MIDDLE HIGH GERMAN SERIES · VOLUME 33

The Rolandslied

Pfaffe Konrad

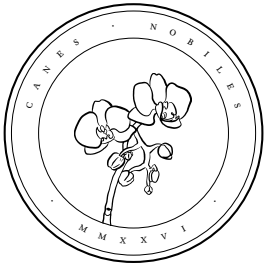
Das Rolandslied

Part One: The Treason of Ganelon

---

with a word-for-word interlinear English translation

preserving the original word order

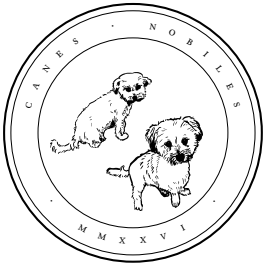


CANES NOBILES · MMXXVI

Copyright © 2026 Christopher Hench
All rights reserved

Published by Canes Nobiles
canesnobiles.com

The source text is in the public domain



Volume 33 of the Canes Nobiles Middle High German interlinear texts

The Middle High German text follows Das Rolandslied,
herausgegeben von Karl Bartsch, Deutsche Dichtungen
des Mittelalters 3 (Leipzig: F. A. Brockhaus, 1874), verses 1 to 4588

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

The verses are numbered as Bartsch numbers them, every fifth verse in the outer margin; a verse he marks as lost prints as asterisks and keeps the number he gives it. The paragraphs are his; the reading sections and their English heads are this press's, and his chapters I to VI, whose titles are not reproduced, fall at the openings of sections I, V, VIII, XII, XIV, and XVII.

CONTENTS

I · The Angel's Summons 7
II · The Taking of Tortosa 18
III · Blancandrin's Counsel 33
IV · The Envoys Before Charles 48
V · The Council of the Franks 62
VI · Ganelon Named Envoy 77
VII · Ganelon Departs 93
VIII · The Plot Under the Olive Tree 114
IX · Ganelon Before Marsile 131
X · The Gifts of Treason 147
XI · Marsile Calls His Kings 164
XII · Ganelon's Return 177
XIII · Charles's Dreams 189
XIV · Roland's Rearguard 206
XV · The Heathen Boasts 223
XVI · Oliver and the Horn 241
XVII · The First Clash 254
XVIII · The Peers' Combats 273

I · THE ANGEL'S SUMMONS

The poet prays for true words to tell of Charles, Pippin's son, who won God's realm by conquering the heathen. Grieved by Spain's idolatry, Charles prays, and an angel bids him go to Spain to convert or destroy its people. He summons twelve lords, the peers who never failed him, Roland and Oliver among them, and tells them of the martyr's crown. The lords swear to follow him, Roland promises God's reward to all who come, and messengers carry the summons through the land until free and bond alike take the cross.

Scephâre aller thinge,
Creator of-all things,

keiser aller kuninge,
emperor of-all kings,

wole thu oberister êwart,
well thou highest priest,

lêre mih selbe thîniu wort.
teach me self thy words.

thu sende mir ze munde
thou send me into mouth

thîn heilege urkunde,
thy holy witness,

thaz ih thie luge vermîde,
that I the lie avoid,

thie wârheit scrîbe
the truth write

von eineme tiurlîcheme man,
of a precious man,

wie er thaz gotes rîche gewan:
how he the God's realm won:

thaz ist Karl der keiser.
that is Charles the emperor.

vore gote ist er,
before God is he,

want er mit gote uberwant
for he with God overcame

vile manege heitheniske lant:
very many heathen lands:

tha er thie cristenen hât mite gêret,
there he the Christians has with honored,

alse uns thaz buoh lêret.
as us the book teaches.

Karl ther was Pipînes sune.
Charles he was Pippin's son.

michel êre unde frume
great honor and profit

hât ther herre gewunnen,
has the lord won,

thie grimmigen heithenen bethwungen,
the grim heathens subdued,

thaz sie erkanten thaz wâre licht.
that they recognized the true light.

sine wessen ê niht,
they knew before not,

wer ire scephâre was.
who their creator was.

ie baz unde baz
ever better and better

steih ther herre ze tugente,
climbed the lord to virtue,

vone kintheit ce jugente,
from childhood to youth,

vone there jugent in thaz alter.
from the youth into the age.

nu hât in got gehalten
now has him God kept

in sîneme rîche:
in his realm:

thâ wonet er iemer êwehlîche.
there dwells he ever eternally.

Thô ther gotes thienestman
When the God's servant

vone Yspaniâ vernam,
of Spain heard,

wie unkûsclîchen sie lebeten,
how unchastely they lived,

thie apgot ane beteten,
the idols on prayed,

thaz sie got niene vorhten,
that they God not-at-all feared,

harte sih verworhten,
hard themselves forfeited,

thaz clagete ther keiser hêre.
that lamented the emperor noble.

er manete got verre,
he besought God greatly,

thaz er thurh mennisken geboren wurthe,
that he for mankind born became,

an theme crûce ersturbe,
on the cross died,

thaz er thie sîne erlôste,
that he the his redeemed,

thaz er getrôste
that he should-comfort

thie manehvaldigen heithenscaft,
the manifold heathendom,

then thiu nebelvinstere naht
whom the misty-dark night

then tôtlîchen scate pâre,
the deathly shadow bore,

thaz er sie theme tiuvel benâme.
that he them from-the devil should-take.

Karl betete thicke
Charles prayed often

mit tiefen herceblicken,
with deep heart-glances,

sô thaz liut allez entslief.
when the people all fell-asleep.

vile tiure er hine ze gote rief
very dearly he thither to God cried

mit trânenden ougen.
with tearing eyes.

thô sah er mit fleisclîchen ougen
then saw he with fleshly eyes

then engel vone himele.
the angel from heaven.

er sprah zuo theme kuninge:
he spoke to the king:

«Karl, gotes thienestman,
«Charles, God's servant,

île in Yspaniam.
hasten into Spain.

got hât thih erhôret:
God has thee heard:

thaz liut wirthet bekêret.
the people becomes converted.

thie thir aber wither sint,
who to-thee however against are,

thie heizent thes tiuveles kint
they are-called the devil's children

unt sint allesamt verloren.
and are all-together lost.

thie slehet ther gotes zorn
them slays the God's anger

an lîbe unt an sêle.
in body and in soul.

thie helle pûwent sie iemer mêre.»
the hell inhabit they ever more.»

Karl an sîneme gebete lah
Charles in his prayer lay

unz an then morgenlîchen tah.
until to the morning day.

thô lathete er zwelf herren,
then summoned he twelve lords,

thie thie wîsesten wâren,
who the wisest were,

thie sînes heres phlegeten.
who of-his host took-care.

vile tugentlîche sie lebeten.
very virtuously they lived.

sie wâren guote knehte,
they were good knights,

thes keiseres vorevehten.
the emperor's champions.

ire vanen sie gewanten
their banners they turned

nie ze theheinen werltlîchen scanten.
never to any worldly disgraces.

sie wâren helethe vile guot:
they were heroes very good:

ther keiser was mit in wole behuot.
the emperor was with them well guarded.

sie wâren kûske unde reine.
they were chaste and pure.

then lîp fuorten sie veile
the life bore they for-sale

thurh willen there sêle.
for sake of-the soul.

sine gerten nihtes mêre
they desired nothing more

wane thurh got ersterben,
except for God to-die,

thaz himelrîche mit ther martire erwerben.
the heaven-realm with the martyrdom win.

Ther keiser in thô sagete
The emperor to-them then told

thaz er willen habete
that he will had

thie heithenscaft zestôren,
the heathendom to-destroy,

thie cristen gemêren.
the Christians to-increase.

er sprah: «wole ir mîne vile lieben,
he spoke: «well you my very dear-ones,

nu scule wir gote thienen
now shall we God serve

mit lûterlîchen muote.
with pure spirit.

wole ir helethe guote,
well you heroes good,

jâ hât iu got hie gegeben
yea has to-you God here given

ein vile vollehlîchez leben.
a very abundant life.

thaz hât er umbe thaz getân:
that has he for that done:

sîn thienest wil er thâ vone hân.
his service will he there of have.

sô wer durh got arebeitet,
so who for God labors,

sîn lôn wirthet ime gereitet
his reward is to-him prepared

tha ther keiser aller himele
where the emperor of-all heavens

vortheret hine withere
demands thither back

thaz er iu verlihen hât.
what he to-you lent has.

frôlîchen ir vor ime stât.
joyfully you before him stand.

sô wer thurh got erstirbet,
so who for God dies,

ih sage iu waz er thâ mite erwirbet:
I tell to-you what he there with wins:

eine kuninclîche krône
a kingly crown

in there marterâre kôre;
in the martyrs' choir;

thiu liuhtet same ther morgensterre.
it shines like the morning-star.

iuweren willen west ih gerne.»
your will would-know I gladly.»

An there rethe wâren
At the council were

herzogen unde grâven.
dukes and counts.

thâ was ther helet Ruolant
there was the hero Roland

unt Olivier ther wîgant,
and Oliver the fighter,

Samsôn ther herzoge,
Samson the duke,

ther was in grôzeme lobe.
who was in great praise.

thâ was ther herre Ansêîs,
there was the lord Anseis,

ther was kuone unde wîs:
who was bold and wise:

Gergers ther mâre,
Gerier the famous,

ther was kuone unt wortspâhe.
who was bold and word-wise.

thâ was zewâre
there was truly

Berengêr ther grâve,
Berengar the count,

ther fuorte Wasconier vanen:
who bore Gascons' banner:

er was ein helet lobesam.
he was a hero praiseworthy.

Engelîrs was thâ
Engelier was there

ûzer Prittaniâ:
out-of Brittany:

ther hâte tugentlîh gemuote;
he had virtuous spirit;

er was ein helet guote.
he was a hero good.

thâ was Anshelm,
there was Anshelm,

ein helet kuone unde snel
a hero bold and quick

vone Môringen
of Moringen

mit sînen snellen jungelingen;
with his quick youths;

Gotefrit thes keiseres vanere.
Godfrey the emperor's banner-bearer.

thaz wâren thie ûz erwelten zweleve,
that were the out chosen twelve,

thie theme keisere nie geswichen ze niheiner nôt:
who to-the emperor never failed in no distress:

sie thienten ime alle unz an then tôt.
they served to-him all until to the death.

Alsô thie rethe was getân,
As the council was done,

thie herren sprâchen ire man.
the lords spoke-to their men.

si berieten sih besunder,
they took-counsel themselves apart,

ob ieman wâre thar under,
whether anyone were there among,

ther in niht helfen wolde.
who them not help would.

sie sprâchen thaz er scolte
they said that he should

in ze stete withersagen;
to-them at-the place renounce;

welhen trôst sie ze ime mahten haben.
what comfort they to him might have.

sie retheten alle gemeinlîchen,
they spoke all together,

sine wolten in niemer geswîchen.
they would them never fail.

sô waz sie thurh got wolten bestân,
so what they for God would undertake,

thes newolten sie niht abe gân.
from-that would they not off go.

thaz lobeten sie mit ûf erhabener hant.
that vowed they with up raised hand.

thô sprah ther helet Ruolant:
then spoke the hero Roland:

«wie sâleh ther geboren wart,
«how blessed he born was,

ther nu thise herevart
who now this war-journey

gevrumet willehlîche!
furthers willingly!

theme lônet got mit sîneme rîche:
him rewards God with his realm:

thes mager grôzen trôst hân.
of-that may-he great comfort have.

ist ave hie thehein man,
is however here any man,

ther guot nemen wile,
who goods take will,

man gît ime sîn vile:
one gives to-him of-it much:

er hât iemer thes keiseres willen.
he has ever the emperor's favor.

thaz merket, snelle jungelinge.»
that mark, quick youths.»

Alsô ther keiser vernam
As the emperor heard

thaz ime wâren willeh sîne man,
that to-him were willing his men,

thie boten strichen in thaz lant,
the messengers swept into the land,

ir iegelîh thare er wart gesant.
of-them each where he was sent.

sie sageten starke niumâre.
they told hard tidings.

thiu lant bestuonten aller meist lâre.
the lands remained of-all most empty.

jâ wart thiu selbe botescaft
yea was the same message

lieb unde lobehaft.
dear and praiseworthy.

er wâre frî other eigen,
he were free or bond,

sie kêrten ûf thie heithenen.
they turned against the heathens.

sie zeichinôten sih mit kriucen.
they signed themselves with crosses.

jâ wart unter then liuten
yea was among the people

thaz aller meiste lob.
the of-all greatest praise.

sie riefen alle ane got;
they called all on God;

sie maneten in verre
they besought him greatly

thaz in niht mohte gewerren
that them not might trouble

there michelen heithenen craft.
the great heathen might.

er tete sie lobelîchen sigehaft.
he made them praiseworthily victorious.

II · THE TAKING OF TORTOSA

The host gathers, and Charles promises a hundredfold reward to all who leave home for God and bids them be humble and steadfast. The archbishop preaches of the cross. The Christians sweep into Spain, the heathens burn their own land, and at Tortosa Roland's horn shakes the city; it falls, and its people are baptized. Charles masters all Spain but Saragossa, where King Marsile sits in his mountains and calls his counselors under an olive tree.

Mit micheleme magene
With great strength

kom thaz here zesamene,
came the host together,

thie thurh got ûz komen wâren
who for God out come were

unt sie ime vernâmen.
and they to-him listened.

thiu zuht alsô grôz wart.
the procession so great became.

ther keiser ûf eine hôhe trat.
the emperor upon a height stepped.

er sprah: «alle thie ûz komen sîn,
he spoke: «all who out come are,

then lône selbe mîn drehtîn
them reward self my Lord

alsô er uns geheizen hât.
as he us promised has.

sô wer wîp other kint lât,
so who woman or child leaves,

hûs other eigen,
house or property,

thaz wil ih iu besceithen,
that will I to-you explain,

wie in got lônen wile.
how them God reward will.

er gît ime zehenzehstunt sam vile,
he gives to-him hundredfold as much,

thar zuo sîn himelrîche.
there to his heaven-realm.

nu scule wir frôlîche
now shall we joyfully

ime opheren then lîb.
to-him offer the life.

er ist ime gereit in alle zît,
he is to-him ready in all time,

thaz er unsih entphâhe.
that he us should-receive.

nu scule wir heim gâhen
now shall we home hasten

an unser alterbe,
to our ancient-inheritance,

thaz wir hie erwerven
that we here should-win

thaz wir thaz himelrîche bûwen.
that we the heaven-realm inhabit.

thes scule wir gote wole getrûwen.
of-that shall we God well trust.

Nu wile ih iu clagen:
Now will I to-you lament:

thie heithenen tuont uns grôzen scathen.
the heathens do us great harm.

sie rîtent in thiu lant;
they ride into the lands;

sie stiftent roub unde brant.
they commit robbery and burning.

thiu gotes hûs sie stôrent,
the God's houses they destroy,

thaz liut sie hine fuorent
the people they thither lead
unt opherent sie fur thiu apgot.
and offer them to the idols.
thaz ist thes tiuveles spot.
that is the devil's mockery.
ire martire there ist vile:
their martyrdom of-them is many:
sie sezzent sie ze ire zile
they set them for their target
unde sciezent thare zuo.
and shoot there at.
mohte wir thâ withere iht getuon,
might we there against anything do,
thes wâre uns nôt.
of-that were to-us need.
ih bit iuh alle thurh got,
I bid you all for God,
thaz irz willehlîchen tuot:
that you-it willingly do:
habet stâtigen muot,
have steadfast spirit,
habet zuht mit guote.
have breeding with goodness.
weset theumuote,
be humble,
weset gote untertân,
be to-God subject,
iuwer meisterscefte untertân.
to-your masters subject.
welt ir alsô volkomen,
(if)-will you so persevere,

sô vindet ir thâr ze himele thaz lôn
so find you there in heaven the reward

there êwigen genâthen.»
of-the eternal grace.»

sie sprâchen alle âmen.
they spoke all amen.

Ûf stuont ther erzebiscof.
Up stood the archbishop.

er zierete wole thes keiseres hof.
he adorned well the emperor's court.

er was there zweleve einer,
he was of-the twelve one,

thie sih niene wolten gesceithen.
who themselves not-at-all would separate.

sine vorhten viur noh thaz swert.
they-not feared fire nor the sword.

got hât sie wole gewert
God has them well granted

thes sie ane in gereten.
what they of him desired.

thie wîle sie hie lebeten,
the while they here lived,

an there martire sie beliben.
in the martyrdom they remained.

ze himele sint sie gestigen:
to heaven are they ascended:

nu mugen sie vrôlîche leben;
now may they joyfully live;

thâ sint sie gotes râtgeben.
there are they God's counselors.

thaz habent sie umbe got erworven,
that have they for God won,

thaz sie lebent iemer âne grôze sorge.
that they live ever without great care.

sô wa iz ze there nôte gescah,
so where it to the distress happened,

thâ man sluoh unde stah,
where one struck and stabbed,

sone gesamenôten sih nie zweleve
so gathered themselves never twelve

sô ûz erkorene helethe.
so out chosen heroes.

man vant sie zaller vorderôst.
one found them at-the-very foremost.

sie wâren there cristenen trôst.
they were the Christians' comfort.

Thô rethete ther biscof:
Then spoke the bishop:

thes frowete sih aller ther hof.
of-that rejoiced itself all the court.

«wole ir heilegen pilgerîme,
«well you holy pilgrims,

nu lât wole scînen
now let well appear

thurh waz ir ûz sît komen
for what you out are come

unt thaz heilege criuce habet genomen.
and the holy cross have taken.

thaz ist des tiuveles ungemah,
that is the devil's discomfort,

want ime nie sô leithe gescah.
for to-him never so sorrowful happened.

alsô er thes wirthet innen,
as he of-that becomes aware,

sô muoz er entrinnen.
so must he escape.

ez truoh selbe unser herre.
it bore self our Lord.

thie sîne vile suoze lêre
the his very sweet teaching

hât er uns vore getragen.
has he us before borne.

wir sculen ime allez nâh varen,
we shall to-him all after fare,

lernen then selben ganc.
learn the same way.

trinket then kelh then er tranc,
drink the cup which he drank,

êret thaz vile heilege criuce,
honor the very holy cross,

mîne vile lieben liute,
my very dear people,

minnet siben tagezît:
love seven day-hours:

thaz râtet ther kuninc Dâvîd.
that counsels the king David.

ir scult spâde unt fruo sîn:
you shall late and early be:

so erhôret iuh mîn drehtîn.
so hears you my Lord.

iuwer spîse sî gemeine.
your food be common.

thaz herze machet reine.
the heart make pure.

ze wâre sagen ih iz iu:
in truth tell I it to-you:

ther brôde lîchenâme ist thiu thiu,
the frail body is the maid,

thiu sêle ist thiu frouwe.
the soul is the lady.

ir scult gote vile wole getrûwen,
you shall God very well trust,

welt ir mit guoten werken nâh gên,
(if)-will you with good works after go,

sô stê uber iuh ther gotes segen.»
so stand over you the God's blessing.»

Thaz here sih thô breite.
The host itself then spread.

thie cristenen sih bereiten:
the Christians themselves readied:

sie sigen vaste in thiu lant.
they sank firmly into the lands.

thie heithenen huoben selbe then brant;
the heathens raised self the burning;

selbe sie sih wuosten,
self they themselves laid-waste,

wande sine getorsten
for they dared

thes keiseres niht erbîten.
the emperor not await.

sie hereten alsô wîten
they harried so widely

unz an thie Gerunde.
until to the Gironde.

zuo thes wazzeres grunde
to the water's bottom

wolten sie thô trôst hân.
would they then comfort have.

sie betrouh harte ire wân.
them deceived hard their hope.

Heithenen thie tumben
Heathens the foolish

bliesen ire trumben:
blew their trumpets:

tanz unde rîterscaft
dance and knighthood

unt ander manege hôhvart:
and other many-a pride:

sie fuorten grôz ubermuot
they bore great arrogance

sô ie ther unsâlige tuot.
as ever the unblessed does.

unz an ther erthe ende
until to the earth's end

hâten sie sih besendet
had they themselves sent-for

ûz allen heithenisken rîchen.
out-of all heathen realms.

vile harte vermezenlîchen
very hard boldly

fuoren sie ire strâze.
fared they their road.

sie wolten sih gebenmâzen
they would themselves make-equal

theme aller meisten volke
to-the of-all greatest folk

thaz sih ie gesamente unter theseme wolken.
that itself ever gathered under this cloud.

Thô stuont iz unlange
Then stood it not-long

unz ein heithene wart gevangen.
until a heathen was captured.

er zeihte in einen guoten furt;
he showed them a good ford;

er wîste sie an eine burh:
he guided them to a castle:

thiu heizet Tortôse.
it is-called Tortosa.

ire gote wâren vile bôse.
their gods were very wicked.

thô nam ther helet Ruolant
then took the hero Roland

sîn horn in sîne hant.
his horn into his hand.

er blies iz mit vollen,
he blew it with full-breath,

thaz theme gote Appollen
that to-the god Apollo

unt Mahmet sînem gesellen
and Mahomet his comrade

gesweih ire ellen.
failed their courage.

sih verwandelôte ire stimme:
itself changed their voice:

ein vorhte wart thar inne.
a fear was there in.

thiu steinhûs erwageten,
the stone-houses shook,

thie heithenen verzageten.
the heathens despaired.

thiu erthe erbibete,
the earth quaked,

thie viske thie erspileten.
the fish they frolicked.

thie vogele scône sungen,
the birds fairly sang,

thie berge alle erclungen.
the mountains all resounded.

vile manege fure tôt lâgen.
very many-a-one for dead lay.

thâ wart michel jâmer.
there was great lamentation.

Ein alter heithene thô thâ was,
An old heathen then there was,

geheizen Jôsîas:
called Josias:

er rafste sîne gesellen.
he rebuked his comrades.

er sprah: «weret iuh helethe snelle.
he spoke: «defend you heroes bold.

thaz erbe, iuh iuwer vortheren ane brâhten
the inheritance, to-you your forebears on brought

unt mit ire herescilte ervâhten,
and with their war-shields won,

welt ir thâ vone entrinnen,
(if)-will you there of escape,

sone sculet ouh ir niemer mêre gewinnen
so shall also you never more win

lêhen noh eigen.»
fief nor property.»

zesamene liefen thô thie heithenen:
together ran then the heathens:

sie bliesen ire wîchorn.
they blew their battle-horns.

in wart vile zorn
to-them was very anger

thaz in thie cristenen wâren sô nâhen.
that to-them the Christians were so near.

si begonden harte gâhen;
they began hard to-hasten;

sie îlten sih gerehten,
they hurried themselves to-get-ready,

sie wolten mit in vehten.
they would with them fight.

Gotefrit then vanen nam;
Godfrey the banner took;

er kêrte an then burhgraben.
he turned to the castle-moat.

helethe thie jungen
heroes the young

thaz burgetor si errungen.
the castle-gate they won.

thie heithenen fluhen in thiu apgothûs.
the heathens fled into the idol-houses.

jâ wart thar în unt thar ûz
yea was there in and there out

ein vile michel gethrenge,
a very great throng,

there heithenen grôz gevelle.
of-the heathens great fall.

vile manege heithenen sâhen
very many heathens saw

thaz thie tiuvele thâ wâren:
that the devils there were:

there sêle unterwunden sie sih.
of-the soul undertook they themselves.

thâ was mînes drehtînes gerih.
there was my Lord's judgment.

thie heithenen sih tho ergâben
the heathens themselves then surrendered

in thes keiseres genâthe.
into the emperor's grace.

thô toufte sie ther biscof,
then baptized them the bishop,

sô stât iz gescriben ienoh,
as stands it written still,

in nomine patris et filii et spiritus sancti.
in name of-the-father and of-the-son and of-the-ghost holy.

si geloupten ane thie namen thrî.
they believed in the names three.

sie minneten alle gotlîche lêre
they loved all godly teaching

unt lobeten in iemer mêre
and praised him ever more

thaz er thiu wunder zuo in hâte getân.
that he the wonders to them had done.

beide wîb unde man,
both woman and man,

sô waz in ther creftegen stete was,
so what in the mighty city was,

sie sungen alle deo gratias.
they sang all to-God thanks.

Alsô wonete thô thâ
So dwelt then there

ther keiser in Yspaniâ
the emperor in Spain

vile harte gewaldehlîche,
very hard mightily,

in allem theme rîche.
in all the realm.

thorf unde burege
village and castles

herete er al garewe.
harried he all wholly.

turne unde mûre
towers and walls

veste unde tiure
firm and precious

muose zuo ther erthe,
must to the earth,

sine wolten cristenen werthen.
unless-they would Christians become.

ime ne thorfte nieman bieten
to-him — needed no-one offer

niheinere slahte miete.
of-any kind reward.

wâren thie berge alle guldîn,
were the mountains all golden,

thaz ne mohte in vrume sîn,
that not might to-them of-use be,

thine hâter alle niht genomen,
those would-have-he all not taken,

sine wâren zuo ther cristenheite komen.
unless-they were to the Christendom come.

unze ane Sarraguz:
until to Saragossa:

thâ was thiu heithenscaft grôz.
there was the heathendom great.

thâ was gesezzen
there was settled

ein kuninc vile vermezzen,
a king very bold,

geheizen Marsilie.
called Marsile.

hôh was thaz gebirge,
high was the mountain-range,

thaz lant was veste:
the land was firm:

thaz sûmte thie cristen.
that hindered the Christians.

Thone wolte ther keiser hêre
Then would the emperor noble

niht wither kêren
not back turn

thurh neheiner slahte nôt:
for any kind-of distress:

erne vorhte niheinen tôt.
he feared no death.

thie heithenen entsâzen in thaz,
the heathens dreaded him that,

thaz in ther keiser sô nâhe was.
that to-them the emperor so near was.

Marsilie sih besante
Marsile himself sent-for

ûz vile manegeme lante.
out-of very many-a land.

an eineme velde
on a field

erbeizten sîne helethe.
dismounted his heroes.

ther tah was vile heiz:
the day was very hot:

harte muote sie ther sweiz.
hard troubled them the sweat.

ther kuninc wart geware
the king became aware

tha ein oleboum then scate bar:
where an olive-tree the shade bore:

thar unter gesaz er eine
there under sat he alone

ûf eineme marmelsteine.
upon a marble-stone.

er thâhte in manigen ende.
he thought in many ends.

zesamene sluog er thie hende.
together struck he the hands.

er hiez vure sih komen
he bade before himself come

sehs wîse herzogen,
six wise dukes,

thar zuo sehs grâven,
there to six counts,

thie sînes râtes phlâgen.
who of-his counsel took-care.

er sprah: «mîn herce ist bevangen
he spoke: «my heart is seized

von angesten manegen.
by anxieties many.

nu habet ir wole vernomen,
now have you well heard,

ther keiser ist thâ here komen,
the emperor is there hither come,

thaz er mih wil scenden.
that he me will disgrace.

thaz ne mah ih niht erwenden.
that — may I not avert.

er hât sô getân volc,
he has so made folk,

unser vehten ne touc.
our fighting not avails.

gesamenete sih elliu heithenscaft,
should-gather itself all heathendom,

thaz ne vrumete niht wither sîner craft.
that — availed not against his might.

kumet er uber berge,
(if)-comes he over mountains,

er gewalteget unser erbe.
he masters our inheritance.

thaz liut gemachet er cristen.
the people makes he Christian.

wie mah ih mih gevristen?
how may I me preserve?

wole, ir helethe guote,
well, you heroes good,

râtet mir ze there nôte
counsel me in the distress

thurh iuwer selber êre.
for your self's honor.

iuwers râtes volge ih gerne.»
your counsel follow I gladly.»

III · BLANCANDRIN'S COUNSEL

An old heathen promises Marsile good counsel, and Blancandrin gives it: offer Charles service, gifts, and hostages, and become his vassal. Marsile fears for the hostages; Blancandrin offers a son of his own, and an old lord offers his and proposes that Marsile take baptism at Aachen. Another, who feared not God, counsels that once Charles has gone home they fall on those he leaves behind. The council agrees, and Marsile sends Blancandrin with lords, mules, and treasure to Charles at Cordres, where the envoys see the Frankish camp at its games.

Ûf spranc ein heithen:
Up sprang a heathen:

vor alter muoser neigen.
for age must-he bow.

sîn bart was ime gevlohten,
his beard was to-him braided,

also er ze hove wole tohte.
as he at court well befitted.

er sprah: «ne zwîvele thu niht, herre:
he spoke: — doubt thou not, lord:

ih gerâte thir thîne êre.
I counsel to-thee thy honor.

sîn wirthet vile guot rât:
of-it becomes very good counsel:

thîn marke wole mit vrithe stât.
thy march well with peace stands.

wilt thu mir volgen
(if)-wilt thou me follow

unde andere thîne holden,
and other thy followers,

sô behalte wir den lîb,
so keep we the life,

thare zuo kint unde wîb
there to child and woman

unde alle unse êre.»
and all our honor.»

thô thankete ime sîn herre:
then thanked to-him his lord:

thie heithenen nigen ime alle samt.
the heathens bowed to-him all together.

sie sprâchen, liut unde lant,
they spoke, people and land,

sô waz er thar ubere geriete,
so what he there about should-counsel,

thaz wâre allez stâte.
that were all steadfast.

Thô sprah Blanscandîz:
Then spoke Blancandrin:

«Fundeval mir mîn vater liez:
«Fundeval to-me my father left:

thâ wolte ih gerne belîben.
there would I gladly remain.

ther keiser wil uns thâ vone vertrîben:
the emperor will us there from drive-out:

thaz muot mih sêre.
that grieves me sorely.

ih sage thir, lieber herre,
I tell thee, dear lord,

wir ne mugen thâ withere niht getuon.
we — may there against nothing do.

thîn vehten ist nehein vrum.
thy fighting is no profit.

sô wâ wir sîn gebeiten,
so where we him await,

thâ ist ther tôt gereite.
there is the death ready.

ze sorgen ist iz uns gewant:
to cares is it to-us turned:

wir verliesen liut unde lant
we lose people and land

und then lîb thare zuo.
and the life there to.

ih sage thir, herre, wie thu tuo.
I tell thee, lord, how thou do.

wele thir ûz thînen helethen
choose for-thee out-of thy heroes

there aller wîsesten zweleve;
of-the of-all wisest twelve;

enbiut them keisere thîn thienest.
offer to-the emperor thy service.

sô wie ime sî aller liebest,
so how to-him be of-all dearest,

sô wellest thu sîne hulde gewinnen.
so wouldst thou his favor win.

biut theme keisere ze minnen
offer to-the emperor for love

beidiu lewen unde beren,
both lions and bears,

al thaz er ire welle nemen,
all that he of-them will take,

vorloufte âne zale,
hounds without count,

there guoten marhe thie wale,
of-the good steeds the choice,

tûsent mûzâre
thousand mewed-hawks

(thie sint ze hove mâre),
(they are at court famous),

siben hundert mûle,
seven hundred mules,

guot unde tiure:
good and precious:

siben hundert olbenden,
seven hundred camels,

thie wilt thu ime senden
them wilt thou to-him send

mit golde gelathen,
with gold laden,

sô thie meiste mugen getragen,
as the most may carry,

thare zuo vunfcih karren,
there to fifty carts,

ûf sînen hof ze vuoren,
upon his court to carry,

there rôten bisanten,
of-the red bezants,

ze êren then Vranken;
in honor of-the Franks;

thare zuo thîne gîsel.
there to thy hostages.

und râten iz sîne wîsen,
and counsel it his wise-ones,

thu werthest gerne sîn man:
thou becomest gladly his man:

thaz rîche wellest thu von ime bestân;
the realm wouldst thou from him hold;

thu gemachest ime cinshaft
thou makest to-him tributary

here nâh vone thîner craft
here after from thy might

vile manege heithenisce rîche.
very many heathen realms.

thaz râte ih thir getrûwelîche.»
that counsel I to-thee faithfully.»

Ther kuninc Marsilie
The king Marsile

rethete thare withere:
spoke there against:

«wie samfte unsih ther keiser thwinget
«how gently us the emperor constrains

so er thie gîsele gewinnet.
when he the hostages wins.

er ist alsô grimme,
he is so grim,

unde wirthet ther keiser inne
and (if)-becomes the emperor aware

thaz wir niene leisten
that we not-at-all perform

al thaz wir ime geheizen,
all that we to-him promise,

thie gîsel heizet er hâhen:
the hostages bids he hang:

sô muoz unsih wole âmern
so must us well grieve

thaz wir ie kint gewunnen.
that we ever children won.

scule wir in ther êren gunnen,
(if)-shall we him the honors grant,

sô wirthet iz bôser thenne iz ê was.
so becomes it worse than it before was.

uber alle thie heithenen rethent sie daz,
over all the heathens speak they that,

wir haben unrehte gevaren.
we have wrongly fared.

wir sculen uns nu wole vor ime bewaren,
we shall us now well before him guard,

thaz wir iht werden verrâten.»
that we not become betrayed.»

Blanscandîz antwerte ime thrâte:
Blancandrin answered to-him quickly:

«sô mir thirre mîn bart,
«so-help me this my beard,

wir zestôren sîne herevart.
we destroy his war-journey.

wir muozen mit listen
we must with cunning

unser êre vor ime vristen.
our honor before him preserve.

unde kumet ther keiser in thiu lant,
and (if)-comes the emperor into the lands,

er nimet iz allez ensamt:
he takes it all together:

er nimet uns then lîb,
he takes from-us the life,

beide kint unde wîb
both child and woman

unde alle unser êre.
and all our honor.

nu volge thu mir, herre,
now follow thou me, lord,

unde ne bîte niht langer.
and — wait not longer.

thaz liut ist thir gevangen,
the people is to-thee captured,

thie burge sint gewunnen.
the castles are won.

wir biren harte bethwungen.
we are hard subdued.

ih hân selve thriu kint,
I have self three children,

thie mir vile lief sint:
who to-me very dear are:

wie gerne ih einen sune gâbe,
how gladly I a son should-give,

thaz thie anderen mit vrithe wâren!
that the others with peace were!

ih sage thir, herre, wie thu tuo:
I tell thee, lord, how thou do:

thînen sune gif gerne thar zuo,
thy son give gladly there to,

thaz uns ther keiser untwîke.
that from-us the emperor should-withdraw.

thaz gerâte ih thir getrûwelîke.»
that counsel I to-thee faithfully.»

Thô sprah ther alte:
Then spoke the old-one:

«ther keiser veret mit theme gewalte,
«the emperor fares with the might,

thaz wir thâ niht withere ne megen getuon.
that we there not against — may do.

mînen sune geve ih gerne thar zuo,
my son give I gladly there to,

thaz ther keiser withere kêre.
that the emperor back should-turn.

nu volge thu mir, herre:
now follow thou me, lord:

ja geriche ih thînen anden.
yea avenge I thy wrong.

thie gîsel vuore er ze lande
the hostages leads he to land
unze wir geleisten
until we perform
al thaz wir geheizen.
all that we promise.
wir komen nâh ime zuo Âche:
we come after him to Aachen:
tha gebiete er sîne sprâche;
there commands he his assembly;
mit vunf hunderet helethen,
with five hundred heroes,
kuonen und ethelen,
bold and noble,
kumest thu thare gewisse
(if)-comest thou there surely
zuo sante Michehêlis misse
at saint Michael's mass
thie cristenheit untphâhen
the Christianity to-receive
und leven an sînen genâthen.
and live on his graces.
thâ wirthestu sîn man;
there becomest-thou his man;
thu machest ime undertân
thou makest to-him subject
vile manegen heithenen rîchen
very many heathen realms
ze thienende vorhtihlîche.»
to serve fearfully.»
Thô rethete ther witherwarte
Then spoke the adversary
thie got niht nevorhte:
who God not feared:

«und gevellet thir, herre, mîn rât,
«and (if)-pleases thee, lord, my counsel,

sô sage ih thir rehte wie iz ergât.
so tell I thee rightly how it goes.

ther keiser kêret withere:
the emperor turns back:

koment sie abe theme gebirge,
(if)-come they off the mountains,

thâ sceithent sie sih.
there part they themselves.

jâ veret mannegelîh
yea fares every-man

an sîne heimlîke.
to his home.

so gewaldige thu thaz rîke.
so master thou the realm.

thie er hie lâze,
whom he here should-leave,

then erleithe thu thie strâze.
to-them make-hateful thou the road.

sô heiz thu thîne gâhen,
so bid thou thine hasten,

thie tumben alle hâhen,
the foolish all hang,

vâhen thie wîsen:
capture the wise-ones:

so erlôse wir thie gîselen
so free we the hostages

unde leven iemer mêre mit genâthen.»
and live ever more with grace.»

thaz geloveten alle thie an theme râte wâren.
that vowed all who at the council were.

