MIDDLE HIGH GERMAN SERIES · VOLUME 35

Lanzelet

Ulrich von Zatzikhoven

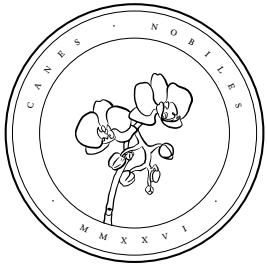
Lanzelet

Part One: The Quest for a Name

---

with a word-for-word interlinear English translation

preserving the original word order



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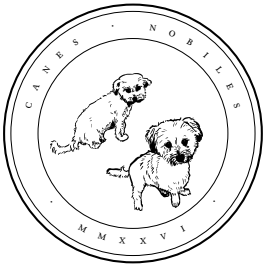

Volume 35 of the Canes Nobiles Middle High German interlinear texts

The Middle High German text follows Lanzelet: Eine erzählung von Ulrich von Zatzikhoven, herausgegeben von K. A. Hahn (Frankfurt am Main: Heinrich Ludwig Brönner, 1845), verses 1 to 4688

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

The verses are numbered as Hahn 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.

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The poet asks courtly hearers to heed his tale of a knight who did not know his own name or lineage. Pant, king of Genewis, rules harshly, though his queen Clarine is loved; when their son is a year old the wronged lords rise and storm his castle by the sea, and the wounded Pant dies drinking at a spring. A sea-fairy carries the child off in a mist while the foes seize the queen. Her land holds ten thousand women and a castle on a crystal mountain, ringed by the sea and a wall, where no one grows old or sorrows.

Swer rehtiu wort gemerken kan,
Whoever right words mark can,

der gedenke wie ein wîse man
he consider how a wise man

hie vor bî alten zîten sprach,
here before in old times spoke,

dem sît diu welt der volge jach.
to-whom since the world of-the following assented.

in dûhte der niht wol gemuot
to-him seemed he not well minded

der al der liute willen tuot.
who all of-the people's will does.

den frumen hazzent ie die zagen:
the valiant hate ever the cowards:

daz sol er mæzeclîchen clagen,
that shall he moderately lament,

sît ez in an ir herze gât,
since it to-them to their heart goes,

sô sîn dinc wol ze sælden stât.
so his affair well to blessings stands.

Nu hœrent wi ich ez meine.
Now hear how I it mean.

er belîbet friunde aleine,
he remains of-friends alone,

swer nieman für den andern hât.
whoever no-one before the other holds.

ez ist mîn bete und ouch mîn rât,
it is my request and also my counsel,

daz hübsche liute mich vernemen,
that courtly people me hear,

den lop und êre wol gezemen.
whom praise and honor well befit.

der hulde ich wil behalten
whose favor I will keep

und wil hie fürder schalten
and will here further thrust-aside

die bœsen nîdære:
the evil envious-ones:

den fremde got ditz mære,
to-them estrange God this tale,

des ich hie wil beginnen.
which I here will begin.

si gânt doch schiere hinnen,
they go yet quickly hence,

swenne si diz liet hœrent sagen;
when they this song hear say;

si mügen kûme vertragen
they can scarcely endure

daz eime ritter wol gelanc,
that to-a knight well succeeded,

der ie nâch stæten tugenden ranc.
who ever after steadfast virtues strove.

der was hübsch unde wîs
he was courtly and wise

und bejagete manegen prîs
and won many-a prize

wîten in den landen
widely in the lands

an stolzen wîganden.
on proud fighters.

noch denne was im unbekant,
yet then was to-him unknown,

wie er selbe was genant
how he self was named

und welhes adels er wære,
and of-which nobility he were,

unz daz der helt mære
until that the hero famous

geschuof mit sîner manheit,
brought-about with his manhood,

daz im sîn name wart geseit
that to-him his name was told

und dar zuo gar sîn künneschaft.
and there to wholly his lineage.

ze tugenden hât er blüende kraft,
to virtues has he blossoming strength,

der selbe sælige man,
the same blessed man,

wan er nie ze laster muot gewan.
for he never to disgrace mind gained.

Nu lânts iuch niht betrâgen,
Now let-it you not weary,

ich sage iu âne vrâgen,
I tell to-you without asking,

wie sîn gelæze wart bekant.
how his descent was known.

ein fürste was geheiȝen Pant,
a prince was called Pant,

der was künec ze Genewîs.
he was king in Genewis.

von manegen kriegen wart er grîs,
from many wars became he gray,

der pflac er âne mâȝen vil,
of-which he practiced without measure much,

als maneger der mê haben wil
as many-a-one who more have will

dan im daȝ reht verhenge.
than to-him the right allow.

daȝ enlouft doch niht die lenge:
that runs yet not the length:

er gewinnet dicke widerslac.
he gets often counter-blow.

diz was sîn site, des er pflac,
this was his custom, which he practiced,

wan er des lîbes was ein degen,
for he of-the body was a thane,

er woltes algelîche wegen,
he would-it all-alike weigh,

arm unde rîche
poor and rich

in sîme künicrîche,
in his kingdom,

die reht ze im solten suochen;
who right with him should seek;

ern wolt ouch niht geruochen,
he would also not deign,

daȝ wider in ieman spræche ein wort,
that against him anyone should-speak a word,

ern wære dâ ze stete mort.
unless-he were there at spot dead.

grâven unde herzogen,
counts and dukes,

die hât er alsô überzogen
them had he so overrun

und kêrt an si sô grôzen zorn,
and turned at them so great anger,

daz den herren wol geborn
that to-the lords well born

der lîp wart vil swære.
the life became very heavy.

si wurden im gevære,
they became to-him hostile,

wie si im den lîp gewunnen abe.
how they from-him the life might-win off.

si liezen slîfen gar ir habe
they let slip wholly their property

und lebten jæmerlîche,
and lived wretchedly,

die êdes wâren rîche.
who formerly were rich.

Vil strenge was des küneges lîp.
Very severe was the king's person.

nu hât er ein schœnez wîp,
now had he a beautiful wife,

stæte und dêmüete.
steadfast and humble.

mit wîplîcher güete
with womanly goodness

verzart siu manege pîne.
softened she many-a pain.

ir name hiez Clârîne.
her name was-called Clarine.

siu het ir dinc sô wol brâht,
she had her affair so well brought,

daz ir zem besten wart gedâht
that of-her to-the best was thought

von rittern und von vrouwen.
by knights and by ladies.

hie sol man wunder schouwen:
here shall one wonder behold:

die ir man des tôdes gunden,
who her husband the death granted,

die dienten ir swâ si kunden,
they served her wherever they could,

wan siu niht wan êren gerte.
for she nothing but honors desired.

daz der künec sô lange werte,
that the king so long lasted,

daz kom von ir miltikeit.
that came from her generosity.

nu gewan diu vrouwe gemeit
now got the lady joyful

ein kint, daz maneger sælden wielt.
a child, that much blessing commanded.

ân ammen siu ez selbe behielt
without nurses she it self kept

in ir kemenâten;
in her chamber;

dâ wart ez wol berâten.
there was it well provided.

ouch wart inz selten enblanden,
also was to-them-it seldom irksome,

mit schœner vrouwen handen
with beautiful ladies' hands

wart ez dicke gewaget.
was it often rocked.

in was daz gewîssaget,
to-them was that prophesied,

daz ez wurde ein wîgant.
that it should-become a fighter.

des freute sich der künic Pant.
of-that rejoiced himself the king Pant.

Als uns dervon ist vor gezalt,
As to-us there-of is before told,

daz kint wart eins jâres alt
the child became one year old

und neizwie maneger wochen,
and I-know-not-how many weeks,

dô hâten sich besprochen
then had themselves agreed

di erzürneten knehte,
the angered vassals,

di der künic hielt unrehte
whom the king held unrightly

in swacher handelunge.
in base treatment.

ein mehtege samenunge
a mighty gathering

gewunnen si mit listen,
won they with cunning,

daz ez die niene wisten
that it they not-at-all knew

di den künic solten warnen.
who the king should warn.

dô muost er harte garnen,
then must he very pay,

daz er si sô sêre vilte
that he them so sorely flayed

mit sîme herschilte
with his host-shield

und in die mâge het erslagen.
and to-them the kinsmen had slain.

si gewunnen ein mähtec magen
they won a mighty might

und riten in offenlîchen an.
and rode him openly at.

des engalt ders frumen nie gewan:
for-that paid who-of-it benefit never gained:

ze schaden und ze schanden
to harm and to shame

hertens unde branden
ravaged-they and burned

dem künege manic dorf guot.
to-the king many-a village good.

nu het er eine heimuot
now had he a homestead

ein schœne burc bî dem mer:
a beautiful castle by the sea:

di belac daz kreftige her
it besieged the mighty host

wan er in drûf erspehet was.
for he to-them there-on spied was.

der liute lützel dô genas,
of-the people few then survived,

die si in der vorburc funden;
whom they in the outer-castle found;

si tâten manege wunden
they did many wounds

den alten zuo den kinden;
to-the old with the children;

si enwolten niht erwinden
they would not desist

ê si sie gar ersluogen,
before they them wholly slew,

wan si riwic herze truogen.
for they rueful heart bore.

Der künic wart erværet.
The king became frightened.

dô wart diz wort bewæret:
then became this word proved:

er belîbet dicke sigelôs,
he remains often victoryless,

swer die sîne verkôs.
whoever the his forsook.

er was ze grimme an sînen siten,
he was too grim in his ways,

dâ von wâren im entriten
from that were from-him ridden-away

die ritter alle gemeine.
the knights all together.

er beleib vil nâch aleine:
he remained very nearly alone:

wan sîne burgære
for his burghers

die wâren helde mære,
they were heroes famous,

si werten wol ir vesten,
they defended well their fortress,

wan si mit den gesten
for they with the strangers

durch nôt muosen strîten.
through need must fight.

diu burc was ze allen sîten
the castle was on all sides

vaste besęzzen;
firmly besieged;

dô tiuret in daz ęzzen.
then grew-dear to-them the food.

ouch heten si vil cleinen trôst,
also had they very little comfort,

daz si wurden erlôst
that they should-become freed

von deheime lande:
from any land:

daz schuof des küneges schande.
that made the king's disgrace.

Er lie sich kûme dringen
He let himself scarcely press

und wolte sunderlingen
and would apart

und eine belîben dâ vor.
and alone remain there before.

die vînde giengen an daz tor
the foes went to the gate

und hiuwen ez vaste dernider,
and hewed it firmly there-down,

wan si ahten cleine dâ wider,
for they heeded little there against,

daz man si warf unde schôz.
that one them threw and shot.

dô wart ein sperwehsel grôz
then became a spear-exchange great

under der porte.
under the gate.

manec man den tôt bekorte,
many-a man the death tasted,

der wol het gevohten.
who well had fought.

die burgær die enmohten
the burghers they could

sich niht erwern der geste:
themselves not defend of-the strangers:

die drungen in die veste
they pressed into the fortress

und gemisten sich an der stunt.
and mingled themselves at the hour.

dô wart der künic Pant wunt
then became the king Pant wounded

und die sînen meistic erslagen.
and the his mostly slain.

dô huob sich wuof unde clagen,
then raised itself wailing and lament,

wan diu burc was gewunnen.
for the castle was won.

nu het der künic einen brunnen
now had the king a spring

zwischen der burc und dem sê:
between the castle and the sea:

dar îlt er, wan im was wê.
thither hastened he, for to-him was woe.

sam im gienc diu künigîn,
likewise with-him went the queen,

diu truoc niht wan daz kindelîn.
who carried nothing but the little-child.

nu begund er sich sô missehaben,
now began he himself so to-fare-ill,

daz in diu vrowe muose laben.
that him the lady must refresh.

als er getranc, dô was er tôt.
when he drank, then was he dead.

diu künigîn het grôzę nôt
the queen had great distress

und nam des kindes goume:
and took of-the child care:

si vlôch zuo eime boume
she fled to a tree

und wânt dâ sîn al eine.
and believed there to-be all alone.

dô kom ein merfeine
then came a sea-fairy

mit eime dunst als ein wint.
with a mist as a wind.

siu nam der künigîn daz kint
she took from-the queen the child

und fuort ez mit ir in ir lant.
and led it with her into her land.

daz sâhn die vînde zehant.
that saw the foes at-once.

die vrowen si geviengen,
the lady they seized,

in die burc si wider giengen
into the castle they back went

mit bluotigen swerten
with bloody swords

uud tâten swes si gerten.
and did whatever they desired.

Ist ez iu liep an dirre stunt,
(If)-is it to-you dear at this hour,

sô tuon ich iu vil schiere kunt,
so make I to-you very quickly known,

war daz kint ist bekomen.
whither the child is come.

ez hât ein vrouwe genomen,
it has a lady taken,

ein wîsiu merminne,
a wise mermaid,

diu was ein küniginne
who was a queen

baz dan alle die nu sint.
better than all who now are.

siu hete zehen tûsint
she had ten thousand

vrowen in ir lande,
ladies in her land,

dernkeiniu bekande
of-whom-none knew

man noch mannes gezoc.
man nor man's gear.

si heten hemede unde roc
they had shifts and gowns

von pfeller und von sîden.
of silk-cloth and of silk.

ich enwil daz niht vermîden
I will that not avoid

ich ensage iu daz für wâr,
I unless-tell to-you that for true,

ir lant was über allez jâr
their land was over all year

als miten meien gebluot.
as in-the-midst-of May blossomed.

ouch was der vrowen heinmuot
also was the ladies' homestead

schœne wît unde lanc,
beautiful wide and long,

und wünneclîch der invanc.
and delightful the enclosure.

der berc was ein cristalle,
the mountain was a crystal,

sinewel als ein balle,
round as a ball,

dar ûf stuont diu burc vast.
there upon stood the castle firm.

si vorhten keinen vremden gast
they feared no foreign guest

noch deheines küneges her.
nor any king's host.

umb daz lant gie daz mer
about the land went the sea

und ein mûre alsô starc,
and a wall so strong,

daz nieman wære alsô karc,
that no-one were so cunning,

der imer des gedæhte,
who ever of-that should-think,

daz er iht drüber bræhte,
that he anything over-it should-bring,

wan dort dâ diu porte was:
except there where the gate was:

daz was ein härter adamas:
that was a hard adamant:

dâ wârens âne vorhte.
there were-they without fear.

swer die burc worhte,
whoever the castle wrought,

der zierte si mit sinnen.
he adorned it with wits.

siu was ûzen und innen
it was outside and inside

von golde als ein gestirne.
of gold as a starry-sky.

dehein dinc wart dâ virne
no thing became there old

innerthalp dem burcgraben,
within the castle-moat,

der ez hundert jâr solte haben,
which it hundred years should have,

ez wære ie ebenschœne.
it were ever equally-beautiful.

da enwart ouch nieman hœne
there became also no-one scornful

von zorne noch von nîde.
from anger nor from envy.

die vrowen wâren blîde,
the ladies were blithe,

die dâ beliben wonhaft.
who there remained dwelling.

die steine heten sölhe kraft,
the stones had such strength,

die an daz hûs wârn geleit,
which on the house were laid,

daz man uns dervon seit,
that one to-us there-of tells,

swer dâ wonet einen tac,
whoever there dwells one day,

daz er niemer riuwe pflac
that he never sorrow practiced

und imer vrœlîche warp
and ever joyfully acted

unz an die stunt daz er erstarp.
until to the hour that he died.

The boy grows up among the ladies, learning courtesy, music, and song; sea-marvels teach him to fence, wrestle, throw, hunt, and shoot, but never to ride. At fifteen he asks his name, and the queen says he will learn it only by defeating Iweret of Dodone in the Beautiful Forest. She arms him in white with an eagle on his shield and sends him over the sea. Unable to hold the reins, he lets the horse run; a dwarf at Pluris whips him and his horse, and Johfrit de Liez, meeting him, wonders at his riding and asks his name.

Nu wuohs ân alle schande
Now grew without all disgrace

daz kint in dem lande,
the child in the land,

mit vreuden, âne riuwe.
with joys, without sorrow.

er muose sîn getriuwe,
he must be faithful,

hübsch unde wol gemuot;
courtly and well minded;

daz hiez in diu vrowe guot,
that bade him the lady good,

diu in vil êren lêrte.
who him many honors taught.

an spot er sich niht kêrte,
to mockery he himself not turned,

als ungeslahte liute tuont.
as ill-bred people do.

als schiere dô er sich enstuont,
as soon when he himself understood,

waz guot was und wol getân,
what good was and well done,

zuo den vrowen muos er gân.
to the ladies must he go.

die heten sîn grôzen schimpf.
they had of-him great sport.

dâ sach er manigen gelimpf,
there saw he many-a seemly-way,

wan si alle hübsch wâren.
for they all courtly were.

si lêrten in gebâren
they taught him to-bear-himself

und wider die vrouwen sprechen.
and toward the ladies to-speak.

ern wolte nie gerechen
he would never avenge

deheinen wîplîchen zorn,
any womanly anger,

wan er von adele was geborn.
for he of nobility was born.

ze mâzen muos er swîgen.
in measure must he be-silent.

harpfen unde gîgen
harps and fiddles

und allerhande seiten spil,
and all-kinds-of strings' play,

des kund er mê danne vil,
of-that knew he more than much,

wand ez was dâ lantsite.
for it was there land-custom.

die vrouwen lêrten in dâ mite
the ladies taught him there with

baltlîche singen.
boldly to-sing.

er was an allen dingen
he was in all things

bescheiden unde sælden rîch.
discreet and of-blessings rich.

der vrowen wunste iegelîch,
of-the ladies wished each,

daz er si solte minnen:
that he her should love:

moht er ir niht gewinnen,
might he her not win,

daz enmeinde enkein sîn ungefuoc,
that meant none his discourtesy,

wand er was hübsch unde cluoc.
for he was courtly and clever.

Durch des junkherren bete
For the young-lord's request

diu vrouwe frümeclîche tete,
the lady valiantly did,

wan er si dûhte munder:
for he her seemed lively:

siu besante merwunder
she sent-for sea-marvels

und hiez in lêren schirmen.
and bade him teach to-fence.

dô enwolt er nie gehirmen,
then would he never rest,

ê im niht dar an war.
before to-him nothing there in lacked.

ouch muost er loufen alebar
also must he run all-bare

und ûz der mâze springen
and out-of the measure leap

und starclîche ringen,
and strongly wrestle,

verre werfen steine,
far throw stones,

grôz unde cleine,
great and small,

und die schefte schiezen,
and the shafts shoot,

(in enwolte niht verdriezen
(him would not irk

swaz er vor hôrte sagen)
whatever he before heard say)

birsen beizen unde jagen
stalk hawk and hunt

und mit dem bogen râmen.
and with the bow aim.

die von dem mer kâmen,
those from the sea came,

die tâten in behenden.
they made him nimble.

er was an allen enden
he was at all ends

wîs unde manhaft,
wise and manly,

wan daz er umbe ritterschaft
except that he about knighthood

enwiste weder ditz noch daz,
knew neither this nor that,

wan er ûf ros nie gesaz:
for he upon horse never sat:

harnasch er niht bekande.
harness he not knew.

er wart in dem lande
he became in the land

fünfzehen jâr alt.
fifteen years old.

dô gerte der helt balt
then desired the hero bold

urloubes sîner vrouwen.
leave of-his lady.

er wolte gerne schouwen
he would gladly behold

turnieren unde rîten
tourneying and riding

und kund ouch gerne strîten.
and could also gladly fight.

Nu er urloubes bat,
Now he leave begged,

dô fuogt er sich an sölhe stat,
then betook he himself to such place,

diu im dar zuo tohte,
which to-him there to suited,

daz er wol sprechen mohte
that he well speak might

wider sîne vrowen die künigîn.
toward his lady the queen.

‚nu lânt mit iwern hulden sîn'
‚now let with your favor be'

sprach er ‚swes ich vrâge
spoke he ‚whatever I ask

und zeigt mir mîne mâge,
and show me my kinsmen,

wan ich enweiz wer ich bin.
for I know-not who I am.

die zît hân ich vertriben hin,
the time have I spent away,

daz ich michs innenclîche schamen.
that I me-of-it inwardly shame.

ich enweiz niht mînes namen.
I know not my name.

wizzent wol, daz ist mir leit.'
know well, that is to-me sorrow.'

si sprach ‚ern wirt dir nimer geseit.'
she spoke ‚it becomes to-thee never told.'

‚durch waz? wer ist derz iu verbôt?‘
‚for what? who is who-it to-you forbade?‘

‚mîn schamen und mîn manecvalt nôt.‘
‚my shame and my manifold distress.‘

‚die tuont mir kunt, swie grôz si sint.‘
‚them make to-me known, however great they are.‘

‚dar zuo bist du noch ze kint:
‚there to art thou yet too child:

du enkanst dich schaden niht bewarn.‘
thou canst thee from-harm not guard.‘

‚sô lânt mich ungenant varn,
‚so let me unnamed fare,

mîn name wirt mir wol erkant.‘
my name becomes to-me well known.‘

‚du muost ê gewinnen oberhant
‚thou must before win upper-hand

an dem besten ritter der ie wart.‘
over the best knight who ever was.‘

‚den nennent mir. waz solz gespart?‘
‚him name to-me. why shall-it spared?‘

‚er ist genant Iweret
‚he is named Iweret

von dem schœnen walde Beforet.
of the beautiful forest Beforet.

sîn burc heizt Dôdône.
his castle is-called Dodone.

daz ich dirs imer lône,
that I to-thee-it ever reward,

sô rich daz er mir habe getân;
so avenge what he to-me has done;

und sîst des sicher sunder wân,
and be-thou of-that certain without doubt,

daz dich dîn name wirt verswigen,
that from-thee thy name becomes kept-silent,

du enmüezest ê an im gesigen.
thou unless-must before over him conquer.

du vindest in, bistu frome.
thou findest him, (if)-art-thou valiant.

got gebe, daz ez dir wol bekome:
God grant, that it to-thee well turn-out:

wan sîn manheit ist sô grôz,
for his manhood is so great,

ich enweiz niender sînen gnôz,
I know nowhere his peer,

er treit in allen vor daz zil,
he bears to-them all before the goal,

den besten, als ich wænen wil.‘
the best, as I believe will.‘

der junge sprach ‚des hab ich nît.
the young-one spoke ‚of-that have I zeal.

bereitent mich, dêst an der zît,
prepare me, that-is at the time,

und sagent mir swaz ir guotes meget,
and tell me whatever you of-good may,

wan sich mîn muot ze ime weget.‘
for itself my mind to him turns.‘

Dô diu künegîn daz bevant,
When the queen that perceived,

daz er gerne rûmte dez lant,
that he gladly left the land,

durch niht wan umb êre,
for nothing but for honor,

dô gewan im diu hêre
then got for-him the noble-one

ein vil zierlîchez marc,
a very splendid steed,

daz was rösch unde starc,
that was swift and strong,

dar ûf er moht ervolgen
there upon he might pursue

swem er was erbolgen.
whomever he was angered-at.

dar zuo im diu vrowe gewan
there to for-him the lady got

harnasch, wîz als ein swan,
harness, white as a swan,

den besten, den ie man getruoc.
the best, that ever man wore.

er wart gezimiert genuoc
he became adorned enough

harte hübschlîche.
very courtly.

sîn wâfenroc was rîche
his surcoat was rich

von kleinen goltschellen.
with small gold-bells.

der zam wol dem snellen,
it befitted well the swift-one,

er was wol alles guotes wert.
he was well of-all good worthy.

diu vrowe gab im ouch ein swert,
the lady gave to-him also a sword,

daz hete guldîniu mâl
that had golden marks

und sneit wol îsen unde stâl,
and cut well iron and steel,

swenn ez mit nîde wart geslagen.
when it with hatred was struck.

den schilt, den er solte tragen,
the shield, which he should carry,

der was als er wolde:
it was as he would:

ein breit ar von golde
a broad eagle of gold

was enmitten drûf gemaht,
was in-the-midst thereon made,

der rant mit zobele bedaht.
the rim with sable covered.

Gêûn von Turîe,
Geun of Turie,

der vrowen massenîe
of-the lady's household

hât irn vlîz an in geleit.
has their diligence on him laid.

er fuort ein wünneclichez cleit.
he wore a delightful garment.

sîn gezoume daz was allez guot.
his bridle that was all good.

nu fuor er ûf des meres fluot
now fared he upon the sea's flood

mit maneger vrowen segene.
with many ladies' blessing.

si warten dem degene
they watched-after the thane

unz si in verrist mohten sehen.
until they him farthest might see.

und kund daz iemer geschehen,
and could that ever happen,

daz si trûric mohten werden,
that they sorrowful might become,

so enwære ûf al der erden
so were upon all the earth

nie baz beweinet ein man
never better wept a man

von sô maneger vrowen wol getân.
by so many ladies well made.

Uns seit diu âventiure,
To-us tells the adventure,

ein merwîp was sîn stiure.
a sea-woman was his steering.

ouch fuor diu künegîn in der var
also fared the queen on the journey

mit einer wünneclîchen schar.
with a delightful troop.

siu mant in unde lêrte,
she exhorted him and taught,

daz er al die welt wol êrte
that he all the world well honored

und daz er wære stæte
and that he were steadfast

und ie daz beste tæte
and ever the best did

swa er sichs gevlîzen kunde.
wherever he himself-of-it strive could.

dar nâch in kurzer stunde
there after in short hour

kômens ûz an daz lant.
came-they out to the land.

urloup nam der wîgant;
leave took the fighter;

gezogenlîche tet er daz.
courteously did he that.

ûf sîn ros er gesaz.
upon his horse he sat.

nu vernement seltsæniu dinc.
now hear strange things.

ez enkunde der jungelinc
it could the youth

den zoum niht enthalden.
the bridle not hold.

er liez es heil walden
he let it luck govern

und habet sich an den satelbogen.
and held himself on the saddle-bow.

daz ros begunde sêre brogen,
the horse began sorely to-rear,

wan er ruort ez mit den sporn.
for he touched it with the spurs.

die vrowen heten wol gesworn,
the ladies had well sworn,

daz er sich müese erstôzen
that he himself must strike

an manegen boum grôzen.
on many-a tree great.

Gelücke was der wîse sîn.
Luck was the guide his.

daz ros lief den wech în,
the horse ran the way in,

der nâhe bî dem sêwe lac.
which near by the lake lay.

sus reit er allen den tac,
thus rode he all the day,

daz in lützel verdrôz:
that him little irked:

sîner sælikheit er gnôz,
of-his blessedness he enjoyed,

diu benam im müeje.
which took-away from-him toil.

des andern tages früeje
of-the next day early

sach er eine burc stân,
saw he a castle stand,

hôh unde wol getân,
high and well made,

nâhen bî der strâȥe.
near by the road.

daȥ ros nam die mâȥe
the horse took the measure

und kêrte gein dem bürgetor.
and turned toward the castle-gate.

dô hielt ein getwerc dâ vor
then halted a dwarf there before

ûf eime pferde blanc.
upon a horse white.

ein geisel fuort ez, diu was lanc.
a whip carried it, which was long.

sîn lîp was êren lære.
its person was of-honors empty.

daȥ sluec dem helde mære
it struck to-the hero famous

sîn ros under d'ougen.
his horse under the-eyes.

dô wânt er âne lougen,
then believed he without lie,

daȥ ez im rehte tæte.
that it to-him rightly did.

der degen alsô stæte
the thane so steadfast

die unzuht harte unhôhe wac,
the discourtesy very low weighed,

unz daȥ im selbn ein geiselslac
until that to-him self a whip-blow

von dem schraze wart geslagen.
by the goblin was struck.

do enrach er sich niht an dem zagen,
then avenged he himself not on the coward,

wan er dûht in ze swach,
for he seemed to-him too weak,

aber diu burc, da'z im geschach,
but the castle, where-it to-him happened,

der ward er hart erbolgen.
at-it became he very angered.

dem rosse muos er volgen
the horse must he follow

swâ sô ez hin lief,
wherever so it thither ran,

ez wære trucken oder tief.
it were dry or deep.

doch vrâget er der mære,
yet asked he of-the tidings,

wer dâ wirt wære,
who there host were,

dâ im geschach der unprîs.
where to-him happened the dishonor.

‚diu burc heizet Plûrîs'
‚the castle is-called Pluris'

sprach einer, stuont dâ nâhe bî.
spoke one, stood there near by.

‚wie aber der wirt genant sî,
‚how but the host named be,

zwâre dêst mir niht kunt.'
truly that-is to-me not known.'

dannen kêrt er zestunt
thence turned he at-once

an eine breite heide
onto a broad heath

mit wünnenclîcher spreide.
with delightful spread.

dô kom er dâ ein wazzer vlôz,
then came he where a water flowed,

daz was ze wênic noch ze grôz
that was too little nor too great

und enran niht ageleize.
and ran not swiftly.

dâ bî was guot gebeize
there by was good hawking

und ein vogelrîchez riet.
and a bird-rich reed-bed.

daz ros enwolt dar an niet.
the horse would there on not.

der zoum im bî den ôren lac;
the bridle to-it by the ears lay;

der herre des vil cleine pflac,
the lord of-that very little cared,

wan daz erz hiu âne zal;
except that he-it hewed without number;

dâ von lief ez zetal,
from that ran it down,

ein wîle und niht ze verre.
a while and not too far.

nu saher wâ ein junkherre
now saw-he where a young-lord

balde gegen im reit
quickly toward him rode

ûf eime pferde gemeit;
upon a horse joyful;

daz hâr im bî der erde erwant.
the hair to-him by the earth ended.

ein habich fuort er ûf der hant,
a hawk carried he on the hand,

gemûzet wol ze rehte.
molted well to right.

unserem guoten knehte
to-our good squire

begund sîn ros weien,
began his horse to-neigh,

grâzen unde schreien,
to-snort and to-scream,

dô ez daz pfert het ersehen.
when it the horse had seen.

der beizære begunde spehen,
the falconer began to-watch,

daz er sô kintlîche reit.
that he so childishly rode.

er sprach ‚durch iwer hübscheit
he spoke ‚for your courtesy

varnt ein wênic schône,
fare a little gently,

daz ichs iu imer lône,
that I-it to-you ever reward,

und stôzent mich hie niuwet nider.
and thrust me here not down.

mînen dienst biut ich iu dâ wider,
my service offer I to-you there against,

ob er iu ze ihte mac gevromen,
if it to-you to aught may avail,

und sint ouch ir got willekomen.‘
and be also you to-God welcome.‘

des genâdet er im dô.
for-that thanked he him then.

‚sô helf iu got, wie varnt ir sô?‘
‚so help to-you God, why fare you so?‘

sprach Johfrit de Liez
spoke Johfrit de Liez

(ich wæne, der knappe alsô hiez):
(I believe, the squire so was-called):

,ist ditz ein buoz, diu iust gegeben?
,is this a penance, which to-you-is given?

ez ist ein wunderlîchez leben,
it is a wondrous life,

swelch wîp iuch selben ir erkôs.
whichever woman you self for-her chose.

iwer schilt der vert sô wîselôs,
your shield it fares so guideless,

und lânt den zoum hangen.
and let the bridle hang.

mit iwern beinen langen
with your legs long

sitzent ir gedrungen.
sit you cramped.

iwer ros gât in sprungen
your horse goes in leaps

und loufet hin unde her.
and runs thither and hither.

dar zuo füerent ir daz sper
there to carry you the spear

iu selben kumberlîche.
to-you self troublesomely.

iwer wâfenroc ist rîche
your surcoat is rich

und wol gezimieret.
and well adorned.

ir sint geparelieret
you are equipped

als ein rehter wîgant.
as a true fighter.

swelch frowe iuch ûz hât gesant,
whichever lady you out has sent,

dêst wâr, dern sint ir niht leit.
that-is true, to-her are you not hateful.

enwær ez niht unhübscheit,
were it not discourtesy,

so spræch ich gerne âne zorn,
so would-speak I gladly without anger,

ichn gesach, sît ich wart geborn,
I saw, since I was born,

nie man in disem lande,
never man in this land,

den ich sô gerne erkande.
whom I so gladly knew.

dâ von vrâge ich âne nît,
from that ask I without malice,

daz ir mir saget, wer ir sît;
that you me tell, who you are;

iwern namen sult ir mir zellen:
your name shall you to-me tell:

und geruocht ir mîn ze gesellen,
and (if)-deign you me as comrade,

daz verdien ich immer gerne.
that deserve I ever gladly.

mir entouc niht zenberne
to-me avails not to-forgo

swes ir an mich gesinnent.
whatever you of me desire.

durch die vrouwen die ir minnent
for the lady whom you love

so ensult ir mich des niht verdagen,
so shall you me of-that not keep-silent,

swaz ir mir mit fuoge meget gesagen.‘
whatever you me with propriety may tell.‘

‚ich enhil iuch nihtes‘ sprach der degen,
‚I hide-from you nothing‘ spoke the thane,

,welt ir mir sicherlîch verpflegen
,(if)-will you me surely vouch

daz ich niht missetuo dar an.
that I not do-amiss there in.

mîns namen i'u niht gezellen kan,
my name I-you not tell can,

wan ich in selbe nie bevant:
for I it self never learned:

mîne friunt die sint mir unbekant:
my friends they are to-me unknown:

dar zuo hân ich vermisset gar,
there to have I missed wholly,

wer ich bin und war ich var.
who I am and whither I fare.

ob ir mirs geloubet,
if you me-it believe,

het ich verpfant mîn houbet,
had I pledged my head,

daz ez dâ von wær verlorn
that it there from were lost

ine seit iu wanne ich sî geborn,
unless-I told to-you whence I be born,

so enwist ich doch dar umbe niht.
so knew I yet there for not.

daz man mich tœresch rîten siht,
that one me foolishly ride sees,

daz meinet daz ichs lützel pflac.
that means that I-of-it little practiced.

ez ist hiut êrst der dritte tac,
it is today first the third day,

daz ich schiet von eime lande,
that I parted from a land,

dâ nieman man bekande:
where no-one man knew:

da ensint niht wan vrouwen.
there are nothing but ladies.

nu wolt ich gerne schouwen
now would I gladly behold

ritter und ir manheit.
knights and their manhood.

und swâ mir wurde geseit
and wherever to-me became told

dâ man vehtens pflæge,
where one fighting practiced,

so enbin ich niht sô træge
so am I not so sluggish

ichn getorst wol wâgen den lîp
unless-I dared well risk the life

êntweder umb êre ald umbe wîp,
either for honor or for woman,

sweder ich gelæge und oder obe.
whether I lay under or over.

ich kœme gerne ze lobe,
I should-come gladly to praise,

kund ich dar nâch gewerben.
could I there after strive.

sol aber ich verderben,
shall but I perish,

daz friste got ze manegen tagen.
that delay God for many days.

ich enkan iu anders niht gesagen
I can to-you otherwise nothing tell

wan daz ich iu imer dienen muoz
except that I to-you ever serve must

durch iwern hübschlîchen gruoz.
for your courtly greeting.

ir dunkent mich sô wol gezogen,
you seem to-me so well bred,

wær al diu welt als unbetrogen
were all the world as undeceived

schœner sinne und êre,
of-beautiful wits and honor,

sô wundert mich vil sêre,
so wonders me very sorely,

daz dehein man durch des andern schaden
that any man for the other's harm

mit gewæffene imer wirt geladen.‘ 560
with weapons ever becomes laden.‘

III · JOHFRIT AND THE TWO KNIGHTS

Johfrit teaches him to hold the reins and takes him home, where his mother welcomes him and three hundred knights joust for three days until the guest has learned to ride. In a forest he finds Kuraus of Gagunne and Orphilet fighting and makes them stop. Kuraus warns that the forester Galagandreiz of Moreiz punishes the least discourtesy and has a beautiful daughter, but the young knight persuades them to go. They are received well, and the daughter seats him beside her, where he talks with her of love until supper.

Der rede lachen began
At-the speech to-laugh began

Johfrit der hübsche man.
Johfrit the courtly man.

sîn geverte dûht in spæhe.
his conduct seemed to-him odd.

er jach, daz er nie gesæhe
he said, that he never saw

deheinen kindischen degen, 565
any childlike thane,

der sô schœner worte kunde pflegen
who such beautiful words could practice

und doch sô tœrlîche rite.
and yet so foolishly rode.

