MIDDLE HIGH GERMAN SERIES · VOLUME 42

Daniel of the Blossoming Valley

Der Stricker

Daniel von dem Blühenden Tal

Daniel of the Blossoming Valley

Part One: The War with King Matur

---

with a word-for-word interlinear English translation

preserving the original word order

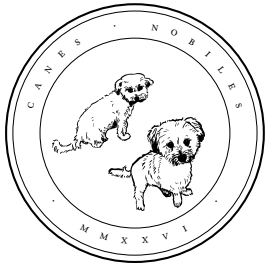


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Volume 42 of the Canes Nobiles Middle High German interlinear texts

The Middle High German text follows Daniel von dem Blühenden Tal,
ein Artusroman von dem Stricker, herausgegeben von Gustav Rosenhagen,
Germanistische Abhandlungen 9 (Breslau: Wilhelm Koebner, 1894)

Translated and composed with AI, edited by Christopher Hench
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The verses are numbered as Rosenhagen numbers them,
every fifth verse in the outer margin. The paragraphs
are his; the reading sections and their English heads are this press's.

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The Stricker names his source, Master Alberich of Besançon, and praises King Arthur as a king beyond compare, who vows to fast each day until he hears a new tale and lets only the worthy sit at the Round Table. Keie rides out boasting and is unhorsed by a stranger, Daniel of the Blossoming Valley, who then unhorses Arthur's knights one after another and holds his seat against Gawain, Iwein, and Parzival.

Swer gerne allez daz vernimet,
Whoever gladly all that hears,

daz guoten liuten wol gezimet,
that to-good people well befits,

der wirt es selten âne muot,
he becomes of-it seldom without spirit,

unz er der werk ein teil getuot:
until he of-the works a part does:

swer aber den worten ist gehaz,
whoever however to-the words is hostile,

der ist ze den werken dicke laz.
he is to the works often slack.

Von Bisenze meister Albrich,
From Besançon master Alberich,

der brâhte ein rede ane mich
he brought a tale to me

ûzer welscher zungen.
out-of French tongue.

die hân ich des betwungen,
it have I to-that forced,

daz man si in tiutsche vernimet,
that one it in German hears,

swenne kurzwîle gezimet.
whenever pastime befits.

nieman der enschelte mich:
no-one he rebuke me:

louc er mir, so liug ouch ich.
lied he to-me, so lie also I.

sus hebet sich diz mære.
thus raises itself this tale.

hie wil der Strickære
here will the Stricker

mit worten zeigen sîne kunst
with words show his art

und hât des gerne iuwer gunst,
and has of-that gladly your favor,

daz irz mit zühten hœret
that you-it with breeding hear

und niht mit rede zerstœret.
and not with speech destroy.

zuht ist ein sô reiniu tugent,
breeding is a so pure virtue,

si êret alter unde jugent.
it honors age and youth.

Swer lop und êre wil bejagen,
Whoever praise and honor will hunt,

der sol darumbe niht verzagen,
he shall therefore not despair,

irret in etwâ daz guot.
hinders him somewhere the goods.

sô man den willigen muot
so one the willing spirit

an im erkennet unde siht,
in him recognizes and sees,

man spricht im, daz man dem giht,
one speaks to-him, what one to-him declares,

der den willen und diu werk tuot.
who the will and the works does.

gar âne willigen muot
wholly without willing spirit

wirt selten ieman wol gelobet,
is seldom anyone well praised,

swaz er mit gebene getobet.
whatever he with giving raged.

Des giht der künec Artûs;
That declares the king Arthur;

er gewan nie eigen hûs,
he gained never own house,

den man ze ime gelîche.
whom one to him likened.

er minnete grôzlîche
he loved greatly

beide milte und êre,
both bounty and honor,

und tugendlîche lêre;
and virtuous teaching;

ern begie nie lasterlîche schame.
he committed never shameful disgrace.

dâvon sîn lop und sîn name
therefore his praise and his name

reine lebet unde wert.
pure lives and worthy.

swer hovelîches lebens begert,
whoever courtly life desires,

der minne alle sîne zuht.
he love all his breeding.

daz ist ein wuocherhaftiu fruht
that is a usurious fruit

und ist ein lobelîchiu habe:
and is a praiseworthy possession:

er wirt dâ wert benamen abe.
he becomes there worthy truly from.

Der künec Artûs was vollekomen;
The king Arthur was perfect;

swaz wir von künegen hân vernomen,
whatever we of kings have heard,

daz was ein wint wider ime.
that was a wind against him.

wan daz ich mich ungerne annime
except that I myself unwillingly undertake

ze strîtene mit den liuten,
to quarrel with the people,

ich kunde wol getiuten,
I could well explain,

wes er pflac in sîner jugent.
what he practiced in his youth.

ich weiz wol, ob ich sîne tugent
I know well, if I his virtue

mit worten gar herfür züge,
with words wholly forth drew,

man spræche, ich tobete alder lüge.
one would-say, I raved or lied.

dâvon wil ich lützel dâvon sagen
therefore will I little thereof say

und wil es doch niht gar verdagen.
and will it yet not wholly keep-silent.

Nû hœret sîner tugende kraft.
Now hear his virtue's power.

er was sô rehte wârhaft,
he was so rightly truthful,

daz er gesprach dehein wort,
that he spoke no word,

ez wære stæter danne der hort,
unless-it were steadier than the hoard,

der iemer und iemer weren mac.
which ever and ever last may.

Nû hœret ouch, wes er mê pflac.
Now hear also, what he more practiced.

die im gerne wâren undertân,
those-who to-him gladly were subject,

die wolder doch ze gesellen hân.
them would-he yet as companions have.

des quâmen im ze handen
therefore came to-him to hands

die besten von den landen.
the best from the lands.

die wurden sîn gesellen dâ
they became his companions there

und wâren ouch darnâch anderswâ
and were also thereafter elsewhere

belobet iemer dester baz.
praised ever the better.

darumbe tâten sie daz:
therefore did they that:

er wirt dicke dester baz vernomen,
he is often the better heard,

swer sich gesellet zuo dem fromen.
whoever himself joins to the upright.

Dô der künec Artûs gesach,
When the king Arthur saw,

daz im diu welt des lobes jach,
that to-him the world of-the praise declared,

des fröute er sich sêre
of-that rejoiced he himself sorely

und gelobete durch ir êre,
and vowed for their honor,

er wolde vasten alle tage,
he would fast all days,

unz er von sehene ald von sage
until he from seeing or from telling

vernæme ein niuwez mære,
should-hear a new tale,

dâvon ze sagene wære.
of-which to tell were.

daz tet er niht wan umbe daz,
that did he not except for that,

daz sie sich regeten dester baz
that they themselves should-stir the better

und ritterschefte pflægen
and knighthood should-practice

und sich dâ nicht verlægen.
and themselves there not should-lie-idle.

er fuogte ir êre in alle wîs,
he contrived their honor in all ways,

dâvon bejagete er den prîs.
therefore hunted he the prize.

Sîn guot daz was gemeine,
His goods it was common,

sîn hof wart nie sô eine,
his court became never so lonely,

ez wær gnuoc zeiner hôchzît;
it would-be enough for-a high-feast;

sîn lop daz was von schulden wît.
his praise it was with cause wide.

sîn ingesinde was âne zal.
his household was without number.

ein tavel stuont in sînem sal,
a table stood in his hall,

diu hâte die tugent und die art,
which had the virtue and the nature,

daz nieman sîn geselle wart,
that no-one its companion became,

wan den si zuo ir sitzen lie;
except whom it to it sit let;

der ie kein dörperheit begie,
who ever any boorishness committed,

der hâte ir hulde verlorn;
he had its favor lost;

si hâte in schiere verkorn,
it had him quickly renounced,

er getorste niemer zuo ir komen.
he dared never to it come.

dâmite wurden sie ûz genomen
therewith were they out taken

die im ze gesellen tohten
who to-him as companions availed

und mit êren heizen mohten
and with honors be-called might

die von der Tavelrunde.
those of the Round-Table.

swaz der man kunde
whatever the man could

ze kurzwîl ald ze spil,
for pastime or for play,

des was dâ mê danne vil.
of-that was there more than much.

Ein site was dâ gevangen,
A custom was there caught,

der selten wart übergangen:
which seldom was passed-over:

swem ein laster was beschehen,
to-whom a shame was happened,

des muose er offenlîche jehen,
that must he openly declare,

und swaz im êren geschach,
and whatever to-him of-honors happened,

daz er des niemer verjach.
that he of-that never declared.

sie muosen darumbe ir laster sagen
they must therefore their shame say

und ir frümekeit verdagen,
and their prowess keep-silent,

swer dâ lobes muote,
whoever there of-praise had-mind,

daz er sich vor laster huote
that he himself from shame guarded

und daz vil gerne sæhe,
and that very gladly should-see,

daz ims niht mê geschæhe
that to-him-it not more should-happen

und deste tiurre wære.
and the dearer were.

diz dûhte in wandelbære,
this seemed to-them blameworthy,

der des andern laster het geseit
who of-the other's shame had said

oder sîn selbes frümekeit.
or his self's prowess.

Der ûz nâch âventiure reit,
Who out after adventure rode,

dem was ein niuwer schilt bereit.
to-him was a new shield ready.

swer den hâte genomen,
whoever it had taken,

dern getorste niht widerkomen,
he dared not come-back,

ern bræhte in gar zerhouwen,
unless-he brought it wholly hewn-up,

daz man wol mohte schouwen,
that one well might behold,

wes er die wîle pflæge.
what he the while practiced.

ez enwas nie sô unwæge,
it was never so perilous,

ez wurde von im bestanden
unless-it were by him withstood

(des wart in allen landen
(of-that was in all lands

gelobet der künic Artûs)
praised the king Arthur)

durch daz man ie von sînem hûs
for that one ever from his house

ûz ze rîtene pflac.
out to ride was-wont.

des wart sîn êre alle tac
therefore was his honor every day

breiter dann si wære.
broader than it were.

durch die selben mære
for the same tidings

riten von allen landen dar
rode from all lands thither

die besten ritter alle gar.
the best knights all wholly.