Thie rât was getân.
The council was done.

Marsilie hiez komen sîne man.
Marsile bade come his men.

ze aller êrist vortheret er
at of-all first summons he

Clargîs vone Parguel,
Clargis of Parguel,

thare nâh Estropîz
there after Estropiz

unde sînen sune Stramarîz,
and his son Stramariz,

Priamûr vone there warte,
Priamur of the watchtower,

Gerglant mit theme barte.
Gerglant with the beard.

thare kom Balziel
there came Balziel

unde Malbrant vone theme mere
and Malbrant of the sea

unde Mathêus sîn ôheim:
and Matheus his uncle:

ther was there wîsesten ein.
he was of-the wisest one.

thare kom Jômel,
there came Jomel,

ein heithene kuone unde snel.
a heathen bold and quick.

thâ was Blanscandîz:
there was Blancandrin:

ther kuning in rethen hiez.
the king him speak bade.

er sagete in thes kuniges willen:
he told them the king's will:

thaz gelobeten thie gesellen.
that vowed the comrades.

Marsilie ûf stuont,
Marsile up stood,

sîne rethe er huop.
his speech he raised.

er sprah: «wole, ir helethe guote,
he spoke: «well, you heroes good,

helfet uns ûzer nôte.
help us out-of distress.

muget er iz sceithen,
(if)-may you it settle,

thâ ist umbe veile
there is for-it for-sale

al thaz ih iemer gewinne.
all that I ever win.

handelet iz mit sinnen.
handle it with wits.

thurh iuwer selber guote
for your self's goodness

machet iuh theumuote.
make you humble.

nemet palmen ane thie hant,
take palms in the hand,

iz ist uns zen sorgen gewant,
it is to-us to cares turned,

zehene blanke mûle,
ten white mules,

scône unde tiure,
fair and precious,

mit golde gelathen,
with gold laden,

sô sie meiste mugen getragen,
as they most may carry,

theme keisere ze minnen.
to-the emperor for love.

ih wil gerne thingen
I will gladly treat

mit allen mînen liuten
with all my people

sô wie er mir gebiutet.
so how he me commands.

thie cristenheit wil ih ane gân,
the Christianity will I on go,

ih werthe gerne sîn man.
I become gladly his man.

suochet sîne vuoze,
seek his feet,

thaz wir frithe haven muozen.
that we peace have may.

er liget ze Corderes vore there stete.
he lies at Cordres before the city.

bitet in thurh then got, then er ane betet,
ask him for the God, whom he on prays,

thaz er sih erbarme
that he himself should-pity

uber thie vile armen,
over the very poor-ones,

thie nu sint lange
who now are long

ane grôzeme gethwange.
in great constraint.

unde heizet er untphâhen thie gebe,
and (if)-bids he receive the gifts,

sô saget ime thie rethe,
so tell to-him the speech,

waz ih imo wille senden.
what I to-him will send.

mûle und olbenden,
mules and camels,

vorloufte und mûzâre
hounds and mewed-hawks

unde thar zuo manege gifte mâre,
and there to many-a gift famous,

karren mit bisanten,
carts with bezants,

bietet ir den Franken,
offer you to-the Franks,

thaz sie mir helfen thingen,
that they me help treat,

thes keiseres hulde gewinnen.»
the emperor's favor win.»

Thie boten thô kêrten
The messengers then turned

thare man sie lêrte,
where one them directed,

zuo there cristenen lande
to the Christian land

mit vile hêrlîcheme gesande.
with very lordly embassy.

thie berge stigen sie ze tale.
the mountains climbed they to valley.

sie sâhen uber al
they saw over all

manegen helet kuonen,
many-a hero bold,

manegen vanen gruonen,
many-a banner green,

manegen rôten unde wîzen.
many-a red and white.

thie velt sâhen sie glîzen
the fields saw they gleam
sam sie wâren rôtguldîn.
as-if they were red-golden.
thie boten rctheten under in,
the messengers spoke among them,
thaz ther keiser wole wâre
that the emperor well were
uber alle thise werlt mâre;
over all this world famous;
wither sîner hêrscefte
against his lordship
ne thorfte sih nieman beheften.
— needed himself no-one engage.
Thie boten sâhen ze themo sezze
The messengers saw at the seat
manegen helet vermezzen.
many-a hero bold.
sie kômen zuo eineme boumgarten;
they came to an orchard;
ther was gezierôt harte.
it was adorned hard.
thâ vunden sie inne
there found they in
thie lewen alsô grimme
the lions so grim
mit then beren vehten.
with the bears fight.
sie sâhen guote knehte
they saw good knights
sciezen unde springen.
shoot and leap.
sie hôrten sagen und singen,
they heard telling and singing,

vile maneger slahte seitspile;
very of-many-a kind string-music;

aller wunnen was thâ vile;
of-all delights was there much;

thie kuonen vrônekempen
the bold champions

vor ein ander gewenken:
before one another turned:

sie hiuwen mit then sverten
they hewed with the swords

ûf then vlins herten,
upon the flint hard,

thaz thaz viur thâ ûz vlouh.
that the fire there out flew.

sie sâhen thaz thie adelaren ouh
they saw that the eagles also

thar zuo gewenet wâren,
there to accustomed were,

thaz sie scate pâren.
that they shade bore.

sie hôrten thie phaht lêren
they heard the law teach

thie ethelen juncherren
the noble young-lords

und scirmen mit then scilten.
and fence with the shields.

wie thie valken spileten
how the falcons played

und ander maneh vetherspil!
and other many-a hawk!

aller werltwunne was thâ vile.
of-all world-delight was there much.

vile maneh ethele wîb
very many-a noble woman

zierete wole then ire lîb
adorned well the her person

mit phellele und mit sîthen,
with brocade and with silk,

mit guldîneme gesmîthe.
with golden smith-work.

sît Salomôn erstarf,
since Solomon died,

sone wart nie sô grôz hêrscaf
so was never so great lordship

noh newirthet niemer mêre.
nor becomes never more.

Karl was aller tugende ein rehter herre.
Charles was of-all virtue a right lord.

IV · THE ENVOYS BEFORE CHARLES

The envoys come before Charles and find him at the chessboard, terrible to his enemies and gentle to the poor. Blancandrin offers baptism, tribute, and treasure, promises that Marsile will be baptized at Aachen, and begs Charles to withdraw. Charles asks how he can trust them; Blancandrin offers Marsile's son and his own as hostages. Charles recalls the two envoys Marsile beheaded but grants them peace and lodging. Meanwhile the men of Cordres sally out, and Roland and Oliver drive them back and take the city.

Thie boten vure giengen,
The messengers forward went,

vile thicke sie nither vielen,
very often they down fell,

in phellelînem gewande,
in brocade clothing,

thie palmen ane then handen.
the palms in the hands.

ie mêre unde mêre
ever more and more

vielen sie zuo ther erthe.
fell they to the earth.

sie vunden then keiser zewâre
they found the emperor truly

obe theme scâhzabele.
over the chessboard.

sîn antluzze was wunnesam.
his countenance was delightful.

thie boten harte wole gezam
to-the messengers hard well befitted

thaz sie in muosen scouwen.
that they him might behold.

jâ lûhten sîn ougen
yea shone his eyes

sam ther morgensterre.
like the morning-star.

man erkante in vile verre:
one recognized him very far:

nieman ne thorfte vrâgen
no-one — needed ask

wer ther keiser wâre:
who the emperor were:

nieman ne was ime gelîh.
no-one — was to-him alike.

sîn antluzze was zierlîh:
his countenance was splendid:

mit vollehlîchen ougen
with full eyes

ne mohten sie in niht bescouwen.
— could they him not behold.

thiu liehte gab in then wither slah
the light gave to-them the back stroke

sam thiu sunne umbe mitten tah.
like the sun about mid day.

then vîanden was er gramelîh,
to-the enemies was he grim,

then armen was er heimlîh.
to-the poor was he familiar.

in volcwîge was er sigesâlih,
in battle was he victory-blessed,

wither ubel was er genâthih.
against evil was he gracious.

ze gote was er gewâre.
to God was he true.

er was reht rihtâre,
he was right judge,

er lêrte uns thie phahte:
he taught us the law:

ther engel sie imo vore tihte.
the angel it to-him before composed.

er erkunde elliu reht.
he knew all laws.

zuo theme sverte was er guot kneht.
to the sword was he good knight.

aller tugende was er ûz erkoren.
of-all virtue was he out chosen.

milter herre enwart in thie werlt nie geboren.
more-generous lord was into the world never born.

Blanscandîz thâ vore stuot.
Blancandrin there before stood.

thie rethe er alsus huop:
the speech he thus raised:

«heil sîstu, keiser hêre!
«hail be-thou, emperor noble!

minne unde êre
love and honor

sî thir geboten
be to-thee offered

vone themo leventigen gote,
from the living God,

ther himel unde erthe
who heaven and earth

vone nihte hiez werthen,
from nothing bade become,

ther vone himele here nither sî komen,
who from heaven hither down is come,

von einere maget wart geboren,
of a maid was born,

in theme Jordâne getoufet wart
in the Jordan baptized was

unde an theme crûce irstarf;
and on the cross died;

thie werlt er lôste vone there helle.
the world he freed from the hell.

ane beten wir in wellen
on pray we him will

und leven an sînen genâthen.
and live on his graces.

thie cristenheit wille wir untphâhen.
the Christianity will we receive.

nu bitte wir thih, herre,
now pray we thee, lord,

thurh thes selven gotes êre,
for the same God's honor,

wir biren heithenen,
we are heathens,

leither vone gote gesceithen,
alas from God separated,

nu hilf uns sîne hulde erwerven,
now help us his favor win,

thaz wir ane then sunden iht ne sterben.»
that we in the sins not — die.»

Ther keiser allez svîhte.
The emperor all was-silent.

thô rethete aver ther alte:
then spoke again the old-one:

«ôwole thu keiser ethele,
«oh-well thou emperor noble,

ther enbiutet ther kuninc Marsilie
to-thee offers the king Marsile

sîn thienest vile willihlîke,
his service very willingly,

thar nâh an sîneme rîke
there after in his realm

alle sîne vursten,
all his princes,

of sie, herre, torsten.
if they, lord, dared.

si enbietent thir thie toufe,
they offer thee the baptism,

then cins von ire houfte.
the tribute from their head.

thes ensezent sie nehein zil,
of-that set they no limit,

wan alsô thu biutest unde wile.
except as thou commandest and wilt.

sie bietent scaz âne zale,
they offer treasure without count,

there besten marhe thie wale,
of-the best steeds the choice,

vorloufte unde vetherspil,
hounds and hawks,

sô waz, herre, thu thes wile.
so what, lord, thou of-it wilt.

mûle und olbenden,
mules and camels,

thie wile er thir senden,
them will he to-thee send,

mit golde gelathen,
with gold laden,

sô waz vunfzih karren mugen getragen
so what fifty carts may carry

there guoten bisantinge,
of-the good bezants,

thînen ethelen Franken ze minnen,
to-thy noble Franks for love,

thaz wir thâ bî erzeigen
that we there by show

thaz wir thih mit triuwen meinen.»
that we thee with faithfulness mean.»

er sprah: «ôwole thu keiser hêre,
he spoke: «oh-well thou emperor noble,

nu tuo iz thurh thes wâren gotes êre,
now do it for the true God's honor,

heiz in thisen zîten
bid in these times

thîne vursten wither rîten,
thy princes back ride,

thaz sie uns untwîken,
that they from-us should-withdraw,

withere an ire rîke.
back into their realm.

gebiut thîne sprâche
command thy assembly

an thînemo stuole ze Âche:
at thy throne at Aachen:

thar kumet Marsilie mîn herre.
there comes Marsile my lord.

er wil thâ getoufet werthen
he will there baptized become

mit tûsent sînen helethen,
with thousand his heroes,

kuonen und ethelen.
bold and noble.

thâ wirthet er thîn man:
there becomes he thy man:

er machet thir undertân
he makes to-thee subject

vile manegiu rîke.
very many realms.

sô thienet er thir getrûwelîke.»
so serves he thee faithfully.»

Ther keiser sih allez enthielt,
The emperor himself all held-back,

alsô ime sîn wîstuom riet,
as to-him his wisdom counseled,

unze er thie rethe al wole wiste.
until he the speech all well knew.

thaz houft er wither ûf rihte.
the head he again up raised.

er sprah: «lob und êre
he spoke: «praise and honor

nu und iemer mêre
now and ever more

sage wir thir, heiliger Crist,
say we to-thee, holy Christ,

wande thu aller sculde ein suonâre bist.
for thou of-all guilt an atoner art.

nu tuo thise heithen
now make these heathens

von ire sunden heile,
from their sins whole,

thaz sie thih erkennen
that they thee recognize

unde thîne werh minnen.»
and thy works love.»

er sprah zuo theme alten:
he spoke to the old-one:

«thaz thîn got walte!
«that thine God rule!

thu scînest in scônere gebâre:
thou seemest in fair bearing:

wie wiltu mir thaz bewâren?
how wilt-thou me that prove?

there rethe wil ih wisheit haven.»
of-the speech will I certainty have.»

«thaz wil ih thir, herre, sagen,»
«that will I thee, lord, tell,»

sprah thô ther alte.
spoke then the old-one.

«mih selven have du behalten.
«me self have thou kept.

jâ hât mîn herre Marsilie
yea has my lord Marsile

thrîe sune ethele:
three sons noble:

râten iz thîne wîsen,
(if)-counsel it thy wise-ones,

nim er einen ze gîsel:
take of-them one as hostage:

thar zuo gebe ih then mînen.
there to give I the mine.

herre, thu ne scolt niht zwîvelen,
lord, thou — shalt not doubt,

man gît thir elliu thie kint,
one gives thee all the children,

thie under then vursten sint,
who among the princes are,

unze wir geleisten
until we perform

al thaz wir thir geheizen.»
all that we to-thee promise.»

Thô sprah ther wâre gotes thienestman:
Then spoke the true God's servant:

«welt er alsô volvaren,
«(if)-will you so fulfill,

sô muget er iuwere sêle wole wegen
so may you your souls well help

unde muget iemer vrôlîche leven.
and may ever joyfully live.

iuwer gote, thie ir ane betet,
your gods, whom you on pray,

Apollô unde Mahumet,
Apollo and Mahomet,

thie sint vile bôse.
they are very wicked.

upih ist ire gekôse.
vain is their talk.

thie tiuvele wonent thâ inne.
the devils dwell there in.

ir hôret ire stimme,
you hear their voice,

thie wâren ie lugenâre.
they were ever liars.

gelouvet ir ane then rehten heilâre,
(if)-believe you in the right savior,

ther iuh von nihte gescaffen hât,
who you from nothing created has,

sô wirthet iuwer guot rât.
so becomes your good counsel.

Marsilie hât vile wither mir getân.
Marsile has much against me done.

er hiez mir houbeten zwêne mîne man,
he bade to-me behead two my men,

thie ih zuo ime sande:
whom I to him sent:

thâ er mih mite scande.
there he me with disgraced.

alsô solte ih iu tuon.
so should I to-you do.

selve ther wâre gotes sune,
self the true God's son,

furste aller guote,
prince of-all good,

thurh sîne theumuote
for his humility

einen esel er zuo Jêrusalêm reit,
an ass he to Jerusalem rode,

tho er thie martire thurh uns leit;
when he the martyrdom for us suffered;

einen palmen vuorte er ane ther hant.
a palm bore he in the hand.

nu birt ir zuo mir gesant
now are you to me sent

unde vuoret thaz selve zeichen.
and bear the same sign.

mîneme zorne wil ih untwîchen.
my anger will I avoid.

thiu palme bezeinôt then sigenunpht.
the palm signifies the victory.

ôwî ob iz hernâh sô kumet
oh if it hereafter so comes

thaz Marsilie wirthet bekêret,
that Marsile becomes converted,

sô wirthet thiu cristenheit wole geêret.
so becomes the Christendom well honored.

sô waz er wither mir hât getân,
so what he against me has done,

thurh got sculet ir vrithe hân.
for God shall you peace have.

vart zuo iuweren herebergen,
fare to your lodgings,

nehavet ir neheine sorge:
have you no cares:

ih antwerte iu mit minnen.
I answer to-you with love.

got lâze iuh sîne hulde gewinnen.»
God let you his favor win.»

Under thiu wart ein michel scal.
During that was a great clamor.

thie heithenen wâfenten sih uber al.
the heathens armed themselves over all.

ûz there burh sie thrungen.
out-of the castle they pressed.

ire wîcliet sie sungen.
their battle-song they sang.

sie kêrten uber then burhgraben:
they turned over the castle-moat:

thâ wart michel nôt erhaben.
there was great distress raised.

thô vaht in mite zwâre
then fought them with truly

Thiepolt ther marhgrâve.
Theobald the margrave.

ze helfe kom ime Ansêis.
to help came to-him Anseis.

Otto unde Gergirs,
Otto and Gerier,

Gotefrit mit theme vanen,
Godfrey with the banner,

Îvô und Ingram,
Ivo and Ingram,

sluogen sie vaste withere.
struck them firmly back.

thie heithenen gelâgen thâ nithere,
the heathens lay there down,

thaz thie helethe guote
that the heroes good

wuoten in theme bluote.
waded in the blood.

thie heithenen werten in thaz phat.
the heathens defended to-them the path.

thâ wart maneh helm scart,
there was many-a helm notched,

maneh scilt verhouwen.
many-a shield hewn.

thâ muosen touwen
there must die

vile kuoner sciltgeverten
very bold shield-companions

tôt under then sverten.
dead under the swords.

thie heithenen vluhen zuo there burh.
the heathens fled to the castle.

vile enge wart in ther vurt.
very narrow became to-them the ford.

vile michel wart thaz gethranc.
very great became the throng.

manegen angestlîchen wanc
many-an anxious swerve

865 tâten thie heithen.
did the heathens.

thicke vielen thie veigen.
thickly fell the doomed-ones.

Under thiu kom ther helet Ruolant.
During that came the hero Roland.

er vuorte in sînere hant
he bore in his hand

einen goltgewundenen gêr.
a gold-wound spear.

870 thâ mite vrumete er
there with dispatched he

manegen zuo ther helle.
many-a-one to the hell.

Olivier sîn geselle
Oliver his comrade

then scilt warf er ze rucke.
the shield threw he to back.

er kêrte uber thie brucke.
he turned over the bridge.

875 si gewunnen leithe geste.
they won hateful guests.

thie ire burh veste
the their castle firm

wart in underthrungen.
was to-them pressed-under.

thaz burgetor si gewunnen.
the castle-gate they won.

thâ muosen sih gemiscen
there must themselves mingle

880 thie heithenen mit then cristen.
the heathens with the Christians.

sie riefen alle Monscoî.
they cried all Montjoie.

in thie burh thrungen sie.
into the castle pressed they.

Ruolant zuhtigete sie harte
Roland chastised them hard

mit theme guoten Durendarte,
with the good Durendart,

Olivier mit Alteclêre.
Oliver with Hauteclere.

thâr wart maneh helet vile sêre.
there was many-a hero very sore.

ire blicke wâren vreissam.
their glances were terrible.

mit sverten kolten sie thie man,
with swords killed they the men,

mit fiure kint unde wîb.
with fire child and woman.

thâ wart verendet ther strît.
there was ended the strife.

Charles asks his princes whether to accept Marsile's offer. Roland warns that it is a trick and that he has gold enough; Oliver urges Charles to finish the conquest; Turpin preaches of the laborers in the vineyard; Naimes pledges his Bavarians. The bishop John asks leave to preach the faith in Almaria, and the twelve say they would follow his counsel if the emperor allowed it. Then Ganelon rises and complains that the wise are passed over while Roland outshouts them all; he recalls Roland's rage against Naimes's Bavarians and tells Charles that the twelve counsel him ill, since the heathens offer baptism and their children as hostages.

Eines morgenes vruo
One morning early

ther keiser vorderôte thar zuo
the emperor summoned there to

biscove unde herzogen.
bishops and dukes.

vile maneh vurste ze hove kom.
very many-a prince to court came.

ther keiser in sînen wizzen
the emperor in his wisdom

thie fursten vor ime hiez sizzen.
the princes before him bade sit.

er sprah: «ôwole, ir fursten alle,
he spoke: «oh-well, you princes all,

nu vernemet wie iu thise rethe gevalle.
now hear how to-you this speech pleases.

ther heilige geist gebe iu then muot
the holy ghost give to-you the spirit

thaz ir thaz beste thar ane getuot.
that you the best there in do.

Marsilie mîn vîant
Marsile my enemy

hât sîne boten thâ here gesant.
has his messengers there hither sent.

er biutet cristenlîche ze lebene,
he offers Christianly to live,

vile goldes ze gebene,
much gold to give,

ze gîsele sînen sune.
as hostage his son.

nu râtet waz wer thar umbe tuon.
now counsel what we there about do.

nu râtet gotes êre.
now counsel God's honor.

jane suoche ih niht mêre
indeed seek I not more

wan thaz wir sô gethingen,
except that we so treat,

thaz wir gotes hulde gewinnen.»
that we God's favor win.»

Ûf spranc ther helet Ruolant.
Up sprang the hero Roland.

er sprah: «Marsilie hât thurh liste here gesant.
he spoke: «Marsile has through cunning hither sent.

er biutet grôzez gethinge:
he offers great treaty:

jâ mah man thâ gewinnen
yea may one there win

maneger rîcheite vile,
of-many-a riches much,

sô wer iz thâ nemeu wil.
so who it there take will.

jâ vurhte ih vile harte
yea fear I very hard

thaz ther alte mit theme barte
that the old-one with the beard

uns thâ mite beswîche.
us there with betray.

alsô wir in entwîchen,
as we from-them withdraw,

sô rihtent si ûf Mahmeten.
so set they up Mahomet.

si gewaltigent lant unde stete:
they master land and cities:

sô rîhsenôt Marsilie.
so reigns Marsile.

thiu cristenheit geliget nithere:
the Christendom lies down:

sô muge wer iemer wole klagen.
so may we ever well lament.

thaz wir lange ervohten haben,
what we long fought-for have,

thaz verwandelôt sih an einer wîle.
that changes itself in a while.

nu vernemet thie rethe mîne.
now hear the speech mine.

goldes hân ih genuoh.
of-gold have I enough.

tho ih mih aller êrest ûz huop,
when I me of-all first out raised,

thô opheret ih then lîb.
then offered I the life.

sô wenne nu kumet thaz cît,
so when now comes the time,

thaz ih then verwandelen scal,
that I it exchange shall,

so getrûwe ih gote vile wale,
so trust I God very well,

ob ih an sînem thieneste ersterbe,
if I in his service die,

thaz there sêle etelîh rât werthe.»
that to-the soul some help become.»

Olivier ther helet guot
Oliver the hero good

vure den keiser gestuot.
before the emperor stood.

er sprah: «getorste ih nu, herre,
he spoke: «should-dare I now, lord,

sô riete ih thir thîne êre.
so would-counsel I to-thee thy honor.

thu hâst gote wole gethienet:
thou hast God well served:

thiu cristenheit ist mit thir gecieret
the Christendom is with thee adorned

sam thaz thurhsotene golt.
like the refined gold.

ih sage thir, herre, wie thu nu tuon scolt.
I tell thee, lord, how thou now do shalt.

verende wole thîne arebeite.
end well thy labors.

lâ thîn here leiten
let thy host lead

allenthalben unz ane thaz mere.
on-all-sides until to the sea.

sî ieman ther thaz were,
(if)-be anyone who that should-resist,

then gerefsen wir harte
him chastise we hard

mit unseren guoten sverten.
with our good swords.

sie muozen einen wâren got erkennen.
they must a true God recognize.

heiz brechen unde brennen
bid break and burn

ire vile unreine betehûs.
their very unclean prayer-houses.

thie tiuvele muozen thar ûz
the devils must there out

uber allez Sarraguz.
over all Saragossa.

then ire guldînen vluz
the their golden cast

heiz sie selbe stôren
bid them themselves destroy

gote ze lobe und ze êren.
to-God to praise and to honors.

sô saget man niuwemâre,
so tells one new-tidings,

wie ther rômisce voget wâre
how the Roman lord were

ane Marsilien rîche.
in Marsile's realm.

thaz râte ih getrûwelîche.
that counsel I faithfully.

Blanscandîz ist ein nârâtiger man:
Blancandrin is a cunning man:

gewaltiget er withere Yspaniam,
(if)-masters he again Spain,

sone gesamenet sih there cristenheit êre
so gathers itself of-the Christendom honor

hinne vure niemer mêre,
hence forth never more,

thie wir nôtlîche haben gewunnen.
which we with-distress have won.

thie heithenen gehent wer sîn in entrunnen.»
the heathens say we are from-them escaped.»

Ûf stuont ther erzebiscof Turpîn.
Up stood the archbishop Turpin.

er sprah: «herre got, scephe mînem munde ein turlîn,
he spoke: «lord God, make for-my mouth a little-door,

thaz ih hiute sô gerethe
that I today so should-speak

alsô iz thîneme namen gezeme.
as it to-thy name befits.

ôwole, thu voget vone Rôme,
oh-well, thou lord of Rome,

jâ nîgent thîner krône
yea bow to-thy crown

alle cristine kuninge.
all Christian kings.

mir gevellet vile ubele,
to-me pleases very ill,

ther thes morgenes in then wîngarten gêt,
who in-the morning into the vineyard goes,

thaz er vor vespere ûz vert.
that he before vespers out fares.

ôwole, ir fursten ethele,
oh-well, you princes noble,

ir wâre gotes helethe,
you true God's heroes,

iuwer wîngarte ist wole gebûwet.
your vineyard is well tilled.

ir sculet wole getrûwen,
you shall well trust,

thaz iu ther himelisce wirt,
that to-you the heavenly master,

in thes namen ir hie birt,
in whose name you here are,

lône nâh iuwereme thinge
should-reward according-to your deed

mit eineme phenninge:
with a penny:

thaz ist thaz himelrîke.
that is the heaven-realm.

theist uns allen gemeinlîke
that-is for-us all in-common

ûf gestecket ze eineme zile:
up set as a goal:

thar loufet sô wer thâ wile.
there runs so who there will.

ist thiu gruntveste in gote erhaben,
is the foundation in God raised,

sô wil ih iu wârlîken sagen,
so will I to-you truly tell,

thaz uberzimber ne mah niht gewîken.
that superstructure — may not give-way.

uns nâhet thaz gotes rîke.
to-us nears the God's realm.

ne volge wir niht theme svarzen raben:
— follow we not the black raven:

thie muoz thie sete haven.
it must the custom have.

thâ mane ih iuh alle bî:
there exhort I you all by:

nemet thaz gruone olezwî
take the green olive-twig

mit there turteltûben.
with the turtledove.

vestenet iuweren gelouben;
fasten your faith;

thienet iuwereme scephâre.
serve your creator.

lât iu wesen ummâre
let to-you be indifferent

thie gebe Marsilien.
the gifts of-Marsile.

ervulte er thiz gebirge
should-fill he this mountain-range

vone rôteme golde,
with red gold,

ih neweiz waz iz mir scolde
I know-not what it to-me should

vure then êwigen lîb.
for the eternal life.

nu bethenket iuh in cît.
now bethink yourselves in time.

thaz verlîhe iu ther wâre gotes sune,
that grant to-you the true God's son,

qui regnat in eternum.»
who reigns in eternity.»

Naimes vane Beieren,
Naimes of Bavaria,

ther was there râtgeven eine,
he was of-the counselors one,

there aller hêresten in theme hove,
of-the of-all most-exalted in the court,

ein tugentlîh herzoge.
a virtuous duke.

thes leben was sô lobesam
whose life was so praiseworthy

so er theme keisere wole zam
as he to-the emperor well befitted

zuo allen sînen êren.
to all his honors.

er sprah zuo then herren:
he spoke to the lords:

«tho ih mih vone Beieren huop,
«when I me from Bavaria raised,

thô vuorte ih manegen helet guot.
then led I many-a hero good.

tho erwelete ih vier tûsent mîner manne:
then chose I four thousand of-my men:

thie ne sint noh erslagen noh gevangen.
they — are neither slain nor captured.

sie sint guote knehte:
they are good knights:

zuo there martere vindet man sie gerehte.
to the martyrdom finds one them ready.

verhenget is uns mîn drehtîn,
(if)-grants it us my Lord,

sô scult ir vile gewis sîn
so shall you very certain be

thaz wer iu niemer ne geswîken
that we to-you never — fail

noh ze neheiner nôte untwîken.
nor in no distress withdraw.

ih ne ruoche umbe ire rethe.
I not care about their speech.

waz mâre ist mer Marsilien gebe?
what important is to-me Marsile's gift?

wer sculen in thaz ire lant.
we shall into the their land.

wer gefrumen bluotigen rant:
we make bloody rim:

wer sculen volherten
we shall persevere

mit then unsen guoten swerten.
with the our good swords.

ih werthe gerne ellende.
I become gladly exiled.

ane thes meres ende
at the sea's end

wer sculen Mahmeten vertrîben
we shall Mahomet drive-out

unde alle thie mit ime belîven,
and all who with him remain,

Apollen sînen gesellen.
Apollo his comrade.

thie sih ze gote gehaben wellen, 1040
who themselves to God hold will,

thie untphâ wir mit grôzen êren,
them receive we with great honors,

gevalle iz mîneme herren.
(if)-pleases it my lord.

in sînen genâthen stât
in his graces stands

beithiu wîstuom unde rât
both wisdom and counsel

ze lîbe unde ze sêle. 1045
for body and for soul.

sîn gebot ervulle ih iemer gerne.»
his command fulfill I ever gladly.»

Ther keiser geswîhte vile stille:
The emperor was-silent very still:

er marhte ire iegelîches willen.
he marked of-them each's will.

getruobet was thaz sîn gemuote:
troubled was the his spirit:

iethoh vertruogen iz sîne michele guote, 1050
yet bore it his great goodness,

thaz er sih is niht erzeigete.
that he himself of-it not showed.

thaz houbet er nither neigete,
the head he down bowed,

thaz sîn nieman innen ne wart.
that of-him no-one aware — became.

einer stille er thô bat,
a stillness he then asked,

ther biscof sante Jôhannes.
the bishop saint John.

ze theme keisere gerte er urloubes
of the emperor desired he leave

unde zuo allen then herren,
and of all the lords,

thie in theme hove wâren.
who in the court were.

er sprah: «wâre iz in mînes herren willen
he spoke: «were it in my lord's will

(ûf sîne genâthe wil ih thingen),
(upon his grace will I trust),

sô wolte ih uber Valkart
so would I over Valkart

zuo Almarîe in thie stat
to Almaria into the city

kunden thaz gotes wort.
proclaim the God's word.

ih ne vurhte neheinen ire tôt.
I — fear no their death.

wolde got unde wâre ih thes wert,
would God and were I of-it worthy,

thaz mih viur other swert
that me fire or sword

gelûterete ane theme lîbe,
should-purify on the body,

sô wâre ih âne zwîvel
so were I without doubt

thaz mîn got ruohte.»
that my God cared.»

sîne venige er suohte
his prostrations he sought

zuo thes keiseres vuozen.
at the emperor's feet.

«ih wile gerne», sprah er, «buozen
«I will gladly», spoke he, «atone

sô waz ih wither got hân getân.
so what I against God have done.

ih huop mih ûz in gotes namen:
I raised me out in God's name:

ih ne wile thie vureh niht krump machen,
I — will the furrow not crooked make,

mahte ih gotes thienestes iht gescaphen,
might I of-God's service anything accomplish,

then tiuvel gescenden.
the devil disgrace.

ire mûle und ire olbenten
their mules and their camels

ne ruoche ih niht mêre
— care I not more

wither there armen sêle.
against the poor soul.

thie heithenen bietent gewisse
the heathens offer surely

zuo sante Michahêlis misse
at saint Michael's mass

sô wellen sie sih toufen.
so will they themselves baptize.

thes ne scal in nieman gelouben.
of-that — shall them no-one believe.

thiu toufe ist thaz aller hêrist:
the baptism is the of-all highest:

thaz scolte sîn ther aller êrist.
that should be the of-all first.

thaz scolte mîn herre ane sehen
that should my lord on look

unde scolde ordinen ire leven:
and should order their life:

sô wuosse thiu gotes lêre.»
so would-grow the God's teaching.»

thô sprâchen thie zwelef herren,
then spoke the twelve lords,

wâre iz in thes keiseres hulden,
were it in the emperor's favor,

thes râtes wolten sie gerne volgen.
the counsel would they gladly follow.

Genelûn ûf spranc.
Ganelon up sprang.

er sprah: «thie vursten haben alle unthanc
he spoke: «the princes have all no-thanks

thaz si ethele unde wîse sint,
that they noble and wise are,

wie man thie tumbesten vernimet.
how one the most-foolish hears.

thie sint nu ze hove râtgeven:
they are now at court counselors:

thie wîsen lât man alle under wegen.
the wise-ones leaves one all by-the wayside.

thie in wole tohten
who to-them well were-fit

ze râte und ze vehten,
for counsel and for fighting,

thie sint nu gare verkoren.
they are now wholly rejected.

ware ist nu komen
where is now come

thiu manehvalte wîsheit?
the manifold wisdom?

thînen vursten ist iz allen leit
to-thy princes is it all sorrow

thaz thu in thînen grôzen wizzen
that thou in thy great wits

unsih alle lâst sizzen.
us all lettest sit.

iz gêt uns ane thie êre.
it goes to-us at the honor.

nune zemet niht, lieber herre:
now befits not, dear lord:

thîn neve Ruolant
thy nephew Roland

uberruofet uns alle samt.
out-shouts us all together.

Naimes vone Beieren
Naimes of Bavaria

ther kan in wole ze wege zeigen.
he can to-him well the way show.

thô wir zuo theme burgetore thrungen,
when we to the castle-gate pressed,

thô heten sie thie burh gewunnen.
then had they the castle won.

thaz zurnete Ruolant,
that angered Roland,

thaz er thie Beiere thâ vore ime vant,
that he the Bavarians there before him found,

helethe ûz erkorne.
heroes out chosen.

man sah sie ie thâ vorne,
one saw them ever there in-front,

sô waz uns here noh gescah.
so what to-us here yet happened.

thâ man sluoh unde stah,
where one struck and stabbed,

thâ wâren ie thie rekken
there were ever the warriors

mit ire scarpen ekken
with their sharp edges

so iz guoten knehten wole gezam.
as it good knights well befitted.

thar umbe wolt er sie erslân,
there for would he them slay,

ne wâre iz niht undervaren.
— were it not prevented.

thie getorsten ime wole gestaten:
they dared to-him well permit:

thie Beiere wâren sîne gaten.
the Bavarians were his companions.

nu strebet er uber den Valkart:
now strives he over the Valkart:

mennisken bluotes ne wart er nie sat
of-human blood — became he never sated

unde andere sîne gesellen.
and other his comrades.

war ane versuochent sie ire ellen?
where on try they their courage?

heven sih ane thie heithenen!
raise themselves at the heathens!

thie ne wile ih niemer geleithegen,
them — will I never harm,

wande sie an got gehent
for they in God confess

unde there toufe vlîzihlîchen gerent
and of-the baptism diligently desire

unde there kristenheite gehôrsam sint:
and to-the Christendom obedient are:

ze gîsel bietent si ire kint.
as hostage offer they their children.

Ruolant zestôret thir alle thîne êre:
Roland destroys to-thee all thy honor:

thie zweleve râtent thir vile ubele, herre.»
the twelve counsel to-thee very ill, lord.»