‚geêrent mich des ich iuch bite'
‚honor me in-that I you beg'

sprach er zem degene von dem Sê:
spoke he to-the thane of the Lake:

570 ‚ir tuont iu selben harte wê
‚you do to-you self very woe

und dem rosse wol getân:
and to-the horse well made:

ir sult den zoum zuo iu hân
you shall the bridle to you have

imer durch den willen mîn.
ever for the sake mine.

lât iwer wipluppen sîn,
let your flapping be,

575 habt iwer selbes bezzer war
take of-your self better heed

nnd rîtent tâlanc als ich var.
and ride today as I fare.

daz verdien ich immer mêre:
that deserve I ever more:

ich erbiut iu lieb und êre,
I offer to-you love and honor,

vind ich mîn hûs als ich ez lie.
(if)-find I my house as I it left.

580 mîn burc diun ist niht verre hie:
my castle it is not far here:

da geruochent ir belîben
there deign you to-stay

und hübschent mit den wîben:
and be-courtly with the women:

die machent iu kurzewîle.
they make to-you pastime.

dar enist niht ein halbiu mîle‘
there is not a half mile‘

sprach der degen guoter.
spoke the thane good.

,ich hân noch eine muoter,
,I have yet a mother,

diu frume liute ie gerne sach:
who valiant people ever gladly saw:

diu biut iu allez daz gemach,
she offers to-you all the comfort,

des siu sich gevlîzen kan.‘
of-which she herself strive can.‘

do entweich der kindische man,
then gave-way the childlike man,

daz im sît ze staten kam.
which to-him later to good-stead came.

den zoum er in die hant nam
the bridle he into the hand took

unde reit daz man wol swüere
and rode that one well should-swear

daz er ê gerne unrehte füere:
that he before gladly wrongly fared:

so gefuoge stapft er in daz pfat.
so fittingly stepped he on the path.

nu kômens schiere an die stat,
now came-they quickly to the place,

daz si die veste sâhen.
that they the fortress saw.

der wirt begunde gâhen
the host began to-hasten

und reit für durch hübscheit.
and rode ahead for courtesy.

dâ vant er vrouwen gemeit,
there found he ladies joyful,

gegestet daz in nihts gebrast.
furnished that them nothing lacked.

‚uns kumet ein wunderhübscher gast‘
‚to-us comes a wondrous-courtly guest‘

sprach er zuo in allen,
spoke he to them all,

‚der sol iu wol gevallen,
‚he shall to-you well please,

juncvrowen unde muoter mîn,
maidens and mother mine,

und lânt iu in enpfolhen sîn.‘
and let to-you him entrusted be.‘

Swaz er gebôt, daz was getân.
Whatever he commanded, that was done.

die vrowen muosten ûf stân
the ladies must up stand

mit gezogenlîcher muoze.
with courteous leisure.

si enpfiengen wol mit gruoze
they received well with greeting

den ritter unkunden.
the knight unknown.

an den selben stunden
at the same hours

wart diu liebe wol schîn
became the love well seen

des wirtes zem gesellen sîn.
of-the host for-the comrade his.

die vrowen muost er küssen gar
the ladies must he kiss wholly

in der bezzeren schar
in the better troop

und die in rîsen wâren.
and who in veils were.

wider die kund er gebâren
toward them could he bear-himself

sô daz ez si dûhte lobelich.
so that it them seemed praiseworthy.

diu wirtîn satzt in neben sich
the hostess set him beside herself

an ir sîten vaste
at her side firmly

dar nâch do'r sich engaste:
there after when-he himself unarmed:

dô was er hovebære.
then was he courtly.

si vrâgete in der mære,
she asked him of-the tidings,

der enkund er niht gevristen;
of-that could he not delay;

si geschuof mit wîbes listen,
she brought-about with woman's cunning,

daz er ir alles des verjach
that he to-her of-all that confessed

des im von kintheit geschach
which to-him from childhood happened

unz an die gegenwertigen stunt.
until to the present hour.

dô ez ir allez wart kunt,
when it to-her all became known,

do enfriesch siu selhiu mære nie.
then heard she such tidings never.

nu hœrent wie siuz ane vie.
now hear how she-it on took.

Si was der êren rîche
She was of-the honors rich

und ladet flîzeclîche
and invited diligently

die besten von dem lande,
the best of the land,

der muot siu wol bekande,
whose mind she well knew,

daz si behendeclîche riten
that they nimbly rode

und nâch turneischen siten
and after tourneying customs

wol kunden pungieren.
well could charge.

die bat siu buhurdieren,
them begged she to-joust,

dô si zesamene wâren komen.
when they together were come.

ich sage iu als ichz hân vernomen,
I tell to-you as I-it have heard,

swen der rede wundert.
whom the speech wonders.

ir wâren driu hundert,
of-them were three hundred,

der ros geleitic unde snel.
whose horses steady and swift.

geflôrtiu sper und gügerel
pennoned spears and head-pieces

unde kovertiur von sîden
and trappings of silk

(des endorfte kein den andern nîden)
(of-that needed none the other envy)

die fuorten si durch hôhen muot,
those carried they for high spirit,

wâpenrocke rîch unde guot.
surcoats rich and good.

si triben hin unde har;
they drove thither and hither;

des nam der vremde guote war.
of-that took the stranger good heed.

dô nu des genuoc geschach
when now of-that enough happened

und manic degen sîn sper dâ brach
and many-a thane his spear there broke

und diu ros wurdn verhouwen,
and the horses became hewn,

dô muosten aber die vrouwen
then must again the ladies

mit den rittern tanzen.
with the knights dance.

schœniu kint mit kranzen
beautiful children with garlands

die giengen wol sô mans dô pflac.
they went well as one-it then practiced.

ditz wert unz an den dritten tac,
this lasted until to the third day,

daz ouch sîn ros dem gaste kam.
that also his horse to-the guest came.

den schilt er ze halse nam
the shield he to neck took

und reit mit sölher fuoge,
and rode with such fitness,

daz in lobeten gnuoge,
that him praised enough

und missevuor sô selten,
and went-amiss so seldom,

daz in nieman kunde geschelten.
that him no-one could reproach.

Dô er alsus gebezzert wart,
When he thus bettered became,

dô was im gâch an die vart.
then was to-him hasty at the journey.

mit urloub er enwec reit,
with leave he away rode,

als uns diu âventiure seit,
as to-us the adventure tells,

ûf eine strâze, diu was sleht:
upon a road, which was smooth:

diu wîst in in ein voreht,
it guided him into a forest,

der was vinster unde grôz.
it was dark and great.

den degen nihtes verdrôz
the thane nothing irked

wan daz er wunders niht envant.
except that he wonder not found.

ze âbent kom der wîgant
at evening came the fighter

durch den walt wilde
through the forest wild

an ein breit gevilde.
onto a broad field.

dâ gesach er vehten
there saw he fight

gelîch vil guoten knehten
like very good knights

zwên ritter vermezzen.
two knights bold.

der namen wirt niht vergezzen.
whose names become not forgotten.

der eine was genant sus,
the one was named thus,

mit dem küenen herzen Kurâus,
with the bold heart Kuraus,

der von Gâgunne reit
who from Gagunne rode

durch ruom und durch vermezzenheit.
for fame and for boldness.

der ander hiez Orphilet,
the other was-called Orphilet,

der schœne, der ez wol tet
the beautiful, who it well did

durch willen sînr âmîen.
for sake of-his beloved.

er was der massenîen
he was of-the household

von britânischen rîchen.
of British realms.

ir enwedere wolt entwîchen,
of-them neither would give-way,

unz daz den wîganden
until that to-the fighters

beleip vor den handen
remained before the hands

niht wan daz armgestelle.
nothing but the arm-frame.

der dritte hergeselle,
the third war-comrade,

der dar zuo kom gedrabet,
who there to came trotting,

der sprach ‚mich wundert, daz ir habet
he spoke ‚me wonders, that you have

gevohten sô ze ummâzen.
fought so beyond measure.

ir sulent ez durch mich lâzen:
you shall it for me leave:

und sweder des niht enlât,
and whichever of-it not leaves,

der ander mîne helfe hât.‘
the other my help has.‘

zus redet er zuo in beiden;
thus spoke he to them both;

des wurden si gescheiden.
by-that became they parted.

Si wâren vehtennes sat
They were of-fighting sated

und tâten daz, des er si bat,
and did that, which he them begged,

wan es in beiden nôt geschach.
for it to-them both of-need happened.

Orphilet der schœne sprach
Orphilet the beautiful spoke

‚uns sîget balde zuo diu naht.
‚to-us sinks quickly to the night.

daz ich sô vil noch hiute vaht,
that I so much yet today fought,

daz riwet mich vil sêre.
that rues me very sorely.

ichn weiz tâlanc war ich kêre.
I-not know today whither I turn.

ditz ist ein ungeminnet lant.‘
this is an unloved land.‘

des antwurt Kurâus zehant
to-that answered Kuraus at-once

‚zwâre hie ist herte
‚truly here is hard

und ist ein ungeverte
and is a pathless-way

ze den liuten von hinnen.
to the people from hence.

als ich mich versinnen,
as I me bethink,

so enist hie niendert spîse veile,
so is here nowhere food for-sale,

wan daz uns ze einem unheile
except that to-us for a misfortune

ein burc hie nâhen stât.
a castle here near stands.

dâ gæbe man uns allen rât,
there would-give one us all provision,

wan daz der wirt hât sölhe site,
except that the host has such custom,

er vert dem man übele mite,
he fares the man evilly with,

missetuot er iender, daz ist wâr,
(if)-does-amiss he anywhere, that is true,

et alsô grôz als umb ein hâr.
just so great as for a hair.

daz ist ein engestlîchiu nôt.
that is a fearful distress.

sîn wîp ist nu lange tôt.
his wife is now long dead.

er hât der schœnsten tohter ein,
he has of-the most-beautiful daughter one,

die diu sunne ie beschein.
whom the sun ever shone-on.

durch der liebe bannet er diu tier.
for the love bans he the beasts.

er ist ein rîcher forehtier.
he is a rich forester.

(ich sage iu daz ich von im weiz)
(I tell to-you what I of him know)

er heizet Galagandreiz,
he is-called Galagandreiz,

sîn burc ist Môreiz genant.
his castle is Moreiz named.

er hât vil manegen man geschant
he has very many-a man disgraced

durch harte lîhtsamiu dinc.
for very light things.

er ist der hœnde ein ursprinc,
he is of-the insolence a source,

ein strenger urliuges man.
a stern war man.

swem ich ez widerrâten kan,
whomever I it dissuade can,

der ist im niht ze dicke bî,
he is to-him not too often by,

swie schœne doch sîn tohter sî.‘
however beautiful yet his daughter be.‘

Dô sprach der junge volcdegen,
Then spoke the young folk-thane,

der in zuo kom ûf den wegen
who them to came on the ways

‚iwer rede hân ich wol vernomen.
‚your speech have I well heard.

ez mac im harte wol gevromen,
it may to-him very well avail,

swer daz beste gerne tuot.
whoever the best gladly does.

ist dirre wirt alsô gemuot,
(if)-is this host so minded,

daz er durch sîn êre
that he for his honor

unzuht hazzet sêre,
discourtesy hates sorely,

waz ob er ouch den willen hât,
what if he also the will has,

an swem er zuht sich verstât,
on whomever he courtesy himself understands,

daz er des niht gert schenden.
that he him not desires to-disgrace.

durch daz wil ich genenden;
for that will I venture;

daz ist wol mîn wille.‘
that is well my will.‘

die zwêne vorhten stille,
the two feared silently,

daz er si bedæhte
that he them should-shame

und si ze rede bræhte.
and them to talk should-bring.

durch daz lobeten ouch si daz,
for that praised also they that,

in stüende michels baz,
to-them would-stand much better,

daz si den jungen êrten
that they the young-one honored

und gegen der burc kêrten.
and toward the castle turned.

sus berieten sich die geste
thus counseled themselves the guests

und kêrten gein der veste.
and turned toward the fortress.

diu burc was michel unde hô.
the castle was great and high.

got ergâben si sich dô,
to-God gave-up they themselves then,

daz er ir sælden wielte
that he their blessing should-govern

vnd alsô si behielte
and so them should-keep

als ez sînen gnâden zæme
as it to-his graces befitted

und ez in rehte kæme.
and it to-them rightly came.

ich wil iu wærlîche verpflegen,
I will to-you truly vouch,

des muotes wâren si bewegen,
of-the mind were they moved,

daz si vertrüegen cleinen haz.
that they should-endure little hatred.

idoch gefuor ez michels baz;
yet turned-out it much better;

des muost si doch belangen.
of-that must them yet long.

si wurden wol enpfangen
they became well received

und gegrüezet nâch ir rehte.
and greeted after their right.

gein in liuf vil knehte:
toward them ran many squires:

di enpfiengen ros unde schilt.
they received horses and shields.

nu hâte der wirt gespilt
now had the host played

und was im wol gevallen.
and was to-him well fallen.

daz was ein sælde in allen,
that was a luck in all,

dâ von wart vrœlich der gruoz,
from that became joyful the greeting,

in wart des êrsten klupfes buoz.
to-them became of-the first fright amends.

der wirt hiez sich engesten.
the host bade himself unarm.

dô sach man von in glesten
then saw one from them gleam

harnasch wîz als ein zin.
harness white as a tin.

dô si daz getâten hin,
when they that did away,

do enwas dâ nieman der des jæhe,
then was there no-one who of-that said,

daz er ie mêr gesæhe
that he ever more saw

drî ritter sô wol getân.
three knights so well made.

man sach si hübschlîchen stân,
one saw them courtly stand,

wan sich iegelîcher zühte vleiz.
for himself each of-breeding strove.

dô sprach Galagandreiz
then spoke Galagandreiz

‚swem ir die êre geruochet lân,
‚to-whomever you the honor deign leave,

der sol an mîne hant gân:
he shall at my hand go:

ich wil iuch lâzen schouwen
I will you let behold

mîn tohter und ir vrouwen.
my daughter and her ladies.

do enwas dâ widerrede niet:
then was there gainsaying not:

den zwein ir tugent daz geriet,
to-the two their virtue that counseled,

daz si den jungen stiezen für.
that they the young-one pushed before.

der wirt fuort si zuo der tür
the host led them to the door

ûf ein hûs, dâ sîn tohter saz.
up-to a house, where his daughter sat.

ez enwurden nie ritter baz
it became never knights better

gegrüezet noch minnenclîcher:
greeted nor more-lovingly:

daz gebôt der wirt rîcher.
that commanded the host rich.

Der ie mit vrowen umbe gie,
Who ever with ladies about went,

des wirtes tohter in gevie
the host's daughter him took

und satzt in an ir sîten.
and set him at her side.

im enmoht in kurzen zîten
to-him might in short times

niemer baz gelingen.
never better succeed.

von hübschlîchen dingen
of courtly things

und von minnen manicvalt
and of love manifold

hât er der frowen vor gezalt.
has he to-the lady before told.

mit swaz rede siun ane kam,
with whatever speech she-him on came,

des antwurt er als ez zam,
to-that answered he as it befitted,

ze ernst und ze schimpfe,
in earnest and in jest,

mit guotem gelimpfe.
with good seemliness.

ouch wâren sîne gesellen geil.
also were his comrades merry.

der junge ritter het ein heil,
the young knight had a luck,

daz im lützel ieman was gehaz.
that to-him little anyone was hostile.

do er eine wîle alsus gesaz,
when he a while thus sat,

dô was daz ezzen bereit.
then was the food ready.

swaz man von wirtschefte seit
whatever one of hospitality tells

und von manegen trahten,
and of many dishes,

daz enkunde nieman geahten,
that could no-one reckon,

waz in des alles wart gegeben.
what to-them of-that all was given.

si heten wünnenclîchez leben
they had delightful life

unz daz si slâfen solten gân:
until that they to-sleep should go:

dô muostens ein anderz an vân.
then must-they an other on take.

IV · THE FORESTER'S DAUGHTER

Galagandreiz beds his guests courteously. At night his daughter comes to them with candles, complains of her father's guard, and offers Orphilet a ring and her love; he refuses for fear of her father, and Kuraus refuses for his host's sake. The young knight welcomes her gladly, and they spend the night together.

Nu wart in gebettet wol,
Now became to-them bedded well,

als man lieben gesten sol,
as one dear guests shall,

iegelîchem besunder.
to-each separately.

der wirt gie dar under
the host went there among

und hiez in schenken guoten wîn.
and bade to-them pour good wine.

er leit diu wanküssîn
he laid the cheek-pillows

in allen mit sîn selbes hant.
to-them all with his self's hand.

er sprach ‚helde, sît gemant,
he spoke ‚heroes, be reminded,

daz ir gezogenlîche liget.
that you courteously lie.

der got, der al der welte pfliget,
the God, who of-all the world takes-care,

der behüet iuch wol mit sîner maht
he guard you well with his might

und verlîh iu tâlanc guote naht.‘
and grant to-you today good night.‘

ouch bâten si sîn got pflegen.
also begged they him God keep.

dô sprach der kindische degen
then spoke the childlike thane

‚ez ensî daz wir wellen toben,
‚it unless-be that we want rave,

disen wirt den suln wir imer loben,
this host him shall we ever praise,

swaz er ouch anders ie begie.‘
whatever he also otherwise ever did.‘

mit der rede swigen sie.
with the speech fell-silent they.

Dô si alle ruowe wânden hân,
When they all rest believed to-have,

dô kom diu vrowe dar gegân,
then came the lady there walking,

des wirtes tohter, stille.
the host's daughter, silently.

nu was daz wol ir wille,
now was that well her will,

daz grôziu lieht dâ brunnen.
that great lights there burned.

siu wolte gerne kunnen,
she would gladly know,

waz sites die herren pflægen
what custom the lords practiced

und wi bescheidenlîch si lægen,
and how discreetly they lay,

wan siu von starken minnen bran.
for she with strong love burned.

siu hete sich gemachet an
she had herself dressed on

wol und hübschlîch genuoc.
well and courtly enough.

einen rîchen mantel siu truoc:
a rich mantle she wore:

von sarumîne was sîn dach,
of sarumin was its cover,

daz beste, daz man ie gesach
the best, that one ever saw

oder ie wart erkant
or ever was known

ze Morzî in heidenlant;
at Morzi in heathen-land;

der zobel und diu vedere guot.
the sable and the fur good.

diu vrowe diu gienc âne huot
the lady she went without hat

durch daz siu kintlich wolte sîn.
for that she childlike would be.

siu truoc ein schappellikîn,
she wore a little-chaplet,

daz siu mit ir henden vlaht,
which she with her hands braided,

von schœnen bluomen wol gemaht.
of beautiful flowers well made.

siu endorfte spæher niht sîn.
she needed more-artful not be.

ir hemde daz was sîdîn:
her shift that was silken:

dar in was siu geprîset,
there in was she praised,

als ich es bin bewîset.
as I of-it am informed.

siu was ûf anders niht gedenet
she was upon other not stretched

wan als der sich nâch minnen senet
than as who himself after love longs

und dar nâch vil gedenket.
and there after much thinks.

siu was der huote entwenket,
she was from-the guard escaped,

der alle vrowen sint gevê.
to-which all ladies are hostile.

diu minne tet ir alsô wê
the love did to-her so woe

und twanc si des mit ir gewalt,
and forced her to-that with her power,

daz siu muoste werden balt.
that she must become bold.

doch gienc siu niht aleine:
yet went she not alone:

zwô juncvrowen reine,
two maidens pure,

in zwein kursîten
in two gowns

von grüenen samîten,
of green samite,

die trâten vor in den sal.
they stepped before into the hall.

zwei guldîniu kerzstal
two golden candlesticks

truogen diu juncvröwelîn:
carried the little-maidens:

(die kerzen gâben grôzen schîn:)
(the candles gave great shine:)

diu saztens zuo den stunden
them set-they at the hours

zuo den liehten, diu si funden,
to the lights, which they found,

nâch der vrouwen gebote.
after the lady's command.

dô bevalch si sie gote:
then commended she them to-God:

des nigen si ir mit zühten.
to-that bowed they to-her with breeding.

mit schœnen getühten
with beautiful manners

giengen si ze resten,
went they to rest,

und beleip bî den gesten
and remained by the guests

des rîchen forehtieres barn.
of-the rich forester's child.

siu wolt ez gerne alsô bewarn,
she would it gladly so arrange,

daz ir ein wênic wurde baz.
that to-her a little would-become better.

für Orphileten siu gesaz,
before Orphilet she sat,

wan er ir aller næhste lac.
for he to-her of-all nearest lay.

ditz was ir rede, der siu pflac
this was her speech, which she practiced

‚herre got, gesegene,
‚lord God, bless,

wie swîgent dise degene
how are-silent these thanes

sô wunderlîchen schiere!
so wondrously quickly!

jâ solten helde ziere,
yea should heroes splendid,

die durch diu lant alsus varnt
who through the lands thus fare

und sich mit hübscheit bewarnt,
and themselves with courtesy guard,

etwaz reden von den wîben
something speak of the women

und die zît hin vertrîben
and the time away pass

mit sprechenne den besten wol.
with speaking of-the best well.

ich enweiz wem ich gelouben sol.
I know-not whom I believe shall.

mir ist dicke vil geseit
to-me is often much told

von Minnen und ir süeȥikeit:
of Love and her sweetness:

diu sî beȥȥer danne guot,
she be better than goods,

man werde von ir wol gemuot.
one become by her well minded.

si jehent, ditz sî ir wâfen,
they say, this be her weapon,

vil gedenken, lützel slâfen.
much to-think, little to-sleep.

nu hân ich wol ir valsch bekort
now have I well her falseness tested

und gedenke an mînes vater wort
and think on my father's word

„minne ist an sehendez leit,
„love is a seeing sorrow,

ein bilde maneger irrekheit,
an image of-many-a straying,

ein unruoch aller slahte vromen,
a heedlessness of-all kinds-of benefit,

ein vorder ungemuotes gomen.
a demander of-ill-minded men.

den zagen ist siu ein swærer last,
to-the cowards is she a heavy burden,

des swachen herzen leider gast.
of-the weak heart sorrowful guest.

siu derrt die welt als ein slât,
she withers the world as a chimney,

siu ist blœder müeẓikheite rât.
she is of-timid idleness counsel.

minn ist ein sache grimmer nôt,
love is a matter of-grim distress,

der triuwen ein vervälschet lôt.“
of-the faith an adulterated weight.“

sus redet mîn vater und wil dâ bî,
thus speaks my father and will there by,

daz ich immer âne man sî.
that I ever without man be.

daz tæt ich, sammer mîn lîp,
that would-do I, so-help-me my life,

wan daz ich gern als andriu wîp
except that I gladly as other women

wil leben, die ir sinne
will live, who their senses

an guoter manne minne
on good men's love

hânt verlân und den lebent,
have let and to-them live,

die in hôhgemüete gebent.‘
who to-them high-spirits give.‘

Dô siu diz allez gesprach,
When she this all spoke,

Orphilet si an sach
Orphilet her at looked

und vrâget waz siu wolde.
and asked what she would.

ein vingerlîn von golde
a little-ring of gold

bôt siu im in allen gâhen.
offered she to-him in all haste.

des getorst er niht enpfâhen:
that dared he not receive:

er vorhte spot, des vil geschiht.
he feared mockery, of-which much happens.

‚ich enhân dar ûf gedienet niht'
‚I have there for served not'

sprach er ‚daz ichs iht welle.'
spoke he ‚that I-it at-all want.'

‚neinâ, trût geselle:
‚no-indeed, dear comrade:

durch aller ritter êre
for all knights' honor

lœse mich von sêre,
release me from pain,

von huot die man an mir begât.
from guard which one on me practices.

der rede mich grôz ernest hât.
of-the speech me great earnest has.

durch friuntschaft nim ditz vingerlîn
for friendship take this little-ring

und dar nâch mich und al daz mîn,
and there after me and all the mine,

swaz ich dir zuo gefüegen mac.'
whatever I to-thee to add may.'

Orphilet dâ von erschrac
Orphilet there from was-frightened

und dâhte, daz der alte
and thought, that the old-one

untriuwe ûf in bezalte
faithlessness upon him reckoned

in kampfes wîs: daz was sîn site.
in combat's manner: that was his custom.

‚vrowe, tuont des ich iuch bite.
‚lady, do of-that I you beg.

sît ich iwer rede hân vernomen,
since I your speech have heard,

ich wil schiere har komen.
I will quickly hither come.

geruochet ir mich minnen,
(if)-deign you me to-love,

ich füer iuch gerne hinnen
I lead you gladly hence

und enwil mich niht betrâgen,
and will me not weary,

ich entürre durch iuch wâgen
I unless-dare for you risk

êre und lîp swie verre ich kan.
honor and life however far I can.

nu enkêr ich mich ze nihte dran.‘
now turn I myself in nothing there-on.‘

Dô sprach diu juncvrowe guot
Then spoke the maiden good

‚neinâ, ritter wol gemuot:
‚no-indeed, knight well minded:

gedenke, daz de ie wære
think, that thou ever wert

hübsch unde mære,
courtly and famous,

biderbe unde wol gezogen,
worthy and well bred,

schœner sinne umbetrogen.
of-beautiful wits undeceived.

schowe mînen schœnen lîp:
behold my beautiful body:

ich bin ein ritterlîchez wîp.
I am a knightly woman.

dar zuo ger ich einer bete,
there to desire I a request,

daz vrowe nie mê getete,
which lady never more made,

daz du dîne sinne
that thou thy senses

kêrest an mîne minne,
turnest to my love,

wan du sô rehte schœne bist.
for thou so right beautiful art.

ich red ez ân argen list:
I speak it without evil cunning:

dar nâch als ichz gemerken kan,
there after as I-it mark can,

so gesach ich nie keinen man,
so saw I never any man,

durch den ein sældehaftez wîp
for whom a blessed woman

beidiu ir êre und ir lîp
both her honor and her life

gerner solte wâgen.
more-gladly should risk.

allen mînen mâgen
to-all my kinsmen

gund ich sô wol guotes niht
would-grant I so well good not

sô dir, obe daz geschiht,
as to-thee, if that happens,

daz du mich ze disem mâle
that thou me at this time

lœsest von der quâle,
releasest from the torment,

von der ich grôzen kumber dol.
from which I great trouble suffer.

geschach dir ie von wîbe wol,
(if)-happened to-thee ever from woman well,

so ensolt du, ritter, niht verzagen
so shalt thou, knight, not lose-heart

noch dînen lîp mir versagen.
nor thy body to-me deny.

man vindet manegen wîgant,
one finds many-a fighter,

der in unkundiu lant
who into unknown lands

durch schœne vrowen strîchet,
for beautiful ladies roams,

der keine mir gelîchet
of-whom none to-me is-like

weder an guot ald an getât.
neither in goods or in deed.

helt, nim zuo dir selben rât,
hero, take to thee self counsel,

küsse güetlîchen mich,
kiss kindly me,

ich gedien ez immer umbe dich,
I repay it ever for thee,

und tuo mir dînen willen kunt.‘
and make to-me thy will known.‘

dô sprach Orphilet zestunt
then spoke Orphilet at-once

‚ich fürhte mîner êre.
‚I fear for-my honor.

gedenkt sîn nimmer mêre.
think of-it never more.

mîn triwe ich wil behalden.
my faith I will keep.

torst ich an iuch erbalden,
(if)-dared I with you be-bold,

daz ich iwern vater niht verlür,
that I your father not should-lose,

ein harnschar ich dar umbe erkür,
a torment I there for would-choose,

daz ich gevangen wær ein jâr.‘
that I captive were a year.‘

diu vrowe sprach ‚daz ist wâr,
the lady spoke ‚that is true,

er gewan nie manlîchen muot,
he got never manly spirit,

der niht tœrlîche tuot
who not foolishly does

etswenne durch diu wîp.‘
sometimes for the women.‘

der helt sprach ‚samir mîn lîp,
the hero spoke ‚so-help-me my life,

ich enwil durch iuch ersterben niht.‘
I will for you die not.‘

mit zorne siu dô von im schiet
with anger she then from him parted

und mit riuwe beide:
and with rue both:

son geschach ir nie sô leide,
so happened to-her never so sorrowful,
noch enwas si niht minne vrî.
nor was she at-all of-love free.
nu lac Kurâus dâ bî,
now lay Kuraus there by,
enzwischen den gesellen.
between the comrades.
nu lânt iu wunder zellen.
now let to-you wonder tell.
diu vrowe hete den gedanc,
the lady had the thought,
wan si diu minne sêre twanc,
for her the love sorely forced,
daz siu warp umb sînen lîp,
that she strove for his body,
daz nie kein man durch kein wîp
that never any man for any woman
gepflac sô ernstlîcher bete.
practiced so earnest request.
‚swelch ritter ie daz beste tete,
‚whichever knight ever the best did,
dern darf an eime wîbe niht verzagen.
he needs with a woman not lose-heart.
ich wil dir wærlîche sagen,
I will to-thee truly tell,
daz ich rehte hân vernomen,
that I rightly have heard,
wie du bist vollekomen
how thou art perfect
an der manheite dîn.
in the manhood thine.

tuo dîn ellen an mir schîn
make thy valor on me seen

und minne an mir ein schœne maget.
and love in me a beautiful maiden.

ist daz dir ein wîp behaget,
(if)-is that to-thee a woman pleases,

diu ir âmîes schônet,
who her beloved spares,

sô wirt mir wol gelônet
so becomes to-me well rewarded

von dir, als ichz gemerken kan.
by thee, as I-it mark can.

mir verbôt mîn vater alle man,
to-me forbade my father all men,

ân mich wænt er niht genesen.
without me believes he not to-survive.

nu wil ich doch der volge entwesen.
now will I yet the obedience escape.

ich wirbe ê selbe umb einen man,
I strive rather self for a man,

der witze und êre pflegen kan,
who wit and honor practice can,

dan ich des mannes bîte,
than I for-the man wait,

der gerne sam mir strîte.
who gladly with me should-fight.

dar zuo hân ich dich erkorn.
there to have I thee chosen.

du bist stæte und wol geborn
thou art steadfast and well born

und getarst wol alliu dinc bestân.
and darest well all things undertake.

zwâre und triuget mich mîn wân,
truly if deceives me my belief,

so enwird ich nimmer manne holt.‘
so become I never to-man devoted.‘

dô sprach Kurâus ‚du solt
then spoke Kuraus ‚thou shalt

frumen rittern holt sîn.
to-valiant knights devoted be.

wan daz ich êre den vater dîn
except that I honor the father thine

durch die triwe, di er an mir begie,
for the faith, which he on me did,

mir geschach sô liebe nie,
to-me happened so dear never,

ob ich dich solte minnen.
if I thee should love.

doch wil ich ê gewinnen
yet will I before win

von dir die missewende,
from thee the disgrace,

ê ich mîn heil geschende.
before I my luck disgrace.

ich wil abe imer gote clagen,
I will but ever to-God lament,

daz ich an dir muoz verzagen.
that I in thee must lose-heart.

dâ von lâz mich ûz dîner ahte.‘
there from let me out-of thy heed.‘

der helt daz houbet dahte
the hero the head covered

und enpfie die rede für ein gamen.
and took the speech for a game.

des begunde sich diu vrowe schamen.
of-that began herself the lady to-shame.

Dô der wünnenclîchen maget
When to-the delightful maiden

alsus harte wart versaget,
thus very was refused,

daz tûhte si ein vremdez dinc.
that seemed to-her a strange thing.

indes lac der jungelinc
meanwhile lay the youth

und dâht in sînem muote
and thought in his mind

‚herre got der guote,
‚lord God the good,

ist mir diu sælde beschert,
(if)-is to-me the luck granted,

daz diu vrowe vollevert,
that the lady fully-fares,

des muoz ich immer vreude hân.‘
of-that must I ever joy have.‘

zehant kom siu zuo gegân,
at-once came she to walking,

wande si diu minne twanc.
for her the love forced.

der junge ritter ûf spranc
the young knight up sprang

unde sprach ‚vrowe mîn,
and spoke ‚lady mine,

du solt willekomen sîn
thou shalt welcome be

dem rîchen got unde mir.
to-the rich God and to-me.

ich wil gerne dienen dir.
I will gladly serve thee.

du endarft umb mich niht werben.
thou needest for me not strive.

zehant wolt ich ersterben,
at-once would I die,

ê ich dich hinnen liezę.
before I thee hence let.

swie ich es missenieżę,
however I of-it ill-enjoy,

daz wil ich allez übersehen.
that will I all overlook.

mir enmohte lieber niht geschehen;
to-me might dearer nothing happen;

daz muoz an dir werden schîn.‘
that must on thee become seen.‘

er leit si an den arm sîn
he laid her on the arm his

und kuste si wol tûsent stunt.
and kissed her well thousand times.

in wart diu beste minne kunt,
to-them became the best love known,

diu zwein gelieben ie geschach.
which to-two lovers ever happened.

den gesellen was daz ungemach.
to-the comrades was that discomfort.

daz liez er allez ze einer hant.
that let he all to one hand.

der vrowen er sich underwant
of-the lady he himself took-charge

harte lieblîche.
very lovingly.

si wâren vreuden rîche
they were of-joys rich

und heten wünne die maht
and had delight the might

und die aller besten naht,
and the of-all best night,

die ie kein vrouwe gewan
that ever any lady won

mit deheim kindischen man.
with any childlike man.

doch enmoht er vergeȥȥen nie,
yet could he forget never,

daȥ siu ze jungest zuo im gie.
that she at last to him went.

daȥ versweig er sie dâ,
that kept-silent he her there,

siu engalt es aber anderswâ.
she paid-for it but elsewhere.

V · THE KNIFE GAME

At dawn Galagandreiz comes with two knives and two bucklers and makes his guest throw knives with him; the guest, grazed in the arm, runs at him and kills him. The daughter wins over her father's knights, and the young knight inherits Moreiz. Orphilet praises King Arthur's court at Karidol, but the young knight will not go until he has done more, nor ride with Kuraus to Gagunne. The two ride home, and at Karidol Orphilet's report makes Arthur and his household wish to see the nameless knight.

Dô dirre helt sô sanfte lac,
When this hero so softly lay,

do erschein der underwunschte tac
then appeared the unwished day

und was diu süeȥe naht für.
and was the sweet night past.

dô stieȥ mit zorn an die tür
then thrust with anger at the door

der wirt nôtveste.
the host firm-in-need.

des erclupften die geste,
at-that were-startled the guests,

wan er zwei scharpfiu mezzer truoc,
for he two sharp knives carried,

spizzic unde lanc genuoc,
pointed and long enough,

und zwêne buggelære.
and two bucklers.

im was sîn herze swære.
to-him was his heart heavy.

diu mezzer beidenthalben sniten.
the knives on-both-sides cut.

er sprach (daz wære baz vermiten)
he spoke (that were better avoided)

,oder ich verliuse daz leben,
,or I lose the life,

ich wil die morgengâbe geben,
I will the morning-gift give,

der mir nieman danc seit:
for-which to-me no-one thanks says:

daz ist trûren unde leit
that is grieving and sorrow

und êweclîchiu riuwe,
and eternal rue,

wan ir iwer triuwe
for you your faith

und iwer êre hânt verlorn.
and your honor have lost.

sît ich êrste wart geborn,
since I first was born,

so erbôt ich ez nie manne baz
so offered I it never to-man better

danne iu. waz half mich daz?
than to-you. what helped me that?

ez was dô wol mîn wille.
it was then well my will.

nu ligent alle stille,
now lie all still,

als lieb iu allen sî der lîp,
as dear to-you all be the life,

und sagent mir, wes ist daz wîp,
and tell me, whose is the woman,

mîn kint ein ungetriwer warc?‘
my child a faithless wretch?‘

diu juncfrowe sich verbarc
the maiden herself hid

under ir friunt den jungen degen
under her friend the young thane

und wolte dâ sîn tôt gelegen.
and would there be dead lain.