Ouch hâte der künec Artûs
Also had the king Arthur

durch ein wunder in sînem hûs
for a wonder in his house

den schalkhaftesten man,
the most-roguish man,

der ritters namen ie gewan.
who knight's name ever gained.

der was geheizen Keiî,
he was named Keie,

und was aber dâbî
and was however thereby

der aller küeneste man,
the very boldest man,

den der hof ie gewan.
whom the court ever gained.

der was an die heide
he was onto the heath

durch sîn ougenweide
for his eye-feast

nâch âventiure geriten
after adventure ridden

mit hôchvertigen siten.
with haughty manners.

er was ein klaffære,
he was a babbler,

er enwolde dehein bœse mære
he would no evil tale

von im selber gesagen;
from him self say;

hæte er einen erslagen,
had he one slain,

er hæte gesaget, ir wæren drî.
he would-have said, of-them were three.

nû sach der herre Keiî
now saw the lord Keie

einen ritter rîten dort her,
a knight ride there hither,

gegen dem kêrte er.
toward him turned he.

der was Daniel genant,
he was Daniel named,

das Blüende Tal hiez sîn lant.
the Blossoming Valley was-called his land.

der hôrte sagen mære,
he heard say tidings,

swie frome ein ritter wære,
however bold a knight were,

suohter den künec Artûs,
sought-he the king Arthur,

er funde noch tiurren dâ ze hûs.
he would-find still dearer-ones there at house.

vil manlich begunder
very manly began-he

durch dazselbe wunder
for that-same wonder

gegen her Keiî gâhen.
toward sir Keie hasten.

dô sie begunden nâhen,
when they began near,

dô begundern ansprechen,
then began-he address,

ob er iht wolde stechen.
whether he anything would joust.

her Keiî sprach zehant: „Jâ.
sir Keie spoke at-once: „Yes.

ir möhtet aber anderswâ
you might however elsewhere

grœzern prîs bejagen.
greater prize hunt.

ich machte sie alle ze zagen,
I made them all into cowards,

die mich ie geriten an.
who me ever rode at.

mich bestuont nie dehein man,
me withstood never any man,

ich bereite in mit einem valle.
I readied him with a fall.

darumbe schiuhent sie mich alle,
therefore shun they me all,

die mich noch ie erkanten.
who me still ever knew.

die aber an mich geranten,
those however at me galloped,

den geschah, als iu muoz geschehen.
to-them happened, as to-you must happen.

ich wil iuch schiere lâzen sehen
I will you quickly let see

ein site, den ich gelernet hân."
a custom, which I learned have."

dô liezen sie zesamene gân.
then let they together go.

sie neigten diu sper ûf die brust.
they lowered the spears onto the breast.

daz was ietweders gelust,
that was each's desire,

daz er den andern valte;
that he the other should-fell;

mit schelleclîchem gewalte
with resounding force

begunden sie zesamene komen.
began they together come.

dô wart her Keiî genomen
then was sir Keie taken

an der riterschefte
at the knighthood

und wart mit solher krefte
and was with such strength

gestochen âne sînen danc,
thrust without his thanks,

daz er wol eines spers lanc
that he well a spear's length

von dem rosse niderviel.
from the steed down-fell.

dô wolde im her Daniel
then would to-him sir Daniel

niht mê tuon, dô daz ergie,
not more do, when that happened,

wan daz er daz ors gevie,
except that he the horse caught,

und rette im hoveschlîche mite:
and spoke to-him courteously with:

„Ritter, ist diz iuwer site,
„Knight, is this your custom,

den ir dâ gelernet hât.
which you there learned have.

sô möhtet ir lîhte haben rât,
so might you perhaps have help,

ob ir des sites vergæzet
if you of-the custom forgot

und ûf iuwerm orse sæzet.
and on your horse sat.

bereitet ir sie alle
ready you them all

mit einem solhen valle?
with a such fall?

der site ist gar ân êre;
the custom is wholly without honor;

gerüemet es iuch niemer mêre."
boast of-it yourselves never more."

Keiî sprach niht dâwidere,
Keie spoke nothing there-against,

er lac ie noch dânidere,
he lay ever still there-down,

wan er vil unsanfte viel.
for he very hard fell.

dô sprach herre Daniel:
then spoke lord Daniel:

„Nemet iuwer ors, ob irs sô gert,
„Take your horse, if you-it so desire,

daz ir den site gar verbert,
that you the custom wholly forgo,

und valt niht mê, ez entuo iu nôt."
and fell not more, unless-it does to-you need."

her Keiî tet, daz er gebôt,
sir Keie did, what he commanded,

er nam sîn ors widere.
he took his horse back.

er viel sît dicke nidere.
he fell since often down.

daz was im aber harte leit.
that was to-him however very grievous.

Er saz ûf unde reit
He sat up and rode

ze Karidôl in daz hûs:
to Karidol into the house:

dâ frâgte der künec Artûs,
there asked the king Arthur,

waz im wære geschehen.
what to-him were happened.

dô enwolder nihtes verjehen,
then would-he nothing declare,

wan daz er zorneclîche sprach:
except that he angrily spoke:

„Mir ist geschehen, daz mir geschach."
„To-me is happened, what to-me happened."

Nû bekanten sie wol sîn bejagen,
Now knew they well his hunting,

sie bâten in niht mêre sagen.
they bade him not more say.

dô rief dirre unde der:
then called this-one and that-one:

„Harnasch und ors her!“
„Harness and horse hither!“

und wolden alle besehen,
and would all see,

waz her Keiî wære geschehen.
what to-sir Keie were happened.

die dâ niht lenger biten,
those-who there not longer waited,

und ûz durch ruom ze velde riten,
and out for boasting to field rode,

der enweste nieman dehein zal.
of-them knew no-one any number.

Daniêlen von dem Blüenden Tal
Daniel of the Blossoming Valley

sâhens ûf der heide haben
saw-they on the heath halt

und begunden gegen ime traben.
and began toward him trot.

der êrste der in ane reit,
the first who him at rode,

daz was Gwimant von Gereit;
that was Gwimant of Gereit;

den stach er nider alzehant.
him thrust he down at-once.

darnâch quam her Gressamant;
thereafter came sir Gressamant;

den warf er an daz selbe mâl.
him threw he at the same time.

Gengemôr und Linvâl,
Gengemor and Linval,

Alom und Schaitîs,
Alom and Schaitis,

Pribandrôn und Belamîs —
Pribandron and Belamis—

waz tohten sie alle genant?
what availed they all named?

sie vielen gar von sîner hant,
they fell wholly by his hand,

des enkunden sie sich niht bewarn.
of-that could they themselves not guard.

Ze jungest quam darzuo gevarn
At last came thereto fared

her Gâwein und her Jwein.
sir Gawain and sir Iwein.

ich wæne, diu sunne nie beschein
I think, the sun never shone-on

zwêne bezzer ritter danne sie.
two better knights than they.

dô sprach her Gâwein: „Waz ist hie?“
then spoke sir Gawain: „What is here?“

sîn gesellen sprâchen alle:
his companions spoke all:

„Mit einem grôzen valle
„With a great fall

ist meneclich hie enpfangen.
is each-one here received.

alsô ist ez uns ergangen.“
so is it to-us gone.“

dô sprach her Gâwein:
then spoke sir Gawain:

„Ritter, welt ir mit uns zwein
„Knight, will you with us two

stechen durch iuwer höveschеit?“
joust for your courtliness?“

des was her Daniel bereit.
of-that was sir Daniel ready.

dô sie des wurden enein,
when they of-that became agreed,

Daniel und her Gâwein,
Daniel and sir Gawain,

besunder riten sie zehant.
apart rode they at-once.

diu ors wurden gewant
the horses were turned

darnâch wart in gehenget
thereafter was to-them given-rein

und wurden mit grimme ersprenget.
and were with fury spurred.

dô wart mit nîde gespilt;
then was with hostility played;

durch des anderen schilt
through the other's shield

stach ietweder sîn sper
thrust each his spear

mit so manlicher ger,
with so manly desire,

daz ez zerbrast und zerspranc.
that it shattered and burst.

ir dewеders lop dâ niht enhanc;
of-them either's praise there not hung;

sie gesâzen beide, als sie wolden
they kept-seat both, as they would

und ouch guote ritter solden.
and also good knights should.

darnâch hiesch in her Jwein.
thereafter challenged him sir Iwein.

des wart aber von in zwein
of-that was again by them two

sô sêre gestochen und geriten,
so sorely thrust and ridden,

daz sie viel kûme vermiten
that they very barely avoided

beide samet daz vallen:
both together the falling:

doch gesaz er vor in allen
yet kept-seat he before them all

âne lasterlîchiu mâl.
without shameful marks.

ze juugest quam her Parcifâl,
at last came sir Parzival,

der begunde ouch stechens gern.
he began also of-jousting desire.

daz wart aber zwein spern
that was again to-two spears

an ir ende gewant:
at their end turned:

diu zerbrâchen sie zehant
them broke they at-once

und gesâzen beide vaste.
and kept-seat both fast.

Diu êre, diu dem gaste
The honor, which to-the guest

von den drin rittern geschach,
from the three knights happened,

daz in deheiner niderstach,
that him none down-thrust,

des wâren die andern harte frô;
of-that were the others very glad;

die dûhten sich deste tiurre dô,
they seemed themselves the dearer then,

wand er ouch disen vor gesaz.
for he also these before sat.

warumbe tuot diu welt daz?
why does the world that?

swem ein bôsheit geschiht,
to-whom an evil happens,

der hœrt ez gerne unde siht,
he hears it gladly and sees,

daz ez andern liuten sam ergê.
that it to-other people likewise goes.

in dunket sîns heiles deste mê.
him seems of-his salvation the more.