VI · GANELON NAMED ENVOY

Roland recalls the fifteen counts who once came from Marsile and the two envoys Marsile beheaded. Charles bids the princes take counsel; on a green hill they set aside Ganelon's counsel and agree with Turpin that an envoy must learn Marsile's mind. Roland, Oliver, and Turpin each offer to go and are refused. Roland names his stepfather Ganelon, and the princes approve. Ganelon pales, accuses Roland of wanting his death and his inheritance, recalls that his son Baldwin is Roland's brother, and laments that he must die in exile.

Ûf spranc ther helet Ruolant.
Up sprang the hero Roland.

er sprah: «Marsilie hâte ouh ê here gesant
he spoke: «Marsile had also before hither sent

vunfzehen grâven,
fifteen counts,

thie there toufe alle jâhen.
who of-the baptism all confessed.

sie swuoren manegere slahte gebe,
they swore of-many-a kind gifts,

thie noh hiute sint under wegen.
which yet today are by-the wayside.

thare withere sante mîn herre
there against sent my lord

sîner manne zwêne:
of-his men two:

Marsilie hiez in thie houbete ave slahen.
Marsile bade to-them the heads off strike.

sô wer nu golt welle haben,
so who now gold will have,
thie untphâe iz thar ubere.
he receive it there over.
ther rât gevellet mir ubele.
the counsel pleases to-me ill.
man nimet iz âne gotes êre
one takes it without God's honor
unde geriuwet uns alle hernâh sêre.»
and rues us all hereafter sorely.»

Ther keiser zurnete harte.
The emperor raged hard.
mit gestreichetem barte,
with stroked beard,
mit ûf gewundenen granen,
with up wound mustaches,
hiez er thie phaht vure tragen.
bade he the law before carry.
«ir stêt mit unzuhten:
«you stand with ill-breeding:
thaz wil ih», sprah er, «rihten,
that will I», spoke he, «judge,
wirthet is iuweht mêre.
(if)-becomes of-it anything more.
tuot iz thurh gotes êre
do it for God's honor
unde gesamenet iuh einer rethe,
and gather you to-one speech,
ther uns thie heilige geist gebe,
which us the holy ghost give,
thaz wir thes besten râmen.»
that we of-the best aim.»
sie sprâchen alle âmen.
they spoke all amen.

Thie Franken gesamenôten sih thrâte.
The Franks gathered themselves quickly.

mit gemeineme râte
with common counsel

giengen sie ûf einen buhel gruone.
went they upon a hill green.

ther sunne scein vile scône.
the sun shone very fairly.

sie rieten al umbe
they counseled all around

ir iegelîh besunder.
of-them each apart.

thâ riet mannegelîh
there counseled every-man

mit grôzen sorgen vure sih
with great cares for himself

thaz in thûhte thaz beste.
what to-them seemed the best.

si besanden thie geste.
they sent-for the guests.

zuo theme râte thô kom
to the council then came

vone Beieren thie herzoge,
of Bavaria the duke,

Oigier vone Denemarke,
Ogier of Denmark,

Thierrich ther starke,
Thierry the strong,

Wido vone Waskonie,
Wido of Gascony,

Ivo vone Albonie,
Ivo of Albonie,

Gotefrit vone Aiûne,
Godfrey of Anjou,

Ritscart vone Tortûne,
Richard of Tortune,

Thiebalt vone Rêmis,
Theobald of Reims,

Heinrich vone Garmes,
Henry of Garmes,

Turpîn vone Raines,
Turpin of Reims,

Milûn vone Ascalbaies,
Milun of Ascalbaies,

Olivier unde Ruolant
Oliver and Roland

unde Walthere ther wîgant,
and Walter the fighter,

Gergers unde Gergîs
Gerier and Gerin

unde ther mâre Ansêîs.
and the famous Anseis.

Ansgîr was thâ,
Ansgir was there,

Reimunt vone Britanniâ.
Reimunt of Brittany.

Genelûn stuont in almitten:
Ganelon stood in all-midst:

thie vursten begonde er bitten.
the princes began he to-beg.

«wole, ir ethele herren,
«well, you noble lords,

ir tuot iz gote ze êren,
you do it to-God for honors,

uobet iuwer wîsheit,
practice your wisdom,

gethenket ane thie langen arebeit.
think on the long hardship.

râtet alle thâ zuo,
counsel all there to,

thaz mîn herre einwether tuo,
that my lord one-of-two should-do,

neme there heithenen gethinge,
should-take the heathens' treaty,

vrume thie boten hinnen
should-send the messengers hence

so iz there cristenheit gezeme,
as it the Christendom befits,

ne versmâhe niht ire gebe,
— despise not their gifts,

neme thie gîsel ze hant
should-take the hostages at once

unde besezze thaz lant;
and should-occupy the land;

behuote sîne burge,
should-guard his castles,

ne have neheine sorge,
— have no care,

thaz er sie gewarlîche vinde.
that he them safely should-find.

Nables unde Morinde,
Nables and Morinde,

Valterne unde Pîne,
Valterne and Pine,

thâ beiten thie sîne.
there wait the his.

lâze uns ze thisen zîten
let us in these times

zuo unsen kinden rîten.
to our children ride.

versûme sih Marsilie,
(if)-delays himself Marsile,

sô heve wer uns here withere,
so raise we ourselves hither back,

zestôren al ire kraft:
destroy all their might:

sone muot uns thiu heithenscaft
so troubles us the heathendom

hinnen vure niht mêre.
hence forth not more.

thaz râte ih mînem herren.»
that counsel I to-my lord.»

Thô sprah ther biscof Turpîn:
Then spoke the bishop Turpin:

«thie rethe verbiete selbe mîn drehtîn:
«the speech forbid himself my Lord:

sô vuore wir âne ende.
so would-fare we without end.

mîn herre scal thare senden,
my lord shall thither send,

waz thie heithenen wellen tuon:
what the heathens will do:

unde râtet alle thare zuo.
and counsel all there to.

ir kieset iu einen wîsen man,
you choose for-you a wise man,

thie uns withere kunne gesagen
who us back can tell

Marsilien gemuote.
Marsile's mind.

ih ne getrûwe ime neheiner guote.
I — trust to-him of-no goodness.

wil er werthen cristen,
will he become Christian,

thaz versuoche wir mit listen.
that try we with cunning.

wer muozen in sô versâzen,
we must him so besiege,

ê wir in vrî lâzen,
before we him free let,

thaz wir niene zwîvelen mêre.
that we not-at-all doubt more.

thaz râte ih mînem herren.»
that counsel I to-my lord.»

alle thie thie rethe vernâmen,
all who the speech heard,

herzogen unde grâven,
dukes and counts,

sie sprâchen, iz wâre thaz aller beste.
they spoke, it were the of-all best.

thô kêrten thie nôtvesten
then turned the stalwarts

withere zuo thes keiseres gesithele.
back to the emperor's seat.

sie lehten alle nithere
they laid all down

then rât Genelûnes.
the counsel of-Ganelon.

thannen bekorten sie sint alle thes dôthes.
thence tasted they afterward all of-the death.

Thie vursten bâten alle
The princes begged all

then biscof sante Jôhannen,
the bishop saint John,

thaz er ze hove wâre
that he at court should-be

ire vorerethenâre.
their spokesman.

wole wessen sie thaz,
well knew they that,

thaz er theme keisere liep was.
that he to-the emperor dear was.

er linete uber sîne krukken
he leaned over his crutches

mit sînen grâwen lokken.
with his gray locks.

er sprah: «gruntveste there kristenheit,
he spoke: «foundation of-the Christendom,

houbet unser arebeit,
head of-our labor,

bluot thes heiligen gelouven,
blossom of-the holy faith,

nu scalt thu mir erlouben
now shalt thou me allow

in thînere michelen suoze
in thy great sweetness

thaz ih rethen muoze
that I speak may

thaz mir thîne vursten geboten hânt,
what to-me thy princes bidden have,

alsô sie hie vore thir stânt.»
as they here before thee stand.»

Ther keiser an sînen wizzen
The emperor in his wisdom

thie vursten hiez er sizzen.
the princes bade he sit.

then biscof er ane sah;
the bishop he on looked;

thaz wort er smielende sprah:
the word he smiling spoke:

«sie mahten einen starkeren man
«they might a stronger man

thar zuo wole erwelet hân.
there to well chosen have.

ir havet luzele gerastet
you have little rested

mit venie joh mit vasten,
with prostration and with fasting,

mit anderen guoten werken
with other good works

(thâ muoze iuh got ane gesterken):
(there may you God on strengthen):

ir scult haven ruowe.
you shall have rest.

gêt zuo iuwereme stuole:
go to your seat:

alse er gesizzet thanne,
when you sit then,

sô rethet al thaz iu gevalle.»
so speak all that to-you pleases.»

Thô rethete ther biscof
Then spoke the bishop

thaz hôrte aller ther hof.
that heard all the court.

er sprah: «kuninge unde herzogen
he spoke: «kings and dukes

sint mit râte zesamene komen,
are with counsel together come,

biscove unde grâven,
bishops and counts,

thie in theme râte wâren,
who in the council were,

thu vrumest thie boten hinnen;
thou sendest the messengers hence;

unde wile Marsilie thingen,
and (if)-will Marsile treat,

sô sende thînen boten thare,
so send thy messenger thither,

thie uns rehte ervare
who for-us rightly should-learn

waz thie heithenen wellen tuon.
what the heathens will do.

selve sih ouh thu thar zuo;
thyself see also thou there to;

wele thir ûz in allen
choose for-thee out-of them all

ther thir beste gevalle,
who to-thee best should-please,

ther thurh sîne guote
who for his goodness

thaz rîche behuote.
the realm should-guard.

er betharf grôzer wîsheit.
he needs great wisdom.

mîn rethe ne scal niemanne wesen leit.
my speech — shall to-no-one be sorrow.

sô wen mîn herre sendet,
so whom my lord sends,

ist thaz er thaz wole verendet,
(if)-is that he that well ends,

sô lônet ime mîn herre
so rewards to-him my lord

unde thienent iz thie vursten alle gerne.»
and serve it the princes all gladly.»

Ûf spranc Ruolant;
Up sprang Roland;

vaste er thare vure thranc.
firmly he there forward pressed.

er sprah: «nu sende mih thare.
he spoke: «now send me thither.

mîn ouge ist alsô geware,
my eye is so watchful,

sine mugen mih niht betriegen.
they may me not deceive.

wellent sie uns liegen,
(if)-will they us lie-to,

sine hilfet nehein ire list,
to-them helps no their cunning,

ih ne sage thir al thaz thar ane ist.» 1305
I unless tell thee all that there in is.»

ther keiser winhte mit there hant:
the emperor waved with the hand:

«swîh thu, neve Ruolant.
«be-silent thou, nephew Roland.

thes nehave neheinen thanc,
of-that have no thanks,

ihne gesende thih thar jârlanc.»
I-not send thee there this-year.»

Ûf spranc Olivier. 1310
Up sprang Oliver.

er sprah: «herre, nu erloube thuz mir.
he spoke: «lord, now allow thou-it me.

ih werve thîne botescaf,
I carry-out thy embassy,

sô ih aller beste mah,
as I of-all best may,

thurh thes rîkes êre.
for the realm's honor.

ê ih withere kêre, 1315
before I back turn,

wil thu mir is getrûwen,
(if)-wilt thou to-me of-it trust,

sô wie inner sie rûnen,
so how among-them they whisper,

alles ire willen
of-all their will

werthe ih sciere innen.»
become I quickly aware.»

ther keiser sprah: «Olivier,
the emperor spoke: «Oliver,

vile wole getrûwe ih thir.
very well trust I thee.

nu have michelen thanc.
now have great thanks.

siz withere an thîne banc.
sit-thou back on thy bench.

thu bist mir ze allen êren vile lieb:
thou art to-me for all honors very dear:

ze boten ne wile ih thîn niet.
as messenger — will I of-thee not.

thu bist ze gâhe mit there rethe,
thou art too hasty with the speech,

unde Ruolant mîn neve,
and Roland my nephew,

mit zornlîchen worten.
with wrathful words.

thaz ist mir ze vorhten:
that is to-me for fears:

sie stôrent grôze êre.
they destroy great honor.

ne gewahene there rethe niht mêre.»
— mention of-the speech not more.»

Ûf stuont Turpîn.
Up stood Turpin.

er sprah: «herre, nu lâ mih then boten sîn.
he spoke: «lord, now let me the messenger be.

mit thes heiligen geistes gebe,
with the holy ghost's gift,

wie obe ih etewaz thâ gerethe?
what if I something there should-speak?

ih sage in thie prophêten,
I tell them the prophets,

thaz si uns vone gote lêrten.
what they us from God taught.

ih kunde in then heiligen Crist
I proclaimed to-them the holy Christ

(herre, wie ob iz nuzze ist?),
(lord, what if it useful is?),

thaz heilige êwangelium.
the holy gospel.

wie mahtu iemer baz getuon?
how mightst-thou ever better do?

ist ieman thie sie lêrte,
is anyone who them should-teach,

waz obe sie sih bekêrten?
what if they themselves converted?

sô kan ih thir then ende iethoh wole gesagen,
so can I thee the end yet well tell,

wie thu thih, herre, scalt bewaren.
how thou thee, lord, shalt guard.

thie Franken havent michel arebeit erliden,
the Franks have great hardship suffered,

mit then heithenen gestriden.
with the heathens striven.

sie sint lange muothe:
they are long weary:

lâ sie mit ruowe.
let them with rest.

gebiutest thu iz, herre,
(if)-commandest thou it, lord,

sô vare ih vile gerne
so fare I very gladly

unde versuoche iz thir mit theme vlîze
and try it for-thee with the diligence

thaz mirz nieman ne mah verwîzen.»
that me-it no-one — may reproach.»

Ther keiser antwerte ime mit minnen:
The emperor answered to-him with love:

«wan ne lâzestu thie Karlinge
«why not lettest-thou the Carolingians

handelen ire sache,
handle their matters,

unde leve thu mit gemache.
and live thou with ease.

waz hâstu thâ mite ze tuonde?
what hast-thou there with to do?

ganc zuo thîneme stuole,
go to thy seat,

hôre iz alsô ein ander man:
hear it as an other man:

ihne heize thih ane then rât gân.
I-not bid thee into the council go.

ne gewahene is niht mêre, Turpîn,
— mention of-it not more, Turpin,

alsô liep sô thir mîne hulde sîn.»
as dear as to-thee my favor are.»

Ûf spranc der helet Ruolant.
Up sprang the hero Roland.

er sprah: «gevellet iz then vursten allen samt
he spoke: «(if)-pleases it to-the princes all together

unde wile is mîn herre gestaten,
and will it my lord permit,

so ist Genelûn mîn stiefvater
so is Ganelon my stepfather

ther aller tiuristen boten einer,
of-the of-all most-precious messengers one,

then ih in theme rîche kan gezeigen.
whom I in the realm can show.

er ist wîse unde kuone,
he is wise and bold,

rethehaft genuoge.
eloquent enough.

er ist ein helet lussam.
he is a hero lovely.

wâ vunde man nu theheinen man,
where would-find one now any man,

ther theme rîche baz zâme?
who to-the realm better should-befit?

er ist ein vurste alsô mâre,
he is a prince so famous,

man ne scal in is niht erlâzen.»
one — shall him of-it not release.»

thie vursten, alsô sie sâzen,
the princes, as they sat,

vestenden alle under in,
confirmed all among them,

iz nemahte nieman sô wole sîn;
it might no-one so well be;

er gezâme wole theme rômisceme vogete
he would-befit well to-the Roman lord

sô ware er in senden wolte.
so where he him send would.

Genelûn erbleichete harte.
Ganelon paled hard.

hine ze Ruolante er warte.
thither to Roland he looked.

er sprah: «nu hât mih ther herre Ruolant
he spoke: «now has me the lord Roland

ûz thiseme rîke versant,
out-of this realm sent-away,

thaz ih under then heithenen ersterbe
that I among the heathens should-die

unde imo thaz erbe allez werthe.
and to-him the inheritance all should-come.

oh unde wê scê thir!
oh and woe befall thee!

waz wîzestu mir?
what blamest-thou me?

mit bôsen geisten bistu gemuot.
with wicked spirits art-thou minded.

nu ist iz aller êrist her ûz erbluot
now is it of-all first here out blossomed

thaz thu mir ie riete ane then lîb.
that thou me ever counseledst against the life.

thîn muoter ist mîn wîb:
thy mother is my woman:

mîn sune Paldewîn
my son Baldwin

scolde thîn bruother sîn.
should thy brother be.

vergezzen hâst thu there trûwen.
forgotten hast thou of-the faith.

iz scal oh thih vile sêre gerûwen,
it shall also thee very sorely rue,

scal ih mînen lîb hân,
(if)-shall I my life have,

thes thu nu zuo mir hâst getân:
what thou now to me hast done:

iz wirthet thir vile svâre.
it becomes to-thee very heavy.

thu gehôrest niuwemâre.
thou bearest new-tidings.

thes gât mih michel nôt:
of-that goes-to me great distress:

in theme ellende lige ih ungerne tôt.»
in the exile lie I unwillingly dead.»

VII · GANELON DEPARTS

Charles bids Ganelon take the embassy, and the glove falls from his hand as Charles gives it him, an evil sign. Ganelon begs for his wife and son and casts down his cloak. Roland answers that he wants nothing of Ganelon's. Charles gives him his seal and sends the message that Marsile may hold half Spain if baptized. Ganelon arms in splendor, girds the sword Mulagir, and commends his son Baldwin and his wife to his weeping men before riding to the heathens.

Karl ther rîche
Charles the rich

ther manete in gezogenlîche:
he admonished him courteously:

«Genelûn ther geswige mîn,
«Ganelon the brother-in-law mine,

lâ thise unrethe sîn.
let this ill-speech be.

thu bist ein wîse herre:
thou art a wise lord:

nune zurne niht sô sêre.
now rage not so sorely.

genc here nâher
go hither nearer

mîne botescaf entphâhen.
my embassy to-receive.

vare vrôlîche hinnen,
fare joyfully hence,

handele iz mit sinnen.
handle it with wits.

erwervestu theme rîke theheine êre,
(if)-winnest-thou for-the realm any honor,

al thîn kunne vrowet sihs iemer mêre.»
all thy kin rejoices itself-of-it ever more.»

Genelûn werete sih genuoh.
Ganelon defended himself enough.

ther keiser bôt ime ie then hantscuoh.
the emperor offered to-him ever the glove.

er tete thie wulvîne blikke;
he made the wolfish glances;

er rief vile thikke:
he cried very often:

«thiz hât Ruolant getân!
«this has Roland done!

ubele muoze iz ime ergân
ill may it to-him go

unde sînen zwelef gesellen!
and his twelve comrades!

nu havent sie allen ire willen.»
now have they all their will.»

Ther keiser ime aver zuo sprah.
The emperor to-him again to spoke.

«ne have nehein ungemah.
— have no discomfort.

vane grôzeme rehte bistu mir liep.
of great right art-thou to-me dear.

thurh Ruolanten neverestu niet.
for Roland farest-thou not.

thiu botescaf ist mîn.
the embassy is mine.

nu lâ thîn ungebâre sîn.»
now let thy ill-behavior be.»

then hantscuoh er ime ave reihte.
the glove he to-him again reached.

Genelûn erbleihte:
Ganelon paled:

er wart vile ubele gevare.
he became very ill colored.

thie vursten warten alle thare.
the princes watched all there.

ther keiser bevalh ime sînen stap:
the emperor entrusted to-him his staff:

alsô er ime then hantscuoh gaf,
as he to-him the glove gave,

er liez in nither vallen.
he let it down fall.

thaz misseviel in allen,
that displeased them all,

thaz mann ime thikke muose reichen.
that one to-him often must reach.

sie sprâchen, iz wâre ein ubel zeichen
they spoke, it were an evil sign

thaz ime ze aller êriste missegienge
that to-him at of-all first went-amiss

unde thes keiseres botescaf unwirdehlîche untphienge.
and the emperor's embassy unworthily received.

Genelûn viel theme keisere ze vuozen.
Ganelon fell to-the emperor at feet.

«herre», sprah er, «mahte ih noh geniezen,
«lord», spoke he, «might I yet enjoy,

thîn swester ist mîn wîf.
thy sister is my woman.

unde verliese ih then lîf,
and (if)-lose I the life,

sô nimet Ruolant
so takes Roland

al mîn erve zuo sîner hant:
all my inheritance into his hand:

er verstôzet thîner swester sune.
he casts-out thy sister's son.

waz mahte ein wîf wither ime getuon?
what might a woman against him do?

sô muoz ther luzele Baldewîn
so must the little Baldwin

iemer mêre weise sin.
ever more orphan be.

thu ne gesehes mih niemer mêre.»
thou — seest me never more.»

then mantel warf er ûf thie erthe.
the cloak threw he upon the earth.

«Pasanzi unde Basilie
«Basanz and Basile

thie nekômen noh niht withere:
they came yet not back:

then hiez er thie houvete ave slahen.
to-them bade he the heads off strike.

ih muoz in den wissen tôt varen.»
I must into the certain death fare.»

er begonde sêre weinen.
he began sorely to-weep.

«jâ muoz ih ouh», sprah er, «sceithen
«yea must I also», spoke he, «part

vone theme aller scônesten wîbe,
from the of-all fairest woman,

thie ie thehein man wan ze sîneme lîbe.
whom ever any man won to his life.

Ruolant hât harte missevaren:
Roland has very ill-fared:

er zestôret alle Yspaniam.
he destroys all Spain.

iz kumet noh thiu stunde,
it comes yet the hour,

unde lât mih got gesunden,
and (if)-lets me God sound,

sie gerûwet ther rât,
them rues the counsel,

then si uber mih gefrumet hânt.»
which they over me furthered have.»

Ruolant sprah thô:
Roland spoke then:

«ih nevurhte neheine thrô.
«I fear no threat.

tâte mîner rethe ieman theheine ware,
should-take of-my speech anyone any heed,

ih vuore ienoh vure iuh thare.
I would-fare yet for you thither.

mit then wîsen scal man râten,
with the wise shall one counsel,

mit then tumben vehten.
with the foolish fight.

iuwer wîstuom hât iz getân.
your wisdom has it done.

er nethurfet neheinen angest hân:
he needs no fear have:

mir ist mîn bruother Baldewîn sô lief,
to-me is my brother Baldwin so dear,

sînes erves negere ih niet.
of-his inheritance desire I not.

mîner muoter lieven
my mother dear

scal ih gerne thienen.
shall I gladly serve.

ih neplege niet untrûwen.
I practice not faithlessness.

sô mahte then keiser rûwen
so might the emperor rue

thaz er mih gezogen hât
that he me reared has

unde nimet mih thikke an sînen rât:
and takes me often into his counsel:

thaz ime niht ne zâme,
that to-him not — would-befit,

ob ih wâre ein roubâre.»
if I were a robber.»

Karl ther rîke
Charles the rich

sprah gezogenlîke:
spoke courteously:

«ir irret iz allen thisen tah,
«you hinder it all this day,

thaz ih vore unzuhte ne mah
that I for ill-breeding not may

thes rîkes êre ze vrumene:
the realm's honor to further:

thaz zimet vursten ubele.
that befits princes ill.

ih warne iuh thâ bî,
I warn you there by,

alsô lief iu mîne hulde sîn,
as dear to-you my favor are,

sone sûmet uns niht mêre
so delay us not more

unde ne irret thes rîkes êre.»
and not hinder the realm's honor.»

er sprah zuo Genelûne:
he spoke to Ganelon:

«bethenke thih, helet tiure:
«bethink thyself, hero precious:

zorn ne ist nehein guot.
anger — is no good.

nim withere mannes muot:
take back man's spirit:

ne have nehein angest
— have no fear

thie wîle thu mih levende wêst.
the while thou me living knowest.

nim thiz insigele,
take this seal,

brinc iz Marsilie,
bring it to-Marsile,

mit guldînen buohstaven.
with golden letters.

thu maht ime zewâre sagen,
thou mayst to-him truly say,

wil er got êren,
(if)-will he God honor,

zuo there kristenheit kêren,
to the Christendom turn,

ich lîe ime half Yspaniam,
I lend to-him half Spain,

werthet er theme rîche undertân,
(if)-becomes he to-the realm subject,

Ruolande thaz ander teil:
to-Roland the other part:

sô gebe in got sâlde unde heil.
so give them God blessing and weal.

alsô wes mîn zunge und mîn munt
so be my tongue and my mouth

unde gestâtege iz an there stunt
and confirm it at the hour

mit gîselen unde mit gebe.
with hostages and with gift.

sî thaz er thâ withere iet rede,
(if)-be that he there against anything speak,

thurh thes rîkes êre
for the realm's honor

tuo alsô ih thih lêre:
do as I thee teach:

sage Marsilie,
tell Marsile,

ih ne kêre niemer withere,
I — turn never back,

ê ih Sarraguz zestôre
before I Saragossa destroy

unde in gebunden vuore
and him bound lead

ûf eineme esele hine ze Âche:
upon an ass thither to Aachen:

thâ nime ih thie râche,
there take I the vengeance,

thaz houvet heize ih ime ave slahen.
the head bid I to-him off strike.

sô wetherhalf sô er sih welle haben,
so whichever-side so he himself will hold,

thes maht thu sciere innen werthen.
of-that mayst thou quickly aware become.

got lâze thih sîne hulde erwerven.
God let thee his favor win.

in gote thu vare.
in God thou fare.

nim vile wole ware.
take very well heed.

nu behuote thih thiu gotes craft
now guard thee the God's might

unde helfe uns alliu himelisce hêrscaft,
and help us all heavenly host,

thaz wir got thâ gêren
that we God there honor

unde thie cristenheit gemêren.
and the Christendom increase.

liever geswige mîn,
dear brother-in-law mine,

ther heilige engel muoze thîn geverte sîn
the holy angel may thy companion be

unde leite thih here withere gesunt.»
and lead thee hither back sound.»

ther keiser kuste in sâ zestunt.
the emperor kissed him at-once in-the-hour.

Thô sih thie herren sciethen,
When themselves the lords parted,

thie trehene thikke vielen
the tears thickly fell

vone Genelûne.
from Ganelon.

thaz wort sprah er kûme.
the word spoke he scarcely.

thâ wart michel wuofen,
there was great wailing,

weinen unde ruofen.
weeping and crying.

siven hunderet sîner manne
seven hundred of-his men

thie wâren gerehte alle
they were ready all

ze thienen ire herren,
to serve their lord,

of sie bî ime scolden ersterven.
if they by him should die.

jâ wâren thie herren alle
yea were the lords all

mit phellele wole behangen,
with brocade well hung,

mit golde joh mit perelen.
with gold and with pearls.

gesteine thie vile ethelen
gems the very noble

lûhten sam thie sterren wither âbant,
shone like the stars toward evening,

ther jaspis unde ther jâchant,
the jasper and the jacinth,

smaragde thie gruonen,
emeralds the green,

topazien thie scônen,
topazes the fair,

onichilus unde sardîn:
onyx and sardine:

wie mahte thâ wunnehlîcher sîn?
how might there more-delightful be?

in lûhten thâ ovene
on-them shone there above

crisolite und calcedonie,
chrysolites and chalcedonies,

berille thie besten
beryls the best

und thie guoten ametisten,
and the good amethysts,

sardonix unde sardius.
sardonyx and sardius.

thie herren retheten alsus,
the lords spoke thus,

thaz thie boten wole zâmen
that the messengers well befitted

Karle theme mâren,
Charles the famous,

theme rômiscen vogete.
the Roman lord.

sîne hêrscaf sie wole loveten.
his lordship they well praised.

Ther herzoge Genelûn lehte ane sih
The duke Ganelon laid on himself

einen roch harte zierlîh
a coat very splendid

vone guotem cyclâde
of good ciclatoun

mit golde vile wâhe,
with gold very costly,

gesmelzet thar under
enameled there under

thiu tier al besunder.
the beasts all apart.

thâ woneten liehte vogele
there dwelt bright birds

undene unde ovene
below and above

scinen sam ther liehte tah.
shine as the bright day.

umbe sînen hals lah
about his neck lay

ein bouh vile wâhe,
a ring very costly,

thaz werh was seltsâne,
the work was strange,

1580 ûzer golde und ûzer gimme.
out-of gold and out-of gem.

then sante ime ze minnen
it sent to-him for love

ther kuninc vone then Britten.
the king of the Britons.

ja begurte in enmitten
yea girded him in-the-middle

Mulagîr thaz mâre sahs,
Mulagir the famous knife,

1585 sô uber alle Franken ne was
as over all Franks — was

sîn tiurere nehein.
its more-precious none.

vone sîneme houbete thô scein
from his head then shone

ein ethele karbunkel.
a noble carbuncle.

thes tages was er tunkel,
of-the day was it dark,

1590 er lûhte alle thie naht
it shone all the night

sam ther sunne umbe mitten tah.
like the sun about mid day.

iz ne wart nie keiser sô hêre
there — was never emperor so noble

geboren ane ther erthe,
born on the earth,

erne zâme ime wole ze tragene.
unless-it would-befit to-him well to wear.

lanc wâre iu ze sagene,
long were to-you to tell,

waz man wunderes thar ane vant.
what one of-wonder there on found.

Naimes there Beiere wîgant
Naimes the Bavarians' fighter

vuorte iz vane Beieren.
brought it from Bavaria.

thaz urkunde wil ih iu zeigen.
the witness will I to-you show.

ther smit hiez Madelgêr:
the smith was-called Madelger:

thaz selve swert worhte er
the same sword wrought he

in there stat ze Regenesburh.
in the city at Regensburg.

iz wart mâre unde guot.
it became famous and good.

thô sîn Naimes ther herzoge phlah,
when of-it Naimes the duke took-care,

waz there heithenen thâ vore starf!
what of-the heathens there before died!

er gaf iz Karle sîneme herren:
he gave it to-Charles his lord:

iz rouw in sint sêre.
it rued him afterward sorely.

Genelûn brâhte iz in there heithenen gewalt.
Ganelon brought it into the heathens' power.

vile manih cristen thes sît engalt.
very many-a Christian for-that afterward paid.

Ist iz sô thaz buoh zalt,
(if)-Is it so the book told,

Genelûn vuorte einen blîalt
Ganelon wore a bliaut

ûz golde geweben.
out-of gold woven.

thâ mahte man wole sehen
there might one well see

thie tiuren goltporten,
the precious gold-braids,

wâhe geworhte.
costly wrought.

zobel was thar under,
sable was there under,

thiu lîste nithene umbe
the border below around

thurhsoten guldîn.
refined golden.

thie scellen clungen vone ime
the bells rang from him

sam thaz suoze seitspile.
like the sweet string-music.

andere wunder vuorte er vile.
other wonders bore he many.

umbe spien man theme herzogen
about buckled one to-the duke

zwêne guldîne sporen.
two golden spurs.

ther keiser hiez ime ze liebe
the emperor bade to-him for love

ein marh vure ziehen.
a steed forth lead.

ein Rômâre hiez Mantel,
a Roman was-called Mantel,

ein helet kuone unde snel,
a hero bold and quick,

ther gab iz theme keisere ze minnen.
who gave it to-the emperor for love.

under allen Karlingen
among all Carolingians

was nehein ros sô gezale
was no horse so swift

uber berh und uber tal,
over hill and over dale,

sô wenne er thar ûf gesaz,
so when he there upon sat,

thaz er âne angest was.
that he without fear was.

thar ûffe lah ein guldîn satel.
there upon lay a golden saddle.

Karl was aller tugende vater.
Charles was of-all virtue father.

Genelûn geneih sînem herren.
Ganelon bowed to-his lord.

er sprah: «nu lône ime got maniger êren!
he spoke: «now reward to-him God of-many honors!

mînem herren lieben
my lord dear

wil ih gerne thienen:
will I gladly serve:

er getete mir nie nehein leit.
he did to-me never any sorrow.

thie zweleve sint nu vile gemeit,
the twelve are now very glad,

thie mih hine habent gegeben.
who me thither have given.

unde gevristet mir got thaz leben,
and (if)-spares to-me God the life,

ih bringe iz ûz theme spile.
I bring it out-of the game.

ih gesezze in ein zil,
I set them a goal,

sô mir therre mîn bart:
so-help me this my beard:

si gerûwet alle thise hovevart.»
them rues all this court-journey.»

Thô saz ther herzoge Genelûn
Then sat the duke Ganelon

ûf ein ziere marh, hiez Taskprûn.
upon a splendid steed, was-called Taskprun.

vone then herebergen er reit.
from the lodgings he rode.

er was thrîer ellen breit
he was three ells broad

eneben sîner ahsel.
between his shoulders.

lanc was er gewahsen,
long was he grown,

grôz sîn gebeine.
great his bones.

thô sprâchen thie heithen,
then spoke the heathens,

sine sâhen in thirre werelte
they saw in this world

neheinen sô starken lebente.
none so strong living.

sîn antluzze was hêrsam.
his countenance was lordly.

sîn varwe thiu bran
his color it burned

sam thie liehten viures flammen.
like the bright fire's flames.

siben hunderet manne
seven hundred men

volgeten ire herren.
followed their lord.

sie wuoften alle sêre.
they wailed all sorely.

enurteile sazten sie then lîb,
at-stake set they the life,

bêthiu kint unde wîb,
both child and woman,

thurh ire triuwe.
for their faithfulness.

sie hâten grôze riuwe.
they had great rue.

Genelûn neih theme keisere scône.
Ganelon bowed to-the emperor fairly.

er kêrte an eine wise gruone.
he turned to a meadow green.

er gehabete under sînen mannen.
he halted among his men.

thiu rethe was alsô lange.
the speech was so long.

«thiz ist», sprah er, «ein hêrlîh scare.
«this is», spoke he, «a lordly troop.

ir birt alle zuo theme tôde wole gare.
you are all to the death well ready.

iuwers guoten willen
of-your good will

bin ih thikke wole worden innen.
am I often well become aware.

iuwer thienest ist scône.
your service is fair.

nu muoze iu got lônen
now may to-you God reward

unde ih iemer gerne wile versculden.
and I ever gladly will repay.

thisiu triuwe ist ubergulde
this faithfulness is surpassing

aller werelte êre,
of-all world's honor,

thaz ir thurh iuweren herren
that you for your lord

birt gereht unz ane then tôt.
are ready until to the death.

nu habet ir alle grôze nôt.
now have you all great distress.

nu ist michel bezzere, wizze Crist,
now is much better, may-know Christ,

nu iz uns thar zuo komen ist,
now it us there to come is,

thaz ih eine ersterbe
that I alone should-die

thenne ih iuh alle lâze verloren werthen.
than I you all let lost become.

nu rîtet zuo mînem herren:
now ride to my lord:

thane mag iu niht gewerren.
there can to-you nothing harm.

verthienet umbe then keiser,
earn from the emperor,

thaz ther mîn arme weise,
that the my poor orphan,

sô wie iz umbe mih ergê,
so how it about me goes,

in sînem willen bestê.
in his favor should-remain.

mîn lieber sune Baldewîn
my dear son Baldwin

der scal iu wole bevolhen sîn.
he shall to-you well entrusted be.

ziehet in iu ze êren.
rear him to-you for honors.

zuht sculet ir in lêren.
breeding shall you him teach.

heizet in hêrlîchen leben.
bid him lordly live.

er mah wole mildehlîchen geben:
he may well generously give:

habe willih sîne man
have willing his men

(an iuweren genâthen scal iz stân),
(on your graces shall it stand),

there sînen nôtvesten:
the his stalwarts:

sô mah ime ubele gebresten.
so may to-him ill fail.

bûwe thenne wole sîn lant,
till then well his land,

were roub unde brant,
ward-off robbery and burning,

habe sîn gerihte
have his justice

al nâh there phahte,
all after the law,

lâze niht under wegen.
let nothing by-the wayside.

got lâze in gesunt leben.
God let him sound live.