Des nam der vater war.
Of-that took the father heed.

er lief îlende dar
he ran hastening thither

und drôt in harte sêre
and threatened him very sorely

‚swer mir nimpt mîn êre,
‚whoever from-me takes my honor,

der geniuzet es borvil.
he enjoys of-it little.

ein spil ich iu teilen wil.
a game I to-you allot will.

nement disen schirm an iwer hant
take this shield into your hand

und belîbent hie bî dirre want,
and stay here by this wall,

sô wil ich anderhalp gân
so will I on-the-other-side go

und wil iu die wal lân.
and will to-you the choice leave.

ich nim daz iwer und ir daz mîn.
I take the yours and you the mine.

unser einer muoz der erre sîn.
of-us one must the first be.

swer dâ triffet, dêst gewin:
whoever there hits, that-is gain:

der ander treit den schaden hin.‘
the other bears the harm away.‘

Der junge lobete den rât.
The young-one praised the counsel.

‚sît mir daz ze wer stât,
‚since to-me that to defense stands,

sô dunket mich daz billich,
so seems to-me that fair,

daz ir werfent ê dan ich,
that you throw before than I,

leider spilgeselle.
sorrowful playfellow.

got gebe iu ungevelle.
God give to-you mishap.

ob got wil, ir vermissent mîn.‘
if God wills, you miss me.‘

dô trôst er sich der künste sîn
then trusted he himself of-the skill his

und nam des swehers guote war.
and took of-the father-in-law good heed.

sînen schirm den bôt er allez dar.
his shield it offered he all thither.

si spilten nœtlîch âne bret.
they played perilously without board.

Kurâus und Orphilet,
Kuraus and Orphilet,

die wæren wundergerne dan.
they would-be wondrous-gladly away.

der wirt huob daz spil an
the host raised the game on

und warf den jungen wîgant
and threw the young fighter

durch den ermel in die want
through the sleeve into the wall

mit starker volleiste.
with strong force.

ein wênic er sîn vleiste,
a little he him grazed,

daz er daz bluot rêrte.
that he the blood shed.

do gedâhte der gesêrte,
then thought the wounded-one,

wie er sich schaden möht erholn.
how he himself of-harm might recover.

er lie daz werfen und daz boln
he left the throwing and the casting

unde lief hin an den schalch.
and ran thither at the knave.

mit dem mezzer erm bevalch
with the knife he-to-him commended

einen vreislîchen stich,
a terrible stab,

daz er viel ûf den esterich
that he fell upon the floor

unde nie kein wort ersprach.
and never any word spoke.

dô litens êrst ungemach
then suffered-they first discomfort

in der kemenâten.
in the chamber.

die tür si zuo tâten.
the door they to did.

die recken ellende
the warriors exiled

wunden ir hende,
wrung their hands,

daz si âne swert dâ muosten sîn.
that they without swords there must be.

aber des ritters friundîn,
but the knight's beloved,

diu gab in harte guoten trôst,
she gave them very good comfort,

daz si wol wurden erlôst.
that they well became freed.

Siu gie hin ûz durch ir bete,
She went thither out for their request,

die tür siu nâch ir zuo tete
the door she after her to did

und besant der tiursten ein teil,
and sent-for of-the most-precious a part,

an den siu helfe unde heil
in whom she help and salvation

aller wætlîchest vant.
of-all likeliest found.

siu sprach ,helde, sint gemant,
she spoke ,heroes, be reminded,

daz ich ie die ritter êrte
that I ever the knights honored

und daz beste zuo in kêrte,
and the best to them turned,

und stânt mir friuntlîchen bî.
and stand me friendly by.

ich wæn, mîn vater tôt sî,
I believe, my father dead be,

der ie grimmekheite wielt
who ever grimness wielded

nnd iuch unrehte hielt.
and you unrightly held.

nu hân ich einen jungen man,
now have I a young man,

den tiursten, den ie wîp gewan.
the most-precious, whom ever woman won.

den erkôs mîn vater ze eime zagen
him chose my father as a coward

und wolt in hân ze tôde erslagen,
and would him have to death slain,

als er vil manegen hât getân.
as he very many-a-one has done.

do enmoht ez langer niht gestân,
then could it longer not stand,

der ritter werte sich durch nôt.
the knight defended himself through need.

sît mîn vater nu ist tôt,
since my father now is dead,

sô ist daz erbe an mich komen.
so is the inheritance to me come.

ich schaffe gerne sînen vromen,
I bring-about gladly his benefit,

swer mir triuwe erscheinet
whoever to-me faith shows

und mich von herzen meinet.‘
and me from heart loves.‘

Dô sprach der ritter ein zehant
Then spoke the knight one at-once

‚sagent, wer ist der wîgant?
‚tell, who is the fighter?

ist ez der nehten bî iu saz,
(if)-is it who last-night by you sat,

so geschach nie keiner vrowen baz.
so happened never any lady better.

er ist sô sæleclîch getân,
he is so blessedly made,

mich entriege mîn wân,
me unless-deceive my belief,

so enwart nie tiurer man geborn.
so was never more-precious man born.

sît wir den herren hân verlorn,
since we the lord have lost,

sô handeln ez mit witzen:
so handle it with wits:

er endarf uns niht entsitzen,
he needs us not fear,

weder durch slahen noch durch vâhen.‘
neither for striking nor for seizing.‘

die anderen alle jâhen
the others all said

‚wir suln tuon swaz mîn vrowe wil,
‚we shall do whatever my lady wills,

beidiu ze ernst und ze spil.‘
both in earnest and in jest.‘

sus wart diu suone in ein getragen.
thus became the reconciliation into one carried.

man hôrt den wirt lüzel clagen,
one heard the host little lament,

als ez dicke noch ergât:
as it often yet happens:

swâ man sich der milte enstât,
wherever one himself of-the generosity understands,

da verclaget man wol des argen schaden.
there gets-over-lamenting one well the evil-one's harm.

die recken wurden ouch entladen
the warriors became also unladen

unmuotes des ir herze wielt.
of-ill-mood which their heart held.

diu vrowe si vil wol behielt
the lady them very well kept

sô siu aller beste kunde.
as she of-all best could.

dar nâch in kurzer stunde
there after in short hour

kom der welt ein michel magen.
came of-the world a great might.

in vil unlangen tagen
in very not-long days

do begruob man in als ez gezam.
then buried one him as it befitted.

diu vrowe den jungen ritter nam
the lady the young knight took

und enpfalh im gar in sîne hant
and commended to-him wholly into his hand

beidiu liut unde lant.
both people and land.

sus erbet er, dô er genas,
thus inherited he, when he survived,

daz ê des forehtieres was.
what before the forester's was.

Dô was vil milte der wirt,
Then was very generous the host,

als den daz guot lützel swirt.
as whom the goods little pains.

daz der sweher besparte‘
what the father-in-law spared‘

rîlîch erz zezarte,
richly he-it squandered,

wan erz mit manheit gewan.
for he-it with manhood won.

dô schuof er sîn ambetman
then appointed he his officials

nâch wîser liute lêre.
after wise people’s teaching.

er enwarp niht wan umb êre,
he strove not except for honor,

als ein hübsch ritter kan.
as a courtly knight can.

Orphilet der küene man,
Orphilet the bold man,

dô der ersach sîne site,
when he saw his ways,

daz er in fuor sô sanfte mite
that he them fared so gently with

und er doch nieman liez enstân,
and he yet no-one let understand,

wie sîn geverte was getân,
how his conduct was made,

durch daz lobet er im zehant
for that praised he to-him at-once

des küneges Artûses lant
the king Arthur’s land

und Karidôl die mæren.
and Karidol the famous.

er saget im, daz dâ wæren
he told to-him, that there were

der besten ritter diu kraft,
of-the best knights the host,

,die mit ir ritterschaft
,who with their knighthood

erwerbent lop unde prîs.
win praise and prize.

der künic selbe ist sô wîs,
the king self is so wise,

daz erz wol erbieten kan
that he-it well offer can

eim iegelîchen man
to-every single man

nâch sîner werdikheit.
after his worthiness.

swer ie durch manheit ûz gereit,
whoever ever for manhood out rode,

der sol mîns herren hof sehen.
he shall my lord's court see.

ich wil iu wærlîche jehen,
I will to-you truly say,

diu künigîn ist sô gemuot,
the queen is so minded,

daz siu gerner zwei guot
that she rather two goods

tuot dan eine karkheit.
does than one stinginess.

dâ sint ouch ander vrowen gemeit,
there are also other ladies joyful,

der tugent ist sô reine,
whose virtue is so pure,

und wær ir niht wan eine
and were of-them not but one

in eime künicrîche,
in one kingdom,

dâ solten billîche
there should rightly
alle ritter hübsch sîn.
all knights courtly be.
di gesehent, dêst der rât mîn.‘
them see, that-is the counsel mine.‘
Dô sprach der ungenande
Then spoke the unnamed-one
‚ez wære ein michel schande,
‚it were a great disgrace,
daz ich flüge ungeveder.
that I should-fly unfeathered.
ich wil es eintweder
I will it either
schaden vâhen oder vromen,
harm catch or benefit,
ê ich immer welle komen
before I ever will come
zuo sölher zoumhefte
to such bridle-holding
und zuo der geselleschefte.
and to the company.
waz solt ich in ze rede geben,
what should I them to talk give,
die mit nîtspil ir leben
who with envy-play their life
gehœhert hânt vil sêre?
heightened have very sorely?
ez wær ein unêre,
it were a dishonor,
ob ich mich anders werte.
if I myself otherwise bore.
got erlâze mich der verte:
God release me of-the journey:

ich wil gerne wesen alsus.‘
I will gladly be thus.‘

dô bat in aber Kurâus
then begged him again Kuraus

gegen Gahgunne kêren.
toward Gagunne to-turn.

des enwolt er in niht gêren,
of-that would he him not honor,

daz er mit im füere.
that he with him should-fare.

sîn gesinde wol allez swüere,
his household well all should-swear,

daz er dâ belibe stæte
that he there should-remain steadfast

mit der vrowen, diu in hæte
with the lady, who him had

ze alsô grôzen êren brâht.
to so great honors brought.

des was im doch vil ungedâht.
of-that was to-him yet very unthought.

Nu enwolten sîne gesellen
Now would his comrades

mit im niht lenger twellen,
with him not longer tarry,

die zwêne wîgande:
the two fighters:

si wolten heim ze lande.
they would home to land.

dô ez gienc an ein scheiden,
when it went to a parting,

dô gebet er in beiden
then gave he to-them both

swaz si sîner habe geruochten.
whatever they of-his goods deigned.

die recken wol besuochten,
the warriors well found,

daz er guoten willen truoc.
that he good will bore.

lobennes tâtens im genuoc
of-praising did-they to-him enough

von siten und von manheit.
of manners and of manhood.

ze Karidôl wart ouch geseit,
at Karidol was also told,

daz Orphilet dô kæme.
that Orphilet then came.

daz was in vil genæme,
that was to-them very agreeable,

wan er lange was gesîn.
for he long was been.

nu vrâgt in al diu menegîn
now asked him all the host

von wunder und von mære,
of wonder and of tidings,

wâ er sô lange wære.
where he so long were.

er sprach ‚daz kan ich wol gesagen.
he spoke ‚that can I well tell.

ich was in unlangen tagen
I was in not-long days

dâ man mir bôt guot gemach
where one to-me offered good comfort

und ich den tiursten degen sach,
and I the most-precious thane saw,

den ie getruoc dehein wîp.
whom ever bore any woman.

sîn sældehafter lîp
his blessed person

ist blôz vor âküste.
is bare of vice.

er ist nâch mîner küste
he is after my knowledge

ein der vorderste man,
one of-the foremost men,

des ich ie künde gewan.
of-whom I ever knowledge won.

im vert vil sælekheite mite.
him fares much blessedness with.

sô ist daz ein hübscher site,
so is that a courtly custom,

er enweiz niht waz trûren ist.
he knows not what grieving is.

bî im ist guot mitewist.
by him is good company.

swer daz sæhe, daz ich sach,
whoever that should-see, that I saw,

wie er die âventiure brach
how he the adventure broke

ze Môreiz ûf der veste,
at Moreiz upon the fortress,

der spræch im wol daz beste.
he would-speak of-him well the best.

man möht in gerne erkennen:
one might him gladly know:

ern wil sich nieman nennen,
he will himself to-no-one name,

swaz man redet oder tuot.‘
whatever one says or does.‘

Orphilet der helt guot
Orphilet the hero good

saget von êrst unz an daz zil
told from first until to the goal

von sîner manheite vil
of his manhood much

und von sîner sigenünfte.
and of his victory.

dô wunschte sîner künfte
then wished for-his coming

Artûs der schanden vrîe
Arthur the of-disgrace free

und al diu massenîe.
and all the household.

VI · LIMORS

Without a word the hero rides away and comes to Limors, which a stranger may enter only with an olive branch and his helm off. Riding in armed, he is attacked by the whole land and kills many before he surrenders to Ade, niece of the lord Linier, on her white horse. Linier returns the next morning in fury and would kill him, but Ade pleads that the knight fought in his own defense.

Innân des dô daz geschach,
While that then that happened,

do enlie sich niht an sîn gemach
then let himself not to his comfort

von dem daz mære ist erhaben.
of whom the tale is raised.

er begunde tegelîchen traben
he began daily to-trot

durch jagen ûz in den walt.
for hunting out into the forest.

sich bedâhte der helt balt,
himself bethought the hero bold,

durch waz er ûz was geriten:
for what he out was ridden:

ze lange dûht in des gebiten.
too long seemed to-him of-it waited.

eins tages dô ez schœne was,
one day when it beautiful was,

dô nam er sînen harnas
then took he his harness

geswæslîch an sînen lîp.
secretly onto his body.

ez enwiste man noch wîp,
it knew man nor woman,

waz daz was daz in twanc.
what that was that him forced.

vier tageweide lanc
four days'-journeys long

reit er für sich balde
rode he before himself quickly

unz gegen einem walde.
until toward a forest.

dâ vant er drî strâzen:
there found he three roads:

die zwô begund er lâzen
the two began he to-leave

ze ietwederre sîten,
on either side,

die miteln begund er rîten:
the middle began he to-ride:

diu gienc ûf eine burc vast.
it went up-to a castle firm.

dar enkom nie kein gast,
there came never any guest,

weder tump noch wîs,
neither foolish nor wise,
er fuort ein ölboumes rîs:
unless-he carried an olive-tree's twig:
daz was ein wortzeichen,
that was a token,
daz er vride wolte reichen.
that he peace would offer.
und swer gewæfent dar kam,
and whoever armed there came,
den helm er in die hant nam
the helm he into the hand took
und lie die vinteilen nider,
and let the ventail down,
oder ez gerou in aber sider,
or it rued him but afterward,
swenn er die burc ane sach.
when he the castle on looked.
dem aber alsô geschach,
to-whom but so happened,
daz er vermeit den lantsite,
that he avoided the land-custom,
dem fuor man sô übele mite,
him fared one so evilly with,
daz er nimmer genas,
that he never survived,
swie rîche oder swie edel er was.
however rich or however noble he was.

dirr site was verborgen
this custom was hidden

(daz kom im ze sorgen)
(that came to-him to cares)

dem stolzen wîgande,
from-the proud fighter,

der sîn selbes niht erkande.
who his self not knew.

Vermeꝛzenlîch er für sich reit.
Boldly he before himself rode.

daz tûht ein michel tumpheit
that seemed a great foolishness

die in ab der burc gesâhen.
to-those-who him from the castle saw.

si begunden alle gâhen,
they began all to-hasten,

die alten zuo den jungen.
the old with the young.

ze dem tor si ûz drungen
at the gate they out pressed

mit gewæffen aller hande.
with weapons of-all kinds.

zem êrsten die sarjande,
at-the first the foot-soldiers,

die bestuonden in mit scharn.
they attacked him in troops.

dô kom aber dar nâch gevarn
then came but there after faring

manec gewæffenter man,
many-a armed man,

die fuorten ringes gespan,
who wore ring's clasp,

helme mit den schilten:
helms with the shields:

di bestuonden den milten
they attacked the generous-one

in eime buocholze.
in a beech-wood.

dô werte sich der stolze,
then defended himself the proud-one,

wan er gerne genas.
for he gladly survived.

der wec tief und enge was,
the way deep and narrow was,

dâ si in zem êrsten kômen an.
where they him at-the first came at.

daz wart manigem ze ban.
that became to-many for bane.

er erhiu sich von dem fuozher.
he hewed himself from the foot-host.

die ritter satzten sich ze wer,
the knights set themselves to defense,

wan er in niht moht entrîten
for he them not might outride

si begunden mit im strîten,
they began with him to-fight,

als er in den vater het erslagen.
as-if he to-them the father had slain.

des begund er in sich vor tragen
by-that began he them himself before to-carry

ûf dem velde an der wîte.
upon the field at the width.

ir kein den andern nîte
of-them none the other envied

der gâbe der der junge gap.
of-the gift which the young-one gave.

si gerou der urhap
them rued the beginning

beidiu vor unde sider.
both before and afterward.

er stach ir zweinzic dernider
he stabbed of-them twenty there-down

von den rossen ûf daz gras,
from the horses upon the grass,

daz etslîcher nie genas:
that some never survived:

zehen ir dâ tôt beliben.
ten of-them there dead remained.

gein der burc si in triben,
toward the castle they him drove,

daz er allez strîtende reit.
that he all fighting rode.

in bestuont daz here breit,
him attacked the host broad,

als ein wildez swîn die hunde.
as a wild boar the dogs.

daz er wol strîten kunde,
that he well fight could,

daz zeiget er in harte:
that showed he them very:

daz swert er lützel sparte.
the sword he little spared.

daz lantliut allez ûf in schrê.
the land-folk all upon him cried.

daz tet inneclîchen wê
that did inwardly woe

den vrowen ûf den zinnen.
to-the ladies upon the battlements.

daz er niht moht entrinnen,
that he not might escape,

des ward er sêre beclaget.
for-that was he sorely lamented.

ûf der burc was ein maget,
upon the castle was a maiden,

daz in dem lande
that in the land

nieman hekande
no-one knew

enkeine juncvrouwen,
any maidens,

die man gerner möhte schouwen
whom one more-gladly might behold

durch schœne noch durch hübscheit.
for beauty nor for courtliness.

dô ir daz vehten wart geseit,
when to-her the fighting was told,

ir êren siu niht vergaz:
of-her honors she not forgot:

ûf ein pfert siu gesaz,
upon a horse she sat,

daz ir ze rîtenne gezam.
which her to riding befitted.

geloubent mirs, ez was niht lam,
believe me-it, it was not lame,

ergurret mager noch ze cranc.
starved meager nor too weak.

ûz dem wege ez selten dranc,
out-of the way it seldom pressed,

wan ez niht tokzelende truoc.
for it not stumbling bore.

ez enbeiz noch ensluoc
it not-bit nor not-struck

und liez ûf sich wol sitzen.
and let upon itself well sit.

man sach ez selten switzen.
one saw it seldom sweat.

ez enwas zerbrochen noch beschaben
it not-was broken nor chafed

und enkonde ouch anders traben.
and could-not also otherwise trot.

ez enhargete noch enstrûchte.
it not-shied nor not-stumbled.

swie vil man ez gebrûchte,
however much one it used,

die füeze wârn im niht ze sat.
the feet were to-it not too sated.

ez enhâte harteslaht noch spat,
it not-had hoof-disease nor spavin,

ez enwas galling noch blint.
it not-was galled nor blind.

ez bewarte wol ein cleine kint.
it would-tend well a small child.

dar zuo was ez niht wegeschie.
there to was it not shy-of-the-way.

durch nôt ez hübslîche gie,
through need it courtly went,

wan ez schœne und edel was.
for it beautiful and noble was.

sîn hâr gleiz als ein spiegelglas.
its hair gleamed as a mirror-glass.

ân vingerzeigen was ez gar.
without finger-pointing was it wholly.

ez was alles snêgevar,
it was all snow-colored,

wan eines buoges, der was rôt.
except one shoulder, which was red.

es enwære kein nôt,
it were no need,

daz iu ieman seite
that to-you anyone told

von bezzerm gereite
of better trappings

dan daz ûf daz pferit was geleit,
than that upon the horse was laid,

daz diu juncvrowe reit,
which the maiden rode,

diu dâ dente nâch den scharn.
who there stretched toward the troops.

siu kom von der burc gevarn
she came from the castle faring

rehte als ein wolkenschôz.
right as a thunderbolt.

dô sach siu slahen manec gebôz
then saw she strike many-a blow

unde stechen manic sper
and stab many-a spear

ûf den ritter, der dort her
upon the knight, who there hither

balde gegen ir reit.
quickly toward her rode.

siu bat in umbe sicherheit,
she begged him for surrender,

daz er sich ir wolt ergeben.
that he himself to-her would give-up.

siu sprach ‚iemer unz ich leben,
she spoke ‚ever until I live,

hân ich iuch zeim vriunde erkorn,
have I you as-a friend chosen,

ob ir sint sô wol geborn,
if you are so well born,

als iwerr manheit gezimet.
as your manhood befits.

swer iu den lîp hiute nimet,
whoever from-you the life today takes,

dêswâr der missetuot dar an.
truly he does-amiss there in.

ich hulf iu, wær ich ein man,
I would-help to-you, were I a man,

und sult doch vil gewis sîn,
and shall yet very certain be,

so ich meiste mac, der günste mîn.
as I most may, of-the favor mine.

doch enweiz ich wâ von ich ez tuo;
yet know-not I where from I it do;

mîn herze beldet mich dar zuo.‘
my heart emboldens me there to.‘

Des enmohter geantwürten niht,
To-that could-he answer not,

iedoch sprach er ‚swaz mir geschiht,
yet spoke he ‚whatever to-me happens,

daz sint iwer genâde grôz.‘
that are your graces great.‘

manegen gêr man ûf in schôz,
many-a spear one upon him shot,

wan si zim niht mohten komen.
for they to-him not might come.

diu vrowe wolt im gerne vromen,
the lady would to-him gladly benefit,

wan daz si daz her underdranc.
except that her the host pressed-among.

doch kom er under ir danc
yet came he against their will

vor in ûf die burc geriten.
before them up-to the castle ridden.

dô wart dâ sêre gestriten,
then was there sorely fought,

als er vor in în kam.
as he before them in came.

eim ritter er sîn sper genam,
from-a knight he his spear took,

als in twanc sîn tobezorn.
as him forced his raging-anger.

daz ros ruort er mit den sporn
the horse touched he with the spurs

1515 und kêrte gegen der bürge wider.
and turned toward the castle back.

er stach manigen dernider
he stabbed many-a-one there-down

der nâch schrîender diet.
of-the after crying folk.

eim degen er ûf den schilt erriet
to-a thane he upon the shield hit

gegen den vier nageln hin.
toward the four nails thither.

1520 er stach in gein dem herzen in
he stabbed him toward the heart in

durch beide halspercwende.
through both hauberk-walls.

dem recken ellende
at-the warrior exiled

schriuwens alle ûf daz leben,
cried-they all upon the life,

wan er des wirtes râtgeben
for he the host's counselor

1525 ze tôde het erstochen.
to death had stabbed.

dô wart von im zerbrochen
then became by him broken

manic schilt daz er zecloup
many-a shield that he cleaved

und daz diu varwe ûf stoup,
and that the color up flew,

als ez genibelet wære.
as-if it misted were.

der degen urmære
the thane exceeding-famous

zerhiu des tages manegen schaft.
hewed-apart of-the day many-a shaft.

do enmoht er wider überkraft
then could he against superior-force

und mit als guoten knehten
and with as good knights

langer niht gevehten.
longer not fight.

Do ergab er sich der selben maget,
Then gave-up he himself to-the same maiden,

von der ich ê hân gesaget,
of whom I before have told,

durch triwe und ûf genâde.
for faith and upon grace.

siu was genant Ade:
she was named Ade:

daz suln wir niht verswîgen.
that shall we not keep-silent.

Patricjus von den Bîgen,
Patricjus of the Bigen,

der was ir vater, hôrt ich sagen.
he was her father, heard I say.

der het an birsen und an jagen
he had on stalking and on hunting

meistic sînen vlîz bewant.
mostly his diligence turned.

der selbe was wîte erkant.
the same was widely known.

er het wol hundert winde,
he had well hundred greyhounds,

ân ander huntgesinde,
besides other hound-household,

bracken sûse und leithunt.
brachets hounds and lead-hounds.

im was wol umbe spüren kunt:
to-him was well about tracking known:

swâ ein hirz funden wart,
wherever a hart found was,

sô wist er wol sîne vart,
so knew he well its course,

war er lief und wa er beleip.
whither it ran and where it stayed.

die zît er baz hin vertreip
the time he better away passed

dan dehein forehtier.
than any forester.

sîn bruoder was genant Lînier.
his brother was named Linier.

des was disiu burc vast:
of-his was this castle firm:

diu hiez Lîmors, der nihtes brast
it was-called Limors, which nothing lacked

swes man dâ haben solde.
of-what one there have should.

Lînier daz schaffen wolde,
Linier that bring-about would,

ob er ân erben sturbe,
if he without heirs should-die,

daz sîn guot niht verdurbe.
that his goods not perished.

durch daz het er an sich genomen
for that had he to himself taken

beidiu ze êren und ze fromen
both for honors and for benefit

sîns bruoder tohter dise maget:
his brother's daughter this maiden:

wan siu hâte bejaget
for she had won

der êren prîs und allez guot.
of-the honors' prize and all good.

swâ mit ein wîp daz beste tuot,
where with a woman the best does,

daz was an ir bestricket.
that was in her bound-up.

ez was alsô geschicket,
it was so arranged,

so ir veter tôt læge,
when her uncle dead should-lie,

daz siu des landes pflæge
that she of-the land should-take-care

und dar zuo swem siu des gunde,
and there to whomever she of-it granted,

an swem siu tugent funde.
in whomever she virtue found.

Als ir hie vor hânt vernomen,
As you here before have heard,

nu was der vremde gast komen
now was the strange guest come

in der vrouwen gewalt.
into the lady's power.

do enwas dâ nieman alse balt,
then was there no-one so bold,

der im iht leides tæte,
who to-him aught of-hurt did,

fürst daz er ir gesichert hæte.
since that he to-her surrendered had.

si liezenz durch ir êre
they left-it for her honor

und durch die vrowen hêre.
and for the lady noble.

er müest anders sîn verlorn.
he must otherwise be lost.

diu sælde het zuo im gesworn
the luck had to him sworn

zeim stæten ingesinde.
as-a steadfast household-member.

siu huote sîn von kinde
she guarded him from childhood

durch daz er tugent an sich las.
for that he virtue to himself gathered.

als er dar nâch entwâffent was,
when he there after unarmed was,

dô was der degen milde
then was the thane generous

ein daz schœnste bilde,
one the most-beautiful image,

daz dehein muoter ie getruoc.
which any mother ever bore.

diu vrowe wartet im genuoc
the lady waited-on him enough

und jach, siun möhte'n niht verclagen,
and said, she might-him not get-over-lamenting,

wær er mit unschulde erslagen.
were he with innocence slain.

sînre geniste was siu vrô.
of-his survival was she glad.

doch entsaz siu zorndrô
yet feared she anger-threat

von ir vetern, dem helde balt,
from her uncle, the hero bold,

wan er zem tôde was gezalt,
for he to-the death was reckoned,

swer âne vride in sîn hûs reit.
whoever without peace into his house rode.

doch was ein michel sælikheit,
yet was a great blessedness,

ern was des tages dâ heime niht.
he was of-the day there at-home not.

swâ guoten liuten wol geschiht
wherever to-good people well happens

da gefüeget sich Wîlsælde zuo.
there joins itself Good-Luck to.

ouch enkom er niht vor morgen fruo.
also came he not before morning early.

Dô Lînier hin heim kam
When Linier thither home came

und er rehte vernam
and he rightly heard

wie ez was gehandelt,
how it was handled,

dô wart sîn muot verwandelt.
then became his mind changed.

von zorne wart er fiurrôt,
from anger became he fire-red,

wan er schande unde nôt
for he disgrace and distress

dâ heim in sîme hûse vant.
there at-home in his house found.

den gevangen wîgant
the captive fighter

wolt er ze tôde erslagen hân.
would he to death slain have.

do enmoht ez niht alsô ergân,
then could it not so happen,

wan nieman ersterben mac,
for no-one die may,

ê im kumt sîn endes tac.
before to-him comes his end's day.

den enwendet breste noch genuht,
that turns-aside lack nor plenty,

ze dem tôde stât dehein fluht.
to the death stands no flight.

ouch enwas der helt niht veige,
also was the hero not doomed,

swie im anseige
however to-him hostile

der rîche wirt wære.
the rich host were.

dem was sîn herze swære,
to-him was his heart heavy,

wan ez von unmuote wiel.
for it from ill-mood boiled.

diu juncvrowe im ze fuoẓen viel
the maiden to-him at feet fell

und bat in guotes muotes sîn.
and begged him of-good mood to-be.

siu sprach ‚waz touc der dienest mîn,
she spoke ‚what avails the service mine,

den ich iu von kinde tete,
which I to-you from childhood did,

entwerent ir mich dirre bete?
(if)-refuse you me this request?

ir sulnt den ritter lâzen leben,
you shall the knight let live,

der sich mir hât ergeben,
who himself to-me has given-up,

wan ich wol hân vernomen,
for I well have heard,

er ist ân alle schulde komen
he is without all guilt come

in disen engestlîchen wuof.
into this fearful wailing.

ir werden alder welt ein ruof
you become of-all-the world a byword

und müezen imer sîn ein wiht,
and must ever be a wretch,

ob im ame lîbe iht geschiht.
if to-him on-the body aught happens.

von diu volgent lêre.
from that follow teaching.

ez ist ein unêre,
it is a dishonor,

swer sich alsô richet,
whoever himself so avenges,

daz man im übel sprichet.
that one of-him ill speaks.

diu buoz ist bezzer dan der tôt.
the penance is better than the death.

der recke werte sich durch nôt.
the warrior defended himself through need.

er ist an der getæte wol,
he is in the deed well,

daz er widerdienen sol
that he serve-back shall

swaz er iu ze leide hât gefrumet.
whatever he to-you to sorrow has done.

waz ober iu noch ze staten kumet?‘
what if-he to-you yet to good-stead comes?‘

VII · THE GIANT

Linier throws the knight into a filthy dungeon, where Ade secretly feeds him and tells him of her uncle’s adventure: a challenger must fight a giant, then two lions, then Linier himself. At her request Linier lets her tend him for fourteen days so that he may fight, and he summons his kin and starves the lions. On the day, the knight cuts off the giant’s arm and then his head.

Des antwurt mit zorne
To-that answered with anger

Lînier der wol geborne
Linier the well born

‚sînen dienst wil ich lâzen varn,
‚his service will I let fare,

ich wil ez gern alsô bewarn,
I will it gladly so arrange,

daz er mir nimmer mê getuot
that he to-me never more does

weder übel noch guot
neither evil nor good

noch deheim weltlîchem man.
nor to-any worldly man.

vil wol ich in behalten kan,
very well I him keep can,

daz er mîn laster garnet.
that he my disgrace pays-for.

mîne friunt sîn gewarnet,
my friends be warned,

swer im mit rede bî stât,
whoever him with speech by stands,

daz er schaden drane gevât:
that he harm there-in catches:

daz ziuh ich ûf die sælde mîn.‘
that pledge I upon the luck mine.‘

hie von sweic diu niftel sîn,
here of was-silent the niece his,

wan siu wol erkande
for she well knew

sînen zorn und sîne schande,
his anger and his disgrace,

daz er ân erbermde fuor,
that he without mercy fared,

swenne er zornlîche swuor.
when he wrathfully swore.

die andern swigen alle.
the others were-silent all.

in disem zornschalle
in this anger-clamor

und mit ougen bluotvar
and with eyes blood-colored

hiez er den helt füeren dar,
bade he the hero lead thither,

den gevangen wîgant,
the captive fighter,

unde vrâget in zehant,
and asked him at-once,

wer er wær und wannen,
who he were and whence,

daz er im und sînen mannen
that he to-him and his men

sô grôze sêre worhte.
so great pain wrought.

dô sprach der vndervorhte
then spoke the unafraid-one

‚ich wil iu sagen ungelogen,
‚I will to-you tell unlied,

ich bin mit vrowen hie vor erzogen
I am with ladies here before raised

und enweiz nu wer ich bin.‘
and know-not now who I am.‘

einen wüetenden sin
a raging mind

gewan dô Lînier der mære:
got then Linier the famous:

er wând ez sîn schimpf wære,
he believed it his jest were,

des ze nôt nieman bedarf.
of-which at need no-one has-need.

in einen turn er in warf,
into a tower he him threw,

da er sunnen noch den mânen sach.
where he sun nor the moon saw.

dâ was im allez gemach
there was to-him all comfort

tiur und übel veile.
dear and ill for-sale.

mit ungeræte der geile
with want the merry-one

was der ritter âne namen.
was the knight without name.

im was al sîn nôt ein gamen.
to-him was all his distress a game.

und solt er tôt sîn gelegen,
and should he dead be lain,

er enkunde doch niht riuwen pflegen.
he could yet not sorrow practice.