II · THE GIANT'S MESSAGE

Gawain, Iwein, and Parzival welcome Daniel, son of King Mandagran, into their fellowship, and Arthur enrolls him at the Round Table. While Arthur waits to hear a new tale before he eats, a giant rides in on a camel with a message from King Matur of Cluse: Arthur is to become his vassal. Arthur answers that he holds his land from God alone and asks about Matur's country. The giant describes it: ringed by mountains, entered by one road that a great stone closes, its lovely ladies shaded by the Babian birds, and Matur's houses carried on elephants.

Dô her Daniel gereit
When sir Daniel rode

und er die schande alsô vermeit,
and he the disgrace so avoided,

daz in dâ nieman niderstach,
that him there no-one down-thrust,

und man sîn frümekeit gesach,
and one his prowess saw,

dô hæten sin gerne mit in hein,
then would-have him gladly with them home,

her Gawein und her Jwein
sir Gawain and sir Iwein

und der edel ritter Parcifâl,
and the noble knight Parzival,

die wâren gar âne valschiu mâl;
who were wholly without false marks;

daz wart wol schîn under in:
that became well visible among them:

sie riten alle drî hin
they rode all three thither

und sprâchen: „Sît uns willekomen,
and spoke: „Be to-us welcome,

wir hân gesehen und vernomen,
we have seen and heard,

daz ir ein guot ritter sît,
that you a good knight are,

daz soln wir lâzen âne nît.
that shall we let without envy.

nu ensolt ir niht stillen,
now shall you not keep-silent,

durch unser aller willen,
for our all will,

iuwern gewerp noch iuwern namen.
your errand nor your name.

ir endurfet iuch vor uns niht schamen.
you need yourself before us not be-ashamed.

iu ist durch iüwer frümekeit
to-you is for your prowess

unser aller dienst vil bereit."
our all service very ready."

Daniel sprach: „Den verbert.
Daniel spoke: „That forgo.

wær ich sô biderbe und sô wert,
were I so worthy and so valuable,

daz ich volbringen möhte
that I accomplish might

den dienst, der iu töhte,
the service, which to-you availed,

dâ wold ich niemer an verzagen.
there would I never in despair.

ich sol iu dienen unde sagen,
I shall you serve and tell,

swes ir von mir geruochet.
whatever you of me deign.

daz ich hie hân gesuochet,
what I here have sought,

des bin ich wol ze ende komen.
of-that am I well to end come.

ich hân dicke vernomen
I have often heard

tugent unde grôze kraft
virtue and great strength

von des künec Artûs geselleschaft:
of the king Arthur's companionship:

daz selbe wolde ouch ich besehen.
that same would also I see.

ich wil der wârheite jehen,
I will the truth declare,

ich quam um anders niht her,
I came for other nothing hither,

wan daz ich iuwer hulde ger.
except that I your favor desire.

ich bin Daniel genant,
I am Daniel named,

daz Blüende Tal ist min lant;
the Blossoming Valley is my land;

daz erbet mich mîn vater an,
that bequeaths me my father on,

der heizet der künec Mandagran."
he is-called the king Mandagran."

Des wâren die herren alle frô.
Of-that were the lords all glad.

Daniêlen enpfiengen si dô
Daniel received they then

mit triuwen in ir geselleschaft.
with faithfulness into their companionship.

diu hâte alsô grôze kraft,
which had so great strength,

daz sie deheiner slahte nôt
that them of-no kind distress

gescheiden kunde wan der tôt.
part could except the death.

sie riten frœlîche dan;
they rode joyfully thence;

sie hâten funden einen man,
they had found a man,

von dem der hof was gêret
by whom the court was honored

und ir geselleschaft gemêret;
and their companionship increased;

sie quâmen mit fröuden ze hûs.
they came with joys to house.

dô sprach der künec Artûs,
then spoke the king Arthur,

waz diu rede wære.
what the speech were.

dô sagetim diz mære
then told-him this tale

sîn neve herre Gâwein:
his nephew lord Gawain:

„Hie komt der besten ritter ein,
„Here comes of-the best knights one,

von dem wir ie gehôrten sagen.
of whom we ever heard say.

ez was ein sæligez jagen,
it was a blessed hunting,

daz wir hiute tâten.
which we today did.

uns hât got wol berâten.
us has God well provided.

wir erhuoben mit im unser spil.
we raised with him our game.

des genuzzen wir niht vil:
of-that profited we not much:

swie guot unser wille was,
however good our will was,

er warf uns alle ûf ein gras.
he threw us all onto a grass.

ich bin, den er ouch nider warf.
I am, whom he also down threw.

unser deheiner der endarf
of-us none he needs

dem andern verwîzen,
the other to-reproach,

er enwelle denn sich liegens flîzen.“
unless-he will then himself of-lying apply.“

daz sprach her Gâwein umbe daz,
that spoke sir Gawain for that,

möhter in noch gêren baz,
might-he him still honor better,

daz hæter gerne getân.
that would-have-he gladly done.

ouch wolder bezzer lop niht hân
also would-he better praise not have

wan als ander sîn gesellen.
than as other his companions.

er enwolde sich niht zellen
he would himself not count

tiurre danne ir dehein,
dearer than of-them any,

der edel ritter Gâwein.
the noble knight Gawain.

Dô disiu selbe rede ergienc,
When this same speech passed,

der künec Artûs enpfienc
the king Arthur received

Daniêlen alsô wol,
Daniel so well,

sô man vil lieben friunt sol,
as one very dear friend shall,

dâ man sîn schône enpflegen wil.
where one of-him beautifully take-care will.

sîner fröuden der was vil,
of-his joys of-them was much,

daz er dâ wolde belîben.
that he there would remain.

er hiez den helt schrîben
he bade the hero write

zehant in sîn geselleschaft.
at-once into his companionship.

sîn tugent diu hâte grôze kraft
his virtue it had great strength

und sîn leben gar ze prîse,
and his life wholly to prize,

er was aller tugende wîse.
he was of-all virtue wise.

in bevilte deheiner geste,
him wearied no guests,

des beleip sîn êre feste.
therefore remained his honor fast.

Darnâch in kurzen stunden,
Thereafter in short hours,

dô die von der Tavelrunden
when those of the Round-Table

grôze kurzwîle triben,
great pastime drove,

der sie vil selten âne bliben,
of-which they very seldom without remained,

(sie wâren zallen zîten frô)
(they were at-all times glad)

eines tages gefuogtez sich sô,
one day contrived-it itself so,

daz man dâ gerne enbizzen wære.
that one there gladly breakfasted were.

dô was dehein fremdez mære
then was no strange tale

dannoch für den künec komen,
yet before the king come,

als ir ê hât vernomen,
as you before have heard,

daz er dâ hœren solde,
which he there hear should,

ê danne er ezzen wolde:
before than he eat would:

des beit er harte schône.
for-that waited he very beautifully.

Dô vil nâch unz ze nône
When very nearly until to nones

durch daz selbe was gebiten,
for that same was waited,

dô quam ûf den hof geriten
then came onto the court ridden

ein rise stark unde grôz.
a giant strong and great.

der was gewâfenes blôz,
he was of-arms bare,

ern fuorte helm noch halsberc.
he wore helmet nor hauberk.

daz aller spæheste werc,
the very most-artful work,

daz ieman wirken solde
which anyone work should

von sîden und von golde,
of silk and of gold,

daz was des risen gewant.
that was the giant's garment.

einen schaft fuorter an der hant
a shaft carried-he in the hand

grœzer dann ein wiseboum.
greater than a hay-pole.

swem er quæme in sînen troum,
to-whom he should-come into his dream,

er müese es vorhte enpfâhen.
he must of-it fear receive.

dô sie in komen sâhen,
when they him come saw,

des erschrac manic helt vil snelle.
of-that took-fright many-a hero very quickly.

er was sô rehte ungestelle,
he was so rightly misshapen,

daz sie sîn schiere hete bevilt.
that they of-him quickly had wearied.

ern fuorte ouch deheinen schilt,
he carried also no shield,

er reit mit blôzen henden
he rode with bare hands

ûf einer grôzen olbenden,
on a great camel,

diu getruoc in doch vil kûme.
which bore him yet very barely.

in einem grôzen rûme
in a great space

reit er durch daz gesinde.
rode he through the household.

im was diu hût niht linde,
to-him was the skin not soft,

siu was herter dann ein horn.
it was harder than a horn.

wær im rehte worden zorn,
were to-him rightly become anger,

er hæte sie alle wol erslagen.
he would-have them all well slain.

er erbeizte und begunde sagen
he dismounted and began say

dem künec ein solhez mære,
to-the king a such tale,

daz sie alle dûhte swære.
that them all seemed heavy.

er sprach ze dem künec Artûse:
he spoke to the king Arthur:

„Der künec Matûr von Clûse
„The king Matur of Cluse

hât mich her ze dir gesant
has me hither to thee sent

und hæte gerne erkant,
and would-have gladly known,

wie getân dîn leben wære.
how made thy life were.

er hât manec edel mære
he has many-a noble tale

von dînen tugenden vernomen.
of thy virtues heard.

du bist sô gar vollekomen
thou art so wholly perfect

alles des diu welt gert,
of-all that the world desires,

daz du in wol dunkes wert,
that thou him well seemest worth,

daz du im dîn lant gebest,
that thou to-him thy land give,

und dâ wider niht enstrebest,
and there against not strive,

du ergebest dich im ze manne
thou give thyself to-him as vassal

und habest dîn lant danne
and have thy land then

von im ze lêhene iemer mê.
from him in fief ever more.

die êre gebôt er selten ê
the honor offered he seldom before

deheinem künege danne dir.
to-any king than thee.

du solt wol gelouben mir,
thou shalt well believe me,

mînes herren dinc stât alsô,
my lord's affair stands so,

daz er mac iemer wesen frô,
that he may ever be glad,

swes er ze manne ruochet
whomever he as vassal deigns

und ez an in gesuochet.
and it of him seeks.

als hât er an dich getân.
so has he toward thee done.