Nu bitte ih ouh iuh mêre:
Now ask I also you more:

volstâtiget iuwer êre.
fulfill your honor.

ob ih thâ ze then heithenen belîbe,
if I there among the heathens should-remain,

mînem lieben wîbe
to-my dear woman

bevelhet mîne sêle.
commend my soul.

râtet ire ir êre.
counsel her her honor.

alles guotes wil ih ire wole getrûwen.
of-all good will I her well trust.

jâ lâze ih ire wole erbûwen
yea leave I her well tilled

manige breite huobe,
many-a broad hide-of-land,

scazes genuoge.
of-treasure enough.

bringet ire thiz vingerlîn
bring her this ring

(ruohte is mîn drehtîn,
(should-care of-it my Lord,

ih gesâhe sie vile gerne)
I should-see her very gladly)

unde manet sie vile verre
and exhort her very greatly

thurh ire tugentlîche site,
for her virtuous custom,

thaz sie guote liute umbe mih bite
that she good people for me should-ask

nâh thirre zwîvellîcher witherkêre.
for this doubtful return.

jane gesehe ih sie leither niemer mêre.»
indeed see I her alas never more.»

Thô sih thie gelieben
When themselves the beloved-ones

vone ein ander gesciethen,
from one another parted,

ther jâmer tete in vile wê.
the lamentation did to-them very woe.

wether sît noh ê
neither since nor before

ne thorfte nie grôzer klage werthen.
— needed never greater lament become.

sie vielen zuo there erthen.
they fell to the earth.

thaz hâr brâchen sie ûz there swarte,
the hair tore they out-of the scalp,

sie wuoften alle harte.
they wailed all hard.

ummâze was ire clage,
measureless was their lament,

grôz was ire ungehabe.
great was their grief.

vile thikke si ime nâh sâhen.
very often they to-him after looked.

si begonden harte jâmeren
they began hard to-lament

mit weinen und mit wuofen.
with weeping and with wailing.

si begonden ime nâh ruofen.
they began to-him after to-call.

sie sprachen: «ther wâre got von himele
they spoke: «the true God from heaven

ther sende thih gesunt withere:
he send thee sound back:

sone scah uns nie sô liebe.»
so happened to-us never so dear.»

von ein ander sie sciethen.
from one another they parted.

jâ kêrten sîne helethe
yea turned his heroes

withere ane thie selethe,
back to the dwellings,

Genelûn zen heithenen.
Ganelon to-the heathens.

sie wâren unsanphte gesceithen.
they were ungently parted.

VIII · THE PLOT UNDER THE OLIVE TREE

Riding with the heathens, Ganelon grows cheerful. Blancandrin praises Charles and asks why he wars so long; Ganelon answers that it is God's work, then blames Roland and Oliver, who mean to conquer the world. Blancandrin rejoices, and under an olive tree they swear to deliver the twelve to death, as Judas sold Christ. They come to Marsile, and Blancandrin presents the envoy.

Genelûn trûrihlîchen reit:
Ganelon sorrowfully rode:

thaz was then heithenen vile leit.
that was to-the heathens very sorrow.

sie huoben kurzwîle.
they raised pastime.

sie sahten ire favelîe,
they told their fables,

sie sahten ein ander under wegen
they told one another on way

manige seltsâne rethe. 1755
many-a strange speech.

sie lahten unde wâren vrô.
they laughed and were glad.

Genelûn erbalte sih thô.
Ganelon cheered himself then.

ther alte Blanscandîz wart sîn geware:
the old Blancandrin became of-him aware:

er huob sih eneben in thare.
he raised himself beside him there.

er sprah: «newâre iz thir, herre, niht swâre, 1760
he spoke: «were it to-thee, lord, not heavy,

ih wolde thih ein luzele vrâgen.
I would thee a little ask.

ih ne zwîvele thar ane niet,
I — doubt there in not,

thu bist theme keisere vile liep.
thou art to-the emperor very dear.

thir entwîchent alle sîne râtgeben:
to-thee yield all his counselors:

thaz hân ih ouh selbe wole ersehen. 1765
that have I also self well seen.

sô waz thu gebiutest, thaz ist getân.
so what thou commandest, that is done.

thu hâst thie hêrlîchen man.
thou hast the lordly men.

nu wundert mih thîner grôzen wîsheit:
now wonders me of-thy great wisdom:

war zuo lîthest thu thie ummâzen arebeit?
what for sufferest thou the measureless hardship?

nu habet ir bethwungen
now have you subdued

Kriechen unde Ungeren,
Greeks and Hungarians,

Riuzen unde Bôlân,
Russians and Poles,

thie grimmen Sahsen alsam,
the grim Saxons likewise,

Beieren unde Swâben
Bavarians and Swabians

unde alle thie in thiutisker erthe wâren;
and all who in German earth were;

Wasconie unde Engellant
Gascony and England

stêt in sîner gewalt;
stands in his power;

Yspanien unser rîche
Spain our realm

thienet ime vorhtlîche.
serves to-him fearfully.

wenne er sih is welle gelouben?
when he himself of-it will forgo?

nu ist er thikke verhouwen
now is he often hewn

unt ist komen ane sîn alter.
and is come to his age.

nu mahte er sih noh behalten
now might he himself still keep

unde scônete sîner wizze
and spare his wits

unde lieze iuh thâ heime sizzen,
and let you there at-home sit,

ob iz there vursten wille wâre.
if it of-the princes will were.

thes wolte ih thih gerne vrâgen.»
that would I thee gladly ask.»

Ther herzoge thô sprah:
The duke then spoke:

«iz enist mir niht ungemah.
«it is to-me not discomfort.

iz ist ein vrowede there heiligen kristenheit
it is a joy of-the holy Christendom

und ist ein suoze arebeit.
and is a sweet labor.

iz ist ein trôst there sêle:
it is a comfort of-the soul:

thiu ne kumet niemer mêre
it — comes never more

zuo neheinem hellewîze,
to no hell-torment,

sô wer ime thienet mit flîze.
so who to-him serves with diligence.

wânest thu thaz iz ther keiser tuo?
believest thou that it the emperor does?

got vortheret iz ime zuo.
God demands it of-him to.

sînen boten vone himele
his messenger from heaven

sendet er zuo theme kuninge;
sends he to the king;

ther gebiutet ime thie herevart:
he commands to-him the war-journey:

sone ist thes nehein rât,
so is of-it no help,

wir nehelfen ime thare zuo.
we unless-help to-him there to.

ungewizzen ist iz thir nu:
unknown is it to-thee now:

there wârheit wirthest thu wole innen,
of-the truth becomest thou well aware,

wil thu thie kristenheit minnen.
(if)-wilt thou the Christendom love.

ih wil thir wârlîchen sagen:
I will thee truly tell:

theme keisere ne mah nieman gescathen.
to-the emperor — may no-one harm.

got ist selbe mit ime,
God is self with him,

er gît ime craft unde sin
he gives to-him strength and sense

unde sterket in thâ zuo
and strengthens him there to

beithiu spâte unde vruo.
both late and early.

Karl ist ther tiuriste man,
Charles is the most-precious man,

than abe ih ie gehôrte sagen.
whom of I ever heard tell.

scaz ist ime ummâre.
treasure is to-him indifferent.

er versmâhet lugenâre.
he scorns liars.

er hazzet alle bôsheit.
he hates all wickedness.

er scaffet there sêle gewareheit.
he makes for-the soul security.

then lîb vuoret er veile
the life bears he for-sale

uns allen ze heile.
to-us all for salvation.

behalten wir thie sêle,
(if)-keep we the souls,

erne geret alles mêre.»
he-not desires of-all more.»

Blanscandîz ther alte
Blancandrin the old

vile listehlîchen er sih erhalte.
very cunningly he himself held.

«thu rethest wole», sprah er, «herre.
«thou speakest well», spoke he, «lord.

wir sculen thir is thanken verre,
we shall thee for-it thank greatly,

thaz thir thîn herre liep ist
that to-thee thy lord dear is

unde thaz thu ime getriuwe bist.
and that thou to-him faithful art.

scolde ih thie wale hân,
should I the choice have,

sone erkunte ih nie neheinen man,
so knew I never any man,

ther ih sô gerne wâre.
whose I so gladly were.

wie gerne ih in noh gesâhe!
how gladly I him yet should-see!

er hât manige tugent guote.
he has many-a virtue good.

er hât hêrlîh gemuote.
he has lordly spirit.

er hât ein kuninclîh leben.
he has a kingly life.

er hât wîse râtgeben:
he has wise counselors:

si behertent ime grôze êre.
they maintain for-him great honor.

nu sage mir ouh mêre:
now tell me also more:

waz meinet ave thaz?
what means however that?

thô unser rethe wole verendet was,
when our speech well ended was,

thô kom Ruolant:
then came Roland:

er hâte einen aphel in sîner hant;
he had an apple in his hand;

mit michelere hôhverte,
with great pride,

mit gevazzeteme swerte.
with grasped sword.

er sprah zuo theme ethelen kuninge:
he spoke to the noble king:

'herre, lâz uns dar ubere
'lord, let us there over

hine ze Marsilien.
thither to Marsile.

ih gelege in thâ nithere.
I lay him there down.

alle irthisce krône
all earthly crowns

gewaltige ih thir ze Rôme:
master I for-thee to Rome:

sie muozen thîne man werthen
they must thy men become

other under thiseme guoten swerte ersterben.'
or under this good sword die.'

wer hilfet ime thare zuo
who helps to-him there to

other waz mag er getuon?
or what may he do?

sîne kraft wesse ih gerne.
his strength would-know I gladly.

nune zurne niht mêre, lieber herre,
now rage not more, dear lord,

thaz ih thih sîn gevrâget hân:
that I thee of-him asked have:

ih bin leider ein alt virwizzer man.»
I am alas an old inquisitive man.»

Genelûn thô sprah:
Ganelon then spoke:

«wir haben grôz ungemah
«we have great discomfort

vone Ruolante und vone Olivier.
from Roland and from Oliver.

zewâre sage ih iz thir:
truly tell I it to-thee:

sie sint thes muotes,
they are of-the mind,

sine gesatent sih niemer mennescen bluotes.
they sate themselves never with-human blood.

thie zweleve helfent in alle thar zuo,
the twelve help them all there to,

sô waz sie zwêne wellen tuon,
so what they two will do,

unde alle Karlinge
and all Carolingians

habent zuo in minne,
have to them love,

alte unde junge.
old and young.

sie phlegent grôzer zerunge.
they practice great expense.

sie thrônt theme kuninge
they threaten the king

vone Babilonie.
of Babylon.

sô sie then erslahent thâ,
when they him slay there,

sô varent sie hine ze Persîâ,
so fare they thither to Persia,

thannen ze Lûvîn:
thence to Luvin:

thaz muoz allez unter in sîn:
that must all among them be:

sie habent iz nu geteilet.
they have it now divided.

wie ob iz got sô gesceithet,
what if it God so should-decide,

thie sih thâ zesamene habent gesellet,
who themselves there together have joined,

thaz ire hôhvart wurthe gevellet?
that their pride should-become felled?

sô vrowete sih mîn sêle,
so would-rejoice itself my soul,

unde mahtet ir iemer mêre
and might you ever more

mit frithe Yspaniam bûwen.
with peace Spain dwell-in.

unde woldet ir mir thes getrûwen,
and would you me of-that trust,

ih geriete iu eine list
I would-counsel to-you a ruse

thaz iz in vile kurzer vrist
that it in very short time

nâme bôse ende.
should-take wicked end.

sie muosen in theme ellende
they must in the exile

vûlen unde erstinken.
rot and stink.

thes ne tharf mih nieman verthenken;
of-that — need me no-one suspect;

thes gât mih ane grôz nôt. 1890
of-that goes me on great distress.

mîne man ligent hie tôt:
my men lie here dead:

sô muozen thâ heime
so must there at-home

thie kint lange weinen.
the children long weep.

vone thiu sage ih iu, wizze Krist,
from that tell I to-you, may-know Christ,

thaz iz michel bezzer ist 1895
that it much better is

thaz thie zweleve ersterben
that the twelve should-die

thenne wir alle vurewerthen.»
than we all perish.»

Tho ervrowete sih ther alte.
Then rejoiced himself the old-one.

thaz herze in ime spilete;
the heart in him played;

er iteniute sih an there stunt; 1900
he renewed himself at the hour;

thaz alter kêrte sih in thie jugent:
the age turned itself into the youth:

er rekuhte sih ûzzen unde innen.
he quickened himself outside and inside.

sîn ros liez er springen.
his horse let he leap.

er vlouh mit theme gebâre
he flew with the bearing

sam ther guote mûzâre.
like the good mewed-hawk.

er neih ime unz ane then satelbogen.
he bowed to-him until to the saddle-bow.

er sprah: «thaz ih thaz wort vone thir hân vernomen,
he spoke: «that I the word from thee have heard,

thaz thiene ih iemer gerne.
that repay I ever gladly.

thu und mîn herre
thou and my lord

werthet gesellen guote.
become comrades good.

unde ist thir sô ze muote,
and (if)-is to-thee so to spirit,

sô scoltu gebieten
so shalt-thou command

in lande joh in thieten
in land and in peoples

uber al mînes herren rîche,
over all my lord's realm,

thaz wir thir niemer ne geswîchen
that we thee never — fail

ane neheinen thînen sachen.»
in none of-thy matters.»

ther herzoge begonde suoze lachen.
the duke began sweetly to-laugh.

Blanscandîz winhte sînen genôzen.
Blancandrin beckoned his fellows.

zesamene sie gesâzen
together they sat

under eineme oleboume.
under an olive-tree.

sie rieten mit Genelûne
they counseled with Ganelon

then aller wirsesten rât
the of-all worst counsel

ther under thiseme himele ie gefrumet wart.
which under this heaven ever furthered was.

Genelûn geriet michele nôt.
Ganelon counseled great distress.

then armen Jûdas er gebildôt:
the poor Judas he imitated:

thô unser herre ze merthe gesaz
when our Lord at supper sat

unde er mit ime tranc und az,
and he with him drank and ate,

in then triuwen er in verriet
in the faith he him betrayed

wither thie meintâtegen thiet.
to the criminal folk.

er verkoufte in mit gethinge
he sold him with bargain

umbe thrîzeh penninge.
for thirty pennies.

thaz ime sît ubele ergienc,
that to-him afterward ill went,

wand er sih selven erhienc.
for he himself self hanged.

thes ne was alles nehein rât:
of-that — was all no help:

iz was lange vore gewîssaget.
it was long before foretold.

unde verkoufte Jûdas in einen:
and sold Judas him alone:

Genelûn verkoufte wither thie heithen
Ganelon sold to the heathens

mit ungetriuwen listen
with faithless cunning

manegen hêrlîchen kristen.
many-a lordly Christian.

mit gethinge man ime wah
with bargain one to-him weighed

then scaz then man ime thar umbe gaf,
the treasure which one to-him there for gave,

thes goldes einen vile michelen last.
of-the gold a very great load.

wie starke thiu untriuwe ûz brast!
how strongly the faithlessness out burst!

Ane theme râte sâzen
At the council sat

ungetriuwe hûsgenôze.
faithless housemates.

sie rieten alsô lange
they counseled so long

vone manne ze manne,
from man to man,

unze si alle samet swuoren,
until they all together swore,

thaz sie Ruolanten sluogen,
that they Roland should-slay,

Olivieren then snellen
Oliver the bold

unde andere ire gesellen,
and other their comrades,

mit Genelûnes volleiste:
with Ganelon's aid:

wande in sîneme geiste
for in his spirit

newas nehein triuwe.
was no faith.

von ime kom michel riuwe. 1955
from him came great rue.

er ervolte thaz altsprochene wort;
he fulfilled the old-spoken word;

jâ ist gescriben thort:
yea is written there:

«under scôneme scathe lûzet;
«under fair harm lurks;

izne ist niht allez golt thaz thâ glîzet.»
it is not all gold that there glitters.»

Genelûn was michel unde lussam: 1960
Ganelon was great and lovely:

er muose sîne nâtûre begân.
he must his nature perform.

micheles boumes scône
of-a-great tree's beauty

machet thikke hône.
makes thick shade.

er thunket ûzen gruone:
it seems outside green:

sô ist er innen thurre. 1965
so is it inside dry.

sô man in nither meizet,
when one it down hews,

sô ist er wurmbeizeh.
so is it worm-eaten.

er ist binnen vûl und ubele getân.
it is within rotten and evil made.

ther bezeinet then man,
it signifies the man,

ther ûzene wole rethet
who outside well speaks

unde valsces ane theme herzen pleget.
and of-falseness in the heart practices.

ther thunket ûzene vol
he seems outside full

unde ist binnene hol:
and is within hollow:

then hât ther wurm gebecket.
him has the worm pecked.

sô wer aver there triuwen gesmecket,
so who however of-the faith tastes,

ther huotet ire iemer gerne.
he guards it ever gladly.

thie muoze wir vone theme heiligen geiste lernen.
it must we from the holy ghost learn.

Genelûn saz mitten under in.
Ganelon sat amid among them.

ther tiuvel gaf ime then sin:
the devil gave to-him the sense:

thurh nît unde thurh gebe
through envy and through gift

er gevestenôte sîne rethe.
he fastened his speech.

si gewoneten thâ allen einen tah.
they dwelt there all one day.

Genelûn sîne triuwe thare gaf,
Ganelon his faith there gave,

er gevuogete in ze handen
he delivered to-them into hands

then helet Ruolanten
the hero Roland

unde andere sîne genôze
and other his peers

(thes swuor er eithe grôze)
(of-that swore he oaths great)

unde Olivieren then snellen
and Oliver the bold

unde andere ire gesellen,
and other their comrades,

thaz sie there neheinen genesen liezen:
that they of-them none survive should-let:

vile tiure sie thaz gehiezen.
very dearly they that promised.

Ther rât was getân:
The counsel was done:

sih vroweten Marsilien man.
themselves rejoiced Marsile's men.

sie kômen ze then stunden
they came in the hours

thâ sie then kuninc vunden.
where they the king found.

thô sprah Blanscandîz ther alte:
then spoke Blancandrin the old:

«thaz thih, herre, got behalte,
«that thee, lord, God keep,

Mahmet unde Apollo!
Mahomet and Apollo!

thie geven thir then vollen
they give thee the full

alles thînes gemuotes,
of-all thy spirit,

unde thaz thu thih behuotes
and that thou thee guard

alsô ire wille sî,
as their will be,

unde gemachen thir noh vrî
and make for-thee yet free

elliu thîne rîche.
all thy realms.

ih hân willihlîche
I have willingly

erworven thîne botescaf,
obtained thy embassy,

alsô ih ûz gesendet wart.
as I out sent was.

nu scoltu iz volenden
now shalt-thou it complete

thar umbe hât here gesendet
there for has hither sent

Karl ther rômisce voget,
Charles the Roman lord,

unt ist there vursten aller wort.
and is of-the princes all word.

nu vernim thu, herre, selve,
now hear thou, lord, self,

waz thie bote rethen welle.»
what the messenger speak will.»

«ih hôre iz allez vile wole,
«I hear it all very well,

sô waz er hie rethen scol,»
so what he here speak shall,»

sprah ther kuninc Marsilie:
spoke the king Marsile:

«nu rethe thu selve.»
«now speak thou self.»

Ganelon delivers Charles's terms: baptism and half of Spain, or capture and death at Aachen. Marsile strikes at him with his staff, and Ganelon half draws his sword. The princes restrain Marsile, who reads the letter and weeps; his uncle wants Ganelon punished, but an old, bearded counselor urges honor. Marsile asks forgiveness and gives Ganelon a cloak. When Marsile complains of Charles, Ganelon praises him and blames Roland, Oliver, and Turpin, and Marsile wishes the twelve were slain.

Ther bote sprah zuo Marsilie:
The messenger spoke to Marsile:

«kuninc aller himele,
«king of-all heavens,

ther uns vone there helle erlôste
who us from the hell redeemed

unde thie sîne getrôste,
and the his comforted,

ther gebe thir thie genâthe,
he give thee the grace,

thaz thu besizzest sîne râwe,
that thou possess his rest,

unde erlethege thih vone theme êwigen dôthe.
and free thee from the eternal death.

ther enbiutet ther kuninc vone Rôme,
to-thee sends-word the king of Rome,

thaz thu got êrest
that thou God honor

unde ane thie kristenheit kêrest,
and to the Christendom turn,

thaz thu thih toufest,
that thou thee baptize,

an éinen got louvest.
in one God believe.

thes wil er gewisheit haven.
of-that will he certainty have.

er heizet ther wârlîche sagen,
he bids thee truly tell,

untphâest thu thie kristenlîchen ê,
(if)-receivest thou the Christian law,

thaz thîne marke alle mit frithe stên:
that thy marches all with peace stand:

er lîhet thir half Yspaniam;
he lends thee half Spain;

thaz andere teil scol Ruolant haven.
the other part shall Roland have.

unde werthest thu sîn man,
and (if)-becomest thou his man,

sô muostu wole frithe hân;
so mayst-thou well peace have;

so behaldestu grôz êre.
so keepest-thou great honor.

ther keiser unbiutet thir ouh mêre,
the emperor sends-word thee also more,

sezzest thu thih ze theheiner were,
(if)-settest thou thee to any defense,

er suochet thih mit here;
he seeks thee with host;

er zestôret elliu thîne hûs.
he destroys all thy houses.

er vertrîvet thih thar ûz.
he drives thee there out.

wether enerthe noh in mere
neither on-earth nor on sea

maht thu thih ime erweren.
mayst thou thee from-him defend.

er heizet thih vâhen,
he bids thee capture,

ûf eineme esele vuoren
upon an ass lead

ane sînen stuol ze Âche.
to his throne at Aachen.

thâ nimet er thie râche:
there takes he the vengeance:

thaz houbet heizet er thir ave slân.
the head bids he to-thee off strike.

thaz hiez mih thir mîn herre ther keiser sagen.»
that bade me thee my lord the emperor tell.»

Marsilies al umbe warte.
Marsile all around looked.

er erbleihte harte.
he paled hard.

er wan manegen angestlîchen gethanc.
he had many-an anxious thought.

er gesaz kûme ûf thie banc.
he sat scarcely upon the bench.

ime wart kalt unde heiz.
to-him became cold and hot.

harte muote in ther sweiz.
hard troubled him the sweat.

thaz houbet wegete er.
the head shook he.

er spranc hine unde here.
he sprang thither and hither.

sînen staf greif er.
his staff seized he.

mit zorne er in ûf huof.
with anger he it up raised.

nâh Genelûne er in sluoh.
at Ganelon he it struck.

Genelûn mit listen
Ganelon with cunning

theme slage untwisgete.
from-the blow slipped.

vone theme kuninge er untweih.
from the king he withdrew.

thaz swert er umbegreif.
the sword he grasped.

er sah hine withere;
he looked thither back;

er sprah zuo theme kuninge:
he spoke to the king:

«nu tuost thu thîne gewalt.»
«now dost thou thy violence.»

er zuhte thaz swert uber half;
he drew the sword over half;

er sprah: «Karle mîneme herren
he spoke: «to-Charles my lord

thienete ih ie mit êren.
served I ever with honors.

in volkwîgen herten
in folk-battles hard

gevrumete ih mit mîneme swerte
achieved I with my sword

thaz ih nie gelasteret newart.
that I never disgraced was.

ih hân thih mit êren here brâht.
I have thee with honors hither brought.

ih hân thih gevuoret lange.
I have thee led long.

ih nebin noh gebunden noh gevangen.
I am neither bound nor captured.

unde gevrumestu then slah,
and (if)-dealest-thou the blow,

iz ist thîn jungester tah.
it is thy last day.

ih getuon lîhte veigen
I make easily doomed

etelîchen heithenen,
some heathen,

then thu niemer uberwindest.
whom thou never get-over.

ih wâne thu dovest other winnest.
I believe thou ravest or ragest.

nu muoz mih wole riuwen,
now must me well rue,

thaz ih thînen ungetriuwen
that I thy faithless-ones

ie gevolgete ane thie strâze.
ever followed on the road.

nu havent sie mih ubele gelâzen:
now have they me ill left:

nu stên ih alters eine.
now stand I all alone.

ware kômen thie eithe,
where came the oaths,

thie sie mir swuoren,
which they to-me swore,

thô wir uns ûz huoben?»
when we us out raised?»

Thie fursten ûf sprungen:
The princes up sprang:

thare enzwischen sie thrungen.
there between they pressed.

si verwizzen iz theme kuninge.
they blamed it the king.

sie sprâchen: «herre, thu tuost ubele,
they spoke: «lord, thou dost ill,

thaz thu then keiser sô scendest.
that thou the emperor so disgracest.

sô thu zuo ime sendest,
when thou to him sendest,

sô wirthet thîn botescaf
so becomes thy embassy

lobesam unde enthapht.
praiseworthy and received.

sie sprechent uns ane thie triuwe.
they speak to-us on the faith.

nu muoz uns harte riuwen,
now must us hard rue,

thaz ther vrithe ie wart getân.
that the peace ever was done.

thu hieze ime houveten sîne man.
thou badest to-him behead his men.

nu gestille thînen zorn.
now still thy anger.

wir wellen gerne thar under komen
we will gladly there under come

unde tuon thaz mêre,
and do that more,

herre, thurh thîne êre
lord, for thy honor

thenne thurh sînen willen.
than for his will.

lâ thiz ungemuote stillen.»
let this ill-humor be-stilled.»

Thô prah ther kuninc Marsilie
Then broke the king Marsile

thes keiseres insigele.
the emperor's seal.

selbe er then brief las,
self he the letter read,

wande er wole gelêret was.
for he well learned was.

er begonde heize weinen.
he began hotly to-weep.

er sprah zuo then heithenen:
he spoke to the heathens:

«nu vernemet, fursten alle,
«now hear, princes all,

wie iu thirre brief gevalle.
how to-you this letter pleases.

Karl unbiutet mir tumplîche,
Charles sends-word me foolishly,

er zestôre thiz rîche;
he destroys this realm;

er heize mih ze Âche vuoren,
he bids me to Aachen lead,

gebunden mit snuoren,
bound with cords,

ûf sîneme soumâre.
upon his sumpter-horse.

thiu botescaf ist mir swâre.
the embassy is to-me heavy.

er wil ze harte gâhen.
he will too hard hasten.

ê ih mih lâze vâhen,
before I me let capture,

iz wirthet vile herte.
it becomes very hard.

wir sculen mit then swerten
we shall with the swords

thaz velt mit in teilen,
the field with them share,

thaz alle thie heithenen
that all the heathens

iemer thare vone sagen,
ever there of tell,

ê ih mih then soumâre lâze tragen.»
before I me the sumpter-horse let carry.»

Thô antwerte ime sîn ôheim;
Then answered to-him his uncle;

ther was there wîsisten ein:
he was of-the wisest one:

«herre, erloube mir ubern man.
«lord, allow me over-the man.

er hât ungezogenlîche gevaren,
he has rudely fared,

thaz er ze thînere antwerte
that he to thy answer

mit gevazzeteme swerte
with grasped sword

greif ane sîne were,
seized at his defense,

sam er al thîn here
as-if he all thy host

eine mahte verswenden.
alone might destroy.

thune scolt thih niemer sô gescenden
thou shalt thee never so disgrace

thaz er sîn iet genieze,
that he of-it anything should-enjoy,

sô wenne er thâ heime sâze
so when he there at-home should-sit

in sîneme ruome,
in his boasting,

thaz er vore thîneme kuninclîchen stuole
that he before thy kingly throne

alsô hêrlîche gethrôt hât.
so lordly threatened has.

wiltu haben mînen rât,
(if)-wilt-thou have my counsel,

iz wirthet sciere gerochen,
it becomes quickly avenged,

sô waz er ther, kuninc, ze leithe hât gesprochen.» 2150
so what he to-thee, king, to sorrow has spoken.»

Ther alte mit theme barte
The old-one with the beard

ther erzurnte harte:
he raged hard:

ime viureten thiu ougen.
to-him fired the eyes.

er sprah: «thune scolt thîn laster niemanne erlouben.
he spoke: «thou shalt thy reproach to-no-one allow.

scolte man in in then triuwen erslân 2155
should one him in the faith slay

vone theme wir alle unse êre mugen haben?
from whom we all our honor may have?

vone Genelûne eineme
of Ganelon alone

gevrowent sih alle heithenen.
rejoice themselves all heathens.

volge unsereme râte
follow our counsel

unde besende in vile drâte: 2160
and send-for him very quickly:

habe in mit êren.
have him with honors.

er kan thih wole gelêren,
he can thee well teach,

ist thaz thu is in ergezzest,
(if)-is that thou of-it him make-amends,

wie thu thîn thinc rehte gesezzest.
how thou thy affairs rightly settle.

lâz in mit minnen,
let him with love,

vrume in wole hinnen,
send him well hence,

gif ime hêrlîche:
give to-him lordly:

iz gevrumet allem thiseme rîche.»
it profits all this realm.»

«Thu râtest mir mîn êre:
«Thou counselest me my honor:

jâ wil ih thîner lêre
yea will I thy teaching

vile gerne volgen.
very gladly follow.

mînes muotes was ih erbolgen.
in-my spirit was I angered.

nu handelet iz mit sinnen.
now handle it with wits.

koret in here withere bringen:
choose him hither back bring:

ih versuone iz gerne.»
I atone it gladly.»

thie fursten unde thie herren
the princes and the lords

giengen nâh Genelûne.
went after Ganelon.

eine stuont er under eineme bineboume.
alone stood he under a pine-tree.

sîn antluzze was alsô hêrsam,
his countenance was so lordly,

sie sprâchen, sie newisten neheinen man,
they spoke, they knew no man,

ther sô vorhtlîh wâre.
who so fearsome were.

sie sprâchen thaz er theme rîche wole zâme.
they spoke that he to-the realm well befitted.

sie loveten in genuoh;
they praised him enough;

sie sprâchen, er wâre ein helet guot,
they spoke, he were a hero good,

thaz er theme kuninge niht newolte vertragen,
that he to-the king not would allow,

tho er in uber thaz houbet wolde slân.
when he him over the head would strike.

Thô Genelûn vure gienc,
When Ganelon forward went,

ther kuninc in wole untphienc.
the king him well received.

sîne hêrscaf er wâhte,
his lordship he weighed,

sîne hant er ime rahte.
his hand he to-him reached.

er sprah: «Genelûn, lieve man,
he spoke: «Ganelon, dear man,

sô waz ih wither thir hân getân,
so what I against thee have done,

thes ergezze ih thih gerne.»
of-that make-amends I thee gladly.»

er vortherete zwelef herren
he summoned twelve lords

in sîne kemenâten,
into his chamber,

thie ime aller beste kunden gerâten.
who to-him of-all best could counsel.

zuo theme râte thô kom
to the council then came

Algaphiles unde Valsaron,
Algaphiles and Valsaron,

Valdebrûn unde Orphalis,
Valdebrun and Orphalis,

Glibon unde Clargirs,
Glibon and Clargis,

ther herzoge Gersiz,
the duke Gersiz,

ther alte Blanscandîz unde Plangirz:
the old Blancandrin and Plangirz:

thie sâzen thar inne.
they sat there in.

«nu râtet mir in iuwereme sinne,
«now counsel me in your sense,

wie ih Genelûnen
how I Ganelon

ze eineme vriunde gewinne.
as a friend should-win.

thaz laster wil ih ime wandelen.»
the reproach will I to-him amend.»

er gaf ime einen guoten mantel,
he gave to-him a good cloak,

mit golde beslagen.
with gold mounted.

er sprah: «then scaltu thurh mînen willen tragen.
he spoke: «it shalt-thou for my sake wear.

ouh scoltu mîn golt nemen
also shalt-thou my gold take

âne zale unde ungewegen.
without count and unweighed.

gebiut waldehlîche
command mightily

uber al mîn rîche.
over all my realm.

ih selve bin thir gereite.
I self am to-thee ready.

thie fursten mahtu leiten
the princes mayst-thou lead

al nâh thîneme willen.
all after thy will.

wir werthen noh guote gesellen.»
we become yet good comrades.»

mit umbeslozzenen armen
with clasped arms

sie kusten ein ander.
they kissed one another.

bî handen sie sih viengen.
by hands they each-other took.

thiu suone begonde then heithenen lieven.
the reconciliation began to-the heathens to-please.

Thô sprah ther kuninc Marsilie:
Then spoke the king Marsile:

«Genelûn, thu bist stâte unde bitherbe.
«Ganelon, thou art steadfast and worthy.

ih wil ane thih thingen,
I will on thee treat,

thaz ih mit thînen minnen
that I with thy love

mînen willen muoze rethen.
my will may speak.

wer hât Karle then gewalt uber mih gegeven,
who has to-Charles the power over me given,

thaz er sô waltehlîche
that he so mightily

verbiutet mir mîn rîche;
forbids to-me my realm;

thaz er sih underwindet
that he himself undertakes

thaz er thie werelt alle thwinget,
that he the world all constrains,

thaz sie ime werthe undertân?
that they to-him become subject?

nu hât er lange sô gevaren.
now has he long so fared.

er ist ein altherre;
he is an old-lord;

er mahte hinnen mêre
he might hence more

vone grôzen arebeiten muothen
from great labors weary

unde lieze thie fursten ruowen,
and should-let the princes rest,

lieze mir thaz mîn.
should-let to-me the mine.

iz ne scol thir niht leit sîn.»
it — shall to-thee not sorrow be.»

Thô sprah Genelûne:
Then spoke Ganelon:

«herre, thu scolt ouh mir erlouben
«lord, thou shalt also me allow

thaz ih nu rethen wile.
that I now speak will.

Karl hât tugende vile.
Charles has virtues many.

er ist tiure unde mâre.
he is precious and famous.

alle wîse scrîbâre
all wise scribes

nemahten niemer volscrîven
might never write-out

thie tugent vone sîneme lîve:
the virtue of his person:

er ist ther aller sâlegiste herre.
he is the of-all most-blessed lord.

thurh got sturve er gerne.
for God would-die he gladly.

erne hât sîn neheinen rât,
he has of-it no help,

wande iz ime got geboten hât
for it to-him God commanded has

thaz er thie heithenen bekêre.
that he the heathens convert.

wir helfen ime thare zuo gerne.»
we help to-him there to gladly.»

Thô sprah Marsilie:
Then spoke Marsile:

«thane rethe ih niht withere,
«there speak I not against,

sô wâ er got êret,
so where he God honors,

sîn thienest gemêret.
his service increases.

Karl ist selve ein guot kneht.
Charles is self a good knight.

mih nethunket aver niht reht
to-me seems however not right

thaz er mir mîn rîche neme
that he from-me my realm should-take

unde iz eineme anderen geve
and it to-an other should-give

unde iz ther have mit gewalt.»
and it he have with force.»

«thaz duot allez Ruolant»,
«that does all Roland»,

sprah Genelûne:
spoke Ganelon:

«er beitet vile kûme.
«he waits very scarcely.

Olivier unde Turpîn,
Oliver and Turpin,

thie wellent vile gewis sîn,
they will very certain be,

unde andere ire gesellen,
and other their comrades,

sie havent grôzen willen,
they have great will,

thaz sie thih selven erslahen
that they thee self should-slay

unde alsô ze Babilonie varen,
and so to Babylon fare,

thaz sie thie werelt al under in teilen:
that they the world all among them divide:

thes muotes sint sie umbesceithen.»
of-that mind are they unparted.»

«wolde mîn herre Mahmet,
«would my lord Mahomet,

then ih thikke ane bete»,
whom I often on pray»,

sprah thô ther heithene,
spoke then the heathen,

«(nu sint sie umbesceithen),
«(now are they unparted),

hâte ih sie zweleve erslagen,
had I them twelve slain,

thaz ih vrithe muose haven.
that I peace might have.

ther mir then keiser sluoge,
who to-me the emperor should-slay,

sô wâne ih uber wurthe
so believe I over should-become

aller mîner sorgen,
of-all my cares,

thie mir noh thâ vore sint verborgen.»
which to-me yet there before are hidden.»

X · THE GIFTS OF TREASON

Ganelon warns that Charles is too well guarded to be killed, so Roland must be cut off. He and Marsile swear on Apollo to Roland's death, and the poet curses the traitor in David's words. Ganelon sets out the plan: send gifts and hostages, and when Charles turns home Roland will hold Spain with the twelve, to be ambushed. Marsile kisses him and heaps gifts on him, Valdebrun gives him a sword, and Cliboris a helmet.