Nu lît der êrbære
Now lies the honorable-one

in eime karkære,
in a dungeon,

der ist unsûberkeite vol.
it is of-uncleanness full.

dâ wær eim andern man borwol,
there were to-an other man little-well,

der des lîbes wær ein zage.
who of-the body were a coward.

im was geschicket alle tage
to-him was sent all days

niht wan wazzer unde brôt.
nothing but water and bread.

von smacke leid er grôze nôt.
from stench suffered he great distress.

des was er nâch verdorben
of-that was he nearly perished

und jæmerlîch erstorben,
and wretchedly died,

wan daz in dicke trôste
except that him often comforted

diu vrowe, diu in lôste.
the lady, who him freed.

diu tet ir güete an im schîn:
she made her goodness on him seen:

bette spîse unde wîn
bed food and wine

liez siu dar în stille.
let she there in silently.

daz was ouch jener wille,
that was also of-those will,

die sîn huoten über al.
who him guarded over all.

diu maget sich dicke dar stal
the maiden herself often there stole

und vrâget, waz er tæte.
and asked, what he did.

dô was er allez stæte,
then was he all-the-while steadfast,

daz er sîn leit mit zühten truoc.
that he his sorrow with breeding bore.

eines tages siu im gewuoc
one day she to-him mentioned

von der âventiure nôt,
of the adventure's distress,

die ir veter ûz bôt.
which her uncle out offered.

dô vrâgt er gar von dem site.
then asked he wholly about the custom.

diu vrowe êrt in dermite,
the lady honored him there-with,

siu sprach ‚durch sîne ritterschaft
she spoke ‚for his knighthood

und durch sîner übermüete kraft
and for his arrogance's strength

ist mîn veter zuo gevarn
is my uncle to fared

und enbôt ûz mit manegen scharn
and sent-word out with many troops

in aller lendegelich,
into all lands-alike,

swelch ritter wolte prîsen sich
whichever knight would prize himself

mit sterke oder mit manheit
with strength or with manhood

oder mit deheinre vermeꝛzenheit,
or with any boldness,

daꝛ der her kæme
that he hither came

und sîn âventiure næme.
and his adventure took.

ich sage iu wie diu ist getân.
I tell to-you how it is made.

mnn sol bîm êrsten bestân
one shall at-the first withstand

einen risischen man,
a giant man,

des sterke ich gemerken kan
whose strength I mark can

ein teil bî sîner stange:
a part by his staff:

mit michelm gedrange
with great pushing

erhebent si kûme zwêne man.
lift it scarcely two men.

swer dem risen gesiget an,
whoever the giant over conquers,

daꝛ doch kûme mac ergân,
which yet scarcely may happen,

der muoꝛ iesâ bestân
he must at-once withstand

zwêne lewen wilde,
two lions wild,

grimme und unmilde:
grim and unmild:

die sint vermûret und begraben.
they are walled-in and dug-in.

swer si bestât, der sol niht haben
whoever them attacks, he shall not have

gewæfens mêre dan sîn swert.
of-weapons more than his sword.

und wirt er danne des gewert,
and (if)-becomes he then of-that granted,

daz sîn ein guot gelücke pfliget
that of-him a good luck takes-care

und er den lewen an gesiget,
and he the lions over conquers,

(daz ist ein engestlîchez dinc)
(that is a fearful thing)

der muoz zehant in einen rinc,
he must at-once into a ring,

mit mîme vetern vehten,
with my uncle fight,

als sit ist guoten knehten,
as custom is for-good knights,

ze ros und zalln gerechen.
on horse and to-all reckonings.

ich wil daz wol sprechen,
I will that well say,

daz er des lîbes ist ein helt,
that he of-the body is a hero,

zallen nœten ûz erwelt.
for-all distresses out chosen.

deheinen man er nie entsaz.
no man he ever feared.

diu âventiur ist durch daz
the adventure is for that

gemachet sô gewerlich,
made so defensible,

er wil doch behüeten sich.
he will yet guard himself.

sînen lîp den halt er schône.
his body it holds he carefully.

swelch degen sich vor nône
whichever thane himself before nones

eines tages der nôt niht wert,
one day of-the distress not defends,

dem ist zehant der tôt beschert:
to-him is at-once the death allotted:

man sleht im daz houbet abe.
one strikes from-him the head off.

swaz ich dir gesaget habe,
whatever I to-thee told have,

dêst ein wort niht gelogen.‘
that-is a word not lied.‘

dô sprach der ritter wol gezogen
then spoke the knight well bred

‚genâde, vrowe hêre,
‚grace, lady noble,

durch got und durch dîn êre
for God and for thy honor

und durch dîn adelîche site
and for thy noble manners

geêre mich des ich dich bite:
honor me in-that I thee beg:

hilf mir umb ein bezzer leben.
help me to a better life.

du endarft mir niht anders geben
thou needest me not otherwise give

wan der einigen stiure,
than the single aid,

daz ich zuo der âventiure
that I to the adventure

von dîner bete müeze komen.
by thy request may come.

dar nâch als ich ez hân vernomen,
there after as I it have heard,

sô wil ich gerner vehten,
so will I rather fight,

denn ich langer müeze wehten
than I longer must keep-watch

in dirre vinsternisse.
in this darkness.

enswiu ich vermisse,
whichever I miss,

mir ist einhalp als andersît,
to-me is one-side as other-side,

wan mîn tôt an der wâge lît.
for my death on the scale lies.

ich enruoche waz mir dâ geschiht,
I care-not what to-me there happens,

dâ ich mîn swert hân unde siht‘
where I my sword have and sight‘

sprach der sturmgîter:
spoke the storm-greedy-one:

‚ich bestüend ê hundert rîter,
‚I would-withstand rather hundred knights,

dan ich des tôdes âhte
than I the death’s ban

verdult in disem bâhte.‘
suffer in this filth.‘

Dô diu vrowe erhôrte,
When the lady heard,

daz sich der helt erbôrte
that himself the hero raised

ûf der âventiure wân,
upon the adventure's hope,

dô sprach diu maget wol getân
then spoke the maiden well made

‚gelücke sælde unde heil,
'luck blessing and salvation,

des gebe dir got ein michel teil!
of-that give thee God a great part!

des wünsch ich dir von minnen,
that wish I thee from love,

mit herzen und mit sinnen.
with heart and with wits.

ich müeze freude an dir geleben!
I may joy in thee live-to-see!

dem himelschen got sîst du ergeben,
to-the heavenly God be thou given,

der trœste dîn gemüete!'
he comfort thy mind!'

des genâdet err mit güete.
for-that thanked he-her with kindness.

Sus gienc diu valsches âne
Thus went the of-falseness free

in zwîvellîchem wâne
in doubtful belief

für irn vetern stân.
before her uncle to-stand.

‚swaz ich dir gedienet hân,
'whatever I thee served have,

wær des vil, des vreut ich mich.
were of-that much, of-that rejoiced I me.

genâde suoch ich an dich
grace seek I of thee

umb den helflôsen degen,
for the helpless thane,

der nu lange ist gelegen
who now long is lain

in verdrozzenlîcher küste.
in vexing confinement.

weizgot sîner vlüste
god-knows of-his loss

solten sich guote liute clagen.
should themselves good people lament.

doch wil ich dir ein mære sagen,
yet will I thee a tale tell,

des ich in selbe hôrte jehen:
which I him self heard say:

(im ist grôz unreht geschehen)
(to-him is great wrong happened)

er hôrte loben dîne craft
he heard praise thy strength

und dar zuo dîne ritterschaft,
and there to thy knighthood,

und wolt dîn âventiure nemen.
and would thy adventure take.

nu solt du dîme zorn gestemen
now shalt thou thy anger curb

und danke got der êre
and thank God of-the honor

von dis ritters herkêre,
of this knight's coming-hither,

wan du an im funden hâst
for thou in him found hast

dâ mite du lange umbe gâst.
there with thou long about goest.

ez ist wætlich daz werde
it is likely that be

gebrîset ûf der erde
praised upon the earth

beidiu dîn burc und dîn name.
both thy castle and thy name.

des râtes ich mich nimer geschame,
of-the counsel I me never shame,

wan der helt ist sô gemuot,
for the hero is so minded,

daz er vil mit sîme lîbe tuot.
that he much with his body does.

dar zuo gib ich dir gîselschaft
there to give I thee surety

umb den ritter minnehaft,
for the knight lovable,

daz er dir niht entrinnet:
that he from-thee not escapes:

des hât er mich wol ginnet.
that has he me well assured.

umb in setz ich mîn houbet.
for him set I my head.

ob dîn genâde mirz erloubet,
if thy grace to-me-it allows,

des ich dir getrûwe wol,
which I thee trust well,

ob ich in her ûz nemen sol,
if I him hither out take shall,

unz er gewinne sîne maht,
until he wins his might,

von morgen über vierzehn naht
from tomorrow over fourteen nights

lâz ich in gerne schouwen
let I him gladly behold

ritter unde vrouwen
knights and ladies

und alle dîne mâge
and all thy kinsmen

vor dîner würme lâge.
before thy dragons' lair.

dar zuo ist ein gedinge mîn,
there to is a hope mine,

daz du mir daz harnasch sîn
that thou to-me the harness his

heizest geben und sîn ors.'
biddest give and his steed.'

dô sprach Lîniers de Lîmors
then spoke Linier de Limors

‚ich wil ez tuon durch einen list,
‚I will it do for a cunning,

wan mir wol ze muot ist,
for to-me well in mind is,

daz ich mich an im gereche sô,
that I me on him avenge so,

daz ers nimmer werde vrô
that he-of-it never become glad

und es ouch nimmer man gespote.'
and of-it also never man mock.'

diu maget sprach ‚daz stât an gote.'
the maiden spoke ‚that stands with God.'

Als ez har zuo was komen,
When it hither to was come,

dô wart der ritter ûz genomen
then was the knight out taken

von der vancsamen stat.
from the prison place.

diu vrowe hiez im machen bat
the lady bade for-him make bath

und schuof, daz man im für truoc
and brought-about, that one to-him before carried

guoter spîse genuoc,
of-good food enough,

diu lieben gesten gezam,
which dear guests befitted,

dâ von er schiere bekam
there from he quickly recovered

und erkovert sich an siner kraft.
and regained himself in his strength.

diu vrowe hielt in in ir haft
the lady held him in her custody

sanft und ungebunden.
gently and unbound.

siu bôt im zallen stunden
she offered to-him at-all hours

êren sô vil siu mahte.
honors as much she might.

siu mint in ûz der ahte
she loved him out-of the measure

durch sîne tugende stæte.
for his virtues steadfast.

waz aber der wirt tæte,
what but the host did,

Lînier der übermüete man,
Linier the overweening man,

daz sage ich iu als ich ez kan.
that tell I to-you as I it can.

in den selben zîten
in the same times

besant er sich vil wîten
sent he himself very widely

nâch vriunden und nâch mâgen
for friends and for kinsmen

und die der lande pflâgen,
and who of-the lands took-care,

diu im wâren gelegen:
which to-him were neighboring:

die luot der tiurlîche degen
them invited the precious thane

ze sîner hôhgezîte
to his high-feast

und ouch zuo dem strîte,
and also to the fight,

daz sîn âventiure hiez.
which his adventure was-called.

nieman er hinder im liez,
no-one he behind him left,

den er dar moht geladen,
whom he there might invite,

da er beidiu laster unde schaden
where he both disgrace and harm

und einen grimmen tôt erkôs.
and a grim death chose.

er sprach ‚er ist namelôs,
he spoke ‚he is nameless,

der ritter, der dâ vehten wil.
the knight, who there fight will.

er nimpt ez allez zeime spil,
he takes it all as-a game,

swaz man redet oder tuot.
whatever one says or does.

ez enlebet niht mannes sô gemuot.
it lives not of-man so minded.

daz kumpt von grôzer kintheit.‘ 1885
that comes from great childishness.‘

innân des was ouch bereit
within that was also ready

swaz der âventiure solte fromen.
whatever the adventure should avail.

der starke man der was ouch komen,
the strong man he was also come,

von dem vor ist geseit.
of whom before is told.

Lînier begienc ein karkheit: 1890
Linier committed a meanness:

daz enwolt er niht lengen,
that would he not delay,

die lewen hiez er twengen,
the lions bade he starve,

er lie si vasten drî tage.
he let them fast three days.

nâch der âventiure sage
after the adventure's saying

sô ist ez komen an die naht, 1895
so is it come to the night,

daz der junge ritter morgen vaht.
that the young knight tomorrow fought.

des geloube swerder welle,
that believe whoever will,

dâ was grôz geschelle,
there was great clamor,

beidiu luden unde braht
both noise and din

unde ritter diu maht,
and of-knights the might,

dar zuo maneger muoter barn,
there to many-a mother's child,

die alle bâten got bewarn
who all begged God guard

den tiurlîchen wîgant,
the precious fighter,

des name dâ nieman was erkant.
whose name there to-no-one was known.

Morgen dô ez tac wart,
Morning when it day became,

dô was des vremden ritters vart
then was the strange knight's course

zem êrsten dêr sich gote ergap:
at-the first where-he himself to-God gave:

wan er ist ein urhap
for he is a beginning

aller sælikheite.
of-all blessedness.

dar nâch gienc er gereite
there after went he ready

in einen rinc sô man in hiez.
into a ring as one him bade.

niht gewæfens man in tragen liez
no weapons one him carry let

wan sîn swert und einen huot
except his sword and a hat

und einen niwen schilt guot,
and a new shield good,

der nâch sîme was gemaht;
which after his was made;

dâ mit er menlîche vaht.
there with he manfully fought.

diu vrowe het in im gegeben.
the lady had it him given.

nu pflac der rise al sîn leben
now practiced the giant all his life

einer stange grôz unde lanc.
a staff great and long.

einen kampfschilt er für sich twanc,
a combat-shield he before himself forced,

dâ mit er kampflîchen stuont,
there with he combat-wise stood,

als dicke grôze liute tuont.
as often great people do.

nu hâte der junge liste.
now had the young-one cunning.

ê ez der rise wiste,
before it the giant knew,

den arm er im abe sluoc,
the arm he from-him off struck,

dâ er die stange mite truoc.
there he the staff with carried.

mit slegen er in biuste.
with blows he him beat.

mit der lirken viuste
with the left fist

wert sich aber der starke man:
defended himself but the strong man:

er liuf den jungen degen an
he ran the young thane at

und stiez in alsô vaste,
and thrust him so firmly,

daz er nider taste
that he down groped

und im der schiltrieme brast.
and to-him the shield-strap burst.

schier erholte sich der gast,
quickly recovered himself the guest,

snelleclîche er ûf spranc,
swiftly he up sprang,

als in des diu nôt twanc,
as him to-that the distress forced,

und sluoc dem risen einen slac,
and struck to-the giant a blow,

daz er wunderharte erschrac
that he wondrous-hard was-frightened

und er ûz dem ringe wolte vlien.
and he out-of the ring would flee.

der junge îlt im nâch zien
the young-one hastened him after to-draw

und sluoc in hinden lideschart.
and struck him behind joint-cut.

do der grôze des gewar wart,
when the great-one of-that aware became,

dô wolt er vor in allen
then would he before them all

den ritter ervallen.
the knight fell.

dâ von wart ein michel schal,
there from became a great clamor,

idoch vervâlte sich der val.
yet missed itself the fall.

der ritter sluoc imz houbet abe.
the knight struck to-him-the head off.

er sprach ‚ich hân dich ze grabe
he spoke ‚I have thee for grave

und zuo der langen vart bereit,
and for the long journey prepared,

swem ez sî liep oder leit.‘ 1950
to-whom it be dear or sorrowful.‘

VIII · THE LIONS AND LINIER

He kills both lions, though one claws his side. Linier arms in the best armor there is, and they fight on horseback and then on foot; badly wounded, the knight splits Linier's head to the teeth and falls in a swoon. Ade has him carried to a chamber and revived, and her kin and the land accept him as their lord in Linier's place. She washes and anoints his wounds until he wakes and asks where he is.

Lînier sîn ungelücke schalt.
Linier his misfortune cursed.

er nam den recken alse balt
he took the warrior so bold

und fuort in hin zuo sînen lewen,
and led him thither to his lions,

die heten hungerige kewen.
which had hungry jaws.

in daz hûs er in stiez. 1955
into the house he him thrust.

der lewen einer niht enliez,
of-the lions one not left-off,

als er engegen im trat,
as he toward him stepped,

er sluoc dem ritter ein spat
it struck to-the knight a strip

mit den clâwen von der sîten.
with the claws from the side.

do enfrumte dehein bîten:
then availed no waiting:

gein dem lewen er sich kêrte,
toward the lion he himself turned,

der in alsus gesêrte.
which him thus wounded.

dô was der ander hantgerech,
then was the other ready-to-hand,

wan in der hunger tete frech:
for him the hunger made bold:

er kratzt im eine wunden grôz,
it scratched to-him a wound great,

daz daz bluot dâ nider schôz,
that the blood there down shot,

als ez ein brunne wære.
as-if it a spring were.

sîn snellekheit was mære,
his swiftness was famous,

des nieman misselouben darf.
of-which no-one disbelieve needs.

gein dem selben er sich warf
toward the same he himself threw

und sluoc in durch daz houbet nider.
and struck him through the head down.

der ander bestuont in aber sider
the other attacked him but afterward

und zuct in daz er nider kam.
and snatched him that he down came.

den lewen macht er dô lam,
the lion made he then lame,

daz er des slages verzagete.
that he of-the blow lost-heart.

der helt in umbe jagete
the hero him about hunted

und tet in beiden sampt den tôt.
and did to-them both together the death.

dô gienc ez êrst an die nôt.
then went it first to the distress.

Als er von den lewen streich,
When he from the lions passed,

dô was er varlôs unde bleich
then was he colorless and pale

und ersigen von dem bluote.
and drained of the blood.

zehant iesch der unguote,
at-once demanded the unkind-one,

der wirt Lînier de Lîmors,
the host Linier de Limors,

beidiu harnasch und sîn ors.
both harness and his steed.

er wolte rechen die getât.
he would avenge the deed.

die aller besten sarwât,
the of-all best armor,

die dehein ritter ie gewan,
which any knight ever won,

die leit er zornlîchen an,
it put he wrathfully on,

wan sîn herzen sêr was starc.
for his heart's pain was strong.

innân des was ouch sîn marc
within that was also his steed

gekovertiurt ze rehte.
caparisoned to right.

unserm guoten knehte
to-our good knight

dem was ouch sîn harnasch brâht.
to-him was also his harness brought.

er was des vil wol bedâht,
he was of-that very well bethought,

daz er sich weren wolde.
that he himself defend would.

der stæten Sælden holde,
the steadfast Blessings' darling,

der leit ouch sîn gewæfen an.
he put also his weapons on.

daz bluot im durch die ringe ran
the blood to-him through the rings ran

ûz den tiefen wunden,
out-of the deep wounds,

wan si wâren niht gebunden.
for they were not bound.

daz erbarmet vil manegen man:
that pitied very many-a man:

swer ie milten muot gewan,
whoever ever generous mind won,

der dise nôt ane sach,
who this distress on saw,

ze got er sîn gebet sprach,
to God he his prayer spoke,

daz er sîn niht wolte vergezzen.
that he of-him not would forget.

nu wârens ûf gesezzen,
now were-they up sat,

beidiu wirt unde gast,
both host and guest,

daz ir enwederm nihtes brast
that of-them to-neither anything lacked

swes eime guoten ritter zimet,
of-what a good knight befits,

swenn er den schilt ze halse nimet. 2010
when he the shield to neck takes.

Derbermde was in tiure.
Of-the-mercy was to-them scarce.

ze der êrsten justiere
at the first joust

starken zorn der wirt truoc:
strong anger the host bore:

daz sper er undern arm sluoc
the spear he under-the arm struck

und twanc den schilt für sich. 2015
and forced the shield before himself.

sîn gebærde was ritterlich,
his bearing was knightly,

wan er wol rîten kunde.
for he well ride could.

isâ zer selben stunde
at-once at-the same hour

satzt er sich ebene,
set he himself level,

der helt, der niht vergebene 2020
the hero, who not in-vain

niemanne wolt entwîchen.
to-no-one would give-way.

dô liezens dar strîchen,
then let-they thither sweep,

sô si beide mit ir ahten
as they both with their attention

aller meist gewinnen mahten
of-all most win might

ûz ir rossen, diu si riten.
out-of their horses, which they rode.

durch die schilte in almiten
through the shields in all-midst

stâchens mit ir krefte
stabbed-they with their strength

diu sper, daz die schefte
the spears, that the shafts

zerbrâsten unde hôhe vlugen.
burst and high flew.

zwei scharpfiu swert si zugen,
two sharp swords they drew,

diu in wol gezâmen.
which to-them well befitted.

si gâben unde nâmen
they gave and took

manegen freislîchen slac.
many-a terrible blow.

Lînier grôzer künste pflac,
Linier great skill practiced,

wan er niht wan ze staten sluoc.
for he not but to purpose struck.

der junge, der den arn truoc,
the young-one, who the eagle bore,

der vaht âne liste,
he fought without cunning,

wan er wol wiste,
for he well knew,

waz im ze leide was getân.
what to-him to sorrow was done.

si hiwen beide manegen spân
they hewed both many-a chip

ein ander von den schilten.
to-one another from the shields.

nîtlîchen si spilten
hatefully they played

ein wîle in dem kreiʒe.
a while in the circle.

idoch sluoc ageleiʒe
yet struck zealously

der namelôse tumbe
the nameless foolish-one

den eltern ritter umbe
the elder knight about

und verhiu im daʒ ors.
and hewed-down to-him the steed.

do erbeiʒte Lîniers de Lîmors
then dismounted Linier de Limors

zehant ûf die erde
at-once upon the earth

mit grôʒem unwerde:
with great indignity:

sîn ros er lesterlîche schalt.
his horse he shamefully cursed.

ouch erbeiʒte der degen balt
also dismounted the thane bold

zuo dem wirt an daʒ gras,
to the host onto the grass,

wan ouch sîn marc müede was.
for also his steed weary was.

Dô si zer erde kâmen,
When they to-the earth came,

die schilt si für sich nâmen
the shields they before themselves took

und liufen balde ein ander an.
and ran quickly one another at.

Lînier der küene man
Linier the bold man

und der ritter âne namen,
and the knight without name,

die zwêne begunden grisgramen
the two began to-gnash

von der slege schalle.
from the blows' clamor.

in wuohs diu nîtgalle
to-them grew the hate-gall

von dem zorne den si truogen.
from the anger which they bore.

diu scharpfen swert si sluogen
the sharp swords they struck

ûf ein ander, daz si erclungen
upon one another, that they rang

und von den helmen sprungen
and from the helms sprang

die fiures flammen blicke.
the fire's flame flashes.

die kapfær wânten dicke,
the gapers believed often,

daz einer solte gesigen
that one should conquer

und der ander tôt geligen.
and the other dead lie.

sô jener disen her sluoc,
when that-one this-one hither struck,

unlange er daz vertruoc,
not-long he that endured,

er treib in schiere hin wider.
he drove him quickly thither back.

ze jungest sluoc der wirt nider
at last struck the host down

den gast, daz er kom ûf diu knie
the guest, that he came onto the knees

und er den schilt von im lie.
and he the shield from him let.

die sîten er ûf kêrte,
the side he up turned,

da in ê der lewe sêrte.
where him before the lion wounded.

dâ wunt in aber Lînier în
there wounded him again Linier in

durch die halsperge sîn
through the hauberk his

eine wunden tief unde wît.
a wound deep and wide.

des erholte sich der helt enzît:
of-that recovered himself the hero in-time:

er spranc ûf als ein degen.
he sprang up as a thane.

des schiltes moht er niht gepflegen:
of-the shield could he not take-care:

hinder rücke er in stiez,
behind back he it thrust,

als in sîn grimmer muot hiez.
as him his grim mind bade.

der kampf dûht in enblanden:
the combat seemed to-him grievous:

er nam mit beiden handen
he took with both hands

daz swert, dâ mit er vaht.
the sword, there with he fought.

von den wunden wart im unmaht
from the wounds became to-him faintness

und ouch von dem zorne.
and also from the anger.

do gedâht der wol geborne
then thought the well born

‚ez muoz her gân oder hin:
‚it must hither go or thither:

sît ich alsus gesêret bin,
since I thus wounded am,

ich wil versuochen einen slac,
I will try a blow,

dâ werde ûz swaz werden mac.
there become out whatever become may.

mîne kraft kêr ich alle dran.‘
my strength turn I all there-on.‘

dâ mite liuf er den wirt an,
there with ran he the host at,

der in ê het betoubet:
who him before had stunned:

er sluoc durch daz houbet
he struck through the head

Lîniern den helt guot,
Linier the hero good,

daz im daz swert zetal wuot,
that to-him the sword down waded,

unz ez im an den zenen erwant:
until it to-him at the teeth stopped:

dâ von starp der wîgant.
there from died the fighter.

Merkent alle besunder
Mark all especially

ein seltsæne wunder
a strange wonder

umb des jungen ritterschaft.
about the young-one's knighthood.

er sluoc den wirt mit sölher kraft,
he struck the host with such strength,

mit verbizzenme zan,
with clenched tooth,

daz im daz bluot ûz ran
that to-him the blood out ran

zen ôren und zem munde
at-the ears and at-the mouth

und im zer selben stunde
and to-him at-the same hour

geswant, daz er nider kam.
swooned, that he down came.

daz volc es guote war nam
the folk of-it good heed took

und heten alle wol gesworn,
and had all well sworn,

daz si beide wæren vlorn,
that they both were lost,

durch daz si sô unwerde
for that they so unworthily

vielen ûf die erde.
fell upon the earth.

Dâ von erschrâkens alle.
There from were-frightened-they all.

in diseme leitschalle
in this sorrow-clamor

wart her Lînier în getragen.
was lord Linier in carried.

beidiu wuof unde clagen,
both wailing and lament,

des was vil ob dem wirte.
of-that was much over the host.

die maget ouch nieman irte
the maiden also no-one hindered

ze tuonne swaz si wolde.
to do whatever she would.

dô hiez diu friuntholde
then bade the friend-gracious-one

ritter die ez tâten,
knights who it did,

daz si in ein kemenâten
that they into a chamber

den jungen degen truogen.
the young thane carried.

die tür si zuo sluogen.
the door they to struck.

siu selbe stal sich dar in.
she self stole herself there in.

von heile kom ir der sin,
by luck came to-her the sense,

daz siu besach den wîgant.
that she looked-at the fighter.

einen cleinen âtem siu bevant,
a small breath she perceived,

der im von dem munde gie.
which to-him from the mouth went.

diu vrowe daz niht enlie,
the lady that not left-off,

siu hiez imz houbet ûf haben
she bade to-him-the head up hold

unde snelleclîche laben.
and swiftly refresh.

ouch wart er entwæfent gar.
also became he unarmed wholly.

man machet im ein fiur dar:
one made to-him a fire there:

dar zuo leite man den degen.
there to laid one the thane.

sîn wart harte wol gepflegen
of-him was very well taken-care

von der vrowen hêre.
by the lady noble.

siu bôt im guot und êre,
she offered to-him goods and honor,

sô siu meiste mahte,
as she most might,

und schuof dô eine wahte
and appointed then a watch

ir vetern vil drâte.
for-her uncle very quickly.

siu schiet ez gar nâch râte,
she settled it wholly after counsel,

swaz ûf der burc unebene stuont,
whatever on the castle unevenly stood,

als dicke wîse liute tuont,
as often wise people do,

die ein grôz erbe an kumet
to-whom a great inheritance on comes

und die wol wizzent waz in frumet.
and who well know what to-them avails.

Vil wol siuz allez schafte.
Very well she-it all ordered.

der lîbes zwîfelhafte,
the of-life doubtful-one,

der lac aber stille.
he lay but still.

ez was ir aller wille,
it was of-them all will,

die in sâhn ze dirre verte,
who him saw at this course,

daz in got ernerte,
that him God should-save,

wan er die âventiure brach.
for he the adventure broke.

menneclich im wol sprach.
everyone of-him well spoke.

zem besten man in ûf huop.
to-the best one him up raised.

schiere man ouch den wirt begruop
quickly one also the host buried

mit êren wol als ez gezam.
with honors well as it befitted.

daz liut allez sament kam,
the people all together came,

ritter unde vrouwen:
knights and ladies:

si wolten gerne schouwen,
they would gladly behold,

ob der junge möhte genesen.
whether the young-one might recover.

si bâten im genædic wesen
they begged to-him gracious to-be

die juncvrowen wît erkant
the maiden widely known

und verkurn in ir hant
and renounced into her hand

swaz er in ze leide ie getete.
whatever he them to sorrow ever did.

gerne hôrte siu die bete,
gladly heard she the request,

diu milte maget Ade:
the generous maiden Ade:

diu hete sîn genâde
she had his grace

gevangen dô siun êrst sach.
caught when she-him first saw.

daz lantvolc allez jach
the land-folk all said

‚dirre wirt ist wol ersetzet.
‚this host is well replaced.

der in des lîbes hât geletzet,
who him of-the life has deprived,

dem erteilen wir guot unde wîp,
to-him allot we goods and wife,

genert im got sînen lîp.‘
(if)-saves for-him God his life.‘

der vrowen mâge sprâchn ouch daz,
the lady's kinsmen spoke also that,

ir gezæme michels baz
to-her would-befit much better

der ritter und ein michel guot,
the knight and a great goods,

dan siu dicke widermuot
than she often ill-will

von ir vetern solte tragen.
from her uncle should bear.

dô muoste siun durch nôt verklagen,
then must she-him through need get-over-lamenting,

sît ez allen liuten wol geviel.
since it to-all people well pleased.

der juncvrowen ir herze wiel
to-the maiden her heart boiled

ûf tugentlîche stæte.
upon virtuous steadfastness.

waz ir sieche tæte,
what her sick-one did,

daz wolt siu gerne hân bekort.
that would she gladly have tested.

noch denne ensprach er niht ein wort.
yet then spoke he not a word.

im wârn diu ougen zuo getân.
to-him were the eyes to done.

idoch durch bezzerunge wân
yet for betterment's hope

nam diu hübsche wirtîn
took the courtly hostess

beidiu oley unde wîn
both oil and wine

und wuosch im zuo den stunden
and washed to-him at the hours

sîne trôrige wunden
his sorry wounds

und verband in wîslîche.
and bound him wisely.

diu maget tugentrîche
the maiden virtue-rich

begund in allenthalben
began him on-all-sides

meisterlîche salben
masterfully to-anoint

mit einer salben alsô guot,
with a salve so good,

daz im daz verch und daz bluot
that to-him the life and the blood

eine sölhe hitze gewan,
a such heat won,

daz den kampfmüeden man
that the combat-weary man

des lebennes geluste
of-the living desired

und er die ougen wuste.
and he the eyes wiped.

dar nâch schiere er ûf sach
there after quickly he up looked

zwîfelîchen unde sprach
doubtfully and spoke

‚mir ist harte wê. wâ bin ich?
‚to-me is very woe. where am I?

und wie ez stê, des wundert mich.
and how it stands, of-that wonders me.

er begât sîn êre, swer mirz saget.‘
he performs his honor, whoever to-me-it tells.‘

des antwurt im diu maget,
to-that answered to-him the maiden,

diu in hielt in ir pflegen
who him held in her care

‚gehabe dich wol, tiurer degen,
‚bear thee well, precious thane,

und enfürhte dir fürnamens niht.
and fear for-thee at-all nothing.

diu âventiur ist ein wiht,
the adventure is a nothing,

die mîn veter ûz bôt,
which my uncle out offered,

und lît von dînen handen tôt
and lies by thy hands dead

ein der küeneste man,
one of-the boldest men,

der ritters namen ie gewan:
who knight's name ever won:

daz was Lînier der mære.
that was Linier the famous.

sîn tôt ist clagebære:
his death is lamentable:

ich muoz sîn imer riwic wesen.
I must of-him ever rueful be.

doch dês al ein: maht tu genesen,
yet that-is all one: (if)-mayst thou recover,

sô ist enzwei geteilt mîn sêr.
so is in-two divided my pain.

enhabez niht ringe, degen hêr,
have-it not light, thane noble,

ob ich iht liebes dir getuo,
if I aught of-dear to-thee do,

daz du gedenkest wol dar zuo
that thou think well there to

und dîn selbes schônest
and thy self sparest

und mir dâ mite lônest:
and me there with rewardest:

daz ist wol mîn wille.
that is well my will.

nu swîge vil stille
now be-silent very still

od rede ab senfticlîche.‘
or speak but gently.‘

‚ich tuon billîche
‚I do fittingly

swaz ir gebietent‘ sprach der degen:
whatever you command‘ spoke the thane:

‚ir hân mîn wol biz her gepflegen.‘
‚you have of-me well until here taken-care.‘

He recovers, and his fame reaches Arthur's court, where Orphilet tells who he is and Queen Ginover longs to see him. Walwein undertakes to bring him and finds him riding with Ade. He takes off his helm and delivers the court's invitation, but the knight thinks it shameful to go without a fight, and Walwein names himself, Arthur's sister's son.

Sô lât iu kurzlîche sagen,
So let to-you briefly tell,

daz in unmanegen tagen
that in not-many days

der namelôse genas,
the nameless-one recovered,

daz im arges niht enwas.
that to-him of-ill nothing was.

diu handelunge was vil rîch,
the treatment was very rich,

die im diu vrowe tegelîch
which to-him the lady daily

mit guoten willen scheinde.
with good will showed.

do er genas, wan siu ez meinde
when he recovered, for she it meant

im ze minnen und ze frome,
to-him for love and for benefit,

des was der tiurlîche gome
of-that was the precious man

balt und herzeclîchen vrô.
bold and heartily glad.

nu ist ez komen alsô,
now is it come so,

daz sich sîn manheit niht verhal
that itself his manhood not bid

und sîn prîs ûz erschal
and his prize out sounded

allenthalben in diu lant.
everywhere into the lands.

sînen kampf sach manic wîgant
his combat saw many-a fighter

und volkes ein michel wunder.
and of-folk a great wonder.

dâ wârn ouch ritter under,
there were also knights among,

die wâren komen von Kardigân:
who were come from Kardigan:

die sâhn in ouch Lînieren slân
they saw him also Linier slay

und jach ir aller gmeiner munt,
and said of-them all common mouth,

in wurd nie bezzer ritter kunt,
to-them became never better knight known,

daz sich sîn lob alsus für nam,
that itself his praise thus forth took,

unz er zer massenîe kam,
until it to-the household came,

der Artûs der künic pflac.
of-which Arthur the king took-care.

dô sprach Erec fil de roi Lac
then spoke Erec fil de roi Lac

‚saget uns ieman wer er sî?'
‚tells us anyone who he be?'

des antwurt Orphilet dâ bî
to-that answered Orphilet there by

‚dar nâch als uns ist gezalt,
‚there after as to-us is told,

sô ist ez der helt balt,
so is it the hero bold,

der selbe niht sîns namen weiz.
who self not his name knows.

von Môreiz Galagandreiz,
of Moreiz Galagandreiz,

der hât sîn immer genuoc.
he has of-him ever enough.

daz er nu Lînieren sluoc
that he now Linier slew

vermezzenlîchen, sô man seit,
boldly, as one says,

daz was ein michel manheit.
that was a great manhood.

er muoz wol getiuret sîn.‘
he must well made-precious be.‘

dô wunschte diu künigîn
then wished the queen

Ginovere, daz siun solte sehen.
Ginover, that she-him should see.

dô wart über lût verjehen
then was over loud declared

obe der tavelrunde,
over the round-table,

daz man niender funde
that one nowhere found

enkeinen degen sô stæte,
any thane so steadfast,

der ie bezzerz getæte.
who ever better-it did.

Dô sprach der künic Artûs,
Then spoke the king Arthur,

dô er saz in sîme hûs,
when he sat in his house,

ze sînen gesellen über lût
to his comrades over loud

‚hân ich deheinen holden trût,
‚have I any devoted dear-one,

deweder mâc alde man,
either kinsman or vassal,

dem lôn ich sô ich beste kan,
to-him reward I as I best can,

ob er den helt bringet her.
if he the hero brings hither.

ez ist mîn oberistiu ger,
it is my highest desire,

möht ich den ritter gesehen,
might I the knight see,

dem ich der manheit hœre jehen.
to-whom I the manhood hear credit.

man nennt in, und niht anders mê,
one names him, and not otherwise more,

wan der stolze degen vonme Sê.
than the proud thane of-the Lake.

er ist durch neizwaz namelôs.‘
he is for I-know-not-what nameless.‘

diu massenîe dô erkôs
the household then chose

Wâlweinen den helt balt,
Walwein the hero bold,

wan er zen tiursten was gezalt,
for he among-the most-precious was reckoned,

daz er durch die künigîn
that he for the queen

und durch die lieben gesellen sîn
and for the dear comrades his

den künec gewerte dirre bete.
the king granted this request.

dô warp er als er ie tete.
then strove he as he ever did.

er sprach gezogenlîche
he spoke courteously

‚ich versuoch ez minneclîche
‚I try it lovingly

und wilz verdienen immer mêr,
and will-it deserve ever more,

daz der degen alsô hêr
that the thane so noble

mînes herren hof beschouwe.‘
my lord's court behold.‘

do enwas dehein vrouwe,
then was no lady,

diu zuo den stunden daz vermite,
who at the hours that avoided,

si enwunschte daz er wol gerite.
she unless-wished that he well should-ride.

Zehant leit er sîn harnasch an,
At-once put he his harness on,

Wâlwein der hübsche man,
Walwein the courtly man,

und reit vorschent manegen tac
and rode searching many-a day

hin gegen dâ Lîmors lac,
thither toward where Limors lay,

ein burc guot unde vast.
a castle good and firm.

dô was genesen der gast,
then was recovered the guest,

der ê dâ was gevangen.
who before there was captive.

nu lânt iuch niht belangen
now let you not weary

eines mæres des i'u sagen sol.
of-a tale which I-you tell shall.

vrowe Ade schuof ir dinc wol,
lady Ade arranged her affair well,

sô nie dehein juncvrowe baz.
as never any maiden better.

eines tages siu ûf ir pfert saz,
one day she upon her horse sat,

daz nieman mêre mit ir reit
that no-one more with her rode

wan der ritter gemeit,
except the knight joyful,

des si ungern âne rite.
of-whom she unwillingly without rode.

hie vor was ein ellich site,
here before was an common custom,

daz ez dem manne niht was leit,
that it to-the man not was sorrow,

swâ ein vrowe hin reit,
wherever a lady thither rode,

selb ander oder aleine.
self second or alone.

nu pfliget es wîbe enkeine:
now practices it of-women none:

si lânt ez durch der manne zorn.
they leave it for the men's anger.

diu juncvrowe wol geborn
the maiden well born

wolte gerne süenen
would gladly reconcile

ir vater und den küenen,
her father and the bold-one,

der neben ir reit ir vartgenôz:
who beside her rode her journey-companion:

des weges si lützel verdrôz,
of-the way them little irked,

der hin gein den Bîgen lac.
which thither toward the Bigen lay.

dô wunscht der degen al den tac,
then wished the thane all the day,

daz im got zuo gesande
that to-him God to should-send

einen helt, daz er bekande,
a hero, that he knew,

waz er an im selben möhte hân.
what he in him self might have.

er jach, er torste wol bestân
he said, he dared well withstand

einen man, swes sun er wære,
a man, whosever son he were,

der in dûhte kampfbære.
who to-him seemed combat-worthy.