daz enwære niht ergân,
that were not happened,

wan daz im ist geseit
except that to-him is told

vil von dîner frümekeit.
much of thy prowess.

rîcher künege ist harte vil,
rich kings are very many,

der er ze manne niht enwil,
of-whom he as vassal not wills,

und sie es alle hânt gegert.
and they it all have desired.

ir deheiner dunket in des wert,
of-them none seems to-him of-that worth,

daz er in lâze in sîn lant.
that he him let into his land.

nû hât er mich ze dir gesant
now has he me to thee sent

und ladet dich sîn lant sehen,
and invites thee his land to-see,

wiltu sîn ze herren jehen,
(if)-wilt-thou him as lord acknowledge,

und haben von im dîn êre.
and have from him thy honor.

nû ensûme mich niht mêre:
now delay me not more:

swes du sô bedenkest dich,
whatever thou so considerest thyself,

daz lâ schiere hœren mich.“
that let quickly hear me.“

Dô sprach der künec Artûs:
Then spoke the king Arthur:

„Mir enquam nie mê ze hûs
„To-me came never more to house

dehein seltsæner mære.
any stranger tale.

wester daz ich wære
knew-he that I were

als frome sô du hâst gejehen,
as bold as thou hast declared,

so möhte er sich wol versehen,
so might he himself well expect,

daz ich mich dran niht kêrte.
that I myself thereto not turned.

ich wânde, mich baz êrte.
I thought, me better honored.

daz ich wære alsus frî
that I were thus free

und mîn lant mîn eigen sî,
and my land my own be,

dann ichz hæte von deheinem man,
than I-it should-have from any man,

die wîle daz mirs got gan.
the while that to-me-it God grants.

von dem hân ich ez ze lêhen.
from him have I it in fief.

ich wil es anders nieman flêhen.
I will it otherwise of-no-one beseech.

geschiht mir nôt deheiner wer.
(if)-happens to-me need of-any defense.

mir bringet ein kreftigez her
me brings a mighty host

mîn bete und mîn gebot.
my request and my command.

friunt, sage mir durch got
friend, tell me for God

von dînes herren lebene
of thy lord's life

und sage mir ouch vil ebene
and tell me also very evenly

von dem lande und von den liuten:
of the land and of the people:

du solt mir allez tiuten.
thou shalt to-me all explain.

swie mir der site gevalle,
however to-me the custom please,

sint alsô grôz alle
(if)-are so great all

in dem lande sô du bist,
in the land as thou art,

sô sprich ich anders, wizze crist,
so speak I otherwise, know Christ,

dann ich noch geredet habe."
than I yet spoken have."

Dô sprach der ungefüege knabe:
Then spoke the misshapen lad:

„Ez engetruoc nie künec krône,
„There bore never king crown,

der alsô rehte schône
who so rightly beautifully

lebete, sô mîn herre tuot.
lived, as my lord does.

sîn lant ist dâvor wol behnot,
his land is against-that well guarded,

im enschadet niht dîn hervart.
him harms nothing thy campaign.

daz hât gebirge bewart,
that has mountains guarded,

daz gât umbe sîn lant.
which goes around his land.

ez ist nieman erkant,
it is to-no-one known,

daz iht lebendez drüber müge,
that anything living over-it may,

wan ein vogel, der dâ flüge.
except a bird, which there should-fly.

ein strâze gât durch den berc in,
a road goes through the mountain in,

dâ ich herûz komen bin,
where I hither-out come am,

sô man die wil besliezen,
when one it will close,

sô lât man nider schiezen
so lets one down shoot

einen grôzen stein dâfür.
a great stone before-it.

daz ist ein sô getâniu tür,
that is a so made door,

die hebe ich eine dannen.
which lift I alone thence.

mit allen dînen mannen
with all thy men

liezest du sie stille stân.
wouldst-let thou it still stand.

diu strâze stât ûf getân,
the road stands open done,

sît ich herûz geriten bin,
since I hither-out ridden am,

unz daz ich kome wider in.
until that I come back in.

Daz lant ist grôz unde wît
The land is great and wide

und ouch grüen zaller zît.
and also green at-all time.

ich sage niht von den frouwen,
I tell not of the ladies,

du solt sie dâ selbe schouwen.
thou shalt them there self behold.

sie sint sô rehte zimelich,
they are so rightly comely,

daz anders nieman noch ich
that other no-one nor I

ir schœne möhte ze ende komen.
their beauty might to end come.

eins dinges ist dâ war genomen:
of-one thing is there heed taken:

daz aller wirst getâne wîp,
that of-all worst made woman,

der ist dâ ze lande ir lîp
to-her is there in land her body

vil wol der rôsen gelich.
very well to-the rose like.

die frouwen sind sô wunneclich
the ladies are so delightful

und alsô gar geschœnet,
and so wholly beautified,

daz er wol ist gekrœnet
that he well is crowned

von frouwen Sælden gewalt,
by lady Fortune's power,

er sî junc oder alt,
he be young or old,

der sie dâ schouwen getar.
who them there to-behold dares.

in ist der wunsch alsô gar
to-them is the ideal so wholly

an dem lîbe und an den siten,
in the body and in the manners,

daz dâ niht ist vermiten.
that there nothing is avoided.

ez engewunnen nie wîp
there won never woman

sô gar ûzerwelten lîp.
so wholly chosen body.

sie sint baz danne wolgetân.
they are better than well-made.

Ein vogel heizet Babiân,
A bird is-called Babian,

der hânt die frouwen dâ vil
of-which have the ladies there many

unde swer sie haben wil.
and whoever them have will.

dâ enist niht widere.
there is nothing against.

der hât ein solh gevidere,
it has a such plumage,

ich hœre die frouwen jehen,
I hear the ladies declare,

daz sie sich darinne besehen
that they themselves therein see

als in einem spiegel oder baz.
as in a mirror or better.

noch danne geniezent sie sîn, daz
still further enjoy they of-it, that

ze swelher zît die frouwen
at whatever time the ladies

daz wetter wellent schouwen,
the weather will behold,

sô swebent die vogel ob in.
so hover the birds above them.

die hânt die kunst und den sin,
they have the art and the sense,

daz sie sie vor der sunnen
that they them from the sun

vil wol beschirmen kunnen.
very well shield can.

nahtes sô man slâfen gât,
at-night when one to-sleep goes,

swâ derselbe vogel stât
wherever that-same bird stands

in der kemenâten,
in the chamber,

sô ist man des berâten,
so is one of-that provided,

man gesiht von ime darinne,
one sees from it therein,

sam ein kerze dâ brinne;
as-if a candle there burned;

und singet danne schône
and sings then beautifully

in einem sô süezen dône
in a so sweet tune

beidiu naht unde tac,
both night and day,

daz man in gerne hœren mac.
that one it gladly hear may.

Mîn her ist maneges gêret:
My lord is of-many honored:

swâ er sô hin kêret,
wherever he so thither turns,

swie grôze tageweide er rite,
however great day's-journey he should-ride,

sîn hûs gât im allez mite.
his house goes to-him all with.

die êre hat kein künec mê,
the honor has no king more,

daz sîn hûs mit im gê.
that his house with him go.

diz dunket dich lîhte spæhe,
this seems to-thee perhaps strange,

wan du ez nie niht gesæhe.
for thou it never nothing sawest.

ez geschiht âne grôzen list,
it happens without great cunning,

und sage dir rechte wie ez ist:
and tell thee rightly how it is:

ein tier daz heizet helfant,
a beast that is-called elephant,

daz enist dir niht wol erkant,
that is to-thee not well known,

des kraft ist sô stæte,
whose strength is so steadfast,

swer kunde mit geræte
whoever could with gear

einen berc darûf geladen,
a mountain thereon load,

daz enmöhte im niht geschaden,
that might it not harm,

ez enwurde niemer müede.
it would-become never weary.

swie vil man darûf gelüede,
however much one thereon loaded,

ez gebüeget niemer sîniu bein.
it bends never its legs.

ez ist der grœsten tier ein,
it is of-the greatest beasts one,

daz diu erde ie getruoc.
which the earth ever bore.

von sîner huf unz an den buoc
from its hip until to the shoulder

ist zwelf klâfter unde mê.
is twelve fathoms and more.

ez getuot im niemer wê,
it does to-it never woe,

swie vil man drûf geladen mac;
however much one thereon load may;

ez stât naht unde tac.
it stands night and day.

daz trîbet man, swâ man hin wil.
that drives one, wherever one thither will.

sîner krefte ist alsô vil,
of-its strength is so much,

ez en stirbet von keiner slahte nôt,
it not dies from any kind distress,

man welle im gerne tuon den tôt.
unless-one will to-it gladly do the death.

nû sint meister in dem lande,
now are masters in the land,

die heizent der helfande
who command of-the elephants

zwên zesamen füeren,
two together to-lead,

daz sie sich niht mugen berüeren.
that they themselves not may touch.

sie heizent den walt vellen
they command the forest fell
und machen vil stæter swellen
and make very steady beams
unde füegent die daruf
and fit them thereon
zwischen den buoc und die huf.
between the shoulder and the hip.
swaz ir dâ geligen mac,
whatever of-them there lie may,
daz weret êwigen tac,
that lasts eternal day,
sie bindent ez sô vaste,
they bind it so fast,
daz ez von deheiner laste
that it from no burden
niemer mac gewîchen,
never may give-way,
(dem kunde niht gelîchen,
(to-that could nothing be-like,
der site ist dâ der beste)
the custom is there the best)
und setzent darûf feste
and set thereon firmly
beide von marmelsteine
both of marble-stone
und ouch von helfenbeine.
and also of ivory.
sie legent darane wunder,
they lay thereon wonders,
von golde darunder
of gold thereunder
manegen list wæhe;
many-a cunning fine;

ez enwart nie werk sô spæhe
there became never work so artful

von vogelen und von tieren;
of birds and of beasts;

strîten und turnieren,
fighting and jousting,

tanzen unde schouwen,
dancing and beholding,

höveschen zuo den frouwen,
courting to the ladies,

daz ist daran ergraben,
that is thereon engraved,

getiutet mit den buochstaben.
explained with the letters.

der hûse hât mîn herre vil,
of-the houses has my lord many,

der volget im, swelhez er wil.
of-them follows him, whichever he will.