Genelûn sprah:
Ganelon spoke:

«then keiser ne mah
«the emperor — may

nieman erslahen:
no-one slay:

got wile in selbe bewaren.
God will him self guard.

sîn huotent zweinzih tûsent man:
him guard twenty thousand men:

there site ist sô getân
their custom is so made

thaz sie sih niemer ne sceithent.
that they themselves never — part.

sie havent sih in vieriu geteilet
they have themselves into four divided

unde havent sih gevestenet
and have themselves fastened

ôsteret unde westeret,
eastward and westward,

sunderet unde northeret.
southward and northward.

sie havent sih sô geordinet
they have themselves so ordered

mit then aller besten wâfen,
with the of-all best weapons,

ther keiser wache other slâfe,
the emperor wake or sleep,

sie huotent al umbe.
they guard all around.

iz ne wirthet niemer thiu stunde,
it — becomes never the hour,

sine haven warnunge.
unless-they have warning.

sô welhe thar unde thrungen,
so whichever there under pressed,

then wâre reite ther dôt,
to-them were ready the death,

wande sie thurh neheine wereltlîche nôt
for they for no worldly distress

theme keisere untwîchent.
from-the emperor withdraw.

sie wervent tagelîchen
they strive daily

wâ sie thaz erwerven,
where they that should-win,

thaz sie thurh got ersterven.»
that they for God should-die.»

Ther kuninc rethete listehlîche:
The king spoke cunningly:

«wole thu herzoge rîche,
«well thou duke rich,

thu scolt thih iemer genieten
thou shalt thee ever enjoy

in lande joh in thieten
in land and in peoples

vile micheler êren.
of-very great honors.

nu scaltu mih lêren:
now shalt-thou me teach:

ih hân is gerne thînen rât.
I have of-it gladly thy counsel.

mîn thinc verre ane thir stât.
my affair greatly on thee stands.

ih hân vile guoter knehte:
I have very-many good knights:

mah ih mit Karle vehten?
may I with Charles fight?

vile michel ist mîn gewalt,
very great is my might,

mîn hêrscaft ist manehvalt.
my lordship is manifold.

unde werthent mir zehenzih tûsent erslagen,
and (if)-become to-me hundred thousand slain,

wil ih thenne then heithenen heizzen sagen,
will I then the heathens bid tell,

thrîzeh kuninge mit here
thirty kings with host

vone then inselen ûz theme mere,
from the islands out-of the sea,

sô wie thrâte so ih sie wile,
so how quickly so I them will,

sô hân ih zwire sam vile.
so have I twice as many.

thie kuninge vone then landen,
the kings from the lands,

wil ih iz mir enplanden,
(if)-will I it me take-on,

there sint vunve ane theme kreize,
of-them are five in the circle,

sô waz ih sie tuon heize,
so what I them do bid,

sô koment sie mir in thrîzeh tagen.
so come they to-me in thirty days.

ire mah iegelîh wole here haven.
of-them may each well host have.

helet, nu rât thu mir thar zuo:
hero, now counsel thou me there to:

âne thih newil ih niwet tuon,
without thee will I nothing do,

wande ih thir wole trûwe.
for I thee well trust.

nu sprih thu, herre Genelûne,
now speak thou, lord Ganelon,

unde lâz mih thînen rât hôren.
and let me thy counsel hear.

ih wil is thir iemer lônen.»
I will of-it thee ever reward.»

Thô sprah ther ungetriuwe râtgebe:
Then spoke the faithless counselor:

«lâz thîne tumplîche rethe.
«leave thy foolish speech.

of sih ane ein velt
if itself on a field

gesamenôte elliu thisiu werlt,
gathered all this world,

sine mahten niht erherten
they might not endure

vore then guoten swerten
before the good swords

thei in thes keiseres hove sint.
that in the emperor's court are.

si zevuorten sie sam ther wint
they scattered them as the wind

an there thurre tuot then stouf.
on the dry-land does the dust.

ire vehten thaz ne douh.
their fighting that not avails.

sih ne tharf nieman mit in beheften.
himself — needs no-one with them engage.

thâ vehtet selbe mîn drehtin.
there fights self my Lord.

theme keisere ne mah niwet werren,
to-the emperor — may nothing harm,

thie wîle er got wile vlêhen.
the while he God will implore.

wir sculen iz anders teilen:
we shall it otherwise divide:

mahten wir sie sceithen,
might we them separate,

Ruolante unde thie sîne.
Roland and the his.

thie sint âne zwîvel,
they are without doubt,

thaz in thirre werelte lebe sohein man,
that in this world lives no man,

ther sie turre bestân.
who them dares withstand.

tuon aver ih thir soheinen rât
(if)-do however I thee any counsel

unde thaz iz under wegen bestât,
and that it on way stays,

sô saget man vone mir niuwiu mâre,
so tell one of me new tidings,

sie rethent thaz ih untriuwe plâge.»
they say that I faithlessness practice.»

Ther kuninc hiez thô sîne man
The king bade then his men

Apollen thare vure tragen.
Apollo there forth carry.

ther tiuvel gaf ime then sin.
the devil gave to-him the sense.

Genelûn swuor sih zuoze in:
Ganelon swore himself to them:

Marsilie und thie sîne man
Marsile and the his men

thie tâten ime alsame.
they did to-him likewise.

sie swuoren al gemeine
they swore all in-common

ûf Ruolanten eine.
upon Roland alone.

ther kuninc unde sîne holden
the king and his followers

swuoren ûf Apollen
swore upon Apollo

ûf Ruolandes tôt:
upon Roland's death:

sie kômen alle sint in grôze nôt.
they came all afterward into great distress.

Nu muoze wir alle wole clagen
Now must we all well lament

sô wenne sô wir hôren sagen
so when so we hear tell

thie grôzen untriuwe:
the great faithlessness:

sô mah uns balde riuwen
so may us quickly rue

thaz ie sohein kristen man,
that ever any Christian man,

ther toufe ane sih gewan,
who baptism on himself won,

ie geriet then mort.
ever counseled the murder.

von ime stêt gescriven dort.
of him stands written there.

Dâvîd ein kuninc vile mâre
David a king very famous

sprichet vone theme verrâtâre:
speaks of the traitor:

er hât sîne zungen gewezzet,
he has his tongue whetted,

mîne vîande ûf mih gehezzet.
my enemies upon me set.

wither gote hazzet er mih.
against God hates he me.

herre, have thu selve then gerih:
lord, have thou self the judgment:

thu kurze ime sîne tage.
thou shorten to-him his days.

ein anderer sînen rîhtuom behave.
an other his riches have.

sîniu kint werthen weisen
his children become orphans

unde nekomen niemer ûzer vreisen.
and come never out-of terrors.

sîn wîp muoze witewe werthen.
his woman must widow become.

in sînen sunden muoze er ersterben.
in his sins must he die.

sô thu komest an thîn gerihte
when thou comest to thy judgment

ze aller liute gesihte,
in of-all people sight,

thâ werthe er verteilet,
there become he condemned,

theme tiuvele bemeinet,
to-the devil assigned,

in thie swebelbrinnenten scare.
into the sulfur-burning troop.

thiu helle sî ime iemer gare,
the hell be to-him ever ready,

thaz er untriuwelîche
that he faithlessly

verriet zwei rîche,
betrayed two realms,

sîne evenkristenen zuo there martere gaf,
his fellow-Christians to the martyrdom gave,

thô ther keiser sînen staf
when the emperor his staff

bî ime sande
by him sent

zuo there heithenen lande
to the heathen land

ze suone unde ze nâthen
for atonement and for grace

unde si there toufe willih wâren,
and they of-the baptism willing were,

thaz er sie ane then triuwen beithenhalven verriet.
that he them in the faith on-both-sides betrayed.

ouh ne nôz er is niet. 2410
also — enjoyed he it not.

thiz heizet ther pinrât,
this is-called the pine-counsel,

wande iz allez gevrumet wart
for it all furthered was

under eineme pineboume
under a pine-tree

samet theme ungetriuwen Genelûne.
together with-the faithless Ganelon.

Thô sprah ther ungetriuwe man: 2415
Then spoke the faithless man:

«nu ih thie gewisheit hân,
«now I the certainty have,

herre, nu wil ih iu râten:
lord, now will I to-you counsel:

besendet iuh vile thrâte.
send-for you very quickly.

beithiu in lante joh in mere
both on land and on sea

bringet zesamene iuwer here. 2420
bring together your host.

sentet theme keisere iuwere geve,
send to-the emperor your gifts,

thaz er iu iht gesprechen mege,
that he to-you not speak-against may,

iuweren sune ze gîselen:
your son as hostage:

sô sprechent sîne wîsen,
so speak his wise-ones,

thaz er mit êren
that he with honors

ze lande mege kêren.
to land may turn.

sô sie then scaz ze sih genement,
when they the treasure to themselves take,

urlouves sie alle gerent.
of-leave they all desire.

thie verre here komen sint,
who far hither come are,

thie gesehent gerne wîb unde kint.
they see gladly woman and child.

sone mah ther keiser thes niht geweigeren,
so may the emperor it not refuse,

er muoz hinnen sceithen,
he must hence part,

wande er iz selve gelovet hât.
for he it self vowed has.

sô sage ih thir rehte wie iz ergât.
so tell I thee rightly how it goes.

sô nimet sîn neve Ruolant
so takes his nephew Roland

thie burge al ze sînere hant.
the castles all into his hand.

er sprichet, er habez allez mit rehte.
he speaks, he has-it all with right.

so erteilent ime thie guoten knehte,
so adjudge to-him the good knights,

thaz er thes landes huote.
that he of-the land should-guard.

thurh sîne ubermuote
through his arrogance

wil er eine haben
will he alone have

thâ thîne helethe sint erslagen,
where thy heroes are slain,

thrîzih tûsent unde mêr.
thirty thousand and more.

sô wirthet er sô hêr.
so becomes he so proud.

thie zweleve varent alle mite.
the twelve fare all with.

thaz ist lange ire site:
that is long their custom:

sie havent alle éinen muot;
they have all one spirit;

sô wer ire eineme iwet duot,
so who of-them one anything does,

ther hât sie alle bestanden.
he has them all attacked.

wurthe iz in enplanden,
should-become it them taken-on,

thes vrowete sih mîn sêle
of-that would-rejoice itself my soul

unde vreiscete iz ouh vile gerne.»
and would-hear-of it also very gladly.»

Thô sprah ther ungetriuwe man,
Then spoke the faithless man,

ther theme tiuvel manege sêle gewan:
who for-the devil many-a soul won:

«wiltu, herre, rât thar zuo,
«(if)-wilt-thou, lord, counsel there to,

ih sage thir rehte wie thu tuo.
I tell thee rightly how thou do.

île thaz thu liute gewinnest.
hasten that thou people win.

sô thu thîn here zesamene bringest,
when thou thy host together bringest,

sô huote there cîte,
so watch the time,

so ther keiser wither rîte.
when the emperor back rides.

niemer geoffen thih sîn ê,
never reveal thee of-it before,

thaz thir iht missegê.
that to-thee not go-amiss.

ne sûme thih niht ze lange:
— delay thee not too long:

sô werthent sie thir alle.
so become they to-thee all.

ih ne lâze thaz niet,
I — omit that not,

ih ne sende thir mînen brief:
I unless send to-thee my letter:

sô scaffe thu thîne spê,
so make thou thy spies,

sô waz ie unt ie gescê,
so what ever and ever happen,

thie thih warnen.
who thee warn.

lâ thih sie niet erbarmen.
let thee them not pity.

scaffe thîne hâlscare:
make thy ambush:

sô geligent sie alle gare.
so lie they all wholly.

werthent thie thenne erslagen,
(if)-become they then slain,

ther keiser ne mah sih niemer erhalen,
the emperor — may himself never recover,

er erstervet vore leithe:
he dies for sorrow:

sone suochet er thih niemer mêre heime.»
so seeks he thee never more at-home.»

Ther kuninc antwirte ime thô:
The king answered to-him then:

«thîner rethe bin ih vile vrô.»
«of-thy speech am I very glad.»

er kuste in ane then munt.
he kissed him on the mouth.

er swuor ane there stunt,
he swore at the hour,

of iz Apollo wolte,
if it Apollo would,

thaz there zweleve ne scolte
that of-the twelve — should

niemer neheiner thannen komen.
never any thence come.

«mit eithen wil ih iz loven»,
«with oaths will I it vow»,

ube sîn Mahmet verhancte.
if it Mahomet allowed.

ther kuninc ime thô thancte
the king to-him then thanked

unde thie mit ime wâren,
and who with him were,

herzogen unde grâven:
dukes and counts:

sie vroweten sih there rethe.
they rejoiced themselves of-the speech.

manehvalt wart thiu geve.
manifold became the gift.

ther kuninc hiez ime vure tragen
the king bade to-him forth carry

manegen pouh wole geslagen,
many-a bracelet well beaten,

scuzzelen unde napfe,
bowls and cups,

thie wole gesteinten kophe,
the well jeweled goblets,

maneh werk spâhe,
many-a work skillful,

thie pellele vile wâhe,
the brocades very costly,

pisse unde purpur.
byssus and purple.

man gaf ime ein culter,
one gave to-him a quilt,

mit golde beslagen.
with gold mounted.

ienoh hiez er ime vure tragen
yet bade he to-him forth carry

thie tiuweren mantel harmîn,
the precious cloaks of-ermine,

so si bezzer ne mohten sîn,
so they better not might be,

thie lîste vone zobele.
the border of sable.

thaz gesteine lûhte thar ovene
the gems shone there above

sam thaz prinnende olevaz.
like the burning oil-vessel.

ienoh gaf er ime baz:
yet gave he to-him better:

er hiez ime vure ziehen
he bade to-him forth lead

thie marh bevollen ziere
the steeds full adorned

unde vorloufte tiure,
and hounds precious,

olventen unde mûle,
camels and mules,

manegen soumâre
many-a sumpter-horse

gelathen vile swâre.
laden very heavy.

thie geve wâren lussam.
the gifts were lovely.

thô vrowete sih ther ungetriuwe man
then rejoiced himself the faithless man

thaz er ie kom ane thie vart.
that he ever came on the journey.

owî thaz er ie geboren wart!
alas that he ever born was!

Alsô er thes kuninges geve unphienc,
As he the king's gift received,

Valdebrûn hine zuo ime gienc.
Valdebrun thither to him went.

er sprah: «Genelûn, liever man,
he spoke: «Ganelon, dear man,

thiz swert scoltu vone mer hân.
this sword shalt-thou from me have.

iz gaf mir ther kuninc vone Tielsarke.
it gave me the king of Tielsarke.

ther herete mir mîne marke:
he harried for-me my march:

thô sluoh ih ime an there stunt
then slew I to-him at the hour

viere unt zweinzeh tûsunt;
four and twenty thousand;

thie andere fluhen thannen.
the others fled thence.

selve wart er gevangen.
self was he captured.

thaz gaf er mir ze minnen.
that gave he me for love.

nu vuore thu iz samet thir hinnen.
now carry thou it together-with thee hence.

ih wile iz thir hie ze stete bewâren,
I will it to-thee here on spot prove,

thaz nehein swert sô mâre
that no sword so famous

under theme himele nie newart geslagen.»
under the heaven never was struck.»

er hiez ime einen helm thare tragen.
he bade to-him a helm there carry.

er sluoh in almitten ze tale:
he struck it amid to valley:

thaz swert ne weih nieware.
the sword — gave-way nowhere.

thô sprah ther ungetriuwe herzoge:
then spoke the faithless duke:

«ih hân vriunt an thiseme hove.
«I have friends at this court.

thaz mirre got muoze gunnen!
that to-me-the God may grant!

thu hâst mih iemer gewunnen.»
thou hast me ever won.»

er bevalh ime umbe Ruolanten.
he commended to-him about Roland.

«bringestu in mir ze hanten», 2540
«(if)-bringest-thou him to-me into hands»,

sprah ther herzoge Valdebrûn,
spoke the duke Valdebrun,

«thaz thiene ih iemer, vriunt Genelûn.»
«that repay I ever, friend Ganelon.»

Cliboris hiez ime thô vure tragen
Cliboris bade to-him then forth carry

einen helm harte lussam:
a helm very lovely:

thiu lîste was rôtguldîn. 2545
the border was red-golden.

er sprah: «Genelûn, liever vriunt mîn,
he spoke: «Ganelon, dear friend mine,

thisen helm scoltu tragen.
this helm shalt-thou wear.

thune tharft neheinen angest hân,
thou needest no fear have,

sô wâr thu ane thes keiseres scare
so where thou in the emperor's troop

under thiseme helme rîtest gare, 2550
under this helm ridest ready,

thaz thih dehein wâfen gewinne.
that thee any weapon should-win.

ih wile ane thih gethingen
I will on thee treat

thaz thu Ruolanten
that thou Roland

bringest mir ze hanten,
bringest to-me into hands,

thaz ih then ruom erwerve. 2555
that I the fame should-win.

izne sî thaz er niemer ne scule ersterven
unless-it be that he never — shall die

vone neheinere slahte wâfen,
by no kind-of weapon,

ê ih in thenne lâze,
before I him then leave,

wil iz Mahmet mîn herre,
(if)-wills it Mahomet my lord,

mîn lant hât iemer vor ime frithe mêre.»
my land has ever before him peace more.»

XI · MARSILE CALLS HIS KINGS

Ganelon promises Cliboris to lead Roland where he cannot escape, saying his son Baldwin will repay the helm. Brahmunt gives him a jewel for his wife and asks him to win Roland for him to kill. Marsile writes to his lands, and kings come from everywhere with their thousands: Alrich, Ilmar, Antelin, the dog-headed men of Funde, Zernubel from his accursed land, and many more. Marsile gives Ganelon gifts and the hostages, his own son among them, and weeps; Ganelon pledges his soul to keep faith.

Genelûn vienc in bî hanten.
Ganelon took him by hands.

er sprah: «ih mache thir Ruolanten.
he spoke: «I make for-thee Roland.

ih gewîse in ane thie stat
I guide him to the place

thâ er hine noh here nemah,
where he hence nor hither may-not,

ist thaz ih gesunt leve.
is that I sound live.

thise hêrlîke gebe
this lordly gift

thienet noh mîn sune Baldewîn.
repays yet my son Baldwin.

ih scol thir iemer ungeswichen sîn.»
I shall to-thee ever unfailing be.»

Ûf stuont thô Brahmunt.
Up stood then Brahmunt.

er kuste in thâ ze stunt.
he kissed him there at hour.

er gaf ime ein gesmîthe.
he gave to-him a jewel.

er sprah: «nu bringe iz thîneme wîbe.
he spoke: «now bring it to-thy woman.

Karl ist ein kuninc rîke:
Charles is a king rich:

erne gewan nie nehein samelîke,
he won never any such-one,

noh newart ûf there erthe
nor was upon the earth

nie geworht mêre.
never wrought more.

ih hân thîn gerne minne.
I have thy gladly love.

kore mir Ruolanten gewinnen:
try to-me Roland to-win:

scolt ih in tôten mit mîner hant,
should I him kill with my hand,

ih gâve liute unde lant.»
I would-give people and land.»

thô sprah ther ungetriuwe man:
then spoke the faithless man:

«wolde got, hâtestu sie alle erslagen:
«would God, hadst-thou them all slain:

thes vrowete sih mîn sêle.
of-that would-rejoice itself my soul.

ire hôhvart muot mih vile sêre.»
their pride grieves me very sorely.»

Ther kuninc hiez îlen,
The king bade hasten,

sîne brieve scrîven.
his letters write.

er hiez kunden in thie lant,
he bade proclaim into the lands,

Corders wâre verbrant,
Cordres were burned,

thaz liut wâre verkêret,
the people were perverted,

Mahmet wâre untêret;
Mahomet were dishonored;

alle thie in rechen wolten,
all who him avenge would,

thaz ime thie komen scolten.
that to-him they come should.

thie heithenen samenôten ire here
the heathens gathered their host

vone lande und vone mere
from land and from sea

ûz vile manegen rîchen.
out-of very many realms.

thare kom vermezzenlîche
there came boldly

Alrîch von Pande.
Alrich of Pande.

er vuorte ûz sîneme lande
he led out-of his land

zweinzih tûsent helethe,
twenty thousand heroes,

thie er selbe ûz erwelete,
whom he self out chose,

mit stâle umbeslozzen:
with steel enclosed:

thie wâren heithenen vermezzen.
they were heathens bold.

Vone Ulter Ilmâr
Of Ulter Ilmar

ther huob sih willihlîke thare
he raised himself willingly thither

mit vunfzehen tûsent mannen,
with fifteen thousand men,

mit horne beslozzen alle.
with horn enclosed all.

Ilaz vone Zamme
Ilaz of Zamme

ther hâte thrîzih tûsent manne.
he had thirty thousand men.

Antelîn vone Horre,
Antelin of Horre,

ithoh er wâre verre,
though he were far,

er vuorte vunfzehen tûsent hornbogen.
he led fifteen thousand horn-bows.

ouh was ime komen
also was to-him come

ther kuninc vone Salariâ.
the king of Salaria.

ther vuorte ime thâ
he led to-him there

vunfzehen tûsent unde mêre,
fifteen thousand and more,

theme sîneme gote ze êren.
to-the his god for honors.

vile thikke riefen sie Mahmet,
very often called they Mahomet,

ithoh er ubele sît zuo in dete.
though he evil afterward to them did.

ther kuninc vone Tarmarke
the king of Tarmarke

ther vuorte vone sîner marke
he led from his march

vierzehen tûsent an sîner scare:
fourteen thousand in his troop:

thie fuorten horn unde gare.
they bore horn and spears.

ther kuninc Maglierte
the king Maglierte

ther vuorte vermezzene thiete,
he led bold peoples,

zwelef tûsent hornbogen,
twelve thousand horn-bows,

there nie neheiner wither kom.
of-whom never any back came.

ther herzoge vone Philêne,
the duke of Philene,

zwelef tûsent unde mêre
twelve thousand and more

vuorte er theme kuninge
led he to-the king

(iz ergienc in vile ubele)
(it went to-them very ill)

ûf Ruolanten:
upon Roland:

iz wart in harte enplanten.
it was to-them hard made-burdensome.

ther kuninc vone Marsilien
the king of Marsilien

ther vuorte ûz sîner iselen
he led out-of his island

niwen tûsent puckelâre,
nine thousand bucklers,

ithoh in missescâhe.
though to-them it-went-ill.

ther kuninc vone Phîlê
the king of Phile

ther gebôt an sîner ê,
he commanded in his law,

sô wer wâfen truoge,
so who weapons bore,

thaz er thie herevart vuore.
that he the war-journey should-fare.

ther kuninc vone Lagiure
the king of Lagiure

ther brâhte ime ze stiure
he brought to-him for aid

vunfzehen tûsent guoter knehte,
fifteen thousand good knights,

zuo aller nôte gerehte.
to all distress ready.

vone Tebeselîne
from Tebeseline

thie kômen ûf thie galîne;
they came upon the galleys;

thie fuorten alle atigêre
they bore all javelins

Mahmet ze êren.
to-Mahomet for honors.

ther kuninc vone Alerîe
the king of Alerie

ther vuorte sîner gote thrîe:
he led of-his gods three:

thaz was Mars unt Jovînus,
that was Mars and Jupiter,

ther thritte hiez Saturnus.
the third was-called Saturn.

sie opherôten there trugeheit:
they offered to-the deceit:

sie lôneten in rehte nâh ire arebeit.
they rewarded them rightly after their labor.

ther kuninc vone Funde,
the king of Funde,

ire houbet scein sam there hunde:
their heads appeared like the dogs':

thie vuorten alle gescuzze.
they bore all shooting-weapons.

iz wart in sît unnuzze.
it became to-them afterward useless.

ther kuninc vone Tûse
the king of Tuse

ther vuorte ûz sîner clûse
he led out-of his defile

manegen helm prûnen.
many-a helm brown.

thâ mohte man scouwen
there might one behold

manigen helet lussam:
many-a hero lovely:

thie wâren kuone unde vorhtsam.
they were bold and fearsome.

ther kuninc vone Kampanie
the king of Campania

mit micheleme magene;
with great might;

ther kuninc vone Lebere,
the king of Lebere,

thaz liut ist uns vremethe;
the people is to-us strange;

ther kuninc von Galezprieze,
the king of Galezprieze,

ahtecke spieze
eight-cornered spears

vuorten sie ane then hanten.
bore they in the hands.

sie thrôten alle Ruolante.
they threatened all Roland.

Thare kom Margarîz.
There came Margariz.

ther vuorte manegen freissamen spiez,
he led many-a terrible spear,

manegen helet êrlîchen,
many-a hero honorable,

gevaren vone zwein rîchen:
fared from two realms:

thaz eine heizet Sibiliâ,
the one is-called Seville,

thaz ander Taceriâ.
the other Taceria.

thaz liut was freissam.
the people was terrible.

thane was nehein sô scôner man.
there was no so fair man.

thar kômen manege kuninge.
there came many kings.

thar kom ouh Zernubelc:
there came also Zernubel:

thes liutes got niht ne ruochet.
of-the people God not — cares.

thiu erthe ist gare verfluochet.
the earth is wholly accursed.

in ne scein nie nehein sunne.
on-them — shone never any sun.

ther nebel ist ire gewunne.
the mist is their delight.

thaz korn ist ubele veile.
the grain is ill for-sale.

swarz sint ire steine.
black are their stones.

thâ ist walt unde mos.
there is forest and moss.

sie ezzent thiu ros.
they eat the horses.

sie levent mit grimme:
they live with fury:

ther tiuvel wonet thar inne.
the devil dwells there in.

ther kuninc was ein stark man:
the king was a strong man:

sô waz siben mûle mahten getragen,
so what seven mules might carry,

thaz zuhte er ûf mit einer hant.
that lifted he up with one hand.

thaz hâr ane then vuozen erwant.
the hair on the feet ended.

inoh kom ire vile,
yet came of-them many,

there ih nennen niht ne wile,
whom I name not — will,

kuninge genuoge,
kings enough,

thie thie krône truogen,
who the crown bore,

Aldarôt und Falsaron.
Aldarot and Falsaron.

sô vile was there herzogen,
so many were of-the dukes,

thaz ire thaz buoh neheine zale ne hât,
that of-them the book no count — has,

tha iz allez ane gescriven stât.
where it all on written stands.

Thô sie geretheten
When they had-spoken

unde in ther kuninc gegebete,
and to-them the king had-given,

Marsilies gebôt then kamerâren,
Marsile commanded the chamberlains,

thaz sie gereite wâren
that they ready were

there vile hêrlîchen gebe.
of-the very lordly gift.

er manete in thikke mit rethe.
he exhorted him often with speech.

er beswief in mit then hanten.
he embraced him with the hands.

er sprah: «mache mir Ruolanten.
he spoke: «make for-me Roland.

thîn sune Paldewîn
thy son Baldwin

ther scal iemer nâh mir ther overiste sîn
he shall ever after me the highest be

ane mîneme rîche:
in my realm:

thaz geheizen ih thir wârlîche.»
that promise I thee truly.»

er kuste in thikke ane then munt.
he kissed him often on the mouth.

er bevalh iz ime aver ane there anderen stunt.
he entrusted it to-him again at the other hour.

er swuor bî Mahmet sîneme herren,
he swore by Mahomet his lord,

bestâtigete er ime sîn êre,
confirmed he to-him his honor,

er wolte is ime iemer lônen.
he would of-it to-him ever reward.

man hiez thie gebe vrône
one bade the gifts lordly

sciere antreiten.
quickly make-ready.

man hiez vure leiten
one bade forth lead

ire mûzâre
their mewed-hawks

unde manege gebe seltsâne.
and many-a gift strange.

thô hiez er ouh thie gîsel
then bade he also the hostages

sciere vure wîsen.
quickly forth lead.

er bevalh ime sînen sune.
he entrusted to-him his son.

er sprah: «thu maht ubele unde wole ze mir tuon;»
he spoke: «thou mayst ill and well to me do;»

there fursten kint aller samt:
the princes' children all together:

«nu bevilhe ih in thîne gewalt
«now entrust I into thy power

beithiu lîp unt êre.
both life and honor.

waz mah ih rethen mêre?»
what may I speak more?»

er viel ûf then banc.
he fell upon the bench.

then mantel er umbe thaz houbet want.
the cloak he about the head wound.

er reweinete vile harte,
he wept very hard,

thaz er ime niene antwirte.
that he to-him not-at-all answered.

Genelûn nâher gie.
Ganelon nearer went.

mit then armen er in umbevie.
with the arms he him embraced.

«wie tuostu sô», sprah er, «herre?
«how dost-thou so», spoke he, «lord?

ih setze thir mîne sêle
I pledge to-thee my soul

thurh thih in urteile.
for thee in judgment.

thâ ist umbe veile
there is for-it for-sale

sô waz ih vone theme keisere hân,
so what I from the emperor have,

iz ne muoze nâh thînen êren ûz gân.
it unless must after thy honors out go.

ih verswuore Karlingen,
I would-forswear Kerlingen,

mahte ih anders niht gethingen.
might I otherwise not treat.

ih bereite sie thir withere:
I prepare them for-thee back:

ih gelige ê tôt thâ nithere.
I lie before dead there down.

ih behalte selbe thînen sune.
I keep self thy son.

jane mahten si alle wither mir niht getuon.
indeed might they all against me nothing do.

elliu thise kint,
all these children,

thiu mir bevolhen sint,
who to-me entrusted are,

ih bestâtige sie ane thie stat,
I establish them in the place,

thâ in niht gewerren ne mah.
where them nothing harm — may.

ne zwîvele niht, herre,
— doubt not, lord,

ih beherte thîne êre
I maintain thy honor

unt wil thir iemer gerne thienen.»
and will thee ever gladly serve.»

thie herren sih thô sciethen.
the lords themselves then parted.

Ganelon rides back with his heathen escort and has Naimes urge Charles home, promising Marsile's baptism. At court he reports that Marsile will be baptized, become Charles's man, and seek his court, and that only Algaphiles has fled. Charles thanks God and asks for a lord to hold Spain. The princes argue until Ganelon proposes Roland, and then all agree.

Genelûn urloup nam:
Ganelon leave took:

frô sciet er than.
glad parted he thence.

thie sîne verrâtgenôze
the his fellow-traitors

thie thienten ime sô grôze:
they served to-him so greatly:

si beleiten in ane thie strâze. 2765
they escorted him on the road.

sine wolten in nie verlâzen
they would him never leave

zwêne tage unde zwô naht.
two days and two nights.

vile grôz was sîn hêrscaf.
very great was his lordship.

sîne boten er thô vure sante:
his messengers he then ahead sent:

vile thikke er sie manete. 2770
very often he them exhorted.

er bôt theme herzogen vone Beieren,
he bade to-the duke of Bavaria,

thaz er in gesprâche alters eine.
that he him should-speak all alone.

unter einem oleboume
under an olive-tree

gesaz er mit Genelûne.
sat he with Ganelon.

«Naimes, thu bist ein getriuwer herre.
«Naimes, thou art a faithful lord.

ther keiser hôret thih gerne:
the emperor hears thee gladly:

er ist thir genâthih unde holt.
he is to-thee gracious and devoted.

nim thu, helet, mîn golt,
take thou, hero, my gold,

thisen soumâre.
this sumpter-horse.

lâ thirz niht wesen swâre
let to-thee-it not be heavy

thurh thîne tugentlîche site:
for thy virtuous custom:

tuo, helet, thes ih thih bite.
do, hero, what I thee ask.

sprih thu mînen herren.
speak thou to-my lord.

jâ hân ih sînen werren
yea have I his strife

allen zefuoret,
all put-away,

thaz urliuge versuonet,
the war atoned,

nâh sînen êren verendet.
according-to his honors ended.

thie gîsel sint ime gesendet
the hostages are to-him sent

mit vile maneger slahte scaz.
with very many-a kind-of treasure.

Karl mah sîn iemer theste baz.
Charles may of-it ever the-more better.

nu sprih thu mînen herren:
now speak thou to-my lord:

rât ime thaz er wither kêre,
counsel to-him that he back turn,

thaz er hine entwîche
that he thence withdraw

heim in sîn rîche.
home into his realm.

thes hân ih mîne triuwe gegeben.
of-that have I my faith given.

wellent siz thenne witherrethen,
will they-it then gainsay,

thaz ther keiser niht wil erwinden,
that the emperor not will desist,

mînen eit ih enpinde.
my oath I unbind.

ih pringe hine withere
I bring thither back

theme kuninge Marsilie
to-the king Marsile

* * *
(lacuna)

thâ nist niht withere,
there is nothing against,

erne welle getoufet werthen.
unless-he will baptized become.

thaz sage thu mîneme herren
that tell thou to-my lord

unde warne thu mih, helet palt,
and warn thou me, hero bold,

ê thiu gîsel komen ûz mîner gewalt,
before the hostages come out-of my power,

alsô ih thir getrûwe,
as I thee trust,

thaz iz mih her nâh iht geriuwe.»
that it me here after not should-rue.»

Naimes ther herzoge
Naimes the duke

îlte zuo thes keiseres hove.
hastened to the emperor's court.

«mahte ih thîn urloup hân,
«might I thy leave have,

ih scolte thir eine botescaf sagen,
I should to-thee a message tell,

gebiutest thuz, herre.
(if)-commandest thou-it, lord.

zefuoret ist thîn werre:
put-away is thy strife:

so ist thaz urliuge besuonet.
so is the war atoned.

Genelûn sih ruomet
Ganelon himself boasts

grôzer gebe vone then heithenen.
of-great gifts from the heathens.

er ist frôlîchen than gesceithen.
he is joyfully thence parted.

Marsilies hât iz wole verendet:
Marsile has it well ended:

er hât thir thiu gîsel here gesendet.
he has to-thee the hostages hither sent.

al thaz thie boten gehiezen,
all that the messengers promised,

ne habent sie niht gelâzen.
— have they not left.

erne mah nu niht gewenken.
he may now not waver.

nu scoltu, herre, gethenken
now shalt-thou, lord, think

thîner keiserlîchen worte.
of-thy imperial words.

Genelûn furhtet ime harte,
Ganelon fears for-himself hard,

thaz etewer thar under kome.
that someone there under should-come.

er hât then heithenen gesworen
he has to-the heathens sworn

thaz thu hinnen entwîchest.
that thou hence withdraw.

er kumet thir heimlîchen
he comes to-thee secretly

unde lebet iemer mêre
and lives ever more

alsô thu gebiutest, herre.»
as thou commandest, lord.»

Ther keiser hine ze himele sah:
The emperor thither to heaven looked:

sîn gebet er innehlîchen sprah.
his prayer he inwardly spoke.

«gelobet sîstu, herre.
«praised be-thou, lord.

thise manehvaltigen êre
these manifold honors

scule wir von thînen genâthen hân.
shall we from thy graces have.

thu scolt Genelûne sagen,
thou shalt to-Ganelon tell,

ihne hân nieman sô lieben,
I have no-one so dear,

thurh then ih welle liegen:
for whom I will lie:

ihne lâze in niht unter wegen,
I leave him not on way,

sô wâ er sîne triuwe hât gegeben.
so where he his faith has given.

er hât theme rîche wole gethienet.
he has to-the realm well served.

er wirthet gêret unde geliebet
he becomes honored and loved

von allen then mînen:
by all the mine:

thar ane ne tharf er niemer gezwîvelen.»
there in — needs he never doubt.»

Genelûn kom ze hove:
Ganelon came to court:

enphangen wart er vile wole.
received was he very well.

ther keiser vone sînem stuole gie:
the emperor from his throne went:

vile wirthihlîche er in enphie.
very worthily he him received.

fursten thie hêren
princes the noble

enphiengen in mit grôzen êren.
received him with great honors.

Genelûn inmitten gestuont
Ganelon amid stood

(truobe was ime sîn muot)
(troubled was to-him his spirit)

mit lachenten ougen.
with laughing eyes.

sînes herzen tougen
his heart's secret

newesse nieman innen.
knew no-one within.

thâ wurzelete ther tiuvel inne.
there rooted the devil within.

er sprah: «nu gruoze thih ther himiliske herre
he spoke: «now greet thee the heavenly lord

unde gefriste alle thîne êre,
and preserve all thy honor,

heiliger keiser,
holy emperor,

voget witewen unde weisen.
guardian of-widows and orphans.

thir enbiutet Marsilie,
to-thee sends-word Marsile,

ein kuninc wîse unt biderbe,
a king wise and worthy,

sîn thienest willihlîche,
his service willingly,

unt alle thie fursten vone sînem rîche,
and all the princes of his realm,

unt aller there geslahte.
and of-all the lineage.

zuo thîner hêrscafte
to thy lordship

habent sie gesendet ire kint,
have they sent their children,

want sie gerne gehôrsam sint
for they gladly obedient are

aller gotlîchen lêre.
to-all godly teaching.

beithiu lîp unt sêle
both life and soul

setzent sie zuo thînen genâthen.
set they to thy graces.

sie wellent thie cristenheit enphâhen.
they will the Christendom receive.

