

baltlîche vröude mîden, tougenlîchen tragen hôhen muot.
bold joy avoid, secretly bear high spirit.

Welle aber iuwer kein da under minnen,
(If)-will but of-you any there among love,

diu sol mit schœnen zühten sich versinnen,
she shall with beautiful breeding herself bethink,

gein wem si kêre ir wîbes triuwe,
toward whom she turn her woman's faith,

daz der gar geliutert sî:
that he wholly purified be:

ist trüeber valsch dem herzen bî,
(if)-is murky falseness to-the heart near,

sô hüetet iuch: vil bœse wirt nâchriuwe!
so guard yourselves: very evil becomes after-rue!

Waz cleider vrouwen wol an stê, 41
What clothes ladies well on stand,

des wil ich iuch bescheiden: ein hemede wîz alsam ein snê,
of-that will I you inform: a shift white as a snow,

daz ist daz si Got minne unt habe in liep, dêst wol ein rîchez cleit.
that is that she God love and have him dear, that-is well a rich garment.

Dar obe sol sîn ein roc gesniten,
There over shall be a gown cut,

sô daz si liep unt leit sol tragen mit vil kiuschen siten;
so that she joy and sorrow shall bear with very chaste manners;

ir gürtel sî diu minne, ir vürspan daz si tugende sî bereit;
her girdle be the love, her brooch that she to-virtues be ready;

Diu êre ir mantel, daz der an ir decke,
The honor her mantle, that it on her cover,

ob iht des sî, daz wandel an ir blecke;
if anything of-it be, that blemish on her flash;

ir rîse daz sol sîn diu triuwe,
her veil that shall be the faith,

dar ob ein schapel von der art,
there over a garland of the kind,

daz si vor valsche sî bewart:
that she from falseness be guarded:

si sælic wîp, der lop ist immer niuwe!
she blessed woman, whose praise is ever new!

42 Man tuot uns michel wunder kunt,
One makes to-us great wonder known,

wie man vür Parcifâlen truoc mit zühten maneger stunt
how one before Parzival carried with breeding many-a time

den Grâl von arte reine, des wunsch was allen künicrîchen obe.
the Grail by nature pure, whose wish was all kingdoms above.

Dem Grâl ich wol gelîchen wil
To-the Grail I well liken will

ein reinez wîp, der kiusche reichet wol des Grâles zil,
a pure woman, whose chastity reaches well the Grail's goal,

diu sich vor valsche vrîet, diu wirt gezieret nâch der wîsen lobe.
who herself from falseness frees, she becomes adorned after the wise-ones' praise.

Wil ieman nâch dem niuwen Grâle strîten,
(If)-will anyone for the new Grail strive,

der sol sîn kiusche, milte zallen zîten,
he shall be chaste, generous at-all times,

als alle die des Grâles phlâgen
as all who the Grail tended

unt noch vil guoter vrouwen phlegen:
and still very-many good ladies tend:

wirt dem ein reiner wîbes segen,
(if)-becomes to-him a pure woman's blessing,

der ist vrî vor Schanden unt ir mâgen.
he is free from Shame and her kinsmen.

43 Man seit von heilawæge uns vil,
One says of healing-water to-us much,

wie heil, wie guot ez sî, wie vollekomen der sælden spil,
how healing, how good it be, how perfect the blessedness' game,

wie gar sîn craft verheilet, swaz wundes an dem man versêret ist.
how wholly its power heals, whatever of-wound on the man hurt is.

Noch heiler weiz ich heiles wâc,
Still more-healing know I healing's water,

derst hôher art, der tugend unt ouch der reinen engel mâc;
he-is of-high kind, of-the virtue and also of-the pure angels kinsman;

sîn lûterlich gemüete daz kan betrüeben nimmer valscher list.
its limpid mind that can trouble never false craft.

Daz ist ein reinez wîp, diu mit ir güete
That is a pure woman, who with her goodness

leschet mannes zorn unt ungemüete:
quenches man's anger and ill-humor:

si kan wol senediu leit vertrîben,
she can well longing sorrows drive-away,

si swendet sîniu ungemach,
she wastes his hardships,

sist schilt vür ungemüete ein dach:
she-is shield for ill-humor a roof:

des bin ich wer von sælderîchen wîben.
of-that am I warrantor from blessedness-rich women.

Der werlde rede ist: 'Ez ensol 44
The world's talk is: 'It shall

ein ledic wîp niht werben umb die man: ez stât niht wol':
an unmarried woman not woo for the men: it stands not well':

doch wil ich iuch bescheiden, wie ez ein vrouwe wol mit êren tuot.
yet will I you inform, how it a lady well with honors does.

Si sol sich vlîzen reiner site,
She shall herself apply to-pure manner,

sô daz ir wîbes tugende unt wîbes güete volge mite,
so that her woman's virtues and woman's goodness follow with,

unt daz in allen enden ir êre sî vor valsche wol behuot.
and that in all ends her honor be from falseness well guarded.

Si sol sprechen, lachen unde schimphen,
She shall speak, laugh and jest,

alsô daz si sich tiure mit gelimphen,
so that she herself make-precious with seemliness,

ir wîplich lop mit volge mêren.
her womanly praise with consent increase.

si sælic wîp, diu alsô kan
she blessed woman, who so can

mit rehter kiusche erwerben man!
with right chastity win man!

diu minne Got: in kans niht. bezzers lêren.
who love God: I can-her nothing. better teach.

Ein man, der sô erworben ist,
A man, who so won is,

der sol sich vröuwen des, deiz hât alsô geordent Crist:
he shall himself rejoice of-that, that-it has so ordained Christ:

ein lîp, zwô sêle daz ist, swâ sich zwei gebent zesamen mit rehter ê!
one body, two souls that is, where them two give together with right marriage!

Wol im der hôhen zuoversiht,
Well to-him of-the high confidence,

daz er sô volliclîch hât mit ir kiusche gemeine phliht,
that he so fully has with her chastity common bond,

ist daz si beide minnent von herzen Got: nû hœret von in mê!
(if)-is that they both love from heart God: now hear of them more!

Ist daz er si mit stæten triuwen meinet,
(If)-is that he her with steadfast faith means,

ir zuht, ir kiusche, ir güet vor valsche in reinet.
her breeding, her chastity, her goodness from falseness him purifies.

lât aber er si des engelten,
(if)-lets but he her of-it pay,

daz si sich âne missetât
that she herself without misdeed

lât vinden, sost sîn êre mat:
lets find, so-is his honor checkmated:

er dient dâ mit Gotes zorn, der werlte schelten.
he earns there with God's anger, the world's reproach.

Ein man, der niht erwinden wil, 46
A man, who not desist will,

ern minne ein liep zuo sînem wîbe nâch sîns herzen spil,
unless-he love a beloved besides his wife after his heart's game,

dem wil ich eine wîsen, die im der bâbest niht verbieten mac:
to-him will I one direct, which to-him the pope not forbid can:

Minne Êre alsam sîn selbes wîp,
Love Honor as his own wife,

er halse si unt küsse, er druck si schône an sînen lîp;
he embrace her and kiss, he press her beautifully to his body;

unt lige er in der mitte, sô weiz ich wol: nie keiser baz gelac.
and (if)-lie he in the middle, so know I well: never emperor better lay.

Swelch man diu zwei hât bî sîner sîten,
Whatever man the two has by his side,

der mac der hôhen sunnen wol erbîten:
he can the high sun well wait-for:

ein reinez wîp unt dar zuo Êre,
a pure woman and there to Honor,

die mint von rehte ein werder man:
them loves by right a worthy man:

diu driu nieman gescheiden kan,
the three no-one part can,

ezn tuo der tôt oder tumbes herzen lêre.
unless-it do the death or foolish heart's teaching.

Ein gelle ir gellen nîden muoz: 47
A rival her rival envy must:

zwischen gellen zwein sô wirt vil selten nîdes buoz;
between rivals two so becomes very seldom of-envy amends;

doch weiz ich zwô, die sint mit vuoge dicke wol ein ander bî.
yet know I two, who are with fitness often well one another by.

Êre unt ein rehte reine wîp,
Honor and a right pure woman,

swem die zwô bî geligent, daz ist ein wol gedrîet lîp
to-whomever the two by lie, that is a well threefold body

nâch Gote unt ouch nâch êren: der drîer drîunge ist wol wandels vrî.
after God and also after honors: of-the three threeness is well of-blemish free.

Zwein andern gellen wære ein stadel zenge:
To-two other rivals were a barn too-narrow:

Êre unt ein wîp die lîdent wol gedrenge
Honor and a woman they suffer well crowding

unt lâzent sich ensamt besliezen
and let themselves together enclose

einen êregernden man,
an honor-desiring man,

des herze si behûsen kan
whose heart them house can

unt der sich ir niht schiere lât verdriezen.
and who himself of-them not soon lets weary.

48 Der balsam ist den hêrren guot,
The balsam is to-the lords good,

der jünget in ir leben: sô tiurent edele steine ir muot:
it rejuvenates them their life: so make-precious noble stones their mind:

swer des niht mac geleisten, unt sol der leben,
whoever that not can afford, and (if)-shall he live,

der mac wol werden alt.
he can well become old.

Der armen edelen ritter jugent
The poor noble knights' youth

erbarmet mich: wer gît in heldes muot, wer gît in tugent?
pities me: who gives them hero's mind, who gives them virtue?

wer mûzet si ze vröuden, ezn tuo der vrouwen minniclich gewalt?
who molts them to joys, unless-it do the ladies' lovely power?

Der balsam ist ir gelte gar ze hêre;
The balsam is to-their means wholly too lordly;

sô kostent edele steine dannoch mêre.
so cost noble stones still more.

ir ritter, balsemt iuwer ougen
you knights, balsam your eyes

an guoten wîben, swâ ir müget!
on good women, wherever you may!

swâ ritters muot ze vröuden hüget,
wherever knight's mind to joys hopes,

den gît ir gruoz in herzen balsam tougen.
to-him gives their greeting in heart balsam secretly.

Diu Minn hât wunderlîchen sit, 49
The Love has wondrous custom,

si süezt ir vîndes munt unt tuot ir vriunde süeze quît:
she sweetens her enemy's mouth and makes her friend of-sweetness quit:

si phlæg baz vriundes munde süeze unt tæte vînde vîndes nît.
she should-tend better friend's mouth sweetness and should-do to-enemy enemy's hatred.

Nû hilt ir minne Minnen namen;
Now conceals her love Love's name;

wil si sich vriunde vînden, sô mac sich vriunt wol minne schamen,
(if)-will she herself to-friends make-enemy, so may himself friend well of-love be-ashamed,

ich mein swâ vriunt gein vriunde minne spart unt vînde si sich gît.
I mean where friend toward friend love spares and to-enemy she herself gives.

Hie mischt sich minne süez mit distels græten:
Here mixes itself love sweet with thistle's thorns:

wil si durch lôsen volgen bœsen ræten,
will she for false-ones follow evil counsels,

war zuo sol denne ir nam getiuret?
what to shall then her name made-precious?

ist solch unstæte ir süeze bî,
(if)-is such inconstancy to-her sweetness near,

ich wil erteilen, swâ diu sî,
I will judge, wherever that be,

ûf mînen eit, daz Minn dâ wirt gesiuret.
upon my oath, that Love there becomes soured.

Ein lîp, zwô sêle, ein munt, ein muot,
One body, two souls, one mouth, one mind,

ein triwe vür missewende unt ouch vor varnder scham behuot,
one faith from fault and also from roving shame guarded,

hie zwei, dâ zwei, in eime vereinet gar mit stæten triuwen ganz:
here two, there two, in one united wholly with steadfast faith whole:

Swâ liep mit liebe des wirt inein,
Wherever lover with love of-that becomes at-one,

dâ kan ich niht gedenken, daz silber, golt unt edel gestein
there can I not think, that silver, gold and noble stone

der zweier vröude vergulte, diu sich sô biut durch liehter ougen glanz.
of-the two joy could-repay, which itself so offers through bright eyes' gleam.

Unt ob diu Minne der zweier herze bunde,
And if the Love of-the two heart bound,

swâ man diu beide undr einer decke vunde,
wherever one the both under one cover found,

daz arm mit arme sich besluzze,
that arm with arm itself enclosed,

dâ möht wol sîn der sælden dach:
there might well be the blessedness' roof:

nû wol im, dem ez ie geschach!
now well to-him, to-whom it ever happened!

ich weiz daz wol, daz sîn Got niht verdruzze.
I know that well, that him God not would-irk.

Nû wil ich lêren ouch die man, 51
Now will I teach also the men,

sô ich von mînen sinnen daz beste immer vinden kan:
as I from my senses the best ever find can:

swem daz niht wol gevalle, der lêre ein bezzerz sunder mînen haz.
to-whomever that not well please, he teach a better without my hatred.

Ir edele man vil hôchgemuot,
You noble men very high-spirited,

ir ensult niht minnen vrouwen adel noch vrouwen guot;
you shall not love ladies' nobility nor ladies' goods;

verzîht iuch vrouwen schœne: ez mac iuch wol beriuwen, wizzet daz!
renounce yourselves ladies' beauty: it may you well rue, know that!

Ir minnet wîbes triuwe unt ir güete,
You love woman's faith and her goodness,

ir zuht, ir scham, ir wîplich hôchgemüete:
her breeding, her shame, her womanly high-spirit:

swâ ir die vindet, diust gecrœnet
wherever you them find, she-is crowned

unt hât an allen rîchen teil:
and has in all kingdoms share:

ir lop daz stât gar âne meil
her praise that stands wholly without stain

alsam der dorn, den rôsen habent beschœnet.
as the thorn, the roses have made-beautiful.

Maneger wænet vrouwen leben, 52
Many-a-one supposes to-ladies live,

der in lop niht kunde halben wec ze rehte geben
who to-them praise not could half way by right give

noch ir êre enzünden, alsam daz viur den dürren zunder tuot.
nor their honor kindle, as the fire the dry tinder does.

Dar an gedenke, wîser man,
There on think, wise man,

ob dir ein wîp durch wîpheit mit ir wol ze redenne gan,
if to-thee a woman out-of womanliness with her well to speak grant,

daz dû mit rede iht machest, dâ von ir herze gewinne swæren muot.
that thou with speech not make, there from her heart win heavy mind.

Dâ mite mein ich mich unt die gar unwîsen.
There with mean I myself and the wholly unwise.

die vrouwen kunnen sich vil tougen prîsen.
the ladies can themselves very secretly praise.

ein wîp durch wîpheit grüezt den tôren,
a woman out-of womanliness greets the fool,

dâ mit er wænt, er habe gesigt:
there with he supposes, he have triumphed:

ein wîp ir wîpheit dannoch phligt:
a woman her womanliness still keeps:

so erkennet man den esel bî den ôren.
so knows one the ass by the ears.

53 Die berge sîgent nâch mir zuo:
The mountains bow toward me to:

het ich iht ê gesungen, daz wære mînem heil ze vruo:
had I anything before sung, that would-be to-my salvation too early:

ich wil den valschen vrouwen mînen willegen dienest widersagen
I will to-the false ladies my willing service renounce

Unt wil den guoten künden daz:
And will to-the good-ones proclaim that:

möht ich vil wol gesingen unt ouch noch gesprechen baz,
might I very well sing and also yet speak better,

dan mich mîn sinne leitent, des wolde ich
than me my senses lead, of-that would I

nimmer wîle an in verzagen.
never while in them despair.

Die bœsen die sint maneges valsches rîche,
The evil-ones they are of-many-a falseness rich,

die biderben ich vil verr von in gelîche:
the worthy I very far from them liken:

ein bœsiu lât ir manegen dienen,
an evil-one lets her many-a-one serve,

des entuot ein reiniu niht,
that does a pure-one not,

diu hât mit einer liebe phliht:
she has with one love bond:

swelch vrowe wil mêr, diu kan mit lôsen vienen.
whatever lady will more, she can with false-ones snare.

Unt het ich drîer wünsche gewalt 54
And had I of-three wishes power

unt daz die wurden wâr, son kund ich nimmer werden alt:
and that they became true, so could I never become old:

des êrsten wolde ich wünschen,
of-the first would I wish,

daz guote vrowen iht wurden rûnens zam.
that good ladies not became to-whispering tame.

Des andern wunsches wolde ich gern,
Of-the second wish would I gladly,

daz si ze rehte versagen kunden unt ze rehte gewern,
that they by right refuse could and by right grant,

unt swaz ir wille wære, daz si daz tætn, ê man in wurde gram.
and whatever their will were, that they that did, before one to-them became hostile.

Der dritte wunsch, dazs guoten man erkanden
The third wish, that-they good men knew

unt ir herze von den valschen wanden.
and their heart from the false turned.

ein vrouwe sol niht gerne hœren,
a lady shall not gladly hear,

des ein valscher an si gert,
what a false-one of her desires,

unt si versaget noch gewert,
and she refuses nor grants,

diu effet in unt wil sich selben tœren.
she apes him and will herself self befool.

Swelch vrouwe ir muots sô irre vert,
Whatever lady her mind so astray goes,

des dunket mich, si sî der êren dâ bî schiere behert,
of-that seems to-me, she be of-the honors there by soon bereft,

diu den man sô grüezet, daz er wol swüere, er hetes in der hant.
who the man so greets, that he well would-swear, he had-it in the hand.

Dem gît si wunne im herzen gar:
To-him gives she bliss in-the heart wholly:

sôs aber ir muot verkêrt, sô stât er aller vröuden bar:
so-she but her mind turns, so stands he of-all joys bare:

ir herze unt ouch ir sinne hât si vil snelle von im hin gewant.
her heart and also her senses has she very quickly from him away turned.

Diu hiute ist hie unt morne dort, in triuwen,
Who today is here and tomorrow there, in faith,

swer der vil dienet, daz mac in beriuwen.
whoever to-her much serves, that may him rue.

nim, man, von ir dîn mans gemüete
take, man, from her thy man's mind

unt wend ez an ein reinez wîp:
and turn it to a pure woman:

diu tiuret eine dir den lîp
she makes-precious alone to-thee the body

unt tugendet dir dîn herze in wîbes güete.
and makes-virtuous to-thee thy heart in woman's goodness.

Ein hêrre von gebürte vrî

LORDS AND THE MIND

Sixteen strophes on lordship. A lord may be free and yet Honor's ministerial, a knight, a squire, and a bondman, each in a different virtue. The poet wishes for a young lord ruled by Manly, Lovely, and Knightly, and warns that Mind, once a squire's squire, now masters lords. Wantonness is as its deeds are, the round-minded man rolls to and fro, and Sir Penny shames the rich. Goods and noble minds should be divided better. Thoughts go free, and the poet curses unjust power. A thousand now hinder the good man where a hundred once helped. A lord owes faith, then breeding with shame, and "was good" is more than half lost. Honor and her household, Faith, Constancy, and the rest, are let in nowhere she once ruled.

Ein hêrre von gebürte vrî 56
A lord by birth free

ob der rittr unt kneht, dienestman unt eigen sî,
whether he knight and squire, ministerial and bondman be,

wie daz geschehen müge, des sol niht wunder nemen man noch wîp.
how that happen may, of-that shall not wonder take man nor woman.

Ein vrî geburt niht irren kan,
A free birth not hinder can,

ein hêrre ensî wol vrî unt doch der Êren dienestman,
a lord be well free and yet of-the Honor ministerial,

ein ritter sîner tât, der milte ein kneht, der zühte ein eigen lîp.
a knight of-his deed, of-the generosity a squire, of-the breeding a bond person.

Swelch hêrre alsus undersniten wære,
Whatever lord thus divided were,

der dûhte mich ein hübscher wunderære:
he would-seem to-me a courtly wonder-worker:

hie vrî, dort dienestman, hie eigen,
here free, there ministerial, here bond,

ûf jenez ein rittr, ûf diz ein kneht,
for that-one a knight, for this a squire,

wære er ze disen vünven reht,
were he to these five right,

ein künigîn solt im ir houbet neigen.
a queen should to-him her head bow.

57 Ein junc sî lobelîchen junc:
A young-one be praiseworthily young:

sô habe ein hôch geburt nâch hôhen êren gernden sprunc,
so have a high birth after high honors desiring leap,

sî valscher volge vrî, sî guoter lêre willic unde vrô,
be of-false following free, be to-good teaching willing and glad,

Sî sînes mundes niht ze snel,
Be of-his mouth not too quick,

in zorne laz, des muotes vierecke unt niht sinewel:
in anger slow, of-the mind square and not round:

solt ich mir einen hêrren wünschen, den wolt ich mir wünschen sô;
should I me a lord wish, him would I me wish so;

Unt dennoch mêr, kund er sich des betwingen,
And yet more, could he himself of-that compel,

daz er sich biderbe liute lieze dringen
that he himself worthy people let press

ûz engen winkeln an die wîte:
out-of narrow corners into the width:

swelch hêrre mir der volge giht,
whatever lord to-me the following avows,

der selbe hêrre wil des niht,
the same lord will of-that not,

daz man mir müge sîn lop getuon ze strîte.
that one to-me may his praise make to strife.

Ein hêrre junc, schœne unde rîch 58
A lord young, beautiful and rich

der sol sîn manlich, minniclich unt ritterlîch:
he shall be manly, lovely and knightly:

wie verr diu driu gereichen mügen, des lât iuch alle wunder nemen:
how far the three reach may, of-that let you all wonder take:

Manlich wert sich unrehter tât;
Manly defends itself from-wrong deed;

sô wert sich Minniclich unsüezes muotes, swer den hât;
so defends itself Lovely from-unsweet mind, whoever that has;

sô lêret Ritterlich geselle sîn unt wol bî liuten zemen.
so teaches Knightly companion be and well among people befit.

Manlich daz treit den zoum in Muotes munde
Manly that bears the bridle in Mind's mouth

unt ringet mit dem Muote manege stunde:
and wrestles with the Mind many-a time:

sô Muot muotwillic gerne wære,
when Mind wanton gladly were,

sô brichet Manlich Muotes munt
so breaks Manly Mind's mouth

von sîner vrîheit manege stunt
from his freedom many-a time

ûf rehte tât: daz merket, muotwillære!
to right deed: that mark, wanton-man!

Der Muot was wîlent knehtes kneht, 59
The Mind was once squire's squire,

nust er sumlîcher hêrren hêrre worden sunder reht:
now-is he of-some lords lord become without right:

daz hêrren lîp solt êren, der Muot in halben des niht hengen wil.
that lords' person should honor, the Mind them by-half of-that not allow will.

Des scham dich, hôch geborner lîp!
Of-that shame thee, high born person!

gesigt dir an der Muot, sô bistû crenker dan ein wîp;
(if)-triumphs to-thee over the Mind, so art-thou weaker than a woman;

jâ mac er dich gunêren, daz dich an dîner wirde swachet vil!
yea can he thee dishonor, that thee in thy worth weakens much!

Dû solt in hân vür kneht, wis dû sîn hêrre!
Thou shalt him have for squire, be thou his lord!

lâz in der minre sîn, wis dû der mêrre!
let him the lesser be, be thou the greater!

twinc in, daz er dir dienen müeze;
force him, that he to-thee serve must;

dû solt im sînen willen wern!
thou shalt to-him his will refuse!

heiz in dir balde hulde swern,
bid him to-thee quickly fealty swear,

ê daz er dich werfe undr Unêren vüeze!
before that he thee throw under Dishonor's feet!

Muotwille ist übel, er ist ouch guot:
Wantonness is evil, he is also good:

er ist dem guot, der von muotwillen gern daz beste tuot,
he is to-him good, who from wantonness gladly the best does,

unt ist dem übel, der von muotwillen tuot, des er sich solte schamen.
and is to-him evil, who from wantonness does, what he himself should be-ashamed.

Küene unde vrî ûf swachez leben,
Bold and free upon base life,

swer der muotwillic ist, wer mac dem vürbaz lêre geben?
whoever of-that wanton is, who can to-him further teaching give?

unreht muotwille lât sich mit worten noch mit werken nieman zamen.
wrong wantonness lets itself with words nor with works by-no-one tame.

Ich hân dâ bî gestanden unt gesezzen,
I have there by stood and sat,

dâ dicke ein hêrre selbe hât gemezzen
where often a lord himself has measured

die lôsen unt die durnehten.
the false and the upright.

waz half, swie vil er si beschiet
what helped, however much he them distinguished

mit rede unt doch der lôsen diet
with speech and yet to-the false folk

ze heinlich was unt schûhte die gerehten?
too intimate was and shunned the righteous?

Ûz sinewellem muote ein man 61
Out-of round mind a man

zuo swem der walgt, von dem sô walget er ouch wider dan:
to to-whomever he rolls, from him so rolls he also back thence:

nû walge hin, nû walge her, eins ungevierten mannes muot!
now roll hither, now roll thither, of-an unsquared man's mind!

Dû blæsest kalt unt hûchest warm
Thou blowest cold and breathest warm

ûz eines mannes munde: stæter triuwen bistû arm:
out-of a man's mouth: of-steadfast faith art-thou poor:

in meine ander liute, ich meine al eine den selben, der ez tuot.
I-not mean other people, I mean all alone the same, who it does.

Her Phenninc, daz nû nieman lebet sô rîche,
Sir Penny, that now no-one lives so rich,

ern tuo durch iuwern willen lasterlîche!
unless-he do for your will shamefully!

daz müeze Got vom himel erbarmen!
that may God from heaven pity!

her Phenninc, daz ir wæret liep
sir Penny, that you were dear

unt niht sô gar der êren diep,
and not so wholly of-the honors thief,

daz zæme baz den rîchen unt den armen.
that would-befit better the rich and the poor.

62 Ein man im selben ist ze rîch,
A man to-him self is too rich,

der ander zarm, der dritte ist sîme guote wol gelîch:
the other too-poor, the third is to-his goods well like:

wær ich ein ebenære, der drîer drîung wold ich niht wan zwei.
were I a judge, of-the three threesome would I nothing save two.

Der sînes guotes wære ein rise,
The-one of-his goods were a giant,

des muotes ein getwerc, unt lobten daz jene unde dise,
of-the mind a dwarf, and praised that that-one and this-one,

doch wold ich alsô teilen, daz umbe die wal nieman gæbe ein ei.
yet would I so divide, that for the choice no-one would-give an egg.

Swaz hie wurde über, daz leit ich zuo dem guote,
Whatever here became over, that laid I to the goods,

der arm an guote wære, rîch an muote.
the-one poor in goods were, rich in mind.

bescheidenlîchen wold ich sprechen:
discerningly would I speak:

'man edels muotes, nû sitz ûf!'
'man of-noble mind, now sit up!'

dem aber der muot kûme an die huf
to-whom but the mind scarcely to the hip

nâch êren stüend, den hiez ich nider stechen.
after honors stood, him bade I down strike.

Sage, ungelobter rîcher man, 63
Say, unpraised rich man,

war umbe enganstû niht dem biderben man, des er dir gan?
what for grant-thou not to-the worthy man, what he to-thee grants?

jâ gunde er dir wol êren: nû hazzestû daz er als êrhaft ist.
yea would-grant he to-thee well honors: now hatest-thou that he so honorable is.

Lâz in mit sînem guote leben,
Let him with his goods live,

dar nâch als im Got muot sîme edelen herzen hât gegeben:
there after as to-him God mind to-his noble heart has given:

wiltû niht sîn als er, son mac ouch er niht sîn, als dû dâ bist.
(if)-wilt-thou not be as he, so can also he not be, as thou there art.

Wis als dû bist unt habe dir daz ze buoze,
Be as thou art and have to-thee that as amends,

daz dû dem biderben gunnest der unmuoze,
that thou to-the worthy grant the toil,

dâ mite er êre müge ervolgen,
there with he honor may achieve,

ob erz ân guot erziugen müge:
if he-it without goods accomplish may:

sît dir sîn leben niht entüge
since to-thee his life not avails

noch im dîn leben, sô wis im unerbolgen!
nor to-him thy life, so be to-him unangered!

Gewalt mac melden understân, 64
Power can betraying prevent,

gedanke muoz man ledic, ungevangen lâzen gân:
thoughts must one free, uncaught let go:

ez wart nie keiser, künec sô hêr,
there was never emperor, king so lordly,

der gedanke unt merken kunne erwern.
who thoughts and noticing could prevent.

Unzuht, waz ist dir deste baz?
Unbreeding, what is to-thee the better?

swîgt dîn der munt, sô sint dir reiniu herze doch gehaz:
(if)-is-silent of-thee the mouth, so are to-thee pure hearts yet hostile:

nert dich gewalt vor melden, vor merken kan dich nieman wol ernern.
(if)-saves thee power from betraying, from noticing can thee no-one well save.

Unreht gewalt, ze valle stê dîn brugge,
Wrong power, to falling stand thy bridge,

stæte als ein tou sî rippe unt ouch dîn rugge!
steadfast as a dew be rib and also thy back!

in tiefem wâge ûf dünnem îse
in deep water on thin ice

wünsche ich, daz dîn geverte sî,
wish I, that thy journey be,

dar ûf dîn last swære als ein blî:
there upon thy load heavy as a lead:

dîn vorgedanc in dînen buosen rîse!
thy forethought in thy bosom fall!

65 Diu werlt ist ungelîch gemuot:
The world is unlike minded:

der eine wirbet umbe wîp, der ander umbe guot,
the one woos for woman, the other for goods,

der dritte minnet erge, sô ist dem vierden milte gar ein spil;
the third loves avarice, so is to-the fourth generosity wholly a game;

Der vünfte wær vil gerne vrô;
The fifth would-be very gladly glad;

sô daz der sehste siht, der spricht vil lîhte dan alsô:
so that the sixth sees, he speaks very perhaps then thus:

'nû seht ze disem affen! der schimphet als hie nieman schimphen wil'.
'now look at this ape! he jests as here no-one jest will'.

Sus ist diu werlt gar ungelîcher sinne:
Thus is the world wholly of-unlike senses:

ich wæn daz ieman lebe gar sunder minne:
I suppose that anyone live wholly without love:

die wîsen minnent wîsheit sêre,
the wise love wisdom greatly,

die tôren minnent tôren muot:
the fools love fools' mind:

zer werlde wart nie niht sô guot,
to-the world was never anything so good,

sô daz wir minnen die Gotes hulde unt êre.
as that we love the God's favor and honor.

Diu werlt was wîlent sô gestalt, 66
The world was once so shaped,

daz man dem biderben man sîn biderbekeit vil hôhe galt
that one to-the worthy man his worthiness very highly repaid

mit dienste unt ouch mit gruoze: deste lîhter was ein man dô guot.
with service and also with greeting: the-more easily was a man then good.

Nû sî swie biderbe welle ein man
Now be however worthy will a man

unt vlîze sich des besten, des er im erdenken kan,
and apply himself to-the best, that he for-himself devise can,

daz muoz alsô geschehen, daz im diu werlt dekeine helfe tuot.
that must so happen, that to-him the world no help does.

Hie vor dô hulfen hundert eime guotes,
Here before then helped hundred to-one of-goods,

nû irrent tûsent einen guotes muotes:
now hinder thousand one of-good mind:

swer sich bî dirre werlde siure
whoever himself by this world's sourness

an guoten dingen vinden lât
in good things find lets

unt argen dingen widerstât,
and evil things resists,

der dunket mich vür manegen man gehiure.
he seems to-me before many-a man gentle.

67 Nû volget ein gemeiner site
Now follows a common custom

vil nâch der meisten menege leider in der werlde mite;
very near to-the most multitude alas in the world with;

ein ieglich man der wil, daz man im baz tuo, danne er widertuo.
an each man he wills, that one to-him better do, than he in-return-does.

Swâ tûsent merkent einen man,
Wherever thousand notice one man,

sîn leben unt al sîn tuon, son mac er eine noch enkan
his life and all his doing, so may he alone nor can

niht nâch ir aller willen sô wol getuon,
not after their all will so well do,

sin legen doch valsch dar zuo.
unless-they lay yet guile there to.

In weiz sô guoten hêrren noch sô wîsen,
I know so good lord nor so wise,

daz alle sîne liute gemeine in prîsen:
that all his people in-common him praise:

dise jehent im guotes, dise unguotes.
these avow of-him good, these not-good.

wer aber dem hêrren rehte tuo,
who but to-the lord right do,

dâ hœret ouch ein wâge zuo,
there belongs also a scale to,

diu glîche sî unt unveiles muotes.
which even be and of-not-for-sale mind.

Waz einem rehten hêrren zimt 68
What to-a right lord befits

ze tuonne unt ouch ze lâzen, swer daz gerne wol vernimt,
to do and also to leave, whoever that gladly well perceives,

dem nenne ich triuwe vor unt dar nâch zuht mit eigenlîcher schame.
to-him name I faith before and there after breeding with own shame.

Tuot er ein teil im selben wê
(If)-does he a part to-himself self woe

durch êre an lîbe, an guote, alsô die besten tâten ê,
for honor in body, in goods, as the best did before,

sô mac er wol genesen an lîbe, an guote unt an den êren same.
so may he well be-saved in body, in goods and in the honors together.

Er sol sich ûzen süezen mit dem munde,
He shall himself outwardly sweeten with the mouth,

daz diu süeze gê von herzen grunde:
that the sweetness go from heart's ground:

sô ist der munt des herzen bruoder.
so is the mouth of-the heart brother.

er sol ouch ritters namen sô tragen,
he shall also knight's name so bear,

daz in der lîp iht müge verjagen
that him the body not may chase

ûz gêrten siten in leckerlîchez luoder.
out-of honored manners into lecherous lure.

69 Wol dir, rîcheit, wol dir, gewalt!
Well to-thee, riches, well to-thee, power!

wol iu unt ouch dem, den ir an tugenden machet balt!
well to-you and also to-him, whom you in virtues make bold!

sô wê iu unt ouch dem, den ir von sînen sinnen alsô nemt,
so woe to-you and also to-him, whom you from his senses so take,

Daz er sô sêre læzet sich
That he so greatly lets himself

ûf iuwern trôst, dâ von er wirt gar unerkennelich
upon your comfort, there from he becomes wholly unrecognizable

Gote unt ouch im selben; wie übel ir dem an sînen êren zemt!
to-God and also to-himself self; how evil you to-him in his honors befit!

Rîcheit, gewalt, swer sînes muotes wære
Riches, power, whoever of-his mind were

sterker dan ir, dem wært ir niht ze swære:
stronger than you, to-him were you not too heavy:

swen aber ir alsô geneiget,
whomever but you so bow,

daz ir komt oben über in
that you come above over him

unt er des muotes unden hin
and he of-the mind under away

vil nider gât, des lop ir sêre veiget!
very low goes, whose praise you greatly doom!

70 'Was guot' ist einem hôhen man
'Was good' is to-a high man

niht volliclîch ein lop, als ichz ze rehte erkennen kan:
not fully a praise, as I-it by right perceive can:

ist guot' daz ist guot; 'was guot' daz ist mêre danne halp verlorn.
is good' that is good; 'was good' that is more than half lost.

Swer guot sî, der belîbe ouch guot:
Whoever good be, he remain also good:

die wîle er müge unt tüge, sô habe er êregernden muot;
the while he may and avails, so have he honor-desiring mind;

wol angehaben unt widerkêrt daz wære alsô guot verborn.
well begun and turned-back that were as-well good forgone.

Swen lîp noch guot enirret, daz der lôset
Whom body nor goods hinder, that he flatters

unt alsô gar vergebenes muotes kôset,
and so wholly of-vain mind chatters,

dem hât sîn leben sîn lop verswachet.
to-him has his life his praise weakened.

an êren zuogrif der ist guot,
in honors grasper he is good,

an êren abenemer der tuot
in honors decreaser he does

vil manege zît, des Êre niht enlachet.
very many-a time, of-which Honor not laughs.

Ez sint noch hêrren eteswâ 71
There are still lords somewhere

gesezzen in den landen manegen enden hie unt dâ,
settled in the lands many ends here and there,

die Êre gerne enthielten: wan daz diu Êre hât sô vil gespiln.
who Honor gladly would-keep: save that the Honor has so many playmates.

Triuwe, Stæte, reine Site,
Faith, Constancy, pure Manner,

Sorge unt Schame, Kiusche, Milte unt Manheit vert ir mite,
Care and Shame, Chastity, Generosity and Manhood goes with-her along,

Dêmuot, Wârheit, Gehôrsam, des hovegesindes muoz durch nôt beviln
Humility, Truth, Obedience, of-the court-household must through need displease

Den rîchen guotes, armen an gemüete:
To-the rich in-goods, poor in mind:

des vert diu hôchgelobte süeze güete
therefore goes the high-praised sweet goodness

vil wîselôs mit ir gesinde:
very guideless with her household:

dâ si was ê gebietærîn,
where she was before commandress,

dâ lât si nieman nû hin în:
there lets her no-one now hither in:

er sælic man, der sich ir underwinde!
he blessed man, who himself of-her undertake!

Diu Êr was wîlent alsô wert

HONOR AND NOBILITY

Fourteen strophes. Honor was once so valued that only the bold dared invite her home. Slandered with lovers, she would soon be widowed if she loved every man risen on borrowed worth. She cannot be bought, and a man without her among the honorable is mouse dung in pepper. She is a maid with many men, prince's counselor and king's hoard. God is the beginning of all honor, and Dishonor sinks men into hell. Only he is noble who acts nobly, and of the two nobilities, birth and virtue, the second wins. A gem belongs in gold, and a fair body hiding falseness is gilded copper. Christianity is a water the lamb can wade and the elephant must swim, so no man should seek to know more than he can.

Diu Êr was wîlent alsô wert, 72
The Honor was once so worthy,

daz man ir anders gerte, denne man ir hiute gert,
that one her otherwise desired, than one her today desires,

daz er muos sîn gar êren balt, der si ze hûse torste gebiten.
that he must be wholly in-honors bold, who her to house dared invite.

In swelchem hove si niht envant
In whatever court she not found

ein wol gemuoten wirt, vil snelle si von dem verswant:
a well minded host, very quickly she from it vanished:

ir getorste sich nieman unwirden mit unhovelîchen siten.
her dared himself no-one dishonor with uncourtly manners.

Swer nû geminne wære unt ouch gemeine,
Whoever now dear were and also common,

swaz er ir liebes tæte, grôz od cleine,
whatever he to-her of-dear did, great or small,

daz diuhte si nû allez süeze:
that would-seem to-her now all sweet:

si nimt noch cleinen dienst verguot;
she takes still small service as-good;

swer ir den williclîchen tuot,
whoever to-her it willingly does,

dem nîget si ze lône unz ûf die vüeze.
to-him bows she as reward down to the feet.

73 Ez wart nie wîp noch man belogen
There was never woman nor man belied

sô sêre als Êre, unt ist si doch dâ bî vil wol gezogen:
so sorely as Honor, and is she yet there by very well bred:

man gît ir manegen vriedel, unt wære ez wâr,
one gives her many lovers, and were it true,

des si sich möhte schamen.
of-it she herself might shame.

Der werlte unbilde hœhet hie
The world's wrong raises here

unde nidert dort. Von welchen schulden oder wie
and lowers there. For what causes or how

solt Êre ieslîchen minnen durch sînen phingestlîchen küneges namen?
should Honor each love for his Pentecost king's name?

Sô wurde si verwitwet al ze schiere.
So would-become she widowed all too soon.

ich nante ir wol in einem âtemen viere,
I would-name of-them well in one breath four,

die mit entlênter wirde vuoren
who with borrowed worth fared

vernt ûf unt hiure wider abe:
last-year up and this-year again down:

daz der ieslîcher Êre habe,
that of-them each Honor have,

nun welle Got: sin lât sich niht behuoren.
now-not may-will God: she lets herself not be-whored.

Diu Êre minnet niht durch guot, 74
The Honor loves not for goods,

si minnet aber, swer mit guote lobelîchen tuot;
she loves but, whoever with goods praiseworthily does;

swer guot vür êre minnet, swaz man den êret, daz ist ân ir rât.
whoever goods before honor loves, whatever one him honors, that is without her counsel.

Ein man sî rîch, ein man sî arm,
A man be rich, a man be poor,

vrô Êre diu enwirt bî ir deheines sîten warm,
lady Honor she becomes by of-them of-neither side warm,

dâ si sich veile erkennet: er sælic man, der Êre unveile hât!
where she herself for-sale knows: he blessed man, who Honor not-for-sale has!

Swer aber durch guot wirt sîner êren âne
Whoever but for goods becomes of-his honors without

unt doch leben wil in êren wâne
and yet live will in honors' delusion

bî den êregernden liuten,
among the honor-desiring people,

reht in der mâze er bî in ist
right in the measure he among them is

als bî dem pheffer miuse mist:
as among the pepper mice's dung:

sîn gelphez lop kan ich niht baz betiuten.
his yelping praise can I not better interpret.

Vrô Êre ist magt unt habt doch man, 75
Lady Honor is maid and has yet men,

die si vor allen vrowen sô rehte schône triuten kan,
whom she before all ladies so rightly beautifully cherish can,

si vürsten râtgebinne, si küneges hort, si hôhes heiles vunt!
she princes' counselor, she king's hoard, she of-high salvation find!

Ir minneboten brieve tragent,
Her love-messengers letters carry,

die heldes herze ûf weckent unt ze hôhen sorgen jagent,
which hero's heart up wake and to high cares chase,

si entzündent zuht unt êre, unt leschent schande
they kindle breeding and honor, and quench shame

unt erge unz in den grunt.
and avarice down to the ground.

Wâ sint si nû, die dich dâ minnent, Êre?
Where are they now, who thee there love, Honor?

ist ir vil, sô helent si sich sêre;
(if)-is of-them much, so hide they themselves greatly;

bî dînen drin ich drîzic vinde,
by thy three I thirty find,

die sich dîn alle hânt verzigen:
who themselves of-thee all have renounced:

si zîhent dich, vuozîsen ligen
they accuse thee, foot-irons to-lie

ûf dînem hove ze schaden dem ingesinde.
on thy court to harm to-the household.

76 Ez ist ein form, diu wunder birt:
It is a form, that wonders bears:

ze himel unt ûf der erde, in wâge, in lufte, in viure wirt
in heaven and on the earth, in sea, in air, in fire becomes

ir wunder niht verborgen: sist hôch, sist tief, si ist breit, si ist lanc.
her wonder not hidden: she-is high, she-is deep, she is broad, she is long.

Got ist der êren hôchstez zil,
God is of-the honors highest goal,

ân êre in nieman reichet; er teilt ouch êre, swem er wil:
without honor him no-one reaches; he deals also honor, to-whom he wills:

gein aller crêâtiure sô ist er aller êren anevanc.
toward all creatures so is he of-all honors beginning.

Engel, megde, martære unt bîhtære,
Angels, maidens, martyrs and confessors,

daz der aller êre gelîche wære,
that of-them all honor equal were,

son hiez vrô Êre niht ein wunder:
so would-be-called lady Honor not a wonder:

der eine ist gêrt, der ander baz,
the one is honored, the other better,

nâch sîner tugende ieslîcher: daz
after his virtue each: that

sult ir ouch spehen an aller vruht besunder.
shall you also espy in all fruit severally.

Swaz diu vil reine Trinitât 77
Whatever the very pure Trinity

gotelîcher dinge ze himele unt hie begangen hât,
of-godly things in heaven and here performed has,

dâ was diu Êre mite, diu sundert sich von Gotes hulden nie.
there was the Honor with, who separates herself from God's favor never.

Diu Êre ist aller sælden stam,
The Honor is of-all blessedness stem,

si wildet ie unbilde unt was den rehten vuogen zam,
she makes-strange ever wrong and was to-the right fitness tame,

gelenke guoten dingen unt missewende widerbrühtec ie.
supple to-good things and to-fault resistant ever.

Ir craft die hêren Gotes tougen crœnet,
Her power the lordly God's secrets crowns,

ir wird die engel tiuret unde schœnet:
her worth the angels makes-precious and beautifies:

dâ von rât ich, daz ir si êret.
there from counsel I, that you her honor.

wol im der ir ze rehte phligt!
well to-him who her by right tends!

der hât vor Gote unt hie gesigt:
he has before God and here triumphed:

si Gotes zart lîp unde sêle behêret.
she God's darling body and soul ennobles.