III · GAWAIN'S COUNSEL

The giant tells of Matur's court and its golden beast, whose roar fells any knight who pulls the banner from its mouth, and of the giants no weapon wounds, and he threatens to seize Arthur. The young knights want him killed, but Gawain advises Arthur to feign consent, ask a week's delay to gather his companions, and blind the giants if they cannot be killed.

Ez enwart nie künec sô rîche,
There was never king so rich,

der alsô wunneclîche
who so delightfully

hæte allen sînen gewalt.
had all his power.

sîn kurzwîle ist manecvalt;
his pastime is manifold;

dâ ist alle tage hôchzît.
there is all days high-feast.

daz lant ist grôz unde wît;
the land is great and wide;

die daz hânt besezzen,
those-who it have possessed,

er hât sich des vermezzen,
he has himself of-that vowed,

die rûmen im daz rîche,
they vacate for-him the realm,

ob sie im vil vorhtlîche
if they him very fearfully

niht wellen dienen unde flêhen.
not will serve and beseech.

er hât in gelihen lêhen,
he has to-them lent fiefs,

daz ir dienst sî baz bewant.
that their service be better bestowed.

er hât allez sîn lant
he has all his land

geteilet ane siben schar.
divided into seven companies.

der muoz tegelich einiu dar,
of-them must daily one thither,

rîten und turnieren.
ride and joust.

dâ siht man walopieren
there sees one gallop

manegen ritter wæhe;
many-a knight fine;

dâ wirt mit grôzer spæhe
there is with great artfulness

beide gebâret und geriten.
both behaved and ridden.

man siht mit riterlichen siten
one sees with knightly manners

manegen strîten nâch lobe,
many-a-one fight after praise,

in der wîse sam er tobe.
in the way as-if he raged.

man hœrt diu swert dâ klingen,
one hears the swords there ring,

man siht die helde dringen
one sees the heroes press

nâch weltlîchem lône.
after worldly reward.

si enhânt dehein schône,
they have no sparing,

sie erfollent den muot nâch iren staten;
they fill the spirit after their opportunities;

des enkan sie nieman gesaten.
of-that can them no-one sate.

daz müezen ouch dâ schouwen
that must also there behold

fünfhundert juncfrouwen
five-hundred young-ladies

an einem anger grüene;
on a meadow green;

daz macht die ritter küene.
that makes the knights bold.

die frouwen sitzen oder stân,
the ladies sit or stand,

ob ieclîcher swebet ein Babiân
above each hovers a Babian

und machet ir grôzen schate.
and makes her great shade.

dâ ist ze fröuden guotiu state
there is for joys good occasion

und alle der welt wunne vil.
and of-all the world bliss much.

Sô diz ritterlîche spil
When this knightly game

eine wîle gewert,
a while lasts,

âne sper und âne swert
without spear and without sword

wirt ein kurzwile nâch.
is a pastime after.

von den orsen wirt in gâch,
from the horses is to-them haste,

schier entwâfent sie sich.
quickly disarm they themselves.

sô gâhet dan maneclich.
so hastens thence each-one.

sie legent ir hovekleider an
they lay their court-clothes on

und gânt mit fröuden von dan
and go with joys from thence

höveschen zuo den frouwen.
to-court to the ladies.

dâ mac man fröude schouwen,
there may one joy behold,

dâ wirt tanzen unde singen
there is dancing and singing

und an vil mangen dingen
and in very many things

ein wunneclîchez hôchzît;
a delightful high-feast;

man gît fröude widerstrît.
one gives joy in-rivalry.

dâ vindet ieclîcher man,
there finds each man,

swelher kurzwîl er kan.
whichever pastime he can.

darnâch in kurzen zîten
thereafter in short times

sô hebt sich aber daz rîten,
so raises itself again the riding,

justieren unde stechen.
jousting and thrusting.

man siht dâ schefte brechen
one sees there shafts break

durch der frouwen êre,
for the ladies' honor,

mit guotem vlîze sêre
with good diligence sorely

nâch ir hulden strîten.
after their favor fight.

sô gelît aber daz rîten,
so lies-down again the riding,

sie beginnent, swes der man wil.
they begin, whatever the man will.

daz rîten und daz hovespil
the riding and the court-game

ist dâ drîstunt an dem tage.
is there three-times in the day.

dâ lît prîs an ir bejage,
there lies prize in their winning,

wan ir muot ze fröuden stât.
for their spirit to joys stands.

unz der âbent ane gât,
until the evening on goes,

sô scheidet sich diu ritterschaft.
so parts itself the knighthood.

morgen komt mit grôzer kraft
tomorrow comes with great strength

ein alsô hêrlîchiu dar
a so lordly-one thither

und vertrîbent aber den tac gar
and pass again the day wholly

in dem selben schalle.
in the same noise.

sus koment die wochen alle,
thus come the weeks all,

ie des tages ein niuwiu schar.
ever of-the day a new company.

sô bringet aber diu êrste dar
so brings again the first thither

vil manec edel zimier,
very many-a noble crest,

beidiu vogel unde tier,
both birds and beasts,

von golde und von gesteine.
of gold and of gemstone.

Dem lande algemeine
To-the land all-together

ist ein gebot gegeben
is a command given

über guot und über leben,
over goods and over life,

daz nieman sol beschouwen
that no-one shall behold

deheine juncfrouwen
any young-lady

in ir vateres gewalt;
in her father's power;

sô siu wirt acht jâr alt,
when she becomes eight years old,

sô muoz er sie ze hove geben,
so must he her to court give,

daz siu diz wunneclîche leben
that she this delightful life

helfe vollebringen.
help accomplish.

an sô getânen dingen
in so made things

stât al mînes herren leben;
stands all my lord's life;

dâ wil er ieclîcher geben,
there will he to-each give,

ze swem si sich gesellet,
to whomever she herself joins,

der ir allerbast gevellet.
who to-her very-best pleases.

Mîn her hât grôze herschaft,
My lord has great lordship,

sîn tugent und sîns lîbes kraft
his virtue and his body's strength

ist allen künegen tiure.
is to-all kings precious.

die noch nâch âventiure
those-who still after adventure

in daz lant ie geriten
into the land ever rode

und mîns herren gebiten,
and my lord awaited,

den was der tôt dâ beschert.
to-them was the death there allotted.

dâ ist bevangen ein wert
there is enclosed a river-island

mit einer linden ziere;
with a linden's adornment;

gelich einem grimmen tiere
like a grim beast

stât ein golt darunder,
stands a gold thereunder,

daz hât durch ein wunder
which has for a wonder

in sînem munde ein banier.
in its mouth a banner.

ein wazzer fliuzet durch daz tier,
a water flows through the beast,

daz ein list darzuo twinget,
which a cunning thereto forces,

daz ez ein wint darin bringet.
that it a wind therein brings.

daran lît grôziu meisterschaft.
thereon lies great mastery.

ez hât von listen solhe kraft,
it has from cunning such strength,

swer sich selber sô betrüge,
whoever himself self so deceived,

daz er die banier ûz züge,
that he the banner out drew,

dem wære ez an den lîp gewant;
to-him would-be it to the life turned;

sô hüebe daz tier an alzehant
so would-raise the beast up at-once

und schriuwe mit grimme
and would-cry with fury

ein alsô grôze stimme,
a so great voice,

daz er von dem orse viel zetal;
that he from the horse fell down;

darzuo betwinget in der schal.
thereto forces him the noise.

darnâch komet mîn herre.
thereafter comes my lord.

wær er danne merre
were he then greater

dann ein berc, er wær verlorn,
than a mountain, he would-be lost,

sô grimme ist mînes herren zorn.
so grim is my lord's anger.

Der meister, der daz tier gôz,
The master, who the beast cast,

der hât mich gemacht sus grôz
he has me made thus great

und einen bruoder den ich hân.
and a brother whom I have.

darumbe hât erz getân,
therefore has he-it done,

wir sint beide sîniu kint.
we are both his children.

wan die triuwe grôz sint,
because the faithfulnesses great are,

die er uns beiden schuldic ist,
which he to-us both owing is,

darumbe hât uns sîn list
therefore has us his cunning

gemacht beide alsô hart,
made both so hard,

daz unser deweder nie wunt wart.
that of-us either never wounded became.

er hât mir selbe gezalt,
he has to-me self told,

er sî wol hundert jâr alt,
he be well hundred years old,

unde ist noch alsô snel,
and is still so swift,

swaz ie vleisch oder vel
whatever ever flesh or hide

ûf erden ie gewan,
on earth ever gained,

daz enmöhte demselben man
that not-might that-same man

entloufen noch entrinnen.
run-away nor escape.

ich bin des wol worden innen,
I am of-that well become aware,

swie alt er wider mir sî,
however old he against me be,

und swie cleine dâbî,
and however small thereby,

daz er sterker danne ich ist
that he stronger than I is

und kan mangen guoten list.
and knows many-a good cunning.

daz ist an sînen kinden schîn.
that is in his children visible.

beide ich und der bruoder mîn,
both I and the brother my,

wir hân dicke gestriten
we have often fought

und wurden nie versniten
and were never cut

von stichen noch von slegen.
by thrusts nor by blows.

dû gihst, du mügest wol erwegen
thou declarest, thou mayest well move

mangen ritter umbez mer:
many-a knight over-the sea:

nû enger ich deheiner wer,
now desire I no defense,

wan mîner hende alsô blôz;
except of-my hands so bare;

wær dîn her alsô grôz,
were thy host so great,

daz dû sîn niht möhtest übersehen,
that thou it not mightest survey,

in müese der tôt von mir geschehen.
to-them must the death from me happen.

von diu lâ dû dîn dröuwen.
from that let thou thy threatening.

dû maht dich balde fröuwen,
thou mayest thyself quickly rejoice,

daz dû mînen herren sehen muost.
that thou my lord see must.

ob aber dû ez niht gerne tuost,
if however thou it not gladly dost,

sô verliusest dû dîn êre gar:
so losest thou thy honor wholly:

ich vâhe dich und füer dich dar
I seize thee and lead thee thither

und rihte über dich zehant
and judge over thee at-once

und gibe danne dîn lant
and give then thy land

einem anderen man,
to-an other man,

swem es mîn herre wol gan.
to-whomever it my lord well grants.

nû enhân ich niht verdaget,
now have I nothing kept-silent,

ich hân dirz allez gesaget
I have to-thee-it all said

beidiu übel unde guot.
both ill and good.

nû sage mir schiere dînen muot.
now tell me quickly thy spirit.

ich enkome niht von dir,
I come not from thee,

dû muost dâhin mit mir."
thou must thither with me."