Marsilies wirthet thîn man;
Marsile becomes thy man;

er nimet half Yspaniam,
he takes half Spain,

er suochet gerne thînen hof.
he seeks gladly thy court.

sô waz thu gebiutest ienoch,
so what thou commandest yet,

thes sint flîzeh ze frumene
of-that are diligent to further

thie fursten mit theme kuninge:
the princes with the king:

sie sint alle komen enein,
they are all come to-one-mind,

wane Algafiles sîn ôheim,
except Algaphiles his uncle,

ther sluoh thir thîne man:
who slew to-thee thy men:

er wolte thir in engegene gesendet hân.
he would to-thee him toward sent have.

leither er ist ûf thaz mere entrunnen;
alas he is upon the sea escaped;

erne mah sîn niht gewinnen.
he may him not win.

Marsilies ist vile besceithen:
Marsile is very discerning:

er ist ther aller wîsiste heithene
he is the of-all wisest heathen

thanne ih ie hôrte gesagen.
than I ever heard tell.

zuo allen thînen râten maht thu in gerne haben.»
to all thy counsels mayst thou him gladly have.»

Thô lobete ther keiser verre
Then praised the emperor greatly

then himiliscen herren,
the heavenly lord,

theiz alsô wole versuonet was.
that-it so well atoned was.

vile thikke sprah er deo gracias.
very often spoke he deo gracias.

«Genelûn, lieber man,
«Ganelon, dear man,

thu hâst getriuwelîken wither mih getân.
thou hast faithfully toward me done.

lêhen unde eigen
fief and property

ist iemer thar umbe veile.
is ever there for for-sale.

thu unt al thîn kunne
thou and all thy kin

habet mih iemer gewunnen.»
have me ever won.»

er sprah: «wole ir Karlinge,
he spoke: «well you Carolingians,

einen herren scult ir uns gewinnen,
a lord shall you for-us win,

einen ûz erwelten man,
an out chosen man,

ther thaz lant mit vanen
who the land with banner

vone mîner hant bestê.
from my hand should-hold.

sô wie iz here nâh ergê,
so how it here after goes,

theme lâze ih veste burge.
to-him leave I firm castles.

erne habe neheine sorge:
he have no care:

er mah wole erbîten
he may well wait

thaz wir her wither rîten.
that we hither back ride.

unt kumet uns thehein ander mâre,
and (if)-comes to-us any other tiding,

thaz wirthet then heithenen vile swâre.
that becomes to-the heathens very heavy.

ih gefrume thie herevart,
I further the war-journey,

thaz in vile wê wart,
that to-them very woe became,

thaz sie ie geboren wurthen.
that they ever born were.

sie muozen alle scantlîche ersterben.»
they must all shamefully die.»

Tho erfulte Genelûn sînen rât,
Then fulfilled Ganelon his counsel,

ther unter theme pineboume gefrumet wart.
which under the pine-tree furthered was.

sie rieten mislîche.
they counseled diversely.

jâ sprâchen sumelîche,
yea spoke some,

Genelûn wâre ein helet guote:
Ganelon were a hero good:

er mahte thes landes wole huoten.
he might of-the land well guard.

sie retheten vone theme herzogen vone Beieren;
they spoke of the duke of Bavaria;

ther wâre there kuonisten einer:
he were of-the boldest one:

mit sînen guoten swerten
with his good swords

maht er thaz lant wole erherten.
might he the land well hold.

sie rieten alsô wîten
they counseled so widely

thaz sie begonden under in strîten.
that they began among them to-strive.

Genelûn mit listen
Ganelon with cunning

in then rât er sih gemiscte.
into the council he himself mixed.

er sprah: «wole ir ethelinge,
he spoke: «well you nobles,

thie kuonen Karlinge,
the bold Carolingians,

ir wâret ie guote knehte,
you were ever good knights,

iuwer herescilte gerehte.
your war-shields ready.

Yspaniam habet ir gewunnen,
Spain have you won,

ze there cristenheit gethwungen.
to the Christendom constrained.

nu welt ir then fremethen thie êre geben.
now will you to-the strangers the honor give.

muget ir unter uns einen welen!
may you among us one choose!

nemet Ruolanten.
take Roland.

er ist ein helet ze sînen hanten:
he is a hero at his hands:

thie heithenen furhtent in harte.
the heathens fear him hard.

in thiseme meregarten
in this sea-garden

ne lebet nehein man
— lives no man

then vîenten alsô vorhtsam.
to-the enemies so fearsome.

sô wenne in thie heithenen hôrent nennen,
so when him the heathens hear name,

sie fliehent sam man sie prenne.
they flee as-if one them burned.

er hât manlih gemuote.
he has manly spirit.

er gezimet theme keisere wole ze huote.
he befits to-the emperor well for guard.

er hât thie hêrlîchen man.
he has the lordly men.

theme lîhe mîn herre then vanen:
to-him lend my lord the banner:

thaz thunket mih thaz beste.
that seems to-me the best.

thie sîne nôtvesten
the his stalwarts

thiene geswîchent ime niet.
they fail to-him not.

sîn êre sint mir vile liep:
his honors are to-me very dear:

thie furdere ih gerne sô wa ih mah.
them further I gladly so where I may.

jâ neiget sih ther tah:
yea bows itself the day:

wir sûmen uns alze lange.»
we delay us all-too long.»

jâ sprâchen thie fursten alle,
yea spoke the princes all,

er hâte wole gerâten.
he had well counseled.

then keiser si alle bâten,
the emperor they all begged,

thaz er Ruolanten thâ lieze.
that he Roland there should-leave.

vile tiure si ime gehiezen,
very dearly they to-him promised,

gescâhe iz zuo there nôte,
should-happen it to the distress,

sie kômen ime alle thrâte.
they would-come to-him all quickly.

XIII · CHARLES'S DREAMS

Charles pales and laments that Ganelon has taken his right hand from him. In the night he prays, then dreams that Ganelon seizes the shaft in his hand and it shatters, and that a bear tears his arm. Ganelon presses for Roland as duke, and Charles calls him the devil's man. Roland takes the banner and is crowned over Spain, asks the Carolingians to aid him, rides to a hill with the twelve and twenty thousand, and parts from Charles amid great lamentation.

Ther keiser harte erbleihte.
The emperor hard paled.

thaz houbet er nither neihte,
the head he down bowed,

thaz gehôrde vone ime flôh,
the hearing from him fled,

thaz gesiune ime enzôh.
the sight from-him withdrew.

vile trûrlîchen er saz.
very sorrowfully he sat.

sih verwandelôte allez thaz an ime was.
itself changed all that on him was.

truobe wâren sîniu ougen.
troubled were his eyes.

er sprah zuo Genelûne:
he spoke to Ganelon:

«mîn neve Ruolant
«my nephew Roland

was mîn zesewe hant.
was my right hand.

nu habet ir in mir benomen:
now have you him from-me taken:

ihne weiz wie ih ze lande scol komen.
I-not know how I to land shall come.

wie scol iz umbe mîn houbet gestân?
how shall it about my head stand?

iz nist thurh nehein guot getân.
it is for no good done.

Genelûn, hâtet ir mîn gescônet,
Ganelon, had you me spared,

iuweres thienistes wurde iu vile wole gelônet.
of-your service were to-you very well rewarded.

irne getâtet mir nie sô leithe.
you did to-me never so sorrowful.

nâh there Franken urteile
after the Franks' judgment

sô muoz er iz sîn.
so must he it be.

nu bescirme in mîn drehtîn.»
now shield him my Lord.»

Ther sunne ce âbent verscein.
The sun at evening set.

thie fursten îlten alle samt hein.
the princes hastened all together home.

iz wart ein vinsteriu naht.
it became a dark night.

ther keiser an sînem bette gelah.
the emperor in his bed lay.

vile michel was sîn hêrscaft.
very great was his lordship.

zweinzih tûsent manne,
twenty thousand men,

mit stâle bevangen,
with steel enclosed,

thie wâren helethe guote,
they were heroes good,

thie then keiser behuoten.
who the emperor guarded.

iethoh hâte er einen site,
yet had he a custom,

thâ warne wir thie fursten mite:
there warn we the princes with:

sô sie alle wolten wânen,
when they all would believe,

thaz er ane theme bette lâge,
that he in the bed lay,

sô kniete er ûf there erthe.
so knelt he upon the earth.

er manete got thikke verre
he besought God often greatly

aller sîner tougen.
of-all his secrets.

thie zahere sîner ougen
the tears of-his eyes

stigen vone hercegrunde.
rose from heart's-ground.

neheine houpthafte sunde
no capital sin

ne wolte er ûf ime niht tragen.
— would he upon him not carry.

thaz urkunde wir vone sente Egidien haben,
the witness we from saint Giles have,

thaz er unseren herren umbe in bat,
that he our Lord for him prayed,

thaz er ime eine sculde vergaf.
that he to-him a guilt forgave.

er gethâhte ane thie brôthe,
he thought on the frailty,

so ther botih liget ôthe,
as the body lies empty,

thiu sêle hine zukket,
the soul thither jerks,

ther arme lîkenâme sih stuppet.
the poor body itself turns-to-dust.

thaz wizzen thie herren,
that know the lords,

thie nâh wereltlîchen êren
who after worldly honors

tagelîchen ringent,
daily strive,

thaz sie got thar unter minnent
that they God there among love

unt ire ougen kêrent ze gote:
and their eyes turn to God:

sô kumet in ther himilisce bote
so comes to-them the heavenly messenger

unt erlôset sie von allen nôten,
and frees them from all distresses,

suochent si in mit theumuote.
(if)-seek they him with humility.

Ther keiser sîn gebet
The emperor his prayer

vile thikke hinc ze gote tete.
very often thither to God did.

vile innehlîken er thar unter nante
very inwardly he there among named

sînen neven Ruolanten,
his nephew Roland,

unt alle thie cristenen wâren,
and all who Christians were,

thie enphal er zuo then gotes genâthen.
them commended he to the God's graces.

vone then venien begonde er muothen:
from the prostrations began he to-weary:

thô wolte er gerne ruowen.
then would he gladly rest.

ther slâf in bezuhte,
the sleep him overcame,

eine wîle er entnuhte.
a while he slumbered.

thô troumete ime vile gewis,
then dreamed to-him very surely,

wie er wâre in porta Cesaris,
how he were in porta Cesaris,

mit ime herren genuoge;
with him lords enough;

wie er einen scaft in there hant truoge,
how he a shaft in the hand bore,

Genelûn nâh ime sliche
Ganelon after him should-steal

unde then scaft einhalf begriffe
and the shaft on-one-side should-seize

unt wolte im in ûz there hant zukken.
and would from-him it out-of the hand jerk.

ther scaft prast ze stukken,
the shaft burst into pieces,

ther keiser ein teil behabete.
the emperor a part kept.

Genelûn verzagete:
Ganelon despaired:

sîniu stukke warf er withere;
his pieces threw he back;

thie fuoren gegen theme himele
they fared toward the heaven

in thie lufte vile hôh,
into the air very high,

thaz ime thaz ouge enzôh,
that from-him the eye withdrew,

thaz sine sah niemen.
that them saw no-one.

thie lufte sie enphiengen.
the air them received.

thie berge alle ther vone erkracheten.
the mountains all there of cracked.

ther keiser unsamfte erwachete.
the emperor ungently awoke.

Ther keiser viel zuo there erthe.
The emperor fell to the earth.

er sprah: «genâthehlîcher drehtîn hêre,
he spoke: «gracious Lord noble,

ih hân garnet thînen zorn:
I have earned thy anger:

ê muoze er uber mih komen.
rather must it over me come.

there mîner manegen sunten
of-the my many sins

lâ thaz liut niht engelten.
let the people not pay.

riht uber mih, herre, thaz ist reht.
judge over me, lord, that is right.

ih bin thîn entrunnener kneht.
I am thy escaped servant.

thu erlôstest mih vile tiure.
thou redeemedst me very dearly.

bescirme mih vore theme êwigen fiure.
shield me from the eternal fire.

riht uber then prôthen lîkenâmen.
judge over the frail body.

lâ thaz liut in thînen genâthen;
let the people in thy graces;

lâ sie thes geniezen,
let them of-it enjoy,

thaz sie thîne boten alle hiezen,
that they thy messengers all were-called,

herre, thîn selbes kint
lord, thy own children

unt hie in thîneme thieniste sint.
and here in thy service are.

sô waz ih wither thir hân getân,
so what I against thee have done,

thie râche scol billîchen uber mih gân.»
the vengeance shall rightly over me go.»

Tho er got vile tiure ane rief,
When he God very dearly on called,

ther keiser anderstunt enslief.
the emperor a-second-time fell-asleep.

in thûhte wie er ze Âche wâre
to-him seemed how he at Aachen were

unde ein bere vor ime lâge,
and a bear before him lay,

mit zwein ketenen gebunden.
with two chains bound.

sâ ze then stunden
at-once in the hours

ther pere in vaste ane sah.
the bear him firmly on looked.

thie ketenen er bêthe cebrah.
the chains he both broke.

ane lief in ther pere.
on ran him the bear.

thie fursten wolten in weren:
the princes would him ward-off:

ther keiser ne mahte sih sîn niht erhalen.
the emperor — might himself of-him not save.

er gewaltigôte ime then arm,
he overpowered to-him the arm,

thaz fleisc er ime allez abe brah;
the flesh he to-him all off broke;

thaz bein er gare nacket sah.
the bone he wholly naked saw.

vone then sachen
from the things

ther keiser begonde aber wachen.
the emperor began again to-wake.

Ther keiser gaf sih in gotes gewalt.
The emperor gave himself into God's power.

sîn ***
his (lacuna)

sô wâ man in thâ nennet,
so where one him there names,

thâ mahtu âne angest sîn.
there mayst-thou without fear be.

sô helve mir mîn drehtîn,
so help me my Lord,

unt wâren thie gîsel thâ heime,
and were the hostages there at-home,

alsô lange sô sie sint heithenen,
as long as they are heathens,

thaz sie mit allen ire creften
that they with all their strength

sih niemer ne geturren beheften.
themselves never — dare engage.

var nâh thînen êren.
fare after thy honors.

fursten thie hêren,
princes the noble,

thie sô lange ûze sint,
who so long out are,

then wartent wîp unde kint.
them await woman and child.

thes sint thie fursten zesamene komen:
of-that are the princes together come:

wir setzen ze herzogen
we set as duke

Ruolanten thînen neven;
Roland thy nephew;

sô mah er iemer frôlîchen leben.»
so may he ever joyfully live.»

Ther keiser in ane sah;
The emperor him on looked;

vile trûrehlîchen er sprah:
very sorrowfully he spoke:

«jâ thu vâlantes man,
«yea thou devil's man,

war umbe hâst thu sô getân?
what for hast thou so done?

waz wîzestu mir?
what blamest-thou me?

ein ubel geist ist mit thir.
an evil spirit is with thee.

hâte ih thir niht wole gelônet,
had I thee not well rewarded,

mahtestu gotes haben ane mir gescônet.
mightest-thou of-God have on me spared.

iz ist vile wâtlîche,
it is very likely,

thu getruobest allez rômisce rîche:
thou troublest all Roman realm:

vone thir scol michel ubel komen.
from thee shall great evil come.

war umbe hâst thu mir mîne huote benomen?
what for hast thou from-me my guard taken?

thes trûret mîn sêle.
for-that mourns my soul.

ihne vergibe thirz ouh niemer mêre.»
I forgive thee-it also never more.»

Ruolant ûf spranc;
Roland up sprang;

vile vaste er thare fure thranc.
very firmly he there forward pressed.

«herre, nu lîhe mir thaz lant:
«lord, now lend me the land:

thes gerent thie fursten alle samt.
of-that desire the princes all together.

want sie mih nennent thare zuo,
because they me name there to,

scol ih iz willihlîche tuon.
shall I it willingly do.

ih enphâhe hiute then vanen
I receive today the banner

in then thrin namen
in the three names

thâ wir ane gelouben.
which we on believe.

then wil ih thare zuo wole getrûwen,
to-him will I there to well trust,

ob ih thurh thie cristenen iht garbeite,
if I for the Christians anything labor,

thaz ih thaz lôn vinde gereite
that I the reward find ready

zuo there zesewen sîner kinde.
to the right of-his children.

owî wâre ih thâ ingesinde!
oh were I there household!

er wart thurh mih gemarterôt.
he was for me martyred.

ih bin gereht unze ane then tôt,
I am ready until to the death,

there sêle ze geleite,
for-the soul as escort,

thaz ther lîp gearbeite
that the body should-labor

thaz ih ane there jungesten wîle
that I at the last while

unter then rehten belîbe.»
among the righteous should-remain.»

Theme keiser wurthen thie ougen naz:
To-the emperor became the eyes wet:

tha erweinete allez thaz thâ was.
there wept all that there was.

then vanen er ime bôt.
the banner he to-him offered.

«scolt ih», sprah er, «thise nôt
«should I», spoke he, «this distress

hie samet thir lîthen,
here together-with thee suffer,

thar umbe wold ih verzîhen
there for would I renounce

there gebe Marsilie.
the gifts of-Marsile.

ungerne rîte ih withere,
unwillingly ride I back,

wanet thaz ih iz ze vaste gelobet hân.
except that I it too firmly vowed have.

mit êren mah ih hie niht bestân.
with honors may I here not stay.

ih furhte grôzer arebeite.
I fear great hardship.

got selbe sî thîn geleite,
God self be thy escort,

Ruolant vile lieber neve:
Roland very dear nephew:

ihne weiz ob ih thih iemer gesehe.»
I-not know if I thee ever should-see.»

Thie fursten zuo thrungen;
The princes thereto pressed;

vile grôz lob sie ime sungen.
very great praise they to-him sang.

Ruolanten sie hôhten,
Roland they exalted,

uber Yspanie sie in krônten
over Spain they him crowned

theme heiligen Criste ze êren.
to-the holy Christ for honors.

thô manete er thie herren:
then exhorted he the lords:

«wole ir Karlinge,
«well you Carolingians,

ûf iuwer aller genâthe ih thinge.
upon your all grace I trust.

ube mir iuwer her nâh thurft werthe,
if to-me of-you here after need become,

sô mane ih iuh verre.
so exhort I you greatly.

thie rethe wil ih besceithen.
the speech will I make-clear.

toufent sih thie heithenen,
(if)-baptize themselves the heathens,

sô wiez mîn herre besceithet,
so as-it my lord decides,

sone werthent sie niemer vone mir geleithet. 3160
so become they never by me harmed.

wellent si ane got gelouben,
will they in God believe,

sone scol sie niemen rouben,
so shall them no-one rob,

sunter frithen unte vristen
but protect and preserve

sam unsere lieben ebencristen.
like our dear fellow-Christians.

unte belîbent sie heithenen, 3165
and (if)-remain they heathens,

ih gemache thâ veigen.
I make there doomed.

ih gerîte in sô nâhe,
I ride to-them so near,

sô welhes ih thâ gerâme,
so whichever I there aim-at,

thaz erz niemer uberwindet.
that he-it never overcomes.

ist thaz sie ther tiuvel gescendet, 3170
is that them the devil disgraces,

so betharf ih iuwer helve,
so need I your help,

thaz ir mir vore theme rîke
that you to-me before the realm

entriuwen geheizet
in-faith promise

thaz ir mih eine iht verlâzet
that you me alone not leave

in theme ellende.»
in the exile.»

in thes keiseres hende
into the emperor's hands

lobeten sie getriuwelîchen,
vowed they faithfully,

sine wolten ime niemer geswîchen,
they would to-him never fail,

gescâe iz ime ze ther nôte.
should-happen it to-him in the distress.

thes erfrowete sih ther helet guote.
of-that rejoiced himself the hero good.

Ruolant enphie then vanen.
Roland received the banner.

er sprah: «wâ nu mîne vile lieben man,
he spoke: «where now my very dear men,

thie mir helven wellen?
who me help will?

wâ nu liebe gesellen,
where now dear comrades,

wâ nu friunt unt mâge?
where now friends and kinsmen?

nu stêt iz ane there wâge.
now stands it on the balance.

hie scol man friunte erkennen,
here shall one friends recognize,

then ih etewenne
to-whom I sometime

hân liebe getân.»
have love done.»

er zuhte ûf sînen vanen.
he raised up his banner.

er rante ûf ane eine hôhe,
he rode up on a height,

thaz was ein buhel scône.
that was a hill fair.

jâ riten thie zwelef nôtgestallen
yea rode the twelve comrades-in-need

mit zweinceh tûsent mannen:
with twenty thousand men:

thie wâren guote knehte,
they were good knights,

ze allen nôten gerehte,
to all distresses ready,

thie ime niemer geswichen
who to-him never failed

ze neheinen sînen sachen.
in any of-his matters.

sine bethwunge nehein nôt,
them would-constrain no distress,

sie wâren ime gereht unz ane then tôt
they were to-him ready until to the death

pestâtigen sîne êre.
to-confirm his honor.

Genelûn sah thaz ungerne.
Ganelon saw that unwillingly.

Ruolant sprah zuo theme keiser:
Roland spoke to the emperor:

«herre, rît an thîne reise
«lord, ride on thy journey

harte vrôlîchen
very joyfully

heim zuo Francrîche.
home to France.

then vanen scol ih fuoren,
the banner shall I bear,

herre, al nâh thînen êren.
lord, all after thy honors.

gotes hulde hâstu hie erworven.
God's favor hast-thou here won.

habe thu theheine sorge
have thou no care

thaz ih iemer entrinne thannen.
that I ever escape thence.

ther vane ne scol mir niht sô lîhte enphallen
the banner — shall from-me not so easily fall

sô ther hantscuoh Genelûne.
as the glove from-Ganelon.

thîne fursten thu niene sûme.
thy princes thou not-at-all delay.

got spare thîne êre.»
God spare thy honor.»

ther keiser weinete vile sêre.
the emperor wept very sorely.

vile thikke er in kuste;
very often he him kissed;

er thruhte in ane sîne bruste,
he pressed him to his breast,

er beswief in mit then armen.
he embraced him with the arms.

er sprah: «nu muoze iz got erbarmen,
he spoke: «now may it God pity,

thaz ih thih hie muoz lâzen.
that I thee here must leave.

jane mah ih niht thar zuo gebenmâzen
indeed may I not there to make-equal

thaz ih thâ fure nâme,
what I there before should-take,

helet, thaz ih thih tagelîchen sâhe.»
hero, that I thee daily should-see.»

Thô sih thie gelieven
When themselves the beloved-ones

vone ein ander gesciethen,
from one another parted,

ther jâmer wart vile grôz;
the lamentation became very great;

ther wuoft vone in thôz
the wailing from them roared

uber zwô mîle;
over two miles;

thaz lieve ingesîde,
the dear household,

ther vater von sîneme lieven sune;
the father from his dear son;

ther bruother muose sam tuon.
the brother must likewise do.

thâ sciet sih michel vriuntscaf.
there parted itself great friendship.

owî wie thâ geclaget wart!
alas how there lamented was!

thâ was wuoft unde wê.
there was wailing and woe.

newether sît noh ê
neither since nor before

sone hôrte nie nehein man
so heard never any man

clage alsô freissam.
lament so terrible.

sie muosen alle wole weinen;
they must all well weep;

sie liezen thâ manegen helet veigen.
they left there many-a hero doomed.

XIV · ROLAND'S REARGUARD

Charles turns home, and twenty thousand of the boldest stay under Roland's banner, the peers among them, their names written in the living books. Roland arms in his helm Venerant and with Durendart, then from a height sees the heathen host gathering. He sends Walter with a thousand men to seize the heights, and the Christians confess, take communion, and arm with joy. The heathens raise their idols and pray to Mahomet for Roland's head.

Ther keiser kêrte ze lande.
The emperor turned to land.

thie aller kuonisten wîgande,
the of-all boldest fighters,

thie ûf there erthe
who upon the earth

ie geboren thorften werthen,
ever born could become,

thie kêrten unter Ruolantes vanen.
they turned under Roland's banner.

sie hâten zweinzih tûsent man,
they had twenty thousand men,

ane then nihtes ne brah.
on whom nothing — lacked.

sô wâ iz in thar zuo gescah,
so where it to-them there to happened,

thâ sie gote scolten thienen,
where they God should serve,

thane sunderôte sie niemen.
there held-back them no-one.

sie fuorten veile then lîp.
they bore for-sale the life.

si gerehten sih in allen zît
they made-ready themselves at all times

thurh then heiligen louben ersterben.
for the holy faith to-die.

thurh got wolten sie gemarterôt werthen,
for God would they martyred become,

fursten thie thâ bestuonten,
princes who there stayed,

thie mit Ruolante huoten.
who with Roland guarded.

ouh ne gereten sie neheiner winne,
also — desired they of-no delight,

niwane thie wâren gotes minne.
except the true God's love.

thaz bewâre wir mit then lebentigen buochen,
that prove we with the living books,

thaz man sie scol suochen
that one them shall seek

unter allen mînes drehtînes kinden.
among all my Lord's children.

ther sundâre mah thâ zuo in vinden
the sinner may there to them find

beithiu helve unde rât
both help and counsel

uber alle sîne missetât.
over all his misdeed.

Alle thie mit Ruolante beliven,
All who with Roland remained,

thie sint an then levendigen buochen gescriven.
they are in the living books written.

thaz ist Gergirs unde Engelrîs,
that is Gerier and Engelier,

Ekkerîh unt Gernîs.
Ekkerich and Gernis.

thâ was Perengêr unde Attô,
there was Berengar and Atto,

Ansîs unde Îvô,
Anseis and Ivo,

Gêrhart unde Walther,
Gerhart and Walter,

Samsôn ein helet snel,
Samson a hero bold,

Olivier unde Turpîn,
Oliver and Turpin,

Ruolant unt thie mit in sîn,
Roland and who with them are,

unt alle thie mit in wâren
and all who with them were

thâ sie then geist wither gâven
when they the spirit back gave

ire urlôsâre.
to-their redeemer.

ire tôt ist tiure unde mâre.
their death is precious and famous.

Ruolant sih garete
Roland himself made-ready

(mit flîze er sih bewarete)
(with diligence he himself guarded)

in einen liehten roh vesten,
in a bright coat firm,

thaz man unter theme himele ne weste
that one under the heaven — knew

sînen bezzeren nehein.
its better none.

vone sînen brusten vorne scein
from his breast in-front shone

ein drache vone golde,
a dragon of gold,

sam ûz ime varen scolde
as-if out-of him fare should

thie funken fiures flammen,
the sparks of-fire flames,

mit gesmelze bewallen,
with enamel surrounded,

thaz gesteine alsô ethele
the gems so noble

sô iz wole gezam theme helethe.
as it well befitted the hero.

ther helm hiez Venerant,
the helm was-called Venerant,

then ther helet ûf bant,
which the hero up bound,

mit golde beworhten,
with gold wrought,

then thie heithenen harte vorhten.
which the heathens hard feared.

mit guldînen buohstaven
with golden letters

was an there lîsten ergraven:
was on the border engraved:

«elliu wereltwâfen
«all world-weapons

thie muozen mih maget lâzen.
they must me maiden leave.

wil thu mih gewinnen,
(if)-wilt thou me win,

thu fuorest scathen hinnen.»
thou carriest harm hence.»

sîn swert thaz hiez Durendart,
his sword that was-called Durendart,

wan unter theme himele nie gesmithet wart
for under the heaven never forged was

niht thes ime gelîh wâre.
nothing that to-it alike were.

sîne site wâren seltsâne:
its customs were strange:

ane sô welih ende sô man iz bôt,
on so which end so one it offered,

thâ was reite ther tôt.
there was ready the death.

alle thie ie smithen begunden,
all who ever to-forge began,

thie ne wessen noh ne kunden
they not knew nor — could

wie thaz swert gehertet was.
how the sword hardened was.

sîniu ekke wâren wahs.
its edges were sharp.

iz vorhten alle thie wither ime wâren
it feared all who against him were

unde thie iz ouh nie gesâgen.
and who it also never saw.

iz vorhte elliu heithenscaf.
it feared all heathendom.

ther stâl ne hâte thâ wither neheine craft,
the steel — had there against no strength,

newether bein noh horn:
neither bone nor horn:

iz was allez verlorn,
it was all lost,

joh thie herten vlinsteine.
and the hard flintstones.

thurh nôt untsâzen iz thie heithenen.
of necessity dreaded it the heathens.

Zwô hosen er ane leite:
Two hose he on laid:

thie wâren gantreitet
they were made-ready

vone golde unt vone berelen.
of gold and of pearls.

thâ lûhte sam thie sternen
there shone like the stars

thaz ethele gesteine.
the noble gems.

erne untvorhte wâfen neheine.
he feared weapon no.

einen spiez nam er ane thie hant,
a spear took he in the hand,

einen wîzen vanen er ane bant.
a white banner he on bound.

thâ wâren tiere unt vogele,
there were beasts and birds,

mit golde unterzogene.
with gold lined.

vile manih wunter thar ane was.
very many-a wonder there on was.

ûf ein marh er gesaz,
upon a steed he sat,

thaz was genamet Velentih.
that was named Velentih.

thaz criuce tete er vure sih
the cross made he before himself

ze rukke unt ze sîten.
to back and to sides.

thô kêrte er an eine lîten.
then turned he to a slope.

er sprah zuo sînen gesellen:
he spoke to his comrades:

«ne lât iuhs niet erlangen.
— let you-it not grow-long.

ih wile gerne ersinnen,
I will gladly find-out,

uf thie unseren witherwinnen
if the our adversaries

sîn mit samenunge.»
be with gathering.»

thô kêrte ther helet junge
then turned the hero young

ûf eine hôhe ther alben.
upon a height of-the alp.

thô sah er an allen halven
then saw he on all sides

thie molten ûf stieven,
the dust up fly,

vile manegen wîzen vanen vliegen,
very many-a white banner fly,

mit manegeme helme brûner varwen
with many-a helm of-brown color

manegen scilt goltgarwen.
many-a shield gold-adorned.

beithiu berh unde tal
both hill and dale

was bevangen uber al.
was filled over all.

goldes fuorten sie genuoh.
of-gold bore they enough.

ther witherscîm ime thaz gare entruoh, 3350
the counter-gleam from-him it wholly took,

thaz er sie mit nihte
that he them with nothing

geahten ne mahte.
count — might.

beithiu golt unt gesteine
both gold and gems

scein vone then heithenen
shone from the heathens

sam thie sterren unter then wolken. 3355
like the stars among the clouds.

vone volke ze volke
from folk to folk

sigen sie zesamene
sank they together

mit theme aller meisten magene,
with the of-all greatest might,

thaz ûf there erthe
that upon the earth

ie gesamenet mahte werthen. 3360
ever gathered might become.

sie vuorten grôz ubermuot:
they bore great arrogance:

thiu nist niemanne guot,
it is for-no-one good,

sie geliget ie nithere.
it lies ever down.

ther rihtâre thâ ze himele
the judge there in heaven

heizet sie selve vallen. 3365
bids it self fall.

then theumuotigen allen
to-the humble all

then heizet er selve sînen segen,
to-them promises he self his blessing,

thie an sînere hôrsam wellen leven.
who in his obedience will live.

Thô frowete sih ther helet Ruolant,
Then rejoiced himself the hero Roland,

thaz er there heithenen samenunge vant.
that he of-the heathens gathering found.

er sprah zuo Walthêre:
he spoke to Walter:

«nu île, thu helet mâre,
«now hasten, thou hero famous,

wele thir tûsent manne
choose for-thee thousand men

unt ne sûme thih niht ze lange:
and — delay thee not too long:

vâh uns thie perge,
seize for-us the mountains,

ê sîn thie heithenen innen werthen,
before of-it the heathens aware become,

thaz wir thie hôhe begrîfen,
that we the height should-seize,

ê uns thie heithenen unterslîchen.
before us the heathens under-creep.

thie andere thu warne
the others thou warn

(hie ist thes tiuveles geswarme),
(here is the devil's swarm),

thaz sie sih wâfen sciere.
that they themselves arm quickly.

sage Turpîn unt Oliviere,
tell Turpin and Oliver,

then helethen allen samt,
the heroes all together,

seme mir thisiu zesewe mîn hant,
so-help me this right my hand,

ihne kume niemer vone therre herte,
I come never from this hardship,

unz ih slahe mit mîneme swerte.
until I strike with my sword.

sine hilvet nehein ire grôzer scal:
them helps no their great clamor:

ire wirthet hiute sô getân val,
of-them becomes today so made fall,

thaz man iz wole sagen mah
that one it well tell may

unze ane then jungesten tah.
until to the last day.

mir ne swîche ther guote Durendart,
me unless fail the good Durendart,

si geriuwet al ire hôhvart.»
them rues all their pride.»

Thô thie helethe vernâmen
When the heroes perceived

thaz thie heithenen mit samenunge wâren,
that the heathens with gathering were,

sie bâten ire êwarte
they begged their priests

thaz sie sih gareten.
that they themselves should-make-ready.

zuo ire ambahte sie fiengen,
to their office they took,

then gotes lîchenâmen sie entphiengen.
the God's body they received.

sie vielen ire venie:
they fell their prostrations:

sie riefen hine ze himele
they cried thither to heaven

ze vile manegen stunden.
at very many hours.

sie maneten got sîner wunden,
they besought God of-his wounds,

tha er thie sîne mite erlôste,
where he the his with redeemed,

thaz er sie getrôste,
that he them should-comfort,

thaz er in ire sunde vergâve
that he to-them their sins should-forgive

unt selve ire urkunde wâre.
and self their witness should-be.

mit bîhte sie sih bewareten,
with confession they themselves guarded,

zuo theme tôthe sie sih gareten,
to the death they themselves made-ready,

unt wâren ithoh guote knehte,
and were yet good knights,

zuo there martere gerehte,
to the martyrdom ready,

there sêle ze wegene.
for-the soul to help.

thie wâren gotes thegene
they were God's thanes

sine wolten niht entrinnen.
they would not flee.

sie wolten gerne wither gewinnen
they would gladly back win

thaz unser alterbe.
the our ancient-inheritance.

thar nâh streveten thie helethe.
there after strove the heroes.

jâ wâren thie herren ethele
yea were the lords noble

in cristenlîcheme levene.
in Christian life.

sie hâten alle einen muot.
they had all one spirit.

ire herze hine ze gote stuont.
their heart thither to God stood.

sie hâten zuht unde scame,
they had breeding and shame,

kiuske unt gehôrsame,
chastity and obedience,

gethult unde minne.
patience and love.

sie prunnen wârlîchen innen
they burned truly within

nâh there gotes suoze.
after the God's sweetness.

wegen sie uns muozen
help they to-us must

thaz wir thirre armuote vergezzen,
that we this poverty should-forget,

wande sie thaz gotes rîke habent besezzen.
for they the God's realm have possessed.

Thô sih thie gotes thegene
When themselves the God's thanes

mit salmen unt mit segene,
with psalms and with blessing,

mit bîhte unt mit gelouben,
with confession and with faith,

mit trânenden ougen,
with tear-shedding eyes,

mit grôzer theumuote,
with great humility,

mit maneger slahte guote
with many-a kind-of good

sih ze gote haveten,
themselves to God held,

thie sêle gelaveten
the souls refreshed

mit theme himelbrôte
with the heaven-bread

unt mit theme vrône bluote
and with the holy blood

zuo theme êwigen levene,
to the eternal life,

thô wâfenôten sih thie helethe.
then armed themselves the heroes.

got loveten sie thô.
God praised they then.

sie wâren alle samet vrô
they were all together glad

sam thie ze brûtlouften sint.
as who at weddings are.

sie heizent alle gotes kint.
they are-called all God's children.

thie werelt sie versmâheten,
the world they despised,

thaz reine opher sie brâhten.
the pure offering they brought.

thô sie thaz criuce ane sih nâmen,
when they the cross on themselves took,

zuo theme tôthe begonden sie harte gâhen.
to the death began they hard to-hasten.

sie kouften thaz gotes rîche.
they bought the God's realm.

sine wolten ein ander niht geswîchen:
they would one another not fail:

sô waz einen thûhte guot,
so what to-one seemed good,

thaz was ire aller muot.
that was of-them all spirit.