78 Swaz in der werlde noch geschach
Whatever in the world yet happened

untriuwen unt unbildes, swâ man vride unt suone ie brach,
of-faithlessness and wrong, wherever one peace and reconciliation ever broke,

dâ was Unêre mite: diu pruofte ie mit willen missetât.
there was Dishonor with: who contrived ever with will misdeed.

Unêre swachet wîp unt man,
Dishonor weakens woman and man,

Unêre der werlde lop noch Gotes hulde nie gewan,
Dishonor the world's praise nor God's favor ever won,

von rehte tuonden dingen Unêre sich ie her gesundert hât.
from rightly doing things Dishonor herself ever hither separated has.

Unêre senket in der helle abgründe,
Dishonor sinks into the hell's abyss,

Unêre ist aller valschen dinge urkünde,
Dishonor is of-all false things witness,

Unêre uncristenlîchen sinnet,
Dishonor unchristianly thinks,

Unêre ist êwiclîcher tôt,
Dishonor is eternal death,

Unêr prüeft immer wernde nôt:
Dishonor contrives ever lasting distress:

waz sol sîn leben, der dich, Unêre, minnet?
what shall his life, who thee, Dishonor, loves?

Diu Edele ist ein hôher nam; 79
The Nobility is a high name;

wol im, der si behaltet sunder lasterlîche scham:
well to-him, who her keeps without shameful shame:

dem gibe ich âne wenken, daz er besitzet wol der Êren stat.
to-him give I without wavering, that he possesses well the Honors' place.

Nû sprechet: waz mac bezzer sîn
Now speak: what can better be

dan edele rîcher lîp, der daz mit werke machet schîn,
than noble rich person, who that with work makes shown,

sîn leben mit zühten hât nâch tugende râte unz an sîns lebenes mat?
his life with breeding has after virtue's counsel until to his life's checkmate?

Dem suln wir alle sprechen wol gemeine;
Of-him shall we all speak well in-common;

ich hânz dâ vür, daz er sî engelreine.
I have-it there for, that he be angel-pure.

wer edel sî, daz sult ir hœren:
who noble be, that shall you hear:

daz ist der edellîchen tuot,
that is who nobly does,

dem niht unedellîcher muot
whom no unnoble mind

sîn edele mac zervüeren noch zerstœren.
his nobility can ruin nor destroy.

Daz hôchste dinc, dâ von man seit, 80
The highest thing, there of one tells,

daz in der werlde mac gesîn, daz ist diu edelkeit:
that in the world can be, that is the nobility:

der edel ist, sô wol dem wart, dem kunde nimmer baz geschehen.
who noble is, so well to-him became, to-him could never better happen.

Diu edel ist kiusche unt wol gezogen;
The nobility is chaste and well bred;

swaz man gein edele wirbet, dâ wirt nieman an betrogen:
whatever one toward nobility woos, there becomes no-one in deceived:

diu edel ist süezer worte, der edele muoz man aller tugende jehen.
the nobility is of-sweet words, to-the nobility must one of-all virtues avow.

Bî edele mac man sælikeit wol vinden,
By nobility can one blessedness well find,

von edelkeit muoz aller valsch verswinden:
from nobility must all falseness vanish:

der edele kan sich niht gelîchen:
to-the nobility can itself nothing liken:

wie man die edele erkennen sol,
how one the nobility know shall,

daz kan ich iu betiuten wol:
that can I to-you interpret well:

nieman ist edel, ern tuo dan edellîchen.
no-one is noble, unless-he do but nobly.

81 Zwei adel sint an den liuten ouch:
Two nobilities are in the people also:

von sînem künne ist einer edel unt ist doch selbe ein gouch,
from his kin is one noble and is yet himself a fool,

der ander ist von sînen tugenden edel unt niht von hôhem namen.
the other is from his virtues noble and not from high name.

Swâ dise zwêne solten leben
Wherever these two should live

ze wette umb êre, wem daz lop die wîsen solten geben,
in wager for honor, to-whom the praise the wise should give,

sô næme ich den ze kemphen,
so would-take I him as champion,

der sich vor untugenden kunde schamen.
who himself before vices could shame.

Swer edel ist von mâgn unt niht von muote,
Whoever noble is by kinsmen and not by mind,

der brichet sîner edeln vordern huote:
he breaks his noble forefathers' guard:

nû sprechet ir, nâch spehende liute,
now speak you, after espying people,

sît daz der edeln veter kint
since that the noble fathers' children

von hôhem adel gunêdelt sint,
from high nobility unennobled are,

war Êre muge, dâ man si müede triute.
where Honor may, where one her wearily cherishes.

'Ich bin edel', spricht manic man, 82
'I am noble', speaks many-a man,

an dem man tugent noch êre, zuht noch wirde erkennen kan;
in whom one virtue nor honor, breeding nor worth perceive can;

ich wolte daz der wære niht wol geborn noch edeles mannes sun,
I would that he were not well born nor of-noble man son,

Durch daz er phlæge edeler site,
For that he would-keep noble manners,

unt daz die edeln swachen ir edel êrten noch dâ mite
and that the noble base their nobility honored still there with

unt daz man zallen zîten die edeln sæhe edellîchen tuon.
and that one at-all times the noble saw nobly do.

Der edel stein zimt wol in rôtem golde:
The noble stone befits well in red gold:

swer edeln stein in kupher legen wolde,
whoever noble stone in copper lay would,

dâ mite sîn wirde wære vermachet,
there with its worth were ruined,

alsô geschiht eime edeln man,
so happens to-a noble man,

der edele niht erkennen kan
who nobility not perceive can

mit reinen siten: des edele wirt geswachet.
with pure manners: whose nobility becomes weakened.

83 Blanker gebærde stüende ir ganc
Of-white bearing would-stand her gait

vil deste baz, ob ie der wolgebære wære ouch blanc
very the better, if ever the well-bearing-one were also white

mit êregernden tugenden: sô möht si wol vür einen keiser gân.
with honor-desiring virtues: so might she well before an emperor go.

Ist aber, daz si verborgen hât
Is but, that she hidden has

gar tiefe under brusten triegen, spot, unsüezen rât,
wholly deep under breasts deceiving, mockery, unsweet counsel,

sô wil ich gein ir gruoze mit mînem willen nimmer ûf gestân.
so will I toward her greeting with my will never up stand.

Swâ wol gestalt gebærde niht endecket,
Wherever well shaped bearing not reveals,

daz ir verwizzen wirt, ob siz enblecket,
what to-her reproached becomes, if she-it flashes-out,

wan innen schœne reht als ûzen,
but inside beautiful right as outside,

dâ ist gelîhsenheite niht
there is of-hypocrisy nothing

noch gunterfeit, als man nû siht
nor counterfeit, as one now sees

an manegen wol gebæren dicke lûzen.
in many well bearing often lurk.

Vergüldet kuphr, versilbert zin, 84
Gilded copper, silvered tin,

diu mugen wol gelîche in einer arte gesellen sîn
they may well alike in one kind companions be

unt swer in schœnem lîbe grôz valsch unt ungevuoge verborgen hât.
and whoever in beautiful body great falseness and unfitness hidden has.

Ez sî ein wîp, ez sî ein man,
It be a woman, it be a man,

viures gluot ist schœne: swer si ze gâhes grîfet an,
fire's glow is beautiful: whoever it too hastily grasps at,

der mac des schaden gewinnen: dâ vor hüetet iuch, daz ist mîn rât.
he may of-it harm win: there before guard yourselves, that is my counsel.

Swer nû mit stæten vröuden alten welle,
Whoever now with steadfast joys grow-old will,

der neme war, zuo wem er sich geselle,
he take heed, to whom he himself join,

daz der sî alsô beschœnet,
that he be so made-beautiful,

daz im zuht, triuwe wone bî:
that to-him breeding, faith dwell by:

swie sal der an der hiute sî,
however sallow he in the skin be,

des schœne stât vür maneges schœne gecrœnet.
whose beauty stands before many-a-one's beauty crowned.

Ez ist ein wâc, der lât sich waten 85
There is a water, it lets itself wade

daz lamp unt muoz der helfant dâ bî swimmen mit unstaten:
the lamb and must the elephant there by swim with difficulty:

der wâc ist dem helfande gar ze tief, dem lambe vürtic wol.
the water is to-the elephant wholly too deep, to-the lamb fordable well.

Der wâc daz ist der Cristentuom,
The water that is the Christianity,

den man einvaltic waten sol âne üppiclîchen ruom;
which one simply wade shall without vain boasting;

der helfant ist der tumbe man, der mêr wil wizzen dan er sol.
the elephant is the foolish man, who more will know than he shall.

Swer mit dem lambe einvalticlîchen wüete,
Whoever with the lamb simply wades,

der wurde nimmer swimmend in der vlüete
he would-become never swimming in the floods

der grundelôsen Gotes tiefe:
of-the groundless God's depth:

der helfant ist der tumbe man,
the elephant is the foolish man,

der mêr wil wizzen, dan er kan,
who more will know, than he can,

unt swimmen wil, dâ er wol trucken liefe.
and swim will, where he well dry would-run.

Ir ûzgesanten bruoder, seht

SIN, SPEECH, AND MARRIAGE

Twenty strophes. The poet warns preachers to measure their teaching and denies that God's foreknowledge makes good works vain. Heresy outdoes every sin, and lust resisted wins a crown. Pleasure is not welfare, and Fortune's wheel throws down its climbers. Art without sense and forced love are useless. The evil tongue is worse than carrion, the pure tongue reconciles friends, and the middle measure is best. He paints the whole man with an ostrich's eyes, a crane's neck, and a lion's heart. He mocks the husband ruled by his Eve, recalls Adam, Samson, and Solomon harmed by a woman's love, praises the cock who masters twelve hens when the poet cannot master one wife, and advises a cudgel for a wicked one.

Ir ûzgesanten bruoder, seht 86
You sent-out brothers, look

zuo ziuwer lêre wol: wand iuwer wort vil maneger speht,
to to-your teaching well: for your word very many-a-one espies,

der eine wirs, der ander baz: mislîcher merker hât ir vil.
the one worse, the other better: of-various noticers have you many.

Versûmen unt vergâhen lât!
Neglecting and over-hastening let!

ir wizzet wol, daz mâze mit disen zwein ze tuon niht hât:
you know well, that measure with these two to do nothing has:

ze vil verswîgen sûmet: ein übersprechen sich vergâhen wil.
too much keeping-silent neglects: an over-speaking itself over-hasten will.

Welt ir den sündensiechen laben mit lêre,
(If)-will you the sin-sick refresh with teaching,

sô schrecket in mit zwîvel niht ze sêre.
so frighten him with doubt not too sorely.

daz ir im alle sünde unmæret
that you to-him all sins make-light

mit süezen worten, daz ist guot:
with sweet words, that is good:

swâ ir den wilden wilder tuot,
wherever you the wild wilder make,

dâ wære baz, daz ir in gar verbæret.
there were better, that you him wholly let-alone.

87 Swâ sô die liute geordent sint,
Wherever so the people ordained are,

ez sîn die himelbæren oder ez sîn der helle kint,
it be the heaven-bearing or it be of-the hell children,

daz was Gote allez kunt, ê ie wart zît, tac, woche oder jâr.
that was to-God all known, before ever became time, day, week or year.

Dar umbe nieman sprechen sol:
There for no-one speak shall:

'swaz ich getuon, bin ich genislich, ich genise wol:
'whatever I do, (if)-am I savable, I am-saved well:

bin ich dem valle ergeben, son hilfet mich mîn woltuon niht ein hâr.'
(if)-am I to-the fall given, so helps me my well-doing not a hair.'

Swer sich alsô mit rede verketzerîet,
Whoever himself so with speech makes-heretic,

von dem ist der zwîvel niht gevrîet.
from him is the doubt not freed.

wir suln den zwîvel ûz uns rûmen.
we shall the doubt out-of us clear.

diu Gotes vorgewizzenheit
the God's foreknowledge

diun solte uns niht hâres breit
it should us not hair's breadth

unt ist daz wir uns selben niht versûmen.
and is that we us selves not neglect.

Vil manec guot Cristen sünden phligt, 88
Very many-a good Christian sins keeps,

der doch mit buoze in sünden sînen sünden an gesigt:
who yet with penance in sins his sins over triumphs:

wan sünde ist sô gemeine, daz lützel ieman lebt gar sünden vrî.
for sin is so common, that little anyone lives wholly of-sins free.

Des mac man alles sich erholn,
Of-that can one all oneself recover,

wan dem der rehte geloube ûz sînem herzen wirt verstoln
save to-him whose right faith out-of his heart becomes stolen

von den Cristen dieben, die uns mit valscher lêre slîchent bî.
by the Christian thieves, who to-us with false teaching creep by.

Daz ist ein sünde, diu sô tiefe gründet,
That is a sin, which so deep grounds,

daz si mit sünden nieman übersündet:
that it with sins no-one out-sins:

nû wachet, edele Cristen, wachet,
now wake, noble Christians, wake,

daz uns der leiden ketzer rât
that us the hateful heretics' counsel

iht scheide von der Trinitât,
not part from the Trinity,

dâ mite wir sîn ze Cristenheit gemachet.
there with we are to Christendom made.

Sünden glust ist sünde niht, 89
Sin's lust is sin not,

swenne er wirt sigelôs unt daz mit widerwer geschiht;
whenever he becomes victoryless and that with resistance happens;

sünden glust mit widerwer tuot crônebæren kemphen kunt.
sin's lust with resistance makes crown-bearing champions known.

Sünden glust mit widerwer,
Sin's lust with resistance,

swer dâ mit ist behaft, der strîtet wider ein creftic her:
whoever there with is beset, he fights against a mighty host:

wand in vil sêre an wîget sünden glust mit kamphe manege stunt.
for him very sorely on fights sin's lust with combat many-a time.

Sünden glust swer dîn erlâzen wære,
Sin's lust whoever of-thee spared were,

daz der alle sünde gar verbære,
that he all sins wholly forwent,

daz wære niht ein martercrône:
that were not a martyr's-crown:

dem hunger nimmer wê getuot,
whom hunger never woe does,

nimt Got des vasten wol verguot,
takes God the fasting well as-good,

daz ist ein dinc, des Got im selben lône.
that is a thing, which God to-him self reward.

90 Swem liep geschiht unt doch niht wol,
To-whom joy happens and yet not well,

swer des gan sînem vriunde, der gan im anders dan er sol:
whoever that grants to-his friend, he grants to-him otherwise than he shall:

wan driu liepgeschehen sint niht sô guot alsam ein wolgeschehen.
for three joy-happenings are not so good as a well-happening.

Er dunket mich ein wîse man,
He seems to-me a wise man,

der liepgeschehen unt wolgeschehen ze rehte erkennen kan:
who joy-happening and well-happening by right perceive can:

wan liepgeschehen unt wolgeschehen diu lânt sich dicke sunder spehen.
for joy-hap and weal-hap they let them often apart espy.

Von liepgeschehen vil liute in kumber vellet:
From joy-happening many people into trouble falls:

wol im, zuo dem sich wolgeschehen gesellet!
well to-him, to whom itself well-happening joins!

der ist der drîer dinge lære,
he is of-the three things empty,

daz sünde, schande, schade sî:
that sin, shame, harm be:

daz wolgeschehen ist wandels vrî,
the well-happening is of-blemish free,

daz liepgeschehen ist dicke wandelbære.
the joy-happening is often changeable.

Gelückes rat ist sinewel, 91
Fortune's wheel is round,

im loufet maneger nâch, doch ist ez vor im gar ze snel
it runs many-a-one after, yet is it before him wholly too quick

unt lât sich doch erloufen williclîch, den ez beswîchen wil.
and lets itself yet overtake willingly, him-whom it betray will.

Swer stîget ûf Gelückes rat,
Whoever climbs on Fortune's wheel,

der darf wol guoter sinne, wie er behalte Gelückes stat,
he needs well good senses, how he keep Fortune's place,

deiz under im iht wenke: wand ir daz rat hin ab im zucket vil.
that-it under him not waver: for of-them the wheel hence off itself snatches many.

Die müezen danne sîgen mit unwerde,
They must then sink with unworth,

wan si mit schanden ligen ûf der erde:
for they with shames lie on the earth:

Gelücke wenket unbesorget,
Fortune wavers uncared,

ez gît vil manegem ê der zît
it gives very to-many-a-one before the time

unt nimt hin wider swaz ez gît:
and takes back again whatever it gives:

ez tœret den, swem ez ze vil geborget.
it befools him, to-whom it too much lends.

92 Man, swaz dir unverdienet kome
Man, whatever to-thee undeserved come

ald vundelîche, wiltû, daz der vunt dich lange vrome,
or by-finding, (if)-wilt-thou, that the find thee long profit,

sô diene nâch dem vunde, daz dû dâ vor gedienet soltest hân.
so serve after the find, what thou there before served shouldst have.

Stîc in dich selben unde sprich
Climb into thee thyself and speak

ze dînem herzen: 'vriunt, wir hân verslâfen, dunket mich,
to thy heart: 'friend, we have overslept, seems to-me,

nâch disem grôzen vunde, den uns gelückes wunder hât getân.
after this great find, which to-us fortune's wonder has done.

Nû rât, wie wir diz wilde vunden glücke
Now counsel, how we this wild found fortune

halden, daz ez sich niht von uns zücke:
hold, that it itself not from us snatch:

ez lât sich als ungerne mûzen,
it lets itself so unwillingly molt,

ez ist sô wilde unt alsô vrî,
it is so wild and so free,

sîn wir im niht mit huote bî,
(if)-are we to-it not with guard by,

wirt im der sprunc, wir mugen ez wol verlûzen.'
(if)-becomes to-it the leap, we may it well lurk-for.'

93 Waz hilfet âne sinne kunst?
What helps without senses art?

waz hilfet wol gehœren, der dar zuo niht hât vernunst?
what helps well hearing, who there to not has understanding?

waz helfent schœniu ougen den, der daz wæger nimmer kan ersehen?
what help beautiful eyes him, who the better never can see?

Waz hilfet rîcheit âne rât?
What helps riches without counsel?

waz hilfet vil geheizen, ders niht muot ze tuonne hât?
what helps much promising, who-it not mind to do has?

waz hilfet mannes schœne, von dem doch nimmer êre kan geschehen?
what helps man's beauty, from whom yet never honor can happen?

Waz hilfet sterke, der si niht versuochet?
What helps strength, who it not tries?

waz hilfet dienest, dâ man sîn niht ruochet?
what helps service, where one of-it not cares?

waz hilfet ouch gebeitiu minne,
what helps also forced love,

diu niender von dem herzen kumt?
which nowhere from the heart comes?

noch minner zallen sælden vrumt
nor less at-all blessedness profits

des mannes leben, der valsch ist ûz unt inne.
the man's life, who false is outside and inside.

Daz bœste vleisch, daz ie getruoc 94
The worst flesh, that ever carried

wolf oder hunt in sînem munde, daz ist bœse gnuoc:
wolf or dog in his mouth, that is evil enough:

des bœsen menschen zunge ist bœser vil: sô wê in, die si tragen!
of-the evil man tongue is more-evil much: so woe to-them, who it carry!

Mit worten crenket si den luft
With words weakens it the air

unt senket jene, die si dâ tragent, in der helle gruft:
and sinks those, who it there carry, into the hell's vault:

knierûnen, spotten, smeichen, lugelôsen, mein swern, vluoch bejagen,
knee-whispering, mocking, flattering, lying, perjury swearing, curse hunting,

Daz kan diu bœse zunge unt dan noch mêre:
That can the evil tongue and then still more:

si entzündet schande unt leschet hoves êre;
it kindles shame and quenches court's honor;

si snabelsnellet ûf die besten
it beak-snaps at the best

daz bœste daz si vinden kan.
the worst that it find can.

diu werlt nie bœser vleisch gewan:
the world never more-evil flesh won:

des müezen sich die maden an ir mesten!
of-that must themselves the maggots on it fatten!

Diu reine zunge ist alsô guot,
The pure tongue is so good,

daz si Gote mit worten sanfte in sînen ôren tuot:
that it to-God with words gently in his ears does:

si süenet unde samnet vriunt unt leschet manegen swæren zorn.
it reconciles and gathers friends and quenches many-a heavy anger.

Wol im, der si behûset hât,
Well to-him, who it housed has,

unt ouch dem herzen, daz der zungen schenket solchen rât!
and also to-the heart, that to-the tongue pours such counsel!

er sî swes kint er welle, ich wil in haben vür edel unt wol geborn.
he be whose child he will, I will him have for noble and well born.

Diu reine zunge lât sich niht ermieten;
The pure tongue lets itself not hire;

die miete kan si nieman an gebieten,
the hire can it no-one on bid,

daz si sich zuntriuwen valde.
that it itself to-faithlessness fold.

diu reine zunge erwerben kan
the pure tongue win can

guot wîp ze vriunde unt werden man:
good woman as friend and worthy man:

er sælic munt, der reiner zungen walde!
he blessed mouth, who pure tongue rules!

Oben über unt unden durch gevarn 96
Above over and below through fared

daz ist ze hôch unt ouch ze nidere: swer daz wil bewarn,
that is too high and also too low: whoever that will guard,

der var enmitten hin: daz ist vür vallen unt vür strûchen guot.
he fare in-the-middle hence: that is for falling and for stumbling good.

Ein mæzlich stîgen wirret niht;
A measured climbing harms not;

von unmæzlîchem stîgen swindelt lîhte, sô man giht:
from unmeasured climbing grows-dizzy easily, as one says:

swer gnuoc tuot, der tuot baz dan einer, der im selben übertuot.
whoever enough does, he does better than one, who to-him self overdoes.

Der mittelmâze phlâgen ie die wîsen,
The middle-measure kept ever the wise,

oben über gehôrt ich nie die wîsen prîsen:
above over heard I never the wise praise:

des sî gelobt diu mittelmâze
of-that be praised the middle-measure

vür tumbes mannes ûf unt abe,
before foolish man's up and down,

der vornân strebe unt hinden snabe
who in-front strive and behind trip

unt über reht unstæteclîchen grâze.
and over right inconstantly rage.

Sage ane, muntvol, wiltû dich 97
Say on, mouthful, wilt-thou thyself

hantvol gelîchen? daz ist doch vil ungelich:
to-handful liken? that is yet very unlike:

wil danne hantvol schôzvol übermenegen, des enmac niht sîn.
(if)-will then handful lapful outnumber, that may not be.

Sô hilfet schôzvol niht sîn karc
So helps lapful not be crafty

noch al sîn kündikeit, im sî doch malter überstarc;
nor all its cunning, to-it be yet bushel over-strong;

sô tuot daz mütte ein vuoder, daz malter kûme ein halbez vüederlîn.
so does the measure a cartload, the bushel scarcely a half little-cartload.

Sage muntvol, hantvol, schôzvol, malter, mütte,
Say mouthful, handful, lapful, bushel, measure,

ist ein gezelt iht wîter dan ein hütte?
is a tent anything wider than a hut?

sprich 'jâ' unt lâ dich selbe ungaffet:
speak 'yes' and let thee self ungawked-at:

er ist ein tôre, der getar
he is a fool, who dares

hôch über houbet grâzen dar,
high over head rage thither,

dâ sîn getar im selben schaden schaffet.
where his daring to-him self harm creates.

98 Den sûren sûr, den scharfen scharf,
To-the sour sour, to-the sharp sharp,

den harten hart, dêst allez guot, derz kan, dâ mans bedarf:
to-the hard hard, that-is all good, who-it can, where one-it needs:

swer bî der hôchverte hôchverten kan ze rehte, dêst ouch guot.
whoever by the haughtiness haughty-be can by right, that-is also good.

Swer lant unt liute hât gewalt,
Whoever land and people has power,

der sî den slehten sleht, den manicvalden manicvalt:
he be to-the plain plain, to-the manifold manifold:

er minne den êrebæren unt hazze den, der dankes missetuot.
he love the honorable and hate him, who willingly misdoes.

Wil er in beiden sîn gelîche süeze,
(If)-will he to-them both be alike sweet,

nû sprechet, wer dem süezen danne büeze,
now speak, who to-the sweet then make-amends,

ob er des sûren schaden gewinnet:
if he of-the sour harm wins:

dâ hœret hêrren vorhte zuo,
there belongs lords' fear to,

daz der an disem iht missetuo:
that he to this not misdo:

dâ von wirt hêr ervorht unt ouch geminnet.
there from becomes lord feared and also loved.

Unt solt ich mâlen einen man, 99
And should I paint a man,

dêswâr, den wolt ich machen harte wunderlich getân,
truly, him would I make very wondrously made,

daz er doch hieze ein man: ich mâlte sîn niht als man manegen siht.
that he yet were-called a man: I would-paint him not as one many-a-one sees.

Er müeste strûzes ougen haben
He must ostrich's eyes have

unt eines cranches hals, dar inne ein zunge wol geschaben,
and a crane's neck, there in a tongue well scraped,

unt zwei swînes ôren: lewen herze des vergæze ich niht.
and two swine's ears: lion's heart that would-forget I not.

Ein hant wolt ich im nâch dem arne mâlen;
A hand would I to-him after the eagle paint;

an der andern wolt ich niht entwâlen,
on the other would I not delay,

ich wolt si bilden nâch dem grîfen,
I would it shape after the griffin,

dar zuo die vüeze als einem bern:
there to the feet as to-a bear:

sus wolt ich ganzes mannes wern:
thus would I of-whole man grant:

swer des niht hât, von dem mac manheit slîfen.
whoever that not has, from him can manhood slip.

Strûzes ougen sol ein man
Ostrich's eyes shall a man

durch lieplich angesihte gegen den sînen gerne hân,
for lovely sight toward the his-own gladly have,

unt eines cranches hals durch vürgedenken, waz er sprechen müge.
and a crane's neck for forethinking, what he speak may.

Sîn zunge sol im sîn geschaben
His tongue shall to-him be scraped

durch wort gar âne vlecken: der sol er gern unt sol ouch haben
for words wholly without stains: which shall he desire and shall also have

durch hœren swînes ôren, wâ im ze stân od aber ze vliehen tüge.
for hearing swine's ears, where to-him to stand or but to flee avail.

Lewen herze durch wer, ein hant nâch dem arne,
Lion's heart for defense, a hand after the eagle,

die sol er hân durch milte, niht ze sparne:
that shall he have for generosity, not to spare:

die nâch dem grîfen durch behalden,
that after the griffin for keeping,

berenvüeze vür den zorn;
bear's-feet for the anger;

alsô hân ich den man erkorn:
so have I the man chosen:

swelch man daz hât, der mac wol manheit walden.
whatever man that has, he can well manhood wield.

Ein Adam, der ein Êven hât, 101
An Adam, who an Eve has,

diu im gebieten mac, daz er daz tuot durch si unt lât,
who to-him command may, that he that does for her and leaves,

der Adam ist der Êven michels mêr dan Êve Adâmes sî.
the Adam is the Eve's much more than Eve Adam's be.

Ein Adam habe sîn Êven liep
An Adam have his Eve dear

unt doch sô liep, daz Êve iht werde sîner êren diep:
and yet so dear, that Eve not become of-his honors thief:

ez mac sich lîhte gevüegen, daz man vrôn Êven manne sprichet 'phî!'
it may itself perhaps befit, that one to-lady Eve's man speaks 'fie!'

Wie tuot ir sô, her Adam, mit dem barte?
How do you so, sir Adam, with the beard?

ir volget iuwer Êven al ze harte!
you follow your Eve all too hard!

ir mannet! lât vrôn Êven wîben!
you play-the-man! let lady Eve play-the-woman!

habt mannes êre ûf rehte tât!
have man's honor upon right deed!

mit ramwerke unt mit wæher nât
with frame-work and with fine sewing

hie mit lât si dâ heime ir zît vertrîben!
here with let her there at-home her time pass!

Swelch guot man hât ein biderbe wîp, 102
Whatever good man has a worthy woman,

der slâfe unt habe gemach! ir wol gescheftic biderbe lîp
he sleep and have ease! her well busy worthy person

der erlât in maneger müeje, des biderbes mannes guot wîp niht entuot.
she spares him many-a toil, whose worthy man's good wife not does.

Hât guot wîp einen biderben man,
(If)-has good woman a worthy man,

diun zürnet niht, ob er daz lenger mezzer henket an;
she grows-angry not, if he the longer knife hangs on;

si lât in biderbe sîn unt ist si dâ bî wîplich unde guot.
she lets him worthy be and is she there by womanly and good.

Sagt an, her gast, ze welchem welt ir kêren?
Say on, sir guest, to which will you turn?

wederthalp verseht ir iuch mêr êren?
on-which-side expect you yourselves more honors?

hie biderber man bî guotem wîbe,
here worthy man by good woman,

dort biderbe wîp bî guotem man:
there worthy woman by good man:

nû mezzet beidenthalp dar an
now measure on-both-sides there on

unt sagt, bî wem der wîsen lop verlîbe!
and say, with whom the wise-ones' praise remains!

103 Der edel wîse vrî Adam
The noble wise free Adam

von eines wîbes minne schaden an sîner wirde nam:
from a woman's love harm in his worth took:

sîn wîsheit wart verlistet, sîn vrîheit seic in eigenschefte joch.
his wisdom was outwitted, his freedom sank into bondage's yoke.

Samson ouch sîne craft verlôs
Samson also his strength lost

von eines wîbes minne, die er im ze trût erkôs;
from a woman's love, whom he for-himself as darling chose;

diu Salomônis wîsheit, swie ganz diu wære, ein wîp verschriet si doch.
the Solomon's wisdom, however whole it were, a woman cut it yet.

Swâ wîbes minne mannes tugende mêret,
Wherever woman's love man's virtues increases,

dâ sî wîp unt wîbes minne gêret:
there be woman and woman's love honored:

swâ aber ein man von wîbes minne
wherever but a man from woman's love

an tugende, an wirden wehset abe,
in virtue, in worth grows off,

der habe im allez, daz ich habe,
he have for-himself all, that I have,

diu minne ensî gemischet mit unsinne!
the love unless-be mixed with folly!

Her Han, ich wil iu siges jehen: 104
Sir Cock, I will to-you of-victory avow:

ir sît sô rehte küene, als ich vil dicke hân gesehen,
you are so rightly bold, as I very often have seen,

iur meisterschaft ist grôz gein iuwern wîben, der ir habt doch vil.
your mastery is great toward your wives, of-which you have yet many.

Nû ist wan eine mir beschert,
Now is save one to-me allotted,

diu hât mich aller vröude unt mîner sinne gar behert,
she has me of-all joy and of-my senses wholly bereft,

si treit daz lenger mezzer unt zürnet, swenne ich vrœlich wesen wil.
she carries the longer knife and grows-angry, whenever I joyful be will.

Het ich ir zwô, sô torste ich niht gelachen;
Had I of-them two, so dared I not laugh;

het ich ir vier, sô müest mir vröude swachen;
had I of-them four, so must to-me joy weaken;

het ich ir eht, wie gnæse ich denne?
had I of-them eight, how would-survive I then?

sô wurde ich schier von in verzert.
so would-become I soon by them consumed.

her Han, daz iuch iur vrümkeit nert,
sir Cock, that you your valor saves,

dast iuwer heil, unt meistert zwelef henne.
that-is your salvation, and masters twelve hens.

Swâ guot man hât ein übel wîp
Wherever good man has an evil wife

unt dâ bî unverwizzen gar, vervluochet sî der lîp!
and there by unreproached wholly, cursed be the body!

dâ ist lützel êren bî, swâ si der meisterschefte phligt.
there is little of-honors by, wherever she the mastery keeps.

Noch bezzer wære ein senfter tôt
Still better were a gentle death

dem guoten man ze lîden dan ein immer werndiu nôt.
to-the good man to suffer than an ever lasting distress.

ich wil dich, guot man, lêren, wie dîn meisterschaft ir an gesigt.
I will thee, good man, teach, how thy mastery to-her over triumphs.

Dû solt dir dîne güete lân entslîfen
Thou shalt to-thee thy goodness let slip-away

unt solt nâch einem grôzen knütel grîfen:
and shalt after a great cudgel grasp:

den soltû ir zem rugge mezzen
that shalt-thou to-her at-the back measure

ie baz unt baz nâch dîner craft,
ever better and better after thy strength,

daz si dir jehe der meisterschaft;
that she to-thee avow the mastery;

heiz si dir swern, si welle ir übele vergezzen!
bid her to-thee swear, she will her evil forget!

Turnieren was ê ritterlîch

TOURNAMENT, DICE, AND DRINK

Nineteen strophes. Tourneying has become murder, a grief to ladies. The devil made dice to win souls, shaping each face on a number, from the ace for the one God and the five for the senses he weakens to the six for the weeks of Lent he wins from us. Drunkenness harms soul, body, honor, and goods, and now that vices are called honors, the uncouth are praised. A filthy word once fought over is spoken lightly. A squire should shun the tap more than the shield. Generosity and valor together adorn a hand, but Lady Generosity has many lords and few servants. True generosity gives where it should, while fools' generosity buys fools' praise. Where Swift and Cleverness keep house, faith and truth are absent, and the last strophe reproaches a friend turned proud and cunning within a year.

Turnieren was ê ritterlîch, 106
Tourneying was before knightly,

nû ist ez rinderlich, toblich, tôtreis, mundes rîch,
now is it oxlike, raving, death-journey, of-mouth rich,

mortmezzer unt mortkolbe, gesliffen aks gar ûf des mannes tôt.
murder-knife and murder-club, sharpened axe wholly upon the man's death.

Sus ist der turnei nû gestalt:
Thus is the tourney now shaped:

des werdent schœner vrouwen ir ougen rôt, ir herze kalt,
of-that become of-beautiful ladies their eyes red, their heart cold,

swan si ir werden lieben man dâ weiz in mortlîcher nôt.
when they their worthy dear man there know in murderous distress.

Dô man turnierens phlac durch ritters lêre,
When one tourneying kept for knight's teaching,

durch hôhen muot, durch hübescheit unt durch êre,
for high spirit, for courtliness and for honor,

dô hete man umb eine decke
then had one for a horse-cloth

ungerne erwürget guoten man:
unwillingly strangled good man:

swer daz nû tuot unt daz wol kan,
whoever that now does and that well can,

der dunket sich ze velde gar ein recke.
he seems to-himself in-the field wholly a champion.

107 Ô wê dir, spil, wie bœse ein amt!
O woe to-thee, game, how evil an office!

mich wundert, daz sich dîn niht al diu werlt gemeine schamt
me wonders, that itself of-thee not all the world in-common shames

unt doch sô manic man von dir verlorn hât sêle unde lîp.
and yet so many-a man through thee lost has soul and body.

Dû græwest sunder alter jugent,
Thou grayest without age youth,

in kan an dir gemerken noch geprüeven keine tugent:
I can in thee notice nor prove no virtue:

ô wê dazt alsô dicke beswærest unt betrüebest reiniu wîp!
O woe that-thou so often burdenest and grievest pure women!

Dîn wirt getiuret lützel ieman selten,
Through-thee becomes made-precious little anyone seldom,

dû prüevest roup, mort, liegen, stelen, schelten;
thou causest robbery, murder, lying, stealing, reviling;

dû hâst gekêrt von Gotes minne,
thou hast turned from God's love,

dû bræht dem tievel manegen man:
thou broughtest to-the devil many-a man:

sît ich daz wol erkennen kan,
since I that well perceive can,

mîde ich dich niht, spil, zwâr daz sint unsinne!
(if)-avoid I thee not, game, truly that are follies!

Daz schœniu wîp betwingent man, 108
That beautiful women compel men,

unt ist dâ sünde bî, son ist dâ doch niht wunders an:
and is there sin by, so is there yet nothing of-wonder in:

sô twinget schatz ouch sînen kneht alsô, daz er im dienen muoz.
so compels treasure also his servant so, that he to-it serve must.

Sô twinget guotes hêrre ouch guot,
So compels goods' lord also goods,

daz ez im dienen muoz unt lîden swaz er mit im tuot;
that it to-him serve must and suffer whatever he with it does;

sô twinget wînes craft ouch sînen man, daz im wirt sinne buoz.
so compels wine's power also its man, that to-him becomes of-senses bereft.

Dannoch weiz ich ein wunderlîchez twingen,
Still know I a wondrous compelling,

daz wunderlîcher ist ob allen dingen:
that more-wondrous is over all things:

daz einem tôten würfelbeine
that to-a dead dice-bone

ein lebende man herze unde muot
a living man heart and mind

sô gerlîch undertænic tuot,
so wholly subject makes,

deiz im benimt sinne unde witze al eine.
that-it to-him takes senses and wits all alone.

Der tiuvel schuof daz würfelspil 109
The devil created the dice-game

dar umbe daz er sêlen vil dâ mit gewinnen wil:
there for that he souls many there with win will:

daz esse er hât gemachet dar ûf daz ein Got gewaltec ist.
the ace he has made there upon that one God mighty is.

Der himel in sînen handen stât
The heaven in his hands stands

unt diu erde, dar ûf er daz tûs gemachet hât;
and the earth, there upon he the deuce made has;

die drîen ûf die drîe namen, die er hât der süeze wære Crist.
the three upon the three names, which he has the sweet true Christ.

Daz quater daz worht er mit grôzen listen
The four that wrought he with great cunning

ûf die namen der vier Êwangelisten;
upon the names of-the four Evangelists;

den zinken ûf des menschen sinne,
the cinque upon the man's senses,

wie der die vünve mache cranc;
how he the five make weak;

daz ses, wie er sehs wochen lanc
the six, how he six weeks long

die vasten uns mit topel angewinne.
the fast from-us with dicing win.

Ez ist ein wurz, diu schaden birt,
There is a root, which harm bears,

von der leidem sâmen vil manic sêle verirret wirt
from whose hateful seed very many-a soul led-astray becomes

der himelischen wunne, die Got den guoten sêlen hât bereit.
from-the heavenly bliss, which God to-the good souls has prepared.

Swer die wurz erkennen wil
Whoever the root know will

unt ir sâmen, der sol mîden allez würfelspil:
and its seed, he shall avoid all dice-game:

daz swendet guot unt êre unt bringt der sêl dort immer werndiu leit.
that dwindles goods and honor and brings to-the soul there ever lasting sorrow.

Ô wê im, der sîn ie von êrst gedâhte!
O woe to-him, who of-it ever at first thought!

waz er der sêln dâ mite zer helle brâhte
what he of-the souls there with to-the hell brought

unt schiet si von dem himelrîche!
and parted them from the heaven-kingdom!

ô wê welch ein vervluochter vunt,
O woe what a cursed find,

dâ mit er stiurt der helle grunt!
there with he furnishes the hell's ground!

swem si wirt kunt, der brinnet êwiclîche.
to-whom it becomes known, he burns eternally.

Diu trunkenheit tuot grôzen schaden, 111
The drunkenness does great harm,

si tuot die sêle sünden unde schanden überladen,
she makes the soul with-sins and shames overladen,

si machet manegen man, daz im Got unt die liute werdent gram.
she makes many-a man, that to-him God and the people become hostile.

Diu trunkenheit tuot dannoch mê,
The drunkenness does still more,

si schadet an dem guote unt tuot dâ bî dem lîbe wê,
she harms in the goods and does there by to-the body woe,

si stummet unde blendet, si tœret unde machet manegen lam.
she dumbs and blinds, she befools and makes many-a-one lame.

Sît daz si tœtet sêle, lîp unt êre
Since that she kills soul, body and honor

unt benimt daz guot unt prüevet schaden noch mêre,
and takes the goods and causes harm still more,

wie sol man in heizen dannen,
how shall one him call then,

der ir wil volgen zaller stunt?
who her will follow at-every hour?

‘her trunkenbolt, her trunkenslunt’
‘sir drunkard, sir drunken-gullet’

sus heizt er wol von wîben unt von mannen.
thus is-called he well by women and by men.

112 Wir haben nû êre dinge vil,
We have now honor things many,

diu wîlent laster hiezen, als ich iuch bescheiden wil:
which once vices were-called, as I you inform will:

man heizet karkeit witze unt lobt den man, swie er gewinnet guot.
one calls stinginess wit and praises the man, however he wins goods.

Diu verschamte trunkenheit
The shameless drunkenness

hât alle vröude geneiget, allen schimph gar hin geleit:
has all joy bowed, all jest wholly away laid:

daz ist diu beste vuore, der man nû phligt: wære ieman hôchgemuot
that is the best conduct, which one now keeps: were anyone high-spirited

Gern oder milte, derst mit spotte gehœnet;
Willing or generous, he-is with mockery scorned;

swer unzuht phligt, der ist mit lobe gecrœnet.
whoever unbreeding keeps, he is with praise crowned.

swie vil man schiltet oder gunêret
however much one reviles or dishonors

maneges muoter unt sîn wîp,
many-a-one’s mother and his wife,

des schemt sich ir dekeines lîp:
of-that shames himself of-them none’s person:

sus hât diu werlt an vröuden sich verkêret.
thus has the world in joys itself turned.

Zucker süeze, honec, bênît 113
Sugar sweet, honey, candy

diun wurden nie sô süeze als ein wort, des man nû phlît:
they became never so sweet as a word, which one now uses:

wîlent was ez bitter, nû ist ez worden alsô süeze gar.
once was it bitter, now is it become so sweet wholly.

Daz selbe wort ê nieman sprach,
That same word before no-one spoke,

dâ giengen underwîlen grôze slege unt wunden nâch:
there went sometimes great blows and wounds after:

nustz alsô süeze worden, daz nû nieman nimt sô süezes war.
now-is-it so sweet become, that now no-one takes such sweetness heed.

Daz selbe wort wil ich mit vuogen nennen,
That same word will I with fitness name,

daz ir ez alle müget wol erkennen:
that you it all may well know:

si sprechent: 'sun von bœsen wîben!'
they speak: 'son of evil women!'

unt tuont daz leider alsô vil,
and do that alas so much,

daz ichz Got immer clagen wil,
that I-it to-God ever lament will,

unt sol daz wort die lenge alsô belîben.
and shall the word the length so remain.

Ez sol ein rittermæzic kneht 114
There shall a knightly squire

den zaphen gerner schiuhen, dan den schilt: daz ist sîn reht:
the tap more-gladly shun, than the shield: that is his right:

gesigt an im der zaphe, so entwehset im der schilt in vremde hant.
(if)-triumphs over him the tap, so grows-away to-him the shield into strange hand.

Stât im der muot ebn in den schilt,
(if)-Stands to-him the mind even in the shield,

sô daz herze unt ouge im reht ûf schiltes ambet spilt,
so that heart and eye to-him right upon shield's office plays,

daz gît im guoten muot unt hôhez lop verre unde wîte erkant.
that gives to-him good mind and high praise far and wide known.

Ir edelen knehte, lernet alsô trinken,
You noble squires, learn so to-drink,

daz ir niht schilteshalp beginnet hinken!
that you not shield-wise begin limping!

vür durst ist trinken wol erloubet:
for thirst is drinking well allowed:

swem aber durch des zaphen clinc
to-whomever but through the tap's clink

unmærent ritterlîchiu dinc,
grow-dull knightly things,

der treit hin hein vil lîhte ein trunken houbet.
he carries hence home very likely a drunken head.

In dirre wilden werlde vert
In this wild world goes

ein vröude, diu was wîlent schamelôser diet beschert:
a joy, which was once to-shameless folk allotted:

nû ist ir leider lützel, die sich der selben vröude wellen schamen.
now are of-it alas few, who themselves of-the same joy will be-ashamed.

Mit gîticlîcher ungenuht
With greedy unsatedness

durchvliuzet si den munt unt durchbrichet rehte zuht:
flows-through she the mouth and breaks-through right breeding:

ô wê daz man si vindet bî sô manegem hôhen edeln namen!
O woe that one her finds by so many-a high noble name!