Dô nam der künec Artûs
Then took the king Arthur

die wîsen alle dâ ze hûs
the wise-ones all there at house

und gie mit den ze râte.
and went with them to counsel.

ungefrâget sprâchen drâte
unasked spoke quickly

die tumben jungelinge:
the foolish youths:

„Swie uns daran gelinge,
„However to-us therein succeed,

dirre ungefüege vâlant
this misshapen fiend

geseit ez niemer in sîn lant,
says it never into his land,

daz er hiute vor iu stât
that he today before you stands

und sô gewalteclîche hât
and so powerfully has

geworben und gesprochen:
acted and spoken:

daz wirt hie zehant gerochen,
that is here at-once avenged,

ez envolget im niht dar hein."
it follows him not thither home."

dô sprach der herre Gâwein:
then spoke the lord Gawain:

„Dise rede und disen rât,
„This speech and this counsel,

den ir nû getân hât,
which you now done have,

der mac uns niht ze êren komen.
it may to-us not to honors come.

ir hât doch alle wol vernomen,
you have yet all well heard,

daz in nieman mac erlegen
that him no-one may lay-low

weder mit stichen noch mit slegen,
neither with thrusts nor with blows,

mit schuzzen noch mit wurfen.
with shots nor with throws.

entriuwen wir bedurfen
in-truth we need

vil guotes râtes darzuo.
very good counsel thereto.

ich râte, daz mîn herre tuo,
I counsel, that my lord do,

als ob er der rede frô sî,
as if he of-the speech glad be,

und bedenke doch dâbî,
and consider yet thereby,

wie wir diz leit gerechen.
how we this sorrow avenge.

mîn herre der sol sprechen,
my lord he shall speak,

er welle dar gern rîten,
he will thither gladly ride,

und sol in des biten bîten
and shall him of-that ask wait

niht wan dise wochen.
nothing except this week.

unz er daz habe gesprochen,
until he that have spoken,

sô biten wir in alle,
so ask we him all,

daz er uns des niht enpfalle,
that he us of-that not fail,

mîn herre habe geselleschaft,
my lord have companionship,

die haben an triuwen grôze kraft,
who have in faithfulness great strength,

nach den sole er senden,
for them should he send,

daz sie mit im genenden.
that they with him venture.

sie haben einander gesworn,
they have each-other sworn,

ez sî êre oder zorn,
it be honor or anger,

oder swaz er welle anegân,
or whatever he will undertake,

daz sie daz alle bestân.
that they that all withstand.

die sole er mit im füeren dar:
them should he with him lead thither:

diu êre diu im dâ widervar,
the honor which to-him there befalls,

die müezen sie alle anegân.
that must they all undertake.

diz wær uns lasterlich getân,
this would-be to-us shamefully done,

ob wir einen boten slüegen.
if we a messenger slew.

kunden wirz wol gefüegen,
could we-it well contrive,

daz wir im næmen daz leben,
that we from-him took the life,

sô wold ich doch dâwider streben.
so would I yet there-against strive.

zwâre wære er nû erslagen,
truly were he now slain,

daz wold ich iemer gote klagen,
that would I ever to-God lament,

sô wîste uns nieman in daz lant.
so would-show us no-one into the land.

ir solt des alle sîn gemant,
you shall of-that all be reminded,

ob wir daz lant beschouwen,
if we the land behold,

mugen wir in niht verhouwen,
(if)-may we him not hew-down,

sô râmen wir im der ougen.
so aim we at-him at-the eyes.

wir machen ime tougen
we make to-him secret

beidiu daz licht und den tac,
both the light and the day,

weder im stich oder slac
whether to-him thrust or blow

rehte drin wirt gegeben.
right therein is given.

mugen wir im daz leben
(if)-may we from-him the life

niht vol abgeziehen,
not fully draw-off,

sô soln wir von im fliehen.
so shall we from him flee.

er enmac uns niht vil geschaden,
he may us not much harm,

ob er der ougen wirt entladen.
if he of-the eyes is unburdened.

sô soln wir niht erwinden,
so shall we not desist,

wir heben uns zuo der linden
we raise ourselves to the linden

und soln daz tier erschreijen
and shall the beast make-cry

und ouch vil rehte seigen,
and also very rightly make-fall,

und kome sîn geselle dar,
and (if)-come his companion thither,

und nemen im ouch der ougen war.
and take of-him also of-the eyes heed.

werdent sie beide dâvon erlôst,
(if)-are they both thereby released,

ez benimt dem künige gar den trôst."
it takes from-the king wholly the comfort."

Daz her Gâwein dâ geriet,
What sir Gawain there counseled,

daz dûhte den künec und die diet
that seemed to-the king and the folk

ritterlich unde guot;
knightly and good;

sie hâten alle den muot,
they had all the spirit,

daz sie den ruom erwurben
that they the glory should-win

oder nâch êren sturben.
or after honors should-die.

IV · DANIEL RIDES ALONE

Arthur asks the giant to wait a week while he summons his companions, and sends letters through his land; Lanzelet, Erec, and others are away on adventure. Daniel, impatient, slips away alone on the giant's track, resolved to pull the banner and face Matur. On the third morning he reaches the mountain and sees the messenger's brother, the other giant, sitting at the way in. He weighs the danger and resolves to fight rather than turn back in shame.

Der künec Artûs an sîm stuole saz,
The king Arthur on his seat sat,

er sprach: „Mir geviel nie niht baz,
he spoke: „To-me pleased never nothing better,

dan daz dû hâst gesprochen.
than what thou hast spoken.

nû beite eht dise wochen.
now wait just this week.

ich und mîn geselleschaft
I and my companionship

wir hân an triuwen grôze kraft.
we have in faithfulness great strength.

die muoz ich zesamen bringen,
them must I together bring,

daz ich an disen dingen
that I in these things

mîne triuwe bewar,
my faithfulness keep,

swaz êren mir dâ widervar,
whatever of-honors to-me there befalls,

daz ouch in diu müeze geschehen.
that also to-them that must happen.

sie soln ez alle ane sehen,
they shall it all at see,

swenne ich lîp unde lant
whenever I body and land

gibe in dînes herren hant,
give into thy lord's hand,

daz sie sîn man werden als ich.
that they his men become as I.

ritter guot, nû bite ich dich,
knight good, now ask I thee,

daz dû hie belîbes siben naht,
that thou here remainest seven nights,

wan dû daz wol wizzen maht:
for thou that well know mayest:

swenne ich nû bræche mînen eit,
whenever I now broke my oath,

mîn triuwe und mîn wârheit,
my faithfulness and my truth,

die ich mînen gesellen hân gelobet,
which I to-my companions have promised,

sô hæte ich harte getobet.
so would-have I very raved.

waz töhte ich ze manne
what availed I as vassal

deheinem herren danne,
to-any lord then,

sô ich mîne triuwe verlür
if I my faithfulness lost

und mîne gesellen verkür?
and my companions renounced?

ich wolde mich iemer schamen,
I would myself ever be-ashamed,

sît er erkennet mînen namen
since he knows my name

und sô vil hât von mir vernomen,
and so much has of me heard,

sæhe er mich so swache komen.
saw he me so poorly come.

sît ich in dunke sô frome,
since I to-him seem so bold,

nû schaffe ich gerne, daz ich kome,
now contrive I gladly, that I come,

daz er der wârheit müeze jehen.
that he the truth must declare.

sît mir diu êre dâ sol geschehen,
since to-me the honor there shall happen,

nû wil ich alsô dar draben,
now will I so thither trot,

daz er ouch mîn müge êre haben.
that he also of-me may honor have.

ez enzimet mir niht wol,
it befits me not well,

daz ich dise pfingsten sol
that I this Pentecost shall

âne hôchzît blîben:
without high-feast remain:

daz sol er mir vertrîben
that shall he for-me drive-away

mit sîner grôzen wirdekeit.
with his great worthiness.

ez was ie mîn gewonheit,
it was ever my custom,

nû wil ich ez lâzen durch in.
now will I it let for him.

ich rîte gerne dâhin,
I ride gladly thither,

ich bin der rede harte frô.“
I am of-the speech very glad.“

Des bâten die ritter alle dô,
Of-that asked the knights all then,

daz er siben naht wolde bîten,
that he seven nights would wait,

sô wolden sie mit im rîten.
so would they with him ride.

sô lange enpflâgen sie der bete,
so long practiced they the request,

unz daz er nâch ir willen tete
until that he after their will did

und sprach, als ich iu sage:
and spoke, as I to-you say:

„Ich wil hie blîben siben tage,
„I will here remain seven days,

sît ez dir sô liep ist.
since it to-thee so dear is.

swaz dû in der selben frist
whatever thou in the same time

ritter maht gewinnen,
knights mayest win,

die füer mit dir von hinnen.
them lead with thee from hence.

daz ist mînes herren spil.
that is my lord's game.

dû gewinnest ir nie sô vil,
thou winnest of-them never so many,

sie müezen sich ergeben
they must themselves surrender

oder verliesen ir leben.
or lose their life.

des enmugen sie niht gewenken.
of-that may they not swerve.

nû endarft dû niht gedenken,
now needst thou not think,

daz dich iemer dehein wer
that thee ever any defense

vor mînem herren gener.
before my lord saves.

erhebet ir deheinen zorn,
(if)-raise you any anger,

sô sît ir alle verlorn."
so are you all lost."