Deste mêr was sîner manheit,
So-much more was his manhood,

wan er bî der vrowen reit,
for he by the lady rode,

diu zen êren niht was træge.
who to-the honors not was sluggish.

ob er ie bî ir gelæge,
if he ever by her lay,

des enweiz ich niht, wan ichz niht sach.
that know I not, for I-it not saw.

swaz in sölhes ie geschach,
whatever to-them of-such ever happened,

daz enwas niht offenbære.
that was not manifest.

ez wære ein übel mære,
it were an evil tale,

solt ieglîch dinc ûz komen.
should each thing out come.

dar nâch als ichz hân vernomen,
there after as I-it have heard,

sô ziuhe ichz ûf der wîbe wân.
so ascribe I-it to the women's belief.

nu swîgent, lânt mich fürbaz vân.
now be-silent, let me further take-up.

Dô die lieben geverten
When the dear companions

aller müeje sich erwerten
of-all toil themselves defended

mit freuden maneger künne,
with joys of-many kinds,

und ir ein niwe wünne
and to-them a new delight

gedîhteclîche und ebene pflac
compactly and evenly practiced

und ez ieze was mitter tac,
and it now was mid day,

dô reit über ein breide
then rode over a broad-heath

gegen einer wegescheide
toward a way-parting

Wâlwein, dem al diu welt wol sprach.
Walwein, of-whom all the world well spoke.

als unser friunt daz gesach,
when our friend that saw,

dô wând er vinden sîne ger.
then believed he to-find his desire.

vor freuden warf er ûf daz sper
for joys threw he up the spear

und leisiert über die plâne.
and charged over the plain.

der helt von Britâne,
the hero of Britain,

der wartet im vaste,
he watched to-him closely,

daz im ein are glaste
that to-him an eagle gleamed

von golde ab dem schilte.
of gold from the shield.

dô dâhte der milte
then thought the generous-one

‚ditz mac wol sîn der wîgant,
‚this may well be the fighter,

durch den ich ûz bin gesant.‘
for whom I out am sent.‘

Von sage hât er in bekant,
From report has he him known,

wan sîn zobelîner rant
for his sable rim

der was gar zerhouwen.
it was wholly hewn-apart.

hie mugent ir wol schouwen,
here may you well behold,

daz Wâlwein harte hübsch was.
that Walwein very courtly was.

er stach daz sper in daz gras
he stabbed the spear into the grass

und leinde sînen schilt dran.
and leaned his shield there-on.

dâ mite reit er für sich dan,
there with rode he before himself away,

daz er den helm abe bant
that he the helm off untied

unde fuort in an der hant.
and carried it in the hand.

ân allerslahte klupfen
without all-kinds-of fright

liez er nider die kupfen,
let he down the coif,

daz der wîcspæhe
that the battle-wise-one

deste baz gesæhe,
the better saw,

daz er ze den zîten
that he at the times

mit im niht wolte strîten,
with him not would fight,

und er sich im niht werte.
and he himself to-him not defended.

der vrouwen geverte
the lady's companion

der jach, ez wær im ande.
he said, it were to-him grievous.

in dûht ein michel schande
to-him seemed a great disgrace

der gewerp des herre Wâlwein pflac;
the conduct which lord Walwein practiced;

doch bôt er im guoten tac,
yet offered he to-him good day,

als in sîn zuht stiurte.
as him his breeding steered.

Wâlweinen niht betiurte,
to-Walwein not grieved,

er neic im schône derwider.
he bowed to-him beautifully there-against.

der stolze ritter vrâgt in sider,
the proud knight asked him afterward,

waz er mæres sagete.
what he of-tidings told.

Wâlwein niht gedagete
Walwein not kept-silent

‚ich enweiz niht mæres wan guot
‚I know not of-tidings but good

und hân ein vrœlîchen muot
and have a joyful mind

und einen lieplîchen wân,
and a lovely belief,

daz ich iuch nu funden hân.
that I you now found have.

iwer tugent hœr ich loben genuoc,
your virtue hear I praise enough,

sît ir der Lînieren sluoc,
since you who Linier slew,

dâ ir begiengent ellens kraft.
where you performed valor's strength.

nu vernement mîne botschaft.
now hear my message.

iu hât enboten verre
to-you has sent-word from-afar

der künec Artûs mîn herre
the king Arthur my lord

und al diu massenîe sîn
and all the household his

und ze vorderst diu künigîn,
and at foremost the queen,

daz ir si geruochent sehen.
that you them deign to-see.

ich wil iu wærlîche jehen,
I will to-you truly say,

ob ir dar kêret,
if you there turn,

ir werdent wol geêret
you become well honored

von rittern und von vrouwen.
by knights and by ladies.

ir mugent dâ manec dinc schouwen,
you may there many-a thing behold,

des iuch niht darf erdriezen.
of-which you not need weary.

ouch sulnt si geniezen
also shall they enjoy

wider iu ein teil der reise mîn,
toward you a part of-the journey mine,

sît ich ir aller bote muoz sîn.‘
since I of-them all messenger must be.‘

Dô sprach der vremde ritter sân
Then spoke the strange knight at-once

‚herre, ezn wær niht wol getân,
‚lord, it were not well done,

daz ir mich mit disen dingen
that you me with these things

ze mære woltent bringen.
to talk would bring.

ob ich alsus mit iu füere,
if I thus with you fared,

swer daz sæhe, der geswüere,
whoever that saw, he should-swear,

deich iwer gevangen wære.
that-I your captive were.

ouch wiss ich gerne ein mære,
also would-know I gladly a tale,

ob es iuch niht verdrüzze,
if it you not irked,

war an iwer der künec genüzze,
where on of-you the king enjoyed,

solt ir ein sô übel herre sîn,
should you a so evil lord be,

daz ir mich über den willen mîn
that you me over the will mine

ihtes betwingen woltent.
in-aught compel would.

dêst wâr ir ensoltent
that-is true you should

wider mich die rede niht hân getân.
against me the speech not have done.

daz ich iuch hiut gegrüezet hân,
that I you today greeted have,

daz ist immer mîner leide ein.‘
that is ever of-my sorrow one.‘

dô sprach der stolze Wâlwein
then spoke the proud Walwein

‚ez ist ein wîslîcher muot,
‚it is a wise mind,

swelch degen frümeclîchen tuot,
whichever thane valiantly does,

daz ez in niht geriuwe.
that it him not rues.

ûf mîne triuwe,
upon my faith,

daz wâren ie die sinne mîn.‘
that were ever the wits mine.‘

‚herre, lât die rede sîn‘
‚lord, let the speech be‘

sprach der vrowen vartgenôz:
spoke the lady’s journey-companion:

,wan mich nie nihtes sô verdrôz
,for me never anything so irked

sô guoter rede âne werc.
as good speech without deed.

wært ir grœzer danne ein berc,
were you greater than a mountain,

ich müest ê mit iu strîten,
I must rather with you fight,

dan ich iender wolte rîten
than I anywhere would ride

wan dar mich mîn vrowe hiezе.
except where me my lady bade.

ich fürhte, si verdriezе
I fear, her irks

der mære der wir hân gesaget.‘
of-the tidings which we have told.‘

,entriwen nein ez‘ sprach diu maget:
,in-faith no it‘ spoke the maiden:

,ez ist billich unde reht,
,it is fair and right,

daz ein ieglîch guot kneht
that an each good knight

sîne botschaft sô bewende,
his message so turn,

daz er wizzе an ein ende,
that he know to an end,

wie er antwürt oder wes.‘
how he answers or of-what.‘

Wâlwein genâdet ir des
Walwein thanked her for-that

und vienc sîn rede wider an.
and took his speech again up.

er sprach ,gedenkent, frumer man,
he spoke ,think, valiant man,

swer mînes herren hof niht siht,
whoever my lord's court not sees,

der enist vollekomen niht
he is perfect not

in allen disen landen.‘
in all these lands.‘

‚nu weset niht enblanden;
‚now be not grieved;

daz verdiene ich gerne ze aller zît:
that deserve I gladly at all time:

jo enweiz ich niht wer ir sît‘
yea know I not who you are‘

sprach der ritter vonme Sê.
spoke the knight of-the Lake.

‚ich bit iuch, unde nihtes mê,
‚I beg you, and nothing more,

lât mich mit mîner vrowen varn
let me with my lady fare

und müez iuch der rîche got bewarn,
and may you the rich God guard,

wan ich enwil mit iu niht.
for I will with you not.

geloubt mir einer geschiht:
believe me one thing:

ich enmac ze Britân nimmer komen
I may to Britain never come

ê ich andriu mære habe vernomen.‘
before I other tidings have heard.‘

dô sprach der ritter, der in luot
then spoke the knight, who him invited

‚war umbe, herre? da ist doch guot.
‚what for, lord? there is yet good.

sî ez mîner vrowen wille,
(if)-be it my lady's will,

sô swîgent eine wîle stille
so be-silent a while still

und lânt mich reden fürbaz.
and let me speak further.

ir sprâchent niwelingen daz,
you spoke newly that,

ir enwistent wer ich wære.
you knew-not who I were.

möht ich nu mîniu mære
might I now my tidings

iht gebezzern dar an,
aught better there in,

sô bin ich ein der man,
so am I one of-the men,

der sich iu nennet âne schame:
who himself to-you names without shame:

Wâlwein sô heizet mîn name,
Walwein so is-called my name,

des küneges Artûs swester barn,
of-the king Arthur's sister child,

und bin durch guot nâch iu gevarn,
and am for good after you fared,

oder mich triuget mîn wân.
or me deceives my belief.

ob aber ich vermisset hân,
if but I mistaken have,

daz ir sît ein ander wîgant,
that you are an other fighter,

daz ich dan mîn helm ie ab gebant,
that I then my helm ever off untied,

daz ist mir inneclîche leit,
that is to-me inwardly sorrow,

wan ir hântz lîht für zageheit.'
for you hold-it easily for cowardice.'

The two fight on horse and on foot until a squire stops them in the name of the best ladies and announces a tournament at Djofle between King Lot and Gurnemanz, which Arthur will attend. Walwein agrees to stop fighting and asks the knight to come to the tournament with him, but the knight refuses to ride with him or to court, and Walwein leaves, praising him as the best knight alive.

Des was der stolze ritter vrô
Of-that was the proud knight glad

und dâht in sîme muot alsô
and thought in his mind thus

‚hie bin ich êrst zuo komen
‚here am I first to come

eim ritter biderm unde vromen.
to-a knight worthy and valiant.

ichn gehôrt nie nieman baz geloben
I heard never no-one better praised

und wolte namelîchen toben,
and would namely rave,

ich enversuochte mîne kraft.
I unless-tried my strength.

und wird ich an im sigehaft,
and (if)-become I over him victorious,

des hân ich immer mêre
of-that have I ever more

beidiu prîs und êre.
both prize and honor.

ob ab er mir an gesiget,
if but he me over conquers,

daz ist daz mich unhôhe wiget
that is what me low weighs

und ist ouch wunder enkein.‘
and is also wonder none.‘

er sprach ‚lieber her Wâlwein,
he spoke ‚dear lord Walwein,

ich wil iu sagen mînen sin.
I will to-you tell my mind.

ir endurfent ruochen wer ich bin.
you need-not care who I am.

ir hânt mich lîhte unrehte ersehen.
you have me perhaps wrongly seen.

sît iu sô leide sî geschehen,
since to-you so sorrowful be happened,

daz ir den helm hânt abe genomen,
that you the helm have off taken,

sô mugent irs schiere wider komen.
so may you-it quickly back come.

nement den schilt und iwer sper.
take the shield and your spear.

ich wil erteilen, daz er
I will judge, that he

gunêret sî immer mê,
dishonored be ever more,

swer disses strîtes abe gê.‘
whoever of-this fight off goes.‘

Der rede schamte sich der bote.
Of-the speech was-ashamed himself the messenger.

er begunde vlêhen gote,
he began to-implore God,

daz er im sîn êre behuote.
that he to-him his honor guarded.

er sprach ‚mir wart nie ze muote,
he spoke ‚to-me was never in mind,

daz ich ein man iht entsæze,
that I a man at-all feared,

swie vil er sich vermæze.
however much he himself boasted.

ouch möht mîn vrowe wol jehen,
also might my lady well say,

die wir hie gegenwertic sehen,
whom we here present see,

daz ich wær ein hellezage.
that I were a hell-coward.

geloubent mir daz ich iu sage,
believe me what I to-you tell,

ê ich entwîche einen fuoz,
before I give-way one foot,

daz ich ê zwâre sterben muoz.‘
that I rather truly die must.‘

Wâlwein den helm ûf bant
Walwein the helm up bound

und nam ouch sînen schilt zehant:
and took also his shield at-once:

ze strît er sich bereite.
for fight he himself prepared.

sîn vîent ouch niht beite,
his foe also not waited,

er enwarnete sich dergegen.
he unless-prepared himself there-against.

von nîtlîchen sporslegen
from hateful spur-strokes

begundens d’ors biuschen.
began-they the-horses to-beat.

dô liezens dar riuschen
then let-they thither rush

mit erbolgenme muote.
with angered mind.

die degen alsô guote,
the thanes so good,

diu sper si vaste stâchen
the spears they firmly stabbed
durch die schilte daz si brâchen
through the shields that they broke
und zersprizzen ze unmâzen.
and splintered beyond measure.
diu ros in ouch gesâzen
the horses to-them also sat
ûf die hehsen dernider.
upon the hocks there-down.
schire wârens ûf wider,
quickly were-they up again,
als si ir herren leiten.
as them their lords led.
die ritter niene beiten,
the knights not-at-all waited,
si begunden sich sêre houwen.
they began themselves sorely to-hew.
daz erbarmet die vrouwen,
that pitied the lady,
wan si nîtlîche riten
for they hatefully rode
und mit sölhem muote striten,
and with such mind fought,
als in beiden wære
as-if to-them both were
der lîp ze nihte mære.
the life to nothing worth.
ouch buten si die schilte dar
also offered they the shields thither
und zerhiwen die sô gar,
and hewed-apart them so wholly,
daz si an in kûme gehiengen.
that they on them scarcely hung.

manegen slac si enpfiengen.
many-a blow they received.

unlange si sich sûmden:
not-long they themselves delayed:

diu ros von müede schûmden
the horses from weariness foamed

mêre dan si wærn gewon:
more than they were wont:

dô erbeizten si dervon
then dismounted they there-from

und liufen beide ein ander an,
and ran both one another at,

Wâlwein und der küene man,
Walwein and the bold man,

den des kampfes niht verdrôz.
whom of-the combat not irked.

krûtes wart diu erde blôz,
of-herb became the earth bare,

wan si vertrâtenz in den hert,
for they trampled-it into the soil,

her slahende und hinwert,
hither striking and thither,

dô si ein ander umbe triben,
when they one another about drove,

wan si den swerten niht entliben,
for they the swords not spared,

diu si in den handen truogen.
which they in the hands bore.

si stâchen unde sluogen
they stabbed and struck

ein ander nîtlîche.
one another hatefully.

Wâlwein der tugende rîche,
Walwein the of-virtues rich,

der gevorhte nie sô sêre
he feared never so sorely

sîner weltlîchen êre:
for-his worldly honor:

er vaht ein teil mit zwîfelslegen.
he fought a part with doubt-blows.

do begunde der junge zuo legen:
then began the young-one to lay-on:

sich iteniuwete sîn kraft.
itself renewed his strength.

er sluoc mit sölher degenschaft
he struck with such thane-ship

ûf die herten ringe,
upon the hard rings,

als fiurîn urspringe
as-if fiery springs

dâ wæren ensprungen.
there were sprung.

von den helmen drungen
from the helms pressed

di geneister, wan er balde vaht.
the sparks, for he quickly fought.

dô si iezuo striten in aller maht,
when they now fought in all might,

dô liuf zuo in ein garzûn.
then ran to them a page.

scharlât was sîn schaprûn
scarlet was his hood

und was in alle wîs sîn cleit
and was in all ways his garment

als eins hübschen knappen, sô man seit;
as a courtly squire's, as one says;

wîz hantschuohe, niwer huot.
white gloves, new hat.

er sprach ze den helden alsô guot
he spoke to the heroes so good

,ich enwil enwedern ûz scheiden,
,I will neither out part,

wan ich gebiut iu beiden
for I command to-you both

von den besten frowen, die nu lebent,
by the best ladies, who now live,

den guote liute lop gebent,
to-whom good people praise give,

daz ir daz vehten lâzent stân,
that you the fighting let stand,

des ir vil hânt getân:
of-which you much have done:

wan mæzic lob dâ von geschiht,
for moderate praise there from happens,

sô ez niht wan einer siht
when it not but one sees

in dirre wilden wüeste.
in this wild wilderness.

getorste ich unde müeste,
dared I and must,

sô valscht ich iuch vil sêre.
so would-blame I you very sorely.

welt ir prîs und êre
(if)-want you prize and honor

und grôzȩ manheit bejagen,
and great manhood win,

sô wil ich iu ein mære sagen,
so will I to-you a tale tell,

wâ ir des vil mugent begân:
where you of-that much may do:

beidiu stechen unde slân,
both stabbing and striking,

des werdent ir vil wol bereit
of-that become you very well furnished

nâch ritterlîcher sælikheit:
after knightly blessedness:

und ist ein lobelich getât,
and is a praiseworthy deed,

swâ man iht guotes begât,
wherever one aught of-good does,

daz ez wol mugent schouwen
that it well may behold

ritter unde vrouwen.
knights and ladies.

hœrent wi ich daz meine.
hear how I that mean.

ichn sagez iu niht aleine:
I tell-it to-you not alone:

unser sint wol hundert gesant
of-us are well hundred sent

allenthalben in diu lant
everywhere into the lands

nâch guoten rittern unde fromen.
for good knights and valiant.

einen turnei hât genomen
a tournament has taken

der künic Lôt von Johenîs
the king Lot of Johenis

wider Gurnemanz den fürsten wîs,
against Gurnemanz the prince wise,

einen tiurlîchen degen.
a precious thane.

si hânt sich beide des verpflegen,
they have themselves both of-that pledged,

daz si den turnei wellen wern.
that they the tournament will hold.

ir enweder mac enbern
of-them neither can forgo

drîer tûsent ritter oder mêr,
three thousand knights or more,

ân ander wîgande hêr,
without other fighters noble,

die ûf minne und hôhen muot
who upon love and high spirit

zinsent lîp unde guot:
pay-tribute body and goods:

der wirt wætlich manic schar.
of-them becomes likely many-a troop.

der künic Artûs kumpt ouch dar
the king Arthur comes also there

mit allen di er gewinnen mac.
with all whom he win may.

swer ie turneie pflac
whoever ever tourneying practiced

oder nu lebet in ritters namen,
or now lives in knight's name,

der mac sich unmæzlîche schamen,
he may himself beyond-measure shame,

swenne er disen hof verlît.
when he this court misses.

ob ir guote liute sît,
if you good people are,

sô scheident iuch ûf selhen wân
so part you upon such hope

dar nâch als i'u gesaget hân.'
there after as I-you told have.'

Do er alsus gesagete,
When he thus said,

Wâlwein der unverzagete
Walwein the undaunted

der antwurt im vil schône
he answered to-him very beautifully

‚nâch guoter wîbe lône
‚after good women's reward

wil ich gewerp immer hân
will I striving ever have

und wil mîn vehten lâzen stân.
and will my fighting let stand.

sît ich sô tiure bin besworn
since I so dearly am adjured

bî allen vrowen wol geborn,
by all ladies well born,

so verdient ich ungern iren haz.‘
so would-deserve I unwillingly their hatred.‘

der vremde ritter sprach ouch daz
the strange knight spoke also that

‚swaz mîn her Wâlwein tuot,
‚whatever my lord Walwein does,

der ist sô hübsch und sô guot,
he is so courtly and so good,

des volge ich, wan daz ist reht.‘
that follow I, for that is right.‘

dô vrâgten si den hübschen kneht,
then asked they the courtly squire,

daz er in liezе werden schîn,
that he to-them let become seen,

wâ der turnei solte sîn.
where the tournament should be.

er sprach ‚merkent waz ich sage:
he spoke ‚mark what I say:

von dem næhsten mântage
from the next Monday

dar nâch über drî wochen
there after over three weeks

ist der turnei gesprochen
is the tournament spoken

ûf den Gebannenen clê
upon the Banned Clover

bî der niwen stat ze Djoflê.
by the new city at Djofle.

ich sag iu von der selben maten.
I tell to-you of the same meadow.

dâ vindet menlich sînen gaten
there finds everyone his mate

swes sô man tuon wil,
whatever so one do will,

beidiu ze ernst und ze spil.
both in earnest and in play.

vehten, rennen, springen,
fighting, racing, leaping,

loufen, schirmen, ringen,
running, fencing, wrestling,

zabeln unde kugelspil,
backgammon and ball-play,

rotten, gîgen, harpfen vil,
rotes, fiddles, harps many,

und krâm allerhande
and wares of-all-kinds

von alder welte lande,
from all-the world's lands,

daz vint man tegelîches dâ,
that finds one daily there,

mêr dan iender anderswâ:
more than anywhere elsewhere:

des ist der turnei dar geleit.
for-that is the tournament there laid.

da ist aller slahte hübscheit.
there is of-all kinds courtliness.

daz velt ist breit unde sleht.
the field is broad and smooth.

dar kumpt manic guot kncht
there comes many-a good fellow

durch lop und ûf gelückes wân.
for praise and upon luck's hope.

sît ich mîn hern Wâlwein funden hân,
since I my lord Walwein found have,

sô bin ich wol heime.
so am I well at-home.

daz ich in sô lancseime
that I him so late

hân erkant, daz ist mir zorn:
have known, that is to-me anger:

wan ezn wart nie ritter geborn
for it was never knight born

an den êren alsô stæte,
in the honors so steadfast,

der sô gerne wol getæte.'
who so gladly well did.'

Dirre betschelier gemeit
This bachelor joyful

hât die ritter bereit
has the knights furnished

mære maneger hande.
tidings of-many kinds.

Wâlwein sich des mande,
Walwein himself of-that reminded,

und was sîn laden aber grôz.
and was his inviting again great.

er bat der vrowen vartgenôz,
he begged the lady's journey-companion,

daz si gesellen wæren
that they comrades were

unde niht verbæren
and not forwent

den turnei und die ritterschaft.
the tournament and the knighthood.

‚diu rede ist unendehaft'
‚the speech is fruitless'

sprach der kindische helt:
spoke the childlike hero:

‚ob ir mirs gelouben welt,
‚if you me-it believe will,

so enmac ich ze disen zîten
so may I at these times

mit iu niht gerîten.
with you not ride.

daz enpfâhent niht für unwert.
that take not for unworthiness.

swes anders iwer wille gert,
whatever else your will desires,

des sint ir an mir bereit
of-that are you in me ready

durch iwer grôze frümikheit.
for your great valor.

ich sol iu dienen unz ich leben
I shall to-you serve while I live

und wil iu mîne triwe geben,
and will to-you my faith give,

der êren pfant daz meiste,
of-the honors pledge the greatest,

daz ich iu gerne leiste
that I to-you gladly perform

gesellenclîche stæte.
comradely steadfastness.

ob ich mîn dinc hæte
if I my affair had

dar nâch gesetzet als ich sol,
there after set as I shall,

so enmöht mir nimmer sô wol
so might to-me never so well

geschehen als daz ich mit iu rite
happen as that I with you rode

unde niht des vermite,
and not of-that avoided,

des ir an mich muoten.‘
which you of me desire.‘

sus wurben sie guoten
thus strove they good

mit reiner gepflihte.
with pure obligation.

als dô Wâlwein ze nihte
when then Walwein to nothing

enfromet sîn langiu bete,
availed his long request,

vil hübschlîchen er tete.
very courtly he did.

do er in mit deheinen dingen
when he him with no things

ze Karidôl mohte bringen,
to Karidol might bring,

do erbôt erm michel êre
then offered he-him great honor

und ouch der vrowen hêre.
and also the lady noble.

mit minnen schiet er von in dan
with love parted he from them away

und seite von dem vremden man
and told of the strange man

vil lobelîcher mære,
very praiseworthy tidings,

daz er der tiurste ritter wære,
that he the most-precious knight were,

ân alle karge liste,
without all stingy cunning,

den er iendert lebendic wiste.
whom he anywhere living knew.

XI · THE GREEN KNIGHT

He rides home with Ade, where her father gives up his hatred, and then resolves to see the tournament; Ade equips him, gives him her brother Diepalt as his squire, and rides along herself. In green arms he goes out on the first evening, against Diepalt's advice, toward Arthur's men: Keiin mocks him and is thrown into a mire, and Iwan de Nonel and the margrave of the Lile follow him to the ground. Diepalt leads off their horses, and Erec comes against him.

Des wunderte balde
At-that wondered greatly

beidiu junge und alde,
both young and old,

man und wîp gelîche,
man and woman alike,

in des künec Artûses rîche,
in the king Arthur's realm,

daz er niht wolde schouwen
that he not would behold

ritter unde vrouwen,
knights and ladies,

die zem hôhsten prîse wârn behart.
who to-the highest prize were confirmed.

durch nieman liez er sîne vart,
for no-one left he his course,

ê er mit der vrowen heim reit.
before he with the lady home rode.

dâ schein wol sîn sælikheit,
there shone well his blessedness,

als ich iuch berihten sol.
as I you inform shall.

man enpfienc in inneclîchen wol
one received him inwardly well

und bôt ez im michels baz.
and offered it to-him much better.

der vrowen vater liez al den haz:
the lady's father left all the hatred:

er tet im durch der tohter bete
he did to-him for the daughter's request

lîp guot und swaz er hete.
body goods and whatever he had.

des leibt der gast ân argen zorn,
of-that remained the guest without evil anger,

wan er was sælic geborn.
for he was blessed born.

man fuor im senfteclîchen mite.
one fared him gently with.

dô er gesach den lantsite,
when he saw the land-custom,

dô marct ern alze guote.
then marked he-it all-too good.

eines tages wart im ze muote,
one day became to-him in mind,

daz er den turnei wolte sehen.
that he the tournament would see.

sîner vrowen muost er des verjehen.
to-his lady must he of-that confess.

in rou daz er niht was geriten
him rued that he not was ridden

durch hern Wâlweines biten.
for lord Walwein's begging.

ze der reise gert er stiure:
for the journey desired he aid:

diu wart im untiure.
it became to-him not-dear.

im gewan diu vrowe wol gemuot
for-him got the lady well minded

zwei stolziu ros unde guot
two proud horses and good

zuo dem sîm daz er dâ reit.
to the his which he there rode.

fünf unt zweinzic knappen wol bereit,
five and twenty squires well ready,

der enmoht er niht enbern,
of-them could he not forgo,

mit starken wol gevarten spern.
with strong well colored spears.

der helt bedâhte sich enzît.
the hero bethought himself in-time.

neizwie manegen samît
I-know-not-how much samite

und rîche zerunge
and rich provisions

gwan im diu vrowe junge,
got for-him the lady young,

wan er ir ze herzen lac.
for he to-her at heart lay.

vrowe Ade sîn vil wol pflac
lady Ade of-him very well took-care

beidiu spât unde fruo.
both late and early.

siu schict im ouch ir bruoder zuo:
she sent him also her brother to:

der was geheiȥen Diepalt.
he was called Diepalt.

swaȥ uns von knappen ist gezalt,
whatever to-us of squires is told,

daȥ ist wider in ein wint.
that is against him a wind.

er was ein wîse hübschez kint,
he was a wise courtly child,

mit manegen tugenden behaft,
with many virtues endowed,

wol gezogen und êrhaft.
well bred and honorable.

ze Britân was im wol kunt.
in Britain was to-him well known.

er was ouch ze maneger stunt
he was also at many-a time

bî grôȥen turneien gesîn.
by great tournaments been.

in zôch der milte Buroîn,
him raised the generous Buroin,

der herzog von dem Wîȥen sê.
the duke of the White lake.

dâ von wist er künste mê
there from knew he skills more

dan dehein sîn genôȥ.
than any his peer.

den knappen lützel verdrôȥ.
the squire little irked.

er endiente vaste
he served firmly

dem ellenden gaste,
the exiled guest,

der mit sîner swestr geriten kam.
who with his sister ridden came.

swes in ze habenne gezam,
whatever to-him to have befitted,

des gewan der vremde ritter vil,
of-that got the strange knight much,

beidiu ze ernst und ze spil.
both in earnest and in play.

Nu nâhete balde der tac,
Now neared quickly the day,

ûf den der turnei gelac
on which the tournament lay

mit rîcher gastunge.
with rich lodging.

dô sprach Diepalt der junge
then spoke Diepalt the young

zuo dem lieben herren sîn
to the dear lord his

‚nu sît ir nâch dem willen mîn
‚now are you after the will mine

und nâch mîm wâne harte wol
and after my belief very well

bereit, als ein ritter sol:
ready, as a knight shall:

des sul wir rîten nu zestunt.
therefore shall we ride now at-once.

mir ist der wec wol kunt.
to-me is the way well known.

es ist zît, welt ir den turnei wern.
it is time, (if)-will you the tournament hold.

do enwolt vrowe Ade niht enbern,
then would lady Ade not forgo,

siu enfüer mit ir gesellen.
she unless-fared with her comrade.

durch waz solt ich iu zellen,
for what should I to-you tell,

wie lange se wâren under wegen?
how long they were on way?

si kômen dâ si manegen degen
they came where they many-a thane

funden mit übermuot.
found with arrogance.

maneger pavelûne huot
of-many-a pavilion top

sâhens vor in schînen.
saw-they before them shine.

der künec Lôt mit den sînen
the king Lot with the his

der hete des veldes vil belegen
he had of-the field much occupied

unde het sich des bewegen,
and had himself of-that resolved,

daz im nieman möhte widerstân.
that to-him no-one might withstand.

diu stât, von der ich ê hân
the city, of which I before have

geseit, Djoflê diu rîche,
told, Djofle the rich,

in der lac schallenclîche
in it lay noisily

Gurnemanz mit sînen gomen.
Gurnemanz with his men.

im was manic ritter komen,
to-him was many-a knight come,

muotwillære und gesellen.
volunteers and comrades.

von dem künec Artûse lânt iu zellen
of the king Arthur let to-you tell

und von den sînen, der er pflac.
and of the his, of-whom he took-care.

ûf eime schœnen bühel er lac,
upon a beautiful hill he lay,

einsît an dem velde.
aside on the field.

ez schein an sîm gezelde
it shone in his tent

sîn tugentlîchiu hôhvart.
his virtuous pride.

swaz uns ie gesaget wart
whatever to-us ever told was

von pavelûne rîcheit,
of pavilions' richness,

so endorfte mit der wârheit
so could with the truth

nie kein bezzere werden
never any better become

geworht ûf al der erden.
wrought upon all the earth.

Dô sich der hof mêrte,
When itself the court increased,

Diebalt für kêrte
Diepalt ahead turned

zeime sînem kunden.
to-an his acquaintance.

er gewan ze den selben stunden
he got at the same hours

ein herberge inme palas,
a lodging in-the palace,

der vornen in der bürge was,
which in-front in the castle was,

ze gemache in alle wîs gelegen.
for comfort in all ways situated.

dâ erbeizte unser degen
there dismounted our thane

und diu vrowe wol getân.
and the lady well made.

ir sult daz wizzen sunder wân,
you shall that know without doubt,

ir reise enwær niht guot vermiten.
their journey were not well avoided.

nu ist Diepalt ûz geriten
now is Diepalt out ridden

und vrâgete mære schône.
and asked tidings nicely.

dô was ez nâch der nône.
then was it after the nones.

engegen der vespereide
toward the vesper-time

riten über jene heide
rode over yonder heath

dort zwêne, dâ her drî.
there two, there hither three.

etslich tôre was dâ bî
some fool was there by

und manege die des gerden,
and many who of-that desired,

daz si âne wolten werden
that they without would become

ir sper gefuoclîchen.
of-their spears fittingly.

do begunde wider strîchen
then began back to-sweep

Diepalt mit sînen mæren.
Diepalt with his tidings.

ern mohte niht erværen
he could not frighten

sînen herren vermezzen,
his lord bold,

wan er was ûf gesezzen,
for he was up sat,

dô in belanget der zît.
when him longed for-the time.

er het ein grüenen samît
he had a green samite

ze einer banier gemaht.
into a banner made.

mit dem selben was bedaht
with the same was covered

ouch sîn ros dem küenen.
also his horse for-the bold-one.

er het ein krâmschilt grüenen
he had a shop-shield green

durch die unkünde genomen.
for the unknownness taken.

nu sach er Diepalden komen:
now saw he Diepalt come:

dem begegent er an der strâze,
him met he on the road,

mit knappen guoter mâze,
with squires of-good measure,

die etwaz wolten bejagen.
who something would win.

der knappe begunde im sagen
the squire began to-him to-tell

von den geselleschefteⁿ.
of the companies.

2880 ‚irn sulnt iuch niht beheftenˌ
‚you shall yourselves not engage,

ê daz irz allez hânt bekort.
before that you-it all have tested.

der künic Artûs lît dort
the king Arthur lies there

mit al der massenîe sîn.
with all the household his.

di vermîdent, dêst der rât mîn:
them avoid, that-is the counsel mine:

2885 wan dâ ist kraft und manheit.‘
for there is strength and manhood.‘

der vremde helt dô für sich reit
the strange hero then before himself rode

dar im was widerrâten.
where to-him was dissuaded.

nu losent, wie si im tâten.
now listen, how they to-him did.

Als in diu massenîe ersach,
When him the household saw,

2890 Keiîn güfteclîchen sprach
Keiin boastfully spoke

‚ob irs alle wellent jehen,
‚if you-it all will say,

sô hân ich einen gouch ersehen,
so have I a fool seen,

der gegen uns ûf warf sîn sper.
who toward us up threw his spear.

nu tuont ein wênic des ich ger,
now do a little of-that I desire,

büezt mir mînen gelust
atone me my desire

und erloubent mir die êrsten just.
and allow me the first joust.

ich wil den tumben bestân.
I will the foolish-one withstand.

lânt mich daz ros vor ûz hân.
let me the horse before out have.

swenn ichz im abe gewinne,
when I-it from-him off win,

ich teile dan mit minne
I share then with love

sîn harnasch und swaz er hât.‘
his harness and whatever he has.‘

di gesellen lobten die getât
the comrades praised the deed

und heten gerne doch gesehen,
and had gladly yet seen,

wær im ein unêre geschehen,
were to-him a dishonor happened,

wan er sich spottes an nam,
for he himself mockery on took,

der nie stætem man gezam.
which never steadfast man befitted.