Si lemt die zungen unt crenket guote sinne,
She lames the tongue and weakens good senses,

si wecket zorn unt leschet rehte minne;
she wakes anger and quenches right love;

starkiu bein si strûchen lêret
strong legs she stumbling teaches

unt hât an manegen sünden teil;
and has in many sins share;

si machet muot ân êre geil,
she makes mind without honor wanton,

ir âbentspil lîp unde sêl unêret.
her evening-game body and soul dishonors.

Diu hant diu müeze sælic sîn, 116
The hand it may blessed be,

dâ milte unt ellen beide schône hânt gehûset în:
where generosity and valor both beautifully have housed in:

der zweier tugende mac ein ieglich man von schulden wesen geil.
of-the two virtues may an each man with cause be glad.

Ist aber ellen überladen
(if)-Is but valor overladen

mit erge in einer hant, daz tuot an wirde grôzen schaden:
with avarice in one hand, that does in worth great harm:

ellen bî der erge erwirbet selten guotes mannes heil.
valor by the avarice wins seldom good man's salvation.

Swâ milte unt ellen sich behûsent beide,
Wherever generosity and valor themselves house both,

daz ziert den lîp alsam der clê die heide:
that adorns the body as the clover the heath:

hât aber milte sich behûset
(if)-has but generosity itself housed

in zagen hant, daz sol man clagen:
in coward's hand, that shall one lament:

si muoz der schanden burde tragen
she must the shame's burden carry

unt wirt ir lop in schanden hol verclûset.
and becomes her praise in shame's hollow enclosed.

117 Gerne gewern, ungerne biten,
Gladly granting, unwillingly asking,

swer diu zwei an im vinden lât, daz kumt von edelen siten:
whoever the two in him find lets, that comes from noble manners:

nider geheizen, hôhe leisten, diu zwei sint gar lobelich.
low promising, high performing, the two are wholly praiseworthy.

Ein munt von rîchen worten vol,
A mouth of rich words full,

dâ bî ein îtal herze, diu cleident niht zesamne wol;
there by an empty heart, they suit not together well;

dâ sint die hende müezic bî; des lîbes wolt ich schamen mich.
there are the hands idle by; of-the person would I be-ashamed myself.

Der alsô gehant, geherzet wære,
Who so handed, hearted were,

gât ûz, her Lîp, ir sît niht minnebære!
go out, sir Person, you are not love-worthy!

si ungenæme wolkengüsse,
she unwelcome cloudbursts,

ez sî ein juncvrouwe oder ein wîp,
it be a young-lady or a woman,

diu alsô missewenden lîp
who so faultful person

an sînen munt immer slâfende küsse!
on his mouth ever sleeping kiss!

118 Diu Milte manegen hêrren hât,
The Generosity many lords has,

ir knehte der weiz ich lützel: an mîn herze mir daz gât:
her servants of-them know I few: to my heart to-me that goes:

guot leben was bî ir knehten, nû ist diu wîle bî ir hêrren lanc.
good life was by her servants, now is the while by her lords long.

Ir hêrren sint sô hêre gar,
Her lords are so lordly wholly,

daz si in ir keines herze nimmer wol enkumet dar;
that she into of-them any heart never well comes thither;

wil si mit in iht werben, des muoz si warten under einer banc,
(if)-will she with them anything woo, of-that must she wait under a bench,

Unz ob ir einer lîhte des geruochet,
Until if of-them one perhaps of-that deigns,

daz er si durch giuden willen suochet:
that he her for squandering's sake seeks:

der stunden muoz si danne vâren.
the hour must she then watch-for.

des tâten niht ir knehte dô;
that did not her servants then;

die enwurden nimmer vrô
they became never glad

unz an die wîl si in ir dienste wâren.
until to the while they in her service were.

Vrô Milt, ir sît unt sît doch niht, 119
Lady Generosity, you are and are yet not,

diu zwei undr einer wæte: des man iu der wunder giht,
the two under one garment: of-which one to-you the wonders avows,

daz ir sô werben kunnet — ich sage iu
that you so woo can I say to-you

wie unt wâ — an maneger stat:
how and where in many-a place:

Swâ iuch der gart sô wecken muoz,
Wherever you the switch so wake must,

dâ wirdet lazzer zungen von iu selten kumbers buoz:
there becomes of-loose tongues by you seldom of-trouble amends:

dem ungeschamten sît ir dâ, dem wolgeschamten sît ir mat.
to-the unashamed are you there, to-the well-ashamed are you checkmated.

Vrô Milt, swâ iuch der gart sô wecken müeze,
Lady Generosity, wherever you the switch so wake must,

da belîbet alsô bitter unde süeze
there remains so bitter and sweet

sam niht unt doch undr eime dache:
as nothing and yet under one roof:

dêst bezzer danne gar verlorn:
that-is better than wholly lost:

swâ ir sô zwilich sît geborn,
wherever you so twofold are born,

dâ zwilicht ir dem schamenden zungemache.
there twill you to-the ashamed tongue-trouble.

Ist milte ein tugent, als man ir giht,
(if)-Is generosity a virtue, as one of-her avows,

sô weiz ich wol an ir, daz si lêrt guot hin werfen niht;
so know I well of her, that she teaches goods away throw not;

si kan wol hengen unde haben, si kan wol halten unde lân.
she can well let-go and have, she can well hold and let.

Ich weiz wol, ir tuot wê versagen;
I know well, to-her does woe refusing;

swâ si ze rehte geben sol, dâ kan si niht verzagen:
wherever she by right give shall, there can she not despair:

swem si ir hant mit helfe biutet, dast mit herzen ouch getân.
to-whom she her hand with help offers, that-is with heart also done.

Swer vierdunc lop mit marken übergiltet,
Whoever farthing praise with marks overpays,

der hât ouch getôrt unt niht gemiltet,
he has also played-the-fool and not been-generous,

unt dâ bî vuodermæzic êre
and there by cartload-measured honor

mit hantvol niht engelten wil:
with handful not pay will:

der erge ist ouch ein teil ze vil:
of-the avarice is also a part too much:

daz missezimt der rehten milte sêre.
that misbefits the right generosity greatly.

Der tôren milte tôren lobent: 121
The fools' generosity fools praise:

die dan durch tôren lop ir guot vertœrent unt vertobent,
who then for fools' praise their goods squander and rave-away,

die haben der tôren lop unt sîn dâ bî ân êre unt âne guot!
they have the fools' praise and are there by without honor and without goods!

Sô hât diu minne ir tôren ouch:
So has the love her fools also:

jâ dunkt er mich der sinne unt ouch der minne ein rehter gouch,
yea seems he to-me of-the senses and also of-the love a right fool,

swer heime ist wol gewîbet unt ûf ein ander wendet sînen muot!
whoever at-home is well wived and upon an other turns his mind!

Unt swer turnieren minnet alsô sêre,
And whoever tourneying loves so greatly,

daz er dâ bî vergizzet der hûsêre,
that he there by forgets the house-honor,

dern hât der mâze niht behalten:
he has the measure not kept:

ein gnuoc turnieren daz ist guot:
an enough tourneying that is good:

ze vil an allen dingen tuot
too much in all things does

bruch rehtem lobe: sus sagent die wîsen alten.
breach to-right praise: thus say the wise old.

122 Swind ist ein lop, swer daz nû kan
Swift is a praise, whoever that now can

bî der werlde verdienen, der ist ein gar nâchrætic man:
by the world earn, he is a wholly scheming man:

waz gar nâchrætic sî, daz wirt in Sibchen ahte dicke schîn.
what wholly scheming be, that becomes in Sibeche's manner often shown.

Dô Sibche starp, dô liez er kint,
When Sibeche died, then left he children,

diu nû bî disen zîten alsô swinde worden sint,
who now by these times so swift become are,

daz man si lîden muoz, dâ man ir wol enbære, möht ez sîn.
that one them suffer must, where one them well would-forgo, might it be.

Swâ Swinde Cluokeit heim bî ir behûset
Wherever Swift Cleverness at-home by her houses

unt Swinde lûzet, dâ bî Cluokeit mûset
and Swift lurks, there by Cleverness mouses

hin unde her mit kündikeite,
hither and thither with cunning,

ist dâ triuwe unt wârheit mite?
is there faith and truth with?

desn wæne ich niht, als ich ir site
of-that suppose I not, as I their manners

erkennen kan: guot vriunt, vliuch ir geleite!
know can: good friend, flee their company!

123 Diu Cluokeit ist der Kündikeit
The Cleverness is of-the Cunning

kebshalp vil nâhen sippe, unt ist daz daz sî mangen leit,
concubine-side very near kin, and (if)-is that that be to-many grievous,

sô hüeten daz diu Cluokeit der Kündikeit iht gar ze heinlich sî.
so guard that the Cleverness to-the Cunning not wholly too intimate be.

Cluoc unt cluoc unt übercluoc
Clever and clever and over-clever

der drîer hât ein reinez herze an einem gar genuoc:
of-the three has a pure heart in one wholly enough:

ist cluoc ein lop, sô cluoge alsô, daz dâ iht græte stecke bî!
(if)-is clever a praise, so be-clever so, that there no fishbone stick by!

Swes Cluokeit stât mit Kündikeit ze vâre,
Whose Cleverness stands with Cunning in ambush,

wie er mit vriunt sô kündiclîch gebâre,
how he with friend so cunningly behave,

dâ wil Cluokeit ir lop verbôsen:
there will Cleverness her praise make-evil:

nû cluogen hin, nû cluogen her!
now clever hither, now clever thither!

swâ Cluokeit ist mit valscher ger,
wherever Cleverness is with false desire,

diun zimet niht wol wan den argelôsen.
she befits not well save the guileless.

Her vriunt, her vriunt, wie tuot ir sô? 124
Sir friend, sir friend, how do you so?

ir tuot als ir mir worden sît ze biderbe unt ze hô:
you do as-if you to-me become are too worthy and too high:

seht vür die vüeze baz unt überseht den vriunt sô lîhte niht!
look before the feet better and overlook the friend so easily not!

Sît iuwers vundes niht ze geil!
Be of-your find not too glad!

waz ob iuwer heil eime andern kumet an sîn seil,
what if your luck to-an other comes onto his rope,

den ir nû überseht, daz iuch der selbe her nâch übersiht?
whom you now overlook, that you the same here after overlooks?

Nû wâret ir doch noch vor einem jâre
Now were you yet still before a year

mîn bester vriunt: nû stât ir mir ze vâre
my best friend: now stand you to-me in ambush

mit miuchelræcher kündikeite.
with skulking cunning.

hân ich iuch niht bî namen genant,
(if)-have I you not by name named,

sô ist iu doch daz wol bekant,
so is to-you yet that well known,

daz disiu rede ûf iuch gât mit geleite.
that this speech upon you goes with escort.

Die engel sint noch engel kint

THE POPE AND ROME

Eleven strophes against the Curia: unholy cardinals cannot choose a right pope, popes who keep gold and lands are suspect, and everything in Rome is for sale.

Die engel sint noch engel kint 125
The angels are still angel children

unde dâ bî hezzic, nîdic, hôchgemüetic sint,
and there by spiteful, envious, haughty are,

wie kunden die nâch Gotes êren einen rehten bâbst erweln?
how could they after God's honors a right pope elect?

Rômære sint niht heilic gar,
Romans are not holy wholly,

alsô sint die cardenâl, ob ichz gesprechen tar:
so are the cardinals, if I-it speak dare:

swen si unheiliclîchen erwelnt, den wellent si vür heilic zeln.
whom they unholily elect, him will they for holy count.

Unrehte weler welnt vil dicke unrehte:
Wrong electors elect very often wrongly:

die Gotes erwelten die sint sîne knehte:
the God's elect they are his servants:

swer Gotes erwelter bâbest wære
whoever God's elected pope were

nâch dem ordn Melchisedêch,
after the order Melchizedek,

dem er crône unde kelch verlêch,
to-whom he crown and chalice granted,

der wære uns wol ze Rôme vaterbære.
he would-be to-us well at Rome father-worthy.

126 Dô Got in menschen bilde erschein
When God in man's image appeared

vil arm unt alsô arm, ez mohte erbarmen einen stein,
very poor and so poor, it might pity a stone,

dise armuot truoc er ûf der erden mêr dan driu unt drîzic jâr.
this poverty bore he on the earth more than three and thirty years.

Dise armuot truoc er aller diet
This poverty bore he to-all folk

zeinem bilde vor, sît er dâ nieman ûz enschiet:
as-an example before, since he there no-one out excepted:

ist aber dâ ieman gesundert ûz, des weiz ich niht vür wâr.
(if)-is but there anyone separated out, of-that know I not for true.

Unt sint die bêbeste ûz gesundert eine,
And (if)-are the popes out separated alone,

swie si gewerkent, daz si sint doch reine,
however they work, that they are yet pure,

son wart nie niht sô hôch gehêret:
so was never anything so highly exalted:

golt, silber, liute, bürge, lant,
gold, silver, people, castles, land,

hânt si daz sunder sünden bant
(if)-have they that without sins' bond

unt nieman mê, sô sint si wol bekêret.
and no-one more, so are they well converted.

127 Swer bannen wil unt bannen sol,
Whoever ban will and ban shall,

der hüete daz sîn ban iht sî vleischlîches zornes vol:
he guard that his ban not be of-fleshly anger full:

swâ vleischlich zorn in banne steckt, dazn ist niht rehter Gotes ban.
wherever fleshly anger in ban sticks, that is not right God's ban.

Swes ban mit Gote ist unt in Gote,
Whose ban with God is and in God,

der wirbet wol nâch Gote als ein gesanter Gotes bote:
he woos well after God as a sent God's messenger:

swer des bannes niht envürhtet, der ist niht ein wîser man.
whoever the ban not fears, he is not a wise man.

Swer under stôle vluochet, schiltet, bennet
Whoever under stole curses, reviles, bans

unt under helme roubet unde brennet,
and under helmet robs and burns,

der wil mit beiden swerten strîten:
he will with both swords fight:

mac daz geschehen in Gotes namen,
(if)-may that happen in God's name,

sô darf sich Sente Pêter schamen,
so need himself Saint Peter be-ashamed,

daz er des niht enphlac bî sînen zîten.
that he that not kept in his times.

Ir seht der kirchen in den munt, 128
You look the church into the mouth,

her bâbest, unt nemt war, ob alle ir orden sîn gesunt;
sir pope, and take heed, whether all your orders be healthy;

tuot war, ob under berten iht stecken græte in der kirchen keln.
make heed, whether under beards any stick fishbones in the church's throat.

Ein orden, der sich streichen lât
An order, which itself stroke lets

von Sîmônîen hant unt doch der kirchen zeichen hât
by Simony's hand and yet the church's sign has

an mantel unt an kappen, der wil daz inner mit dem ûzern heln.
on mantle and on cowl, it will the inner with the outer hide.

Diu kirche solte niht mit sîmônîe
The church should not with simony

gemeine hân noch mit der hêresîe.
common have nor with the heresy.

daz guot daz ist niht wol gewunnen,
the goods that is not well won,

daz man dort nimt unt dishalp hilt:
which one there takes and this-side hides:

wer ist ein diep wan der dâ stilt?
who is a thief save he-who there steals?

nû heln unt steln! doch breit ichz an die sunnen.
now hide and steal! yet spread I-it in the sun.

129 Hâr unde bart nâch clôstersiten
Hair and beard after cloister-manner

unt clôsterlich gewant nâch clôsterlîchen siten gesniten,
and cloisterly garment after cloisterly manners cut,

des vinde ich genuoc: in vinde ab der niht vil diez rehte tragen.
of-that find I enough: I find but of-them not many who-it rightly wear.

Halp visch, halp man ist visch noch man:
Half fish, half man is fish nor man:

gar visch ist visch, gar man ist man, als ichz erkennen kan.
wholly fish is fish, wholly man is man, as I-it perceive can.

von hovemünchen unt von clôsterrittern kan ich niht gesagen.
of court-monks and of cloister-knights can I not say.

Hovemünchen, clôsterrittern, disen beiden
Court-monks, cloister-knights, to-these both

wolt ich ir reht ze rehte wol bescheiden,
would I their right by right well inform,

ob si sich wolden lâzen vinden,
if they themselves would let find,

dâ si ze rehte solten wesen:
where they by right should be:

in clôster münche suln genesen,
in cloister monks shall be-saved,

sô suln des hoves sich ritter underwinden.
so shall of-the court themselves knights undertake.

Swer einen schœnen wîzen man 130
Whoever a beautiful white man

von Rôme unt ouch von Laterâne wolde schrîen an
from Rome and also from Lateran would cry at

durch haz vür einen môren unt einen môrn durch miete haben vür wîz,
for hatred for a Moor and a Moor for bribe have for white,

Swer daz alsô lange tribe,
Whoever that so long drove,

daz wîz man swarz durch haz unt swarz man wîz durch miete belibe,
that white man black for hatred and black man white for bribe remained,

sô heten si doch beide dar nâch als ê ir rehter varwe glîz.
so had they yet both there after as before their right color's gleam.

Swaz Rôm hât überruoft mit tûsent bannen,
Whatever Rome has outcried with thousand bans,

welnt si daz widerrûnen mit drin mannen,
(if)-will they that against-whisper with three men,

sô wil ichz hôch doch ûf den dachen
so will I-it high yet upon the roofs

mit schalle, geschreie machen swarz:
with clamor, shouting make black:

nû hafte dâ alsam ein harz!
now stick there as a resin!

wie kunden siz mit rûnen wîz gemachen?
how could they-it with whispering white make?

Der bâbest hât vil rîchiu kint, 131
The pope has very rich children,

diu minnet er, swâ si gesezzen in den landen sint:
them loves he, wherever they settled in the lands are:

mit in sô teilt er sînen segen, sô teilent si mit im ir golt.
with them so shares he his blessing, so share they with him their gold.

Diu selben kint sint im sô trût,
The same children are to-him so dear,

daz er ungerne quæme mit slegen ûf ir deheines hût:
that he unwillingly would-come with blows upon of-them any hide:

wolte Got unt wæren diu habelôsen kint im halp als holt!
would God and were the haveless children to-him half as fond!

Ê daz der arme sun sîn reht beherte,
Before that the poor son his right maintain,

sô ist der rîche ûf sîner widerverte;
so is the rich-one on his return-journey;

der ban der ist im ab entrennet;
the ban it is from-him off unstitched;

sîn vater in unschuldic seit;
his father him innocent says;

swie vil der arme sun gecleit,
however much the poor son lamented,

sô muoz er doch den himel haben verbrennet.
so must he yet the heaven have burned.

132 Unreht unt Reht hânt ie gestriten,
Wrong and Right have ever striven,

si hânt vil ungelîche lant unt liute enzwei gesniten:
they have very unequally land and people in-two cut:

Unreht hât mêr gesindes, sô hât daz arme Reht die minren schar.
Wrong has more of-household, so has the poor Right the smaller host.

Unreht daz hât vil hôhe man,
Wrong that has very high men,

ez unt der bâbest lachent eteswenne ein ander an;
it and the pope laugh sometimes one another at;

dâ bî stât Reht vil trûric, des Rœmisch lop ist riuwiclîch gevar.
there by stands Right very sorrowful, whose Roman praise is ruefully colored.

Daz arme Reht daz ist iedoch sô criege,
The poor Right that is however so quarrelsome,

ê ez diu sîniu müeden bein gebiege,
before it the its tired legs bend,

ez machet ê vil offenbære,
it makes before very manifest,

swaz Unreht her gerûnet hât:
whatever Wrong hither whispered has:

Unreht in rehter liute wât
Wrong in right people's garment

daz kemphet Reht vür einen trugenære.
that champions Right for a deceiver.

Wes sûmestû dich, Endecrist, 133
Why delayest-thou thee, Antichrist,

daz dû niht kumst? dun darft niht mêre beiten keine vrist.
that thou not comest? thou needest not more wait no while.

dû vindest vürsten veile, veile grâven, vrîen, dienestman.
thou findest princes for-sale, for-sale counts, free-lords, ministerials.

Kumst âne houbet, daz lâ sîn;
(if)-Comest without head, that let be;

hâst in ze gebenne silber, golt, si werdent alle dîn:
(if)-hast-thou to-them to give silver, gold, they become all thine:

an den si glouben solden, dâ kêrent si sich leider lützel an.
on whom they believe should, there turn they themselves alas little at.

Der si geschuof, des hânt si gar vergezzen:
Who them created, of-him have they wholly forgotten:

der meisten menege herze hât besezzen
the most multitude's heart has possessed

des übelen künc Pharônes herte.
of-the evil king Pharaoh's hardness.

rehtes gelouben sint si vrî,
of-right faith are they free,

in wont unrehtiu witze bî,
to-them dwells wrong wit by,

sin volgent niht dem der si gerne nerte.
they follow not him who them gladly would-save.

134 Wes sûmestû dich, Endecrist,
Why delayest-thou thee, Antichrist,

daz dû niht kumst, sît al diu werlt sô gar schazgîtec ist?
that thou not comest, since all the world so wholly treasure-greedy is?

nû hâstû doch ze gebenne, des si dâ gert. Gip ir! si gît sich dir.
now hast-thou yet to give, what she there desires. Give to-her! she gives herself to-thee.

Dun vunde nie sô guoten kouf,
Thou foundest never so good bargain,

sô nû: dun darft niht vürhten den gelouben noch den touf:
as now: thou needest not fear the faith nor the baptism:

ez ist ir allez veile: sô gar sô stât nâch guote ir herzen gir.
it is to-them all for-sale: so wholly so stands after goods their heart's desire.

Jêsus Crist, den ê die Juden verkouften,
Jesus Christ, whom before the Jews sold,

wær er hie niden, ich wæne, in die getouften
were he here below, I suppose, him the baptized

noch verkouften sumelîche:
yet would-sell some:

kum, Endecrist, dû rehter gouch!
come, Antichrist, thou right fool!

den phaffen zuo der kirchen ouch,
the priests to the church also,

diu vindestû nû veile unt Rœmisch rîche!
them findest-thou now for-sale and Roman realm!

135 Des vater swert unt ouch des suns
Of-the father sword and also of-the son

diun hellent niht gelîche: daz becrenket si unt uns:
they ring not alike: that weakens them and us:

des vater swert âgreifet ûf Hügelîn unt ûf des rîches haz.
of-the father sword strikes upon Hugelin and upon the realm's hatred.

Swâ sîn daz rîche hin bedarf,
Wherever of-it the realm thither needs,

man enwetzez mit dem golde, anders wirt ez nimmer scharf:
one unless-whet-it with the gold, otherwise becomes it never sharp:

daz selbe swert truoc wîlent der grâwe hêrre Sente Pêter baz.
that same sword bore once the gray lord Saint Peter better.

Nû treit ez Pêter Hügel mit dem schîne:
Now bears it Peter Hugel with the semblance:

dô man Grêgôrjum worhte ûz Pêterlîne,
when one Gregory made out-of Peterkin,

dô solt er mit dem selben swerte
then should he with the same sword

sich Hügelînes hân erwert,
himself Hugelin have defended,

der noch mit uns nâch schatze vert
who yet with us after treasure goes

an Pêters stat, der niht wan sêlen gerte.
in Peter's stead, who nothing save souls desired.

Der triuwen triskamerhort

THE EMPEROR AND THE REALM

Fourteen strophes on the emperor Frederick and the kings. The emperor is the treasury of faith, a head no crown can reward. Whisperers should beware his crane's neck, boar's ears, and ostrich's eyes. He eats the realm's bread only by judging, and the gallows will cure the robber-squires. He healed the sick Realm. The poet warns against hypocrisy and the sweet soul in a sour heart, and prays God to withstand Frederick of Staufen. No road leads to the praise of one who lives far from virtue. Venice hears the realm is for sale. The princes are told the realm is only in the emperor's keeping, and the electors to test whom they choose. Eric of Denmark and the king of Bohemia are praised.

136 Der triuwen triskamerhort,
Of-the faith treasury-hoard,

ein ankerhaft der stæte, ein vürgedanc ûf ieglich wort,
an anchor-hold of-the constancy, a forethought upon each word,

ein wahter Cristentuomes, Rœmischer êren gruntveste unde grunt,
a watchman of-Christendom, of-Roman honors foundation and ground,

Ein bilder houbethafter zuht,
A shaper of-sovereign breeding,

ein volliu gruft der sinne, ein sâme sældebernder vruht,
a full vault of-the senses, a seed of-blessedness-bearing fruit,

ein zunge rehter urteil, vrides hant, gewisser worte ein munt.
a tongue of-right judgment, peace's hand, of-sure words a mouth.

Ein houbet, dem nie smit deheine crône
A head, to-which never smith any crown

vol machen kunde sîner tugent ze lône,
full make could of-his virtue as reward,

dem houbet suln wir al gelîche
to-the head shall we all alike

wünschen lange wernder tage:
wish long lasting days:

wes lîp, wes herze daz lop trage?
whose body, whose heart the praise bear?

des suln wir jehen dem keiser Vrideriche.
of-that shall we avow to-the emperor Frederick.

Walt hât ôren, velt gesiht; 137
Wood has ears, field sight;

ir hôhen rûner, rûnet von dem rîchen keiser niht,
you high whisperers, whisper of the mighty emperor nothing,

wan daz ir turret sprechen vor dem keiser stille unt überlût!
save that you dare speak before the emperor softly and aloud!

Sîn ôren hœrent durch den walt,
His ears hear through the wood,

sîn ougen verrent über velt, sîn huot ist manicvalt,
his eyes reach-far over field, his guard is manifold,

sîn merken unt sîn melden diu sint ouch swinder dan ein windes brût.
his noticing and his betraying they are also swifter than a wind's bride.

Cranches hals, ebers ôren, strûzes ougen,
Crane's neck, boar's ears, ostrich's eyes,

diu driu getruoc nie keiser mê sô tougen
the three bore never emperor more so secretly

dâ hin gein sîner vinde lâge:
there hence toward his enemies' ambush:

er hât der nagel grôzen hort:
he has of-the nails great hoard:

swaz man im löcher vor gebort,
whatever one to-him holes before bores,

diu vüllet er mit lancræcher wâge.
them fills he with long-avenging balance.

138 Der keiser wil des rîches brôt
The emperor will the realm's bread

niht unverdienet ezzen, nâch gerihte ist im sô nôt,
not unearned eat, after judgment is to-him so need,

sô dem hungerigen bern nâch honeges süeze nie enwart.
as to-the hungry bear after honey's sweetness never became.

Gerihtes wil er sich nû saten,
Of-judgment will he himself now sate,

sîn hôch tragendez swert muoz durch die schuldehaften waten:
his high bearing sword must through the guilty wade:

ir vridebrechn, ir wizzet, daz man iuch von den vride habenden schart.
you peace-breakers, you know, that one you from the peace keeping cut.

Swelch tumber sich gein sîner wîsheit wetzet,
Whatever fool himself against his wisdom whets,

der wirt der sinn von sînen sinnen entsetzet.
he becomes of-the sense from his senses unseated.

volvert er, als ers hât begunnen,
(if)-fulfills he, as he-it has begun,

sô hüeten sich vor sînen zügen
so guard themselves from his strokes

selphêre hêrren, swâ si mügen!
self-lordly lords, where they may!

der tôren heil hât widerswal gewunnen.
the fools' luck has back-swell won.

139 Ê daz die knappen wider als ê
Before that the squires again as before

ze knehten werden, sô wirt ir wol tûsent oder mê
to servants become, so become of-them well thousand or more

bestümbelt unt erhangen: daz gît man knappen umb ir knappeschaft.
mutilated and hanged: that gives one to-squires for their squireship.

Ich meine der edeln knehte niht,
I mean the noble servants not,

ich meine, die man stelen, rouben unde brennen siht:
I mean, those-whom one steal, rob and burn sees:

suln die dar an erwinden,
(if)-shall they there from desist,

daz muoz geschehen von starker galgen craft.
that must happen by strong gallows' power.

Swelch hêrre sich betragen wil des rehten,
Whatever lord himself content will with-the right,

der mac sich leider kûme nû beknehten:
he can himself alas scarcely now servant:

sîn eigen kneht wirt im sô swinde,
his own servant becomes to-him so swift,

daz er ob im wil twahen sîn hant:
that he above him will wash his hand:

vernt mener, hiure sarjant,
last-year mower, this-year sergeant,

sît willekomen dem stocke zingesinde!
be welcome to-the stocks as-household!

Daz Rîche was vil sêre siech, 140
The Realm was very sorely sick,

sîn stimme was vor clage tunkel, heiser unde riech,
its voice was from lament dull, hoarse and rasping,

rôt wâren im diu ougen, diu ôren toup, erstummet was ez ouch.
red were to-it the eyes, the ears deaf, dumb was it also.

Den hover kund ez niht verheln
The hump could it not conceal

unt einen ungevüegen cropf den truoc ez an der keln;
and an unseemly goiter that bore it on the throat;

ezn mohte gân noch rîten, ûf allen vieren ez vil kûme crouch,
it could go nor ride, on all fours it very scarcely crept,

Unz im gesante Got den keiser wîsen;
Until to-it sent God the emperor wise;

des wîsheit sulen alle wîsen prîsen;
whose wisdom shall all wise praise;

der hât die siecheit understanden:
he has the sickness checked:

des Rîches dinc vil ebene stât,
the Realm's thing very evenly stands,

wan daz im stecket noch ein grât
save that to-it sticks still a bone

— er weiz wol wâ — enzwischen sînen zanden.
he knows well where between his teeth.

141 Vor kündiclîcher glîhsenheit
From cunning hypocrisy

sol man sich sêre hüeten; wan ir mantel ist sô breit,
shall one oneself greatly guard; for her mantle is so broad,

daz si dar under birget valschlîcher leben dan ir gebærde sî.
that she there under hides more-false life than her bearing be.

Geistlich gebærde unt vleischlich leben,
Spiritual bearing and fleshly life,

swâ diu zwei lûzent under infeln unt bî crumben steben,
wherever the two lurk under miters and by crooked staves,

dâ suoche ein wol versunnen keiser einen glîhsenære bî.
there seek a well minded emperor a hypocrite by.

Gelîhsenheit diu birget vil unreines,
Hypocrisy she hides much of-impure,

si hât sô vil schanden unde meines
she has so many shames and perjury

ûf sich geladen in kurzen jâren;
upon herself loaded in short years;

durch Juden unt durch vürsten golt
for Jews' and for princes' gold

ist man ir dâ ze Rôme holt:
is one to-her there at Rome fond:

ir Crêdemich kan schatzes wol gevâren.
her Credemich can of-treasure well watch.

Sûr muot unt ungewizzen lîp, 142
Sour mind and unwitting person,

swer diu zwei an im hât, ez sî ein man, ez sî ein wîp,
whoever the two in him has, it be a man, it be a woman,

dâ trûwe ich nimmer inne vinden süeze sêle, Crêdemich!
there trust I never in find sweet soul, Credemich!

Swer sich vür heilic welle geben,
Whoever himself for holy will give,

der sol hân süezen muot, betwungen lîp unt zühtic leben:
he shall have sweet mind, compelled body and well-bred life:

sô mac ein heilic sêle mit gedult wol inne behalten sich.
so can a holy soul with patience well within keep itself.

Wie heilic sêl in ungewizzeme lîbe
How holy soul in unwitting body

belîben müge in manne oder in wîbe,
remain may in man or in woman,

daz dunket mich ein vremedez wunder:
that seems to-me a strange wonder:

ein süeziu sêl, ein herze sûr,
a sweet soul, a heart sour,

ist einz des andern nâchgebûr,
(if)-is one of-the other neighbor,

sô swüere ich wol, si stüenden baz besunder.
so would-swear I well, they stood better apart.

143 Got, alter unde niuwer Crist,
God, old and new Christ,

sît alle crêâtiure in dîner hant beslozzen ist,
since all creatures in thy hand enclosed is,

der himel unt diu erde, wazzer, viur, luft unt alliu engelschaft;
the heaven and the earth, water, fire, air and all angelhood;

Den liehten tac, die trüeben naht
The bright day, the murky night

mit loufe wol berihtet hât dîn götelîchiu maht,
with course well ordered has thy godly might,

diu ie ân anegenge unt immer ist mit endelôser craft;
which ever without beginning and ever is with endless power;

Dû angesihticlîchen wunder tæte,
Thou visibly wonders didst,

dô man dich sach in menschlîcher wæte
when one thee saw in human garment

unt vor den Juden sunderlîche:
and before the Jews especially:

lâz uns alrêrst dîn ellen sehen,
let us first-of-all thy valor see,

des dir die Cristen müezen jehen,
of-which to-thee the Christians must avow,

unt widerstant von Stoufen Vriderîche!
and withstand from Staufen Frederick!

144 Ich kan gebruggen noch gestegen
I can bridge nor make-path

niht volliclîch nâch sînem lobe, der ûz der tugende wegen
not fully after his praise, who out-of the virtue's ways

sô verre hât gehûset, daz strâz noch stîc ze sîme lobe gât.
so far has housed, that street nor path to his praise goes.

Climme oben ich în nâch sîme lobe,
(if)-Climb above I in after his praise,

sô zîhent mich die liute, daz ich touplîchen tobe:
so accuse me the people, that I madly rave:

grüebe ich unden durch nâch sîme lobe, daz wære ein dieplich tât.
should-dig I below through after his praise, that were a thievish deed.

Swâ ich die wol getriben strâze vunde
Wherever I the well driven street found

ze miltes mannes hûs in solcher kunde,
to generous man's house in such knowledge,

daz ein lop daz ander drunge,
that one praise the other pressed,

daz mir tûsent lobten vor
that to-me thousand praised before

unt tûsent nâch ûf mîme spor,
and thousand after on my track,

sô weste ich wol, daz ich die wârheit sunge.
so knew I well, that I the truth sang.

Venediær die hânt vernomen, 145
Venetians they have heard,

daz Rœmisch rîche veile sî, des sint in brieve komen:
that Roman realm for-sale be, of-that are to-them letters come:

nû hânt si sich vermezzen, si wellen dar zuo gerne ir stiure geben,
now have they themselves presumed, they will there to gladly their tax give,

Daz ez noch kome in ir gewalt;
That it yet come into their power;

swaz si daz kosten mac, des sint si willic unde balt:
whatever them that cost may, of-that are they willing and bold:

si jehent, wurde in daz rîche, si wolden immer deste gerner leben.
they avow, were to-them the realm, they would ever the gladlier live.

Ir herzog ist ein mehtic kürsenære,
Their duke is a mighty furrier,

unt wart ie kürsenære crônebære
and was ever furrier crown-worthy

mit sînem igelvarwen glatze,
with his hedgehog-colored bald-pate,

sô mac ouch er wol crône tragen:
so may also he well crown wear:

son darf ouch vürbaz nieman jagen,
so needs also further no-one hunt,

der ez nû müge vergelten baz mit schatze.
who it now may repay better with treasure.

146 Daz rîche dast des keisers niht,
The realm that-is the emperor's not,

er ist sîn phleger unt sîn vogt: ir vürsten, seht ir iht
he is its guardian and its advocate: you princes, (if)-see you anything

an im sô schuldehaftes, dâ von er süle des rîches abe gestân,
in him so guilty, there from he shall of-the realm off stand,

Sô nemt iu einen, der iu zeme
So take for-you one, who to-you befit

unt ouch dem rîche baz dan er, unt wartet alle deme:
and also to-the realm better than he, and wait all for-him:

sît ir dem keiser gram, die râche lât niht über daz rîche gân.
since you to-the emperor hostile-are, the vengeance let not over the realm go.

Ir sult des rîches wol von rehte schône:
You shall the realm well by right spare:

swenne ir dem keiser nû genemt die crône,
whenever you from-the emperor now take the crown,

swelch iuwer sî dan ûf gesetzet,
whichever of-you be then up set,

der sol daz rîche wol entladen
he shall the realm well unburden

beidiu von unrehte unt von schaden:
both from wrong and from harm:

sô werden wir des keisers wol ergetzet.
so become we for-the emperor well compensated.

Sumlîchen vürsten ist ez leit, 147
To-some princes is it grievous,

daz Rœmisch rîch gevallen ist in dise unwerdikeit:
that Roman realm fallen is into this unworth:

si dunket unde sprechent, ein ander phlæge des rîches baz dan er.
they think and speak, an other would-tend the realm better than he.

Lamparten, Criechen, Ungerlant
Lombardy, Greece, Hungary

diu ergâben sich dem rîche, dô stuont ez in sîn eines hant:
they gave-up themselves to-the realm, then stood it in his alone hand:

des rîches rinc vil wîter wirt, nimt man im crône unt ouch daz sper.
the realm's ring much wider grows, (if)-takes one him crown and also the spear.

Nû seht vür iuch, des rîches welære,
Now look before you, the realm's electors,

den ir nû welt, daz er sî schanden lære
whom you now elect, that he be of-shames empty

unt alsô, daz ir in versuochet:
and so, that you him test:

werde er iu liep, sô stât im eben,
(if)-become he to-you dear, so stands for-him even,

unt sî des niht, sô lât iu geben
and be of-that not, so let to-you give

daz rîche wider ze hant sô irs geruochet!
the realm back at once as you-it deign!

148 Ein künec, der wol gecrœnet gât,
A king, who well crowned goes,

unde daz sîn crône verre baz geküneget stât,
and that his crown far better kinged stands,

dâ ziert der künec die crône baz, dan in diu crône gezieren müge.
there adorns the king the crown better, than him the crown adorn may.

Ein wol geküneget crônetrage
A well kinged crown-bearer

tuot dannoch mêre, er stillet witwen unde weisen clage,
does still more, he stills widows' and orphans' lament,

er süenet unde vridet unt ist bî liuten wol in êren hüge.
he reconciles and makes-peace and is among people well in honors' mind.

Sîn herze unt ouch sîn muot sint selten müezec,
His heart and also his mind are seldom idle,

sîn munt ist zallen zîten êrengrüezec,
his mouth is at-all times honor-greeting,

im schimelt niht in sîner arken.
to-him molds nothing in his chest.

daz beziug ich mit dem besten wol:
that witness I with the best well:

mit urloube ich in nennen sol:
with leave I him name shall:

ez ist der künec Êrîch von Tenemarken.
it is the king Eric of Denmark.

149 Ein künec, der aller der wil sîn,
A king, who of-all those will be,

die sîner helfe geruochent, derst ouch underwîlen mîn:
who his help deign, he-is also sometimes mine:

wie möht er mîn vermissen, swenne er umb unt umbe wil gewern?
how might he me miss, whenever he round and round will grant?

Er giltet lop, er giltet kunst,
He pays praise, he pays art,

dâ mit er hât verdienet reiner vrouwen süezen gunst;
there with he has earned of-pure ladies sweet favor;

er ist ein koufman alles, des ein reinez herze kan gegern:
he is a merchant of-all, that a pure heart can desire:

Wan daz in dürst nâch êren alsô sêre,
But that him thirsts after honors so greatly,

der in in guzze drîzic vürsten êre,
who him into poured thirty princes' honor,

noch mêr wolt in nâch êren dürsten.
still more would him after honors thirst.

diu sunne zimt niht baz dem tage
the sun befits not better to-the day

danne der edele crônetrage
than the noble crown-bearer

ûz Bêheimlant Gote unt uns zeinem vürsten.
out-of Bohemia to-God and to-us as-a prince.

Von Rîne sô bin ich geborn

THE POET, COURTS, AND LIES

Eleven strophes. Born by the Rhine and raised in Austria, the poet chose Bohemia for its lord, but no one there honors him except the lord alone, a chess king without knight or rook. With an aurochs' anger he sharpens his tongue against his detractors. He would not be a steed where oxen get the best fodder, nor adorn the shield of a crowned lion that flees. Bought service is worth less than the willing shield. A cuckoo in a hawk's place catches only gnats. A liar as messenger and a coward as captain should be grafted on one tree. Where Master Ernest is driven out, his sayings find no ground. The slanderer's tongue is cursed as a hell-hound. Sir Hagen is riddled about his mother's feet, and two strophes of impossible tales end it.

150 Von Rîne sô bin ich geborn,
From Rhine so am I born,

in Ôsterrîche erwahsen, Bêheim hân ich mir erkorn
in Austria grown-up, Bohemia have I for-myself chosen

mêre durch den hêrren dan durch daz lant: doch beide sint si guot.
more for the lord than for the land: yet both are they good.

Der hêrre ist guot, sîn lant ist sam:
The lord is good, his land is likewise:

wan deich mich einer dinge sêre bî in beiden scham,
save that-I myself of-one thing greatly by them both am-ashamed,

daz mich nieman wirdet, ez ensî ob erz al eine tuot.
that me no-one honors, unless-it be if he-it all alone does.

Wære ich bî Gote im vrône himelrîche
Were I with God in-the holy heaven-kingdom

unt heten mich die sîne unwerdiclîche,
and had me the his-own unworthily,

daz dûhte mich ein missewende:
that would-seem to-me a fault:

ich hân den künec al eine noch
I have the king all alone still

unt weder ritter noch daz roch:
and neither knight nor the rook:

mich stiuret niht sîn alte noch sîn vende.
me supports not his old-man nor his pawns.

Mir ist geswollen hie der muot, 151
To-me is swollen here the mind,

al dâ daz herze lît: ist daz man sîn niht widertuot
all where the heart lies: is that one it not undoes

mit einer suonesalben, sô muoz ich mir
with a reconciling-salve, so must I for-myself

brust rûmen durch den munt.
breast clear through the mouth.

Mich hât begriffen wisenten zorn:
Me has seized aurochs' anger:

wirt der mir niht benomen, sô scherph ich mîner zungen dorn
(if)-becomes it to-me not taken, so sharpen I my tongue's thorn

unt lüppe mîne phîle ûf mîne bœsen gunner zaller stunt.
and poison my arrows upon my evil well-wishers at-every hour.

Swen si den valsch geknetent mit ir hende,
Whenever they the falseness knead with their hand,

si legent ir unschult bî in ûf ein ende;
they lay their innocence beside them upon an end;

sô bin ich doch sô nasewîse,
so am I yet so nose-wise,

daz mich ir schalkeit smacket an:
that me their knavery smells at:

ir hinderrede sich niht enkan
their back-talk itself not can

vor mir verheln: ich hœre untriuwe lîse.
from me hide: I hear faithlessness softly.

152 Ich wære ungerne dâ ravît,
I would-be unwillingly there steed,

dâ man daz beste vuoter den ohsen unt den eseln gît:
where one the best fodder to-the oxen and to-the asses gives:

ich wolt ouch dâ niht valke sîn, dâ man mit mûsarn beizen vert.
I would also there not falcon be, where one with buzzards hawking goes.

Ich wære ungerne dâ ein wint,
I would-be unwillingly there a greyhound,

dâ die stumphen hovewart werder dan die winde sint:
where the stumpy court-dogs worthier than the greyhounds are:

ich wære ungerne ûf des helm ein ar, der sich der milte wert.
I would-be unwillingly on his helm an eagle, who himself from-the generosity defends.

Sînen schilt den wolt ich nimmer zieren,
His shield it would I never adorn,

wær ich an küneges stat ob andern tieren,
were I in king's stead over other beasts,

alsô der lewe mit der crône,
as the lion with the crown,

der baz kan vliehen danne jagen,
who better can flee than hunt,

unt lieze ich mich den gerne tragen,
and should-let I myself him gladly carry,

sô wurde mir der liute spot ze lône.
so would-become to-me of-the people mockery as reward.

153 Her hêrre, unt habt ir einen man,
Sir lord, and have you a man,

der iu sînen dienest marketveile machen kan,
who to-you his service for-sale make can,

sô mezzet sînen dienest nâch der miete unt nâch der liebe niht,
so measure his service after the hire and after the love not,

Unt versuochet in dannoch:
And test him still:

irn sult in aber niht haben vür einen willerîchen doch!
you shall him but not have for a willing-one yet!

der willerîche schilt gât vür den marketveilen, als man giht.
the willing shield goes before the market-for-sale, as one says.