Dô der rise diz gesprach
When the giant this spoke

und in allen des verjach,
and to-them all that declared,

er wolde die wochen blîben,
he would the week remain,

der künec hiez briefe schrîben.
the king bade letters write.

die wurden schiere gesant
they were quickly sent

über allez sîn lant.
over all his land.

beide er bat und enbôt,
both he bade and sent-word,

er suohte friunde, im wære nôt
he sought friends, to-him were need

hilfe unde grôzer kraft;
of-help and of-great strength;

swer deheine geselleschaft
whoever any companionship

wider im gelobet hæte,
toward him promised had,

solde des wesen stæte;
should of-that be steadfast;

daz müese er nû machen niuwe;
that must he now make new;

er wolde ir aller triuwe
he would of-them all faithfulness

suochen und besehen,
seek and see,

ime wær alsô geschehen,
to-him were so happened,

daz er bedurfte guoter wer.
that he needed good defense.

Sus gewan der künec Artûs ein her,
Thus gained the king Arthur a host,

daz nie künec mê gewan
that never king more gained

sô mangen ûzerwelten man.
so many-a chosen man.

dô dûhte in daz ein unheil:
then seemed to-him that a misfortune:

sîner gesellen was ein teil
of-his companions was a part

nâch âventiure geriten,
after adventure ridden,

der hæte er gerne gebiten
for-them would-have he gladly waited

oder nâch in gesant.
or after them sent.

dô wâren sie gewant
then were they turned

mangen unkunden wec,
many-a unknown way,

Lanzelet und Erec
Lanzelet and Erec

und noch ander genuoc,
and still others enough,

die ir muot nâch êren truoc.
whom their spirit after honors bore.

Dô der künec Artûs
When the king Arthur

den grôzen risen dâ ze hûs
the great giant there at house

ein wochen haben solde,
a week keep should,

ê er mit im rîten wolde,
before he with him ride would,

nû het er einen gesellen,
now had he a companion,

den sîn baldez ellen
whom his bold valor

sô sêre der verte twanc,
so sorely to-the journey forced,

daz in diu woche dûhte zelanc
that to-him the week seemed too-long
und im daz tweln niht wol geviel.
and to-him the delaying not well pleased.
daz was der ritter Daniel
that was the knight Daniel
von dem Blüejenden Tal.
of the Blossoming Valley.
ûz dem hove er sich stal
out-of the court he himself stole
unz hin für daz bürgetor:
until away before the castle-gate:
dâ kêrter ûf daz spor,
there turned-he onto the track,
dâ er des risen huofslac sach.
where he the giant's hoofprint saw.
in sînem herzen er dô jach:
in his heart he then declared:
„Ich enwil niht erwinden,
„I will not desist,
kom ich hin ze der linden,
(if)-come I thither to the linden,
ich enziehe ûz die banier
unless-I draw out the banner
und erschreie daz tier.
and make-cry the beast.
komet der künec Matûr,
(if)-comes the king Matur,
ez werde mir süez oder sûr,
it become to-me sweet or sour,
er wirt von mir bestanden.
he is by me withstood.

ich wil von sînen handen
I will from his hands

dulden schaden oder fromen
suffer harm or benefit

und wil des zeinem ende komen,
and will of-that to-an end come,

ober des landes wert sî;
whether-he of-the land worthy be;

ich versuoche dâbî,
I try thereby,

ob ich mînem herren muge sagen,
whether I to-my lord may say,

daz er im sole vertragen
that he to-him shall endure

sus getâne hôchvart."
thus made arrogance."

Des âbendes, dô ez naht wart,
In-the evening, when it night became,

und er der slâ niht mê sach,
and he the trail not more saw,

dô muoser schaffen sîn gemach.
then must-he make his comfort.

daz gemach was leider âne danc,
the comfort was alas without thanks,

in gedûhte nie kein naht sô lanc.
to-him seemed never any night so long.

des morgenes vil fruo
in-the morning very early

reit er sîner slâ zuo
rode he his trail to

und reit dem huofslage nâch;
and rode the hoofprint after;

im was ze der verte gâch,
to-him was to the journey haste,

unz ez aber naht wart.
until it again night became.

des muoser lengen sîn vart
therefore must-he lengthen his journey

unz an den dritten morgen.
until to the third morning.

dô wart im unverborgen
then became to-him unhidden

ein vil grôziu arbeit.
a very great hardship.

gegen einem berge er dô reit,
toward a mountain he then rode,

der was stichel unde hôch.
which was steep and high.

wan daz der wec dardurch zôch,
except that the way therethrough drew,

ez enwurde niemer mære,
it would-become never known,

waz landes jenhalp wære.
what of-land that-side were.

nû sach er her unde dar
now looked he hither and thither

und wart schiere gewar,
and became quickly aware,

daz er durch den berc solde,
that he through the mountain should,

ob er in daz lant wolde,
if he into the land would,

dâ er daz tier solde sehen.
where he the beast should see.

im was vil liebe geschehen,
to-him was very dear happened,

daz im daz lant sô nâhte.
that to-him the land so neared.

mit vlîze er für sich gâhte,
with diligence he before himself hastened,

er entsaz dehein ungemach,
he feared no discomfort,

unz er daz loch gesach.
until he the hole saw.

dô sach er dâ sitzen,
then saw he there sit,

den er wol mohte entsitzen,
whom he well might fear,

einen vil michelen risen.
a very great giant.

dô gedâhter an disen,
then thought-he of this-one,

des vart er nâchjagete,
whose journey he hunted-after,

der vor dem künec Artûse sagete,
who before the king Arthur said,

daz er einen bruoder hæte,
that he a brother had,

dem nieman niht entæte
to-whom no-one nothing did

mit deheinem gesmîde.
with any weapon.

er gedâhte: „Ob ich vermîde,
he thought: „If I avoid,

daz ich niht vol rîte
that I not fully ride

und mit dem risen strîte,
and with the giant fight,

sô verliuse ich niht mêre
so lose I nothing more

wan mîn arbeit und mîn êre.
except my labor and my honor.

swenn ich hernâch selbe sage,
whenever I hereafter self say,

daz ich von vorhten sus verzage
that I from fears thus despair

und niht tar geschouwen,
and not dare behold,

ob in ieman müge verhouwen;
whether him anyone may hew-down;

swenn ich daz niht kan gesagen,
whenever I that not can say,

sô hât man mich für einen zagen.
so holds one me for a coward.

rîte ich nû durch daz dar,
(if)-ride I now for that thither,

daz ich die wârheit ervar,
that I the truth find-out,

wil in daz swert niht snîden,
(if)-will him the sword not cut,

so muoz ich von im lîden.
so must I from him suffer.

beidiu laster und den tôt:
both shame and the death:

mir wære guotes râtes nôt."
to-me were of-good counsel need."

Sus gewan er manegen gedanc,
Thus gained he many-a thought,

als in diu nôt darzuo twanc.
as him the distress thereto forced.

dô gevienc er eines lewen muot,
then caught he a lion's spirit,

er gedâhte: „Ez enist ze nihte guot,
he thought: „It is for nothing good,

daz ich erschricke als ein wîp.
that I take-fright as a woman.

ich wil gerner mînen lîp
I will rather my life

fromeclîche komen abe,
bravely come off,

dann ich in mit schanden iemer habe:
than I it with disgraces ever have:

ich enkunde niemer mîn leben
I could never my life

an die wâge gegeben
in the balance give

ûf grœzeren prîs.
for greater prize.

mich trœstet wol in zwei wîs
me comforts well in two ways

mînes herzen lêre:
my heart's teaching:

ich hân es iemer êre,
I have of-it ever honor,

ist daz mir gelinget;
(if)-is that to-me succeeds;

ob er mich betwinget,
if he me overpowers,

dâ ist mîn laster kleine bî.
there is my shame small by.

swie grôz mîn schade danne sî,
however great my harm then be,

daz muoz allez beschehen;
that must all happen;

ich wurde gerner gesehen
I would-be rather seen

an dem schaden und in êren,
in the harm and in honors,

ê ich hinnen welle kêren
before I hence will turn

sunder strît und âne schaden,
without fight and without harm,

darzuo mit schanden beladen.
thereto with disgraces laden.

ich valle oder ich wil in vellen.
I fall or I will him fell.

wæren mîn gesellen
were my companions

alle samet komen her,
all together come hither,

sô woldich doch wesen der,
so would-I yet be he,

der des strîtes begunde,
who the fight began,

ob ichz gefüegen kunde.
if I-it contrive could.

wære ich danne darzuo guot,
were I then thereto good,

sô hân ich nû denselben muot
so have I now the-same spirit

und hân ouch dieselben kraft.
and have also the-same strength.

wirde ich nû niht sigehaft
(if)-become I now not victorious

und scheidet er von mir gesunt,
and (if)-parts he from me sound,

sô enkunde er doch niht werden wunt
so could he yet not become wounded

von al des künec Artûses her:
by all the king Arthur's host:

ich wil sehen, wie er sich wer."
I will see, how he himself defends."

er erbeizte und gurte dem orse baz
he dismounted and girthed the horse better

und gebârte, dô er ûf saz,
and bore-himself, when he up sat,

solder al die welt bestanden hân,
should-he all the world withstood have,

er hæte wol dem glich getân.
he would-have well to-that like done.

V · THE LADY OF THE GLOOMY MOUNTAIN

A lady throws herself at Daniel's feet and swoons. She is the daughter of the duke of the Gloomy Mountain: the dwarf Juran, whose sword cuts anything, killed her father when he refused the dwarf her hand, her mother died of grief, and every knight who came to win her by killing the dwarf was slain. Now Juran means to take her for two or three nights and then strip, flay, and maim her. She warns Daniel that the giant cannot be wounded, though the dwarf's sword could kill him.