Dâvîd psalmistâ
David psalmist

hât vone in gescriven thâ,
has of them written there,

wie grôze in lônet mîn drehtîn,
how greatly them rewards my Lord,

thie bruotherlîche mit ein anther sîn.
who brotherly with one another are.

er biutet in selve sînen segen:
he offers them self his blessing:

sie sculen iemer vrôlîchen leven.
they shall ever joyfully live.

ein zuoversiht unt ein minne,
one trust and one love,

ein loube unt ein gethinge,
one faith and one hope,

ein triuwe was in allen.
one faithfulness was in all.

ire nehein untweih theme anderen.
of-them none gave-way to-the other.

in was allen ein wârheit.
to-them was all one truth.

thes frowet sih elliu thiu cristenheit.
of-that rejoices itself all the Christendom.

Heithenen thie verworhten,
Heathens the forfeited,

thie got niene vorhten,
who God not-at-all feared,

ire afgot sie ûf huoven:
their idols they up raised:

mit grôzer hôhvart sie fuoren.
with great pride they fared.

sie vielen vure Mahmet:
they fell before Mahomet:

thaz was ire aller gebet,
that was of-them all prayer,

thaz er in erlouvete
that he them should-allow

thaz sie Ruolanten houveten,
that they Roland should-behead,

unde sô sie in ersluogen,
and when they him slew,

thaz sie sîn houvet vure in truogen.
that they his head before him carried.

sie gehiezen ime ze êren
they promised to-him for honors

sîn lof iemer ze mêren
his praise ever to increase

mit tanze unt mit seitspile.
with dance and with string-music.

aller ubermuote was thâ vile.
of-all arrogance was there much.

si versâhen sih zuo ire krefte.
they trusted themselves to their strength.

thone wessen sie niht rehte
then knew they not rightly

thaz er allez wither got strevet
that he all against God strives

sô wer âne got levet.
so who without God lives.

si versmâhent ire rehten scephâre,
they scorn their right creator,

then unseren wâren heilâre,
the our true savior,

then unseren overisten êwart,
the our highest priest,

ther niemen âne trôst ne lât,
who no-one without comfort — leaves,

sô wer mit theumuote
so who with humility

suochet sîne guote.
seeks his goodness.

Nu hôren wir thiu buoh sagen,
Now hear we the books tell,

ein antwerk hâten sie erhaven
an engine had they raised

al nâh there kuninge gebote.
all after the kings' command.

thâ wâren siven hunderet afgot.
there were seven hundred idols.

Mahmet was ther aller hêrest unter in.
Mahomet was the of-all highest among them.

thar kêrten si alle ire sin:
there turned they all their mind:

thaz lof sie ime sungen,
the praise they to-him sang,

siven tûsent horn thâ vore klungen.
seven thousand horns there before rang.

siven tûsent goltvaz
seven thousand gold-vessels

(ze êren buten sie ime thaz)
(for honors offered they to-him that)

thie lûhten tah unde naht.
they shone day and night.

there liute was sô grôziu kraft
of-the people was so great might

thaz thiu velt wâren bethekket,
that the fields were covered,

thaz there erthe niht neblekkete,
that of-the earth nothing showed,

thaz sie niemen ne mahte gesehen,
that it no-one — might see,

thaz wir vure wâr mugen gehen,
that we for true may say,

thaz solih here nie gesamenôt wart.
that such host never gathered was.

thâ gelah michel hôhvart.
there lay-low great pride.

thâ bewâret unser herre sîniu wort:
there proves our Lord his words:

sente Jôhannes hât gescriben thort,
saint John has written there,

thaz thiu theumuot ze himele stîget,
that the humility to heaven climbs,

thiu ubermuot nither nîget
the arrogance down bows

ane thie vinsteren helle.
into the dark hell.

thâ bî bezzere sih sô wer sô welle.
there by better himself so who so will.

The heathens commit themselves to their gods, which will all be smashed and thrown in the ditches. Aldarot asks Marsile for the honor of killing Roland, and Marsile bids them choose twelve men, each to lead twelve thousand. Falsaron, Cursable, Malprimis, Ammirat, Targis, Margariz, and Zernubel each boast against Roland, to slay him, bring his head, march on Saint Denis, or lead him off in iron bonds, and Marsile promises them lands and honor.

Heithenen thie vertânen,
Heathens the damned,

bî theme halse sie sih ergâven
by the neck they themselves gave

in thes tiuveles gewalt. 3515
into the devil's power.

sie bâten thie gote alle samt
they begged the gods all together

thaz sie in vure wâren
that they them before were

unde in sâlde gâven,
and to-them blessing gave,

thaz si ire nôt bethâhten
that they their distress considered

unde selve vore vâhten, 3520
and self before fought,

thaz sie alle gesunde
that they all sound

vone Vallefunde
from Vallefunde

peleite ze Salveterre.
should-escort to Salveterre.

si getrûweten in ze verre:
they trusted them too far:

thes gelâgen sie alle thâ nithere.
for-that lay they all there down.

there gote ne kom nie neheiner withere.
of-the gods — came never none back.

thie gote wurthen alle zeslagen,
the gods became all smashed,

in pruoh unt ane thie graven
into fen and into the ditches

wurthen sie geworfen.
became they thrown.

sine mahten in selven niht gehelfen.
they might to-them self not help.

Ûz huoven sih thie veigen,
Out raised themselves the doomed,

thie unsamfte wurthen gesceithen.
who ungently became parted.

michel wart ther herescal.
great became the army-clamor.

sie fulten berh unde tal
they filled hill and dale

unt al thaz gevilde.
and all the field.

thie vogele unter theme himele
the birds under the heaven

muosen tôte nither vallen.
must dead down fall.

von theme unmâzen scalle
from the measureless clamor

gesweih in thaz gevithere.
failed to-them the feathers.

Alterôt ther wilde
Aldarot the wild

fuorte einen staf an there hant.
bore a staff in the hand.

er îlte tha er then kuninc vant.
he hastened where he the king found.

er sprah: «Marsilie herre,
he spoke: «Marsile lord,

Mahmet spare thîn êre.
Mahomet spare thy honor.

ih hân vure wâr vernomen,
I have for true heard,

thie cristenen sîn sô harte erkomen,
the Christians are so hard frightened,

thaz sie neheine wîle ne mugen gestân.
that they no while — may stand.

mir sageten mîne man,
to-me told my men,

sie vallen ûf thie erthe;
they fall upon the earth;

sie wâren nu gerne
they were now gladly

vone uns hinnen.
from us hence.

nu wil ih ane thih gethingen:
now will I on thee treat:

thurh thîne tugenlîche site
for thy virtuous custom

tuo thes ih thih bite,
do what I thee ask,

lîh mir thaz ze lêhen
grant me that as fief

ûz allen thisen herren,
out-of all these lords,

ih hân vile guoter knehte,
I have very-many good knights,

thaz ih mit then thâ vore vehte,
that I with them there before fight,

thaz ih Ruolanten erslahe
that I Roland slay

unde man thaz mâre vone mir sage:
and one the tidings of me tell:

sô hâstu sîn êre
so hast-thou of-it honor

unde thiene ih iz iemer mêre.»
and repay I it ever more.»

Thô sprah ther kuninc Marsilie:
Then spoke the king Marsile:

«nu sente thih mir withere
«now send thee to-me back

Mahmet unser herre.
Mahomet our lord.

ih getrûwe ime vile verre.
I trust to-him very far.

wie wole ih thir thîner êren gan!
how well I thee thy honors grant!

mahtu Ruolanten erslân,
(if)-mayst-thou Roland slay,

thaz houvet vure mih bringen,
the head before me bring,

sô scaltu hie ze mir gewinnen
so shalt-thou here with me win

alle wereltwunne:
all world-delight:

thu geêrest al thîn kunne.
thou honorest all thy kin.

thie cristenen havent zwelef scare:
the Christians have twelve troops:

nu warnet iuh wole thare,
now prepare yourselves well there,

erwelet ir mir zwelef man,
choose you for-me twelve men,

thie guoten willen thare zuo hân.
who good will there to have.

there helethe iegelîh
of-the heroes each

neme zwelef tûsent zuo sih.
take twelve thousand to himself.

wole bereitet iuwer scare,
well prepare your troops,

komet vermezenlîche thare; 3580
come boldly thither;

scaffet iuwer huote.
make your guard.

wesent einmuote;
be of-one-mind;

rîtet mit scaren zuo.
ride with troops to.

sine mugen wither iu niht getuon:
they may against you nothing do:

erslahet sie alle samt. 3585
slay them all together.

Olivier unde Ruolant
Oliver and Roland

havent mir sô herzeleithe getân,
have to-me so heart-sorrow done,

kumet there zweleve soheiner than,
(if)-comes of-the twelve any thence,

sone scah mir nie sô leithe.
so happened to-me never so sorrowful.

thie selven gesellen beithe 3590
the same comrades both

scolten billîchen hangen:
should rightly hang:

sô wâre mîn wille wole ergangen.
so were my will well fulfilled.

thaz bethenken alle thise guote hêren
that consider all these good lords

unde thiene ih iz iemer mêre.»
and repay I it ever more.»

Ther herzoge Falsaron,
The duke Falsaron,

mit grôzer krefte kom er ze hove.
with great might came he to court.

er sprah: «ih hân ahzehen tûsent man;
he spoke: «I have eighteen thousand men;

thie volgent hiute mîneme vanen
they follow today my banner

sô wâ ih hine kêre.
so where I thither turn.

nu louve thu mir, herre,
now allow thou me, lord,

(mîn marke ist mir verbrunnen,
(my march is to-me burned,

mîne burge ane gewunnen,
my castles from-me won,

mîn liut ist mir gevangen)
my people is from-me captured)

thaz ih hiute vore in allen
that I today before them all

Ruolanten muoze erslahen:
Roland may slay:

so vergezze ih alles mînes scathen.
so forget I all my harm.

unde ist thaz iz Mahmet wile,
and (if)-is that it Mahomet wills,

ire gevellet hiute sô vile
of-them falls today so many

thaz Portaspere
that Portaspere

wole muoz rasten
well must rest

unze an Urstamme
until to Urstamme

vore Ruolante unt vore sînen mannen:
before Roland and before his men:

sô hâstu sîn êre
so hast-thou of-it honor

unde thiene ih iz iemer mêre.»
and repay I it ever more.»

Ther kuninc antwirte ime thô:
The king answered to-him then:

«mîn herze ist mir iemer mêre vrô.
«my heart is to-me ever more glad.

of thir Mahmet thaz heil givet
if to-thee Mahomet the luck gives

thaz there zweleve einer vore thir geliget,
that of-the twelve one before thee lies,

in alleme mîneme rîche
in all my realm

mache ih thih gelîche
make I thee equal

mînen lieven kinden.
to-my dear children.

thu scolt hie ze mir gewinnen
thou shalt here with me win

thaz al thîn kunne geêret,
that all thy kin honored,

thîn rîhtuom zwispilde gemêret.»
thy riches twofold increased.»

Thô kom ther kuninc Cursable
Then came the king Cursable

gevaren ûf sîneme marhe.
faring upon his steed.

«heil sîstu, kuninc Marsilie!
«hail be-thou, king Marsile!

ih hân eines mîn thrîzeh tûsent helethe
I have alone of-me thirty thousand heroes

ze beherten thîne êre
to maintain thy honor

sô wâ thu hine wil kêren:
so where thou thither wilt turn:

thie rechent gerne thînen anden.
they avenge gladly thy wrong.

erloube mir over Ruolanden.
allow me over Roland.

thes rehtes wile ih thih manen:
of-the right will I thee remind:

ih hân then overisten vanen
I have the highest banner

unter allen thînen mannen.
among all thy men.

thaz ne scol thir niht missevallen:
that — shall thee not displease:

ih scol in allen hiute vore vehten
I shall them all today before fight

vone athele unde vone rehte.
by nobility and by right.

ouh scoltu mir lônen;
also shalt-thou me reward;

ih sluoh then kuninc Philônem,
I slew the king Philon,

herre, thurh thînen willen.»
lord, for thy sake.»

ther kuninc antwirte ime mit minnen:
the king answered to-him with love:

«thu bist mîn vile liever man:
«thou art my very dear man:

thu hâst vile thikke getân
thou hast very often done

thaz mîn wille was.
what my will was.

wole weiz ih thaz.
well know I that.

thu fuorest thie ûz genomenen helethe:
thou leadest the out taken heroes:

erslahe mir sie alle zweleve;
slay for-me them all twelve;

there êren wile ih thir wole gunnen.
the honors will I thee well grant.

thu hâst mih iemer thâ mite gewunnen.»
thou hast me ever there with won.»

Malprîmis vone Ampregalt,
Malprimis of Ampregalt,

«herre», sprah er, «thurh thîne kuninclîche gewalt!
«lord», spoke he, «for thy kingly power!

Ruolant hât mir vile ze leithe getân:
Roland has to-me very-much to sorrow done:

mînen bruother hât er mir erslagen,
my brother has he from-me slain,

thar zuo mîne lieve man.
there to my dear men.

thîn urlouf wil ih haben,
thy leave will I have,

thaz ih thaz muoze rechen,
that I that may avenge,

thurh sîn herze stechen
through his heart stab

mînen goltgarwen spiez.»
my gold-adorned spear.»

ther kuninc ime vile wislîchen gehiez,
the king to-him very wisely promised,

unde gerâche er in ane Ruolante,
and (if)-should-avenge he him on Roland,

er machete in gewaltih
he made him mighty

in sîneme rîche manegere grôzer êren.
in his realm of-many great honors.

thô neih er sîneme herren.
then bowed he to-his lord.

Ammirât von Palvir,
Ammirat of Palvir,

«nu erlouve», sprah er, «herre, mir.
«now allow», spoke he, «lord, me.

ih bin verre here gestrichen.
I am far hither swept.

mîn kraft ist michel:
my strength is great:

ih bin ein vile starker man.
I am a very strong man.

Ruolant ist unerslagen
Roland is unslain

vone alleme kunne there heithenen,
by all kin of-the heathens,

ih erslahe in eine.»
I slay him alone.»

thô sprah ther kuninc Marsilie:
then spoke the king Marsile:

«thu bist stark unt bitherbe,
«thou art strong and worthy,

ein helet zuo thînen hanten.
a hero at thy hands.

erslehestu Ruolanten,
(if)-slayest-thou Roland,

of thes Mahmet gewerthe,
if it Mahomet grant,

elliu palwisciu erthe
all Palwish earth

sî thîn eigen.
be thy property.

thîne tugent scoltu uns erzeigen.»
thy virtue shalt-thou us show.»

Thô kom vone Tortulôse Targîs.
Then came of Tortulose Targis.

er sprah: «wole thu kuninc hêre unde wîs,
he spoke: «well thou king noble and wise,

thîn tohter ist mîn wîp.
thy daughter is my woman.

wie of Mahmet mir hiute gît
what if Mahomet to-me today gives

thaz ih then ruom gewinne,
that I the fame win,

thaz ih vure thih bringe
that I before thee bring

thaz houvet Ruolantes,
the head of-Roland,

thînes vîantes.
of-thy enemy.

ih gelege sînen hôhmuot.
I lay-low his pride.

thô er vore theme keisere stuont,
when he before the emperor stood,

sîn swert er zuhte;
his sword he drew;

thînen kuninclîchen namen er verthruhte
thy kingly name he suppressed

unde vermaz sih ze verre,
and pledged himself too far,

er wolde mere unt erthe
he would sea and earth

zinshaft bringen
tributary bring

unter thes keiseres vanen thingen.
under the emperor's banner's treaty.

ih wile mit mîner hende
I will with my hand

then guoten Palswenden
the good Palswende

in sîneme herzebluote berennen.
in his heart-blood drench.

thu scolt wizzen unde erkennen,
thou shalt know and recognize,

alsô lief sint mir thîne êre
as dear are to-me thy honors

sam Ruolante sînes herren.
as to-Roland his lord's.

thu bist alsam ethele unt alsô rîke,
thou art as noble and so rich,

thaz thu gewaldihlîke
that thou mightily

thîne marke vore ime scolt befrithen.
thy march before him shalt pacify.

sîn houvet scol hiute thar umbe beligen.
his head shall today there for lie.

iz ist hiute mîn bane
it is today my bane

other ih gelethege alle Yspaniam.»
or I free all Spain.»

Marsilie ersmielte thô.
Marsile smiled then.

there rethe antwirte er ime sô:
to-the speech answered he to-him so:

«ih nezwîvele ane thir niet,
«I doubt in thee not,

thirne sîn mîne êre vile lief.
unless-to-thee are my honors very dear.

ih getrûwe thir sô wole
I trust thee so well

so ih vone rehte mîneme kinde scol.
as I by right my child shall.

Mahmet geve thir thie sâlde
Mahomet give thee the luck

thaz thu mir thiu niumâre
that thou to-me the tidings

bringest vrôlîchen withere!
bring joyfully back!

gelâge Ruolant thâ nithere,
(if)-should-lie Roland there down,

umbe Karlen wurthes guot rât.
about Charles should-become-of-it good counsel.

wir gefrumeten eine herevart
we should-make a war-journey

unter thie Karlinge.
among the Carolingians.

sie winnent bôse gethinge.
they win wicked bargain.

sie wurthen alle theme tôthe ergeven,
they became all to-the death given,

sine wolden ane Mahmet jehen.»
unless-they would on Mahomet confess.»

Margarîz vone Sibilie
Margariz of Seville

ther reit zuo theme kuninge.
he rode to the king.

er was scône unde lussam:
he was fair and lovely:

thie heithenen harte gezam
to-the heathens hard befitted

thaz sie in muosen scouwen;
that they him might behold;

harte minnôten in thie frouwen.
hard loved him the ladies.

vile manegere lante havete er gewalt.
very of-many lands had he power.

thaz swert zuhter uber half.
the sword drew-he over half.

er sprah: «Marsilie herre,
he spoke: «Marsile lord,

taberiske erthe
taberish earth

hân ih hie mite gewunnen,
have I here with won,

zinses bethwungen.
to-tribute constrained.

thîn liut heiz thu bereiten,
thy people bid thou make-ready,

thîn here wil ih leiten
thy host will I lead

zuo sente Dyonisien hûs.
to saint Denis's house.

Karl entrinnet thar ûz,
Charles escapes there out,

other er werthet thîn man.
or he becomes thy man.

thirne mah vore niht gehaben
to-thee may before nothing hold

al thaz ther levet unter then wolken,
all that there lives under the clouds,

alsus getâneme volke.
of-so made folk.

thîne helethe sint kuone unde vermezzen.
thy heroes are bold and daring.

ther keiser ist hie gesezzen
the emperor is here settled

siben jâr unde mêre.
seven years and more.

niemer thu wither ne kêre
never thou back — turn

unze thu al Francrîche
until thou all France

sam gewaltihlîche
likewise mightily

in thîne walt gewinnest,
into thy power win,

zinses bethwingest,
to-tribute constrain,

sam Karl tete thîne Yspaniam.
as Charles did thy Spain.

ih hân zwei unt thrîzeh tûsent man,
I have two and thirty thousand men,

mit then ih thir niemer ne geswîche.
with whom I thee never — fail.

thaz gelove ih thir getriuwelîche,
that vow I thee faithfully,

thaz ih niemer wither ne kêre,
that I never back — turn,

thune behertest ê alle thîne êre.»
unless-thou maintainest before all thy honor.»

Thô kom ther kuninc Cernubiles.
Then came the king Zernubel.

harte trôst er sih thes,
hard trusted he himself in-that,

thaz er alsô stark was.
that he so strong was.

thaz buoh bewâret uns thaz,
the book proves us that,

sô waz siven mûle mahten getragen,
so what seven mules might carry,

thaz huof er ûf an sînen arm.
that raised he up on his arm.

er was swarz unt ubele getân.
he was black and evil made.

sîn lant was freissam:
his land was terrible:

thaz liut thaz ist grimme.
the people that is grim.

ther sunne ne scein nie thar inne;
the sun — shone never there in;

thie tiuvele pûwent thîr in werthe.
the devils dwell there in land.

iz ist thiu verfluochete erthe,
it is the accursed earth,

thie got selve verfluochet hât.
which God self cursed has.

thes liutes ne wirthet niemer nehein rât.
of-the people — becomes never no help.

er sprah zuo theme kuninge:
he spoke to the king:

«mir gevellet vile ubele
«to-me pleases very ill

thaz wir sô lange hie bîten.
that we so long here wait.

lâz unsih zuo in rîten.
let us to them ride.

ih bringe thir Ruolanten
I bring thee Roland

mit îsernînen banten.
with iron bonds.

sô wie thu in heizest tôten,
so how thou him biddest kill,

other mit wîzen thes nôten
or with torments it force

thaz Karl muoz thingen,
that Charles must treat,

sô mahtu mit ime wither gewinnen
so mayst-thou with him back win

aller thîner fursten kint,
of-all thy princes' children,

thie in grôzen nôten sint.
who in great distresses are.

wirthet ther keiser ubeles muotes,
(if)-becomes the emperor of-ill spirit,

ihne trûwe ime neheines guotes:
I trust to-him of-no good:

thînen sune heizet er hâen.
thy son bids he hang.

vone thiu wile ih Ruolanten vâen
from that will I Roland capture

unter allen sînen mannen.
among all his men.

umbe thie andere ist iz sciere ergangen:
about the others is it quickly gone:

thie zepriche ih sam thaz huon.
them break I like the hen.

wither mîner kraft nemah nieman niht tuon.»
against my strength can no-one anything do.»

Marsilie antwirte ime thes:
Marsile answered to-him of-it:

«jâ thu kuninc Cernubiles,
«yea thou king Zernubel,

kore mir Ruolanten gewinnen,
try for-me Roland to-win,

sô hân ih allen mînen willen.
so have I all my will.

ime ne fristet nieman thaz leven:
to-him — spares no-one the life:

thes hân ih mîne triuwe gegeven.
of-that have I my faith given.

eine frist lâze ih in gesunt.
a while leave I him sound.

Karl vergildet mir thrîe stunt
Charles repays to-me three times

sô waz er thes mînes thâ hine fuoret,
so what he of-the mine there thither carries,

sô wâ er sih ruomet,
so where he himself boasts,

thaz er scathen unde laster hât.
that he harm and reproach has.

vile guot ist ther thîn rât.
very good is the thy counsel.

Mahmet spare thîne êre:
Mahomet spare thy honor:

ihne getrûwe niemen sô verre.
I trust no-one so far.

nu unterwint thih there scare:
now undertake thee of-the troop:

thaz here fuore thu thare
the host lead thou thither

unde hantele iz mit sinnen
and handle it with wits

unde ne lâz ire neheinen hinnen.
and — let of-them none hence.

ih gebe thir thaz lof unt thie êre
I give thee the praise and the honor

unde lône is thir iemer mêre.»
and reward of-it thee ever more.»

XVI · OLIVER AND THE HORN

The twelve heathen troops advance, and Falsaron plans to attack from four sides. Oliver urges Roland to blow his horn and summon Charles; Roland refuses, saying God will decide. Turpin absolves the host and bids them fight for their heritage. Roland divides his men and sets their backs together, and the heathens, seeing their courage, lose heart.

Thô nam there zweleve iegelîh
Then took of-the twelve each

zwelef tûsent zuo sih.
twelve thousand to himself.

zweleve wurthen there scare
twelve became the troops

(Mahmeten fuorten sie thare),
(Mahomet carried they thither),

thaz iegelîcheme vanen
that each banner

volgôten zwelef tûsent man.
followed twelve thousand men.

siven tûsent horn thâ vore clungen:
seven thousand horns there before rang:

ire wîhliet sie sungen.
their battle-song they sang.

thâ wart alsô getân scal,
there became so made clamor,

sam perge unde tal
as-if hill and dale

allez in wage wâre.
all in motion were.

thaz thûhte sie harte seltsâne,
that seemed to-them hard strange,

thaz in thie cristenen vore gehaveten.
that them the Christians before held.

Falsaron sie manete.
Falsaron them exhorted.

er sprah: «welt er is mînen rât haven,
he spoke: «(if)-will you of-it my counsel have,

sô werthent si alle samt erslagen,
so become they all together slain,

thaz wir sie vile lîhte gewinnen
that we them very easily win

unt ire nehein ne mah entrinnen.
and of-them none — may escape.

sô teilet iuh in vieriu:
so divide you into four:

zewâre sage ih iz iu,
truly tell I it to-you,

sô wartent sie then einen.
so watch they the one.

jâ muozen sie sih sceithen,
yea must they themselves separate,

sie muozen brechen ire scare:
they must break their troop:

sô erslahe wir sie gare
so slay we them wholly

âne allen unseren scathen.
without all our harm.

in iegelîcheme teile scult ir haben
in each part shall you have

sehs unt thrîzeh tûsent man.
six and thirty thousand men.

wir treten sie in then graben,
we tread them into the ditch,

thaz ire unreine gebeine,
that their unclean bones,

thaz ire lebentih neheine
that of-them living none

ûf unser erthe
upon our earth

niemer mêre gesehen ne werthe.»
never more seen — become.»

Olivier sprah zuo Ruolant:
Oliver spoke to Roland:

«wir haben ane there hant
«we have at the hand

ein vile starkez volcwîh.
a very hard folk-battle.

aller mannegelîh were sînen lîf.
of-all every-man defend his life.

nu wil ih is iemer got loben
now will I of-it ever God praise

thaz iz thar zuo ist komen.
that it there to is come.

nu gesterket iuh, helethe, in got.
now strengthen you, heroes, in God.

uns kumet allen sîn gebot,
to-us comes all his command,

thiu helve vone himele.
the help from heaven.

thiu ire grôziu menege
the their great host

ne mah uns niht gewerren.
— may us not harm.

sie muozen alle samt ersterben,
they must all together die,

sô waz wir ire hiute erreichen.
so what we of-them today reach.

sô weme got wile helven,
so whom God will help,

ther mah lîhte gevehten.
he may easily fight.

ôwole ir guoten knehte,
oh-well you good knights,

welt ir einmuote sîn,
(if)-will you of-one-mind be,

jâ hilvet iu selbe mîn drehtîn.
yea helps to-you self my Lord.

sie habent then tôt an there hant.
they have the death at the hand.

owî geselle Ruolant,
alas comrade Roland,

wan blâsestu noh thîn horn!
why-not blowest-thou yet thy horn!

thîn neve mahte uns ze helve komen,
thy uncle might to-us to help come,

thaz wir frôlîchen sceithen hinnen.
that we joyfully part hence.

nu tuoz thurh mîner swester Alden willen,
now do-it for my sister Alde's sake,

gefriste thîne hêrlîche man.»
preserve thy lordly men.»

«thaz muoz nu allez ane gote gestân», 3870
«that must now all on God stand»,

sprah ther helet Ruolant.
spoke the hero Roland.

er bôt ûf sîne hant:
he raised up his hand:

«unt ne wâre iz thir, lieber geselle, niht leit,
«and — were it to-thee, dear comrade, not sorrow,

ih swuore thir einen offen eit,
I should-swear to-thee an open oath,

thaz ih iz niene blâsen wile. 3875
that I it not-at-all blow will.

there heithenen nist nie sô vile,
of-the heathens is never so many,

izne sî ir aller veictage.
unless-it be of-them all doom-day.

fure wâr ih thir sage:
for true I thee tell:

thie heithenen sint vore gote verteilet;
the heathens are before God condemned;

sô werthent aber mit bluote gereinet 3880
so become however with blood cleansed

thie hêren gotes marterâre.
the noble God's martyrs.

wolte got thaz ih thes wert wâre,
would God that I of-it worthy were,

thaz ih verthienete then namen:
that I earned the name:

thare wolte ih gerne gân.
thither would I gladly go.

wie sâlih ther ist geboren, 3885
how blessed he is born,

then got thâ zuo hât erkoren,
whom God there to has chosen,

thaz er in sîneme thieneste beliget,
that he in his service lies,

want er ime thaz himelrîche ze lône gibet.
for he to-him the heaven-realm as reward gives.

zuo thisen fûlen âsen
to these foul carrion

newil ih niemer niht geblâsen.
will I never at-all blow.

sie wânten thaz wir uns vorhten
they believed that we us feared

other helve zuo in bedorften.
or help to them needed.

jâ sint sie thie aller bôsisten zagen.
yea are they the of-all worst cowards.

ire botih gelege ih hiute then raben.
their bodies lay I today to-the ravens.

thaz ire frôsangen
that their joy-singing

ist vile sciere ergangen.
is very quickly gone.

got wil sîniu wunter hie erzeigen,
God will his wonders here show,

ther guote Durendart sîne tugent ersceinen.»
the good Durendart its virtue show.»

Turpîn was thâ wole nutze,
Turpin was there well useful,

mit scôneme antlutze:
with fair countenance:

sîn herce was liuter unde gare.
his heart was pure and ready.

er fuor von scare hine ce scare.
he fared from troop thither to troop.

al umbe er rante,
all around he rode,

thie helethe er wole manete.
the heroes he well exhorted.

er sprah: «gehabet iuh vrôlîchen: 3905
he spoke: «bear you joyfully:

jâ nâhet thaz gotes rîche.
yea nears the God's realm.

volstêt an theme rehten.
stand-fast in the right.

hiute mugen wir gerne vehten.
today may we gladly fight.

ther tiuvel veret thâ here
the devil fares there hither

unt hât gesamenet sîn here: 3910
and has gathered his host:

thes heiligen gelouben
of-the holy faith

wolte er uns berouben.
would he us rob.

wole ir gotes helethe,
well you God's heroes,

vehtet umbe iuwer erbe,
fight for your inheritance,

thaz iu lange geheizen sî. 3915
which to-you long promised is.

venite benedicti:
come blessed-ones:

nâh thiseme suozen segene,
after this sweet blessing,

ir tiuren volcthegene,
you precious folk-thanes,

muget ir gerne vehten.
may you gladly fight.

jâ vortheret iuh mîn drehtin
yea summons you my Lord

zuo sînen zesewen kinden.
to his right children.

wâ mahtet ir nu gewinnen
where might you now win

alsô guoten soldât
so good pay

so er selbe geheizen hât?
as he self promised has?

volstêt ir ane theme gelouben,
(if)-stand-fast you in the faith,

mit vleisclîchen ougen
with fleshly eyes

scult ir sîn antlutze gesehen
shall you his countenance see

unt iemer mit ime vrôlîchen leben.
and ever with him joyfully live.

mit then worten sprechen wir iu antlâz.
with the words speak we to-you absolution.

in there wârheit sage wir iu thaz:
in the truth tell we to-you that:

vore gote birt ir enbunten
before God are you unbound

von allen wereltlîchen sunten
from all worldly sins

sam ein niuboren westebarn.
like a newborn baptized-child.

sô waz ir there heithenen hiute muget erslâu,
so what you of-the heathens today may slay,

thaz setze ih iu ce buoze.»
that set I to-you as penance.»

nâh thirre rethe suoze
after this speech sweet

vielen si alle zuo ther erthe.
fell they all to the earth.

thô segenôte sie ther herre:
then blessed them the lord:

er sprah in indulgentiam.
he spoke to-them forgiveness.

ther antlâz was vor gote ze himele getân. 3940
the absolution was before God in heaven done.

Thie helethe wither ûf sâzen.
The heroes back up sat.

thô hâten sie verlâzen
then had they left

allez ire kunne
all their kin

thurh thie gotes minne,
for the God's love,

eigen unde burge. 3945
property and castles.

sie hâten alle ire sorge
they had all their care

geworfen ze rukke.
thrown to back.

sie sint unser brukke
they are our bridge

zuo theme gotes rîche,
to the God's realm,

sô wer sie suochet innehlîche 3950
so who them seeks inwardly

umbe theheine sîne nôt.
for any his distress.

nu helven sie uns umbe got
now help they us for God

von thirre wereltlîchen brôthe,
from this worldly frailty,

sô wâ unser herce ôthe
so where our heart empty

in theheineme zwîvel bûwen,
in any doubt dwells,

thaz wir in samelîchen riuwen
that we in such repentances

an unseren jungisten stunden
in our last hours

in rehten buozen werthen funden
in right penances become found

unt unsih ze gotes hulden bringen:
and us to God's favor bring:

thaz sculen wir ane sie gethingen.
that shall we on them trust.

Thô ther helet Ruolant
When the hero Roland

ûf einer hôhe thaz rehte ervant,
upon a height the right found,

thaz sie sih in vieriu hâten geteilet,
that they themselves into four had divided,

«ih weiz wole waz sie meinent:
«I know well what they mean:

sie wellent uns vierhalben ane rennen.
they will us four-sided on run.

nu warne wir uns thar engegene.
now prepare we ourselves there against.

lieber geselle Olivier,
dear comrade Oliver,

nim thu thrîe scare zuo thir:
take thou three troops to thee:

wole trôste ih mih thîn.
well trust I me of-thee.

sam tuo thu, helet Turpîn:
likewise do thou, hero Turpin:

ih erkenne wole thînen site.
I know well thy custom.

nu tuot ir alsô ih iuh gebite:
now do you as I you bid:

kêret thie rukke ane ein ander.
turn the backs to one another.

unt lebete ther wunderlîche Alexander,
and should-live the wondrous Alexander,

wolte er thâ thurh thringen,
would he there through press,

er mahte lîhte scathen gewinnen.
he might easily harm win.

Gergers ther huote mîn:
Gerier he guards me:

ther scol hiute mîn nôtgestalle sîn.
he shall today my comrade-in-need be.

izne lebet nehein heitheniscer man,
there lives no heathen man,

wil er thâ inzwiscen thurh varen,
(if)-will he there between through fare,

er muoz unsanfte erbeizen:
he must ungently dismount:

thaz wile ih iu in triuwen geheizen.
that will I to-you in faith promise.

got scal uns genâthen:
God shall us be-gracious:

thie vîente sint uns harte nâhen.»
the enemies are to-us hard near.»

Ruolant der milte,
Roland the generous,

einen lewen fuort er an sîneme scilte,
a lion bore he on his shield,

ûzer golde ergraben.
out-of gold engraved.

jane kan iu nieman gesagen
indeed can to-you no-one tell

wie grôz frowethe unter then cristenen was.
how great joy among the Christians was.

thie heithenen entsâzen in thaz.
the heathens dreaded themselves that.

sie fuoren in then creften
they fared in the strengths

sam sie ze wirtscefte
as-if they to feasting

alle gelathet wâren,
all invited were,

mit egeslîcheme gebâren.
with terrible bearing.

heithenen thie thâ ze vorderiste wâren
heathens who there at foremost were

unt there cristenen vermezenheit ersâhen,
and the Christians' daring saw,

sie riten withere zesamene.
they rode back together.

sie wâren thâ ze theme zagele
they would-have there at the tail

alle gerne gewesen.
all gladly been.

ire nehein trûte genesen.
of-them none trusted to-survive.

thie ê zuo ire herren
who before of their lord

vorderôten lêhen,
demanded fiefs,

thaz sie Ruolanten sluogen
that they Roland should-slay

unt thaz houbet fure in truogen,
and the head before him should-carry,

thie wurthen alle swifte:
they became all silent:

sie wâren gerne vone theme strîte.
they were gladly from the strife.

thie ê wâren sam ther lewe ergramet,
who before were like the lion enraged,

thie wurthen senfte sam thaz lamp.
they became gentle like the lamb.

thie sih ê vermâzen,
who themselves before pledged,

thô sie vore ire herren sâzen,
when they before their lord sat,

sie wolten stôren sente Dionisien hûs,
they would destroy saint Denis's house,

thiu vermezenheit kom ubele ûz.
the daring came ill out.

wie unhôhe sie wâgen
how lowly they weighed

thie thes kuninges golt nâmen!
who the king's gold took!

sie wânten sie wâren pitherbe:
they believed they were worthy:

ire ubermuot gelah thes tages thâ nithere.
their arrogance lay of-the day there down.