Her Keiîn ûf sîn ors gesaz
Lord Keiin upon his steed sat

und hiu ez ie baz unde baz.
and hewed it ever better and better.

er vorht, der vremde wancte,
he feared, the stranger flinched,

der im doch engegen sprancte.
who to-him yet against spurred.

er stach hern Keiînen sô,
he stabbed lord Keiin so,

daz im die füeze harte hô
that to-him the feet very high

ûf ze berge kaften
up to mountain gaped

und dem zalehaften
and to-the talkative-one

daz houbet gein der erde fuor.
the head toward the earth fared.

ez was ein horwigez muor,
it was a miry marsh,

dâ diu just zem êrsten geschach.
where the joust at-the first happened.

durch des truhsæzen ungemach
for the steward's discomfort

wart ez dâ namelîch erhaben,
became it there especially raised,

wan er viel in einen graben,
for he fell into a ditch,

daz imz hor durch die ringe dranc.
that to-him-the muck through the rings pressed.

beidiu der val und der stanc
both the fall and the stench

heten in getân vil nâch enwiht.
had him made very nearly nothing.

dô lachten von der geschiht
then laughed at the event

alle di ez gesâhen.
all who it saw.

sîn gesellen ouch des jâhen,
his comrades also of-that said,

daz si in des teiles liezen vrî.
that they him of-the share let free.

nu was ouch Diepalt dâ bî,
now was also Diepalt there by,

der wol sîns herren goumde:
who well of-his lord took-heed:

daz frömde ros er zoumde,
the strange horse he bridled,

daz der arcsprechende reit.
which the ill-speaking-one rode.

doch was sumelîchen leit
yet was to-some sorrow

Keiînes schumpfentiure.
Keiin's discomfiture.

ein dietdegen tiure,
a people's-thane precious,

der was hübsch unde snel,
he was courtly and swift,

der hiez Iwân de Nônel,
he was-called Iwan de Nonel,

der kêrte von den sînen dan
he turned from the his away

und rant den jungen ritter an
and rode the young knight at

und fuor ein teil unschône.
and fared a part unhandsomely.

dâ von wart im ze lône,
there from became to-him as reward,

daz in der vremde ritter stach,
that him the strange knight stabbed,

daz man in verre vallen sach
that one him far fall saw

von dem rosse unwerde.
from the horse unworthily.

er kom alsô zer erde,
he came so to-the earth,

als er niht beine hæte.
as-if he not legs had.

dô sprach der êren stæte,
then spoke the of-honors steadfast,

Artûs, der künic rîch,
Arthur, the king rich,

‚dirr ritter wil uns alle gelîch
‚this knight will us all alike

ze grôzeme laster bringen.
to great disgrace bring.

möht im misselingen,
might to-him mis-succeed,

daz wurb ich gern in allen wîs.‘
that would-strive I gladly in all ways.‘

dô sprach der marcgrâve wîs,
then spoke the margrave wise,

des hûs stuont bî der Lîle,
whose house stood by the Lile,

‚mir ist hiut alle wîle
‚to-me is today all while

ditz laster und der schade zorn.
this disgrace and the harm anger.

wir hân zwei guotiu ros verlorn.
we have two good horses lost.

gevâh ich in, diu giltet er.‘
(if)-catch I him, them repays he.‘

dâ mite warf er ûf sîn sper
there with threw he up his spear

und sprancte von den sînen.
and spurred from the his.

dô liez aber schînen
then let again shine

der grüene ritter, wer er was.
the green knight, who he was.

er stach ouch disen ûf daz gras,
he stabbed also this-one onto the grass,

der ê sich dâ übr in vermaz.
who before himself there over him presumed.

Diepalt sîn selbes niene vergaz:
Diepalt his self not-at-all forgot:

als igelîch ritter nider kam,
as each knight down came,

zehant er daz ros nam
at-once he the horse took

und fuort ez balde sînen wec.
and led it quickly his way.

dô daz gesach der milte Erec,
when that saw the generous Erec,

dô tet er als ez im gezam:
then did he as it to-him befitted:

den schilt er ze halse nam
the shield he to neck took

und ein gezimieret sper.
and an adorned spear.

Diepalt brâhte ouch einz dâ her:
Diepalt brought also one there hither:

daz enpfie sîn herre küene.
that received his lord bold.

der schaft was ouch grüene,
the shaft was also green,

dem andern wâfen gelîch.
to-the other weapons like.

dô sprach mennegelîch
then spoke everyone

‚swie ez her nâch ergât,
‚however it here after goes,

dirre grüene ritter hât
this green knight has

daz beste hînaht getân.
the best tonight done.

mac er Erecke vor enthân,
(if)-can he Erec before hold,

entriwen sô ist er niht sô swach,
in-faith so is he not so weak,

alsô in Keiîn ersach.‘
as him Keiin saw.‘

XII · THE WHITE KNIGHT

Erec and the green knight break ten spears and part even, and Walwein tells his companions that this is the famed fighter they have heard of. He captures Maurin and sends him to Ade. Next day he rides in white, joins Count Ritschart of Tumane, whose company has lost twenty men, fells many, takes the duke of Walest for Ade, and helps Ritschart take a hundred and thirty knights, but will not give his name, which he does not know.

Hie mite liezen si diu wort
Here with left they the words

und kaften wider unde vort,
and gaped back and forth,

wie ez ergân solde.
how it happen should.

Erec niht beiten wolde,
Erec not wait would,

wan er grôzer liste wielt.
for he great cunning wielded.

den zoum er zuo ime hielt
the bridle he to himself held

und lie sîn ros ensprungen varn.
and let his horse in-leaps fare.

des begunde der grüene ritter warn
of-that began the green knight to-beware

und was im ernst unde gâch.
and was to-him earnest and hasty.

si kômn ein ander sô nâch,
they came one another so near,

daz si diu sper stâchen
that they the spears stabbed

durch die schilte daz si brâchen
through the shields that they broke

und gesâzen beide vaste.
and sat both firmly.

Erec und dem gaste
to-Erec and to-the guest

brâht man zwei anderiu sper.
brought one two other spears.

den vremden dûhte daz er
the stranger seemed that he

ze sanfte wære dar komen.
too softly were there come.

die zwêne tiurlîche gomen
the two precious men

die begunden justieren,
they began to-joust,

sunder faylieren,
without failing,

biz si zehen sper vertâten
until they ten spears used-up

wider ein ander und doch hâten
against one another and yet had

dar zuo geslagen manegen slac.
there to struck many-a blow.

do enwolt Erec fil de roi Lac
then would Erec fil de roi Lac

dar niht mêre, ist uns geseit.
there not more, is to-us told.

der künic Artûs dô reit
the king Arthur then rode

und sprancte mit den sînen dar.
and spurred with the his thither.

des nam der grüene ritter war
of-that took the green knight heed

und entweich in sîne lezze wider.
and withdrew into his lists back.

mîn her Wâlwein kom sider,
my lord Walwein came afterward,

der ie mit tugenden was behaft.
who ever with virtues was endowed.

er was schowen die ritterschaft.
he was watching the knighthood.

als schiere man in liez enstân,
as soon one him let understand,

wiez sînen gesellen was ergân,
how-it to-his comrades was gone,

des antwurt er zehant
to-that answered he at-once

‚daz ist der selbe wîgant,
‚that is the same fighter,

von dem uns dicke ist gesaget,
of whom to-us often is told,

der sô manegen prîs hât bejaget.
who so many-a prize has won.

ûf der erden lebet niht sîn gelîch:
upon the earth lives not his like:

er ist küene nnd aller sælden rîch.‘
he is bold and of-all blessings rich.‘

Si lobten alle sîne maht.
They praised all his might.

noch dô vor der selben naht
yet then before the same night

bejagete sich der küene
won himself the bold-one

mit sîme schilte grüene
with his shield green

ûf dem velde in alle wîs,
on the field in all ways,

daz er êre unde prîs
that he honor and prize

ze herbergen brâhte
to lodgings brought

und man sîn sît gedâhte
and one of-him afterward thought

ze aller slahte frümikheit.
to all kinds-of valor.

Wâlwein vorschende reit
Walwein searching rode

zuo den vremden gesinden:
to the strange households:

er wolte gerne bevinden
he would gladly find

den helt an tugenden ûz genomen.
the hero in virtues out taken.

swar er danne was komen
wherever he then was come

zuo den rittern, sô sprâchens ie
to the knights, so spoke-they ever

‚er was niuwelingen hie
‚he was newly here

und hât uns grôzen schaden getân.
and has to-us great harm done.

im enkan nieman vor enthân.
him can no-one before hold.

er würket vreislich inban
he works terrible-damage therein

und ist ein unmüeȝec man.
and is an unresting man.

swie ez morgen gevar,
however it tomorrow fares,

er hât vil nâch ir êre gar,
he has very nearly their honor wholly,

die hînaht ûz kâmen
who tonight out came

und schilt ze halse nâmen.'
and shield to neck took.'

Ez was alsô ergangen,
It was so gone,

daz er hete gevangen
that he had captured

niht wan einen stæten helt,
nothing but one steadfast hero,

von dem uns dicke ist gezelt,
of whom to-us often is told,

daz er ein der tiurste wolte sîn,
that he one of-the most-precious would be,

mit den liehten schenkeln her Maurîn.
with the bright thighs lord Maurin.

den vienc er niht wan umbe daz,
him captured he not except for that,

daz man wiste dester baz,
that one knew the better,

daz er mêr wol hete getân.
that he more well had done.

den gevangen sant er sân
the captive sent he at-once

sîner vriundîn reine.
to-his beloved pure.

der gewin was ouch niht kleine,
the gain was also not small,

den sîne knappen nâmen,
which his squires took,

sô die ritter nider kâmen,
when the knights down came,

die ir herre von den rossen stach.
whom their lord from the horses stabbed.

sînen schilt man wol zerhowen sach,
his shield one well hewn saw,

dürkel in manic ende.
pierced in many-a end.

daz der ellende
that the exiled-one

sô manic sper brach enzwei
so many-a spear broke in-two

und doch von dem turnei
and yet from the tournament

mit êren fuor und âne verlust,
with honors fared and without loss,

daz er begie sô manege just,
that he did so many-a joust,

michel wunder dâ geschach,
great wonder there happened,

wan er dâ vor nie gesach
for he there before never saw

vier man mit ein ander strîten.
four men with one another fight.

nu sul wir in lâzen rîten
now shall we him let ride

ze herberge unz morgen fruo,
to lodging until morning early,

und sehent danne waz er tuo.
and see then what he does.

Ze ruowe schuof er sîn gemach.
To rest made he his comfort.

nu merkent rehte wie er sprach
now mark rightly how he spoke

‚sît nieman weiz, wer ich bin,
‚since no-one knows, who I am,

sô ist daz harte wol mîn sin,
so is that very well my mind,

daz ich mîn gewerp nieman sage.
that I my dealing to-no-one tell.

Diepalt, morgen als ez tage,
Diepalt, tomorrow when it dawns,

sô brinc mir einen schilt wîz.
so bring me a shield white.

dar zuo brüeve in allen vlîz
there to prepare in all diligence

ein banier wîz von sîden.
a banner white of silk.

du ensolt daz niht vermîden,
thou shalt that not avoid,

mîn wâfenroc sî alsam.‘
my surcoat be likewise.‘

Diepalt ein wîzen samît nam
Diepalt a white samite took

und macht ein kovertiure guot.
and made a trapping good.

er was hübsch unde fruot,
he was courtly and wise,

wan im êre wol behagete.
for to-him honor well pleased.

morgen als ez tagete,
tomorrow when it dawned,

dô het erz allez bereit
then had he-it all ready

ze rehter gelegenheit
for right arrangement

nâch sînes herren gebote.
after his lord's command.

nu bevalch sich dem rîchen gote
now commended himself to-the rich God

der wîze ritter vrüeje,
the white knight early,

daz er im vor aller müeje
that he to-him before all toil

des tages behuote sîn leben.
of-the day guarded his life.

dar nâch hiez er im geben
there after bade he to-him give

einen turneischen imbîz:
a tourneying meal:

wan im stuont aller sîn vlîz
for to-him stood all his diligence

an justiern und an strîten.
on jousting and on fighting.

er begunde ûz rîten
he began out to-ride

da er sîner ougen wünne sach,
where he his eyes' delight saw,

sô jener disen nider stach.
when that-one this-one down stabbed.

daz was im vil genæme.
that was to-him very agreeable.

wenne der grüene ritter kæme,
when the green knight came,

des warte manic helt gemeit.
of-that waited many-a hero joyful.

der wîze dô niht enbeit,
the white-one then not waited,

er nam dem grüenen gar daz wort
he took from-the green-one wholly the word

und kêrte wider unde vort
and turned back and forth

da er hôrte kroigieren.
where he heard cry-the-crests.

er begunde justieren
he began to-joust

und machte satel lære.
and made saddles empty.

als es vermisset wære,
as-if it missed were,

sô stach er manigen dernider.
so stabbed he many-a-one there-down.

wer solte setzen sich derwider,
who should set himself there-against,

wan sîn gelücke nie vergaz?
for his luck never forgot?

man sprach dem wîzen ritter baz
one spoke of-the white knight better

danne man dâ ieman tete,
than one there of-anyone did,

wan er wol geriten hete.
for he well ridden had.

Er stach manegen ûf daz gras
He stabbed many-a-one onto the grass

und enruohte wer in ûf las.
and cared-not who him up gathered.

ern wolt des morgens nieman vân.
he would of-the morning no-one take.

beidiu an stechen und an slân
both at stabbing and at striking

het er sînen vlîz behart,
had he his diligence kept,

unz er ein teil müede wart.
until he a part weary became.

dô wolt er eine küele vân
then would he a cooling take

und etslîche ruowe hân
and some rest have

und kêrt ûf eine plâne.
and turned onto a plain.

dâ lac von Tumâne
there lay of Tumane

grâve Ritschart ein milter helt.
count Ritschart a generous hero.

hundert ritter ûz erwelt
hundred knights out chosen

die heten under in gesworn
they had among themselves sworn

und in ze herren erkorn,
and him as lord chosen,

daz si under sîner banier riten.
that they under his banner rode.

dise heten alle wol gestriten
these had all well fought

und wârn ouch sêre geslagen.
and were also sorely beaten.

in was in den zwein tagen
to-them was in the two days

gevangen zweinzic ritter abe.
captured twenty knights off.

des was ir vreude und ir habe
of-that was their joy and their property

deste minner, sô si jâhen.
the less, as they said.

als die unsern friunt gesâhen,
when they our friend saw,

daz im daz houbet bar was,
that to-him the head bare was,

dô luodens in an daz gras.
then invited-they him onto the grass.

ûf sprungens alle gelîche
up sprang-they all alike

und schanctn im minneclîche
and poured to-him lovingly

in eime kopfe guoten wîn.
in a cup good wine.

er muost in willekomen sîn,
he must to-them welcome be,

wan si sageten im ze mære,
for they told to-him for tidings,

daz ir rede niht anders wære
that their speech not otherwise were

wan daz si alle mit ir künsten
than that they all with their skills

sînes lîbes wünsten.
of-his body wished.

si sâhn in zwischen den scharn
they saw him between the troops

des morgens ritterlîche varn:
of-the morning knightly fare:

des was ir dienst im gereit.
of-that was their service to-him ready.

schiere was ouch im geseit
quickly was also to-him told

ir schade und ir geverte.
their harm and their course.

dô sprach der unverherte
then spoke the unharmed-one

an lîbe und an den êren
in body and in the honors

‚welt irs iuch niht behêren,
‚(if)-will you-it yourselves not disdain,

sô lânt mich iwern gesellen sîn.
so let me your comrade be.

ich ziuhe ez ûf die sælde mîn,
I pledge it upon the luck mine,

daz ich iu gerne wil gestân.
that I to-you gladly will stand-by.

got lâz ez uns ze heil ergân.‘
God let it to-us to salvation go.‘

Des wârens alle samet vrô.
Of-that were-they all together glad.

grâve Ritschart hiez dô
count Ritschart bade then

ein vremde banier binden an.
a strange banner bind on.

nu sâzen ûf die küene man
now sat up the bold men

und genuzzen ir gesellen:
and enjoyed their comrade:

wan der begunde vellen
for he began to-fell

die vînde strôdicke.
the foes straw-thick.

er sluoc, daz fiures blicke
he struck, that fire's flashes

hôhe von den helmen vlugen.
high from the helms flew.

swâ die sîne hin zugen,
wherever the his thither drew,

dâ zoumdens unde nâmen.
there bridled-they and took.

sô si wider ûz kâmen,
when they back out came,

sô was in spotes âhte
so was to-them of-mockery reckoning

der niht wan einen brâhte.
who nothing but one brought.

er sluoc sô sêre den man,
he struck so sorely the man,

daz er sich lützel versan,
that he himself little understood,

war man in treip oder zôch.
whither one him drove or drew.

den wîzen ritter maneger vlôch,
the white knight many-a-one fled,

der anders küene was genuoc,
who otherwise bold was enough,

wan er sô nîtlîche sluoc.
for he so hatefully struck.

alle ervorhten sie daz.
all feared they that.

des tages im nieman vor gesaz,
of-the day him no-one before sat,

der im ze rosse widerreit,
who to-him on horse rode-against,

niht wan Karjet, sô man uns seit:
nothing but Karjet, as one to-us tells:

der gesaz̧ im zeime stiche.
he sat to-him for-a stab.

wie schiere er von im striche,
how quickly he from him swept,

des endarf nieman vorsche hân.
of-that needs no-one inquiry have.

er enwolte sîn niht mêr bestân.
he would him not more withstand.

daz̧ was ein michel wîsheit.
that was a great wisdom.

als im Karjet entreit,
when from-him Karjet rode-away,

dô bestuont in zehant
then attacked him at-once

ein herzoge wîte erkant,
a duke widely known,

der wolte prîs an im bejagen.
who would prize on him win.

er was von Wâlest, hôrt ich sagen.
he was of Walest, heard I say.

den übersluoc der wîz̧e
him overcame the white-one

und warp mit allem vlîz̧e,
and strove with all diligence,

daz̧ er den fürsten gevienc.
that he the prince captured.

als schiere daz̧ ergienc,
as soon that happened,

den antwurt er sîner vrouwen,
him delivered he to-his lady,

daz̧ si wol möhte schouwen,
that she well might behold,

daz̧ er an si gedæhte.
that he of her thought.

als ez dem âbent næhte,
as it to-the evening neared,

dô schuof der wîze ritter daz,
then brought-about the white knight that,

daz grâve Ritschart fürbaz
that count Ritschart further

über hundert ritter drîzec vie,
over hundred knights thirty captured,

als diu naht ane gie:
as the night on went:

die antwurt man Diepalde,
them delivered one to-Diepalt,

beidiu junge und alde,
both young and old,

durch sînes herren êre.
for his lord's honor.

doch nam er ir niht mêre
yet took he of-them not more

wan als ez guot was getân.
than as it good was done.

di gesellen wolten ouch enstân,
the comrades would also understand,

wer der wîze ritter wære.
who the white knight were.

der recke sprach ‚ditz mære
the warrior spoke ‚this tale

wirt iu sô lîhte niht gesaget.
becomes to-you so easily not told.

morne fruo, als ez taget,
tomorrow early, as it dawns,

kum ich gerne, sol ich leben.
come I gladly, (if)-shall I live.

dâ mite lânt mich got ergeben
there with let me to-God given

und mit iwern hulden rîten.‘
and with your favor ride.‘

die sporn satzt er ze sîten
the spurs set he to sides

und reit ze herbergen.
and rode to lodgings.

daz̧ tet er niht durch bergen
that did he not for hiding

wan daz̧ in dûhte ein schande,
but that to-him seemed a disgrace,

daz̧ ern selbe niht erkande.
that he self not knew.

ern wolt ze rede werden niet.
he would to talk become not.

mit urloube er dannen schiet.
with leave he thence parted.

und wizz̧ent wol, swie gern er vaht,
and know well, however gladly he fought,

er gewan ein wünneclîche naht.
he got a delightful night.

On the third day he rides in red and turns the tournament for Ritschart and his kinsman. He fights Walwein to a draw and captures King Lot, Walwein's father; Arthur's charge cannot save him, and the tournament is broken off. He sends Lot to Ade, and when Arthur and Walwein come to see him he is courteous but will not go with them.

An dem driten tage fruo
On the third day early

dô reit manic banier zuo
then rode many-a banner to

ûf daz velt ze Djoflê.
onto the field at Djofle.

grâve Ritschart, von dem ich seit ê,
count Ritschart, of whom I told before,

der wânde vinden vil bereit
he believed to-find very ready

sîn âbentlîche sælikheit.
his evening's blessedness.

durch daz huop er die ritterschaft
for that raised he the knighthood

mit starker übermüete kraft:
with strong arrogance's strength:

wan im was wol gelungen.
for to-him was well succeeded.

die schilte für sich twungen
the shields before themselves forced

beidiu die sîne und ouch er.
both the his and also he.

si zerstâchen manic sper
they stabbed-to-pieces many-a spear

und riten sô daz nieman baz.
and rode so that no-one better.

dâ von wart im ouch gehaz
there from became to-him also hostile

Wâlweines vater, der künic Lôt.
Walwein's father, the king Lot.

sînen rittern er gebôt
to-his knights he commanded

und bat daz wurde gerochen
and begged that were avenged

daz sime vil abe gebrochen
what they-to-him much off broken

des âbendes hâten.
of-the evening had.

als daz wart gerâten,
when that was counseled,

dô was ir vil die des geswüeren,
then was of-them many who of-that swore,

daz si wânden besnüeren
that they believed to-tie-up

den schädelîchen wîzen degen.
the harmful white thane.

als es dem künege was verpflegen,
when it to-the king was pledged,

des wart ein puneiz erhaben,
of-that became a charge raised,

niht verre von dem burcgraben,
not far from the castle-moat,

des liehte helme wurden schart.
whose bright helms became notched.

do verlôs grâve Ritschart
then lost count Ritschart

sîner geselln ein michel teil:
of-his comrades a great part:

den liez man niht sô vil ein seil:
to-them let one not so much a rope:

des wart der grâve erbliuget.
by-that became the count frightened.

ob uns daz liet niht liuget,
if us the song not lies,

so enthielt sich mit müezikheit
so held-back himself with idleness

der von dem uns ist geseit,
he of whom to-us is told,

des schilt gester wîz was
whose shield yesterday white was

und dâ vor grüene als ein gras.
and there before green as a grass.

der fuorte hiut als er gebôt
he bore today as he commanded

ein banier und einen schilt rôt,
a banner and a shield red,

und ist ander sîn gezoc,
and is other his gear,

kovertiur und wâfenroc,
trapping and surcoat,

ein saben rôt von golde.
a silk red with gold.

dô tet er als er solde:
then did he as he should:

sîner triwe er niht vergaz.
of-his faith he not forgot.

ûf sîn ros er gesaz,
upon his horse he sat,

daz er brâhte von dem mer.
which he brought from the sea.

er reit ûz in daz her,
he rode out into the host,

daz er niht ê erwant,
that he not before stopped,

ê er grâven Ritscharden vant.
before he count Ritschart found.

der claget im sîn ungemach.
he lamented to-him his discomfort.

der rôte ritter dô sprach
the red knight then spoke

‚wol dan! versuochen waz wir megen
‚well away! try what we may

getuon mit stichen und mit slegen.‘
do with stabs and with blows.‘

dâ mite liezens strîchen dar
there with let-they sweep thither

ûf die dickesten schar,
onto the thickest troop,

dâ man die meisten herte vant.
where one the most hardness found.

dâ was der turnei als ein want
there was the tournament as a wall

stênde worden gein in.
standing become against them.

des nâmen grôzen gewin
of-that took great gain

die mit dem rôten ritter riten,
who with the red knight rode,

wan si baltlîche striten,
for they boldly fought,

sô daz die vînde wichen.
so that the foes gave-way.

manegen si bestrichen,
many-a-one they struck,

der sô sêre was geslagen,
who so sorely was beaten,

daz er muoste verzagen.
that he must lose-heart.

Hie vie Ritschart der helt
Here captured Ritschart the hero

ahtzehen ritter ûz erwelt,
eighteen knights out chosen,

und riten aber anderswar.
and rode again elsewhere.

ob ich ez iu gesagen tar,
if I it to-you tell dare,

swâ der degen milde
wherever the thane generous

mit dem rôten schilde
with the red shield

hin mit den sînen sprancte,
thither with the his spurred,

daz her von im wancte
that host from him swerved

als cleine vogele von dem arn:
as small birds from the eagle:

di enwænent niender sich bewarn
they believe nowhere themselves to-guard

ê si erstieben in die hecke.
before they scatter into the hedge.

nnser helt der was ein ecke
our hero he was an edge

und ein guot urliuges tür.
and a good war's door.

swen er gevazte für,
whomever he seized before,

der enwânde nimmer genesen.
he believed never to-survive.

ê ez miter tac mohte wesen,
before it mid day might be,

dô wâren sîne gesellen rîch,
then were his comrades rich,

die êdes grôzen beswîch
who formerly great loss

vor sîner künfte dulten:
before his coming suffered:

vil wol si geschulten
very well they repaid

den nît der nieman lâge wert
the hatred which no-one would-lie worthy

wan der tugende und êren gert.
except who virtues and honors desires.

Nu hœrent, lânt iu zellen
Now hear, let to-you tell

von unserme gesellen.
of our comrade.

der tunierte balde,
he tourneyed quickly,

unz beidiu junge und alde
until both young and old

marcten sîn gebære
marked his bearing

und wurden im gevære.
and became to-him hostile.

des wart dâ schaden vil genomen.
by-that became there harm much taken.

nu was ein ander fürste komen
now was an other prince come

durch gewin ûf die selben maten:
for gain onto the same meadow:

der het gerech ze allen staten
he had ready at all places

zweihundert ritter wol gemuot:
two-hundred knights well minded:

er selbe was ein degen guot
he self was a thane good

und was des grâven künne.
and was of-the count's kin.

dô er gesach die wünne
when he saw the delight

und die grôzen sælikheit,
and the great blessedness,

swa der rôte ritter hin reit,
wherever the red knight thither rode,

daz ez allez was verlorn,
that it all was lost,

dô reit der fürste wol geborn
then rode the prince well born

zuo dem grâven unde baten,
to the count and begged-him,

daz si stüenden ze staten
that they stood at service

ein ander mit ir banieren zwein.
to-one another with their banners two.

dô wart des Ritschart enein,
then became of-that Ritschart agreed,

daz ez in daz beste wære.
that it to-them the best were.

wan ez was ein ellich mære
for it was a common tale

und retten al die ritter daz,
and said all the knights that,

daz ez der vremde tæte baz
that it the stranger did better

dan ieman ûf dem velde,
than anyone upon the field,

und vermârt in ouch Melde,
and made-famous him also Report,

daz ez allez ein man solte sîn
that it all one man should be

der in den tagen allen drîn
who in the days all three

sô manegen het erschellet.
so many-a-one had felled.

nu hât er sich gesellet
now has he himself joined

und rît den vînden nâhen bî.
and rides to-the foes near by.

dâ zoum in derder from sî.
there bridle him he-who valiant be.

Hie wart gestochen und geslagen,
Here was stabbed and struck,

daz man ez lange möhte sagen.
that one it long might tell.

si gemischten sich in beide sît.
they mingled themselves on both sides.

ûf gewin und ûf nît
upon gain and upon hatred

vlizzen sich die snellen.
strove themselves the swift-ones.

man hôrte lûte schellen
one heard loudly clash

slege und schefte brechen
blows and shafts break

und sach dernider stechen
and saw there-down stab

manegen tiurlîchen degen.
many-a precious thane.

diu ros liufen an den wegen
the horses ran on the ways

irre und herren lære.
astray and of-lords empty.

ich sage iu daz ze mære,
I tell to-you that for tidings,

daz unser helt bejagete
that our hero won

den prîs von deiz tagete
the prize from when-it dawned

unz ez verre naht wart;
until it far night became;

und vie grâve Ritschart
and captured count Ritschart

guoter knehte als vil,
of-good knights so many,

daz ich ez iuch verswîgen wil:
that I it you keep-silent will:

man geloubt mirs lîhte niht.
one believes me-it easily not.

nu gefuocte sich daz von geschiht,
now fitted itself that by chance,

daz Wâlwein der küene man
that Walwein the bold man

und unser vriunt ein ander an
and our friend one another at

geranden unde stâchen,
rode and stabbed,

daz in diu sper brâchen,
that to-them the spears broke,

und vâhten wol. des was niht lanc,
and fought well. that was not long,

ê man die degen underdranc.
before one the thanes pressed-apart.

des muoste maneger komen ze nôt.
of-that must many-a-one come to distress.

dô sach der milte künec Lôt,
then saw the generous king Lot,

wie sêre der rôte ritter sluoc.
how sorely the red knight struck.

sîn baldez ellen in dar truoc,
his bold valor him there carried,

daz er ein sper ûf im zerstach.
that he a spear upon him shattered.

der vremde sich alsô gerach,
the stranger himself so avenged,

deiz im niht stuont vergebene.
that-it to-him not stood in-vain.

er marct in ûz vil ebene
he marked him out very exactly

und greif im in den zoum sîn.
and grasped to-him by the bridle his.

hie solt êrst werden schîn,
here should first become seen,

wie lieb ein frumer herre sî.
how dear a valiant lord be.

die sîne wârn im nâhe bî,
the his were to-him near by,

mit triwen, âne valschen wanc.
with faith, without false wavering.

dô wart der grœste gedranc,
then became the greatest throng,

dâ von ich ie gehôrte sagen.
there of I ever heard tell.

welch ritter solte dâ verzagen,
which knight should there lose-heart,

dô der künic was in nôt?
when the king was in distress?

dô wart von bluote harte rôt
then became with blood very red

manic ros unde man.
many-a horse and man.

der vremde ritter began
the strange knight began

slahen sô vreislîchen,
to-strike so terribly,

daz im muose entwîchen
that from-him must give-way

an swen er sich bekêrte.
at whomever he himself turned.

sîn sælikheit in êrte,
his blessedness him honored,

daz ez im sô wol ergienc,
that it to-him so well went,

daz er Wâlweines vater gevienc
that he Walwein's father captured

und zôh in von den sînen dan.
and drew him from the his away.

als daz der êren gernde man,
when that the of-honors desiring man,

der künic Artûs bevant,
the king Arthur perceived,

dô kom er rûschende zehant
then came he rushing at-once

und begund die unser bestân.
and began the ours to-attack.

dô wart dâ êrst wol getân.
then became there first well done.

wan iu ist ofte geseit,
for to-you is often told,

wie wol diu massenîe reit,
how well the household rode,

der Artûs der künic wielt.
which Arthur the king governed.

doch dês al ein, hie behielt
yet that-is all one, here kept

unser helt daz beste wort,
our hero the best word,

wan er vil het gewort
for he much had wrought

über al die ritterschaft.
over all the knighthood.

er tet sô vil mit sîner kraft,
he did so much with his strength,

daz sô maneger wart geletzet,
that so many-a-one became hurt,

daz dervon wart ûf gesetzet
that there-from became up set

der turnei, der noch siben tage
the tournament, which yet seven days

solte weren nâch der sage,
should last after the saying,

als er was ûz gesprenget.
as it was out proclaimed.

waz touc daz mære gelenget?
what avails the tale lengthened?

diu ritterschaft sich zerlie.
the knighthood itself dispersed.

nu gehôrtent ir nie
now heard you never

sô manege vorsche sô dâ wart,
so many inquiries as there became,

wâ der grâve Ritschart
where the count Ritschart

und der guoter ritter wære.
and the good knight were.

dô saz der êrbære
then sat the honorable-one

in des grâven zelde.
in the count's tent.

er enwolte von dem velde
he would from the field

in die stat ê niht komen,
into the city before not come,

ê daz er hæte vernomen
before that he had heard

mære maneger hande.
tidings of-many kinds.

den künic Lôten er sande.
the king Lot he sent.

sîner vrowen durch ir êre.
to-his lady for her honor.

er twalte dannoch mêre,
he tarried yet more,

unz in gesach manic schar.
until him saw many-a troop.

durch hübschen ritens alle dar
for courtliness rode-they all there

als zeiner juncvrouwen.
as to-a maiden.

der künic Artûs muos in schouwen
the king Arthur must him behold

ze diu daz ern erkande,
to that that he-him knew,

den helt, der sich niht nande.
the hero, who himself not named.

Wâlwein mit sîme herren reit
Walwein with his lord rode

und manic ritter gemeit:
and many-a knight joyful:

die wurden alle enpfangen wol.
they became all received well.

swaz man von spæhen mæren sol
whatever one of curious tales shall

deweder singen oder sagen,
either sing or tell,

der muoz ich vil von in verdagen,
of-them must I much of them keep-silent,

wan einz, daz lânt iu zellen:
except one, that let to-you tell:

unserme gesellen
to-our comrade

dem bôt man grôze werdikheit.
to-him offered one great worthiness.

Wâlweine wære ouch liep geseit,
to-Walwein were also gladly told,

war sîn vater wære komen.
whither his father were come.

‚geselle, sît got willekomen!
‚comrade, be to-God welcome!

ich zeige'n iu vor dirre naht'
I show-him to-you before this night'

sprach der helt der gerne vaht.
spoke the hero who gladly fought.

si wâren beide ein ander vrô.
they were both of-one another glad.

der künic Artûs luot in dô
the king Arthur invited him then

hin heim, den vremden jungelinc.
thither home, the strange youth.

‚herre, mir stânt mîniu dinc
‚lord, to-me stand my affairs

sô niender' sprach der helt balt.
so nowhere' spoke the hero bold.

dô wære in allen liep gezalt,
then were to-them all gladly told,
wie ez umb sîn sache möhte gestân:
how it about his matter might stand:
wan er was sô wol getân
for he was so well made
und schœner zühte rîche
and of-beautiful breeding rich
und gebârte minneclîche,
and bore-himself lovingly,
daz im ze keinen stunden
that from-him at no hours
die liute niene kunden
the people not-at-all could
verzîhen der ougen.
withdraw the eyes.
über lût noch tougen
over loud nor secretly
gewarp er valschlîchen nie,
strove he falsely never,
dâ von ez im doch wol ergie.
there from it to-him yet well went.

At Ade's lodging Walwein is received, Ade gives him back his father and the other captives, and the two knights part as friends. He rides toward Pluris with Ade and Diepalt and comes to Schatel le mort, whose enchantment turns the bold to cowards; its lord is Mabuz, the sea-fairy's son, for whom she wants Iweret killed. Mabuz unhorses him and throws him down by the hair; Ade, ashamed, leaves him. In Mabuz's prison he grows foul and cowardly until Iweret's men burn Mabuz's villages and Mabuz sends him out as the worst of his prisoners.

Mîne friunt ich niht verhil, 3475
My friends I not hide,

daz unser helt rîten wil
that our hero ride will

ze sîner vrowen in die stat.
to his lady into the city.

zehant er im gebieten bat
at-once he to-him to-command begged

die ritter al gelîche
the knights all alike

und schiet er minneclîche 3480
and parted he lovingly

von in, als ez im gezam.
from them, as it to-him befitted.

hern Wâlweinen er zuo im nam
lord Walwein he to himself took

und fuort in dar, daz er des jach,
and led him there, that he of-that said,

daz er nie mêr gesach
that he never more saw

sô stolze kemenâden. 3485
so proud chambers.

dâ vant er vrowen Aden
there found he lady Ade

und Maurîn und den herzogen
and Maurin and the duke

und sînen vater wol gezogen.
and his father well bred.

der saz bî sîner vriundîn:
he sat by his beloved:

diu enpfienc wol den gesellen sîn.
she received well the comrade his.

ich endarf iu sagen niht mêre,
I need to-you tell not more,

siu bôt im al die êre,
she offered to-him all the honor,

die siu kunde erdenken:
which she could devise:

siu hiez im balde schenken
she bade to-him quickly pour

unde satzt in zuo ir nider:
and set him to her down:

siu gap im sînen vater wider
she gave to-him his father back

und die gevangen beide.
and the captives both.

des strîtes an der heide
of-the fight on the heath

des wart ouch dâ vergezzen niet.
of-that was also there forgotten not.