Belêhent unt behûst vor manegen jâren
Enfeoffed and housed before many years

der schilt der sol niht zegelîch gebâren:
the shield it shall not cowardly behave:

belêhent schilt unt der behûset
enfeoffed shield and the housed

der sol sich stellen dem gelîch,
he shall himself set to-it like,

daz man iht spreche: 'schilt, phî dich!
that one not speak: 'shield, fie on-thee!

wie sêre mir vor dîme tuonne grûset!'
how sorely to-me before thy doing shudders!'

Swer einen gucguc haben wil 154
Whoever a cuckoo have will

an eines habches stat unt wænet dâ mit vâhen vil
in a hawk's stead and supposes there with catch much

reiger, gense, trappen, daz muoz geschehen, ob imz der tiuvel wigt.
herons, geese, bustards, that must happen, if to-him-it the devil weighs.

Ich wæne, der gucguc cleine gert,
I suppose, the cuckoo little desires,

sô des habches tugent mit sterke gein dem storchen vert:
when the hawk's virtue with strength toward the stork goes:

der gucguc gert der muggen, der habch dem starken storchen obe ligt.
the cuckoo desires the gnats, the hawk to-the strong stork over lies.

Ouch ist ir beider wird vil ungelîche:
Also is of-them both worth very unequal:

nû habent den gouch die hêrren sumelîche
now have the cuckoo the lords some

vil baz — ich mein ein smeichenære,
far better I mean a flatterer,

der niht wan schande vâhen kan, —
who nothing save shame catch can,—

unt smæhent den getriuwen man,
and despise the faithful man,

der durch si wær êr vâhens niht ze swære.
who for them were honor's catching not too heavy.

Swâ lugenær ist hêrren bote
Wherever liar is lords' messenger

unt swâ der zage phligt einer êregernden quecken rote,
and wherever the coward keeps an honor-desiring lively troop,

dâ wirt diu botschaft michel unt kêrt der zage vînden lîhte nac.
there becomes the message great and turns the coward to-enemies easily neck.

Wære ich ein hêrre, ich wolt ir niht:
Were I a lord, I would of-them none:

von disen zwein mac wol geschehen ein michel ungeschiht,
from these two may well happen a great mishap,

von dem lugenære unt von dem zagen, der quecker rote phlac.
from the liar and from the coward, who lively troop kept.

Si müesten mînen hof mit vlühte vrîen
They must my court with flight free

oder ich begunde beide schône zwîen:
or I would-begin both beautifully to-graft:

ein boun wær wol mit in gecleidet,
a tree were well with them clothed,

enhalp mit starker leckerheit,
yonder-side with strong lechery,

dishalp des swert nie vînt versneit
this-side whose sword never enemy cut

unt doch mit rede vor liuten vil gevreidet.
and yet with speech before people very bold.

Swâ meister Ernest wirt vertriben 156
Wherever master Ernest becomes driven-away

unt der gemâlten zühte pârât meister ist beliben,
and the painted breeding's fraud master is remained,

dâ vindent mîne sprüche vil selten stillen rûm noch bernden grunt.
there find my sayings very seldom quiet room nor bearing ground.

Swaz ich dâ sæ, daz wirt versæt;
Whatever I there sow, that becomes mis-sown;

ezn wehset niht, swenne ez von schorpen, hanen wirt becræt,
it grows not, when it by scorpions, cocks becomes crowed-upon,

von ûven unt von orven; dar zuo siuret ez pârâtes munt.
by owls and by orfs; there to sours it fraud's mouth.

Swaz pârâte überwirt, daz kiuwent wilzen:
Whatever fraud outgrows, that chew Wiltzes:

sus nimt mîn sâme zuo mit vûlen vilzen.
thus takes my seed increase with rotten felts.

si tugendelôsen geizegebele,
they virtueless goat-forks,

ir dornic rât, ir distelec muot
their thorny counsel, their thistly mind

ist guoten liuten alsô guot
is to-good people so good

alsam der wolf bî schâfen in dem nebele.
as the wolf among sheep in the fog.

157 Der leckermunde zunge ist snel:
The lecher-mouths' tongue is quick:

swâ man si gerne hœret, dâ sint si kündic unde hel
wherever one them gladly hears, there are they cunning and sly

zem bœsten, niht zem besten, ûf argiu dinc ze schuzze vil bereit.
to-the worst, not to-the best, upon evil things to shooting very ready.

Nû snappe dar, ein hellehunt,
Now snap thither, a hell-hound,

dû eiterclûs, dû slangengift, — ich meine schalkes munt —
thou venom-clod, thou snake-poison, I mean knave's mouth

dû bodengrunt der helle, dâ wehset dir ein immer werndez leit.
thou bottom-ground of-the hell, there grows for-thee an ever lasting sorrow.

Swen dû den cristentuom an dir zerbrichest,
Whenever thou the Christendom in thee breakest,

daz dû zem besten nimmer niht gesprichest,
that thou to-the best never anything speakest,

ez sol dir werden al ze swære:
it shall to-thee become all too heavy:

des einer schulde nie gewan,
of-which one guilt never had,

daz snabelliugestû in an:
that beak-liest-thou him on:

vervluochet bis, dem süezen Gote unmære!
cursed be-thou, to-the sweet God indifferent!

158 Her Hagene, ir sît ein man sô wîs:
Sir Hagen, you are a man so wise:

sagt mir, des ich iuch vrâgen wil: des habt ir immer prîs:
tell me, what I you ask will: of-that have you ever praise:

'wie manegen vuoz hât iuwer muoter unt ir esel?' sagt mir daz!
'how many feet has your mother and her ass?' tell me that!

Dar nâch vrâge ich iuch vriundeshalp:
There after ask I you friend-wise:

‘wie manegen vuoz hât iuwer muoter unt ir liebez kalp?’
‘how many feet has your mother and her dear calf?’

ez ist ein kündic vrâge: si sol ein vriunt von vriunt niht haben vür haz.
it is a clever question: it shall a friend from friend not have for hatred.

Nun zürnet ez niht, mîn geselle guoter:
Now be-angry it not, my companion good:

wand mîn ane zôch iuwer anen muoter.
for my grandmother reared your grandmother’s mother.

diz ist ein meisterlîchiu vrâge:
this is a masterly question:

entsliezet ir mir disen haft,
(if)-unlock you to-me this clasp,

daz kumt von rehter meisterschaft! —
that comes from right mastery!—

jâ sîn wir doch von Adâm iuwer mâge!
yea are we yet from Adam your kinsmen!

Ich quam geriten in ein lant 159
I came riding into a land

ûf einer blâwen gense, dâ ich âventiure vant:
upon a blue goose, where I adventure found:

ein crâ mit einem habche diu viengen vil der swîne in einer bach.
a crow with a hawk they caught very-many of-the swine in a brook.

Ein hase zwêne winde zôch,
A hare two greyhounds led,

ein ber jagt einen valken, den vienc er in den lüften hôch,
a bear hunted a falcon, it caught he in the airs high,

schâchzabel spilten muggen, zwô meisen einen turn ich mûren sach.
chess played gnats, two titmice a tower I build saw.

Dâ saz ein hirz unt span vil cleine sîden,
There sat a stag and spun very fine silks,

dâ huote ein wolf der lember in den wîden:
there guarded a wolf the lambs in the meadows:

ein crebze vlouc mit einer tûben
a crab flew with a dove

ze wette, ein phunt err an gewan:
in wager, a pound he-from-her from won:

drî grôze risen erbeiz ein han:
three great giants bit-dead a cock:

ist daz wâr, sô næt ein esel hûben.
is that true, so sews an ass caps.

Ein höuschrick wânde ein lewe sîn;
A grasshopper supposed a lion be;

dô sprach ein heim: 'mich dunket, ich sî ein houwendez swîn'.
then spoke a cricket: 'me seems, I be a hewing swine'.

ein ohse wânde, daz er sunge baz dan ie kein nahtegal.
an ox supposed, that he sang better than ever any nightingale.

Dô sprach ein aff: 'sô wæne ich bin
Then spoke an ape: 'so suppose I am

daz schœnste tier'. Ein tôre jach: 'sô hân ich wîsen sin'.
the most-beautiful beast'. A fool avowed: 'so have I wise sense'.

ein snegge wolte springen vür den lêbart beidiu berc unt tal.
a snail would leap before the leopard both hill and dale.

Ein môr sprach: 'mich mac nieman überwîzen'.
A Moor spoke: 'me can no-one out-white'.

ein hase sprach: 'ich tar wol wolve bîzen'.
a hare spoke: 'I dare well wolves bite'.

ein igel sprach: 'mîn hût ist sô linde,
a hedgehog spoke: 'my hide is so soft,

solt ich ez bî dem eide sagen,
should I it by the oath say,

si möhte ein keiserinne tragen
it might an empress wear

ze næhst an ir'. Die lüge sint alle swinde.
to next at her'. The lies are all swift.

Swaz Got durch der prophêten munt

WONDERS, SENSES, AND DOUBT

Eighteen strophes. Paul and John spoke best of the apostles, and daily things are greater wonders than Alexander's. Five beasts surpass man in the five senses. Christ is the highest lover. The realm's cities swallow every lie, and primates fish for gifts. Doubt builds no house, I-don't-care has no friend, faith and honor are gone, and no one outruns Misfortune.

Swaz Got durch der prophêten munt 161
Whatever God through the prophets' mouth

gesprochen hât, ê daz er mensche wart vor maneger stunt,
spoken has, before that he man became before many-a time,

daz habent sîne zwelve schiltgeverten wol ze liehte brâht.
that have his twelve shield-companions well to light brought.

Under den zwelven zwêne man,
Among the twelve two men,

Paulus, Gotes kemphe, unt Cristes muomen sun Jôhan,
Paul, God's champion, and Christ's aunt's son John,

die zwêne habent gesprochen vil baz dan alle der ie wart gedâht.
the two have spoken far better than all of-whom ever was thought.

Paulus wart in den dritten himel gezucket,
Paul was into the third heaven snatched,

Jôhannes hât ûf Cristes brust entnucket:
John has on Christ's breast dozed:

wer quam ie zuo sô hôher schuole
who came ever to so high school

als dise zwêne sint gewesen?
as these two are been?

swes kunst ir kunst wil widerlesen,
whose art their art will gainsay,

des sedel zimt niht vorm oberôsten stuole.
his seat befits not before-the uppermost chair.

162 Uns ist von mæren worden kunt,
To-us is through tales become known,

wie Alexander vuor durch wunder an des meres grunt
how Alexander fared for wonder to the sea's bottom

unt wie von Abacuc der imbîz wart ze Babylône brâht;
and how by Habakkuk the meal was to Babylon brought;

Waz herzog Ernest nôt erleit,
What duke Ernest distress suffered,

waz er unt grâve Wetzel der gesnablen diet versneit,
what he and count Wetzel of-the beaked folk cut-down,

wie si die grîfen vuorten, dâ ir ze spîse ir kinden was gedâht;
how them the griffins carried, where of-them as food to-their children was thought;

Unt wie si durch den berc her wider quâmen,
And how they through the mountain hither again came,

dâ si der crône weisen inne nâmen,
where they the crown's orphan in took,

daz wâren wunderlîchiu wunder:
that were wondrous wonders:

doch dunket ez mich wunders niht
yet seems it to-me of-wonder not

gein dem daz tegelîch geschiht:
toward that which daily happens:

nû merket wâ! dâ denket obe unt under!
now mark where! there think above and below!

Ein clage in mînem herzen hât 163
A lament in my heart has

sich lange her verclûset: der nimmer tugent noch êre begât,
itself long hither enclosed: who never virtue nor honor performs,

daz der an guote rîchet, unt daz der êrenrîch wirt guotes bar.
that he in goods grows-rich, and that the honor-rich becomes of-goods bare.

Solt ich in beiden teilen guot,
Should I to-them both deal goods,

ich rîchte den êrenrîchen, der sich vor schanden hât behuot,
I would-enrich the honor-rich, who himself from shames has guarded,

der milte unt tugende wielte, der zühte unt êren wær volkomen gar.
who generosity and virtues wielded, who of-breeding and honors were perfect wholly.

Den tugendelôsen wolt ich swache spîsen,
The virtueless would I meanly feed,

daz er ê sîner tage müeste grîsen,
that he before his days must grow-gray,

ûf daz, ob er sich wolte bekêren,
upon that, if he himself would convert,

liez er von bœsen siten abe,
should-let he from evil manners off,

ich gæbe im rîchtuom unde habe,
I would-give to-him riches and property,

sæhe ich an im sich tugende unt êre mêren.
should-see I in him himself virtues and honor increase.

Ein voller mensch vünf sinne hât, 164
A full man five senses has,

als uns diu schrift bewîset unt als ir name geschriben stât:
as us the scripture shows and as their name written stands:

sehen, hœren, grîfen, riechen, smecken, sus sint si genant.
seeing, hearing, grasping, smelling, tasting, thus are they named.

Nû habent die sinn vünf wildiu tier,
Now have the senses five wild beasts,

ir ieslîchez einen, unt hât den vürbaz danne wir:
of-them each one, and has it further than we:

der luhs, daz swîn, diu spinne, der gîr, der aff, daz tuot in Got bekant.
the lynx, the swine, the spider, the vulture, the ape, that makes them God known.

Der luhs wol siht, daz swîn wol hœrt ze walde,
The lynx well sees, the swine well hears in-the wood,

diu spinne cleine grîfet unde balde,
the spider finely grasps and quickly,

der gîr riucht, affe smackt: der sinne
the vulture smells, ape tastes: of-the senses

hât ieslîchez den einen baz
has each the one better

dan der mensch: durch wunder daz
than the man: for wonder that

Got hât getân, daz wir sîn wunder minnen.
God has done, that we his wonder love.

Merk, tumbes muotes junger man,
Mark, of-foolish mind young man,

war umb drî crêâtiure, der hunt, diu katze unt ouch der han,
what for three creatures, the dog, the cat and also the cock,

heizen hûsgeræte: dâ râtent si, daz manegem kumt ze guot.
are-called house-gear: there counsel they, what to-many-a-one comes to good.

Des hundes belln dir kündet daz,
The dog's barking to-thee announces that,

wie dû gein vremeden liuten solt wesen snel unt niht ze laz,
how thou toward strange people shalt be quick and not too slack,

die biderben haben nâch êren, daz zimt dir wol, gein bœsen stætiu huot.
the worthy have after honors, that befits thee well, toward evil steadfast guard.

Diu katze mint unreine, entreint daz reine:
The cat loves unclean, unclean-makes the clean:

daz tuo dû niht, hab reine site gemeine!
that do thou not, have pure manners in-common!

der han dir kündet mit gesange
the cock to-thee announces with singing

drî stunt zer naht des tages kunft:
three times in-the night of-the day coming:

verslâfestû sîn sigenunft
(if)-oversleepest-thou its victory

in tôdes last, sô slâfestû ze lange.
in death's burden, so sleepest-thou too long.

Swer minnen wil nâch minne site, 166
Whoever love will after love's manner,

der wizze, daz der minne sol rehtiu milte volgen mite:
he know, that to-the love shall right generosity follow with:

die milte durch die minne der hôhste minner wol erzeiget hât.
the generosity for the love the highest lover well shown has.

Nie minner hôher minne phlac,
Never lover higher love kept,

als der durch minne liebe sîn selbes leben sô ringe wac:
than he-who for love's sake his own life so lightly weighed:

kein minner nimmer mêre durch minne liebe der milt sô bî gestât.
no lover ever more for love's dear to-the generosity so by stands.

Nû merket rehte, wer der minner wære:
Now mark rightly, who the lover were:

daz was Jêsus, der süeze wunderære.
that was Jesus, the sweet wonder-worker.

der gap durch uns der minn ze lône
he gave for us to-the love as reward

sîn selbes leben in tôdes gir:
his own life in death's greed:

ir minner, seht: wie minnet ir?
you lovers, look: how love you?

minne unde milt die tragent des himels crône.
love and generosity they carry the heaven's crown.

167 Der rehte guote sol niht gern,
The right good-one shall not desire,

daz man in ûf der erde zweier lône süle gewern,
that one him on the earth with-two rewards shall grant,

daz er sî rîch an guote unt dâ bî sî âne valschbejac.
that he be rich in goods and there by be without false-gain.

Wil er im selben wol behagen,
Will he to-him self well please,

Gote unt guoten liuten, sô sol er guotes niht bejagen,
to-God and to-good people, so shall he goods not hunt,

wan als im sîn selbes gewizzen wâr geziuc gewesen mac.
save as to-him his own conscience true witness been may.

Der guote sol sich vröuwen guotes muotes:
The good-one shall himself rejoice of-good mind:

hât er dâ bî die minre mâze des guotes,
has he there by the lesser measure of-the goods,

die minne er vür die übermâze.
that love he before the overmeasure.

swer mê wil haben dan er sol,
whoever more will have than he shall,

der wirt guotes nimmer vol,
he becomes of-goods never full,

unz in diu werlt lât, ê daz er si lâze.
until him the world leaves, before that he her leave.

168 Ein ungebeten gevaterschaft
An unasked godparenthood

diu wert wan siben naht unt vürbaz hât si keine craft:
it lasts save seven nights and further has it no power:

sô man den touf ûz giuzet, dâ mit sô ist gevaterschaft dâ hin.
when one the baptism out pours, there with so is godparenthood thence away.

Swer aber gevater wirt durch guot,
Whoever but godfather becomes for goods,

durch vriuntschaft unt durch liebe,
for friendship and for love,

als dicke ein vriunt gein vriunde tuot,
as often a friend toward friend does,

daz waltet grôzer triuwen, als ich von Karles pheter bewîset bin.
that holds great faith, as I by Charles's godfather shown am.

Swer ungebeten zuo dem toufe dringet,
Whoever unasked to the baptism presses,

den hêrren bete noch hêrren vorht dar twinget,
whom lord's request nor lord's fear thither compels,

unt hete der eine tohter junge
and had he a daughter young

unt gewüehse danne dirre pate,
and should-grow then this godchild,

er gelæge wol, wurde im sîn state,
he would-lie well, should-become to-him his chance,

der tohter bî, ob in ir minne twunge.
to-the daughter by, if them their love compelled.

Gesoten lüge, gebrâten lüge, 169
Boiled lie, roasted lie,

lüge ûz der galrei, lüge von pârât, lüge von trüge,
lie out-of the aspic, lie of fraud, lie of deceit,

gebalsamt lüge, gebismet lüge, lüge mit safrân überzogen,
balsamed lie, musked lie, lie with saffron overlaid,

Lüge, swie mans erdenken wil,
Lie, however one-it devise will,

der wirt gesant an brieven in des rîches stete sô vil,
of-it becomes sent in letters into the realm's cities so much,

daz mich des immer wunder nimt, daz si mit lüge niht sint betrogen.
that me of-it ever wonder takes, that they with lie not are deceived.

Daz si der lüge niht sint worden ræze!
That they of-the lie not are become sharp!

ez wurden nie sô starke lügevræze,
there became never so strong lie-gluttons,

als in des rîches steten die liute:
as in the realm's cities the people:

swaz man in lüge mac zuo getragen,
whatever one to-them lie may to carry,

die slindents alle mit ir cragen:
they swallow-it all with their crop:

in weiz, ob ez ein Püllisch zouber tiute.
I-not know, if it an Apulian magic signify.

Diu werlt gelîchet sich dem mer,
The world likens itself to-the sea,

daz immer tobt unt ündet über mâze unt âne wer:
that ever rages and billows over measure and without defense:

alsô tobt unt ündet der werlte leben mit glîcher selleschaft.
so rages and billows the world's life with equal companionship.

Der ungetouften sî geswigen!
Of-the unbaptized be silence!

ich clage, daz die getouften in den kumber sint gedigen,
I lament, that the baptized into the trouble are come,

daz si wol mugen verderben, ezn wende dan diu starke Gotes craft.
that they well may perish, unless-it turn then the strong God's power.

Belîbent si die lenge in dirre vreise,
(if)-Remain they the length in this peril,

sô werden wir kielbrüstic ûf der reise:
so become we keel-breasted on the journey:

wir sweben in der sünden ünden:
we float in the sins' billows:

prîmâten mit ir crumben steben
primates with their crooked staves

die vischent niht wan nâch den geben
they fish not save after the gifts

unt lânt dâ bî die sêl in grôzen sünden.
and let there by the soul in great sins.

Die wildenær hânt einen site, 171
The hunters have a custom,

dâ si doch eteswenne bejagent guotiu mursel mite:
where they yet sometimes hunt good morsels with:

swâ si die aren vindent, dâ bindent si diu jungen ûf daz nest
wherever they the eagles find, there bind they the young upon the nest

Unt sperrent in den snabel ouch:
And bar to-them the beak also:

swie vil der alte in vür geleit, sô gint der junge gouch:
however much the old-one to-them before laid, so gapes the young fool:

sô nimt er im daz beste, daz treit er allez hein in sînen test.
so takes he from-him the best, that carries he all home in his pot.

Er lât si stân unt nagen ob einer crâwen:
He lets them stand and gnaw over a crow:

daz guote brichet er in ûz den clâwen.
the good breaks he to-them out-of the claws.

daz gelîch ich zuo den râtliuten,
that liken I to the counselors,

die dâ junge hêrren hân:
who there young lords have:

die lâzents ob den crâwen stân
they let-them over the crows stand

unt nement si die hasen mit den hiuten.
and take they the hares with the hides.

172 Zwîvel machet zwîvelmuot,
Doubt makes doubt-mind,

Zwîvel bûwet selten hûs ûf starke siule guot,
Doubt builds seldom house upon strong pillars good,

zwîvellîche wende Zwîvel bût unt zwîvellîchez tach.
doubtful walls Doubt builds and doubtful roof.

Manec zwîvelhof ist alsô grôz,
Many-a doubt-court is so great,

daz ich des vürhte sêre, si müezen ligen bûwes blôz.
that I of-it fear greatly, they must lie of-building bare.

'der zwîvel hât niht ende', ein zwîvelær hie vor in zwîvel sprach.
'the doubt has no end', a doubter here before in doubt spoke.

Zwîvel bûwet selten guot gesæze,
Doubt builds seldom good seat,

Zwîvel riet mir, daz ich niht enmæze
Doubt counseled me, that I not measure

weder hovestat noch gezimmer.
neither court-site nor timberwork.

Zwîvel welle mich dan lân
Doubt will me then leave

unt dar zuo zwîvellîcher wân,
and there to doubtful hope,

sô sît gewis, daz ich gebûwe nimmer.
so be sure, that I build never.

173 'In ruoch' sagt weder abe noch an,
'I-not care' says neither off nor on,

'in ruoch' behabt ze vriunde selten weder wîp noch man:
'I-not care' keeps as friend seldom neither woman nor man:

'in ruoch' ist weder kalt noch warm,
'I-not care' is neither cold nor warm,

'in ruoch' ist weder liep noch leit.
'I-not care' is neither joy nor sorrow.

‘In ruoche’ kan wol übersehen,
‘I-not care’ can well overlook,

‘in ruoche’ lât dem man geschehen, daz im doch mac geschehen,
‘I-not care’ lets to-the man happen, what to-him yet may happen,

‘in ruoch’ ist êren âne; daz spriche ich volliclîch ûf mînen eit.
‘I-not care’ is of-honors without; that speak I fully upon my oath.

Swâ ich alsô ‘in ruoche’ veile vinde,
Wherever I so ‘I-not care’ for-sale find,

dâ ist vil wert ‘ich ruoche’ zingesinde.
there is very worthy ‘I care’ as-household.

‘in ruoch’ ist sippe der unmære
‘I-not care’ is kin to-the indifference

nâher dan ez der liebe sî.
nearer than it to-the love be.

‘in ruoch’ ist ouch der vrâge vrî.
‘I-not care’ is also of-the question free.

zwiu sol ein man, der sô macht zwîvelære?
why shall a man, who so makes doubters?

Âgez, dû bist ein übel diep! 174
Out-of-sight, thou art an evil thief!

ez wart nie vriunt dem vriunde sô getriuwelîchen liep,
there was never friend to-the friend so faithfully dear,

dun stelst si von ein ander, alsô daz er gar muoz vergezzen sîn.
thou-not stealest them from one another, so that he wholly must forget him.

Swie vil Âgez der diepheit kan,
However much Out-of-sight of-the thievery can,

mînes lieben vriundes kan er mir niht steln hin dan:
my dear friend can he from-me not steal hence away:

stilet aber er mich im, daz muoz ich alsô lâzen sîn.
(if)-steals but he me from-him, that must I so let be.

Âgez, dû bist vil dicke schalkes muotes,
Out-of-sight, thou art very often of-knave’s mind,

du verzîhest dînen vriunt ein lützel guotes:
thou deniest thy friend a little of-good:

des müeze Âgez der tiuvel schenden!
of-that may Out-of-sight the devil shame!

er diep, unreiner bœsewiht!
he thief, unclean villain!

mînes vriunts stilt er mir niht:
my friend steals he from-me not:

stilt er mich im, des mac ich niht erwenden.
(if)-steals he me from-him, that may I not avert.

175 Vil wîser man, nû hœre mir!
Very wise man, now hear me!

ein dinc, daz wol geteilet ist, daz wil ich teilen dir:
a thing, that well divided is, that will I divide for-thee:

hie vor was triuwe unt êre, vröude bî zühte unt alles guotes vil.
here before was faith and honor, joy with breeding and of-all good much.

Woltestû sô manegen tac
Wouldst-thou so many-a day

dô sîn gewesen, alsô nû dîn leben gewesen mac,
then be been, as now thy life been may,

daz dîn nû niht enwære? nû merke reht, waz ich dir sagen wil!
that of-thee now not were? now mark right, what I to-thee say will!

Der werlte leben daz ist nû worden swære,
The world's life that is now become heavy,

ez rîchet valsch unt lugelîchiu mære,
there grow-rich falseness and lying tales,

die liut sint worden ungetriuwe,
the people are become faithless,

ez verræt der vater nû sîn kint:
there betrays the father now his child:

diu meiste menege ist êren blint.
the most multitude is to-honors blind.

nû kius alsô, daz ez dich iht geriuwe!
now choose so, that it thee not rue!

‘Beschaffen’ unt ‘ez muoste sîn’ 176
‘Ordained’ and ‘it must be’

mit disen zwein bedeckent tumbe liute ir schanden schîn;
with these two cover foolish people their shames’ gleam;

‘beschaffen’ unt ‘ez muoste sîn’ diu werfent niemans êre hin.
‘ordained’ and ‘it must be’ they throw nobody’s honor away.

Swer selbe sîn êre übersiht
Whoever self his honor overlooks

unt die verliuset, der endarf diu zwei des zîhen niht,
and it loses, he needs the two of-it accuse not,

‘beschaffen’ unt ‘ez muoste sîn’: wand ich des widerkemphe bin.
‘ordained’ and ‘it must be’: for I of-that counter-champion am.

‘Ez muoste sîn’ unt ‘ez was mir beschaffen’,
‘It must be’ and ‘it was to-me ordained’,

daz hœre ich dicke sprechen manegen affen,
that hear I often speak many-a ape,

als in sîn selbes muot betriuget,
when him his own mind deceives,

daz er sünde unt schande begât
that he sin and shame commits

unt giht, ez sî beschaffen tât
and avows, it be ordained deed

ân sîne schult: vürwâr, der tôre der liuget!
without his guilt: truly, the fool he lies!

177 Nû merket alle, wie daz zimt,
Now mark all, how that befits,

swâ man von hêrren höven disiu hovemære vernimt:
wherever one from lords' courts these court-tales hears:

'wir quâmen hin ze hove, unt vuogte sich, daz wir niht quâmen dar'.
'we came hence to court, and befell itself, that we not came thither'.

Nû merke, sinnerîcher man!
Now mark, sense-rich man!

ob ich dir disen sin bescheidenlîch bescheiden kan,
if I to-thee this sense discerningly inform can,

sô nim in dînem herzen tougenlîchen mîner sprüche war!
so take in thy heart secretly of-my sayings heed!

Swer kumt ze hove unt hêrren gerne sæhe,
Whoever comes to court and lord gladly would-see,

wirt dem ze hove erboten solchiu smæhe,
(if)-becomes to-him at court offered such scorn,

daz man in vrevellîchen enget,
that one him insolently narrows,

daz er des hêrren niht ensiht,
that he the lord not sees,

der ist ze hove unt ist dâ niht;
he is at court and is there not;

des hêrren lop mit schelten wirt gemenget.
the lord's praise with reviling becomes mixed.

178 Ez was ein gar unsælic man
There was a wholly unblessed man

in einer stat gesezzen, dar inne er nie kein heil gewan:
in a town settled, there in he never any luck won:

der dâhte: 'ich wil versuochen, wie mîn gelücke in vremeden landen sî'.
he thought: 'I will try, how my fortune in strange lands be'.

Dô im der reis ze muote wart,
When to-him the journey in mind became,

Unsæld wart sîn geverte, diu huop sich mit im ûf die vart;
Misfortune became his companion, she raised herself with him upon the way;

er lief gein einem walde, er wânde, er wære Unsælden worden vrî.
he ran toward a wood, he supposed, he were of-Misfortune become free.

Er sprach: 'Unsæld, nû bin ich dir entrunnen!'
He spoke: 'Misfortune, now am I from-thee escaped!'

'Nein', sprach Unsæld, 'ich hân den sic gewunnen:
'No', spoke Misfortune, 'I have the victory won:

swaz dû gelief, daz selbe ich rande:
whatever thou ran, that same I raced:

ûf dînem hals was mîn gemach'.
on thy neck was my ease'.

der man dô zuo zim selben sprach:
the man then to himself self spoke:

'sost niht sô guot, in kêre wider ze lande'.
'so-is nothing so good, unless-I turn back to land'.

Eim vischer troumt, er solte lân

AGE, COMPANIONS, AND RIDDLES

Fifteen strophes. A fisher who dreamed of great fish let the small ones go and was deceived. In his evening the poet still strives for honor and warns the young against wolfishness; whoever despairs is lost. A man thrice a horse's age is too cold for women, and bad companions make the young head-sick. Purveyance devours the lords' poor people, and the bishop of Mainz never rests. Riddles tell of a wagon carrying fifty-two ladies and ask what never died yet is forever dead. Our father was made like a mirror out of ashes. Man is reminded how short life is, sent to learn the commandments, and warned of pride, disobedience, and greed. Lords who refuse good counsel go through the mill like the boatmen who would not row.

179 Eim vischer troumt, er solte lân,
To-a fisher dreamed, he should let,

swaz er vieng cleiner vische, er solte niht wan grôze vân,
whatever he caught of-small fish, he should nothing save great catch,

die ime unt sîme gesinde wærn helfelich vür alle ir aremuot.
which to-him and to-his household were helpful for all their poverty.

Der vischer volgte dem troume nâch;
The fisher followed the dream after;

swaz er vienc cleiner vische, dern ahtet er niht; im was gâch,
whatever he caught of-small fish, of-them heeded he not; to-him was haste,

wie er die grôzen vienge: in betrouc der troum,
how he the great caught: him deceived the dream,

als er noch manegem tuot.
as it still many does.

Sus wart der vischer grôzer sorgen rîche.
Thus became the fisher of-great cares rich.

dem vischer ich vil manegen man gelîche,
to-the fisher I very many-a man liken,

der cleines guotes niht enahtet:
who of-small goods not heeds:

unt gewinnet er des grôzen niht,
and (if)-wins he of-the great not,

reht als dem vischer im geschiht,
right as to-the fisher to-him happens,

der die cleinen lie unt nâch den grôzen trahtet.
who the small let and after the great strives.

In mîner âbentzît ich bin
In my evening-time I am

unt trage doch jungen liuten gar junclîchen morgen schîn:
and carry yet to-young people wholly youthful morning's shine:

ich lege mich ûf mînen arm unt spanne doch nâch êren wol.
I lay myself on my arm and stretch yet after honors well.

Mîn âbentsunnenschîn ist bleich;
My evening-sun-shine is pale;

ist aber der jungen morgen rôt, dâ bî ir ellen weich,
is but of-the young morning red, there by their valor soft,

sô wirt ir lîp gemaches rîch, dâ bî an êren selten vol.
so becomes their body of-ease rich, there by in honors seldom full.

Junc man, nû wis vrô unt doch mit zühten!
Young man, now be glad and yet with breeding!

ülfheit ist ein suht ob allen sühten
wolfishness is a sickness over all sicknesses

an jungen êregernden liuten:
in young honor-desiring people:

ülfheit erziuhet jungen lîp,
wolfishness raises young person,

sô daz Got noch reiniu wîp
so that God nor pure women

in niht enmugen geminnen noch getriuten.
him not may love nor cherish.

180

181 Diu werlt ist nû sô wunderlîch,
The world is now so wondrous,

sô si ein dürre begrîfet, si verzagent alle gelîch
when them a drought seizes, they despair all alike

unt möhten doch gedenken: Got hiez ûz hertem steine wazzer gân.
and might yet think: God bade out-of hard stone water go.

Swer gar verzagt, der ist verlorn
Whoever wholly despairs, he is lost

hie lîbes, dort der sêl: wê im, daz er ie wart geborn!
here of-body, there of-the soul: woe to-him, that he ever was born!

swer die sünde büezet, der muoz von Gote sunder gnâde hân.
whoever the sin atones, he must from God especial grace have.

Irdischer vrühte Got sîn regen sendet:
For-earthly fruits God his rain sends:

der ougen vluot mit riuwen sünde wendet.
the eyes' flood with repentance sin turns.

er sælic lîp, der des gedinget
he blessed person, who of-it hopes

unt sich verlæzet an des geben,
and himself relies on his giving,

der uns gît sterben unde leben:
who to-us gives dying and living:

des barmikeit uns zuo dem himel bringet.
whose mercy us to the heaven brings.

182 Swenne ein vluorzûn driu jâr gestât
When a field-fence three years stands

unt daz ein hunt des zûnes alter driu verslizzen hât,
and that a dog of-the fence's ages three worn-out has,

wirt danne ein ros drî stunt als alt alsô der hunt, dêst alt genuoc.
(if)-becomes then a horse three times as old as the dog, that-is old enough.

Wirt danne ein man drî stunt als alt
(if)-Becomes then a man three times as old

alsô daz ros, seht, der ist allen wîben gar ze kalt;
as the horse, look, he is to-all women wholly too cold;

ern ist niht minnebære, swie vil er viurs hie vor ûz helme sluoc.
he is not love-worthy, however much he of-fire here before out-of helm struck.

Swer in dan vor geriht kamphlîch an sprichet,
Whoever him then before court in-combat at speaks,

daz alte hovereht er an im brichet:
the old court-law he in him breaks:

daz sult ir sunder triegen wizzen!
that shall you without deceiving know!

ist daz ichz beziugen sol,
is that I-it witness shall,

so beziug ichz mit hern Hoier wol:
so witness I-it with sir Hoier well:

der hât wol driu rosses altr verslizzen.
he has well three horse's ages worn-out.

Wir haben gehœret lange wol, 183
We have heard long well,

daz man den man bî sînem gesellen dicke erkennen sol:
that one the man by his companion often know shall:

hüet iuch vor ungesellen, ir werden edeln, die nâch êren streben!
guard yourselves from bad-companions, you worthy noble, who after honors strive!

Von ungesellen wirt der man
From bad-companions becomes the man

vil dicke houbetsiech: ir werden jungen, denket dran:
very often head-sick: you worthy young, think thereon:

swelch houbetsiech wirt iuwer, der muoz mit
whichever head-sick grows of-you, he must with

schanden an sîn ende leben.
shame to his end live.

Hüet iuch vor ungesellen zallen stunden!
Guard yourselves from bad-companions at-all hours!

ich wolte, daz si solten gân gebunden
I would, that they should go bound

alsam die vrouwen mit gebenden,
as the ladies with headbands,

daz man si dâ erkante bî
that one them there knew by

unt alle liute spræchen: 'Phî!
and all people spoke: 'Fie!

verschamtiu brût, ir welt die minne schenden!'
shameless bride, you will the love disgrace!'

184 Atzunge ist hêrren hove ein hagel,
Purveyance is to-lords' court a hail,

atzunge ist hêrren habe mê vergift dan nâtern zagel:
purveyance is to-lords' property more poison than adder's tail:

atzunge diu beschatzet der hêrren arme liute unz in den grunt.
purveyance it taxes the lords' poor people down to the ground.

Atzunge vrizt den hôhen nider
Purveyance eats the high down

unt macht den nidern hôch, dâ kan nieman getuon niht wider:
and makes the low high, there can no-one do anything against:

wære daz der wirte schade, sô wærz der hêrren hôhster vunt.
were that the hosts' harm, so were-it the lords' highest find.

Atzunge, ze swem si sich gesellet,
Purveyance, to to-whomever she herself joins,

den vrizzet si, daz im diu maht enphellet.
him eats she, that to-him the might fails.

atzunge, daz dû sîst vervluochet!
purveyance, that thou be cursed!

swâ dû den êregernden weist,
wherever thou the honor-desiring knowest,

den vrizzestû, vrâz, aller meist.
him eatest-thou, glutton, of-all most.

nû vriz in dich den tiuvel, der dîn ruochet!
now eat into thee the devil, who of-thee cares!

Sô wâc gelît, sô wint geligt, 185
When water lies-still, when wind lies-down,

sô diu starke müede den wilden tieren an gesigt,
when the strong weariness the wild beasts over triumphs,

daz si sich legent durch ruowe,
that they themselves lay for rest,

sô engeruowet Megenzer bischof niht.
so rests Mainz's bishop not.

Er ist ein waller her unt dar;
He is a pilgrim hither and thither;

swâ er sich hin erbiutet, sô wil er lîht anderswar:
wherever he himself thither offers, so will he easily elsewhere:

alsus man sîne reise den wisewazzern dicke gelîche siht.
thus one his journey to-the meadow-waters often like sees.

Er weiz wol: 'Velt hât ougen, walt hât ôren';
He knows well: 'Field has eyes, wood has ears';

sus macht er sîner vînde speher tôren:
thus makes he his enemies' spies fools:

mit cranches hals kan er wol swîgen
with crane's neck can he well be-silent

unt mit strûzes ougen sehen,
and with ostrich's eyes see,

mit luhses ôren rûnen spehen:
with lynx's ears whispers espy:

steinbockes wîs kan er wol berge stîgen.
in-ibex's way can he well mountains climb.

186 Ein sneller wol gevierter wagen
A swift well squared wagon

der gât ûf zwelef schîben unt hât lange her getragen
it goes upon twelve wheels and has long hither carried

zwô unt vünfzic vrouwen, die sint dar ûf gesetzet nâch ir zal.
two and fifty ladies, they are there upon set after their number.

Der wagen nimmer stille stât,
The wagon never still stands,

sîn orden zallen zîten snelle loufet unde gât,
its order at-all times swiftly runs and goes,

ûz holze niht gehouwen, ern ist ze kurz, ze lanc, ze breit, ze smal.
out-of wood not hewn, it-not is too short, too long, too broad, too narrow.

Den wagen ziehent siben ros, sint wîze,
The wagon draw seven horses, are white,

unt ander siben swarz mit stætem vlîze.
and other seven black with steadfast diligence.

wer ist der mir den wagen betiutet?
who is he-who to-me the wagon interprets?

dem gebe Got jâr âne leit!
to-him give God years without sorrow!

der wagen ist iu vor geseit:
the wagon is to-you before told:

der louft, unz im sîn meister daz verbiutet.
it runs, until to-it its master that forbids.

187 Diz liet ist vol wunders gar:
This song is full of-wonder wholly:

ich sach ûf einem wagen zwô unt vünfzic vrouwen var;
I saw upon a wagon two and fifty ladies fare;

die heten alle ein swester: die vindet man, bî swelcher sô man wil.
they had all a sister: her finds one, by whichever so one will.

Daz êrste rat vol snêwes was,
The first wheel full of-snow was,

daz ander daz truoc wurze, daz dritte bluomen unde gras,
the second that bore herbs, the third flowers and grass,

daz vierde truoc besunder korn, obez, wîn, zam unde wildes vil.
the fourth bore separately grain, fruit, wine, tame and of-wild much.

Den wagen zugen vierzehen ros, merket wunder!
The wagon drew fourteen horses, mark wonder!

zwelf wagenman die phlâgen ir besunder:
twelve wagoners they tended them separately:

die wâren bî in zallen stunden;
they were by them at-all hours;

ieslîcher der stuont sînen wec
each he stood his way

âne brugge unt âne stec.
without bridge and without path.

ich hân den wagen ân schatz ze koufe vunden.
I have the wagon without treasure for purchase found.

Nû merket, waz daz sî, durch Got, 188
Now mark, what that be, for God,

daz dâ nie erstarp unt ist doch êwiclîchen tôt,
that there never died and is yet eternally dead,

noch nimmer mac ersterben, daz râte ein man! ich râte ez, ob ich wil.
nor ever can die, that guess a man! I guess it, if I will.

Bruoder, swestr ez beide hât,
Brother, sister it both has,

daz ein tumber leie, wæne ich, unerrâten lât:
that a foolish layman, suppose I, unguessed leaves:

ist ir ab eteslîcher, der ez errât, son ist ir doch niht vil.
is of-them but any, who it guesses, so is of-them yet not many.

Dirre wunder ich iuch underscheide:
Of-these wonders I you distinguish:

sêl unt lîp sô hât daz wunder beide.
soul and body so has the wonder both.

durch wunder ich daz wunder schrîbe:
for wonder I the wonder write:

wand ez ist wunders gar genuoc.
for it is of-wonder wholly enough.

ich sach die vrouwen, diu ez truoc,
I saw the lady, who it bore,

unt wart doch nie geborn von wîbes lîbe.
and was yet never born from woman's body.

189 Nû seht, wie listic daz er was,
Now look, how cunning that he was,

der ûz trüeber aschen worhte ein lûter spiegelglas,
who out-of murky ashes wrought a clear mirror-glass,

sô lûter unt sô reine, daz er sîn selbes bilde drinne ersach.
so clear and so pure, that he his own image therein saw.

Unt was daz niht ein wunder grôz,
And was that not a wonder great,

daz erz von aschen worhte, unt was doch selbe ein erdenclôz?
that he-it from ashes wrought, and was yet self an earth-clod?

dâ von sô wart gemachet unser vater, dêst lanc, daz daz geschach.
there from so was made our father, that-is long, that that happened.

Den liez sîn schepher zaschen wider werden:
Him let his creator to-ashes again become:

nû wil er aber ûz der selben erden
now will he but out-of the same earth

vil manegen reinen spiegel machen,
very many pure mirrors make,

der immer muoz ân ende sîn
which ever must without end be

noch lûterr dan der sunnen schîn:
still clearer than the sun's shine:

sîn kunst ist ganz, die kan im nieman swachen.
his art is whole, it can to-him no-one weaken.

Sich, mensche, vür dich, wer dû bist, 190
Look, man, before thee, who thou art,

war ûz dû sîst worden unt wer dû wirst in kurzer vrist!
where out-of thou art become and who thou becomest in short time!

dîn leben wert unlange wider dem leben, daz nimmer ende hât.
thy life lasts not-long against the life, which never end has.

Lebe tûsent jâr! daz ist ein wint
Live thousand years! that is a wind

wider manegen jâren, diu dâ niht ze zelne sint,
against many years, which there not to count are,

dâ vröude ist âne ende, manec wunnespil, diu nimmer mêr zergât.
where joy is without end, many-a bliss-game, which never more passes.

War quam dîn vater, muoter, bruoder, swester?
Where came thy father, mother, brother, sister?

diu werlt wart nie gemeiner crankeit vester,
the world was never of-common weakness firmer,

denne si ist bî disen zîten:
than it is in these times:

diu meiste menege hât den muot,
the most multitude has the mind,

si werbent umbe langez guot
they woo for long goods

unt wizzent niht, wie lange der tôt well bîten.
and know not, how long the death will wait.

Vil tumber mensch, ich râte dir 191
Very foolish man, I counsel thee

den rât, der dir wol vüeget, ob dû wilt gerne volgen mir:
the counsel, which to-thee well befits, if thou wilt gladly follow me:

dû denke in dînen sinnen, wie dû gewinnest êwiclîchez leben!
thou think in thy senses, how thou winnest eternal life!