Aldarot taunts Roland, and Roland cleaves him and his horse, then kills Carpin, who would avenge him. The Christians cry "Montjoie" and cut into the heathens, and the fields run with blood. Roland destroys Mahomet's temple and bids his men leave its gold. Falsaron offers Oliver his life under his banner, and Oliver kills him and dares Falsaron's comrades to avenge him. Tortan kills Count Ort, Maximin beheads Tortan, and Ilmar spears Count Marcel.

Thô thie cristenen wole gare
When the Christians well ready

bereiten ire zwelef scare
prepared their twelve troops

unt ane there warte habeten,
and on the watch held,

Aldarôt thar zuo dravete.
Aldarot there to trotted.

er sprah: «bistu hie, Ruolant?
he spoke: «art-thou here, Roland?

Mahmet hât thih mir zuo gesant.
Mahomet has thee to-me to sent.

thaz ist mîn lêhen
that is my fief

vone Marsilie mîneme herren,
from Marsile my lord,

thaz ih thîn houbet abe slahe
that I thy head off strike

unt iz fure then kuninc trage.
and it before the king carry.

Crist ther thîn herre
Christ the thy lord

ist thir hiute vile verre.
is to-thee today very far.

sîn wirthet vile ubele an thir gescônet.
of-him becomes very ill on thee spared.

wie hât thir nu Pêter gelônet?
how has to-thee now Peter rewarded?

nu ist er ze Rôme:
now is he at Rome:

nu bistu hie ze theme tôthe.
now art-thou here to the death.

tump was ther keiser thîn ôheim:
foolish was the emperor thy uncle:

sîn wîstuom ubele thar an scein,
his wisdom ill there in showed,

thaz er thih hinter ime verliez.
that he thee behind him left.

ih bewille hiute mîn spiez
I sully today my spear

in thîneme hercebluote
in thy heart-blood

thurh thîne grôze ubermuote.
for thy great arrogance.

thînen potih wirfe ih in then graben.
thy body throw I into the ditch.

Yspaniâ mah wole vore thir vrithe haben
Spain may well before thee peace have

unt al there werelt krône.
and all of-the world crown.

thune gesagest iz niemer mêre ze Rôme.»
thou tellest it never more at Rome.»

Thô antwirte ime Ruolant:
Then answered to-him Roland:

«thu forderôst hie ze mir ein grôz phant:
«thou demandest here of me a great pledge:

mîn houbet wil thu fure bringen.
my head wilt thou forth bring.

Durendart muoz mir hiute thingen.
Durendart must for-me today treat.

ih hôre an thîneme kôse,
I hear in thy talk,

thu bist ein zage vile bôse.
thou art a coward very wicked.

vile thrâte lethige ih thaz lêhen.
very quickly free I the fief.

ruofe Mahmete thîneme herren,
call Mahomet thy lord,

ob er thir iht helven welle.
whether he thee anything help will.

ih gefrume thih zuo there helle.
I dispatch thee to the hell.

thu bist mîn rehter scole:
thou art my right debtor:

thes cinses gewere ih thih wole.»
of-the tribute pay I thee well.»

er vieng in obene ze there ahselen ane:
he caught him above at the shoulder on:

er zeteilte ros unde man.
he split horse and man.

«thie rethe scoltu mir gebuozen.
«the speech shalt-thou me atone.

Mahmeten zetrite ih unter mînen fuozen
Mahomet tread I under my feet

unt allez thaz hie mit im ist:
and all that here with him is:

thaz gebiutet mir ther heilige Crist.
that commands me the holy Christ.

thînen botih gibe ih then himelvogelen.»
thy body give I to-the heaven-birds.»

er râmte sîn obene,
he aimed-at him above,

er teilte ros unt satelpogen,
he split horse and saddle-bow,

theiz tôt ze there erthe bekom.
that-it dead to the earth came.

thaz swert warf er umbe in there hant.
the sword turned he about in the hand.

thie Franken riefen alle samt,
the Franks cried all together,

mit gelîcher stimme huoben sie
with like voice raised they

Monsoy Monsoy:
Montjoie Montjoie:

thaz was thes keiseres zeichen.
that was the emperor's sign.

«sente Pêter mah mir baz gehelven
«saint Peter may me better help

(thaz scînet hie ze stete)
(that shows here on spot)

thenne thir thîn herre Mahmet.
than thee thy lord Mahomet.

thu ligest thâ nithere.
thou liest there down.

Karl was wîse unt bitherbe,
Charles was wise and worthy,

thêr mih hie liez.
who me here left.

ih hân geleistet thaz ih thir gehiez.
I have performed what I thee promised.

iz ist wole erhaben», sprah der helet Ruolant.
it is well begun», spoke the hero Roland.

«nu gethenket there swerte an there hant,
«now think of-the swords in the hand,

ir tiuren volcthegene.»
you precious folk-thanes.»

thô huoben sie sih thar engegene.
then raised they themselves there against.

«Thitze ist ein freissam slah:
«This is a terrible blow:

ih geriche in ob ih mah»,
I avenge him if I may»,

sprah ther herzoge Carpîn.
spoke the duke Carpin.

«thu bist ther rehte scole mîn.»
«thou art the right debtor mine.»

er râmte sîn gegen then brusten.
he aimed-at him toward the breast.

ther scaft prast ze stukken.
the shaft burst into pieces.

«thu hâst mir then bruother erslagen:
«thou hast to-me the brother slain:

ih wil thir wârlîche sagen,
I will thee truly tell,

mah thih thehein wâfen gewinnen,
(if)-may thee any weapon win,

sone kumestu niemer hinnen.»
so comest-thou never hence.»

er sluoh in mit theme swerte
he struck him with the sword

ûf then helm herten,
upon the helm hard,

einen vermezenlîchen slah.
a bold blow.

«nu ist iz thîn jungister tah»,
«now is it thy last day»,

sprah ther helet Ruolant.
spoke the hero Roland.

er sluoh in uber thes sciltes rant
he struck him over the shield's rim

mit theme guoten Durendarte
with the good Durendart

versneit er in harte,
cut-through he him hard,

thaz er sih pegunde neigen.
that he himself began to-bow.

tôt vielen thie heithenen.
dead fell the heathens.

Thô vâhten thie wâren gotes thienestman,
Then fought the true God's servants,

soz guoten knehten wole gezam.
as-it good knights well befitted.

heithenen thie gesellen
heathens the comrades

pliesen ze gevelle
blew to fall

sam sie tier jageten.
as-if they beasts hunted.

thie scare si umbehabeten.
the troop they surrounded.

thaz gethrenge wart thâ freissam.
the throng became there terrible.

thâ strebete man fure man
there pressed man before man

there heithenen michel magencraft.
of-the heathens great might.

vile manigen eskînen scaft
very many-an ashen shaft

gefrumeten sie ûf thie cristenen.
sent they upon the Christians.

inoh wolte sie got gefristen.
yet would them God preserve.

er gestarhte wole thie sîne.
he strengthened well the his.

jâ woneten sie in theme wîge
yea dwelt they in the battle

sam ther lewe ther thâ winnet
like the lion that there fights

unt rehte zornen beginnet,
and rightly to-rage begins,

thoh ire angest wâren grôz.
though their fear were great.

sam ther smit tingelet ûf then anebôz,
as the smith tinkles upon the anvil,

sô thaz îsen ist in gluote,
when the iron is in glow,

sam sluogen sie ûf scilte unde ûf huote.
so struck they upon shields and upon helmets.

sie warten alle thes lewen.
they watched all for-the lion.

tho erhalete sih ther thegen:
then recovered himself the thane:

then scilt warf er ze rukke,
the shield threw he to back,

er hiew ime eine lukke
he hewed to-him a gap

lange unde wîte.
long and wide.

ouh kom im ane der rehten cîte
also came to-him at the right time

sîn lieber heregeselle Wîtel,
his dear war-comrade Witel,

ein helet kuone unde snel.
a hero bold and quick.

Clargîs unt Arthân
Clargis and Arthan

unt alle Ruolantes man,
and all Roland's men,

thie sîne nôtherten,
the his stalwarts,

mit ire guoten swerten,
with their good swords,

mit spiezen unt mit gêren
with spears and with javelins

lôsten sie ire herren.
freed they their lord.

sie sluogen sie vaste withere.
they struck them firmly back.

ther vane gelah thâ nithere.
the banner lay there down.

ther scal wart in vergolten
the clamor was to-them repaid

mit starken verhwunten.
with hard life-wounds.

Ruolant was ergremet harte.
Roland was enraged hard.

mit theme guoten Durendarte
with the good Durendart

gefrumete er manegen tôten man.
made he many-a dead man.

thes swertes site was sô getân,
the sword's custom was so made,

sô wâ er iz hine sluoh,
so where he it thither struck,

thaz iz thurh then stâl wuot,
that it through the steel waded,

sam er wâre lintîn.
as-if it were linden.

thie tôten lâgen in allenthalben sîn
the dead lay round about him

sam thie hôhen perge.
like the high mountains.

thaz pluot von manne verhe
the blood from man's life

fulte velt unde graben.
filled field and ditch.

niemen ne mahte then weh gehaben,
no-one — might the way hold,

sie wuoten in theme bluote unz ane thie knie.
they waded in the blood until to the knee.

thaz ne vreiscetet er ê nie,
that — heard-of you before never,

thaz unter theme himele ie gescâhe
that under the heaven ever happened

thaz thiu scare gare belâge,
that the troop wholly lay-dead,

thaz ire nehein man genas.
that of-them no man survived.

thaz buoh urkundet uns thaz,
the book witnesses to-us that,

thurh Mahmetes liebe
for Mahomet's love

hâten sie manegere slahte zierde
had they of-many-a kind ornament

gefuoret ane thie walstat.
brought onto the battlefield.

Ruolant hiew ime thaz phat
Roland hewed to-himself the path

rehte thar engegene.
right there against.

thâ vielen Mahmetes helethe
there fell Mahomet's heroes

zuo sîner gagenwurte,
in his presence,

thaz er sih selben niene werte
that he him self not-at-all defended

noh then sînen ne wolte helven,
nor the his — would help,

sô wie vile si in ane geriefen.
so how much they him on cried.

Ruolant unt thie sîne
Roland and the his

kêrten mit micheleme nîthe
turned with great spite

ane there heithenen betehûs.
to the heathens' prayer-house.

sîne blâsâre muosen thar ûz:
its blowers must there out:

sie ersluogen sie alle samt.
they slew them all together.

thô sprah ther helet Ruolant:
then spoke the hero Roland:

«wâ bistu nu, Mahmet?
«where art-thou now, Mahomet?

nu were thih hie ze stete.
now defend thee here on spot.

thie thîne sint alle erslagen:
the thine are all slain:

thaz hân ih thir ze lastere getân.
that have I to-thee to reproach done.

thîn hûs wil ih prechen:
thy house will I break:

maht thu nu rechen
mayst thou now avenge

thie thîne plâsâre?
the thy blowers?

hînte wâre thu vile mâre,
last-night wert thou very famous,

nu bistu worden stille.
now art-thou become still.

thîne goltgarewen thille
thy gold-adorned planks

muozen alle zuo ther erthe.
must all to the earth.

ih gelege thih unwerthe,
I lay thee worthless,

ih zetrite thih unter then mist.
I trample thee under the dung.

ther thîn vile pôse list
the thy very wicked cunning

ist ane thaz ende komen.
is to the end come.

thîn trugeheit thiu ist gare verloren.»
thy deceit it is wholly lost.»

thô hiez er thie wende
then bade he the walls

in allen vier enden
in all four ends

zuo ther erthen stôzen.
to the earth push.

thô wolten sîn geniezen
then would of-it enjoy

thie iz thâ nither sluogen:
who it there down struck:

thaz golt sie ûf huoben.
the gold they up raised.

thaz ersah ther helet Ruolant.
that saw the hero Roland.

«ich bite iuh herren alle samt
«I bid you lords all together

thurh then êwigen got,
for the eternal God,

lât iu thitze golt rôt
let to-you this gold red

wesen ummâre
be indifferent

wither iuwerem scephâre,
against your creator,

thitze scône gesteine.
these fair gems.

jâ ist iz unreine.
yea is it unclean.

lât iz thurh then wâren gotes sune:
leave it for the true God's son:

izne mah uns ze gote niht gefrumen,
it may us to God not profit,

want iz uns ze nihte entouh.
for it us for nothing avails.

unde habet thaz urloup,
and have the leave,

sô wer morgen ze thirre zît lebe,
so who tomorrow at this time live,

thaz er ime selbe neme
that he for-himself self take

sô waz ime hie gevalle.
so what to-him here pleases.

jane wizen wir noh alle
indeed-not know we yet all

wie iz noh hiute ergât.»
how it yet today goes.»

wole geviel in ther rât.
well pleased to-them the counsel.

sie trâten iz unter thie fuoze:
they trod it under the feet:

unter theme miste siz liezen,
under the dung they-it left,

sam iz blî wâre.
as-if it lead were.

sie lobeten alle ire scephâre.
they praised all their creator.

Thô kom Falsaron:
Then came Falsaron:

vone there erthen Dathân unt Abiron
from the earth of-Dathan and Abiram

was er verre gevaren.
was he far fared.

einen guldînen aren
a golden eagle

fuorte er ane theme scilte.
bore he on the shield.

vore there scare er spilete.
before the troop he played.

vone sîneme helme thâ scein
from his helm there shone

ein liehter karfunkelstein
a bright carbuncle-stone

unt ander werh spâhe.
and other work skillful.

er was rîche unt mâre.
he was rich and famous.

er sprah: «bistu hie, Olivier?
he spoke: «art-thou here, Oliver?

mir ist thikke gesaget vone thir,
to-me is often told of thee,

thu sîst there cristenen vorevehte.
thou be the Christians' champion.

ih hân hie guote knehte,
I have here good knights,

zwelef tûsent man.
twelve thousand men.

nu rît thu helet unter mînen vanen:
now ride thou hero under my banner:

ih hilve thir gerne hinnen,
I help thee gladly hence,

wil thu, helet, thingen
(if)-wilt thou, hero, treat

thar zuo theme kuninge Marsilien.
there to the king Marsile.

thune maht iz niht gewitheren.
thou mayst it not resist.

behalt lîp unde ruom.
keep life and fame.

wil thu thes niht tuon,
(if)-wilt thou that not do,

thînen botih wirve ih then himelvogelen;
thy body throw I to-the heaven-birds;

thîn houbet thar obene
thy head there above

stekke ih ane mînen spiez,
stick I on my spear,

alsô ih theme kuninge gehiez,
as I to-the king promised,

unt fuorez uber al thise berge,
and carry-it over all these mountains,

izne sî thaz ih vile thrâte ersterbe.»
unless-it be that I very quickly die.»

Thô antwirt ime ther wîgant:
Then answered to-him the fighter:

«ih hân ouh liute unde lant
«I have also people and land

alsô lange sô got wile.
as long as God wills.

mihne thunket ire borvile
me-not seems of-them very-many

thie thu here hâst brâht.
whom thou hither hast brought.

ih hân sîn anderes gethâht.
I have of-it otherwise thought.

ih hân wither mîneme scephâre gelobet,
I have toward my creator vowed,

thaz ih neheiner slahte voget
that I no kind-of lord

wither in niemer gewinne.
against him never win.

vile bôse wirthet thîn gethinge,
very wicked becomes thy bargain,

vore gote verfluochet,
before God accursed,

thaz er thîn niene ruochet.
that he of-thee not-at-all cares.

thînen botih unreinen,
thy body unclean,

thîn golt unt thîn gesteine
thy gold and thy gems

wirfe ih in thie puze.
throw I into the puddle.

thîn leben ist unnuze.
thy life is useless.

ihne furhte neheine thîne thrô.»
I fear no thy threat.»

gelîche huoben sie sih thô:
alike raised they themselves then:

beithe sie spranhten,
both they spurred,

ein ander si ane ranten.
one another they on rode.

Olivier thurh then heithenen stah,
Oliver through the heathen stabbed,

zuo there erthen er in warf.
to the earth he him threw.

wither zuhter then spiez.
back drew-he the spear.

unter thie heithenen er rief:
among the heathens he called:

«wâ nu sîne scaregesellen,
«where now his troop-comrades,

thie in rechen wellen?
who him avenge will?

thie heven sih here zuo mir»,
they raise themselves hither to me»,

sprah ther helet Olivier.
spoke the hero Oliver.

michel vrowethe unter then cristenen was:
great joy among the Christians was:

sie thrungen in aver nâher baz.
they pressed to-them again nearer better.

thie cristenen riefen Monsoy Monsoy.
the Christians cried Montjoie Montjoie.

vile harte erkômen thie
very hard were-frightened they

thie zaller vorderiste wâren,
who at-the-very foremost were,

want sie michel wunder sâhen,
for they great wonder saw,

thâ thie gotes herten
when the God's warriors

mit then spieze orten
with the spear points

scarphen unde wassen
sharp and keen

wurfen sie vone then rossen.
threw them from the horses.

sie kêrten ane thie thikke.
they turned at the thick.

sie valten in eineme blikke
they felled in one glance

mêr thenne ses tûsent man.
more than six thousand men.

ther strît was vermezzenlîche erhaben.
the strife was boldly raised.

von Almerîe Tortân
of Almerie Tortan

mit eineme goltgarewen vanen
with a gold-adorned banner

stah er then grâven Orten,
stabbed he the count Ort,

thaz er viel tôter.
that he fell dead.

er wâre gerne vone ime thannen:
he were gladly from him thence:

thô versûmte er sih ze lange.
then delayed he himself too long.

thô sprah ther helet Maximîn:
then spoke the hero Maximin:

«thesne mah niuwet sîn;
«this may not-at-all be;

thune scalt sô genozen niht hinnen varen.»
thou shalt so unpunished not hence fare.»

thô huof er ûf then arm,
then raised he up the arm,

thaz houbet er ime abe swanc.
the head he from-him off swung.

thô wart ein michel gethranc
then became a great throng

thâ thie gotes herestrangen
where the God's army-strong

then Falsarotes mannen
to-the Falsaron's men

zezarten thie scilte.
tore the shields.

sô vaste sie in ane gesigeten
so firmly they them on sank

thaz in ther stâl nehein frume newas.
that to-them the steel no profit was.

thie ire wole gezierten helmvaz
the their well adorned helm-vessels

wâren alle blîweih.
were all lead-soft.

sô waz sîn thaz swert begreif,
so what of-it the sword seized,

thaz muose allez inzwei.
that must all in-two.

Ilmâr vil lûte thâ screi,
Ilmar very loud there cried,

ther herzoge von Agrentîn:
the duke of Agrentin:

«thie cristenen muozen wole kuone sîn.
«the Christians must well bold be.

ire scilte noh ire ringe
their shields nor their rings

nemah niemen gewinnen.
may no-one win.

thitze ist thiu aller meiste nôt.
this is the of-all greatest distress.

thiu unser scare liget tôt.
the our troop lies dead.

wir vehten allen thisen tah,
we fight all this day,

thaz ih neheinen frumen swertes slah
that I no profitable sword's blow

ersah von unser neheinem.
saw from of-us none.

ihne wil sô zagelîchen niht hinnen sceithen,
I will so cowardly not hence part,

ih versuoche mih ê,
I try myself before,

sô wie iz uber mih ergê.»
so how it over me goes.»

thaz ros er mit then sporen nam:
the horse he with the spurs took:

er kêrte rehte engegen them vanen.
he turned right toward the banner.

er stah Marcellen,
he stabbed Marcel,

then grâven von Vigennen,
the count of Vigenne,

thurh einen scilt thikken
through a shield thick

then spiez unz ane then mittel.
the spear until to the middle.

thie heithenen huoben sih alle samt
the heathens raised themselves all together

fore Valdant.
before Valdant.

sie kêrten vaste ûf sie.
they turned firmly upon them.

thie cristenen scare rief Monsoy Monsoy.
the Christian troop cried Montjoie Montjoie.

XVIII · THE PEERS' COMBATS

The Christians rout Falsaron's men, and Oliver kills a survivor. Cursable taunts Turpin and dies; a dew from heaven refreshes the Christians. Gerin kills Malprimis, Gerier kills Amurafel, and Prutan falls, while the Christians lose many of their own and drive the heathens off.

Thie cristenen fure trâten
The Christians forward stepped

mit then ire tiuwerlîchen wâfen:
with the their precious weapons:

sie frumeten ze allen stunden
they made at all hours

tôten unde wunden.
dead and wounded.

thaz bluot uber velt ran.
the blood over field ran.

si zesluogen ros unde man.
they smashed horse and man.

thie tôten hine runnen:
the dead thither ran:

wie jâmerlîche sie swummen!
how pitifully they swam!

vile maneger ertranhte sih selbe.
very many-a-one drowned himself self.

cristenen thie helethe
Christians the heroes

vaste thurh thrungen.
firmly through pressed.

fluhte sie sie thwungen.
to-flight they them constrained.

sie sluogen in ûf then rukken
they struck to-them upon the back

thie scilde al ze stukken.
the shields all to pieces.

sô waz gebeines thar unter was,
so what of-bone there under was,

fure wâr weiz ih thaz,
for true know I that,

thie muosen alle in then strân.
they must all into the stream.

Falsaron unt sîne man
Falsaron and his men

fluzen after furhe.
floated after furrow.

Olivier dravete thar ubere
Oliver trotted there over

unt sîne scaregenôze.
and his troop-fellows.

thâr in theme walflôze
there in the blood-flood

belâgen sie tôt alle samt,
lay they dead all together,

thaz man thâ niemen lebentigen vant
that one there no-one living found

wane sunter einen:
except only one:

ther gestilte ûf eineme steine.
he halted upon a stone.

Olivier in ersah;
Oliver him saw;

vile ubelîchen er zuo ime sprah:
very evilly he to him spoke:

«wanne sagestu mir, junc man,
«why-not tellest-thou me, young man,

war hâstu Falsaron getân?
where hast-thou Falsaron put?

ja tâtestu ungetriuwelîchen,
yea didst-thou faithlessly,

woltestu ime geswîchen:
(if)-wouldst-thou to-him fail:

sô sciethestu ubele hinnen.
so partest-thou ill hence.

thu scolt nâh ime swimmen,
thou shalt after him swim,

suoche thînen herren:
seek thy lord:

thie scare scoltu ime gemêren.»
the troop shalt-thou to-him increase.»

then spiez er ûf huof,
the spear he up raised,

uber thaz houbet er in sluoh,
over the head he him struck,

thaz ime thie ougen ûz sprungen.
that to-him the eyes out sprang.

thie scare lah in theme bluote gare berunnen.
the troop lay in the blood wholly drenched.

Thô kom ther kuninc Cursable
Then came the king Cursable

gevaren ûf sîneme marhe
faring upon his steed

unter eineme liehten helme.
under a bright helm.

zwelef tûsent sîner helethe
twelve thousand of-his heroes

riten nâh ire herren.
rode after their lord.

si scinen alle sam thie sterren
they shone all like the stars

vone golde unt vone gesteine:
from gold and from gems:

thie wâren vermezen heithenen.
they were bold heathens.

ther kuninc was hêrlîchen gare.
the king was splendidly ready.

er spranhte verre vore sîner scare
he spurred far before his troop

uber velt thaz rûhe.
over field the rough.

ja enbeit er vile kûme
yea waited he very scarcely

thaz er Turpînen vant.
that he Turpin found.

thô rief er uber sciltes rant:
then called he over shield's rim:

«bistu hie, Turpîn?
«art-thou here, Turpin?

vile gewis scoltu thes sîn,
very certain shalt-thou of-it be,

ther thih mit golde wâge,
who thee with gold should-weigh,

thaz ih iz thâ fure niene nâme
that I it there for not-at-all should-take

thaz ih thih ersehen hân.
that I thee seen have.

thu hâst mir vile ze leithe getân.
thou hast to-me very-much to sorrow done.

wâ mahtestu ûf thirre erthe
where mightst-thou upon this earth

iemer baz ersterben?
ever better die?

ih bin ein kuninc vile rîch.
I am a king very rich.

nu stih thu, helet, wither mih:
now stab thou, hero, against me:

thu bist there aller kuonisten ein
thou art of-the of-all boldest one

then thiu sunne ie bescein.
whom the sun ever shone-on.

thîn houbet fuore ih hiute hinnen
thy head carry I today hence

Mahmet ze minnen
to-Mahomet for love

unt ze êren mîneme kunne,
and for honor to-my kin,

thaz man mir thaz lop iemer mêr sunge.»
that one to-me the praise ever more should-sing.»

Thô sprah ther biscof Turpîn:
Then spoke the bishop Turpin:

«ther heilige Crist scol ther mittelâre sîn,
«the holy Christ shall the mediator be,

ther mîn heilâre ist,
who my savior is,

thes âhtâre thu bist.
whose persecutor thou art.

ih bin sîn thienistman.
I am his servant.

thîn rîche scol ein ander kuninc hân.
thy realm shall an other king have.

thîn scilt ist vile thunne,
thy shield is very thin,

vile weih ist thîn brunne;
very soft is thy byrnie;

thîn gesteinet helm alsô lieht
thy jeweled helm so bright

ther nemah thir hiute gefrumen niet:
it may thee today avail not:

thir ist vile nâhen ther tôt,
to-thee is very near the death,

thie tiuvele wartent thîn thort.»
the devils await thee there.»

thaz ros hiew er mit then sporen.
the horse hewed he with the spurs.

thurh scilt unt thurh satelpogen
through shield and through saddle-bow

stah er thurh then lîp in al rihte:
stabbed he through the body him all straight:

then spiez zuhter ûf mit krefte.
the spear drew-he up with strength.

er erriet in ûf thie helmguphen;
he hit him upon the helm-crest;

er zart in al ze stukken:
he tore him all to pieces:

tôt viel er unter sie.
dead fell he among them.

thie cristenen riefen Monsoy Monsoy.
the Christians cried Montjoie Montjoie.

Turpîn unt thie sîne
Turpin and the his

thie huoben sih mit nîthe
they raised themselves with spite

ane thie vile thikken scare.
at the very thick troop.

sie getâten bleihvare
they made pale-colored

manegen vermezenen man.
many-a bold man.

thaz fiur ûz theme stâle bran.
the fire out-of the steel burned.

thâ vielen ze allen stunden
there fell at all hours

thie tôten uber thie wunden.
the dead over the wounded.

niemen kan iu gesagen thaz,
no-one can to-you tell that,

welih nôt thâ was,
what distress there was,

tha ther marcgrâve Waldram
where the margrave Waldram

stah then heitheniscen man,
stabbed the heathen man,

thaz er then vanen hine warf:
that he the banner away threw:

tôt viel er unter thaz marh.
dead fell he under the steed.

thie heithenen muosen wenken.
the heathens must waver.

thie wâren gotes kemphen
the true God's champions

liezen sie luzel rasten.
let them little rest.

uber thrîe raste
over three leagues

hôrt man sie wê scrîen,
heard one them woe cry,

thes tiuveles hîen.
the devil's household.

thie helme sie verscarten,
the helms they notched,

thie halsperge si in zezarten.
the hauberks they from-them tore.

thiu starke hitze sie muote:
the hard heat them troubled:

sie wâren rehte sam in einer gluote
they were right as-if in a glow

beithiu ûzen unt innen.
both outside and inside.

thie cristenen vâhten wole nâh ire willen.
the Christians fought well after their will.

Thie heithenen getorsten niht gefliehen.
The heathens dared not flee.

vile manige tôt vielen,
very many dead fell,

selbe sie sih erthrungen.
self they themselves crushed.

ther tiuvel hâte in ane gewunnen
the devil had them on won

beithiu lîp unt thie sêle.
both body and the soul.

thô wolt ther himelisce herre
then would the heavenly Lord

thie sîne wole gefristen.
the his well preserve.

jâ kom uber thie cristenen
yea came over the Christians

ein trôr von theme himeltouwe,
a drizzle from the heaven-dew,

ein kuole unter thie ougen:
a coolness under the eyes:

thaz gescah an there nône zît.
that happened at the nones time.

sih erjungete aller ire lîp:
itself rejuvenated all their body:

sie wurthen stark unt veste
they became strong and firm

(thes engulten thie leithen geste),
(of-that paid the hateful guests),

sam sie thes morgenes wâren.
as they in-the morning were.

thô sie then trôst von himele ersâhen,
when they the comfort from heaven saw,

sie riefen Monsoy Monsoy.
they cried Montjoie Montjoie.

sie thrungen vaste thurh sie.
they pressed firmly through them.

there helme wart ein michel scal,
of-the helms was a great clamor,

grôz there heithenen val.
great the heathens' fall.

newether scilt noh gesmîthe
neither shield nor smith-work

nescirmete in theme lîve
shielded in the body

minnere thenne thie swam.
less than the sponge.

sie zesluogen ros unde man
they smashed horse and man

mit ire scarphen spiezen.
with their sharp spears.

thie gote muosen in theme pluote hine vliezen.
the gods must in the blood thither float.

ther site was unter guoten knehten,
the custom was among good knights,

sie kunden wole vehten
they could well fight

mit spiezen unt mit gêren:
with spears and with javelins:

thes vlizen sih thie herren.
of-that strove themselves the lords.

thie fuorte ther biscof Turpîn.
them led the bishop Turpin.

er valte in allenhalven sîn
he felled in all-around him

manegen heithenen kuonen.
many-a heathen bold.

thie scônen veltpluomen
the fair field-flowers

wurthen alle bluotvare.
became all blood-colored.

sie ersluogen sie sô gare
they slew them so wholly

thaz sie niemen ûfreht funden.
that they no-one upright found.

ouh verluren sie thar under
also lost they there among

viere unde sehzih man
four and sixty men

vielen vone thes biscoves vanen.
fell from the bishop's banner.

Malprîmis vone Ampelgart
Malprimis of Ampelgart

mit there aller meisten hôhvart
with the of-all greatest pride

fuorte er eine egeslîche scare,
led he a terrible troop,

zwelef tûsent rîter wole gare,
twelve thousand knights well ready,

vermezene helethe.
bold heroes.

jâ lûhte ire geserewe
yea shone their armor

vone scilde unt vone helmen
from shields and from helms

alsô vone himele thie sternen.
as from heaven the stars.

Egerîs fuorte einen vanen,
Gerin bore a banner,

thar unter einlif hunderet man:
there under eleven hundred men:

thie riefen hine ze himele.
they cried thither to heaven.

sie huoben sih thar ingegene.
they raised themselves there against.

Egerîs ernante,
Gerin ventured,

thie heithenen er ane rante.
the heathens he on rode.

er stah Malprîmis then herzogen
he stabbed Malprimis the duke

thaz er tôter zuo there erthe bekom.
that he dead to the earth came.

Cicerôn clagete sînen herren:
Ciceron lamented his lord:

mit sîneme scarphen gêre
with his sharp javelin

râmete er sîn zuo then brusten.
aimed he at-him to the breast.

ther scilt was sô veste,
the shield was so firm,

herte sîne ringe,
hard his rings,

erne mahte sîn niht gewinnen.
he could him not win.

Alrîh bî ime was:
Alrich by him was:

einen spiez alsô wahs
a spear so sharp

stah er Cicerône,
stabbed he into-Ciceron,

thaz ime thâ ze then ôren
that to-him there at the ears

thaz verhpluot ûz spranc.
the life-blood out sprang.

thâ wart ein vile michel gethranc
there became a very great throng

vone then heithenen ûf thie cristenen.
from the heathens upon the Christians.

vile harte sie sih gemiscten.
very hard they themselves mingled.

Thô vâhten wole thes keiseres man
Then fought well the emperor's men

so iz guoten knehten wole gezam.
as it good knights well befitted.

ire nehein ne thâhte ane then lîp.
of-them none — thought on the life.

ire herze stuont in allen zît
their heart stood at all times

alsô in thâ vone geheizen was:
as to-them there of promised was:

ie baz unde baz
ever better and better

stâtegent sie sih ze tugente.
steady they themselves to virtue.

sie sluogen tiefe wunten.
they struck deep wounds.

thâ mahte man scouwen
there might one behold

manegen heithenen verhouwen.
many-a heathen hewn.

thie ire scare alsô thikke
the their troop so thick

lâgen ane theme gewikke
lay on the crossroads

sam thie hunte unreine:
like the dogs unclean:

nehein arzet ne konde sie geheilen.
no physician — could them heal.

sô waz sie ire trâfen
so what they of-them struck

mit then ire tiuwerlîchen wâfen,
with the their precious weapons,

thiene irten sie niht mêre.
them troubled they not more.

thes loveten sie then himeliscen herren,
for-that praised they the heavenly Lord,

ther thie wunter zuo in hâte getân.
who the wonders to them had done.

si verluren einen unde sivenzih man.
they lost one and seventy men.

Egeriers ein helet kuone unde snel
Gerier a hero bold and quick

unde ther heitheniske kuninc Amurafel,
and the heathen king Amurafel,

thie scare kêrten ane ein ander.
the troops turned on one another.

ih sage iu michel wunder.
I tell to-you great wonder.

ein grabe was thâ enzwisken:
a ditch was there between:

thâ wolten sih thie heithenen gerne fristen.
there would themselves the heathens gladly save.

Egeriers spranhte thar ubere:
Gerier spurred there over:

jâ stah er theme kuninge
yea stabbed he the king

thurh then scilt unt thurh thie hant.
through the shield and through the hand.

jâ warf in ther ethele wîgant
yea threw him the noble fighter

theme rosse uber thie goffen.
from-the horse over the croup.

in theme pluote lah er bedochen.
in the blood lay he covered.

sîn satel ther was silverîn.
his saddle it was silver.

er sprah: «jâ thu armez kungelîn,
he spoke: «yea thou poor kinglet,

waz suochest thu nu hie?»
what seekest thou now here?»

thiu scare rief Monsoy Monsoy.
the troop cried Montjoie Montjoie.

Ein heithene hiez Prûtan:
A heathen was-called Prutan:

ther rante Egeriers ane.
he rode Gerier at.

«thaz wir thih sô erbarmen,
«that we thee so move-to-pity,

thaz wort muostu hie ze stete erarnen.»
the word must-thou here on spot pay-for.»

er stah in thurh einen scilt vesten.
he stabbed him through a shield firm.

thô scirmete ime vore sînen brusten
then shielded to-him before his breast

thaz tiwerlîche gesmîthe.
the precious smith-work.

jâ rah er sih mit nîthe:
yea avenged he himself with spite:

er stah in hinten thurh then lîp.
he stabbed him behind through the body.

daz buoh uns urkunde gît,
the book to-us witness gives,

then wîzen vanen
the white banner

ther herzoge Murlâ nam.
the duke Murla took.

er rief vile gezît:
he called very in-time:

«wir haven hie ein scônez volkwîc!»
«we have here a fair folk-battle!»

ther wîze vane wart rôt.
the white banner became red.

Prûtan gelah thâ tôt
Prutan lay there dead

unt sîn herre Amurafel
and his lord Amurafel

unt ander maneh helet snel.
and other many-a hero bold.

Die cristenen thurhthrungen sie:
The Christians pressed-through them:

sie riefen andere warf Monsoy Monsoy.
they cried a-second time Montjoie Montjoie.

thâ vielen thie heithenisken man,
there fell the heathen men,

thaz iz iu nieman ne sagen kan.
that it to-you no-one — tell can.

sie vielen thikke unt thikke.
they fell thick and thick.

wec unde gewikke
way and crossroads

was allez perunet.
was all drenched.

thie cristenen hâten thâ gefrumet
the Christians had there made

manegen helm prûnen
many-a helm brown

bleih unde verhouwen,
pale and hewn,

manege sêle zuo there helle.
many-a soul to the hell.

there potike gevelle
the bodies' fall

was harte egeslîh.
was hard terrible.

thâ viel ther gotes gerih
there fell the God's judgment

uber thie wuotgrimmen.
over the raging-grim.

ûz then gotes kinden
out-of the God's children

gevielen ahtzih unde sibene:
fell eighty and seven:

thie vrowent sih iemer thâ ze himele.
they rejoice themselves ever there in heaven.