Wâlwein sô von ir schiet,
Walwein so from her parted,

daz im geviel nie vrowe baz.
that to-him pleased never lady better.

sîn geselle claget ouch im daz,
his comrade lamented also to-him that,

waz im ze Plûrîs was geschehen.
what to-him at Pluris was happened.

er begunde im offenlîchen jehen,
he began to-him openly to-say,

daz er durch daz dar wolte varn.
that he for that there would fare.

er sprach ‚wil mich got bewarn,
he spoke ‚(if)-will me God guard,

daz ich mîns willen iht gefrume,
that I my will at-all accomplish,

sô wizzest wol, daz ich kume
so know well, that I come

und sueche dich swâ du bist,
and seek thee wherever thou art,

wan mir wol ze muot ist,
for to-me well in mind is,

daz ich dir nihtes abe gê.‘
that I from-thee in-nothing off go.‘

ir engehôrtent nie mê
you heard never more

so getriuwelîchez scheiden
so faithful parting

als dâ von in beiden.
as there from them both.

si retten von ein ander wol,
they spoke of one another well,

als ein getriwer friunt sol:
as a faithful friend shall:

wan friuntschaft ze ougen gewant
for friendship to eyes turned

und danne wenken zehant
and then waver at-once

sô man des man niene siht,
when one the man not-at-all sees,

daz ist ein lasterlich geschiht.
that is a shameful happening.

ditz wart von in vil wol vermiten.
this was by them very well avoided.

war die anderen riten,
whither the others rode,

daz ist ze sagenne ze lanc,
that is to tell too long,

wan unser helt, dem wol gelanc,
except our hero, to-whom well succeeded,

sîn gesinde heim sante.
his household home sent.

ûf den wec er nante,
upon the way he ventured,

der ze Plûrîs solte gân.
which to Pluris should go.

diu juncvrowe wol getân
the maiden well made

und ir bruoder Diebalt,
and her brother Diebalt,

von den ist uns daz gezalt,
of them is to-us that told,

daz si sîne reise niht vermiten.
that they his journey not avoided.

do si neizwie manegen tac geriten,
when they I-know-not-how many-a day rode,

dô kômens in ein schœne lant,
then came-they into a beautiful land,

daz was sleht als ein hant.
that was smooth as a hand.

ein breitiu strâze truoc si dar.
a broad road carried them there.

dâ wurdens einer burc gewar
there became-they of-a castle aware

an ebem velde stânde.
on level field standing.

ein wazzer drumbe gânde,
a water there-about going,

daz was geheizen Derkâl.
that was called Derkal.

diu burc was ûzen gemâl
the castle was outside painted

unde seltsænlîch bedaht.
and strangely roofed.

siu was mit zouber sô gemaht,
it was with magic so made,

als ieman dar în trat,
when anyone there in stepped,

den es der wirt niht enbat,
whom it the host not bade,

der muoste dâ ein zage sîn:
he must there a coward be:

und was er küene als ein swîn,
and (if)-was he bold as a boar,

er verlôs dâ muot unde kraft.
he lost there mind and strength.

der ab ûze was zagehaft,
who but outside was cowardly,

der vertruoc dâ nieman ein wort.
he endured there no-one a word.

diu burc hiez Schâtel le mort,
the castle was-called Schatel le mort,

der wirt Mâbûz der blœde.
the host Mabuz the timid.

sîn herze daz was œde
his heart that was empty

von êren und von manheit.
of honors and of manhood.

swen er gevie, der wart geleit
whomever he caught, he was laid

in eine brisûn, diu was wît.
into a prison, which was wide.

dâ lac ouch zer selben zît
there lay also at-the same time

hundert ritter unde mêr:
hundred knights and more:

die heten alle herzesêr
they had all heart-pain

durch tôdes vorhte alle vart.
through death's fear all way.

swenne Mâbûz erzürnet wart
whenever Mabuz angered became

und im iht leides wart getân,
and to-him aught of-sorrow was done,

sô hiez er einen man erslân.
so bade he a man slay.

alsus kuolt er sînen muot.
thus cooled he his mind.

dirre zage als unguot
this coward so not-good

der was der merfeine kint,
he was the sea-fairy's child,

diu unsern ritter an den sint
who our knight on the way

fuorte in daz schœne lant,
led into the beautiful land,

da er wuohs und da er genâde vant
where he grew and where he grace found

von maneger vrouwen gemeit.
from many-a lady joyful.

dirre künigîn was vor geseit,
to-this queen was before told,

ê si disen sun gebære,
before she this son bore,

daz er imer ein zage wære.
that he ever a coward were.

durch daz sô vleiz siu sich
for that so strove she herself

umb daz kastel wunderlich,
about the castle wondrously,

daz ez ir sune wære vor.
that it to-her son were before.

daz lant was sîn urbor,
the land was his revenue,

ir sunes, der Mâbûz was genant.
her son's, who Mabuz was named.

der hete noch ein guot lant,
he had yet a good land,

daz stiez an den Schœnen walt,
that bordered on the Beautiful forest,

den Iweret der helt balt
which Iweret the hero bold

het in sîner pflihte.
had in his keeping.

daz lant nôz er ze nihte:
the land enjoyed he in nothing:

er getorste dar gewarten nie.
he dared there take-heed never.

hie von warp sîn muoter ie,
here from strove his mother ever,

diu wîse merminne,
the wise mermaid,

mit allem ir sinne,
with all her mind,

daz Iweret wurde erslagen,
that Iweret were slain,

wan er ir sune dem zagen
for he from-her son the coward

daz lant hæte genomen.
the land had taken.

si enwiste nieman als fromen,
she knew no-one so valiant,

der im den lîp næme
who from-him the life should-take

und ir dar zuo rehte kæme,
and her there to rightly should-come,

ez entæte dan der eine,
it unless-did then the one,

der wîse und der reine,
the wise and the pure,

den siu zartlîche hât erzogen.
whom she tenderly has raised.

ir wân het si niht betrogen,
her belief had her not deceived,

den siu dingende truoc,
which she hoping bore,

wan er sît Iwereten sluoc,
for he afterward Iweret slew,

einen helt an manheit ûz genomen.
a hero in manhood out taken.

doch ensîn wir dar noch niht komen.
yet are we there yet not come.

Nu nement des zem êrsten war,
Now take of-that at-the first heed,

wie ez ze Schâtel le mort gevar
how it at Schatel le mort fares

und welch wunder dâ geschach
and which wonder there happened

als unser helt die burc gesach
when our hero the castle saw

und Diebalt und diu vrowe hêr,
and Diebalt and the lady noble,

dô entwelten si niht mêr,
then tarried they not more,

si kêrten gein dem bürgetor
they turned toward the castle-gate

ûf die brücke, diu dervor
onto the bridge, which there-before

über ein drætez wazzer gie.
over a swift water went.

einen hôhen turn gesâhen sie,
a high tower saw they,

dâ mite daz tor was überzogen
there with the gate was over-built

er hete drî swibogen,
it had three arches,

dâ die liute durch riten.
where the people through rode.

als si kômen in almiten
when they came in all-midst

und si des gewelbes verdrôz,
and them of-the vault irked,

die vrowen und ir vartgenôz,
the lady and her journey-companion,

(des riten si balde für sich ûz)
(of-that rode they quickly before themselves out)

do begegent in her Mâbûz,
then met them lord Mabuz,

gewâfent wol ze rehte.
armed well to right.

unserm guoten knehte
to-our good squire

dem stach er durch den schilt sîn
to-him stabbed he through the shield his

und lie zehant wol werden schîn,
and let at-once well become seen,

daz er ie schalkheite pflac.
that he ever knavery practiced.

er sluoc dem vremden manegen slac,
he struck to-the stranger many-a blow,

daz er sich nie gewerte.
that he himself never defended.

als er in dô vil geberte,
when he him then much beat,

den helm er im abe brach,
the helm he from-him off broke,

daz er enkein wort gesprach.
that he no word spoke.

die kupfen er im abe stroufte.
the coif he from-him off stripped.

Mâbûz in dô roufte
Mabuz him then plucked

und warf in bî dem hâre nider
and threw him by the hair down

von dem rosse, daz er sider
from the horse, that he afterward

für tôt lac und stille.
for dead lay and still.

diz was des wirtes wille,
this was the host's will,

daz er in hiez schütten ûz.
that he him bade throw out.

do gebôt der blœde Mâbûz
then commanded the timid Mabuz

daz harnasch und daz ros bewarn.
the harness and the horse to-keep.

nu ez alsus ist gevarn,
now it thus is fared,

daz sach Diepalt allez an
that saw Diepalt all on

und sprach zer swester sîn ‚wol dan!
and spoke to-the sister his ‚well away!

wan du rehte hâst ersehen,
for thou rightly hast seen,

wie diseme zagen ist geschehen.'
how to-this coward is happened.'

diu rede was der vrowen zorn.
the speech was to-the lady anger.

‚du hâst in unrehte erkorn'
‚thou hast him wrongly judged'

sprach siu ‚lieber bruoder mîn.
spoke she ‚dear brother mine.

wir müesen es geunêret sîn,
we must of-it dishonored be,

wær unser veter Lînier erslagen
were our uncle Linier slain

von eime dietzagen.
by a people's-coward.

dar zuo hâst du sît gesehen,
there to hast thou since seen,

wiltu der wârheite jehen,
wilt-thou the truth say,

dâ sehs tûsent ritter was,
where six thousand knights were,

daz man in ûz in allen las
that one him out-of them all chose

ze dem tiursten âne widerstrît.
as the most-precious without dispute.

wa gesæhe de ie ze keiner zît
where sawest thou ever at any time

untugent an sîme lîbe?‘
unvirtue in his person?‘

dô sprach zuo dem wîbe
then spoke to the woman

der listige Diepalt
the cunning Diepalt

‚als uns die wîsen hânt gezalt,
‚as to-us the wise have told,

sô siht man an dem ende
so sees one at the end

lop und missewende.
praise and disgrace.

swaz ich ê von im vernomen hân,
whatever I before of him heard have,

er hât daz bœste nu getân.
he has the worst now done.

er wirt mir ot nimer mære.‘
he becomes to-me just never dear.‘

dô sprach diu clagebære
then spoke the lamentable-one

‚owê mir sîner êre!
‚alas for-me of-his honor!

nu getar ich nimer mêre
now dare I never more

samt im gevarn einen fuoz.
together-with him fare one foot.

ach, ach, daz ich in lâzen muoz
ah, ah, that I him leave must

umbe sölhe geschiht!‘
for such happening!“

siu enwiste umb daz zouber niht
she knew about the magic nothing

und verlôs von leide den sin.
and lost from sorrow the sense.

ir bruoder Diepalt zôch si hin,
her brother Diepalt drew her thither,

daz siu enwiste war si reit.
that she knew-not whither she rode.

iu enwirt mêr niht geseit
to-you becomes more not told

von ir dewederem ein wort.
of them neither one word.

nu lît ze Schâtel le mort
now lies at Schatel le mort

gevangen unser recke.
captive our warrior.

im was âne tecke
to-him was without cover

als mære als mit gewande.
as dear as with clothing.

er was durch sîne schande
he was through his disgrace

im selben worden alse gram,
to-him self become so hostile,

fürst daz er in die brisûn kam,
since that he into the prison came,

dâ manic ritter inne lac,
where many-a knight in lay,

sô daz er niene gepflac
so that he not-at-all practiced

dehein zît sînes dankes
any time of-his will

weder âzes noch trankes.
neither food nor drink.

wan sô die gevangen sâzen
for when the captives sat

ze tische schône und âzen,
at table nicely and ate,

sô nam er brôt an sîne hant
so took he bread in his hand

und smucte sich zuo einer want.
and huddled himself to a wall.

dâ saz er unde kou genuoc,
there sat he and chewed enough,

daz er die hende niene twuoc,
that he the hands not-at-all washed,

und zeict eins bœsen wihtes art.
and showed an evil wretch's nature.

er wart der fûlest, der ie wart,
he became the laziest, who ever was,

âne muot und âne maht.
without spirit and without might.

sus lac er vierzehen naht,
thus lay he fourteen nights,

daz er des tôdes wünste.
that he of-the death wished.

dô kom von einer brünste,
then came from a burning,

daz se ûf der burc begunden warn,
that they upon the castle began to-perceive,

wâ si ritter sæhen varn,
where they knights saw fare,

die Mâbûzen branden.
who Mabuz burned.

die burgær si bekanden
the burghers them knew

und sprach kint ze kinde
and spoke child to child

‚jenez ist Iweretes gesinde
‚that is Iweret's household

von dem Schœnen walde.‘ 3705
from the Beautiful forest.‘

diu dörfer brunnen balde:
the villages burned quickly:

daz was Mâbûzes herzen sêr.
that was Mabuz's heart pain.

ir was zweinzic, lützel mêr:
of-them was twenty, little more:

si heten grôzen roup genomen.
they had great booty taken.

der wirt getorste dar niht komen, 3710
the host dared there not come,

da er des fiures wart gewar.
where he of-the fire became aware.

er vorht, daz im ein hâlschar
he feared, that to-him an ambush

Iweret het geleit.
Iweret had laid.

in rou daz an sehende leit
him rued that at seeing sorrow

und dâht in sînem muote 3715
and thought in his mind

‚ich hân in mîner huote
‚I have in my keeping

etswen sô nôtvesten
someone so firm-in-need

under allen mînen gesten,
among all my guests,

der wol ervarn getorste,
who well to-explore dared,

ob ieman in dem vorste
whether anyone in the forest

mir ze lâge sî geriten.
to-me in ambush be ridden.

ich wils den aller bœsten biten,
I will-it the of-all worst beg,

den ich iender vinde
whom I anywhere find

in dem gevangeme gesinde:
in the captive household:

der ist der tiurste, swenne er kumet
he is the most-precious, when he comes

hin ûz, dâ im der luft frumet:
thither out, where to-him the air avails:

er ist bewæret, des ich gihe.
he is proved, that I declare.

ob ab ich in nimer mêr gesihe,
if but I him never more see,

daz sol ich wegen harte unhô.‘
that shall I weigh very low.‘

mit der rede gienc er dô
with the speech went he then

dâ die gevangen wâren
where the captives were

und marht ir gebâren,
and marked their bearing,

beidiu herze unde muot.
both heart and mind.

dô barc sich unser helt guot,
then hid himself our hero good,

sô die andern ûf stuonden.
when the others up stood.

den zagelîche tuonden
the cowardly doing-one

den vie Mâbûz bî der hant
him took Mabuz by the hand

unde zeiget im den brant.
and showed to-him the burning.

er bat in sîn sîn wartman.
he begged him to-be his watchman.

‚herre, ichn kêr mich niht dar an‘
‚lord, I turn me not there on‘

sprach der ungenge.
spoke the unready-one.

‚ich kæm es in ein gedrenge,
‚I should-come of-it into a throng,

solt ich ieze für die burc gân:
should I now before the castle go:

von diu sult ir michs erlân,
from that shall you me-of-it release,

wan ich stirbe in kurzen zîten.‘
for I die in short times.‘

‚entriuwen, du muost rîten‘
‚in-faith, thou must ride‘

sprach der blœde Mâbûz,
spoke the timid Mabuz,

‚swaz joch imer werde drûz.‘
‚whatever indeed ever become there-out.‘

Outside the walls his courage returns: he scatters Iweret's raiders, and Mabuz keeps his vow to spare his prisoners for a year. At a cloister the abbot tells him that Iweret fights anyone who strikes the cymbal on the linden by the spring, for his daughter's hand, and that the monks bury his dead there. The Beautiful Forest is green all year, with healing fruit and herbs that give Iweret his strength.

Nu truogen si den helt enbor,
Now carried they the hero aloft,

unz er kom für daz tor
until he came before the gate

verre über die brücke.
far over the bridge.

dâ lag er ame rücke,
there lay he on-the back,

unz man im die hosen an
until one to-him the hose on

geschuohte als eime siechen man.
shod as to-a sick man.

dô leiten si in an gar
then put they him on wholly

sînen harnasch, den man brâhte dar.
his harness, which one brought there.

ouch reget er sich ein wênic baz,
also stirred he himself a little better.

als er ûf daz ors gesaz,
when he upon the steed sat,

dô zergie sîns lîbes brœde.
then passed-away his body's timidity.

dô sprach Mâbûz der blœde
then spoke Mabuz the timid

,ich man dich, ritter, daz du bist
,I exhort thee, knight, that thou art

der tiurste der nu lebend' ist.
the most-precious who now living is.

tuoz durch alle vrouwen,
do-it for all ladies,

lâ dir balde zouwen,
let thee quickly hasten,

sende uns ein liebez mære.
send us a dear tale.

mîn herze ist imer swære,
my heart is ever heavy,

daz ich ie getruobte dînen sin.
that I ever troubled thy mind.

sihestu wâ si rîtent hin,
seest-thou where they ride thither,

die vînde, mit gelfe?
the foes, with yelping?

geniuz ich dîner helfe,
(if)-enjoy I of-thy help,

daz du mir rettest mînen roup,
that thou to-me rescuest my booty,

sô werd ich blint oder toup,
so become I blind or deaf,

ob ich niht durch den willen dîn
if I not for the will thine

mîne gevangen lâze sîn
my captives let be

ein jâr, daz ich ir niht erslân.
a year, that I of-them none slay.

swaz mir ze leide wirt getân,
whatever to-me to sorrow becomes done,

daz wil ich anders rechen.‘
that will I otherwise avenge.‘

der gast begunde sprechen
the guest began to-speak

‚ûf die rede wil ich sehen,
‚upon the speech will I see,

ob in iht leides mac geschehen
whether to-them aught of-sorrow may happen

von mir, die iuch hânt verbrant.‘
from me, who you have burned.‘

dâ mite reit er zehant
there with rode he at-once

ûf der brennære slâ
upon the burners’ track

und kom in schiere alsô nâ,
and came to-them quickly so near,

daz er si bat kêren.
that he them begged turn.

er wolt den vrowen zêren
he would to-the ladies for-honor

einen prîs gerne hân bejaget.
a prize gladly have won.

er was sîns muotes unverzaget,
he was of-his mind undaunted,

der sigesælige man:
the victory-blessed man:

er rant einen stolzen ritter an,
he rode a proud knight at,

der die banier fuorte:
who the banner carried:

gein im er balde ruorte:
toward him he quickly spurred:

er stach in von dem rosse nider.
he stabbed him from the horse down.

die andern kêrten alle wider
the others turned all back

über ir gesellen schiere.
over their comrade quickly.

der ritter wâren viere,
of-the knights were four,

die sament ûf in stâchen
who together upon him stabbed

und ir gesellen râchen.
and their comrade avenged.

swie lützel er doch wiche
however little he yet gave-way

von ir deheines stiche,
from of-them any's stab,

idoch zerbrâchen si diu sper.
yet broke they the spears.

der selben einen stach er,
of-the same one stabbed he,

daz er tôt viel ûf daz sant.
that he dead fell upon the sand.

dô zôch der edel wîgant
then drew the noble fighter

sîn scharpfez swert zer selben stunt:
his sharp sword at-the same hour:

dâ mite tet er manegen wunt,
there with did he many-a-one wounded,

wan sin wâren wol gewâfent niet.
for they were well armed not.

fürbaz kündet uns daz liet,
further tells us the song,

ir geverte was ze roube guot.
their gear was for robbing good.

schilt, banier, îsenhuot.
shield, banner, iron-hat.

cleiniu wambasch, snelliu ros,
small doublets, swift horses,

daz si berc unde mos
that they mountain and moor

deste schierre mohten überkomen,
the quicker might cross,

diz moht in allez niht gevromen,
this might them all not avail,

er entworhtes alle gelîche.
he unless-undid-them all alike.

sich selben dûht er rîche
himself self seemed he rich

swer im entrinnen mahte.
whoever from-him escape might.

si heten lüzel ahte
they had little heed

des roubes unde fluhen sie.
of-the booty and fled they.

sus liez er sie wegeschie
thus let he them shy-of-the-way

varn swar si wolten:
fare whither they would:

und was diu brunst vergolten
and was the burning repaid

nâch des blœdes wirtes bete.
after the timid host's request.

Mâbûz sîne gelübde tete
Mabuz his vow did

und sluoc des jâres nieman.
and slew of-the year no-one.

nu reit unser ritter dan
now rode our knight away

und kom für einer zellen tor.
and came before a cell's gate.

zer Jæmerlîchen urbor
to-the Wretched estate

sô nante man daz clôsterlîn:
so named one the little-cloister:

dâ muost er über naht sîn.
there must he over night be.

Der meister über die münche was,
The master over the monks was,

daz was ein wizzic abbas.
that was a wise abbot.

der behielt vil schône sînen gast,
he kept very nicely his guest,

daz im nihtes gebrast,
that to-him nothing lacked,

und saget im ze mære,
and told to-him for tidings,

daz Iweret wære
that Iweret were

über daz clôster herre.
over the cloister lord.

‚weder nâch noch verre
‚neither near nor far

mac im nieman widerstân.
may to-him no-one withstand.

sîn site ist alsô getân,
his custom is so made,

swaz er bejaget mit ritterschaft,
whatever he wins with knighthood,

des ist er her zêndehaft.
of-that is he hither tithe-paying.

swem er den lîp gewinnet abe,
from-whomever he the life wins off,

den bestaten wir hie ze grabe,
him bury we here to grave,

und swaz got dem gebieten wil,
and whatever God to-him bid will,

ez sî lützel oder vil
it be little or much

sîns guotes, daz benennet er
of-his goods, that names he

durch sîner sêle willen her.
for his soul's sake hither.

hie von sîn wir rîche.
here from are we rich.

ich enkunde iu wærlîche
I could to-you truly

ze gloube nimer daz gesagen,
to belief never that tell,

waz er ritter hât erslagen,
what he knights has slain,

Iweret der vogt mîn,
Iweret the lord mine,

den an der âventiure sîn
to-whom in the adventure his

ist harte misselungen.
is very mis-succeeded.

wir haben in gesungen
we have to-them sung

und allez ir reht getân.
and all their right done.

herre, ir sult iuch erlân,
lord, you shall yourselves spare,

daz ir der êren niene gert,
that you of-the honors not-at-all desire,

dâ von der lîp unlange wert,
from which the life not-long lasts,

wan ir sint sô schœne.
for you are so beautiful.

daz in got gehœne,
that him God disgrace,

mînen herren, ob er iuch slât‘
my lord, if he you slays‘

sus sprach der wizzic abbât.
thus spoke the wise abbot.

‚Dâ vor sol mich got bewarn‘ 3865
‚There before shall me God guard‘

sprach der gast und wolt ervarn,
spoke the guest and would learn,

ê er ûz der zelle rite,
before he out-of the cell rode,

von der âventiure site,
of the adventure's custom,

wan es wundert in harte.
for it wondered him very.

dô sprach der êwarte 3870
then spoke the priest

‚ich tuonz iu kunt in kurzer vrist.
‚I make-it to-you known in short time.

mîn her Iweret der ist
my lord Iweret he is

ein rîche fürste wol gemuot.
a rich prince well minded.

er hât driu künicrîche guot,
he has three kingdoms good,

diu in sint von erbe an komen, 3875
which to-him are from inheritance on come,

ân ander daz er hât genomen
without other that he has taken

den die im gesezzen sint.
from-those who to-him neighboring are.

er enhât niht wan ein kint,
he has not but one child,

ein tohter êrbære.
a daughter honorable.

ich sag iu daz ze mære,
I tell to-you that for tidings,

in gehôrt nie nieman des verjehen,
him heard never no-one of-that say,

daz er hæte gesehen
that he had seen

deheine maget sô wol getân.
any maiden so well made.

mîn herre hât sich ûz getân,
my lord has himself out done,

swelch ritter sîne tohter wil,
whichever knight his daughter wants,

der muoz in mit nîtspil
he must him with hate-play

in dem Schœnen walde bestân
in the Beautiful forest withstand

under einer linden wol getân.
under a linden well made.

dar under stât ein brunne kalt,
there under stands a spring cold,

den Iweret der helt balt
which Iweret the hero bold

hât mit wæhen swibogen
has with artful arches

harte wol überzogen.
very well over-built.

getriben ûf von grunde
driven up from ground

ûz eines lewen munde
out-of a lion's mouth

fliuzet der brunne in ein vaz:
flows the spring into a vessel:

ein edel marmel ist daz,
a noble marble is that,

dar inne swebet daz wazzer clâr.
there in floats the water clear.

diu linde ist grüene durch daz jâr.
the linden is green through the year.

ein êrîn zimbel ist dar an
a brazen cymbal is there on

gehenket, daz ein ieglîch man
hung, that an each man

mit eime hamer dran slât,
with a hammer there-on strikes,

der muot ûf mîne vrowen hât
who mind upon my lady has

und der manheit wil bejagen.
and of-the manhood will win.

sô zem dritten mâle wirt geslagen
when at-the third time becomes struck

an daz selbe glockelîn,
on the same little-bell,

sô kumpt Iwaret der herre mîn,
so comes Iweret the lord mine,

gewâfent ritterlîchen wol.
armed knightly well.

swer mit im vehten sol,
whoever with him fight shall,

der bedarf wol âventiure.
he needs well adventure.

er hât vert und hiure
he has last-year and this-year

manegem man den tôt getân,
to-many-a man the death done,

die wir hie bestatet hân
whom we here buried have

zer linden, dâ daz mort geschiht:
at-the linden, where the murder happens:

(dar ist volle ein halbiu mîle niht:)
(there is full a half mile not:)

di vermîdent, dêster rât mîn.
it avoid, that-is-the counsel mine.

doch sult ir des gewis sîn,
yet shall you of-that certain be,

ersleht iuch mîn her Iweret,
(if)-slays you my lord Iweret,

ir habent imer mîn gebet
you have ever my prayer

und mînen vaterlîchen segen.‘
and my fatherly blessing.‘

,iwer genâde‘ sprach der degen:
,your grace‘ spoke the thane:

,ouch nement mîner rede war:
,also take of-my speech heed:

swie ez umbe mich gevar,
however it about me fares,

Iweret der küene helt
Iweret the bold hero

der wirt des kampfes bezelt
he becomes of-the combat paid

von mir oder ich stirbe.
by me or I die.

swaz ich dar an erwirbe,
whatever I there in win,

daz wirt des næhsten tages schîn.
that becomes of-the next day seen.

er ist mîn tôt ald ich der sîn.‘
he is my death or I the his.‘

Der guote man sweig dar zuo.
The good man kept-silent there to.

morgen reit der gast fruo.
in-the-morning rode the guest early.

der mære het er kûme erbiten,
of-the tale had he scarcely waited,

wan er was ûz geriten
for he was out ridden

sô daz er niht erwunde,
so that he not stopped,

ê er Iwereten funde,
before he Iweret found,

durch der merfeine clage.
for the sea-fairy's lament.

als ez nâhte dem tage,
as it neared to-the day,

do bevalch er sich dem hœhsten gote.
then commended he himself to-the highest God.

dar nâch wîste in ein bote
there after guided him a messenger

gein dem Schœnen walde.
toward the Beautiful forest.

ich enweiz ob ich iu zalde,
I know-not if I to-you told,

wie des waldes site was.
how the forest's custom was.

er was grüene als ein gras
it was green as a grass

beidiu winter unde sumer.
both winter and summer.

dâ stuont manic boum sô frumer,
there stood many-a tree so excellent,

der aldaz jâr obez truoc,
which all-the year fruit bore,

zîtig unde guot genuoc,
ripe and good enough,

und anderhalp doch bluote.
and on-the-other-side yet blossomed.

swes iemen was ze muote,
of-whatever anyone was in mind,

daz man solt ezzen,
that one should eat,

(des enwil ich niht vergezzen)
(of-that will I not forget)

dar nâch smahte daz obez.
there after tasted the fruit.

swer ez hœre, der lobez,
whoever it hear, he praise-it,

wan ez was ein spæher site.
for it was a strange custom.

man buozte ouch den liuten mite
one healed also the people with-it

aller sühtegelich,
of-all sicknesses,

swer et mohte geregen sich
whoever just might stir himself

sô vil daz er daz obez nôz.
so much that he the fruit enjoyed.

enkein wunde was sô grôz,
no wound was so great,

der daz obez drane bant,
who the fruit there-on bound,

siu enheilte zehant,
it unless-healed at-once,

unz oht der lîp die sêle truoc.
as-long-as only the body the soul bore.

daz Iweret sô manegen sluoc,
that Iweret so many-a-one slew,

(daz ist reht, daz ichz iu sage)
(that is right, that I-it to-you tell)

ez kom dâ von, in sîme hage
it came there from, in his hedge

stuonden würze alse hêr,
stood herbs so noble,

daz er gerte nihtes mêr
that he desired nothing more

wan daz er drane gesmahte.
than that he there-on tasted.

sô wart er ûz der ahte
so became he out-of the measure

starc, küene unde geil.
strong, bold and merry.

ouch half dar zuo ein michel teil,
also helped there to a great part,

vor sîner bürge lac ein tal,
before his castle lay a valley,

enkein krût ist sô smal,
no herb is so slender,

noch sô lanc, noch sô breit,
nor so long, nor so broad,

daz deheinen edelen bluomen treit,
that any noble flowers bears,

daz enwære dâ in sölher art,
that unless-were there in such kind,

sô ez ie aller schœnest wart.
as it ever of-all most-beautiful was.

sus stuont diu heide für sich an,
thus stood the heath before itself on,

daz si niemer gewan
that it never won

wandel an ir stæte.
change in its steadfastness.

swie daz weter tæte,
however the weather did,

sô was der wert und der walt
so was the island and the forest

allez sumerlîch gestalt.
all summer-like shaped.

daz was billich genuoc.
that was fitting enough.

swaz ungemüetes ieman truoc,
whatever ill-mood anyone bore,

der disiu beidiu durchgienc,
who these both went-through,

ein sölhe vreude er gevienc,
a such joy he caught,

daz er trûrikheit vergaz.
that he sadness forgot.

den walt nante man durch daz
the forest named one for that

Behforet, den Schœnen walt.
Behforet, the Beautiful forest.

sîn gezierde was sô manicvalt,
its adornment was so manifold,

des uns diu sage niht verhilt.
of-which us the tale not hides.

lewen, bern, rôtwilt,
lions, bears, red-deer,

swîn und swaz man jagen wil,
boars and whatever one hunt will,

des was dâ mêr danne vil
of-that was there more than much

ze rehter tagalte.
for right daily-pastime.

vil dicke man dâ valte
very often one there felled

manegen grôzen helfant.
many-a great elephant.

des waldes art was sô gewant:
the forest's kind was so turned:

in schiet ein wazzer wol getân,
it parted a water well made,

unde muosten einhalp gân
and must on-one-side go

diu tier: daz was ir urganc.
the beasts: that was their outlet.

anderhalp was vogelsanc
on-the-other-side was bird-song

und gefügel allerhande,
and fowl of-all-kinds,

die man noch ie bekande,
which one yet ever knew,

swaz et hât gevidere.
whatever just has feathers.

her über noch hin widere
hither over nor thither back

kom ir enwederz ûz ir zuht.
came of-them neither out-of their kind.

daz wazzer brâht ouch genuht
the water brought also plenty

von allerhande vischen,
of all-kinds-of fish,

die man ze küneges tischen
which one to king's tables

mit êren möhte bringen.
with honors might bring.

mit allen guoten dingen
with all good things

was der walt vollekomen,
was the forest perfect,

als ir wol hânt vernomen.
as you well have heard.

XVI · THE CYMBAL

Iweret's daughter Iblis is the most beautiful and virtuous of maidens, and she picks flowers in the valley named after her with her hundred companions. Iweret's castle, Dodone, and its jeweled chamber are described. The knight strikes the cymbal and waits at the spring; Iblis, who dreamed that night of a knight there and vowed to marry no other, rides out and recognizes him.

Verdrieze iuch niht des man iu saget,
(If)-irk you not what one to-you tells,

sô merkent von der schœnen maget,
so mark of the beautiful maiden,

diu Iweretes tohter was.
who Iweret's daughter was.

swaz man von wîbe ie gelas
whatever one of woman ever read

oder imer mê sol gelesen,
or ever more shall read,

so endorfte kein vrowe wesen
so needed no lady be

hübscher noch sô wol getân.
more-courtly nor so well made.

siu was gar alles valsches ân.
she was wholly of-all falseness without.

zuht enwisse nieman baz.
breeding knew no-one better.

beidiu nît unde haz,
both envy and hatred,

daz was des siu niht kunde.
that was what she not knew.

von ir rôsevarwen munde
from her rose-colored mouth

kom nie wort ezn wære guot.
came never word unless-it were good.

man gesach si nimer ungemuot,
one saw her never ill-minded,

wan ie mit schœnen vreuden leben.
but ever with beautiful joys live.

swaz siu mohte gegeben
whatever she might give

durch êre, des was siu bereit.
for honor, of-that was she ready.

siu was lôs mit senftikeit,
she was gay with gentleness,

wîse, reine was ir lîp.
wise, pure was her person.

siu êrte man unde wîp
she honored man and woman

dar nâch si wirdic wâren.
there after they worthy were.

des endorfte nieman vâren,
of-that needed no-one lie-in-wait,

daz siu sölhes ie wurde gezigen,
that she of-such ever became accused,

daz ir liep wære verswigen.
that to-her love were kept-secret.

gelücke was ir schirmschilt.
luck was her shield-of-defense.

swen nu des lobennes bevilt,
whomever now of-the praising irks,

der mac mich wol gesweigen.
he may me well silence.

alliu tugent was ir eigen,
all virtue was her own,

diu wîbes namen wol gezimet.
which woman's name well befits.

swer aber mich gerne vernimet,
whoever but me gladly hears,

dem sag ich von der vrowen mêr.
to-him tell I of the lady more.

siu was frümic unde hêr,
she was valiant and noble,

von küneges künne hôch erborn.
of king's kin high born.

swaz siu gesprach, daz was gesworn:
whatever she spoke, that was sworn:

sô stæte wârn ir sinne,
so steadfast were her wits,

wan daz si sît diu minne
except that her afterward the love

brâht an sölhiu mære,
brought to such tidings,

der si doch gern enbære.
which she yet gladly would-forgo.

do enhalf si wîsheit noch ir list,
then not-helped her wisdom nor her cunning,

wan nieman alsô kündec ist,
for no-one so clever is,

der sich der minne müge erwern,
who himself of-the love may defend,

in enwelle got dervor ernern,
him unless-will God there-before save,

der alliu dinc wol mac gezamen.
who all things well can tame.

welt ir der juncfrowen namen,
(if)-want you the maiden's name,

den sage ich iu, des sint gewis:
it tell I to-you, of-that be certain:

siu hiez diu schœne Iblis,
she was-called the beautiful Iblis,

der erwunschte lîp von sælikheit.
the wished-for person of blessedness.

an si was gotes vlîz geleit
on her was God's diligence laid

an aller slahte getât.
in all kinds-of form.

swes muot in sölher wîse stât,
whosever mind in such way stands,

daz er mir gelouben mac,
that he me believe may,

dem sage ich wes diu vrowe pflac.
to-him tell I what the lady practiced.

Siu het gespiln hundert,
She had playmates hundred,

alle ûz gesundert
all out chosen

von drîen künicrîchen:
from three kingdoms:

die wâren billîchen
they were fittingly

hübsch unde wol getân.
courtly and well made.

die muosen tegelîchen gân
they must daily go

mit der vrowen in daz tal
with the lady into the valley

und brâchen bluomen über al
and broke flowers over all

und mahten schapellîn dâ mite.
and made little-chaplets there with.

hie von huop sich der site,
here from raised itself the custom,

daz es guote liute niht enlânt,
that it good people not leave,

si entuon ez swâ die bluomen stânt.
they unless-do it wherever the flowers stand.

ob uns die meister niht enlugen,
if us the masters not lied,

sô se einen bluomen ûz zugen,
when they a flower out drew,

sô stuont ein ander zehant
so stood an other at-once

dort, dâ man den erren vant.
there, where one the first found.

daz hete got alsô gelân.
that had God so let.

diz selbe tal wol getân
this same valley well made

heizet hiut und imer mê
is-called today and ever more

nâch der vrowen vâls Iblê,
after the lady Vals Ible,

wan siu dar an gerne was
for she there in gladly was

vil dicke sô siu bluomen las
very often when she flowers gathered

und sô sich senet ir muot,
and when itself longs her mind,

als ez den vrowen lîhte tuot.
as it to-the ladies easily does.