Vor allem hort sô minne Got!
Before all hoard so love God!

dû vrâge wîse liute, daz si dir sagen diu zehen gebot,
thou ask wise people, that they to-thee tell the ten commandments,

diu cristenlîcher lêre der Cristenheit ze helfe sint gegeben.
which of-Christian teaching to-the Christendom as help are given.

Nû merke reht, wie dû si solt behalten,
Now mark right, how thou them shalt keep,

unt tuostû daz, sô mahtû sælden walten
and (if)-doest-thou that, so mayest-thou blessedness wield

hie unde dort gar êwiclîchen.
here and there wholly eternally.

verdienestû der sêle heil,
(if)-earnest-thou of-the soul salvation,

des himels vröuden erbeteil
of-the heaven's joys inheritance

besitzestû: daz wizzest sicherlîchen!
possessest-thou: that know certainly!

192 Swer âne sünde welle vervarn,
Whoever without sin will pass-away,

der mîde drîe sünde, er kan sich nimmer baz bewarn:
he avoid three sins, he can himself never better guard:

diu êrste heizet hôchvart, diu ander ungehôrsam ist genant.
the first is-called pride, the second disobedience is named.

Die dritte nent man gîtikeit.
The third names one greed.

dise houbetsünde machent immerwerndiu leit.
these mortal-sins make ever-lasting sorrows.

daz uns dâ vor behüete der süeze Got, des müeze er sîn gemant!
that us there from guard the sweet God, of-that may he be reminded!

Lûcifer wart durch die êrste verstôzen
Lucifer was through the first thrust-out

von himel, er unt ander sîne genôzen:
from heaven, he and other his fellows:

diu ander roubte daz pardîse,
the second robbed the paradise,

diu dritte wuochert alle tage
the third profiteers all days

der tiefen helle: ô wê der clage!
for-the deep hell: O woe of-the lament!

mensch, sich vür dich unt hüet dich, bistû wîse!
man, look before thee and guard thee, art-thou wise!

Ez vuor ein ebenhêriu diet 193
There fared an equally-lordly folk

ze tal ûf einem wâge: daz schif gein einer müln geriet:
to dale upon a water: the ship toward a mill came:

dô bat des schiffes meister die liute ruoder nemen in die hant.
then bade the ship's master the people oars take into the hand.

Dâ kêrten si sich lützel an:
There turned they themselves little to:

don mohte des schiffes meister niht al eine ez bringen dan,
then could the ship's master not all alone it bring thence,

unz si dar under runnen: des wart in nôt unt arebeit bekant.
until they there under ran: of-that became to-them distress and toil known.

Alsô geschiht noch manegen tumben herren,
So happens still to-many foolish lords,

die sich von guotem râte wellent verren:
who themselves from good counsel will distance:

die wellent sich an êren spâten:
they will themselves in honors be-late:

den geschiht alsô geschach,
to-them happens as happened,

die man dâ nider vliezen sach
to-those-whom one there down float saw

hin durch die müln, die ouch daz selbe tâten.
hence through the mill, who also the same did.

Der hof hât drîer hande diet

THE COURT, FAITH, AND THE WORLD

Twelve strophes. The court holds courtly, uncourtly, and over-courtly folk, and the over-courtly are worst. Small things hold great ones, from nail to land, but no whole man is found for them. Faith sits in a tent wringing her hands, for the faithless have shrunk her host. The poet renounces the World, whose false gleam took his days, and prays for shame against sin before God's eyes. A young man should master his anger and keep with the best, and a youth's growth is traced from twelve years to fifty. A bat and a cuckoo pretend to falcon and nightingale. The worthy must suffer envy. Fraud leads the world's dance with the vices. The poet has fished great waters in vain, and a riddle tells of fratricide and a bridge.

194 Der hof hât drîer hande diet:
The court has three kinds-of folk:

gehoft unt ungehoft, verhoft: der mir diu driu beschiet,
courtly and uncourtly, over-courtly: who to-me the three distinguished,

der bat mich, daz ich wære bî den gehoften gerne zaller stunt.
he bade me, that I were with the courtly gladly at-every hour.

Er sprach: 'Mac es niht rât gesî,
He spoke: 'May it not remedy be,

sô volge mîner lêre unt wis den ungehoften bî
so follow my teaching and be the uncourtly by

ê dan den gar verhoften:
rather than the wholly over-courtly:

verhoft dem ist wol valschez tiuschen kunt.
over-courtly to-him is well false deceiving known.

Verhoft daz leckert zeteslîchen stunden:
Over-courtly that licks at-some hours:

sost ungehoft mit schame doch gebunden.
so-is uncourtly with shame yet bound.

verhoft ê dêr dan wolte vrâgen,
over-courtly before that-he then would ask,

er tæte ê missewende drî:
he would-do before faults three:

sô muoz doch jener in schamen sî,
so must yet that-one in shame be,

ern welle dan dekeiner êren lâgen.'
unless-he will then of-no honors lie-in-wait.'

Ich hân gehœret manegen tac, 195
I have heard many-a day,

daz eteswenne ein nagel ein îsen wol behaben mac,
that sometimes a nail an iron well hold may,

unt ein îsen behabt ein ros, daz ros behabt ein biderben man:
and an iron holds a horse, the horse holds a worthy man:

Sô wirt ouch eteswenne erwert
So becomes also sometimes defended

ein burc von biderbem manne unt von der burc ein lant ernert.
a castle by worthy man and by the castle a land saved.

swaz grôzer dinge ergât, diu hebent sich von cleinen dingen an.
whatever great things come-about, they raise themselves from small things on.

Nagel, îsen, ros, burc, lant, diu vünviu wæren
Nail, iron, horse, castle, land, the five were

bereit, wan daz mich dunket an den mæren,
ready, save that me seems in the tales,

wir hân dar zuo niht ganzes mannes.
we have there to not whole man.

wê im daz er ie wart geborn,
woe to-him that he ever was born,

an dem diu vünviu sint verlorn!
in whom the five are lost!

der wære wert der âhte unt ouch des bannes.
he were worthy of-the outlawry and also of-the ban.

196 Ich quam geriten ûf ein velt
I came riding upon a field

vür einen grüenen walt: dâ vant ich ein vil schœne gezelt,
before a green wood: there found I a very beautiful tent,

dar under saz diu Triuwe, si want ir hend, si clagte Gote ir leit.
there under sat the Faith, she wrung her hands, she lamented to-God her sorrow.

Si schrê vil lûte unt sprach ze Got:
She cried very loudly and spoke to God:

'Hêrre, lâ dich erbarmen, ich bin zer werlt der rîchen spot;
'Lord, let thee pity, I am to-the world of-the rich mockery;

daz rihte dû mir, hêrre! dîn gewalt ist michel unde breit.
that judge thou for-me, lord! thy power is great and broad.

Die ungetriuwen wellent mich verkêren:
The faithless will me pervert:

hêrre Got, hilf mîne vröude mêren!
lord God, help my joy increase!

mîn schar ist worden alsô cleine,
my host is become so small,

der ungetriuwen ist sô vil,
of-the faithless is so much,

untriuwe ist in der werlte ein spil:
faithlessness is in the world a game:

nû hilf im, Crist, swer dich mit triuwen meine!'
now help him, Christ, whoever thee with faith loves!'

197 Sô wê dir, Werlt! dîn valscher glanz
So woe to-thee, World! thy false gleam

ân aller stætikeit, unstæte, dürkel unt unganz,
without all constancy, inconstant, pierced and unwhole,

enzucket hât mit lôser lüge sunder nuz hin mîne tage.
snatched has with loose lie without use away my days.

Dû hieze mich in wollust leben,
Thou badest me in pleasure live,

mînes herzen wider Got mit kündikeit hie streben:
of-my heart against God with cunning here strive:

des hân ich dir gevolget, daz ich nû ze spâte leider clage.
of-that have I thee followed, that I now too late alas lament.

Mir ist von sünden ûz gebogen der rucke,
To-me is by sins out bent the back,

unt weiz niht, wenne mich der tôt hin zucke
and know not, when me the death away snatch

bar guoter werke unt riuwen beider,
bare of-good works and repentance both,

der man ze tôde wol bedarf.
which one at death well needs.

dîn lôn sûr, bitter unde scharf
thy reward sour, bitter and sharp

ich vunden hân, Werlt, an dem ende leider!
I found have, World, at the end alas!

Mich wundert unt ist jæmerlîch, 198
Me wonders and is pitiable,

daz ein man, den Got gemachet hât sô witze rîch,
that a man, whom God made has so in-wit rich,

im alsô schedelîchen manege smæhe gelust lât an gesigen
to-him so harmfully many-a base lust lets over triumph

Unt sich vor Gotes ougen niht
And himself before God's eyes not

der dinge schamt, der doch in aller menschen herze siht,
of-the things shames, who yet into all men's heart sees,

der er sich wolte schamen vor eime, der ze küchen wære gedigen.
of-which he himself would be-ashamed before one, who to kitchen were come.

Nû gip uns schame, hêrre, aller bœser dinge!
Now give us shame, lord, of-all evil things!

reiniu schame valschen muot kan twinge
pure shame false mind can force

von missetæten zuo der güete,
from misdeeds to the goodness,

diu Got ze vriunde erwerben kan.
which God as friend win can.

si sælic wîp, er sælic man,
she blessed woman, he blessed man,

swâ er nû sî, der reine schame brüete!
wherever he now be, who pure shame broods!

199 Pârîs, Pâdowe, Sâlerne kan
Paris, Padua, Salerno can

niht alsô wol gebern ein jungen êregernden man,
not so well bear a young honor-desiring man,

sô daz er sich enthalde in sînem zorn an worten unt an tât:
as that he himself restrain in his anger in words and in deed:

Unt müeje in iht, daz man im tuo,
And (if)-vex him anything, that one to-him do,

des sol er ander liute erlân, daz hœrt in beiden zuo:
of-that shall he other people spare, that belongs to-them both to:

kan er sô sinne walden, sô gît im sîn herze guoten rât.
(if)-can he so senses wield, so gives to-him his heart good counsel.

Junc man, nû merke, waz die wîsen prîsen,
Young man, now mark, what the wise praise,

unt lâ die wîsen dich des selben wîsen,
and let the wise thee of-the same direct,

daz dû sîst gerne bî den besten;
that thou be gladly with the best;

unt wenstû dich in dîner jugent
and (if)-accustomest-thou thee in thy youth

an dise vor genanden tugent,
to this before named virtue,

sô zimstû wol bî kunden unt bî gesten.
so befittest-thou well among acquaintances and among guests.

Ein zwelf jâr alter jungelinc, 200
A twelve years old youngling,

stille, zühtic, dienesthaft, daz sint driu houbetdinc,
quiet, well-bred, serviceable, that are three chief-things,

diu des urkünde gebent, daz man sich vürbaz mac an im versehen,
which of-it witness give, that one oneself further may in him expect,

Ob er kome an diu zwênzic jâr,
If he come to the twenty years,

daz er gemeine unt ouch geminne werde, unt wirt daz wâr,
that he affable and also beloved become, and becomes that true,

sô lêrent in diu vier unt zwênzic jâr zuht unde manheit spehen.
so teach him the four and twenty years breeding and manhood espy.

Unt kome er dan ze sînen drîzic jâren,
And (if)-come he then to his thirty years,

sô sol er stæte unt ganzer triuwe vâren;
so shall he constancy and whole faith watch-for;

hât er sich kintlîche ê vergâhet,
(if)-has he himself childishly before over-hastened,

daz sol er büezen mit der tât,
that shall he atone with the deed,

diu lîp unt guot ze gebenne hât.
which body and goods to give has.

wie schône er dan den vünfzic jâren nâhet!
how beautifully he then to-the fifty years nears!

201 Ein vederlôsiu vledermûs
A featherless bat

zeinem valken sprach: 'Her valke, ich habe in mînem hûs
to-a falcon spoke: 'Sir falcon, I have in my house

valken gevidere veile; her valk, welt ir daz hân, sô seht mich an!'
falcon's plumage for-sale; sir falcon, (if)-will you that have, so look me at!'

Dâ bî sô saz ein œder gouch,
There by so sat a desolate cuckoo,

der jach, er wære ein meister nahtegalsanges ouch:
he avowed, he were a master of-nightingale's-song also:

sus vermâzen si sich beide, des ir deweder keinez nie gewan.
thus presumed they themselves both, of-that of-them neither one ever won.

Diz bîspel tumben man al hie betiutet,
This parable foolish man all here signifies,

der wîsen liuten êre veile biutet
who to-wise people honor for-sale offers

unt giht, er welle in daz verkoufen,
and avows, he will to-them that sell,

daz nie im übernehtic wart.
what never to-him overnight became.

der nie gewan hâr noch den bart,
who never won hair nor the beard,

den möhte man alsô sanfte roufen.
him might one so gently pluck.

202 Swer sich vor nîde welle ernern,
Whoever himself from envy will save,

der minne die unvuoge unt vlîze sich der tugende wern:
he love the unfitness and apply himself the virtues to-ward-off:

wie sol man in genîden, wil er belîben sunder êren ger?
how shall one him envy, (if)-will he remain without honors' desire?

Wes zige man einen bœsen man,
Of-what would-accuse one an evil man,

daz man in nîde, sît er nîden niht verdienen kan?
that one him envy, since he envy not earn can?

swer den bœsen nîden wil, der muoz noch bœser sîn dan er.
whoever the evil envy will, he must still more-evil be than he.

Werde liute suln unwerde nîden:
Worthy people shall unworthy envy:

die werden müezen immer nîden lîden,
the worthy must ever envy suffer,

die werden suln sîn nîtlîdære,
the worthy shall be envy-sufferers,

nîtlîden zimt den werden wol,
envy-suffering befits the worthy well,

sô sint die bœsen nîdes vol:
so are the evil of-envy full:

nîtlîdær sint bezzer dan nîdære.
envy-sufferers are better than enviers.

Der Pârât, valscher Serîôn, 203
The Fraud, false Serion,

her Liegât, Triegât, Trumphator, der vünve meisterdôn
sir Liar, Cheater, Trumpeter, the five master-tunes

hât al diu werlt sô liep, daz in diu meiste menege tanzet nâch.
has all the world so dear, that to-them the most multitude dances after.

Dâ tanzet Slurchart unde Slich,
There dances Shuffler and Sneak,

Vridelôs, Diebolt, Meinolt, Roubolt, die vil manegen stich
Peaceless, Thiefbold, Perjurebold, Robbold, who very many-a stab

den vogetlôsen machent: dâ hilfet Ungewis, Arc unde Schâch.
to-the guardless make: there helps Uncertain, Evil and Plunder.

Untriuwe unt Schande singent vor ze prîse,
Faithlessness and Shame sing before to prize,

Roup, Mort, Brant, Nîdunc in Sibchen wîse,
Robbery, Murder, Arson, Envious in Sibeche's tune,

Lôsheit, Jâhêrre unt Hovegalle,
Looseness, Yes-lord and Court-gall,

Spot, Unkust, Ôrendrus unt Vâr:
Mockery, Vice, Ear-fullness and Ambush:

Untriuwe singet über jâr,
Faithlessness sings over year,

Werlt, dînen tanz: phî dich unt ouch die alle!
World, thy dance: fie on-thee and also on-them all!

204 Ich hân daz dicke wol vernomen,
I have that often well heard,

daz ûz den grôzen wazzern sint die grôzen vische komen:
that out-of the great waters are the great fish come:

swer si dar inne vâhet, der hât gelücke unt ist ein sælic man.
whoever them there in catches, he has fortune and is a blessed man.

Dâ bî sô sult ir wizzen daz,
There by so shall you know that,

daz man in grôzen wazzern mac ertrinken, niender baz:
that one in great waters may drown, nowhere better:

er dunket mich vil wîse, der dise rede ze rehte kan verstân.
he seems to-me very wise, who this speech by right can understand.

Ich hân in grôzen wazzern vil gevischet
I have in great waters much fished

unt hân der grôzen vische niht erwischet:
and have of-the great fish nothing caught:

in kunde ir leider niene gevâhen:
I could of-them alas never catch:

ertrinken was mir vil nâch kunt.
drowning was to-me very nearly known.

mir gienc daz wazzer in den munt;
to-me went the water into the mouth;

mir hulfen niht die hêrren, die daz sâhen.
me helped not the lords, who that saw.

Ein bruoder sînen bruoder sluoc, 205
A brother his brother slew,

ê daz ir beider vater wart geborn; den ungevuoc
before that of-them both father was born; the monstrous-one

den sol ein wîser râten: wan daz was ein wunderlich geschiht.
that shall a wise-one guess: for that was a wondrous happening.

Dar nâch ich eine brugge sach,
There after I a bridge saw,

diu wart in einer naht geworht über einen breiten bach:
it was in one night wrought over a broad brook:

swaz künege ûf erde lebt, die wurhten alle solcher brugge niht.
whatever kings on earth live, they wrought all such bridge not.

Dô quâmen zwêne, die die brugge brâchen
Then came two, who the bridge broke

unt die beide nie kein wort gesprâchen:
and who both never any word spoke:

den einen sach man unt niht hôrte,
the one saw one and not heard,

den andern hôrt man unt niht sach:
the other heard one and not saw:

wærz al der werlte ein ungemach,
were-it to-all the world a hardship,

der beider craft die brugge gar zerstôrte.
of-the two power the bridge wholly destroyed.

Uns wont ein wunsch gemeine bî

DEATH, FAITH, AND THE TWO SWORDS

Eleven strophes. A good end needs a good life. Men ask God for time and never use it. Solomon calls all under the sun deceit. The faithless man is the worst thing in heaven or earth. Beauty is worthless without virtue. Counsel should be taken from the wise, since whoever follows the blind is blinded. The mocker breaks God's peace. A master has forged two swords, stole and sword, for the pope and the emperor. Air, water, and earth keep their law, but men sin openly. The last strophe praises a good host, the lord of Sayn, as the best of hunters, because he catches people.

206 Uns wont ein wunsch gemeine bî,
To-us dwells a wish in-common by,

daz uns Got gebe ein ende guot unt alles wandels vrî:
that us God give an end good and of-all blemish free:

der wunsch ist guot, ab ende guot ze gebenne an rehtem lebenne lît.
the wish is good, but end good to give in right living lies.

Got mac ez geben, ob er wil:
God can it give, if he will:

daz geloube ich wol: ez wær ab ein gewunnen spil,
that believe I well: it were but a won game,

daz Got guot ende gæbe ân rehtez leben: daz wizzet âne strît!
that God good end would-give without right life: that know without strife!

Reht leben gît vil gerne guotez ende,
Right life gives very gladly good end,

unrehtez leben phligt der missewende.
wrong life keeps the fault.

mit der der zwîvel hât die phlihte,
with which the doubt has the share,

wie diu sêle mac gevarn!
how the soul may fare!

des mac uns alles wol bewarn
of-that can us all well guard

reht leben, ob wir daz bringen vür gerihte.
right life, if we that bring before judgment.

'Got hêrre' bit vil manic man, 207
'God lord' prays very many-a man,

'genâde! gip mir vrist ze leben, unz ich dir undertân
'grace! give me respite to live, until I to-thee subject

mit dienste müeze werden!'; diz gebet Got ofte erhœret hât
with service may become!'; this prayer God often heard has

An manegem man, der im doch nie
In many-a man, who to-him yet never

sô vil ze dienste wart, daz er im ie gebuge diu knie
so much in service became, that he to-him ever bent the knees

an rehter liebe zêren: diz ist jâmer, der mir nâhe gât.
in right love to-honor: this is grief, which to-me near goes.

Got gît ie vrist, man vint in aber selten,
God gives ever respite, one finds him but seldom,

der die vrist mit dienste welle gelten,
who the respite with service will repay,

die Got sô lange hât geborget.
which God so long has lent.

er schiubt ez ûf von tage ze tage
he shoves it off from day to day

unt wænt an einem tage erjage,
and supposes in one day may-overtake,

daz er dâ hât sô wêninc vor besorget.
what he there has so little before attended.

208 Der wîse Salomôn dô sprach:
The wise Solomon then spoke:

‘swaz ich hân ervarn unt allez daz ich ie gesach
‘whatever I have experienced and all that I ever saw

under der sunnen, daz ist gar ein trüge ob aller trügeheit.’
under the sun, that is wholly a deceit over all deceit.’

Er sprach ouch sicherlîchen wâr.
He spoke also certainly true.

ô wê daz wir dran hie sus swenden unser kurzen jâr
O woe that we thereon here thus waste our short years

mit trüge unt niht gedenken an die immer wernden sælikeit!
with deceit and not think of the ever lasting blessedness!

Niht hilfet al der werlde hort gekoufet
Nothing helps all the world’s hoard bought

unt durch den hort diu sêle hin besoufet
and for the hoard the soul away drowned

in hellepîne sunder ende.
in hell-pain without end.

des suln wir werben umbe ein leben,
therefore shall we strive for a life,

dem êwic vröude wirt gegeben,
to-which eternal joy becomes given,

unt lâzen varn, daz uns des mac gephende.
and let go, what us of-that may distrain.

209 Daz bœst, daz man erdenken kan
The worst, that one devise can

ze himel unt ûf erde, daz ist der ungetriuwe man;
in heaven and on earth, that is the faithless man;

der blendet liehtiu ougen unt verderbet, daz ê was gesunt.
he blinds bright eyes and ruins, what before was healthy.

Sîn zunge eitergallen hât,
His tongue venom-gall has,

er lebendic rê, mortmeilic man, ursprinc der missetât!
he living corpse, murder-stained man, source of-the misdeed!

hüet iuch vor sîme lachen: ez machet guote liute sêre wunt.
guard yourselves from his laughing: it makes good people sorely wounded.

Erst lange siech, an den sîn âten rüeret,
He-is long sick, on whom his breath touches,

sîn gruoz durch reiniu herze strâle vüeret,
his greeting through pure hearts arrow carries,

…
(lacuna)

sîn zeigen swachet reiniu wîp,
his pointing weakens pure women,

sîn rûnen tœtet manegen lîp
his whispering kills many-a person

unt sîniu werc al bôsheit gar durchgründet.
and his works all wickedness wholly permeated.

Waz sol ein minniclîchez wîp? 210
What shall a lovely woman?

waz suln ir liehtiu ougen, ir rôter munt, ir schœner lîp?
what shall her bright eyes, her red mouth, her beautiful body?

waz sol ir gruoz, ir lachen, ob keinez ûz vrôn Êren kamer vert?
what shall her greeting, her laughing, if any out-of lady Honor's chamber goes?

Waz sol ouch ir vil süezer name?
What shall also her very sweet name?

waz suln ir guotiu cleider, ob si diu treit âne schame?
what shall her good clothes, if she them wears without shame?

waz sol ir wîbes güete, ob si sich tugende mit unêren wert?
what shall her woman's goodness, if she herself from-virtues with dishonors defends?

Waz sol ir schœne, clârheit unt ir jugende?
What shall her beauty, clearness and her youth?

waz sol, ob si wil alten âne tugende?
what shall, if she will grow-old without virtue?

waz sol, ist si nâch Gote gebildet?
what shall, (if)-is she after God formed?

ir reinen man, ir werden wîp,
you pure men, you worthy women,

hazt alsô schœnen bœsen lîp,
hate so beautiful evil person,

der Schanden zamt unt sich gar Êren wildet!
which to-Shame tames and itself wholly from-Honor estranges!

211 Ich wîse an wîser liute rât,
I direct to wise people's counsel,

daz man den habe, unt niht an den, der râtes nien enhât:
that one it have, and not to him, who of-counsel nothing has:

wie kan mir der gerâten, des rât gein werden tugenden nie geschein?
how can me he counsel, whose counsel toward worthy virtues never shone?

Êst bezzer bilde an dem genomen,
It-is better example from him taken,

der beide an sælde, an êren unt an guote ist vollekomen:
who both in blessedness, in honors and in goods is perfect:

swer nâch dem blinden kêret, der stôzet sich vil lîhte an herten stein.
whoever after the blind turns, he strikes himself very easily on hard stone.

Swer blinden volget, der ist wol erblendet:
Whoever the-blind follows, he is well blinded:

waz wunders ist, ob den sîn blintheit schendet?
what of-wonder is, if him his blindness shames?

dar umbe râte ich: swer sich vlîze
there for counsel I: whoever himself apply

gein Gote unt gegen werder zuht,
toward God and toward worthy breeding,

swer hât zuo den sîns râtes vluht,
whoever has to those of-his counsel refuge,

ich wæne, er kume zeime ende ân itewîze.
I suppose, he come to-an end without reproach.

Spotter, dû solt hœren mich! 212
Mocker, thou shalt hear me!

ich wil dir sagen, wes Got von himelrîche zîhet dich:
I will to-thee say, of-what God from heaven-kingdom accuses thee:

er giht, daz schult, meineide, untriuwe, sünde, haz unt nîdes vol
he avows, that guilt, perjury, faithlessness, sin, hatred and of-envy full

Sî dîn herze unt ouch dîn lîp,
Be thy heart and also thy body,

dû vridebrech, dû schuldic mort an man unt ouch an wîp,
thou peace-breaker, thou guilty of-murder on man and also on woman,

diu dîn gelupte zunge mit valscher süeze kan geschiezen wol.
which thy poisoned tongue with false sweetness can shoot well.

Got sînen vride gap al der werlt gemeine;
God his peace gave to-all the world in-common;

den brichestû mit dînem spotte unreine!
that breakest-thou with thy mockery impure!

daz dû in erge hâst gesprochen
what thou in evil hast spoken

durch dînen spottegen valschen munt,
through thy mocking false mouth,

daz wirt dort an der helle grunt
that becomes there at the hell's ground

— gehabe dich wol! — vil sûre an dir gerochen.
fare thee well! very sourly on thee avenged.

Ein meister der hât uns geslagen 213
A master he has for-us forged

zwei swert, diu zwêne künege wol mit êren möhten tragen,
two swords, which two kings well with honors might bear,

gemachet volliclîch von hôher kunst, unt sint wol vollekomen,
made fully with high art, and are well perfect,

Gelîche lanc, gelîche breit,
Equally long, equally broad,

ze trôste unt ouch ze helfe der vil edeln Cristenheit;
as comfort and also as help of-the very noble Christendom;

si sint unschedelich unt mugen den getriuwen wol gevromen.
they are harmless and can the faithful well profit.

Stôle unde swert sint si genennet beide;
Stole and sword are they named both;

si bedurfen niht wan einer scheide;
they need nothing save one sheath;

an in sich nieman mac versnîden
on them himself no-one can cut

wan der dâ lebet sunder vorht:
save who there lives without fear:

erst listic, der si hât geworht;
he-is cunning, who them has wrought;

ir beider slege mac man vil gerne mîden.
of-them both blows may one very gladly avoid.

214 Daz eine daz gehœret an
The one that belongs to

dem bâbest, der mit dem buoche sêre twingen kan:
the pope, who with the book sorely compel can:

mit im unt mit dem banne sol er vaste dröuwen zaller zît.
with it and with the ban shall he firmly threaten at-all time.

Daz ander sol ein keiser nemen:
The other shall an emperor take:

stuol unde swert unt ouch daz rîche mac im wol gezemen:
throne and sword and also the realm may to-him well befit:

sol er gerihtes walten, sô mac er niht belîben âne strît.
(if)-shall he judgment wield, so can he not remain without strife.

Ir fullemunt der edeln Cristenheite,
You support of-the noble Christendom,

Sent Pêters kemphe, des sît ir guot geleite,
Saint Peter's champion, of-that be you good escort,

daz die gerehten überwinden,
that the righteous overcome,

die rehtes widersachen sint,
who of-right adversaries are,

des bitet maneger muoter kint:
for-that prays many-a mother's child:

hilf, hêrre Got, daz wir gerihte vinden!
help, lord God, that we judgment find!

Die liute sint gelandet wol, 215
The people are landed well,

diu lant niht wol geliutet, meines sint die liute vol:
the lands not well peopled, of-perjury are the people full:

luft, ünde, erde, himelzeichen nâch ir rehte tuont.
air, waves, earth, heaven's-signs after their right do.

Des tuont aber die liute niht:
That do but the people not:

unschiuhende unt unschamende sündent si, daz ez der siht,
unshunning and unashamed sin they, that it he sees,

der durch uns wart geborn unt an dem hêren criuze wart verwunt.
who for us was born and on the holy cross was wounded.

Daz wir des sô dicke an im vergezzen,
That we of-that so often in him forget,

des hât sîn vergezzen uns besezzen
of-that has his forgetting us beset

ze tôde mit den toufelôsen:
to death with the baptismless:

der touf mac sich wol unser schamen,
the baptism may itself well of-us be-ashamed,

daz wir mit wol getouften namen
that we with well baptized names

touf unde crisem sô dicke an uns verbôsen.
baptism and chrism so often in us make-evil.

216 Ein wol werbende weideman,
A well striving huntsman,

der vische, vogel, wilt sô meisterlîchen vâhen kan,
who fish, birds, game so masterfully catch can,

swie guot er sî, noch bezzer ist, der der liute vâher ist.
however good he be, still better is, he-who of-the people catcher is.

Hie mit mein ich ein biderben wirt,
Here with mean I a worthy host,

der geste wol enphâhen kan unt der in vröude birt
who guests well receive can and who to-them joy bears

in sînem hûs bî sînem brôt unt daz tuot gar ân valschen list.
in his house by his bread and that does wholly without false craft.

Guot wirt erwirbet êre unt Gotes hulde,
Good host wins honor and God's favor,

guot wirt ist aller wirde ein übergulde:
good host is of-all worth an overgilding:

swelch wirt kan die geste enphâhen,
whichever host can the guests receive,

sô daz vrô Êre unt ouch ir kint
so that lady Honor and also her children

mit guotem willen bî im sint,
with good will by him are,

als der von Sein, der mac wol êre ergâhen.
as he of Sayn, he can well honor overtake.

Ir engel, hœhet iuwern sanc

MARY, ROME, AND THE PRINCES

Thirteen strophes. The angels are bidden to sing of the maid in whose heart God folded himself, and Mary is called the sun's gleam and dawn. Christians are told that the cock has crowed and the Judge is near. A riddle names something lighter than a leaf and heavier than lead. Ladies are now captured for ransom, and the queen of Hungary knows the newly sharpened peace. Rome is widowed, and its daughters Mainz and Cologne harm the realm. Marriage is praised above every order. After a prayer to Mary, the Meissener's Is is better than his Was, the man of Mainz who holds three princes' seats has nine hearts, and the inconstant World is asked what her reward is, and she follows the dead only to the grave.

Ir engel, hœhet iuwern sanc, 217
You angels, raise your song,

sît sich Got hât gejunget, des ist nû ze mâzen lanc,
since himself God has made-young, that is now to measure long,

unt lobet alle gelîche die reinen magt, die Got ze muoter nam,
and praise all alike the pure maid, whom God as mother took,

Dô er sich in ir herze vielt,
When he himself into her heart folded,

ich meine den edelen Got, der aller elementen wielt:
I mean the noble God, who of-all elements ruled:

erde unde himelrîches ist er gewaltic, sprich ich sunder scham.
of-earth and heaven-kingdom is he mighty, speak I without shame.

Dar zuo riet im diu Barmunge unt diu Minne,
There to counseled him the Mercy and the Love,

daz er ze himel kôs die küniginne
that he for heaven chose the queen

unt ouch im selben zeiner muoter:
and also for-him self as-a mother:

sust wart der alde hêrre junc;
thus became the old lord young;

von himel tet er einen sprunc
from heaven did he a leap

durch unser nôt unt wart ir sun vil guoter.
for our distress and became her son very good.

218 Avê, Marîa, reiniu meit,
Ave, Mary, pure maid,

sît dich Got hât erwelt ze muoter der erbarmherzikeit,
since thee God has chosen as mother of-the mercy,

so erbarm dich gnædiclîche über alle sündiclîche diet.
so pity thee graciously over all sinful folk.

Dû sunnenglast, dû morgenrôt,
Thou sun-gleam, thou dawn,

dîn lîp uns hât benomen des êwiclîchen valles tôt,
thy body from-us has taken of-the eternal fall death,

den der leide Sâtân unser alden muoter Êven riet.
which the hateful Satan to-our old mother Eve counseled.

Des bit ich dich, süenærinne reine,
Of-that pray I thee, reconciler pure,

daz dîn helfe mit barmunge uns meine.
that thy help with mercy us mean.

wir gern in inniclîchen herzen,
we desire in inward hearts,

daz Got sîn antlütze clâr
that God his countenance bright

über uns erliuhte unt neme war,
over us light and take heed,

wie mit uns habe der tiuvel sînen smerzen.
how with us have the devil his pain.

Wache, Cristen, ez wil tagen, 219
Wake, Christians, it will dawn,

der han hât zwir gecræt, ich wilz iu wærlîchen sagen:
the cock has twice crowed, I will-it to-you truly say:

ez nâhet gegen dem morgen, daz Got wil rechen alliu sîniu leit.
it nears toward the morning, that God will avenge all his sorrows.

Er wil uns alle lâzen sehen,
He will us all let see,

swaz im grôzer marter durch uns sünder ist geschehen:
whatever to-him of-great torment for us sinners is happened:

daz solten wir besorgen: sô wær sîn helfe gegen uns gar bereit.
that should we attend: so were his help toward us wholly ready.

Swenne er uns zeiget sper, criuze unt crône,
When he to-us shows spear, cross and crown,

der gewaltic sitzet in dem trône,
who mighty sits in the throne,

sô kan im nieman widerstrîten:
so can him no-one gainsay:

erst gewaltic über elliu lant.
he-is mighty over all lands.

ir Cristen, dar an sît gemant
you Christians, there of be reminded

unt warnet iuch gein im in kurzen zîten!
and prepare yourselves toward him in short times!

Wil ieman râten, waz daz sî? 220
Will anyone guess, what that be?

êst lîhter danne ein loup unt ist noch swærer danne ein blî,
it-is lighter than a leaf and is yet heavier than a lead,

êst grœzer danne ein berc, gevüeger danne ein cleinez muggelîn.
it-is greater than a mountain, daintier than a small little-gnat.

Daz selbe schœnet mannes leben,
That same beautifies man's life,

ez kan ouch mannes schœne vil der ungetæte geben:
it can also to-man's beauty much of-the ugliness give:

sô vorhteges noch sô liebes wart nie mêr: nû rât, waz mac daz sîn?
so fearful nor so dear was never more: now guess, what may that be?

Êst ê ze himel, danne ein ouge winke;
It-is sooner in heaven, than an eye blinks;

ez ist sô swær, swenne ez beginnet sinke,
it is so heavy, when it begins sink,

daz al diu werlt niht widerwuoge:
that all the world not outweighed:

ez ist ouch sô gevüege wol,
it is also so dainty well,

ez sluffe durch ein nâdelhol:
it would-slip through a needle-hole:

êst beren grôz, swenne ez verlât die vuoge.
it-is bear great, when it leaves the fitness.

221 Ê heten vrouwen den gewalt,
Before had ladies the power,

daz si mit liehten ougen viengen manegen ritter balt
that they with bright eyes caught many-a knight bold

unt twungen die dâ mite, daz si sich eigenlîchen muosten geben.
and forced them there with, that they themselves as-bondmen must give.

Swâ nû varnt vrouwen über velt,
Wherever now go ladies over field,

die væhet man durch schatz unt niht durch rehter minne gelt:
them catches one for treasure and not for right love's payment:

unt vluhe ein wolf ze vrouwen, man solt in durch ir liebe lâzen leben.
and (if)-fled a wolf to ladies, one should him for their love let live.

Ein ritter mac sîn êre wol verhouwen,
A knight can his honor well hew-away,

der vrouwen væhet unt ir juncvrouwen
who ladies catches and their young-ladies

unt die rouplîchen mit im zoumet:
and them robbingly with him bridles:

hermîne zen, scharlachens munt
ermine teeth, scarlet mouth

werde im von vrouwen nimmer kunt:
become to-him of ladies never known:

dar zuo müeze im von eijern sîn getroumet!
there to may to-him of eggs be dreamed!

Der niuwesliffen vride ist scharf 222
The newly-sharpened peace is sharp

unt alsô scharf, daz ungerihte nieman vürhten darf:
and so sharp, that injustice no-one fear needs:

swer eine masse goldes trüege über velt, diu wær unlange sîn.
whoever a mass of-gold carried over field, it were not-long his.

Des mac diu künigîn wol jehen
Of-that may the queen well avow

von Ungerlant, diu hât daz wol gehœret unt gesehen:
of Hungary, she has that well heard and seen:

der niuwesworen vride ist an ir rossen unt an ir wol schîn.
the newly-sworn peace is on her horses and on her well shown.

Man was den vrouwen wîlent sô gevære,
One was to-the ladies once so hostile,

wær si dâ her gevarn sô minnebære,
were she there hither fared so love-worthy,

ein küssen von ir rôten munde
a kiss from her red mouth

het man ir gerner abe verstoln
had one from-her more-gladly off stolen

denne alle ir Ungerische voln:
than all her Hungarian foals:

daz was dô, dô Minne twingen kunde.
that was then, when Love compel could.

223 Ach Rôm, wie dû verwitwet bist
Ah Rome, how thou widowed art

unt der stuol verweiset! swer der vrône vlîzec ist,
and the throne orphaned! whoever of-the lordship eager is,

der enminnet Got noch Gotes reht, er sî halt, swer er sî.
he loves God nor God's right, he be yet, whoever he be.

Dô Rœmisch lieht lûhte unde bran,
When Roman light shone and burned,

swâ Cristentuom erloschen was, den zunt man wider an:
wherever Christendom extinguished was, it kindled one again on:

swâ Cristentuom nû lischet, dâ siht man den gelouben hinken bî.
wherever Christendom now goes-out, there sees one the faith limping by.

Swem veterlich des vater reht versmâhet,
To-whomever fatherly the father's right disdains,

ob sich ein gæher tôt an dem vergâhet,
if itself a sudden death on him hastens,

des wünschet alle unt dannoch eines,
of-that wish all and still one-thing,

daz uns Got geruoche geben
that us God deign give

vogt unt êwart, die rehte leben,
advocate and priest, who rightly live,

daz sîmônî mit in iht habe gemeines.
that simony with them not have common.

Rôme zwô tohtern gap ze man 224
Rome two daughters gave to man

Megenze unde Kölne: dâ ist ir niht gelungen an:
Mainz and Cologne: there is to-her not succeeded in:

nû sint der tohtern man ein teil ze tump unt dâ bî al ze geil.
now are the daughters' men a part too foolish and there by all too wanton.

Die sint dem rîche niht guot wirt
They are to-the realm not good husband

gewesen hie bî Rîne: ob daz den keiser wol verswirt,
been here by Rhine: if that the emperor well galls,

sô muoz er doch die scharten tragen, diu niht gâhens wirdet heil.
so must he yet the notches bear, which not of-haste becomes healed.

Diu bistuom wârn ê in des rîches huote:
The bishoprics were before in the realm's guard:

Megenze unt Kölne, nû lît iuwer ruote
Mainz and Cologne, now lies your rod

dem rîche ûf sîme blôzen rugge.
to-the realm on its bare back.

welt ir mit iuwern crumben steben
(if)-will you with your crooked staves

des rîches schaden geleite geben,
to-the realm's harm escort give,

sô mac doch niht den arn vertrîbn ein mugge.
so can yet not the eagle drive-off a gnat.

Aller orden prîs ich niht 225
Of-all orders praise I not

sô sêre als dê al eine, swaz dar umbe mir geschiht:
so greatly as the-marriage all alone, whatever there for to-me happens:

barvüezen, bredigære, criuzer orden sint da engegen blint,
barefoot, preachers, crossed orders are there against blind,

Grâ, wîz, swarzer münche vil,
Gray, white, black monks many,

hornbruoder unt martære, als ich iuch bescheiden wil,
horn-brothers and martyrs, as I you inform will,

Schottn unt die mit den swerten sint dâ engegen alle gar ein wint.
Scots and those with the swords are there against all wholly a wind.

Tuomhêrren, nunnen unde leienphaffen
Canons, nuns and lay-priests

unt al die orden, die Got hât geschaffen,
and all the orders, which God has created,

die lebent, des diu ê erziuget:
they live, of-that the marriage begets:

swer der ê ze rehte phligt,
whoever the marriage by right keeps,

der hât hie unt dort gesigt;
he has here and there triumphed;

swerz widerredet, des volget niht: er liuget!
whoever-it gainsays, of-him follow not: he lies!

226 Marîa, muoter unde magt,
Mary, mother and maid,

in himel küniginne, waz uns sælden ist betagt
in heaven queen, what to-us of-blessedness is dawned

doch, vrouwe, von der güete, die dû vil ûz erweltiu muoter treist!
yet, lady, from the goodness, which thou very out chosen mother bearest!

Daz dû sô reine ein reinez kint
That thou so pure a pure child

gebære hêrren über alle, die nû hêrren sint!
bore lord over all, who now lords are!

den brâht ouch dir vil ebene ze dînen ôren în der heilic geist.
him brought also to-thee very evenly into thy ears in the holy spirit.

Des lâ dû, süeze muoter, mich geniezen
Of-that let thou, sweet mother, me profit

unt tuo dîn heilic ôre sich entsliezen
and make thy holy ear itself open

gein mîner bete unt hilf mir armen,
toward my prayer and help me poor-one,

daz ich von sünden werde erlôst!
that I from sins become redeemed!

dû bist mîn heil unt ouch mîn trôst
thou art my salvation and also my comfort

unt al mîn hort: lâ dich mîn leit erbarmen!
and all my hoard: let thee my sorrow pity!

Des edelen Mîzenæres Ist 227
Of-the noble Meissener Is

ist bezzer dan sîn Was: des sî gelobt der süeze Crist,
is better than his Was: of-that be praised the sweet Christ,

daz er als hügelîche tugende mit êren an sich las!
that he so joyful virtues with honors to himself gathered!

Sîn Was was tumber danne junc:
His Was was more-foolish than young:

nû hât getân sîn Ist vür sîn Was alsô herten sprunc,
now has done his Is before his Was so hard leap,

dêr sîn lop baz durchliuhtet, dan diu sunne ein meientouwic gras.
that-be his praise better shines-through, than the sun a May-dewy grass.

Was er et ûzen tump unt innen wîse,
Was he but outside foolish and inside wise,

sô weiz ich wol, daz in der Ist baz prîse,
so know I well, that him the Is better praise,

danne im der Was noch ie gezæme:
than to-him the Was still ever befitted:

woltuon ist guot, ê baztuon kumt;
well-doing is good, before better-doing comes;

baztuon baz denne woltuon vrumt;
better-doing better than well-doing profits;

ein baztuon ich vür woltuon immer næme.
a better-doing I for well-doing ever would-take.

228 Von Megenze wol niunherzic man,
From Mainz well nine-hearted man,

daz der hât drîer vürsten sedel, dan ist niht wunder an:
that he has of-three princes seat, there is no wonder in:

iedoch sô nimt mich wunder, daz er niunherziclîche kan geleben.
however so takes me wonder, that he nine-heartedly can live.

Mit eime lîbe erz allez tuot;
With one body he-it all does;

er hât ein âdern niender, si ziehe ûf crônebæren muot:
he has a vein nowhere, it draw toward crown-bearing mind:

des hât sîn herze sînem lîbe sîne triuwe des gegeben,
of-that has his heart to-his body its faith of-it given,

Daz er nâch êren immer vürwert criege
That he after honors ever forward strive

unt daz sîn lîp sîn leben des niht triege;
and that his body his life of-it not deceive;

daz wil ich âne zwîvel lâze:
that will I without doubt leave:

im ist nâch êren alsô ger,
to-him is after honors so desire,

daz nie dem hungergîtegen ber
that never to-the hunger-greedy bear

sô nôt enwart nâch süezes honeges râze.
so need became after sweet honey's comb.

Unstætiu werlt, nû sage mir: 229
Inconstant world, now say to-me:

wie ist der lôn geschaffen, des wir warten suln von dir,
how is the reward made, which we await shall from thee,

sô wir von hinnan scheiden? ich wæne, ez ist niht anders wan 'lâ varn!'
when we from hence part? I suppose, it is nothing other save 'let go!'

Dû volgest uns biz zuo dem grabe,
Thou followest us till to the grave,

dâ hâstû eine cleine wîl nâch uns dîn ungehabe:
there hast-thou a little while after us thy lament:

dâ mit ist es ein ende: 'Got ruoche dort die sêle wol bewarn!'
there with is it an end: 'God deign there the soul well guard!'

Sus ist dîn ende unt ouch dîn lôn geschaffen.
Thus is thy end and also thy reward made.

dar an gedenken leien unde phaffen!
there on think laymen and priests!

nâch vriundes tôde ist vriunt seltsæne,
after friend's death is friend rare,

vriunt volget vriunde ans grabes tor,
friend follows friend to-the grave's gate,

vriunt leit man în, vriunt stât hie vor:
friend lays one in, friend stands here before:

sus müezens al ersterben, des ich wæne.
thus must-they all die, that I suppose.

Deutsche Liederdichter

The Spruch Poets after Reinmar

Bruoder Wernher

BRUDER WERNHER

Two strophes on a house left without a roof. A man may build a fine house with great pillars, strong walls, beams, and locked doors, but if he leaves it roofless it comes to nothing; the poet once saw one at Vienna that the wet, the snow, and the wind brought shamefully to an end. In the second he is to renew a praise that has stood so long without roof or band, its pillars rotten and shot through with shame, and his patching is worth an egg. A man seen in mortal sin from youth to age cannot be set in honor's work; such people are children of shameless cooks and a shameless mother, orphaned of virtues.

Swer kosteclîche ein schœne hûs mit holze rehte entworfen hât, 1
Whoever costly a beautiful house with timber rightly designed has,

diu siule grôz, die wende starc, ûf dremel wol gedillet stât,
the pillars great, the walls strong, upon beams well boarded stands,

gespenget wol, und daz die tür mit slôzen sîn bewart,
braced well, and that the door with locks be guarded,

der virste in rehter mâze erhaben, mit starken hengelboumen sleht,
the ridge in right measure raised, with strong rafters smooth,

dar ûf mit latten wol geströut, an hœhe und an der wîte reht:
there upon with laths well strewn, in height and in the width right:

ob ez nu gar bereitet sî, mich dunket an der vart,
if it now wholly made-ready be, me seems on the way,

Lât erz belîben âne dach,
(If)-lets he-it remain without roof,

die tremel siule und ouch die starken wende,
the beams pillars and also the strong walls,

daz würde ein niht. ich wæne ich ir ze Wiene wîlent einez sach,
that would-become a naught. I suppose I of-them at Vienna once one saw,

daz nam dâ von vil lasterlîch ein ende:
that took there from very shamefully an end:

als ez diu nezze und ouch der snê mit winde sunder dach begreif,
as it the wet and also the snow with wind without roof seized,

si schuofen daz in kurzer frist, an êren ez vil gar zersleif.
they brought-about that in short time, in honors it very wholly slid-apart.

13 Dâ ich ein lop erniuwen sol daz âne dach sô manigen tac
Where I a praise renew shall that without roof so many-a day

gestanden ist und âne bant, jâ wæn ez ieman rehte mac
stood is and without band, yea suppose it anyone rightly can

gerihten als ob sîn von jugent mit vlîze wære gepflogen.
set-right as if it from youth with diligence were tended.

Dâ im die siul sint worden vûl und daz die rennen sint enzwei,
Where to-it the pillars are become rotten and that the gutters are in-two,

und ez diu schand durchvlozzen hât, dâ stêt mîn vlicken vür ein ei:
and it the shame flowed-through has, there stands my patching for an egg:

swaz ich im niuwer nagel slâ, wir sîn dâ mite betrogen.
whatever I to-it of-new nails strike, we are there with deceived.

Ez touc ze ganzer stæte niht
It avails to whole constancy not

dâ man sich sol ze hôhen êren pflihten.
where one oneself shall to high honors pledge.

den man von jugent unz an sîn alter ie in houbetsünden siht,
whom one from youth until to his age ever in mortal-sins sees,

wie möhte ich den in êren werke rihten?
how might I him in honors' work set-right?

vür wâr sô sult ir wizzen daz, ez sint verschamter koche kint
for true so shall you know that, they are of-shameless cooks children

und schamelôser muoter barn, die tugende sô verweiset sint.
and of-shameless mother bairns, who of-virtues so orphaned are.

Der Marner

THE MARNER

Eight strophes. The Rhinelanders show new fashions and keep the Nibelungs' hoard to themselves, giving only to those who give. The Marner mocks Reinmar von Zweter as a liar and tune-thief who makes a pound of a farthing and brews beer without malt. Then come a strophe of impossible tales, a list of the dead masters of song, Walther, Reinmar, Neidhart, and the others, whose flowers he must gather, a complaint against hoarders, a fable of the ass, the fox, and Isengrim caught in a trap on a false oath, and the singer's complaint that his audience wants Dietrich, Rother, and Siegfried and hears his song as lead bores marble. He could sing of the Grail, the phoenix, and the siren, but at court a flattering wonder prevails.

Wie höfsche liute habe der Rîn, 1
How courtly people have the Rhine,

daz ist mir wol mit schaden kunt.
that is to-me well with harm known.

ir hûbe ir hâr ir keppelîn
their caps their hair their little-hoods

erzeigent niuwer fünde vunt.
show new inventions' find.

Krist in helfe, sô sie niesen!
Christ them help, when they sneeze!

Ez mac wol curteis povel sîn,
It may well courteous folk be,

pittit mangier ist in gesunt.
little eating is for-them healthy.

stad ûf stad abe in wehset wîn,
shore up shore down to-them grows wine,

in dienet ouch des Rînes grunt
to-them serves also the Rhine's ground

(ich wil ûf sie gar verkiesen):
(I will upon them wholly forgo):

Der Nibelunge hort lît in dem Lurlenberge in bî.
The Nibelungs' hoard lies in the Lurlei-mountain them by.

in weiz ir niender einen der sô milte sî
I know of-them nowhere one who so generous be

daz er den gernden teile mite
that he to-the asking share with

von sîner gebe.
of his gift.

die wîle ich lebe,
the while I live,

sîn vrî vor mir!
be free from me!

ir muot der stât ûf solhen site:
their mind it stands upon such manner:

nu gip du mir, sô gib ich dir.
now give thou me, so give I thee.

sin enwellent niht verliesen.
they will not lose.

20 Wê dir, von Zweter Regimâr,
Woe to-thee, of Zweter Reinmar,

du niuwest mangen alten vunt:
thou renewest many-a old find:

du speltest als ein milwe ein hâr,
thou splittest as a mite a hair,

dir wirt ûz einem orte ein pfunt,
to-thee becomes out-of a farthing a pound,

ob dîn liezen dich niht triuget.
if thy lot-casting thee not deceives.

Dir wirt ûz einem tage ein jâr,
To-thee becomes out-of a day a year,

ein wilder wolf wirt dir ein hunt,
a wild wolf becomes to-thee a dog,

ein gans ein gouch, ein trappe ein star,
a goose a cuckoo, a bustard a starling,

dir spinnet hirz dur dînen munt:
to-thee spins stag through thy mouth:

wâ mit hâst du daz erziuget?
where with hast thou that proved?

Ein lüge dur dîne lespe sam ein slehtiu wârheit vert.
A lie through thy lips as a plain truth goes.

du hâst den vischen huosten, krebzen sât erwert.
thou hast the fish coughing, crabs' sowing warded-off.

bî dir sô sint driu wundertier,
by thee so are three wonder-beasts,

daz ist der gît,
that is the greed,

haz unde nît.
hatred and envy.

du dœnediep,
thou tune-thief,

du briuwest âne malz ein bier:
thou brewest without malt a beer:

supf ûz! dir ist ein lecker liep
sup out! to-thee is a glutton dear

der den herren vil geliuget.
who to-the lords much lies.

Maniger saget mære 39
Many-a-one tells tales

von Rôme die er nie gesach:
of Rome which he never saw:

alsô wil ouch ich iu nû ein mære sagen.
so will also I to-you now a tale tell.

ein snegge tûsent klâfter wol vür einen lêhpart spranc.
a snail thousand fathoms well before a leopard leapt.

Daz mer stât wazzers lære,
The sea stands of-water empty,

von einer tûben daz beschach,
from a dove that happened,

diu tranc ez ûz: daz hôrte ich zwêne vische klagen,
it drank it out: that heard I two fish lament,

die flugen dâ her von Nîfen unde sungen niuwen sanc.
they flew there hither from Neifen and sang new song.

Ein hase zwêne winde vienc, dô sie in solten jagen.
A hare two greyhounds caught, when they him should hunt.

dô sach ich starker wolve viere,
then saw I of-strong wolves four,

die hât ein altez schâf erslagen:
them has an old sheep slain:

dô sach ich einen reiger eines habches gern
then saw I a heron for-a hawk desire

und vieng in in den lüften schiere.
and caught him in the airs quickly.

dô sah ich einen wîzen bern,
then saw I a white bear,

den vieng ein wilder esel an des meres grunt:
him caught a wild ass at the sea's bottom:

des half ein salamander im, dem wârn diu wazzer kunt.
in-that helped a salamander him, to-whom were the waters known.

Lebt von der Vogelweide
Lives of the Vogelweide

noch mîn meister hêr Walther,
still my master sir Walther,

der Venis, der von Rugge, zwêne Regimâr,
the Fenis, he of Rugge, two Reinmars,

Heinrich der Veldeggære, Wahsmuot, Rubîn, Nîthart
Henry the Veldeker, Wachsmut, Rubin, Neidhart

Die sungen von der heide,
They sang of the heath,

von dem minne werden her,
of the love worthy army,

von den vogeln, wie die bluomen sint gevar.
of the birds, how the flowers are colored.

sanges meister lebent noch: sie sint in tôdes vart.
song's masters live still: they are on death's journey.

Tôte mit den tôten, lebende mit den lebenden sîn!
Dead with the dead, living with the living be!

ich vorder ... ze geziuge
I summon (lacuna) as witness

von Heinburc den herren mîn,
of Heimburg the lord mine,

dem sint rede wort und rîme in sprüchen kunt,
to-whom are speech words and rhymes in sayings known,

daz ich mit sange nieman triuge.
that I with song no-one deceive.

lîhte vinde ich einen vunt
perhaps find I a find

den sie vunden hânt die vor mir sint gewesen:
which they found have who before me have been:

ich muoz ûz ir garten und ir sprüchen bluomen lesen.
I must out-of their garden and their sayings flowers gather.

71 Ich hœre von den alten sagen
I hear from the old tell

daz êre bî den bar
that honor by them bore

fröid in ir wunneclîchen tagen:
joy in their blissful days:

nu stêt vil maniger êren bar
now stands very many-a-one of-honors bare

bî des vater êre berndiu fröide gernder geste pflac.
with whose father honor bearing joy of-asking guests kept.

Daz muoz ich unde maniger klagen,
That must I and many-a-one lament,

swar ich der lande var,
wherever I through-the lands fare,

daz arges muotes rîche zagen
that of-evil mind rich cowards

mit schanden sitzent offenbar:
with shames sit openly:

schaz ir minne, schaz ir fröide, schaz in liebet vür den tac.
treasure their love, treasure their joy, treasure to-them pleases before the day.

Sol daz heizen guot daz nieman hie ze guote kumt?
Shall that be-called goods which no-one here to good comes?

begraben hort, verborgen sin der werlte frumt
buried hoard, hidden sense to-the world profits

alsam der iuweln fluc,
as the owls' flight,

des gîres smac, des raben slunt, des aren grif, des wolves zuc,
the vulture's smell, the raven's gullet, the eagle's grip, the wolf's snatch,

der müggen marc, des bremen smalz und des loupfrosches schrê.
the gnats' marrow, the gadflies' lard and the tree-frog's cry.

werlt, wê dir, wê!
world, woe to-thee, woe!

schatzer, lebendic rê,
hoarder, living corpse,

rise dir golt alsam der snê,
(if)-fell to-thee gold as the snow,

du woldest dur dîn gîtekeit, stüend ez an dîner wal, noch mê.
thou wouldst for thy greed, (if)-stood it in thy choice, still more.

gilt gote und gip den armen wider: der hort dir dort gehelfen mac.
repay to-God and give to-the poor again: the hoard thee there help can.

Ein esel gap für eigen sich 91
An ass gave as bondman himself

dem fuhse: daz was guot.
to-the fox: that was good.

dô lêrt ern sprechen wihteclich:
then taught he-him speak weightily:

sie wâren beide hôhgemuot.
they were both high-spirited.

seht dô vuort hêr Reinhart sînen knappen in den grüenen klê.
look then led sir Reynard his squire into the green clover.

Er sprach 'mîn esel, hüete dich:
He spoke 'my ass, guard thee:

der wolf dir schaden tuot,
the wolf to-thee harm does,

erhœrt er dich, des warte ûf mich.'
(if)-hears he thee, of-that watch for me.'

der esel in dem grase wuot.
the ass in the grass waded.

dô schuof im sîn magenfröide, er sang ein hügeliet als ê
then made for-him his belly-joy, he sang a merry-song as before

Zuo dem gedœne kam gegangen Isengrîn.
To the tune came walking Isengrim.

swaz Reinhart seit, der sprach, der esel wære sîn:
whatever Reynard said, he spoke, the ass were his:

des wolt er iezunt swern.
of-that would he now swear.

dô vuorte in Reinhart zeiner drû. er sprach 'ich mac michs niht erwern.'
then led him Reynard to-a trap. he spoke 'I can me-of-it not ward-off.'

dô muos er die kafsen rüeren, des was er bereit.
then must he the relics touch, of-that was he ready.

daz wart im leit:
that became to-him grievous:

diu drû den wolf versneit.
the trap the wolf cut.

er wart bestümbelt, sô man seit.
he was mutilated, as one says.

ach got, wær ieclich kafs ein drû, swenn ez gât an den valschen eit!
ah God, were each relic a trap, when it goes to the false oath!

daz wære wol: irst gar ze vil, nu swerâ, lieger, wê dir wê!
that were well: of-them-is wholly too much, now swear, liar, woe to-thee woe!

111 Sing ich den liuten mîniu liet,
(If)-sing I to-the people my songs,

sô wil der êrste daz
so will the first that

wie Dieterich von Berne schiet,
how Dietrich of Bern parted,

der ander wâ künc Ruother saz:
the second where king Rother sat:

der dritte wil der Riuzen sturm, sô wil der vierde Ekhartes nôt,
the third will the Russians' storm, so will the fourth Eckhart's distress,

der fünfte wen Kriemhilt verriet,
the fifth whom Kriemhild betrayed,

dem sehsten tæte baz
to-the sixth would-do better

war komen sî der Wilzen diet,
where come be the Wilzes' folk,

der sibende wolde eteswaz
the seventh would something

Heimen ald hêrn Witchen sturm, Sigfrides ald hêrn Eggen tôt.
Heime or sir Witege's storm, Siegfried's or sir Ecke's death.

Sô wil der ahte dâ bî niht wan hübschen minnesanc,
So will the eighth there by nothing save courtly love-song,

dem niunden ist diu wîle bî den allen lanc,
to-the ninth is the while by them all long,

der zehende enweiz wie.
the tenth not-knows how.

nu sust nu sô, nu dan nu dar, nu hin nu her, nu dort nu hie.
now thus now so, now thence now thither, now hence now hither, now there now here.

dâ bî hæte manger gerne der Nibelunge hort:
there by would-have many-a-one gladly the Nibelungs' hoard:

der wigt mîn wort
he weighs my word

ringer danne ein ort:
lighter than a farthing:

des muot ist in schaz verschort.
whose mind is in treasure buried.

sus gêt mîn sanc in manges ôre, als der mit blîge in marmel bort.
thus goes my song into many-a-one's ear, as who with lead into marble bores.

sus singe ich unde sage iu des iu niht bî mir der künic embôt.
thus sing I and say to-you what to-you not by me the king sent-word.

Ich sunge ein bîspel oder ein spel, 131
I would-sing a fable or a tale,

ein wârheit oder ein lüge,
a truth or a lie,

ich sunge ouch wol wie Titurel
I would-sing also well how Titurel

templeise bî dem Grâle züge,
templars by the Grail drew,

wie süeze ist Sirênen dôn und arc des cocatrillen zorn.
how sweet is Sirens' tune and evil the crocodile's wrath.

Ich sunge ouch traken fiurîn kel,
I would-sing also dragon's fiery throat,

und wie der grîfe flüge,
and how the griffin flew,

wie sich des salamanders vel
how itself the salamander's skin

in heizem fiure strahte und smüge,
in hot fire stretched and nestled,

und wie sich teilt Tschimêren lîp und wie diu vipper wirt geborn.
and how itself divides Chimera's body and how the viper becomes born.

ich sunge ouch wol wie sîniu eiger brüeten kan der strûz,
I would-sing also well how his eggs hatch can the ostrich,

ich sunge ouch wol wie sich der fênix junget ûz:
I would-sing also well how himself the phoenix rejuvenates out:

ich sunge ouch wie der lît
I would-sing also how he lies

der manigen in der wunderburc verslunden hât dur sînen gît.
who many-a-one in the wonder-castle swallowed has for his greed.

ein wunder wont dem hove bî mit wunderlîchen siten,
a wonder dwells to-the court by with wondrous manners,

mit pfâwen schriten
with peacock's strides

und mit menschen triten
and with man's treads

kan ez lâgen lôsen biten;
can it lie-in-wait flatter beg;

ez hât mit sîner zungen wâfen manges herren muot versniten:
it has with its tongue's weapon many-a lord's mind cut:

dem kan ich gesingen niht, mîn rede ist an im gar verlorn.
to-it can I sing nothing, my speech is on it wholly lost.

Der Hardegger

THE HARDEGGER

Two strophes. The first tells of a journey nothing can turn him from: he rides to his lodging every day, wet or dry, fears murderers and robbers not a hair, and neither king, princes, counts, free lords, ministerials, nor the strongest cities of the world could hinder the journey he must make, and makes unwillingly. In the second, beasts are caught in traps and snares because they do not know where the hunter lays them, but men, more foolish than any wild thing, know both snares, the body's death and the soul's fall, and still take no care of their stumbling.

Ich bin ûf einer verte dâ mich niht erwenden mac: 1
I am on a journey where me nothing turn-aside can:

ich rîte unz an die herberg einen iegeslîchen tac,
I ride until to the lodging an each day,

ez sî trucken, ez sî naz,
it be dry, it be wet,

ald swie diu wazzer vliezen in den landen.
or however the waters flow in the lands.

In fürhte ouch niht die morder alsô grôz als umb ein hâr
I fear also not the murderers so much as for a hair

noch die rouber ûf den strâzen, wizzent daz für wâr:
nor the robbers on the roads, know that for true:

ich lâze ouch niht dur küniges haz
I leave also not for the-king's hatred

noch dur die fürsten, ob siz wolden anden.
nor for the princes, if they-it would avenge.

Wolten mirz dann grâven wern
Would to-me-it then counts refuse

und al die frîen die uns sint gesezzen:
and all the free-lords who to-us are settled:

ob die zein ander wolten swern,
if they to-one another would swear,

dar zuo die werden dienestman, der ich niht sol vergezzen,
there to the worthy ministerials, of-whom I not shall forget,

und ouch die starken stete in al der werlte rehte gar:
and also the strong cities in all the world right wholly:

dien irten mich der verte niht
they would-hinder me of-the journey not

die ich dar muoz und ouch ungerne var.
which I thither must and also unwillingly fare.

16 Ez wirt vil tiere in drûhen und in stricken oft ersnellet:
There becomes many beasts in traps and in snares often caught:

daz kumt daz si niht wizzen, wâ man in die lâge tuot;
that comes that they not know, where one for-them the ambush lays;

Der doch deheinez niemer würde gevangen noch ervellet,
Of-which yet none ever would-become caught nor felled,

möhten si rehte wizzen wol der wildenære muot.
might they rightly know well the hunters' mind.

Hie bî heiz ich die menschen tumber danne iht wildes sî:
Here by call I the men more-foolish than anything of-wild be:

die wizzen beidenthalp den snal,
who know on-both-sides the snare,

des lîbes tôt, der sêle val,
the body's death, the soul's fall,

und sint doch endehafter sorgen umbe ir strûchen vrî.
and are yet of-final cares about their stumbling free.

Der Tanhûser

TANNHÄUSER

Tannhäuser's dance-Leich and three songs. In the Leich the poet comes upon a beauty by a fountain in a forest, describes her in courtly French words, and lies with her in the clover, before calling Adelheid and Irmengard to the dance and wishing to kiss Kunigund, until the fiddler's string breaks. The first song mocks the service of love: the lady wants the Rhine turned from Koblenz, the moon's shine taken, and the salamander fetched from the fire. In the house-building song his helpers are Sir Uncounsel and Sir Do-nothing. In the last, at sea on a voyage made for God's sake, he envies those who go hawking in Apulia, lists the hardships aboard, and names the twelve winds.

Der winter ist zergangen, 1
The winter is passed,

daz prüeve ich ûf der heide,
that perceive I on the heath,

aldar kam ich gegangen:
thither came I walking:

guot wart mîn ougen weide
good became my eyes' pasture

Von den bluomen wol getân.
From the flowers well made.

wer sach ie sô schœnen plân?
who saw ever so beautiful meadow?

der brach ich zeinem kranze,
of-them broke I into-a garland,

den truoc ich mit tschoie zuo den frouwen an dem tanze.
it carried I with joy to the ladies at the dance.

well ieman werden hôhgemuot, der hebe sich ûf die schanze.
(if)-will anyone become high-spirited, he raise himself to the chance.

Dâ stât vîol unde klê,
There stands violet and clover,

sumerlaten, gamandrê,
summer-shoots, germander,

die werden zîtelôsen,
the worthy meadow-saffrons,

ôstergloien vant ich dâ, die liljen und die rôsen:
easter-lilies found I there, the lilies and the roses:

dâ wunschte ich daz ich sament mîner frowen solte kôsen.
there wished I that I together-with my lady should chat.

Si gap mir an ir den prîs
She gave me on her the prize

daz ich wære ir dulz amîs
that I were her sweet friend

mit dienste disen meien:
with service this May:

dur si sô wil ich reien.
for her so will I dance.

Ein fôres stuont dâ nâhen,
A forest stood there near,

aldar begunde ich gâhen:
thither began I hasten:

dâ hôrte ich mich enpfâhen
there heard I me receive

die vogel alsô suoze.
the birds so sweetly.

sô wol dem selben gruoze!
so well to-the same greeting!

Ich hôrt dâ wol tschantieren,
I heard there well sing,

die nahtegal toubieren:
the nightingale tabor:

aldâ muost ich parlieren
there must I speak

ze rehte: wie mir wære?
by right: how to-me were?

ich was ân alle swære.
I was without all heaviness.

Ein riviere ich dâ gesach,
A river-meadow I there saw,

durch den fôres gieng ein bach
through the forest went a brook

zetal übr ein plâniure.
to-dale over a plain.

ich sleich ir nâch unz ich si vant die schœnen crêâtiure
I crept to-her after until I her found the beautiful creature

bî dem fontâne saz diu klâre süeze von faitiure,
by the fountain sat the bright sweet-one of fashion,

Ir ougen lieht und wol gestalt:
Her eyes bright and well shaped:

si was an sprüchen niht ze balt,
she was in speeches not too bold,

man mehte si wol lîden.
one might her well suffer.

ir munt ist rôt, ir kel ist blanc,
her mouth is red, her throat is white,

ir hâr reit val ze mâze lanc,
her hair curly fair to measure long,

gevar alsam die sîden:
colored as the silk:

solde ich vor ir ligen tôt, in mehte ir niht vermîden.
should I before her lie dead, I might her not avoid.

Blanc alsam ein hermelîn
White as an ermine

wâren ir diu ermelîn.
were to-her the little-arms.

ir persône diu was smal,
her person it was slender,

wol geschaffen über al.
well shaped over all.

Ein lützel grande was si dâ,
A little grand was she there,

wol geschaffen anderswâ,
well shaped elsewhere,

an ir ist niht vergeȥȥen:
in her is nothing forgotten:

lindiu diehel, slehtiu bein, ir füeȥe wol gemeȥȥen.
soft thighs, smooth legs, her feet well measured.

schœner forme ich nie gesach diu mîn cor hât beseȥȥen;
more-beautiful form I never saw which my heart has occupied;

an ir ist elliu volle.
in her is all fullness.

dô ich die werden êrest sach, dô huop sich mîn parolle.
when I the worthy-one first saw, then raised itself my speech.

Ich wart frô
I became glad

und sprach dô
and spoke then

'frowe mîn,
'lady mine,

ich bin dîn,
I am thine,

du bist mîn:
thou art mine:

der strît der müeȥe iemer sîn.
the strife it must ever be.

du bist mir vor in allen,
thou art to-me before them all,

iemer an dem herzen mîn muost du mir wol gevallen.
ever in the heart mine must thou to-me well please.

swâ man frowen prüeven sol, dâ muoz ich für dich schallen,
wherever one ladies assess shall, there must I for thee resound,

an hübsche und ouch an güete:
in courtliness and also in goodness:

du gîst aller contrâte mit tschoie ein hôchgemüete.'
thou givest to-all country with joy a high-spirit.'

Ich sprach der minneclîchen zuo
I spoke to-the lovely-one to

'got und anders nieman tuo
'God and other no-one do

der dich behüeten müeze.'
who thee guard may.'

ir parol der was süeze.
her speech it was sweet.

Sâ neic ich der schœnen dô:
At-once bowed I to-the beautiful-one then:

ich wart an mînem lîbe vrô
I became in my person glad

dâ von ir salûieren.
there from her greeting.

si bat mich ir tschantieren
she bade me to-her sing

von der linden esten
of the linden's branches

und von des meigen glesten.
and of the May's gleam.

Dâ diu tavelrunde was
Where the round-table was

dâ wir dâ schône wâren,
where we there beautifully were,

daz was loup, dar under gras.
that was leaf, there under grass.

si kunde wol gebâren.
she could well behave.

Dâ was niht massenîe mê
There was no company more

wan wir zwei dort in einem klê.
save we two there in a clover.

si leist daz si dâ solde
she performed what she there should

und tet daz ich dâ wolde.
and did what I there would.

Ich tet ir vil sanfte wê.
I did to-her very gently woe.

ich wünsche daz ez noch ergê:
I wish that it still come-about:

ir zimet wol daz lachen.
to-her befits well the laughing.

dô begunden wir dô beide ein gemellîchez machen:
then began we then both a merriment make:

daz geschach von liebe und ouch von wunderlîchen sachen.
that happened from love and also from wondrous things.

Von amûre seit ich ir:
Of love told I her:

daz vergalt si dulze mir,
that repaid she sweetly to-me,

si jach si lite ez gerne
she avowed she suffered it gladly

daz ich ir tæte als man den frowen tuot dort in Palerne.
that I to-her did as one to-the ladies does there in Palermo.

Daz dâ geschach, dâ denke ich an:
What there happened, there think I of:

si wart mîn trût und ich ir man,
she became my darling and I her man,

wol mich der âventiure!
well me of-the adventure!

erst iemer sælic der si siht,
he-is ever blessed who her sees,

sît daz man ir des besten giht:
since that one to-her the best avows:

si ist alsô gehiure.
she is so gentle.

elliu granze dâ geschach von uns ûf der plâniure.
all graces there happened from us on the plain.

Ist ieman dem gelinge baz,
(if)-Is anyone to-whom succeeds better,

daz lâze ich iemer âne haz.
that let I ever without hatred.

si was sô hôhes muotes
she was so high of-mind

daz ich vergaz der sinne.
that I forgot the senses.

got lône ir alles guotes:
God reward her all good:

sô twinget mich ir minne.
so compels me her love.

Waz ist daz daz si mir tuot?
What is that that she to-me does?

allez guot,
all good,

hôhen muot
high spirit

habe ich von ir iemer:
have I from her ever:

in vergizze ir niemer.
I forget her never.

Wol ûf wol ûf, Adelheit,
Well up well up, Adelheid,

du solt sant mir sîn gemeit.
thou shalt together-with me be glad.

wol ûf wol ûf, Irmengart,
well up well up, Irmengard,

du muost aber an die vart.
thou must again on the way.

diu dâ niht enspringt, diu treit ein kint:
who there not leaps, she carries a child:

sich fröunt algemeine die dir sint.
themselves rejoice all-together who to-thee are.

Dort hœr ich die flöiten wegen,
There hear I the flutes stir,

hie hœr ich den sumber regen:
here hear I the drum move:

der uns helfe singen,
whoever us help sing,

disen reigen springen,
this round-dance leap,

dem müeze wol gelingen
to-him must well succeed

zallen sînen dingen.
in-all his things.

Wâ sint nu diu jungen kint,
Where are now the young children,

daz si bî uns niht ensint?
that they by us not are?

sô sælic sî mir Kunigunt!
so blessed be to-me Kunigund!

solt ich si küssen tûsentstunt
should I her kiss thousand-times

an ir vil rôsevarwen munt,
on her very rose-colored mouth,

sô wære ich iemer mê gesunt,
so were I ever more healthy,

diu mir daz herze hât verwunt
who to-me the heart has wounded

vaste unz ûf der minne grunt:
fast until to the love's ground:

der ist enzwei.
it is in-two.

heiâ nu hei,
heya now hey,

des videlæres seite derst enzwei.
the fiddler's string it-is in-two.

Mîn frowe diu wil lônen mir 131
My lady she will reward me

der ich sô vil gedienet hân.
whom I so much served have.

des sult ir alle danken ir:
for-that shall you all thank her:

si hât sô wol ze mir getân.
she has so well to me done.

Si wil daz ich ir wende den Rîn
She will that I for-her turn the Rhine

daz er für Kobelenze iht gê:
that it past Koblenz not go:

sô wil si tuon den willen mîn.
so will she do the will mine.

mag ich ir bringen von dem sê
(if)-can I to-her bring from the sea

Des grienes dâ diu sunne gêt
Of-the sand where the sun goes

ze reste, sô wil si mich wern.
to rest, so will she me grant.

ein sterne dâ bî nâhe stêt,
a star there by near stands,

des wil si von mir niht enbern.
of-that will she from me not forgo.

ich hân den muot,
I have the mind,

swaz si mir tuot,
whatever she to-me does,

daz sol mich allez dunken guot.
that shall me all seem good.

si hât sich wol an mir behuot diu reine:
she has herself well against me guarded the pure-one:

sunder got alleine,
except God alone,

sô weiz die frowen nieman diech dâ meine
so knows the lady no-one whom-I there mean

Ich muoz dem mânen sînen schîn
I must from-the moon its shine

benemen, sol ich si behaben:
take, shall I her keep:

sô lônet mir diu frowe mîn,
so rewards me the lady mine,

mag ich die werlt al umbegraben.
can I the world all around-dig.

Meht ich gefliegen als ein star,
Might I fly as a starling,

sô tæt diu liebe des ich ger,
so would-do the beloved what I desire,

und hôhe sweiben als ein ar
and high hover as an eagle

und ich ze mâle tûsent sper
and I at once thousand spears

Vertæte als mîn her Gamuret
Would-spend as my sir Gahmuret

vor Kamvoleis mit rîcher jost,
before Kanvoleis with rich joust,

sô tæt diu frouwe mîne bet:
so would-do the lady my request:

sus muoz ich haben hôhe kost.
thus must I have high cost.

ich hân den muot,
I have the mind,

swaz si mir tuot,
whatever she to-me does,

daz sol mich allez dunken guot.
that shall me all seem good.

si hât sich wol an mir behuot diu reine:
she has herself well against me guarded the pure-one:

sunder got alleine,
except God alone,

sô weiz die frowen nieman diech dâ meine.
so knows the lady no-one whom-I there mean.

Si giht, müg ich der Elbe ir fluz
She avows, could I from-the Elbe its flow

benemen, sô tuo si mir wol,
take, so do she to-me well,

dar zuo der Tuonowe iren duz:
there to from-the Danube its roar:

ir herze ist ganzer tugende vol.
her heart is of-whole virtue full.

Den salamander muoz ich ir
The salamander must I for-her

gebringen ûz dem fiure her,
bring out-of the fire hither,

sô wil diu liebe lônen mir
so will the beloved reward me

und tuot ze mir des ich dâ ger.
and does to me what I there desire.

Mag ich den regen und den snê
Can I the rain and the snow

erwenden, des hœr ich si jehen,
avert, that hear I her avow,

dar zuo den sumer und den klê,
there to the summer and the clover,

sô mac mir liep von ir geschehen.
so may to-me joy from her happen.

ich hân den muot,
I have the mind,

swaz si mir tuot,
whatever she to-me does,

daz sol mich allez dunken guot.
that shall me all seem good.

si hât sich wol an mir behuot diu reine:
she has herself well against me guarded the pure-one:

sunder got alleine,
except God alone,

sô weiz die frowen nieman diech dâ meine.
so knows the lady no-one whom-I there mean.

185 Ich denke, erbûwe ich mir ein hûs nâch tumber liute râte,
I think, (if)-build I for-myself a house after foolish people's counsel,

die mir des helfen wellent nu, die sint alsô genennet:
who me in-that help will now, they are so named:

Her Unrât und her Schaffeniht, die koment mir vil drâte
Sir Uncounsel and sir Do-nothing, they come to-me very quickly

und einer, heizet Selten rîch, der mich vil wol erkennet.
and one, is-called Seldom rich, who me very well knows.

Her Zadel und her Zwîvel sint mîn stætez ingesinde;
Sir Lack and sir Doubt are my steadfast household;

her Schade und ouch her Umbereit ich dicke bî mir vinde.
sir Harm and also sir Unready I often by me find.

und wirt mîn hûs alsô volbrâht von dirre massenîe,
and becomes my house so completed by this company,

sô wizzent daz mir von dem bû her in den buosen snîe.
so know that to-me from the building here into the bosom snow.

Wol ime der nu beizen sol ze Pülle ûf dem gevilde! 193
Well to-him who now hawk shall in Apulia on the fields!

der birset, dem ist dâ mit wol, der siht sô vil von wilde;
he stalks, to-him is there with well, who sees so much of game;

sumlîche gânt ze brunnen, die andern rîtent schouwen:
some go to wells, the others ride viewing:

der fröide ist mir zerrunnen dâ baneket man bî frouwen.
the joy is to-me dissolved there disports one with ladies.

des darf man mich niht zîhen, ich beize ouch niht mit winden,
of-that need one me not accuse, I hawk also not with greyhounds,

in beize ouch niht mit valken, in mac niht vühse gejagen;
I hawk also not with falcons, I can not foxes hunt;

man siht mich ouch niht volgen nâch hirzen und nâch hinden;
one sees me also not follow after harts and after hinds;

mich darf ouch nieman zîhen von rôsen schapel tragen.
me needs also no-one accuse of roses' garland wearing.

man darf ouch mîn niht warten dâ stêt der grüene klê
one needs also for-me not wait where stands the green clover

noch suochen in den garten
nor seek in the gardens

bî wol getânen kinden: ich swebe ûf dem sê.
by well made children: I float on the sea.

Ich bin ein erbeitsælic man, der niene kan belîben
I am a toil-blessed man, who never can remain

wan hiute hie, morn anderswan: sol ich daz iemer trîben,
but today here, tomorrow elsewhere: (if)-shall I that ever drive,

des muoz ich dicke sorgen, swie frœlîch ich dâ singe,
of-that must I often worry, however joyfully I there sing,

den âbent und den morgen, war mich daz weter bringe,
the evening and the morning, whither me the weather bring,

daz ich mich sô gevriste ûf wazzer und ûf lande
that I myself so preserve on water and on land

daz ich den lîp gefüere unz ûf die selben stunt,
that I the body carry until to the same hour,

ob ich den liuten leide in snœdeme gewande,
if I to-the people grieve in mean garment,

sô wirdet mir diu reise mit freise wole kunt.
so becomes to-me the journey with peril well known.

dar an solt ich gedenken die wîle ich mich vermac:
there on should I think the while I myself am-able:

in mag im niht entwenken,
I can him not escape,

ich muoz dem wirte gelten vil gar ûf einen tac.
I must to-the host pay very wholly on one day.

Wâ leit ie man sô grôze nôt als ich von bœsem trôste?
Where suffered ever man so great distress as I from evil comfort?

ich was ze Krîde vil nâch tôt, wan daz mich got erlôste.
I was at Crete very nearly dead, save that me God redeemed.

mich sluogen sturmwinde vil nâch ze einem steine
me struck storm-winds very nearly to a rock

in einer naht geswinde: mîn fröide diu was kleine.
in one night suddenly: my joy it was small.

diu ruoder mir zerbrâchen; nu merkent wie mir wære:
the oars to-me broke; now mark how to-me were:

die segel sich zerzarten, si flugen ûf den sê.
the sails themselves tore, they flew upon the sea.

die marner alle jâhen daz si sô grôze swære
the mariners all avowed that they so great heaviness

nie halbe naht gewunnen: mir tet ir schrîen wê.
never half night won: to-me did their crying woe.

daz werte sicherlîchen unz an den sehsten tac:
that lasted certainly until to the sixth day:

in mahte in niht entwîchen,
I could him not escape,

ich muose ez allez lîden als der niht anders mac.
I must it all suffer as one-who not otherwise can.

Die winde die sô sêre wænt gein mir von Barbarîe,
The winds which so sorely blow toward me from Barbary,

daz si sô rehte unsuoze blænt, die andern von Türkîe,
that they so right unsweetly blow, the others from Turkey,

die welle und ouch die ünde gênt mir grôz ungemüete
the billow and also the waves give me great ill-humor

daz si für mîne sünde der reine got mîn hüete!
that them for my sins the pure God me may-guard!

mîn wazzer daz ist trüebe, mîn piscot der ist herte,
my water that is murky, my biscuit it is hard,

mîn fleisch ist mir versalzen, mir schimelget mîn wîn.
my meat is to-me oversalted, to-me molds my wine.

der smac der von der sutten gât, der ist niht guot geverte:
the smell which from the bilge goes, it is not good companion:

dâ für næm ich der rôsen smac, und mehte ez wol gesîn.
there for would-take I the roses' smell, and might it well be.

zisern unde bônen gênt mir niht hôhen muot:
chickpeas and beans give me not high spirit:

wil mir der hôhste lônen,
will me the highest reward,

sô wirt daz trinken süeze und ouch diu spîse guot.
so becomes the drinking sweet and also the food good.

Ahî wie sælic ist ein man der für sich mac gerîten!
Ah how blessed is a man who forward himself can ride!

wie kûme mir der glouben kan daz ich muoz winde bîten.
how scarcely me he believe can that I must winds await.

der schoc von Oriende und der von Tremundâne
the sirocco from Orient and he from Tramontane

und der von Occidende, Arsiure von dem plâne,
and he from Occident, Arsure from the plain,

der meister ab den Alben, der krieg ûz Rômânîe,
the mistral off the Alps, the grec out-of Romania,

der Levandân und Ôster, die mir genennet sint:
the Levant and Auster, which to-me named are:

ein wint von Barbarîe wæt, der ander von Türkîe,
a wind from Barbary blows, the other from Turkey,

von Norden kumt der Mezzol, seht deist der zwelfte wint.
from North comes the Messol, look that-is the twelfth wind.

wær ich ûf dem sande, der namen wisse ich niht:
were I on the sand, of-them names knew I not:

durch got ich fuor von lande
for God I fared from land

und niht dur dise vrâge, swie wê halt mir geschiht.
and not for this question, however woe yet to-me happens.

Meister Friderich von Sunburc

FRIEDRICH VON SONNENBURG

Four strophes. Lying is forbidden in the law but allowed to three kinds of people, the poor, the generous, and lovers, while one kind of folk, too powerful to name, lies shamelessly. No one can live without God and the world while he lives, nor when he lies dead: the body must leave the world its flesh and bones and rise again with the soul, and that is the constancy God laid on lady World. The poet would sing courtly songs of love and the May, but breeding and courtly song pain the young nobles, who would rather revile women over their wine. The last strophe bids the hearer think on the sense that hovers above all senses, look into a mirror or by the sun, and not weaken the counsel of the one who formed him.

Swie liegen al der welte sî verboten in der ê, 1
However lying to-all the world be forbidden in the law,

doch wilichz erlouben drîer hande liuten unde nieman mê:
yet will-I-it allow to-three kinds-of people and no-one more:

den selben tuot ouch liegen wê, jâ büezent si dâ mite.
to-the same does also lying woe, yea atone they there with.

Ich wæn der arme liegen muoz, der milte ouch liegen kan:
I suppose the poor-man lie must, the generous also lie can:

swer minne pfligt, der liuget ouch, ez sî daz wîb, ez sî der man,
whoever love keeps, he lies also, it be that woman, it be the man,

die minnent von der ê hin dan: lüg ist der minne site.
who love from the marriage hence away: lie is the love's custom.

Doch weiz ich einer hande volc, daz liuget âne schame,
Yet know I one kind-of folk, that lies without shame,

des ich genennen niht getar: sô kreftig ist sîn name.
which I name not dare: so mighty is its name.

ez sol den herren nieman sagen; daz selbe volc daz liuget gern:
it shall to-the lords no-one tell; that same folk that lies gladly:

wær ich ein fürste, der mich lobt, den wolde ich heizen wern.
were I a prince, who me praises, him would I bid grant.

11 Ich hœre dicke sprechen sô 'die haben sich abe getân
I hear often speak thus 'they have themselves off done

der welte:' daz doch nie geschach noch niemer mensche erziugen kan,
of-the world:' that yet never happened nor ever man prove can,

deheine stunde, naht noch tac, noch niemer keine zît.
no hour, night nor day, nor ever any time.

Man tuot sich vrîes lebennes wol und ouch der sünden abe:
One does oneself of-free living well and also of-the sins off:

âne got und ân der welte küele, ir werme und ouch ir labe
without God and without the world's coolness, her warmth and also her refreshment

geleben nieman niht enmac, noch swenne er tôt gelît.
live no-one at-all can, nor when he dead lies.

Der mensche muoz der welte hie fleisch und gebeine lân
The man must to-the world here flesh and bones leave

und iemer endelîch der lîp mit samt der sêle erstân
and ever finally the body together with the soul arise

dâ se iemer muoz ân ende wesen in êweclîcher êwikeit:
where she ever must without end be in eternal eternity:

vrô Welt, alsolich stæte hât got selbe an iuch geleit.
lady World, such constancy has God self on you laid.

21 Ich sunge gerne hübeschen sanc
I would-sing gladly courtly song

und seit ouch guotiu mære
and would-tell also good tales

und hæte ouch hübscher fuoge pfliht,
and would-have also of-courtly fitness share,

swâ ich bî liuten bin.
wherever I among people am.

Mîn munt iu allen des vergiht
My mouth to-you all of-that avows

daz ich wol hübscher wære,
that I well more-courtly were,

und hæte ich hübeschen habedanc,
and had I courtly thanks,

ich hæte ouch wîsen sin.
I would-have also wise sense.

Ich sunge ouch wol von minnen liet
I would-sing also well of love songs

und von des meien touwen,
and of the May's dews,

wie kûm sich liep von liebe schiet,
how scarcely itself lover from love parted,

ein friunt von sîner frouwen:
a friend from his lady:

diz sunge ich allez und ouch mê;
this would-sing I all and also more;

nu lâze ichz umbe daz:
now leave I-it for that:

zuht tuot den edelen jungen wê
breeding does to-the noble young woe

und hübescher sanc, und tuot in schelten wîp bî wîne baz.
and courtly song, and does to-them reviling women at wine better.

Ûz allem sinne ein sinnelîn, 37
Out-of all sense a little-sense,

kanstu dich baz versinnen,
(if)-canst-thou thyself better bethink,

denk an den sin, der hôhe swebet, ob aller sinne krefte.
think on the sense, which high hovers, over all senses' powers.