Welt ir vernemen fürbaz,
(If)-want you hear further,

sô wil ich iu sagen daz,
so will I to-you tell that,

wie Iweretes hûs stuont.
how Iweret's house stood.

als uns diu buoch kunt tuont,
as us the books known make,

ez lac harte schône.
it lay very beautifully.

diu rîche Dôdône
the rich Dodone

hiez diu burc mit wârheit
was-called the castle with truth

und was michel vlîz an si geleit.
and was great diligence on it laid.

wan der berc was niht ze smal,
for the mountain was not too narrow,

siu lac hôhe ob dem tal,
it lay high above the valley,

erbûwen wol mit sinnen.
built well with wits.

ûzenân und innen
outside and inside

schein siu betalle hêrlich.
shone it altogether lordly.

niden was der esterich
below was the floor

von marmelsteine gemaht.
of marble-stone made.

diu mûre was der selben slaht.
the wall was of-the same kind.

geschâzavelt genôte,
checkered closely,

wîz unde rôte,
white and red,

wârn die steine gevieret.
were the stones squared.

diu mûre was gezieret
the wall was adorned

harte wol von golde.
very well with gold.

dâ der wirt sîn solde
where the host be should

und dâ sîn wonunge was,
and where his dwelling was,

daz was ein rîche palas,
that was a rich palace,

michel unde mære.
great and famous.

man seit uns, daz er wære
one tells us, that it were

mit maneger schônheit geladen.
with many-a beauty laden.

dar inne stuont ein slâfgaden,
there in stood a sleeping-chamber,

des mûre wârn ônichelîn.
whose walls were onyx.

der esterich der muose sîn
the floor it must be

lûter von cristallen
pure of crystals

und von edelen kôrallen.
and of noble corals.

dâ wâren striche an gemaht
there were stripes on made

von jaspidê maneger slaht.
of jasper of-many-a kind.

dâ was grôz rîcheit schîn.
there was great richness seen.

die siule wâren silberîn.
the columns were silver.

da enmitten lâgen steine:
there in-the-midst lay stones:

saffîre vil reine,
sapphires very pure,

smâragden und rubîne,
emeralds and rubies,

topazjen und sardîne,
topazes and sards,

grânât und ametisten,
garnet and amethysts,

die wâren al mit listen
they were all with cunning

nâch ein ander an geleit.
after one another on laid.

swenne Iweret dar în schreit,
whenever Iweret there in strode,

so envorht er nieman, hôrt ich sagen.
so feared he no-one, heard I say.

daz himelze was durchslagen
the ceiling was inlaid

von golde und von gesteine.
with gold and with gems.

saffîre reine,
sapphires pure,

die weiz ich und noch mêre wol
them know I and yet more well

der ich ein teil nennen sol:
of-which I a part name shall:

dâ lac kalcedon, berillus,
there lay chalcedony, beryl,

ônix und crisolitus,
onyx and chrysolite,

jâchant und karfunkel:
jacinth and carbuncle:

dâ von wart niener tunkel
there from became nowhere dark

in der kemenâten.
in the chamber.

noch was siu baz berâten,
yet was it better furnished,

als ich iu zellen mac.
as I to-you tell may.

daz spanbette, dâ ûf lac
the bedstead, there upon lay

der wirt und sîn kint reine,
the host and his child pure,

daz was von helfenbeine
that was of ivory

und von rôtem golde.
and of red gold.

die steine die er wolde,
the stones which he would,

die wâren dar an geleit.
they were there on laid.

ein kulter was dar ûf gespreit
a quilt was there upon spread

von samît grüene als ein gras.
of samite green as a grass.

diu bettewât vil linde was,
the bedclothes very soft was,

der pfülwe und ouch daz küssîn:
the bolster and also the cushion:

diu zieche guot sîdîn:
the ticking good silken:

wîz unde reine,
white and pure,

niwe und cleine
new and fine

was daz lîlachen.
was the sheet.

mit gemellîchen sachen
with merry things

trûte her Iweret
cherished lord Iweret

sîn tohter, wan siu dicke tet
his daughter, for she often did

des er gelachen mohte.
at-which he laugh might.

swaz ze den êren tohte,
whatever to the honors suited,

des was diu burc berâten
of-that was the castle provided

mit der kemenâten,
with the chamber,

an gesinde und an aller habe.
in household and in all property.

ich zalt iu wunder noch dar abe,
I would-tell to-you wonder yet there of,

wan daz ich iht anders sagen sol.
except that I aught other tell shall.

Dôdône stuont ze wunsche wol,
Dodone stood to wish well,

wan der wirt het genuoc
for the host had enough

swes wazzer oder lant truoc
of-whatever water or land bore

und swes sîn lîp gedâhte.
and whatever his body thought-of.

die burc er vollebrâhte,
the castle he completed,

daz ir nihtes enbrast.
that to-it nothing lacked.

siu was guot unde vast,
it was good and firm,

besazt mit burgæren:
garrisoned with burghers:

ich hôrte sagen, ir wæren
I heard say, of-them were

sehzic unde lützel mêr.
sixty and little more.

si wâren rîch unde hêr
they were rich and noble

und heten vreude under in:
and had joy among them:

der tac was dâ schiere hin.
the day was there quickly gone.

ouch hôrte man der glocken schal
also heard one the bell's sound

in der burc über al,
in the castle over all,

sô man an den zimbel sluoc,
when one on the cymbal struck,

dâ von ich ê hân genuoc
there of I before have enough

gesaget, ob irz hânt vernomen.
told, if you-it have heard.

nu ist unser ritter komen.
now is our knight come.

als er kom zuo der linden,
when he came to the linden,

sîn ros begund er binden
his horse began he to-bind

zuo des boumes aste,
to the tree's branch,

sanfte und niht ze vaste,
gently and not too firmly,

wan er wolt ez wider hân genomen,
for he would it back have taken,

swenn er den wirt sæhe komen.
when he the host should-see come.

den schilt leit er ûf daz sant.
the shield laid he upon the sand.

dô nam der edel wîgant
then took the noble fighter

den hamer in die hant sîn
the hammer into the hand his

und sluoc an daz zimbellîn
and struck on the little-cymbal

sô vaste, daz ez lûte schal
so firmly, that it loudly sounded

und manz hôrt über al
and one-it heard over all

in der burc und in dem walde.
in the castle and in the forest.

dô enstrict er abe balde
then untied he off quickly

sîn helm und satzt in an daz gras.
his helm and set it onto the grass.

er gienc hin, dâ der brunne was.
he went thither, where the spring was.

als er zuo dem wazzer kam,
when he to the water came,

die kupfen er abe nam,
the coif he off took,

der degen ellende,
the thane exiled,

und twuoc sîne hende
and washed his hands

und kuolt sich undern ougen.
and cooled himself under-the eyes.

des enist dehein lougen,
of-that is no lie,

er enschine vreudebære.
he unless-shone joyful.

nu vernement vremdiu mære.
now hear strange tidings.

In der næhesten naht,
In the next night,

dô Iweret morgen vaht
when Iweret in-the-morning fought

mit unserm guoten knehte,
with our good knight,

dô troumde vil rehte
then dreamed very rightly

der schœnen maget Iblê,
the beautiful maiden Ible,

wie si durch den schœnen clê
how she through the beautiful clover

zuo der linden kæme gegân.
to the linden came walking.

dâ sach siu einen ritter stân,
there saw she a knight stand,

des gebærde was sô guot,
whose bearing was so good,

daz siu herze unde muot
that she heart and mind

und alle ir sinne
and all her wits

kêrt an sîne minne,
turned to his love,

und was diu holtschaft vil grôz.
and was the devotion very great.

deheines dinges si verdrôz
of-no thing her irked

wan daz siun dâ vor nie gesach.
except that she-him there before never saw.

swaz er tet unde sprach,
whatever he did and spoke,

dâ was ir wundersanfte mite.
there was to-her wondrous-gentle with.

si marcte lîp unde site
she marked body and manner

und satzt in in ir herzen schrîn.
and set him into her heart's shrine.

waz solte seltsæner sîn!
what should stranger be!

ditz was unser helt balt:
this was our hero bold:

er was rehte gestalt
he was rightly shaped

als er in ir herzen was.
as he in her heart was.

sît manz an den buochen las,
since one-it in the books read,

sô sî ez iu für wâr gesaget,
so be it to-you for true told,

vor liebe wachet diu maget.
for love wakes the maiden.

Dô diu vrowe sich versan
When the lady herself bethought

und siu gedâht an den man
and she thought on the man

der ir vor was erschinen,
who to-her before was appeared,

den troum erscheinde siu ûf inen
the dream interpreted she upon him

dar nâch als ez nu ist komen.
there after as it now is come.

siu sprach ‚von mir wirt genomen
she spoke ‚by me becomes taken

nimer man, des muoz ich jehen,
never man, of-that must I say,

wan den ich hînaht hân gesehen.‘
except whom I tonight have seen.‘

mit gedanken wart siu des in ein,
with thoughts became she of-that at one,

dâ ir der ritter vor erschein
where to-her the knight before appeared

daz si die stat êrte
that she the place honored

und imer dar kêrte,
and ever there turned,

sô man den zimbel ruorte.
when one the cymbal touched.

den muot si vollefuorte
the mind she carried-out

und kom zuo der linden fruo genuoc,
and came to the linden early enough,

dô unser friunt den zimbel sluoc.
when our friend the cymbal struck.

Nu wil ich iu kurzlîche sagen,
Now will I to-you briefly tell,

ez endorfte nie wîp getragen
it needed never woman wear

hêrer cleit, dan siu truoc.
nobler garment, than she wore.

ez dûht iuch lîht ein ungefuoc,
it seemed to-you easily an impropriety,

ob ich dâ von iht seite.
if I there of aught told.

ir pfert und ir gereite
her horse and her harness

daz was schœne unde guot.
that was beautiful and good.

siu hete noch den selben muot,
she had yet the same mind,

des siu in dem troume pflac.
which she in the dream practiced.

siu bôt dem helde guoten tac,
she offered the hero good day,

den siu bî dem brunnen vant:
whom she by the spring found:

wan siu sach wol zehant,
for she saw well at-once,

daz ez der selbe ritter was.
that it the same knight was.

siu erbeizte zuo im an daz gras
she dismounted to him onto the grass

und gruozt in harte schône.
and greeted him very beautifully.

dô neic er ir ze lône,
then bowed he to-her as reward,

wan im seit daz herze sîn,
for to-him told the heart his,

daz ez wær diu künigîn.
that it were the princess.

XVII · IWERET

They exchange their love, and she begs him to give up the adventure, then to take her away, but he will not flee; he strikes the cymbal again and again until she swoons and laments what love has done to her. Iweret rides up splendidly armed, angrily asks who struck the cymbal, and hears that the stranger wants a beautiful wife and his land. They break their spears, and Iweret is dismayed, for no knight had ever kept his seat against him.

Als er ir schœne gesach,
When he her beauty saw,

nu mugent ir hœren, wie er sprach
now may you hear, how he spoke

‚genâde, vrowe wol getân!
‚grace, lady well made!

woltent irz für guot hân,
would you-it for good have,

ich seit iu gerne mînen muot.
I would-tell to-you gladly my mind.

ir sint sô schœne und sô guot,
you are so beautiful and so good,

als ich die liute hœre jehen
as I the people hear say

und als ich selbe hân gesehen,
and as I self have seen,

daz ich durch deheine schulde
that I for no guilt

wan benamen durch iwer hulde
but assuredly for your favor

und umb iwern schœnen gruoz
and for your beautiful greeting

gewinnen oder verliesen muoz.
win or lose must.

ist ez wâr, sô man mir seit,
(if)-is it true, as one me tells,

sô ist mir der tôt bereit
so is to-me the death ready

ald ir und dar zuo michel guot.
or you and there to great goods.

ob mir got genâde tuot,
if to-me God grace does,

wa geschach ie deheim man baz?
where happened ever to-any man better?

self iu got, ensint mir niht gehaz!‘
so-help to-you God, be to-me not hostile!‘

‚waz ræch ich an iu,‘ sprach diu maget,
‚what would-avenge I on you,‘ spoke the maiden,

‚ist ez als mir mîn herze saget
‚(if)-is it as to-me my heart tells

und als ez iwerm lîbe zimet?‘
and as it your person befits?‘

swelch vrowe sich des an genimet,
whichever lady herself of-that on takes,

daz siu gerne wol tuot swâ siu kan,
that she gladly well does wherever she can,

diu êret alle hübsche man:
she honors all courtly men:

der muget ir wol einer sîn.
of-them may you well one be.

joch zürn ich an die sælde mîn,
yea rage I at the luck mine,

daz ich iuch niht mêre hân gesehen
that I you not more have seen

und ich iu doch muoz verjehen,
and I to-you yet must confess,

dar nâch als ich mich enstân,
there after as I myself understand,

mich endûht nie man sô wol getân.‘
to-me seemed never man so well made.‘

er geloubt ir wol und nam ir war.
he believed her well and took of-her heed.

siu seit im an ein ende gar,
she told to-him to an end wholly,

wie ir in dem troume was gesîn.
how to-her in the dream was been.

‚ir sult durch den willen mîn
‚you shall for the sake mine

der âventiure abe gân.‘
from-the adventure off go.‘

er sprach, ern möht ir niht verlân.
he spoke, he could her not let.

doch wart ir bete harte vil.
yet became her request very much.

er sprach ‚vrowe, ich enwil:
he spoke ‚lady, I will-not:

ich hæte sîn unêre.‘
I would-have of-it dishonor.‘

er sluoc den zimbel sêre:
he struck the cymbal sorely:

in verdrôz daz Iweret niht kam.
him irked that Iweret not came.

den schilt er ze halse nam
the shield he to neck took

und was in alle wîs bereit.
and was in all ways ready.

dô weinde diu vrowe gemeit,
then wept the lady joyful,

wan siu den strît ungerne sach.
for she the fight unwillingly saw.

siu saz nider unde sprach
she sat down and spoke

‚nu helf iu got beiden:
‚now help to-you God both:

ich kan iuch niht gescheiden.
I can you not part.

daz ist des schult, ich enmac.
that is of-that guilt, I may-not.

nu gelepte ich nie sô leiden tac.‘
now lived I never so sorrowful day.‘

siu want ir wîzen hende.
she wrung her white hands.

ir clage was ân ende.
her lament was without end.

siu dinget unde vorhte,
she hoped and feared,

wer dâ den schaden worhte.
who there the harm wrought.

Dô siu alsô riuwelîche saz,
When she so ruefully sat,

diu minne schuof, daz siu vergaz
the love brought-about, that she forgot

ir wîsheit und ir witze.
her wisdom and her wits.

siu gewan ein sölhe hitze,
she got a such heat,

diu senendem muote nâhen lît.
which to-a-longing mind near lies.

‚ritter, ob ir hübsch sît,
‚knight, if you courtly are,

sô sulnt ir mich bedenken niet.
so shall you me suspect not.

mîn herze mir an iuch geriet:
my heart to-me on you counseled:

dâ wider kan ich niht gestreben.
there against can I not strive.

die wîle ich imer mac geleben,
the while I ever may live,

sô muoz ich iuch minnen.
so must I you love.

nu füert mich mit iu hinnen,
now lead me with you hence,

schœnez bilde, reiner lîp.‘
beautiful image, pure person.‘

er sprach ‚nein ich, liebez wîp.‘
he spoke ‚no I, dear woman.‘

‚jâ ir, sældehafter man.‘
‚yea you, blessed man.‘

‚ich bin der niht wol vliehen kan.‘
‚I am who not well flee can.‘

‚durch wîp man dicke wenken sol.‘
‚for woman one often swerve shall.‘

‚joch erwirbe ich iuch ze rehte wol.
‚yea win I you to right well.

swaz ir mir danne liebes tuot,
whatever you me then of-dear do,

des vreut sich lîp und ouch mîn muot.
of-that rejoices itself body and also my mind.

ob ir mich minnent, als ir jehent,
if you me love, as you say,

sô ist mir liep, daz ir gesehent,
so is to-me dear, that you see,

daz ich durch iuch getar wol
that I for you dare well

bestân swaz ein ritter sol.‘
withstand whatever a knight shall.‘

diu vrowe saget im mære,
the lady told to-him tidings,

daz ir vater wære
that her father were

ein alsô vreislîcher man:
a so terrible man:

‚im gesiget nie nieman an
‚him conquered never no-one over

und ist vil an in versuochet.
and is much on him tried.

ob ir mîner minne ruochet,
if you of-my love deign,

herre, sô gedenkent mîn.‘
lord, so think of-me.‘

‚daz dinc muoz etswenne sîn‘
‚the thing must sometime be‘

sprach der edel wîgant.
spoke the noble fighter.

dâ mite ruort er zehant
there with touched he at-once

den zimbel als er wuote.
the cymbal as he raged.

do geswant von unmuote
then swooned from ill-mood

der vil edelen künigîn.
the very noble princess.

siu vorht irs vater unde sîn.
she feared for-her father and for-him.

der helt si an den arm nam,
the hero her on the arm took,

unz daz siu zuo ir selber kam
until that she to her self came

und ir wart ein wênic baz.
and to-her became a little better.

zehant er ûf sîn ors gesaz.
at-once he upon his steed sat.

des trûrten ir sinne.
of-that mourned her wits.

siu sprach ‚ôwê Minne,
she spoke ‚alas Love,

war umbe hâstu mich geschant?
what for hast-thou me disgraced?

daz mir von minnen ie geswant,
that to-me from love ever swooned,

daz enwær mîns rehtes niht.
that were of-my right not.

ich minnen den, der mir verziht
I love him, who me refuses

daz er mich füere hinnen.
that he me lead hence.

waz sol ich an im minnen?
what shall I in him love?

wê, waz sprich ich, tumbez wîp!
woe, what speak I, foolish woman!

beidiu tugent und sînen lîp,
both virtue and his person,

diu muoz ich imer minnen.
them must I ever love.

von liebe möht ich brinnen.
for love might I burn.

minne tuot mir alsô heiz,
love does to-me so hot,

daz ich itze lützel weiz
that I now little know

und mich al mîn list niht vervât.
and me all my cunning not avails.

Minne, tuo mir selben rât,
Love, do me self counsel,

daz ich dir diene imer mê!
that I thee serve ever more!

ach leider, wê mir ôwê!
ah alas, woe me alas!

Minne ist nieman bereit,
Love is to-no-one ready,

ez enkome von grôzer sælekheit.
it unless-come from great blessedness.

swen Minne ie herzelîche traf,
whom Love ever heartily struck,

den vervie nie krût noch würze saf.
him availed never herb nor root juice.

doch dês al ein, möht ich komen
yet that-is all one, might I come

ze dem schœnen tal, mir möhten fromen
to the beautiful valley, me might avail

mîn schœne bluomen etwaz.
my beautiful flowers somewhat.

wê, war umbe sprich ich daz?
woe, what for speak I that?

möhte ich wol, in wolts niht tuon.
might I well, I would-it not do.

mir lât diu minne alsô enspuon,
me lets the love so fail,

daz ich die wîsheit wol verbir.
that I the wisdom well forgo.

mîn süezîu tumpheit râtet mir,
my sweet foolishness counsels me,

daz ich dem wunderschœnen man
that I to-the wondrous-beautiful man

mîns lîbes und des siges gan.
of-my body and of-the victory grant.

daz wert mir nâtûre.
that forbids me nature.

mîns herzen nâchgebûre
my heart's neighbor

dem gan ich sælden aller meist.
to-him grant I blessings of-all most.

ach Minne, waz du wunders weist!'
ah Love, what thou of-wonders knowest!'

Dô sus alle ir sinne striten,
When thus all her wits fought,

dô kom ir vater zuo geriten
then came her father to ridden

ûf eime stolzen rosse grôz,
upon a proud horse great,

gewâfent daz nie sîn genôz
armed that never his peer

mit bezzerm îsen wart bereit.
with better iron was equipped.

sîn ors was, sô man uns seit,
his steed was, as one to-us tells,

zundervar vil tiure.
tinder-colored very precious.

mit einer îsern kovertiure
with an iron caparison

ez was bedaht ûf den strît.
it was covered for the fight.

dar obe lac ein samît,
there above lay a samite,

geworht grüene als ein gras.
wrought green as a grass.

sîn wâfen ouch dar an was,
his arms also there on were,

rôte lewen von golde.
red lions of gold.

sîn schilt was, als er wolde,
his shield was, as he would,

von sinopele rôt genuoc.
of sinople red enough.

ein guldînen lewen er truoc,
a golden lion it bore,

der was ûf daz bret erhaben.
which was upon the board raised.

daz er zeiner banier solte haben,
what he as-a banner should have,

daz was ein van unz an die hant,
that was a pennon until to the hand,

von dem besten saben, den man vant
of the best silk, which one found

in des küneges lant von Marroc.
in the king's land of Morocco.

des selben einen wâfenroc
of-the same a surcoat

fuort er und guldîn schellen dran.
wore he and golden bells there-on.

er schein ein engel, niht ein man,
he seemed an angel, not a man,

an allem sîme gereite.
in all his harness.

ze einer hübscheite
for a courtliness

fuort er sîdîn mouwen.
wore he silken sleeves.

man möht in gerne schouwen
one might him gladly behold

swâ erz in guot meinde.
wherever he-it to-them good meant.

von kinde er wol bescheinde,
from child he well showed,

daz er gemuot was unde snel.
that he spirited was and swift.

guldîn was sîn gügerel,
golden was his crest,

ein boum mit löubern niht ze breit.
a tree with leaves not too broad.

ein grimel was dar an bereit
a fringe was there on ready

mit sîdînen weifieren.
with silken streamers.

sus pflac er sich zieren
thus practiced he himself to-adorn

beidiu an helm und an sporn.
both on helm and on spurs.

im was an den gast zorn,
to-him was at the guest anger,

als im sîn übermuot gebôt.
as to-him his arrogance commanded.

im was niht vor wan der tôt.
to-him was nothing before but the death.

Dô er den jungen wîgant
When he the young fighter

wol gewarneten vant
well prepared found

zuo der linden bî dem brunnen,
at the linden by the spring,

dô enwart dâ niht begunnen
then was there not begun

minnenclîcher gruoze.
loving greeting.

der wirt sprach unsuoze,
the host spoke unsweetly,

wan er ein grimmic herze truoc,
for he a grim heart bore,

‚wer ist der den zimbel sluoc?‘
‚who is who the cymbal struck?‘

der gast sprach ‚daz hân ich getân.‘
the guest spoke ‚that have I done.‘

‚durch waz?‘ ‚ich moht es niht gelân.‘
‚for what?‘ ‚I might it not leave.‘

‚welt ir mîn âventiure nemen?‘
‚will you my adventure take?‘

‚jâ ich.‘ ‚des lât iuch niht gezemen.‘
‚yea I.‘ ‚of-that let you not befit.‘

‚ichn magez mit êren niht versagen.‘
‚I can-it with honors not refuse.‘

‚nu waz welt ir hie bejagen?‘
‚now what will you here win?‘

‚ein schœne wîp und iwer lant.‘
‚a beautiful wife and your land.‘

dô zurnt Iweret zehant.
then raged Iweret at-once.

Diu sper si nider halten.
The spears they down held.

gelücke muos es walten,
luck must it govern,

swer ez dâ hin trüege.
whoever it there thither bore.

do enwolte der gefüege
then would the fitting-one

dem eltern niht entwîchen.
from-the elder not give-way.

si liezen dar strîchen
they let thither sweep

mit verhancten zoumen diu marc.
with loosened reins the steeds.

ir übermuot der was starc,
their arrogance it was strong,

dâ von si wol geluste
there from them well desired

einer ritterlîchen juste.
of-a knightly joust.

daz geschach ân arge liste.
that happened without evil cunning.

ir enwedere vermiste,
of-them neither missed,

beide si wol stâchen,
both they well stabbed,

daz die schefte brâchen
that the shafts broke

und die schever hôhe vlugen.
and the splinters high flew.

für wâr wir daz sagen mugen,
for true we that tell may,

daz si diu swert zuhten.
that they the swords drew.

diu ros ouch wider ruhten,
the horses also back jerked,

wan se ûf die hehsen wâren komen.
for they upon the hocks were come.

die zwêne tiurlîche gomen
the two precious men

gesâzen kûme beide.
sat scarcely both.

zehant erschrac von leide
at-once was-frightened from sorrow

Iweret umbe daz,
Iweret about that,

wan im dâ vor nie gesaz
for him there before never sat

kein ritter mit der wârheit,
no knight with the truth,

der im ze rosse widerreit.
who to-him on horse rode-against.

XVIII · THE DEATH OF IWERET

They fight on foot; Iweret asks for a truce and is refused, and when he is struck down the knight cuts off his head. Iblis, who swooned through the fight, forgives him and pledges herself to him, and they ride away, meeting the abbot coming for the body; she sends word to her people to hold her land. They lie together under a linden, and a maiden from the sea-fairy's land rides up on a white mule.

Ze hôher buoze stuont der strît.
At high stake stood the fight.

si vâhten wol ze beider sît
they fought well on both sides

und dâhten niht wan an die nôt,
and thought not but of the distress,

daz er benamen læge tôt,
that he assuredly would-lie dead,

der dem andern wære entwichen.
who from-the other were given-way.

von slegen und von stichen
from blows and from stabs

sâhen si beide dicke
saw they both often

des wilden fiures blicke,
the wild fire's flashes,

die ûz den helmen sprungen.
which out-of the helms sprang.

diu scharpfen swert erclungen
the sharp swords rang

in beiden an den handen.
to-them both in the hands.

die brünjen sich entranden,
the byrnies themselves unraveled,

daz sich die ringe zecluben
that themselves the rings cleaved

und die wâfenrocke stuben
and the surcoats flew

harte wîten umbe sie.
very widely about them.

sô ez an ein dringen gie,
when it to a pressing went,

sô hôrte man der schilte stôz,
so heard one the shields' clash,

als ez wære ein duner grôz.
as-if it were a thunder great.

si hiwen sich sô sêre,
they hewed each-other so sorely,

daz si diu ros niht mêre
that they the horses not more

ze samen bringen mohten.
to together bring might.

dô wart dâ êrst gevohten.
then was there first fought.

Bêde wurfen si sich abe.
Both threw they themselves off.

dô sprach Iweret ‚ich habe
then spoke Iweret ‚I have

gestriten mit kinden unz her.
fought with children until here.

ditz ist ein man, idoch muoz̨ er
this is a man, yet must he

beidiu wîp unde lant
both wife and land

sô tiure koufen, daz̨ sîn pfant
so dearly buy, that his pledge

dar umbe hôhe stênde wirt
there for high standing becomes

und ez̨ in iemer mêre swirt.
and it him ever more pains.

dâ mite sluoc er vaste
there with struck he firmly

dem unkunden gaste
from-the unknown guest

niderhalp der hant
below the hand

durch den underen rant
through the lower rim

den dritten teil des schiltes hin.
the third part of-the shield away.

dô huop sich zorn under in
then raised itself anger among them

und wart in beiden alsô heiz̨,
and became to-them both so hot,

daz̨ in beiden der sweiz̨
that to-them both the sweat

ûz̨ der mâz̨e wê tet.
out-of the measure woe did.

des wart der küene Iweret
by-that became the bold Iweret

geslagen durch sîn barbel,
struck through his beaver,

daz der degen alsô snel
that the thane so swift

bluoten begunde
to-bleed began

zer nasen und zem munde
at-the nose and at-the mouth

durch die vintâlen nider.
through the ventail down.

der rîche wirt sluoc dâ wider
the rich host struck there against

den gast ûf die molte.
the guest onto the dust.

der helt sich des erholte
the hero himself of-that recovered

und spranc schiere her dan,
and sprang quickly hither away,

daz er dem bluotenden man
that he to-the bleeding man

durch helm und durch die hûben sluoc
through helm and through the coif struck

eine tiefe wunden wît genuoc.
a deep wound wide enough.

daz swert er kûme wider gezô.
the sword he scarcely back drew.

Iweret der gerte dô
Iweret he desired then

eines vrides an den jungen.
a truce of the young-one.

dem degen unbetwungen
to-the thane unforced

was niht swacher suone kunt.
was not weak reconciliation known.

si sluogen beide zestunt
they struck both at-once

manegen slac ûf die brünnen.
many-a blow upon the byrnies.

von dem wider wünnen
of the counter delight

möht ich manic mære sagen.
might I many-a tale tell.

hie wart Iweret geslagen,
here was Iweret struck,

daz er undankes nider kam.
that he against-his-will down came.

der vremde es guote war nam
the stranger of-it good heed took

und enliez in wider ûf niht komen,
and let him back up not come,

ê er im hæte benomen
before he from-him had taken

beidiu lîp und êre.
both life and honor.

nu waz welt irs mêre
now what want you-of-it more

wan dêr imz houbet abe sluoc?
than that-he to-him-the head off struck?

ein vrœlich gemüet er truoc
a joyful mind he bore

und gie hin dâ diu vrowe lac.
and went thither where the lady lay.

der was geswunden al den tac
she was swooned all the day

und enwisse niht von der geschiht,
and knew not of the happening,

wer dâ wol vaht oder niht.
who there well fought or not.

Die maget er ûf habete,
The maiden he up raised,

mit brunnen er si labete
with spring-water he her refreshed

und trôstes als er kunde.
and comforted-her as he could.

diu vrowe dô begunde
the lady then began

ir vriundes vil genôte warn.
of-her friend very closely to-perceive.

siu sprach ‚wie ist ez gevarn?‘
she spoke ‚how is it fared?‘

‚vil wol‘ sprach der sælige:
‚very well‘ spoke the blessed-one:

‚ich hân erworben iuch mit sige
‚I have won you with victory

und wil iuch imer liep hân.
and will you ever dear have.

ir sult triuwe an mir begân:
you shall faith on me do:

daz zimt wol iwer gebürte.
that befits well your birth.

guot antwürte
good answer

vreut den ellenden man.
gladdens the exiled man.

vrowe, nu gedenkent dran
lady, now think there-on

und sprechent mir güetlîchen zuo.
and speak me kindly to.

ob ich imer an iu missetuo,
if I ever against you do-amiss,

sô müez ich sîn verwâzen.
so must I be cursed.

wie möht ich hân verlâzen,
how might I have refrained,

dô ich gesach iwern lîp,
when I saw your person,

ich enwurbe daz ir mîn wîp
I unless-strove that you my wife

von rehte solten werden?
by right should become?

Iwereten den werden
Iweret the worthy

getorste niht ein zage bestân,
dared not a coward withstand,

wan daz ichz durch iuch hân getân.
except that I-it for you have done.

sît ir den vater hânt verlorn,
since you the father have lost,

sô rechent selbe den zorn
so avenge self the anger

swie ir gebietent an mir.
however you command on me.

zwâre ir sint mir lieber zwir,
truly you are to-me dearer twice,

danne ir im wurdent ie.‘
than you to-him became ever.‘

diu vrowe daz für guot enpfie.
the lady that for good received.

wizzent wol, daz tet ir nôt,
know well, that did to-her need,

wan ez ir diu liebe gebôt,
for it to-her the love commanded,

doch si daz niht vermite,
yet she that not avoided,

siu weinde nâch der wîbe site.
she wept after the women's custom.

diu minne was ir allez bî.
the love was to-her all by.

si jehent, daz niht sô starc sî.
they say, that nothing so strong be.

daz geloubent alle deste baz,
that believe all the better,

wan si sô schiere vergaz,
for she so quickly forgot,

daz er ir vater het erslagen.
that he her father had slain.

der nu dem andern zallen tagen
who now to-the other at-all days

mit willen nimer leit getuot
with will never sorrow does

und er allen sînen muot
and he all his mind

im ze dienste hât bereit,
to-him for service has ready,

daz wære ein unverwizzenheit
that were an unreasonableness

ob genâd dâ lôn verbære.
if grace there reward should-forgo.

her wider an daz mære
hither back to the tale

grîfe ab ich durch iwer bete.
grasp but I for your request.

nu hœrent wie diu vrowe tete.
now hear how the lady did.

Siu bat den helt daz er niht bite
She begged the hero that he not waited

und er von der linden rite,
and he from the linden rode,

wan siu vorht ir vater man.
for she feared her father's men.

der ritter selbe sich versan
the knight self himself bethought

und dâhte wie siuz meinde.
and thought how she-it meant.

diu maget im dô bescheinde
the maiden to-him then showed

mit triwen rehte stætikheit:
with faith right steadfastness:

ez wær im liep oder leit,
it were to-him dear or sorrowful,

siu enwolte nimer von im komen.
she would never from him come.

den selben muot hât er genomen,
the same mind has he taken,

daz er sô holt niemanne wart.
that he so devoted to-no-one became.

nu was in gâch an die vart
now was to-them hasty at the journey

und riten von dem walde dan.
and rode from the forest away.

do begegent in der guote man
then met them the good man

von der Jæmerlîchen urbor
from the Wretched estate

mit einer bâre, als er dâ vor
with a bier, as he there before

nâch den tôten was gevarn.
after the dead was fared.

er wolt in gerne bewarn,
he would him gladly guard,

als manegen den er ê begruop.
as many-a-one whom he before buried.

sîn hende er ûf ze gote huop,
his hands he up to God raised,

der selbe êwarte:
the same priest:

in wunderte harte,
him wondered very,

wie ez gevarn wære.
how it fared were.

in dûht ein vremde mære,
to-him seemed a strange tale,

daz unser ritter genas
that our knight survived

und Iweret tôt was.
and Iweret dead was.

Der priester kêrte dannen.
The priest turned thence.

diu vrowe enbôt ir mannen
the lady sent-word to-her men

bî dem abbte zehant,
by the abbot at-once,

daz si burc unde lant
that they castle and land

behielten wol nâch êren:
kept well after honors:

si wolte wider kêren,
she would back turn,

swenn ez ir rehte kæme.
when it to-her rightly came.

diu botschaft was genæme
the message was agreeable

allen ir holden,
to-all her devoted-ones,

wan daz si wizzen wolden,
except that they know would,

wer ir herren hæte erslagen.
who their lord had slain.

do enkund in nieman gesagen,
then could them no-one tell,

wer er was und war er fuor.
who he was and whither he fared.

der guote man vil tiure swuor,
the good man very dearly swore,

ez wære der schœneste man,
it were the most-beautiful man,

der ritters namen ie gewan.
who knight's name ever won.

‚sîn gebærd ist guot, und wirbet sô,
‚his bearing is good, and acts so,

wir solten imer wesen vrô,
we should ever be glad,

möht wir in ze herren haben.‘
might we him as lord have.‘

nu wart Iweret begraben
now was Iweret buried

dâ unser ritter solte ligen.
where our knight should lie.

wie solt daz werden verswigen,
how should that become kept-silent,

war der vremde ritter kam
whither the strange knight came

und diu maget die er zer linden nam?
and the maiden whom he at-the linden took?

Nu ritens eine wîle,
Now rode-they a while,

wol eine welsche mîle,
well a French mile,

und kômen ûf ein breide.
and came onto a broad-heath.

dâ erbeiztens beide
there dismounted-they both

under eine grüene linden.
under a green linden.

si enwolten niht erwinden,
they would not desist,

ê si gesâzen ûf daz gras.
before they sat upon the grass.

swes ê von in gegert was,
of-what before by them desired was,

des wart dô begunnen,
of-that was then begun,

doch wirs niht enkunnen
yet we-it not can

gesagen noch gezellen.
tell nor recount.

si wurden gesellen,
they became companions,

als in diu minne geriet.
as them the love counseled.

innân des sô ditz geschiet
within that as this happened

und in daz mære wol behaget,
and them the tale well pleased,

sô sehents eine schœne maget,
so see-they a beautiful maiden,

diu zuo in gerne wolte sîn.
who to them gladly would be.

ein harmblankez miullîn
an ermine-white little-mule

reit diu wol getâne.
rode the well made-one.

do bekante si nâch wâne
then knew her by guess

der helt, dem liebe was geschehen:
the hero, to-whom love was happened:

wan er het si dâ vor gesehen
for he had her there before seen

bî der merfeine.
by the sea-fairy.

ez was der vrowen eine
it was of-the ladies one

von der Meide lande.
from the Maiden land.

bî namen er si nande
by name he her named

und hiez si willekomen sîn
and bade her welcome be

im und sîner friundîn.
to-him and to-his beloved.