Nim einen spiegel, sich dar în,
Take a mirror, look there in,

und kanstu sinne minnen,
and canst-thou senses love,

sihstu dich drinne hindenân, daz kumt von meisterschefte.
seest-thou thee therein from-behind, that comes from mastery.

Tuostu des niht, ich râte dir,
Doest-thou that not, I counsel thee,

besich dich nâch der sunnen,
look-at thee after the sun,

der ich den tac ungerne enbir;
which I the day unwillingly forgo;

wiltu dir sinne gunnen,
wilt-thou to-thee senses grant,

so enkrenke niht des sinnes rât
so weaken not the sense's counsel

der dich dâ hât gebildet
who thee there has formed

und alsô wol geschaffet hât:
and so well created has:

od er wirt dir verwildet.
or he becomes to-thee estranged.

Meister Sigehêr

SIGEHER

A Marian song and a strophe on Wenceslas. The song addresses Mary in a long chain of images, cedar, balsam, lily, olive branch, nutmeg, sun's gleam, star, crown, daughter of Zion, rod of Jesse, peace-place, anchor, and sail-wind, its verses closed in turn by the refrains empress of the virtues and salvation-bearing queen, and asks her to redeem the pledge forfeited to the devil. The last strophe has the king of Bohemia crowned by princely kind, by Solomon, and by Arthur, with generous Frute's virtues stored in him, so that he stands above all kings as May above the months.

Marîâ muoter unde meit, 1
Mary mother and maid,

du hâst den hôhsten prîs bejeit,
thou hast the highest prize hunted,

der tugende keiserinne;
of-the virtues empress;

Du süeze ob aller süezekeit,
Thou sweet over all sweetness,

dîn süeze ist al der werlt bereit,
thy sweetness is to-all the world ready,

heilberndiu küniginne;
salvation-bearing queen;

Du zêderboum, du balsemsmac,
Thou cedar-tree, thou balsam-scent,

du rîchiu liljen ouwe,
thou rich lily meadow,

du himelstroum, du sælden tac,
thou heaven-stream, thou blessedness' day,

got liebiu spiegelschouwe.
God's dear mirror-sight.

Dich lobent die schuole in musicâ
Thee praise the schools in music

und diu vil süeȥen canticâ,
and the very sweet canticles,

der tugende keiserinne:
of-the virtue empress:

Dich lobent diu psaltêriâ,
Thee praise the psalteries,

die schellen und diu organâ,
the bells and the organs,

heilberndiu küniginne.
salvation-bearing queen.

Du ölboumast, du muscâtnuz,
Thou olive-branch, thou nutmeg,

du drîvaltic sagrære,
thou threefold sacristy,

du sunnen glast, du minne schuz,
thou sun's gleam, thou love's shoot,

von dir sint süeȥiu mære.
of thee are sweet tidings.

Du lieht ob al der werlde lieht,
Thou light over all the world's light,

die sternen sich dir glîchen nieht
the stars themselves to-thee liken not

der tugende keiserinne.
of-the virtue empress.

Daȥ du bist alsô minnenvar,
That thou art so love-colored,

des wunnet al der engel schar,
of-that rejoices all the angels' host,

heilberndiu küniginne.
salvation-bearing queen.

Du seiten klanc, du fürsten stuol,
Thou strings' sound, thou princes' throne,

du hôhe swebendiu krône,
thou high hovering crown,

du himelsanc, du tugende schuol,
thou heaven-song, thou virtue's school,

du zimst wol küniges trône.
thou befittest well king's throne.

Du edeliu tohter von Sîôn,
Thou noble daughter of Zion,

dich mant daz her von Babilôn,
thee reminds the host of Babylon,

der tugende keiserinne:
of-the virtue empress:

Erlœs uns daz verstanden pfant,
Redeem us the forfeited pledge,

daz gêt dem tiuvel in die hant,
that goes to-the devil into the hand,

heilberndiu küniginne.
salvation-bearing queen.

Du wunnen tanz, du lieht aurôr,
Thou bliss's dance, thou bright aurora,

du vollensüenerinne,
thou full-reconciler,

du rôsen kranz, du fröiden kôr,
thou roses' garland, thou joys' choir,

dîn lop gît hôhe sinne.
thy praise gives high senses.

Du edeliu gerte von Jessê,
Thou noble rod of Jesse,

der nie niht wart gelîches mê,
which never anything became of-like more,

der tugende keiserinne,
of-the virtue empress,

Du hâst gewahsen über den luft,
Thou hast grown over the air,

gewurzet in der witze kruft,
rooted in the wit's vault,

heilberndiu küniginne,
salvation-bearing queen,

Du vridestat, du fröiden tal,
Thou peace-place, thou joys' dale,

du spilndiu blüendiu heide,
thou playing blooming heath,

du himelpfat, du herzen schal,
thou heaven-path, thou heart's sound,

der engel ougen weide.
of-the angels' eyes' pasture.

Du werdiu burt von Nazarêt,
Thou worthy birth of Nazareth,

der rât an dir alleine stêt,
the counsel on thee alone stands,

der tugende keiserinne:
of-the virtue empress:

Daz uns diu helle iht werde kunt,
That to-us the hell at-all become known,

daz wende dîn wol redender munt,
that avert thy well speaking mouth,

heilberndiu küniginne,
salvation-bearing queen,

du ankerhaft, du segelwint,
thou anchor-hold, thou sail-wind,

du liehter stern Dîjâne,
thou bright star Diana,

du magenkraft, du Sælden kint,
thou main-strength, thou Blessedness's child,

du hôher trimontâne.
thou high tramontane.

Genâden wuocher voller boum,
Of-graces profit full tree,

genâden überladen ein soum,
with-graces overladen a pack-load,

der tugende keiserinne:
of-the virtue empress:

Genâden überflüzzic vaz,
Of-graces overflowing vessel,

er milter schenke der dich maz,
he generous cupbearer who thee measured,

heilberndiu küniginne,
salvation-bearing queen,

Du wolken duz du mirren trouf,
Thou cloud's roar thou myrrh's drop,

du bisme rîchiu krâme,
thou musk rich store,

du honeges fluz, du sternen louf,
thou honey's flow, thou stars' course,

du fröidebernder sâme!
thou joy-bearing seed!

Wâ nu der baz gekrœnet sî 71
Where now who better crowned be

ein künic mit tugenden? der enwont uns niender bî,
a king with virtues? he dwells to-us nowhere by,

der krône trage als er in hôhem prîse.
who the-crown bear as he in high praise.

In hât gekrœnet vürsten art:
Him has crowned princes' kind:

des milten Fruotes tugende sint an in gespart,
of-the generous Frute's virtues are in him saved,

in hât gekrœnet Salomôn der wîse.
him has crowned Solomon the wise.

In hât gekrœnet der vil tugende ê des pflac,
Him has crowned who very-much virtue before that kept,

Artûs der werde leie.
Arthur the worthy layman.

der drîer lop treit âne scharte und âne krac
who of-the-three praise carries without notch and without crack

Wazlab, der êren heie:
Wenceslas, the honors' guardian:

daz ist der die krône in Beheimlande hât,
that is he-who the crown in Bohemia has,

sît er ob allen künigen sô gekrœnet stât
since he over all kings so crowned stands

alsam ob allen mânden tuot der meie.
as over all months does the May.

Meister Rûmzlant

RUMZLANT

Three strophes. The first is a riddle in a reindeer, a ram, and an ox, a child who became a man and a child again, gray-bearded on a child's chin. The second answers the Marner, praised as the best German singer, but reminded that God gives a Saxon as much as a Swabian and that the laity are not to be scorned. The third likens Bavaria, adorned with its prince, to the clear morning sky, and praises Louis, duke and count palatine, first elector of the Roman realm, as clear of all falseness as the air.

Ren ram rint, rechte râten rûch nâch meisterlîcher orden, 1
Reindeer ram ox, rightly guess rough after masterly order,

wie mac daz wunderlîche wunder sîn genennet?
how may that wondrous wonder be named?

Ez was ein kint und wart ein man und ist ein kint geworden:
It was a child and became a man and is a child become:

daz wunder ist vur wunder wunderlîch erkennet.
the wonder is for wonder wondrous known.

Ez ist ein ren der wildekeit, ein ram der umbehende,
It is a reindeer of-the wildness, a ram of-the nimbleness,

der zucht ein rint:
of-the breeding an ox:

von alter gât ez hinder sich, sîn lop hât widerwende.
from age goes it behind itself, its praise has turning-back.

daz wunderkint
the wonder-child

treit grâ gevar gestopfel hâr ûf kindes kinne:
carries gray colored stubbly hair on child's chin:

ez ist genant — nu rât, wirsdu des namen inne.
it is named now guess, (if)-becomest-thou of-the name aware.

11 Vil lieber Marner, vrunt, bistu der beste dûtsche singer
Very dear Marner, friend, (if)-art-thou the best German singer

den man nu lebendich weiz, des hât dîn name grôz êre.
whom one now living knows, of-that has thy name great honor.

Du hâs die museken an der hant, die syllaben an dem vinger
Thou hast the music in the hand, the syllables on the finger

gemezzen: des vursmâ die leien nicht zu sêre.
measured: therefore despise the laymen not too sorely.

Du weist nicht al daz got vurmac, wie er al sîne gâbe
Thou knowest not all that God is-able, how he all his gifts

geteilet hât:
dealt has:

jâ gît her eime Sachsen alsô vil als eime Swâbe
yea gives he to-a Saxon as much as to-a Swabian

helf unde rât.
help and counsel.

daz sante Pâwel in der pisteln hât gesprochen,
that saint Paul in the epistle has spoken,

'got gît nâch sînem willen', lâ daz ungerochen.
'God gives after his will', let that unavenged.

21 Durch swarze nacht ûf dringet lieht der morgen grâ,
Through black night up presses light the morning gray,

der klâren wolkenlôsen luft ir himel blâ
of-the clear cloudless air her heaven blue

gezieret ist mit liechter sunnen glaste:
adorned is with bright sun's gleam:

Sam ist geschônet und gezieret Beiger lant
Likewise is beautified and adorned Bavaria's land

mit einen vürsten der dâ lôset unse phant,
with a prince who there redeems our pledge,

den gerenden unde maniger hande gaste.
to-the asking and many kinds-of guests.

Her ist vur allen valsche klâr alsam die luft, ân alle truobe irkennet,
He is before all falseness clear as the air, without all murk known,

des rômeschen rîches êrste kieser an dem kur,
of-the Roman realm first elector at the choosing,

an leien vursten hât er sluzzel unde tur:
in lay princes has he key and door:

Lodewîch herzoge und pallenzgrâbe genennet.
Louis duke and count-palatine named.

Meister Singûf

SINGUF

Two strophes. The first is a riddle: something heavier than lead and as old as the man who had no mother, more foolish than a child, which sees through walls, fears neither rain nor wind, climbs above the sun, sinks to hell's ground, and came from heaven and must return there. In the second, Singuf's challenge to four masters is called false, for its answer, sleep, is not as old as man: the man was wise on earth before sleep came, sleep was made when God brought him into Paradise, Adam was made from the earth of Hebron's field, and the earth is still his mother.

1 Swer ein durchgrundich meister sî,
Whoever a thorough master be,

der neme ouch spêher meister drî
he take also skilled masters three

ze helfe ûf diz gedûte.
as help upon this interpretation.

Ez ist noch swêrer wen ein blî
It is still heavier than a lead

und wonet der werlt gemeine bî,
and dwells to-the world in-common by,

ez twinget alle lûte.
it compels all people.

Ez ist als alt alsô der man
It is as old as the man

der keine mûter nie gewan;
who no mother ever had;

ez ist noch tummer wen ein kint,
it is still more-foolish than a child,

ez siht durch ganze wende,
it sees through whole walls,

ez̧n vrochtet regen noch den wint,
it fears rain nor the wind,

ez̧n hât noch vûz̧ noch hende
it has neither foot nor hands

und vert durch manigen touben walt.
and goes through many-a deaf wood.

Ein wunder wonet der werlte mite,
A wonder dwells to-the world with,

daz̧ kan sô manige spêhe trite:
that can so many skilled steps:

ez̧ stîget uber die sunnen.
it climbs over the sun.

Ez̧ hât sô listelîchen site
It has so cunning manners

daz̧ ich ez̧ dicke zu mir bite
that I it often to me bid

und hât ouch prîs gewunnen.
and has also prize won.

Ez̧ sinket nider an helle grunt,
It sinks down to hell's ground,

ouch sint im alle kôre kunt,
also are to-it all choirs known,

von abegrunde nimt ez̧ ware,
from abyss takes it heed,

ez̧ kan mit êren strîten.
it can with honors strive.

ez̧ dringet an der engele schare,
it presses to the angels' host,

ez̧ quam bî alten zîten
it came in old times

von himele her: dar mûz̧ ez̧ wider.
from heaven hither: thither must it again.

27 Singûf vier meister hât bekurt,
Singuf four masters has tested,

her hât in sînen sanc beschurt
he has into his song shoveled

zu râten in dem sande.
to guess in the sand.

Sô grôzer wort im nicht enburt:
So great words to-him not beseem:

sîn liet ist valsch, daz ist gespurt,
his song is false, that is traced,

des hât er selbe schande.
of-that has he self shame.

Der slâf ist niht sô vollen alt
The sleep is not so fully old

alsô der man, wiest daz gestalt?
as the man, how-is that shaped?

der man was ê ûf erden wîs
the man was before on earth wise

ê dan der slâf gewurde:
before than the sleep became:

dô brâchte in in daz paradîs
then brought him into the paradise

got, do er der sunden burde
God, when he of-the sins' burden

gewûc: dâ wart der slâf getiht.
weighed: there was the sleep composed.

Ebrôn daz velt der erden trûc
Hebron the field the earth bore

dâ got nam erden ûz gevûc,
where God took earth out-of joining,

dâ von macht er Adâmen.
there from made he Adam.

Der vater ist mit wîsheit klûc
The father is with wisdom clever

der einen sun ûz erden wûc,
who a son out-of earth weighed,

dâ von wir alle quâmen.
there from we all came.

Geschûf her in ûz erden doch,
Created he him out-of earth yet,

die erde ist ouch sîn mûter noch:
the earth is also his mother still:

si nam ir teil, dô Adâm starp,
she took her share, when Adam died,

der vater nam daz sîne,
the father took the his-own,

dô got die sêle wider warp
when God the soul again won

ûz herter helle pîne:
out-of hard hell's pain:

mit dem gelouben ich hie bin.
with the faith I here am.

Meister Stolle

STOLLE

Two strophes of satire. A young lord who wants praise quickly should heed mass and prayer little, lie, threaten, whore, and abandon his servants. The second, on King Rudolf, says over and over that the king of Rome gives nothing, though he is lion-minded, chaste, just, faithful, wise, and pure, and loves God and honors pure women. He gives nothing to anyone, whatever is sung or said of him.

1 Swelch junger herre balde lob und êre erwerben wil,
Whichever young lord quickly praise and honor win will,

der sol der messe und des gebetes ahten niht ze vil:
he shall of-the mass and of-the prayer heed not too much:

sîn nüehter trunc, sîn morgensegen,
his sober drink, his morning-blessing,

slint er den vruo, wie mac im misselingen?
(if)-swallows he it early, how can to-him fail?

Ein junger herre vaste liegen unde triegen sol,
A young lord firmly lie and deceive shall,

ot vil gedrewen und lützel tuon: daz zimt im allez wol.
just much threaten and little do: that befits to-him all well.

er sol ouch bœser worte phlegen,
he shall also evil words keep,

nâch loter und nâch huore vaste ringen.
after lewdness and after whoring firmly wrestle.

Er sol undæres gruoȝes sîn
He shall of-unpleasant greeting be

und über dem tische jæmerlîch gebâren.
and over the table piteously behave.

die guoten spîse und ouch den wîn
the good food and also the wine

sol er vermûren, dar zuo sol er eines winkels vâren.
shall he wall-up, there to shall he a corner watch.

meineide und ouch unendelîch, deist allez wol getân,
perjured and also unreliable, that-is all well done,

den vriunden wolf, den vînden schâf,
to-the friends wolf, to-the enemies sheep,

und sîne diener in den nœten lân.
and his servants in the needs leave.

Der künic von Rôme engît ouch niht und hât doch küniges guot: 16
The king of Rome gives also not and has yet king's goods:

ern gît ouch niht, erst wærlîch rehte alsô ein lewe gemuot:
he gives also not, he-is truly rightly as a lion minded:

ern gît ouch niht, erst kiusche gar;
he gives also not, he-is chaste wholly;

ern gît ouch niht und ist doch wandels eine.
he gives also not and is yet of-blemish without.

Ern gît ouch niht, er minnet got und êret reiniu wîp;
He gives also not, he loves God and honors pure women;

ern gît ouch niht, ezn wan nie man sô vollenkomenen lîp;
he gives also not, there won never man so perfect person;

ern gît ouch niht, erst schanden bar;
he gives also not, he-is of-shames bare;

ern gît ouch niht, er ist wîs unde reine.
he gives also not, he is wise and pure.

Ern gît ouch niht, er rihtet wol;
He gives also not, he judges well;

ern gît ouch niht, er minnet triuwe und êre.
he gives also not, he loves faith and honor.

ern gît ouch niht, erst tugende vol;
he gives also not, he-is of-virtues full;

ern gît ouch leider nieman niht: waz sol der rede mêre?
he gives also alas to-no-one anything: what shall of-the speech more?

ern gît ouch niht, er ist ein helt mit zühten vil gemeit;
he gives also not, he is a hero with breeding very glad;

ern gît ouch niht, der künc Ruodolf,
he gives also not, the king Rudolf,

swaz ieman von im singet oder geseit.
whatever anyone of him sings or says.

Meister Kuonrât von Würzeburc

KONRAD VON WÜRZBURG

Songs and strophes. The linden and the May, the winter's sharp wind, the poet's wounds, the joy his lady clothes him in, counsel to the World, and the praise of pure women are sung in rhyme-games where each rhyme word returns inside the next verse. A short song of dew on roses teaches that only virtue earns a woman's love, and another, in rolling dactyls, laments the fading linden and begs the lady for pity. A fable of twelve robbers whom a giant eats one by one warns a lineage to hold together, and the last strophe praises the Meissener, whom two griffins carried over the Liver Sea and a siren taught to sing.

Jârlanc vrîjet sich diu grüene linde 1
Yearly frees itself the green linden

loubes unde blüete guot:
of-leaf and of-blossom good:

wunder güete bluot des meien ê der welte bar.
wondrous goodness bloomed of-the May before to-the world bare.

Gerner ich durh liehte bluomen linde
More-gladly I through bright flowers gentle

hiure in touwes flüete wuot
this-year in dew's flood wade

danne ich wüete fluot des rîfen nu mit füezen bar.
than I wade flood of-the frost now with feet bare.

Mir tuont wê die küelen scharpfen winde.
To-me do woe the cool sharp winds.

swint, vertânez winterleit,
vanish, wasted winter-sorrow,

dur daz mînem muote sorge swinde!
through that to-my mind care vanish!

wint mîn herze ie kûme leit,
wind my heart ever scarcely suffered,

wand er kleiner vogellîne fröide nider leit.
for he of-small little-birds joy down laid.

Owê daz diu liebe mir niht dicke
Alas that the beloved to-me not often

heilet mîner wunden funt!
heals of-my wounds' find!

ich bin funden wunt von ir: nû mache si mich heil.
I am found wounded by her: now make she me healed.

Sendez trûren lanc breit unde dicke
Longing sorrowing long broad and thick

wirt mir zallen stunden kunt:
becomes to-me at-all hours known:

wil mir kunden stunt gelückes, sô vind ich daz heil,
(if)-will to-me announce hour of-fortune, so find I the healing,

Daz si mich in spilnde fröide kleidet.
That she me in playing joy clothes.

leit an mir niht lange wert:
sorrow in me not long lasts:

ir gewant mir ungemüete leidet.
her garment to-me ill-humor makes-loath.

kleit nie wart sô rehte wert
garment never was so rightly worthy

sô diu wât, der mich diu herzeliebe danne wert.
as the clothing, which me the heart's-beloved then grants.

Welt, wilt du nu zieren dich vil schône,
World, wilt thou now adorn thee very beautifully,

sô gib dînen kinden wint
so give thy children wind

der niht winden kint zunêren müge: dêst mîn rât.
who not wind children to-dishonors may: that-is my counsel.

Swer mit stæte diene dir, des schône:
Whoever with constancy serve thee, him spare:

hilf im sorge binden. vint
help him care bind. enemy

die dich vinden; bint si zuo dir, gip in hordes rât,
who thee find; bind them to thee, give to-them hoard's store,

Reiniu wîp: den rât mein ich ze guote.
Pure women: the counsel mean I to good.

muot und zuht ist in gewant:
mind and breeding is to-them turned:

swen si kleident mit ir reinem muote,
whom they clothe with their pure mind,

guot und edel daz gewant
good and noble the garment

ist, dar umbe ich ûz ir dienste mich noch nie gewant.
is, there for I out-of their service myself yet never turned.

Tou mit vollen aber triufet 34
Dew with full again drips

ûf die rôsen âne tuft;
on the roses without mist;

Ûzer bollen schône sliufet
Out-of bud beautifully slips

manger lôsen blüete kluft:
many-a loose blossom's cleft:

Dar în senkent sich diu vogellîn,
There into sink themselves the little-birds,

diu gedœne lûte erklenkent,
who tunes loudly ring,

daz vil schœne kan gesîn.
that very beautiful can be.

Bî der wünne wol mit êren
By the bliss well with honors

sol sich kleiden mannes lîp,
shall itself clothe man's person,

Daz im künne fröide mêren
That to-him can joy increase

ein bescheiden sælic wîp.
a discreet blessed woman.

Swer verschulden wîbes minne sol,
Whoever earn woman's love shall,

der muoz ringen nâch ir hulden
he must wrestle after her favor

mit vil dingen tugende vol.
with very-many things of-virtue full.

Swer mit sinne valsch kan üeben
Whoever with sense falseness can practice

als ein dieplich nâchgebûr,
as a thievish neighbor,

Der wil minne sô betrüeben
He will love so trouble

daz ir lieplich lôn wirt sûr.
that her lovely reward becomes sour.

Wan sol zwischen minne mit genuht
One shall between love with sufficiency

triuwe in glanzer stæte mischen:
faith in gleaming constancy mix:

daz birt ganzer fröiden fruht.
that bears whole joys' fruit.

55 Jârlanc wil diu linde von winde sich velwen,
Yearly will the linden by wind itself fade,

diu sich vor dem walde ze balde kan selwen.
which itself before the wood too quickly can sallow.

trûren ûf der heide mit leide man üebet:
sorrowing on the heath with grief one practices:

sus hât mir diu minne die sinne betrüebet.
thus has to-me the love the senses troubled.

Mich hânt sende wunden gebunden ze sorgen:
Me have longing wounds bound to cares:

die muoz ich von schulden nu dulden verborgen.
which must I with cause now endure hidden.

diu mit spilnden ougen vil tougen mich sêret,
she-who with playing eyes very secretly me wounds,

diu hât mîn leit niuwe mit riuwe gemêret.
she has my sorrow anew with rue increased.

Gnâde, frouwe reine, du meine mich armen!
Grace, lady pure, thou mean me poor-one!

lâ dich mînen smerzen von herzen erbarmen!
let thee my pain from heart pity!

mîn gemüete enbinde geswinde von leide!
my mind unbind quickly from sorrow!

ûz der minne fiure dîn stiure mich scheide!
out-of the love's fire thy help me part!

Zwelf schâcher zeines türsen hûs in einem walde kâmen: 67
Twelve robbers to-a giant's house in a wood came:

der fraz er einlif sunder wer, die schiere ein ende nâmen.
of-them ate he eleven without defense, who quickly an end took.

sît begunde er râmen
afterward began he aim

daz se alle würden gar verzert.
that they all became wholly consumed.

Dô werte sich der zwelfte und wolte alsam ein helt gebâren.
Then defended himself the twelfth and would as a hero behave.

dô sprach der türse 'du enmaht nu keiner wer gevâren:
then spoke the giant 'thou canst now no defense watch:

dô dîn zwelve wâren,
when thy twelve were,

dô soltest du dich hân gewert!'
then shouldst thou thyself have defended!'

Dir gelîchet ein geslehte daz ein herre stœren wil;
To-thee likens a lineage which a lord destroy will;

daz enlâze sich niht vil
that let itself not much

besunder underzücken:
separately pull-apart:

ez wer sich mit ein ander sîn, swenn erz beginne drücken.
it defend itself with one another against-him, when he-it begins press.

wil ez sich einzelingen under sîne füeze smücken,
will it itself singly under his feet crouch,

sô wirt ez in stücken
so becomes it in pieces

ze jungest gar von im verhert.
at-the last wholly by him ravaged.

Der Mîssener hât sanges hort in sînes herzen schrîne:
The Meissener has song's hoard in his heart's shrine:

sîn dôn ob allen ræzen dœnen vert in êren schîne,
his tune over all sharp tunes goes in honors' shine,

dâ mit er bî Rîne
there with he by Rhine

die singer leit in sîn getwanc.
the singers lays into his constraint.

In fuorten überz lebermer der wilden grîfen zwêne,
Him led over-the Liver-Sea of-the wild griffins two,

dâ lêrte in under wegen dœne singen ein syrêne:
there taught him on-the way tunes sing a siren:

lebte noch Elêne
lived still Helen

von Kriechen, si seit im ir danc
of Greece, she would-say to-him her thanks

Dur sîn adellichez dœnen daz dâ klinget hôh enbor.
Through his noble tuning that there rings high aloft.

er gêt an der wirde vor
he goes in the worth before

smaragden und saphîren.
emeralds and sapphires.

er dœnet vor uns allen sam diu nahtegal vor gîren;
he tunes before us all as the nightingale before vultures;

wan sol ze sînem sange ûf einem messetage vîren.
one shall at his song on a mass-day rest.

'alsus kan ich lîren',
'thus can I lyre',

sprach einer der von Eggen sanc.
spoke one who of Ecke sang.

Boppe

Two strophes, each a catalog built to its last line. If a man ruled the world, knew the stars and the sea's sand, felled giants, and had a perfect wife a thousand years, what would it be worth without God's favor? If a hero had every gift and art, the seven arts' whole hoard, beauty, valor, and the ladies' greeting, it would all be lost on him without money.

1 Ob al der werlte gar gewaltic wære ein man
If of-all the world wholly mighty were a man

und ob sîn sin durchsunne daz nie sin dursan,
and if his sense through-thought what never sense thought-through,

und ob er wunder wære übr elliu wunder;
and if he wonder were over all wonders;

Ob in gelücke trüege unz an der himel steln
If him fortune carried until to the heaven's pillars

und ob er künde brüeven wizzen unde zeln
and if he could reckon know and count

des meres griez, die sternen gar besunder:
the sea's sand, the stars wholly severally:

Ob sîn kraft eine tûsent risen
If his strength alone thousand giants

manlîche möhte ervellen unde twingen,
manfully might fell and compel,

ob hôhe berge und velse risen
if high mountains and rocks fell

dur sîn gebot und ob er möhte bringen
at his command and if he might bring

swaz wazzer luft viur erde weben,
whatever water air fire earth weave,

swaz wont von grunde unz an den trôn der sunnen,
whatever dwells from ground until to the throne of-the sun,

ob im ze rehter ê gegeben
if to-him in right marriage given

nâch wunsche wære ein wîb in êren wunnen,
after wish were a woman in honors' bliss,

kiusch unde reine, wol gezogen, der schœne ein übergulde,
chaste and pure, well bred, of-the beauty an overgilding,

und ob er mit ir leben gar
and if he with her live wholly

solt tûsent jâr:
should thousand years:

waz wære ez danne und ob er niht erwurbe gotes hulde?
what were it then and if he not won God's favor?

Ob in vünf landen ûz erwünschet wære ein helt, 19
If in five lands out wished were a hero,

des lîbes schœne, in ganzen tugenden ûz erwelt,
of-the body's beauty, in whole virtues out chosen,

getriuwe, milte, stæte in sînen worten;
faithful, generous, steadfast in his words;

Er künde schrîben lesen tihten seiten spil,
He could write read compose strings' play,

birsen jagen schirmen schiezen zuo dem zil
stalk hunt fence shoot to the mark

und wære er guot in wâfen zallen orten:
and were he good in arms at-all places:

Künde er mit behendikeit
Could he with deftness

diu swarzen buoch, ouch kunst der grâmacîen,
the black books, also art of-the necromancy,

und wære in sinnen wol bereit
and were in senses well ready

ze dœnen singen alle stampenîen
to tunes sing all estampies

und wurfe er den blîden stein
and threw he the catapult's stone

wol zwelf schuoch lanc vor allen sînen sellen,
well twelve feet long before all his companions,

dâ mite er quæme des enein
there with he came of-it at-one

daz er einn wilden beren künde vellen,
that he a wild bear could fell,

und alle vrouwen teilten im ir gruoz ze hôhem dinge,
and all ladies dealt him their greeting to high thing,

hæt er der siben künste hort,
had he of-the seven arts hoard,

wîs unde wort,
tune and words,

daz wær vil gar an im verlorn und hæte er niht pfenninge.
that were very wholly on him lost and had he not pennies.

Der wilde Alexander

THE WILD ALEXANDER

The Minneleich and the song of childhood. In the Leich the poet sings like a dying swan of Love's harsh rule and then blazons Love's shield: a crowned, blind, naked child on a red field with an arrow and a brand, explained as Amor, who shoots and burns, whose tune Paris brought over the sea from the Greeks, and whose play is blind. In the song the poet remembers children picking violets and strawberries in the woods until the forester called them home and a snake bit their pony, and warns that, like the five maidens who lingered in the meadows until the king locked the hall, those who dawdle will lose their joy.

Mîn trûreclîchez klagen 1
My sorrowful lamenting

ist daz daz mich versneit
is that which me cut

minne, owê!
love, alas!

sol aber ich nu tragen
shall but I now carry

diz grôze herzeleit
this great heart's-sorrow

iemer mê
ever more

daz an mir begât
which on me commits

der minne rât?
the love's counsel?

Nein ich wil mich vil
No I will myself very

wol balde entladen
well quickly unburden

von disem schaden.
of this harm.

die nôt der tôt
the distress the death

ê von mir jage
before from me chase

ê daz ich trage
than that I carry

alle tage
all days

mîn leit als unendelîch.
my sorrow so endlessly.

reht als ein swan
right as a swan

der wizzen kan
who know can

daz in an
that him on

kumt sîn tôt, dem singe ich glîch.
comes his death, to-him sing I alike.

Ach mîner wünne ein berndер rebe,
Ah of-my bliss a bearing vine,

nimt ieman wunder wes ich lebe?
takes anyone wonder of-what I live?

jâ mîn stætiu zuoversiht
yea my steadfast confidence

trœstet mich und anders niht.
comforts me and other nothing.

Ach Minne, du hâst mir gegeben
Ah Love, thou hast to-me given

nâch liebem wâne ein strengez leben:
after dear hope a stern life:

sol ich ân die frouwen mîn
shall I without the lady mine

doch dîn schiltgeverte sîn?
yet thy shield-companion be?

Er mac wol von nœten sagen,
He may well of distresses tell,

der den schilt muoz eine tragen:
who the shield must alone carry:

sô ist daz nôt über nôt,
so is that distress over distress,

Wirt getragen gên im der schilt;
Becomes carried toward him the shield;

ob si scheiden ungespilt,
if they part unplayed,

ach daz ist ein lebender tôt.
ah that is a living death.

Nu lât si zesamene komen:
Now let them together come:

lîhte wirt ein spil genomen
perhaps becomes a game taken

daz fröid über fröide birt.
which joy over joy bears.

Owê, sô tuot in dar nâch
Alas, so does to-them there after

aber ein langez trûren schâch,
but a long sorrowing check,

swenne urloup genomen wirt.
when leave taken becomes.

Minne ist ir geselle:
Love is her companion:

swer ir dienen welle,
whoever her serve will,

hiute süeze, morgen sûr:
today sweet, tomorrow sour:

leit ist liebes nâchgebûr.
sorrow is joy's neighbor.

Swer eht ie gespilte
Whoever but ever played

under minnen schilte,
under love's shield,

der leit übel unde guot,
he suffered evil and good,

als noch minne gernder tuot.
as still love desiring does.

Uns zalten die alten
To-us told the old

von der senden nôt,
of the longing distress,

wie sich maniger bôt
how himself many-a-one offered

in den grimmen tôt,
into the grim death,

swenn diu minne in überwant.
when the love him overcame.

Nu lêre mich, hêre
Now teach me, lordly

minne, wie daz ich
love, how that I

dînen schilt und dich
thy shield and thee

wol und minneclich
well and lovingly

dînen friunden tuo bekant.
to-thy friends make known.

Nu herâ her
Now hither hither

swer des ger
whoever of-that desire

daz er werde ein dienestman
that he become a serving-man

werder minne ûf hôhen lôn:
of-worthy love upon high reward:

Den lâze ich hie
Him let I here

wizzen wie
know how

wæne gab und geben kan
I-suppose gave and give can

minne ir zeichen und ir dôn.
love her sign and her tune.

Nu nemet war, diz ist der schilt
Now take heed, this is the shield

dar under manger hât gespilt:
there under many-a-one has played:

ûf rôtem velde ein nacket kint,
on red field a naked child,

daz ist gekrœnet und ist blint;
that is crowned and is blind;

von golde ein strâle in einer hant
of gold an arrow in one hand

und in der andern ist ein brant.
and in the other is a brand.

Daz kint hât ûf den rant gespenget
The child has on the rim buckled

zwêne flüge nâch snellem fluge.
two wings after swift flight.

Der schilt ist ûz und ûz gesprenget
The shield is out and out sprinkled

an dem zeichn und an dem zuge.
in the sign and in the drawing.

Habt ir vernomen wie für sî komen
Have you heard how forth be come

diu wort und ir mâterje gar?
the words and their matter wholly?

Schilt unde kint daz ist ein wint:
Shield and child that is a wind:

nu nemet ouch der glôsen war!
now take also of-the glosses heed!

Wecke ûf, minne, spæhe sinne,
Wake up, love, skilled senses,

tuo dîn reht dur daz dîn her
do thy right through that thy host

Dich erkenne: schiuz und brenne,
Thee know: shoot and burn,

und sich wer sich dîn erwer.
and see who himself from-thee defend.

Für wâr sô kumt Amôr geflogen,
For true so comes Amor flown,

der bringet vakeln unde bogen:
he brings torches and bow:

sîn strâle vert dur ganze want.
his arrow goes through whole wall.

dar nâch sô wirfet er den brant:
there after so throws he the brand:

sô kumt ein fiur und ein gelust
so comes a fire and a lust

bald under minne gernde brust.
quickly under love desiring breast.

Swaz der begât od swaz er trîbet,
Whatever he commits or whatever he drives,

daz ist allez kintlich spil,
that is all childish play,

Durch daz man in sô kintlich schrîbet:
For that one him so childlike writes:

er hât kindescher tücke vil.
he has of-childish tricks many.

Die krône er treit mit werdekeit
The crown he carries with worthiness

der mangen künic betwungen hât.
who many-a king compelled has.

A wîchâ wîch! wie starc wie rîch
A fight-ho fight! how strong how rich

er überkumt daz er bestât!
he overcomes what he attacks!

Ir sult schouwen lieplich frouwen
You shall behold lovely ladies

und lât iuch her wider sehen.
and let yourselves hither again see.

Kumt al stille zwein ein wille,
(If)-comes all quietly to-two one will,

ach sô ist sîn schuz geschehen.
ah so is his shot happened.

Schône, minne, schône,
Gently, love, gently,

tobe niht mit der krône!
rave not with the crown!

du bist in ir lande:
thou art in her land:

tobe niht mit dem brande!
rave not with the brand!

du hâst nû ze mâle
thou hast now at once

zwei mit einer strâle
two with one arrow

Gwunt in dîme stricke
Wounded in thy snare

von ir ougen blicke.
from her eyes' glance.

swâ brust kumt ze brüste,
wherever breast comes to breast,

dâ schînt von gelüste
there shines from lust

dîn fiur an die strâȥe
thy fire on the street

und brennest âne mâȥe.
and burnest without measure.

Ich muoȥ eht dîne blintheit klagen,
I must just thy blindness lament,

swâ man siht einen swachen zagen
wherever one sees a base coward

hôher minne solt bejagen.
of-high love pay hunt.

Blint unde blôȥ was ie dîn spil:
Blind and bare was ever thy game:

daȥ merke swer daȥ merken wil.
that mark whoever that mark will.

spræche ich mêr, daȥ wær ze vil.
spoke I more, that were too much.

Wünschen und gedenken
Wishing and thinking

ist dîn gevider,
is thy plumage,

daz kanst du gelenken
that canst thou bend

hôh unde nider.
high and low.

wer möhte dir entwenken?
who might from-thee escape?

du fliugest her, du fliugest wider.
thou fliest hither, thou fliest back.

Dînen schilt lâ schouwen,
Thy shield let behold,

sîn velt ist rôt,
its field is red,

als man dur die frouwen
as one for the ladies

kumt in die nôt,
comes into the distress,

daz einer lît verhouwen,
that one lies hewn,

der ander lîdet snellen tôt.
the other suffers quick death.

Swer dînn schilt wil üeben,
Whoever thy shield will practice,

den sol niht betrüeben,
him shall not trouble,

ob in daz kint mit der krône
if him the child with the crown

twinge daz er volge schône
compel that he follow beautifully

dem dône
the tune

den uns Pârîs über sê
which to-us Paris over sea

Brâhte von den Kriechen
Brought from the Greeks

an die minnesiechen.
to the love-sick.

dô die Kriechen gwunnen Troie,
when the Greeks won Troy,

swer dâ truoc der minnen boie,
whoever there carried the love's fetter,

des groie
his joy

was niht danne ach unde wê!
was nothing but ah and woe!

Hie bevor dô wir kint wâren
Here before when we children were

und diu zît was in den jâren
and the time was in the years

daz wir liefen ûf die wisen,
that we ran on the meadows,

von jenen wider her ze disen:
from yonder back hither to these:

dâ wir under stunden
where we at times

vîol funden,
violets found,

dâ siht man nu rinder bisen.
there sees one now cattle frisk.

Ich gedenk wol daz wir sâzen
I remember well that we sat

in den bluomen unde mâzen
in the flowers and measured

welch diu schœnest möhte sîn.
which the most-beautiful might be.

dô schein unser kintlich schîn
then shone our childish shine

mit dem niuwen kranze
with the new garland

zuo dem tanze.
to the dance.

alsus gât diu zît von hin.
thus goes the time from hence.

Seht dô lief wir ertber suochen
Look then ran we strawberries seek

von der tannen zuo der buochen
from the fir to the beech

über stoc und über stein
over stump and over stone

der wîle daz diu sunne schein.
the while that the sun shone.

dô rief ein waltwîser
then called a forester

durch diu rîser
through the twigs

'wol dan, kinder, und gât hein.'
'well away, children, and go home.'

Wir enpfiengen alle mâsen
We received all stains

gester dô wir ertber lâsen:
yesterday when we strawberries gathered:

daz was uns ein kintlich spil.
that was to-us a childish game.

dô erhôrte wir sô vil
then heard we so much

unsern hirte rüefen
our shepherd call

unde wüefen
and wail

'kinder, hie gât slangen vil.'
'children, here go snakes many.'

Ez gienc ein kint in dem krûte:
There went a child in the herbage:

daz erschrac und rief vil lûte
that was-frightened and called very loudly

'kinder, hie lief ein slang în,
'children, here ran a snake in,

der beiz unser pherdelîn:
it bit our little-horse:

daz ne heilet nimmer.
that — heals never.

er müez immer
it may-must ever

sûren unde unsælic sîn!'
grow-sour and unblessed be!'

'Wol dan, gât hin ûz dem walde!
'Well away, go hence out-of the wood!

unde enîlet ir niht balde,
and (if)-basten you not quickly,

iu geschieht als ich iu sage:
to-you happens as I to-you say:

erwerbet ir niht bî dem tage
(if)-earn you not by the day

daz ir den walt rûmet,
that you the wood clear,

ir versûmet
you neglect

iuch und wirt iur vreuden klage.
yourselves and becomes your joys' lament.

Wizzet ir daz vünf juncvrouwen
Know you that five maidens

sich versûmten in den ouwen
themselves neglected in the meadows

unz der künc den sal beslôz?
until the king the hall locked?

ir klag und ir schade was grôz,
their lament and their harm was great,

wande die stocwarten
for the stock-keepers

von in zarten,
from them tore,

daz si stuonden kleider blôz.'
that they stood of-clothes bare.'

Der schuolmeister von Ezzelingen

THE SCHOOLMASTER OF ESSLINGEN

Two pieces. The first is a strophe against King Rudolf in which every line begins Well away: the king gives nothing, his campaign comes to nothing, his promises are tales, and his kin are eagles who spare nothing for us. The second is a song of the wood and heath dressed in summer, set against the poet's joy, which is as skittish as a hare, and his longing for his darling's embrace.

1 Wol ab, der künic der gît in niht;
Well away, the king he gives to-them nothing;

wol ab, er lât iuch bî im vrezzen, habt ir iht:
well away, he lets you by him guzzle, (if)-have you anything:

wol ab, sîn hervart wirt ein wiht;
well away, his campaign becomes a naught;

wol ab, swaz er geheizet, dast ein spel.
well away, whatever he promises, that-is a tale.

Wol ab, ern ruochet wiez ergê;
Well away, he-not cares how-it turns-out;

wol ab, er gæbe ez sînen kinden ê;
well away, he would-give it to-his children sooner;

wol ab, si dörften dannoch mê;
well away, they needed still more;

wol ab, si wârn an guote gar ze hel.
well away, they were in goods wholly too slippery.

Wol ab, sîn künne daz ist arn;
Well away, his kin that is eagles;

wol ab, daz wiler an uns ersparn.
well away, that will-he on us spare.

wol ab, ê sîn geslehte erkrüphet wirt,
well away, before his lineage stunted becomes,

wol ab, sô sîn wir gar verirt:
well away, so are we wholly astray:

wol ab, so wirt dem brâter harte kleine.
well away, so becomes to-the roaster very little.

Walt hât sich mit kleiden schône gegestet, 14
Wood has itself with clothes beautifully dressed,

er hât ûf gesetzet mangen stolzen kranz.
he has up set many-a proud garland.

Hî, wie dem diu heide widerglestet!
Hey, how to-him the heath gleams-back!

diu hât an geleit ir schœne wunderswanz.
which has on laid her beautiful wonder-train.

Dâ bî hœrt man daz gevügel ûf schellen,
There by hears one the birds up ring,

sam siu harpfen wellen:
as-if they harp would:

dâ ze velde ist wildiu fröide rehte ganz.
there in field is wild joy right whole.

Ich mag wol von wilden fröiden singen:
I may well of wild joys sing:

leider, mir wil alliu fröide wilde sîn.
alas, to-me will all joy wild be.

Vogelsanc kan mir niht fröide bringen,
Birdsong can me not joy bring,

mich fröit weder loup noch gras noch bluomen schîn.
me gladdens neither leaf nor grass nor flowers' shine.

Schellic hase in walde und ûf gevilde
Skittish hare in wood and on field

wart nie gar sô wilde
was never wholly so wild

als mîn fröide ist: ouwê, liep, diu schulde ist dîn.
as my joy is: alas, beloved, the guilt is thine.

Trût, du kuppelst alle mîne sinne:
Darling, thou leashest all my senses:

liep, nust dir doch bendic aller mîn gedanc.
dear, now-is to-thee yet bound all my thought.

Tuo mir fröide bendic, triuterinne:
Make me joy bound, cherisher:

dar zuo hœrt niht kuppel wan dîn ermel blanc.
there to belongs no leash save thy sleeve white.

Trûtez trût, mîn liebez liep ân ende,
Dear darling, my dear love without end,

mir zimt kein gebende
to-me befits no band

ganzer fröide wan dîn werder umbevanc.
of-whole joy save thy worthy embrace.

Süezkint der jude von Trimberc

SÜSSKIND OF TRIMBERG

One song. Wake-up-and-Find and Find-Nothing, Sir Scarce-Bread of Need-Land, and Sir Thin-Have keep the poet's house in want, so that his children weep for food, and he asks the generous to rid him of the villain. Since the lords will give nothing for his art, he will flee their courts, let a long gray beard grow, and live in the old Jews' way, with a long mantle, a deep hat, and a humble gait, seldom singing courtly song again.

Wâhebûf und Nihtenvint 1
Wake-up-and-find and Find-nothing

tuot mir vil dicke leide:
do to-me very often sorrow:

her Bîgenôt von Darbîân
sir Scarce-bread of Need-land

der ist mir vil gevære.
he is to-me very hostile.

Des weinent dicke mîniu kint,
Of-that weep often my children,

bœs ist ir snabelweide:
evil is their beak-pasture:

er hât sî selten sat getân
he has them seldom sated made

biz ûf die fröiden bære.
until on the joys' bier.

In mînem hûs her Dünnehabe
In my house sir Thin-have

mir schaffet ungeræte,
for-me creates want,

er ist zer welt ein müelîch knabe:
he is to-the world a troublesome fellow:

ir milten, helfent mir des bœsewihtes abe,
you generous, help me of-the villain off,

er swechet mich an spîse und ouch an wæte.
he weakens me in food and also in clothing.

Ich var ûf der tôren vart
I fare on the fools' journey

mit mîner künste zwâre,
with my art truly,

daz mir die herren niht went geben,
that to-me the lords not will give,

des ich ir hof wil vliehen
therefore I their court will flee

Und wil mir einen langen bart
And will for-myself a long beard

lân wahsen grîser hâre:
let grow of-gray hair:

ich wil in alter juden leben
I will in old Jews' life

mich hinnân für wert ziehen.
myself hence forth worthily draw.

Mîn mantel der sol wesen lanc,
My mantle it shall be long,

tief unter einem huote,
deep under a hat,

dêmüeteclich sol sîn mîn ganc,
humble shall be my gait,

und selten mê gesingen hovelîchen sanc,
and seldom more sing courtly song,

sît mich die herren scheident von ir guote.
since me the lords part from their goods.

Der Kanzeler

THE KANZLER

Four strophes. The first sorts the ten kinds of asking singers, the deceiver, the backgammon player, the court-liar, and the rest, to whom lords give out of folly and never for art. The second answers a nobleman who asks why the Kanzler is poor: lords are stingy and fortune is against him. The last two lament the winter, in rhymes that echo within the verse, and praise the man who can embrace a pure love.

Manc herre mich des frâget 1
Many-a lord me of-that asks

dur waz der gernden sî sô vil.
for what of-the askers be so many.

ob in des niht betrâget,
if him of-that not irks,

dem wil ich tiuten ob ichz kan,
to-him will I interpret if I-it can,

wiez umb die gernden sî.
how-it about the askers be.

Ein gernder man der triuget,
One asking man he deceives,

der ander kan wol zabelspil,
the other can well backgammon,

der dritte hoveliuget,
the third court-lies,

der vierde ist gar ein gumpelman,
the fourth is wholly a buffoon,

der vünfte ist sinne vrî;
the fifth is of-senses free;

Sô ist der sehste spottes vol,
So is the sixth of-mockery full,

der sibende kleider koufet,
the seventh clothes buys,

der ahte vederliset wol,
the eighth feather-plucks well,

der niunde umb gâbe loufet,
the ninth for gift runs,

der zehende hât ein dirne,
the tenth has a wench,

ein wîb, ein tohter unbehuot:
a wife, a daughter unguarded:

den gebent niuwe und virne
to-them give new and old

die herren durh ir tœrschen muot,
the lords through their foolish mind,

si gebent durch kunst niht guot.
they give for art no goods.

Mich frâget manic edel man
Me asks many-a noble man

'her Kanzeler, ir kündet mir,
'sir Kanzler, you announce to-me,

man seit ir kunnet künste vil:
one says you can arts many:

waz tuot iuch guotes bar?'
what makes you of-goods bare?'

Des antwürt ich im, ob ich kan,
That answer I him, if I can,

dur waz ich guotes ofte enbir.
for what I goods often forgo.

die herren kargent âne zil,
the lords are-stingy without limit,

swar ich der lande var.
whither I through-the lands fare.

Het ich gelücke und dâ bî kunst
Had I fortune and there by art

und ouch die herren milte bî ir guote,
and also the lords generous with their goods,

erwurb ich dann der edelen gunst,
would-win I then of-the noble favor,

armuot, sô schiede ich gar von dîner huote.
poverty, so would-part I wholly from thy guard.

sus hât gelücke von mir pfliht:
thus has fortune from me pledge:

ob ich iht kan, waz sol mich daz genützen?
if I anything can, what shall me that profit?

mir sint die herren milte niht,
to-me are the lords generous not,

mich schiuht ir guot sam wildiu krâ den schützen.
me shuns their goods as wild crow the shooter.

Helfet mir, ir leien, meien klagen! 36
Help me, you laymen, May lament!

tragen sun wir gegen den argen rîfen nît.
carry shall we toward the evil frost hatred.

Ir gewalt alt machet, swachet wunne,
Its power old makes, weakens bliss,

sunne trüebe uns dunket gegen des winters zît.
sun murky to-us seems toward the winter's time.

Sîn pîn- ruot tuot heide
Its pain- rod does heath

leide, dar zuo dem anger wê.
loath, there to to-the meadow woe.

schouwet wie die rôsen bôsen garwe,
look how the roses worsen wholly,

varwe si verliesent: daz tuot in der snê.
color they lose: that does to-them the snow.

Fröide sol wol hiure tiure wesen,
Joy shall well this-year dear be,

lesen megde man nu niender bluomen siht.
gather maids one now nowhere flowers sees.

Grüene gras daz salwet, valwet anger,
Green grass that sallows, fades meadow,

langer hœrt man kleine vogel singen niht.
longer hears one small birds sing not.

Toup loup wil vil vallen,
Dead leaf will very-much fall,

schallen hœrt man niht nahtegal:
resound hears one not nightingale:

dirre unmuot tuot herzen smerzen sêren,
this ill-humor does hearts' pain sore,

mêren wil sich îs ûf berg und ouch dur tal.
increase will itself ice on mountain and also through dale.

Tenze ûf plân ân büezen müezen kinden
Dances on meadow without amends must children

swinden, des muoz fröide ûz menschen herzen pfaden.
vanish, of-that must joy out-of men's hearts' wend.

Mag ein man dan schouwen frouwen schœne,
(If)-may a man then behold ladies beautiful,

hœne winde munt im jârlanc lützel schaden.
scornful winds can to-him yearly little harm.

Vrî sî der swer eine
Free be he whoever a

reine lieplîch mag umbevân:
pure lovingly may embrace:

naht und tac mac sîne fîne sinne
night and day may his fine senses

minne lêren hôhen muot von schulden hân.
love teach high spirit with cause have.

Herman der Damen

HERMANN DER DAMEN

Four strophes. The poet sits in a sea of cares, Shame's servants spoil his songs, and master-song, once welcome among kings, now seems loathsome. The dead masters, Reinmar, Walther, Rubin, Neidhart, Friedrich of Sonnenburg, the Marner, and Ofterdingen, are mourned, Wolfram and Klingsor of Hungary are praised as masterly, and the Meissener and Master Konrad are named as the best now living. He renounces Swendeler, the gambler who would stake Tirol, Metz, Mainz, and Trier at hazard over one beer. The last strophe rebukes Frauenlob for his name and reminds him of Reinmar's saying that ladies' praise is pure life.

Ich sitze tiefe in sorgen wâg, 1
I sit deep in cares' sea,

des mûz ich sorge trîben;
therefore must I care drive;

ouch irret mich vil manich zag
also hinders me very many-a coward

der mit kîben
who with quarreling

mich vertrîben wil.
me drive-away will.

Swaz gûtes ich gesingen kan
Whatever good I sing can

und gûtes tichten,
and good compose,

daz woln der Schanden dienestman
that will of-the Shame servants

gar irnichten:
wholly bring-to-naught:

daz erret mich sô vil.
that harms me so much.

Owê der ist kleine die rechter meister kunst
Alas of-them is few who right masters' art

wirden nâch ir wirde: wen kunst hât gotes gunst.
honor after its worth: for art has God's favor.

hie vur dô was recht meistersanc
here before then was right master-song

in al der werlt genême,
in all the world welcome,

dô er bî rîchen kuningen ranc:
when it by rich kings strove:

widerzême
loathsome

dunct mir daz er nû sî.
seems to-me that it now be.

18 Reimâr Walthêr Rubîn Nîthart,
Reinmar Walther Rubin Neidhart,

Vridrich der Sunburgêre,
Frederick the Sunburger,

dis alle sint in tôdes vart:
these all are on death's journey:

âne swêre
without heaviness

geb got daz sie dort leben!
give God that they there live!

Der Marner der ist ouch von hin
The Marner he is also from hence

und der von Oftertingen:
and he of Ofterdingen:

dis alle heten wîsen sin
these all had wise sense

ûf daz singen:
upon the singing:

des ist in prîs gegeben.
therefore is to-them prize given.

Wolferam und Klinsor genant von Ungerlant,
Wolfram and Klingsor named of Hungary,

diser zwîer tichte ist meisterlîch irkant.
of-these two composing is masterly known.

der Mîsner und meister Kônrât
the Meissener and master Konrad

die zwên sint nû die besten:
the two are now the best:

ir sanc gemeꝛ̣zen ebene stât;
their song measured evenly stands;

kunden gesten
to-known guests

ist her nâch prîse geweben.
is it after prize woven.

Tirol Metze Megenze Triere, 35
Tirol Metz Mainz Trier,

hete Swendeler die viere,
had Swendeler the four,

her vurbute in einem biere
he would-wager in one beer

hasehart umb sie alle.
hazard for them all.

Swendeler, in dîner wîse
Swendeler, in thy manner

hân ich nâch der tummen prîse
have I after the foolish prize

vil vurzert, dâ von mich grîse
much spent, there from me gray

tût der sorgen galle.
makes the cares' gall.

Ich mûz dîn abe stên,
I must from-thee off stand,

sît ez den wîsen missehaget:
since it to-the wise displeases:

im mac kein gût geschên
to-him may no good happen

der dîner volge ist unvurzaget.
who of-thy following is undaunted.

swer mit dir vert in schalle,
whoever with thee goes in clamor,

den wil kummer nicht vurmîden,
him will trouble not avoid,

êre mac sîn nicht gelîden,
honor may him not suffer,

sus tût her sich vrî vor nîden:
thus makes he himself free from envies:

daz wirt im zu valle.
that becomes to-him to fall.

52 Vrouwenlop, des hâstu schande,
Frauenlob, of-that hast-thou shame,

vrouwen lop in schanden bande
ladies' praise in shame's bonds

stunt nie halben tac zu phande.
stood never half day in pledge.

merken diz beginne,
mark this beginning,

Wie vil êren habe der name.
How many honors have the name.

vrouwen lop in êren krâme
ladies' praise in honors' store

spilt vil schône sunder schame
plays very beautifully without shame

nâch heiles gewinne.
after salvation's winning.

Uns tût hêr Reimâr kunt
To-us makes sir Reinmar known

der vrouwen lop sî reiniz leben.
the ladies' praise be pure life.

du treffes sêlden vunt,
thou hittest blessedness's find,

ist dir der name durch daz gegeben:
is to-thee the name through that given:

sô soltu vrouwen minne
so shalt-thou ladies' love

prîsen unde ir wîbheit êren
praise and their womanhood honor

unde ir lob mit sange mêren.
and their praise with song increase.

wil dir ieman daz vurkêren,
(if)-will to-thee anyone that pervert,

daz kumt von unsinne.
that comes from folly.

Meister Heinrich Vrouwenlop

FRAUENLOB

A love song longs for the lady's red mouth and laments Love's afterblow. Sir Court is told that cowls crowd the princes, that every creature should keep its kind, that falcons perish among crows, and that he prizes flatterers above worthy men. A singer pledges himself to the shield of song alone, Sir Sense refines the praise of Henry of Mecklenburg, and men undone by women are listed from Adam to Parzival. Ladies are taught their glances, Lady Honor is locked in a rich man's shrine, Konrad of Würzburg is mourned, and a lady is praised above the woman Aeneas fled. Last come a catalog of the foolhardy, a violet garden, the poet unseen in his fog-cap, and his confession that he apes the world and does not turn from sin.

1 Owê herzelîcher leide
Alas heartfelt sorrow

die ich sender tragen mûz;
which I longing carry must;

Owê liechter ougen weide,
Alas bright eyes' pasture,

wenne wirt mir sorgen bûz?
when becomes to-me of-cares amends?

Wenne sol dîn rôter munt mich lachen an
When shall thy red mouth me laugh at

unde sprechen 'sêlic man,
and speak 'blessed man,

swaz du wilt, daz sî getân!'
whatever thou wilt, that be done!'

Jâ mein ich den munt sô lôsen
Yea mean I the mouth so lovely

an dem al mîn trôsten liget.
on which all my comforting lies.

Sprechet alle, rôte rôsen,
Speak all, red roses,

daz ein munt mit rôte siget.
that a mouth with redness triumphs.

Baz dem munde zême ein liljen wîzez jâ
Better to-the mouth would-befit a lily white yes

denne ein nein von jâmer blâ:
than a no from grief blue:

daz wort tût mich jungen grâ.
that word makes me young-one gray.

Minne, kanstu vreude borgen,
Love, canst-thou joy lend,

des gih ich dir nimmer tac.
of-that grant I thee never day.

Swem du lachest gên dem morgen,
To-whom thou laughest toward the morning,

zwâr dem wirt dîn afterslac.
truly to-him becomes thy after-blow.

Dîner luste rôsen hegent scharpfen dorn;
Of-thy lust roses harbor sharp thorn;

leit ist liebe zu geborn:
sorrow is love to born:

solchen wûcher treit dîn korn.
such usury bears thy grain.

Minne, wiltu solchen jâmer
Love, wilt-thou such grief

ûf mich erben mîne zît?
upon me bequeath my time?

Dîner luste sêlden âmer
Of-thy lust blessedness's bucket

mir deheine stûre gît.
to-me no support gives.

Nie dem hern Iwâne wirs kein maget tet,
Never to-the sir Iwein worse any maid did,

wan die schône vrou Lûnet
save the beautiful lady Lunete

half, da er lieben trôst an het.
helped, there he dear comfort on had.

Ach sold ich den apfel teilen
Ah should I the apple divide

den Pârîs der Minne gap,
which Paris to-the Love gave,

Zwâr du mustes jâmer seilen,
Truly thou wouldst-have-to grief rope,

solt ich dar durch in mîn grap.
should I there through into my grave.

Pallas oder Jûnô musten halden mir:
Pallas or Juno must hold to-me:

sô rêch ich mîn leide an dir
so would-avenge I my sorrows on thee

die du hâst vererbet mir.
which thou hast bequeathed to-me.

Her Hof, her Hof, wie lange sol ich daz vertragen
Sir Court, sir Court, how long shall I that endure

daz û behagen
that to-you please

sô wol die klôstergiegen?
so well the cloister-fools?

moht ir lâzen vliegen
might you let fly

die keppel hein, der menge unprîs muste vor û biegen.
the cowls home, the multitude's dispraise must before you bow.

sêt hie, sêt dâ, sêt hin, sêt her: bî vürsten siht man kappen.
look here, look there, look hence, look hither: by princes sees one cowls.

Her Hof, ir tût dem klôster und dem orden schaden,
Sir Court, you do to-the cloister and to-the order harm,

wilt ir sie laden
(if)-will you them load

mit lust gehegeter vulle.
with lust tended fullness.

seht waz dâ zeschulle!
look what there shattered!

wâ prîslich kleit, wâ rîlich wât, wâ dîn werlich hulle?
where praiseworthy clothing, where rich garment, where thy warlike cover?

die siht man nicht bî gernder diet: sie werdent klôsterknappen.
them sees one not by asking folk: they become cloister-squires.

Her Hof, mugt ir ûch munchen, lât
Sir Court, (if)-may you yourselves monk, let

die klôster hoven an ûwerr stat,
the cloisters hold-court in your stead,

sît daz ir rât
since that their counsel

nicht anders gât
not otherwise goes

wan 'gip und gip! habt ir den grât,
save 'give and give! (if)-have you the bone,

ich nim den visch vur missetât.'
I take the fish for misdeed.'

her Hof, lât ir nicht abe, û wirt der valke zeime rappen.
sir Court, (if)-let you not off, to-you becomes the falcon to-a raven.

Ein hane sol krên, ein hunt sol bellen, kerrn ein swîn 55
A cock shall crow, a dog shall bark, grunt a swine

nâch dunken mîn:
after seeming mine:

sô sol ein lewe limmen
so shall a lion roar

und der ber sol brimmen.
and the bear shall growl.

dem ochsen lûn, dem rosse zimt weien nâch der stimmen.
to-the ox low, to-the horse befits neigh after the voice.

wie sol des esels lûten sîn, sô gouchen zimt dem gouche?
how shall the ass's sounding be, as cuckooing befits to-the cuckoo?

Ein smit sol smiden, ein bader baden, ein jager jagen,
A smith shall smith, a bather bathe, a hunter hunt,

ein trager tragen,
a porter carry,

ein mâler bilde zirken;
a painter image circle;

sar den sarewirken
armor to-the armor-makers

zimt eben: der knecht zu dienste pflege beidenthalp der lirken.
befits evenly: the servant to service tend on-both-sides of-the left.

dem munche zimt sîn klôster baz, dan er zu hove sich ouche.
to-the monk befits his cloister better than he to court himself shows.

Dem priestr ist priesterschaft gegeben,
To-the priest is priesthood given,

dem ritter ritterlîchez leben,
to-the knight knightly life,

dem weber weben.
to-the weaver weaving.

swâ man liez eben
wherever one would-let evenly

daz dinc nâch sîner art bekleben,
the thing after its kind stick,

sô kêm ez nicht ûf widerstreben.
so would-come it not to resisting.

der hof nâch unart verwet sich alsam der verst nâch rouche.
the court after unkind colors itself as the ridge after smoke.

Daz edel vederspil verderben mûz dar abe, 74
The noble falcon perish must there from,

swâ krâ swâ rabe
wherever crow wherever raven

ir âtem gegen im bieten.
their breath toward it offer.

edel wîn mûz nieten
noble wine must partake

von swachem vazze âsmackes sich. swâ die bôsen rieten,
from base cask of-foul-taste itself. wherever the evil counseled,

dâ was mir ie zu hobe nicht liep: ir tât ist voller sûchen.
there was to-me ever at court not dear: their deed is full of-plagues.

Daz edel krût von bôsem krûte valwen mûz,
The noble herb from evil weed fade must,

tût man nicht bûz
(if)-does one not amends

dem garten solher swêre.
to-the garden of-such heaviness.

vrischez obez umbêre
fresh fruit would-forgo

wol daz ein obez von vûler art bî im nicht enwêre.
well that a fruit of foul kind by it not were.

'schûwî schûwî' rûfent die kint, 'verdirp uns nicht die kûchen.'
'shoo shoo' call the children, 'spoil for-us not the cakes.'

Bî edelen vursten edel tât
By noble princes noble deed

stêt als daz golt bî sîden stât.
stands as the gold by silk stands.

ûf gûter wât
on good garment

ein slimme nât
a crooked seam

zimt nicht. daz gût ungûte enhât;
befits not. the good badness has-not;

daz bôse ist ninder ân unvlât:
the evil is nowhere without filth:

ir edelen, habet die enge unwert: der wolf ist gerne in strûchen.
you noble, have the narrow unworthy: the wolf is gladly in bushes.

93 Ein jager sol wol jagende hunde haben wert:
A hunter shall well hunting hounds have worthy:

man mûz die pfert
one must the horses

durch rîten haben in wirde,
for riding have in worth,

durch des lîbes zirde
for the body's adornment

stein unde golt und edel wât; durch ein teil begirde
stone and gold and noble garment; for a part desire

daz vederspil man schône ernert: man heget den visch durch niezen.
the falcon one beautifully feeds: one tends the fish for enjoying.

Man darf der priester wol dâ man die bûze nimt:
One needs the priests well where one the penance takes:

ein bischof zimt
a bishop befits

swâ man sol kirchen wîen.
where one shall churches consecrate.

sol der schuz gedîen,
(if)-shall the shot prosper,

man mûz den bogen ê schicken eben, nâch hôhen prîse vrîen
one must the bow before set evenly, after high prize woo

mûz man mit tugent: der sluzzel vromt, swâ man sol slôz ûf sliezen.
must one with virtue: the key profits, where one shall lock up unlock.

Sam hôrt zu ritterlîcher tât
Likewise belongs to knightly deed

ein ritter wol und ouch sîn rât.
a knight well and also his counsel.

swer sorge hât
whoever care has

ûf ernstes pfat,
on earnest's path,

der darf wol helde, swennz ergât
he needs well heroes, when-it comes-about

daz sich der helm ûf binden lât.
that itself the helm on bind lets.

ich wêne eins biderben mannes tât sich niemen lât verdriezen.
I suppose a worthy man's deed itself no-one lets weary.

Man beizet mit dem raben und mit der bunten krâ: 112
One hawks with the raven and with the motley crow:

sô jagt man nâ
so hunts one after

mit ruden hovewarten.
with hounds court-dogs.

in des hoves garten
in the court's garden

stênt tistel rûch, unkrûtic trifs bî den blûmen zarten.
stand thistles rough, weedy darnel by the flowers tender.

waz sol des snellen valken vluc, waz sal des habeches denne?
what shall the swift falcon's flight, what shall the hawk's then?

Ich spur daz wol, der hof nimt abe von tage zu tage.
I trace that well, the court takes off from day to day.

sost daz mîn klage,
so-is that my lament,

swer nû kan lôsen smeichen,
whoever now can false flatter,

sûze spruche reichen,
sweet sayings proffer,

dem tragen die herren bernde gunst, daz sint swache zeichen.
to-him carry the lords bearing favor, those are weak signs.

dâ bî sô stênt die biderben dort recht als sie niemen kenne.
there by so stand the worthy there right as-if them no-one knew.

Her Hof, ir habt den esel wert
Sir Court, you have the ass worthy

vur schône ros, vur gûte pfert:
for beautiful steeds, for good horses:

der smeicher hert,
the flatterer's herd,

der ûver gert.
who of-you desires.

eins biderben mannes ir enbert
of-a worthy man you forgo

der doch nâch prîse kan sîn swert
who yet after prize can his sword

genutzen zu den nôten wol: hin, daz sîn wort verbrenne!
use in the needs well: hence, that his word burn!

131 'Nu hulde mir, ich wil dich hie zu knechte untfân.'
'Now do-homage to-me, I will thee here as servant receive.'

daz wirt getân
that becomes done

mit disem underscheide:
with this distinction:

mîne hande beide
my hands both

wil ich û valten ûf den trôst daz die ougen weide
will I to-you fold upon the comfort that the eyes pasture

des sanges mir werd offenbâr. 'daz sol dir wol geschehen.
of-the song to-me become manifest. 'that shall to-thee well happen.

Du zims mir zeime knechte wol, sint daz du wilt
Thou befittest me as-a servant well, since that thou wilt

des sanges schilt
of-the song shield

und anders keinen vûren'.
and other none carry'.

ich wil in sô rûren,
I will it so touch,

swâs nôt ist, daz manz schouwen sol an al sînen snûren.
wherever-it need is, that one-it behold shall on all its strings.

'swâ du den sanc zu kurz zu lanc erverst, den soltu smêhen.
'wherever thou the song too short too long findest, it shalt-thou scorn.

Daz wirt dir liep, des warte an mich.
That becomes to-thee dear, of-that wait on me.

sich an der rîme pinselstrich,
look at the rhymes' brushstroke,

daz liebet dich.
that pleases thee.

mit sinne brich
with sense break

in wêhe spruche, daz rât ich;
into fine sayings, that counsel I;

zu sanges sinne ebene sich.'
to song's sense even thyself.'

ich tûn, besigelt mir daz liet: ez suln die besten sehen.
I do, seal for-me the song: it shall the best see.

Vier rîche lop die welnt daz vunfte mit in hin. 150
Four rich praises they will the fifth with them hence.

setzt ûf, her Sin,
set up, sir Sense,

ir sult ez alsô brinnen
you shall it so burn

daz ez ûzen innen
that it outside inside

und allenthalben lôtic sî. herze, ginc zen sinnen
and everywhere full-weight be. heart, go to-the senses

und rât zu disem lobe alsô daz mir der rât gevalle.
and counsel to this praise so that to-me the counsel please.

Tût ir des nicht, daz leidet beiden mir und û:
(If)-do you that not, that grieves both me and you:

ir sult den sprû
you shall the chaff

hie scheiden von dem kerne.
here part from the kernel.

'seht, daz tûn wir gerne.'
'look, that do we gladly.'

vor aller missewende ein schûr und ein leitesterne
before all fault a shelter and a guiding-star

der tugent (er leitet manegen sô daz er bestêt vor valle);
of-the virtue (he leads many-a-one so that he stands before fall);

Ein kranz den Êre geblûmet hât,
A garland which Honor flowered has,

ein krône tugentlîcher tât
a crown of-virtuous deed

und ouch ein wât
and also a garment

der ieslich nât
whose each seam

zu prîsen und zu loben stât,
to prizing and to praising stands,

ein herze dâ nie valscher rât
a heart where never false counsel

ûz kam: daz ist von Mekelenburc her Heinrich, dem ich schalle.
out came: that is of Mecklenburg sir Henry, to-whom I resound.

Adâm den êrsten menschen den betrouc ein wîp, 169
Adam the first man him deceived a woman,

Samsônes lîp
Samson's body

wart durch ein wîp geblendet:
was through a woman blinded:

Dâvît wart geschendet,
David was disgraced,

her Salomôn an gotes rîch durch ein wîp gepfendet;
sir Solomon in God's realm through a woman distrained;

Absâlôns schône in nicht vervinc, in het ein wîp betôret.
Absalom's beauty him not availed, him had a woman befooled.

Swie gwaltic Alexander was, dem gschach alsus:
However mighty Alexander was, to-him happened thus:

Virgilius
Virgil

trouc wîp mit valschen sitten;
deceived woman with false manners;

Olofern versnitten
Holofernes cut-down

wart und ouch Aristotiles von eim wîbe geritten.
was and also Aristotle by a woman ridden.

Troyâ die stat und al ir lant wart durch ein wîp zerstôret.
Troy the city and all its land was through a woman destroyed.

Achillî dem geschach alsam:
To-Achilles to-him happened likewise:

der wilde Asahel wart zam,
the wild Asahel became tame,

Artûses scham
Arthur's shame

von wîbe kam;
from woman came;

Parzivâl grôze sorge nam.
Parzival great care took.

sît daz ie vûgt der minnen stam,
since that ever joined the love's stem,

waz schadet ob ein reinez wîp mich brennet unde vrôret?
what harms if a pure woman me burns and freezes?

188 Ir edelen sûzen vrouwen gût,
You noble sweet ladies good,

tût nâch der alten wirdikeit:
do after the old worthiness:

Swer nicht treit ritterlîchen mût,
Whoever not carries knightly mind,

den lât û immer wesen leit.
him let to-you ever be grievous.

Ez was ie gûter vrouwen site,
It was ever of-good ladies custom,

swer ritterlîche vûge trage,
whoever knightly fitness carry,

den grûzet lieplich alle tage:
him greet lovingly all days:

sô volget û vrou Sêlde mite.
so follows you lady Blessedness with.

Wîp, sît du lôser blicke bist,
Woman, since thou of-loose glances art,

als dich von art ist an geborn,
as thee by nature is in born,

Ich wil dich lêren einen list,
I will thee teach a craft,

daz wandel wirt an dir verkorn:
that blemish becomes in thee forgone:

Wis dîner blicke nicht zu balt,
Be of-thy glances not too bold,

wan dâ du spurest zucht der jugent
save where thou tracest breeding of-the youth

od ritterlîches herzen tugent:
or knightly heart's virtue:

dâ wis mit blicken wol gestalt.
there be with glances well shaped.

Solt ein verloren getelinc
Should a lost fellow

den vrouwen alsô wol behagen
to-the ladies so well please

Der nie sîn leben ûf kein gerinc
Who never his life upon any contest

gevûrte aldurch ein prîs bejagen
carried all-through a prize hunt

Als einer der lîp unde gût
As one who body and goods

durch frouwen êre wâgen tar,
for ladies' honor stake dares,

ez sî schimpf oder ernst gevar:
it be jest or earnest colored:

daz wêre ein ungevûger mût.
that were an unfitting mind.

Ich saz ûf einer grûne 212
I sat on a green

und dachte an maneger hande dinc
and thought of many kinds-of things

wie ich die werlt behielte
how I the world kept

und ouch gên gote icht wurde linc:
and also toward God not became left:

dô kunde ich nie erdenken daz
then could I never devise that

daz mir icht tochte ûf solher hande ger.
that to-me anything availed upon such kind-of desire.

Mîn blôdekeit wart kûne
My timidity became bold

gedanke der ich vil verschriet;
thoughts of-which I many cut;

al nâch der werlde tucke
all after the world's tricks

mîn kintheit mir die witze riet
my childhood to-me the wit counseled

daz niemen ûf der êren saz
that no-one on the honors sat

kum âne schaz: daz wart mîns herzen swer.
scarcely without treasure: that became my heart's heaviness.

Ich strâfte frouwen Êren,
I rebuked lady Honor,

ich sprach 'ir sît ein kranke magt,
I spoke 'you are a weak maid,

lât ir ûch schaz verkêren.'
(if)-let you yourselves treasure pervert.'

sie sûfte und sprach 'du tumber,
she sighed and spoke 'thou fool,

schaz hât mich leider uberwegen.
treasure has me alas outweighed.

man mac mîn wol mit schatze pflegen:
one can of-me well with treasure tend:

schaz âne tugent dêst gegen mir ein kumber.'
treasure without virtue that-is toward me a trouble.'

Vrou Êre quam gegangen 231
Lady Honor came walking

zu einem gûtes rîchen man:
to a of-goods rich man:

er vrâgte wer sie wêre.
he asked who she were.

'ich binz vrou Êre', sprach sie sân,
'I am-it lady Honor', spoke she at-once,

'und wolde gerne bî dir sîn.'
'and would gladly by thee be.'

'des bin ich vrô:' sus sprach des schatzes zogel.
'of-that am I glad:' thus spoke the treasure's bridle.

Ein schrîn der was mit spangen
A shrine it was with clasps

beslagen, dâ inne er sie beslôz.
bound, there in he her locked.

dem Glucke er gab den sluzzel
to-the Fortune he gave the key

und sprach 'sê hin, pflic dîns genôz.'
and spoke 'lo hence, tend thy fellow.'

Gelucke quam eins zu dem schrîn
Fortune came once to the shrine

und slôz in ûf: dô wasez ein gouches vogel.
and unlocked it up: then was-it a cuckoo's bird.

Dô klagete Glucke sêre
Then lamented Fortune sorely

und sprach 'er ist ein tumber gouch
and spoke 'he is a foolish cuckoo

swer mir bevilht sîn êre:
whoever to-me entrusts his honor:

er solde ir selbe walten.
he should her self wield.

wan wêr ich stêt, son hiez ich nicht
for were I steadfast, so were-called I not

Gelucke: von unstêter pflicht
Fortune: from unsteadfast duty

heiz ich alsô.' die wort sint nicht gespalten.
am-called I so.' the words are not split.

Gevîolierte blûte kunst,
Violeted blossom art,

dîns brunnen dunst
of-thy well's vapor

und dîn gerôset flammen rîche brunst
and thy rosed flames' rich blaze

die hâte wurzelhaftez obez:
that had rooted fruit:

gewidemet in dem boume kunste rîches lobes
endowed in the tree of-art rich praise

hielt wipfels gunst sîn list durchliljet kurc.
held treetop's favor his craft lilied-through choice.

Durchsternet was sîns sinnes himel,
Starred-through was of-his sense heaven,

glanz alse ein vimel,
gleam as a hemp-stalk,

durchkernet lûter golt nâch wunsches stimel
kerneled-through pure gold after wish's goad

was al sîn blût geveimt ûf lop,
was all his blossom foamed upon praise,

gevult ûf margarîten nicht zu klein und grop:
filled upon pearls not too small and coarse:

sîns silbers schimel gap gimmen velsen schurc.
his silver's shimmer gave gems rocks' thrust.

Ach kunst ist tôt, nu klage armônîe,
Ah art is dead, now lament harmony,

planêten tirmen klage nicht verzîe,
planets' turnings lament not refrain,

pôlus, jâmers drîe.
pole, of-grief three.

genâde im, sûȥe trinitât,
grace to-him, sweet trinity,

magt reine, enpfât
maid pure, receive

ich mein Kûnrât den helt von Wirzeburc.
I mean Konrad the hero of Würzburg.

Ich lobe ein reinez wîp sô schône 268
I praise a pure woman so beautifully

vur al die werlt in disem nûwen dône:
before all the world in this new tune:

ir tugent swebet alsô hô
her virtue hovers so high

in werdes lobes krône.
in worthy praise's crown.

si heiȥet leitvertrîp vur sendez swêren.
she is-called sorrow-driver for longing heaviness.

Sie ist der zucht ein vluzzic brunne,
She is of-the breeding a flowing well,

ir glestet wunneclich der sêlden sunne,
for-her gleams blissfully the blessedness's sun,

si swanzet wol in êren dô,
she sweeps well in honors then,

der klârheit wol ein wunne,
of-the clearness well a bliss,

sint daz wir nîgen mûȥen und sie êren.
since that we bow must and her honor.

Ir jugent blût mit sêlikeit:
Her youth blooms with blessedness:

mir hât vrou Êr von ir geseit
to-me has lady Honor of her told

Daz sie sô luste bernde kleit
That she so lust bearing clothing

mit voller tugent an sich sneit,
with full virtue to herself cut,

die sie in glanzer schouwe treit.
which she in gleaming show wears.

si glenzet sam ein engel zwir:
she gleams as an angel twice:

sô schône wart doch nie kein lîp umb sich.
so beautiful was yet never any body about itself.

Swaz man ie lobes jach den vrouwen,
Whatever one ever of-praise avowed to-the ladies,

die dâ der Tôt hât leider gar verhouwen,
whom there the Death has alas wholly hewn,

dâ bî ich ir gelîch nie sach
there by I her like never saw

vur wêtlich an zu schouwen.
for comely at to look.

durch die Enêas vlôch von Tîr sô werden,
for whom Aeneas fled from Tyre so worthy,

Ob sie noch lebende schône wêre,
If she still living beautiful were,

Cundwîrâmûr die sûze klâre achtbêre,
Condwiramurs the sweet bright esteemed-one,

und die man dâ zu kinde jach
and she-whom one there to child avowed

dem rîchen Terramêre,
to-the rich Terramer,

gên ir wêr swach ir drîer schône ûf erden.
toward her were weak of-them three beauty on earth.

Der sunnen nimt si gar den prîs.
From-the sun takes she wholly the prize.

er lebt in witzen nie sô wîs
he lives in wits never so wise

daz er volblûmte ir lobes rîs.
that he full-flowered her praise's branch.

si ist ein lebendez paradîs
she is a living paradise

und junger jâre in tugende grîs.
and of-young years in virtue gray.

si trit ûf Êren strâzen her
she treads on Honor's streets hither

die klâre ... mit tugenden noch vil baz.
the bright-one (lacuna) with virtues still very better.

Swer zeiget kunst dâ man ir nicht erkennet, 302
Whoever shows art where one her not knows,

swer ungezemte junge ros unkunde furte rennet,
whoever untamed young horses unknown fords races,

swer lange krieget wider recht, swer vil verstolnes koufet;
whoever long fights against right, whoever much stolen buys;

Swer vil mit nâgebûren sich gebâget,
Whoever much with neighbors himself quarrels,

swer unverwizzenlîchen gar die ungezogenen vrâget,
whoever unconscionably wholly the ill-bred asks,

swer streichet dicke vremden hunt, swer alde juden toufet;
whoever strokes often strange dog, whoever old Jews baptizes;

Swer dienet dâ mans nicht engert,
Whoever serves where one-it not desires,

swer sich mit lugen wil machen wert,
whoever himself with lies will make worthy,

swer spotten wil der alden;
whoever mock will the old;

swer ûf die verre vrunt sich sêre fîdet,
whoever on the far friends himself greatly trusts,

swer sîn getrûwe sêlic wîp durch velsche minne mîdet:
whoever his faithful blessed wife for false love avoids:

sol iz den allen wol ergân, des mûz gelucke walden.
shall it to-them all well turn-out, that must fortune govern.

314 O wîp, trût vîolgarte,
O woman, darling violet-garden,

ie sô daz sich vil wunne
ever so that itself much bliss

bach aller sûzikeit!
brook of-all sweetness!

sam in der glût ein sinder:
as in the glow a cinder:

in mîner sinne vesten?
in my senses' fortress?

Licht werde spiegelsunne,
Light worthy mirror-sun,

ân des ich zu dir warte,
without that I to thee wait,

durch sûze dîne minne,
through sweet thy love,

hin wirt in stêter sône
away becomes in steadfast reconciliation

ob mich mîn liep an blicket:
if me my beloved at looks:

hô swebt dîns lobes krône
high hovers thy praise's crown

jô zu der sêlden stricket,
yea to the blessedness's knots,

Ach wê, ich nâch ir brinne
Ah woe, I after her burn

kam mir ie wîp sô hêre
came to-me ever woman so lordly

nein, des enweiz ich nicht.
no, that know I not.

sît ich vind trôstes ninder,
since I find of-comfort nowhere,

hilf mir der swerde gesten
help me of-the heaviness dis-guest

ê sie mîn lîp versêre.
before it my body wound.

gevûret sendez leit,
led longing sorrow,

lob werdez angesicht.
praise worthy countenance.

334 Wâ von ist daz? man siht mîn nicht,
Where from is that? one sees me not,

nieman ouch mich erkennet.
no-one also me knows.

dâ hât nigromantîâ pflicht
there has necromancy duty

mit mir, ein kunst genennet,
with me, an art named,

daz man mich nicht erkennen sol und nicht gesehen mac.
that one me not know shall and not see can.

Des slîche ich nâ den lûten bî
Therefore creep I near to-the people by

mit slichte und mit der krumbe:
with straight and with the crooked:

nieman envrâget wer ich sî.
no-one asks who I be.

sê, sus gât mit mir umbe
look, thus goes with me about

die hôhe kunst Virgilius: die vinstert mir den tac,
the high art Virgil's: it darkens to-me the day,

Daz man mir keine helfe tût,
That one to-me no help does,

swâ man die gâbe teilet.
wherever one the gift deals.

sêh man mich, sô gêb man mir gût:
(if)-saw one me, so would-give one me goods:

ine lâz nicht ungemeilet
I leave not unstained

vil manec laster daz ich sihe
very many-a vice which I see

in mîner nebelkappen.
in my fog-cap.

swaz ich gesinge sprich vergihe,
whatever I sing speak avow,

mîn kunst ist tôt erblappen
my art is dead flapped-off

und gêt in manges ôren nicht, kêrt Sêlde mir den nac.
and goes into many-a-one's ears not, turns Blessedness to-me the neck.

353 Wer bin ich? wer mag ich gesîn?
Who am I? who may I be?

ich valle in sunden glûte.
I fall into sins' glow.

ich tûn recht an eim affen schîn
I make right on an ape shown

daz ich mich ir nicht hûte.
that I myself from-them not guard.

seht swaz der affe vor im siht, daz tût er allez nâch.
look whatever the ape before him sees, that does he all after.

Sus tûn ich nâch der werlde gar
Thus do I after the world wholly

und bin doch von der erden:
and am yet from the earth:

ich weiz ouch sicherlich vur wâr,
I know also certainly for true,

zu erden mûz ich werden.
to earth must I become.

diz weiz ich wol, iedoch ist mir zu sunden stête gâch
this know I well, however is to-me to sins steadily haste

Und weiz nicht ob ich morne lebe
And know not if I tomorrow live

ald noch ein einec stunde.
or yet one single hour.

nâch mînem tôde ich sêre strebe:
after my death I sorely strive:

kein wîser nie sich kunde
no wise-one ever himself could

behûten des, im wêre alsam,
guard of-that, to-him were likewise,

der Tôt der twunge in sêre.
the Death he would-force him sorely.

ich mac mir selben wol sîn gram
I may with-my self well be angry

daz ich mich nicht bekêre
that I myself not convert

von sunden der geladen ist ûf mich ein swêrez dach.
from sins of-which loaded is upon me a heavy roof.

Regenboge

REGENBOGEN

Two strophes. In the first, priest, knight, and farmer are three companions: the farmer plows for both, the priest saves them from hell, and the knight defends them, and with stole, sword, and plow together Christendom is full of grace. In the second, a pure lady keeps five virtues, honor, breeding, discretion, chastity, and generosity, and is sealed in the angels' shrine.

1 Ir pfaffen und ir ritter trîbet von iu nît,
You priests and you knights drive from you envy,

ir prüevet anders grôzer ungenâde zît;
you prove otherwise of-great disgrace time;

ir sult gedenken rehte wie ez umb iuch lît:
you shall think rightly how it about you lies:

der pfaffe, ritter, bûman, die drî solten sîn gesellen.
the priest, knight, farmer, the three should be companions.

Der bûman sol dem pfaffen und dem ritter ern:
The farmer shall for-the priest and for-the knight plow:

sô sol der pfaffe den bûman und den ritter nern
so shall the priest the farmer and the knight save

vor der helle, und sol der werde ritter wern
from the hell, and shall the worthy knight defend

dem pfaffen und dem bûman, die in tuon iht bœses wellen.
for-the priest and for-the farmer, those-who to-them do anything evil will.

Nu dar, ir edelen werden drî gesellen!
Now thither, you noble worthy three companions!

stôl unde swert, welt ir ein ander helfen wol,
stole and sword, (if)-will you one another help well,

sô wirt diu kristenheit von iu genâden vol.
so becomes the Christendom by you of-graces full.

stôl unde swert, der pfluoc tuot allez daz er sol:
stole and sword, the plow does all that it shall:

sît ir mit triu ein ander bî, iuch kan nieman gevellen.
(if)-are you with faith one another by, you can no-one fell.

Fünf hande tugende sol ein reine vrouwe pflegen, 14
Five kinds-of virtues shall a pure lady keep,

wil si behalten völleclîchen wîbes segen.
(if)-will she keep fully woman's blessing.

die êrste tugent sol sie niemer under wegen
the first virtue shall she never by the-wayside

von ir, mit triuwen daz rât ich, eins fuozes lenge lâzen.
from her, with faith that counsel I, a foot's length let.

Diu êrste tugent daz sol wîplîch êre sîn,
The first virtue that shall womanly honor be,

diu ander zuht: sô wirt ir lop der welte schîn.
the second breeding: so becomes her praise to-the world shown.

bescheidenheit sol in ir herze ân argen pîn
discretion shall in her heart without evil pain

gar stætez sedel halten wol, ûf velde, in stete, an strâzen.
wholly steadfast seat hold well, on field, in towns, on streets.

Diu vierde sol sîn kiusche zallen stunden:
The fourth shall be chastity at-all hours:

diu milte bî der kiusche sol gemischelt sîn;
the generosity by the chastity shall mingled be;

sô mac si wol geheizen mannes keiserîn.
so may she well be-called man's empress.

si wirt versigelt in der hôhen engel schrîn.
she becomes sealed in the high angels' shrine.

vil sælic wîp, dîn werdekeit wirt dort in fröiden vunden!
very blessed woman, thy worthiness becomes there in joys found!