Die gebærde sach ein frouwe gar
The bearing saw a lady wholly

und nam ir ouch vil rehte war;
and took of-it also very rightly heed;

diu stuont bî einem boume
she stood by a tree

und hafte mit dem zoume
and tied with the bridle

ir pfert ze einem aste.
her palfrey to a branch.

dô gâhete si vaste,
then hastened she hard,

dâ si Danîelen sach.
where she Daniel saw.

si gruoztin; dô si daz gesprach,
she greeted-him; when she that spoke,

nû viel si im ze fuoze.
now fell she to-him at foot.

„Waz tiutent solhe gruoze?“
„What mean such greetings?“

sprach der ritter gemeit.
spoke the knight merry.

ime was daz harte leit,
to-him was that very grievous,

daz si im ze fuoz gevallen was.
that she to-him at foot fallen was.

er erbeizte nider an daz gras
he dismounted down onto the grass

und wolde ir ûf geholfen hân.
and would her up helped have.

dô hâte er schiere sich entstân,
then had he quickly himself understood,

daz si ein herzeleit war.
that she a heart's-sorrow troubled.

si wart mit alle tôtvar,
she became with all death-colored,

daz siu ensach noch ensprach.
that she not-saw nor spoke.

si lac, daz er sich versach,
she lay, that he himself expected,

daz siu niht lenger möhte leben
that she not longer might live

und sich des lîbes hæte ergeben.
and herself of-the life had surrendered.

daz siu niht mohte sprechen,
that she not might speak,

des wânde sîn herze brechen.
for-that thought his heart to-break.

er wolde balde sîn geriten
he would quickly have ridden

und mit dem risen hân gestriten;
and with the giant have fought;

den wolde er gerne hân gezemet;
him would he gladly have tamed;

sîn muot was vaste ûf in ergremet;
his spirit was hard against him enraged;

er dâhte in sînen sinnen:
he thought in his senses:

„Ich scheide mit schanden hinnen,
„I part with disgraces hence,

swenn ich niht kan gesagen,
whenever I not can say,

ob disiu frouwe welle klagen,
whether this lady will lament,

oder waz ir werre,
or what to-her troubles,

sît siu sich hât sô verre
since she herself has so far

gediemüetiget gegen mir.
humbled toward me.

ich sihe wol an ir,
I see well in her,

siu hât grôzen gewalt
she has great violence

unde leit manicvalt.
and sorrow manifold.

daz hât si hie bescheinet.
that has she here shown.

sô neweiz ich, waz si meinet.
so not-know I, what she means.

weste aber ichz nû vil wol,
knew however I-it now very well,

sît ich mit dem risen strîten sol,
since I with the giant fight shall,

wirt mir dâ der lîp genomen,
(if)-is to-me there the life taken,

sôn kunde ich ir niht ze trôste komen.
so could I to-her not to comfort come.

ich wil zem êrsten besehen,
I will at-the first see,

waz mir dâ muge beschehen.
what to-me there may happen.

gelît er vor mir tôt
(if)-lies he before me dead

âne mînes lîbes nôt,
without my body's distress,

sô wil ich danne rîten her
so will I then ride hither

und hœren gerne, wes si ger. —
and hear gladly, what she desires.—

sô wære ich der swachest man,
so would-be I the weakest man,

der ritters namen ie gewan,
who knight's name ever gained,

sît ein frouwe geruochet,
since a lady deigns,

daz si gnâde an mir suochet
that she grace in me seeks

sô jæmerlîche zuo mir,
so miserably to me,

gerite ich iemer von ir,
rode I ever from her,

ich engehörte doch ir ungemach.
I unless-heard yet her discomfort.

mîn êre ist noch danne swach,
my honor is still then weak,

sô ich gehœre, wes si gert,
so I hear, what she desires,

wirt siu es niht von mir gewert."
(if)-is she of-it not by me granted."

Sus saz er zuo der erden
Thus sat he to the earth

und wolde innen werden,
and would aware become,

waz der frouwen wære.
what to-the lady were.

sîner angestlîchen gebære
of-his fearful bearing

het er sich dô geloubet.
had he himself then rid.

er nam der frouwen houbet
he took the lady's head

und leite ez ûf sînen schôz.
and laid it onto his lap.

ir ungehabe was grôz,
her distress was great,

unz er ein wîle gesaz,
until he a while sat,

dô wart ir ein wênic baz.
then became to-her a little better.

si rihte sich ûf unde sprach:
she raised herself up and spoke:

„Herre, umbe diz gemach
„Lord, for this comfort

friste iu got êre und lîp.
preserve you God honor and life.

ez enwart nie kein armez wîp
there was never any poor woman

gnâde alsô gar benomen,
of-grace so wholly bereft,

und bin an iuwer gnâde komen.
and am to your grace come.

ir enmöhtet deheine wîs
you might in-no way

iuwer sælde und iuwern prîs
your fortune and your prize

baz gemêren dann an mir,
better increase than in me,

wan ich aller gnâde gar enbir."
for I of-all grace wholly lack."

er sprach: „Frouwe, ez ist mir leit,
he spoke: „Lady, it is to-me grievous,

und sage iu mit der wârheit,
and tell you with the truth,

ich hân unmuoze vil genomen.
I have occupation much taken.

mac aber ich iu ze trôste komen,
(if)-may however I to-you to comfort come,

des enwil ich niht niderlegen,
that will I not lay-down,

unz ich ein âder mac geregen."
while I a vein may stir."

des gnâdete sim vil verre,
for-that thanked she-him very greatly,

si sprach: „Mîn kumber und mîn werre,
she spoke: „My affliction and my trouble,

der ist sô ungefüege,
it is so monstrous,

daz ich es iu niht gewüege,
that I of-it to-you not should-mention,

wan daz ich gewar wart,
except that I aware became,

daz ir woldet eine vart,
that you would a journey,

dâ iuch nieman hæte ernert:
where you no-one had saved:

iu müese der tôt sîn beschert.
to-you must the death be allotted.

verlieset ir durch mich daz leben,
(if)-lose you for me the life,

sît irz hâtet hingegeben,
since you-it had given-away,

mîner sünde sol dester min wesen.
of-my sin shall the less be.

ir enmöhtet hie niht sîn genesen;
you might here not be saved;

des risen hût ist sô hart,
the giant's hide is so hard,

swaz er ie geschozzen wart,
whatever he ever shot was,

geslagen oder gestochen,
struck or thrust,

daz si nie enwart zerbrochen
that it never was broken

gegen einem hâre.
against a hair.

swie harte man es vâre,
however hard one it attacked,

in bestât nie man sô frome,
him withstands never man so bold,

der lebendic von im kome.
who living from him came.

vernemet, lieber herre,
hear, dear lord,

durch got, waz mir werre,
for God, what to-me troubles,

wie grôz mîn ungenâde sint.
how great my misfortunes are.

ich bin des herzogen kint
I am the duke's child

von dem Trüeben Berge
of the Gloomy Mountain

und bin von einem getwerge
and am by a dwarf

komen in sô grôze nôt,
come into so great distress,

daz mir tûsentstunt der tôt
that to-me thousand-times the death

lieber wære dann daz leben.
dearer were than the life.

wolde mir den got geben,
would to-me that God give,

sô tæte er, lieber herre, wol,
so would-do he, dear lord, well,

sît ich diz laster dulden sol.
since I this shame suffer shall.

daz getwerc begunde mîn gern;
the dwarf began me desire;

des enwoldez mîn vater niht wern.
that would-it my father not grant.

er begunde mit haz dâwider streben
he began with hatred there-against strive

und wolde mich mînem gnôzen geben.
and would me to-my peer give.

er enhâte niht kindes mêre;
he had no child more;

ich mohte an grôze êre
I might to great honor

mit staten sîn bekomen.
with opportunities be come.

daz ist nû mir benomen.
that is now from-me taken.

dô ez der bete vil begienc
when it of-the request much did

und ez daz aber niht vervienc,
and it that however not succeeded,

des wart sîn drô harte grôz,
from-that became its threat very great,

unz mînen vater des bedrôz;
until my father of-it wearied;

der klagete ez den sînen
he lamented it to-the his

und liez ouch selbe schînen,
and let also self appear,

daz er unverzaget was;
that he undaunted was;

er reit ze im an daz gras.
he rode to it onto the grass.

den hât mir daz getwerc erslagen;
him has from-me the dwarf slain;

daz wil ich iemer gote klagen.
that will I ever to-God lament.

die in dâ rechen wolden,
those-who him there avenge would,

als sie von rehte solden,
as they by right should,

die gelâgen alle dâ tôt.
they lay all there dead.

dô mîn muoter die nôt
when my mother the distress

an der zinnen gesach,
from the battlement saw,

von jâmer ir daz herze brach
from misery to-her the heart broke

und starp von dem leide.
and died from the sorrow.

alsô verlôs ich sie beide.
so lost I them both.

dô mir diz grôze ungemach
when to-me this great discomfort

von dem getwerge geschach
from the dwarf happened

und ez noch danne um mich warp,
and it still then for me wooed,

daz ich vor leide niht enstarp,
that I for sorrow not died,

des enwirt mîn herze niemer frô.
of-that becomes my heart never glad.

von dem zorne tet ich dô
from the anger did I then

in diu lant mære:
into the lands tidings:

swer sô sælic wære,
whoever so blessed were,

daz er daz getwerc erslüege
that he the dwarf slew

und daz houbet für mich trüege,
and the head before me bore,

swie swache er wære geborn,
however basely he were born,

der wurde ze herren erkorn
he would-be as lord chosen

über mich und über mîn lant.
over me and over my land.

dô man daz mære bevant,
when one the tidings learned,

dô quam manic fromer man.
then came many-a bold man.

swer ie nâch êren muot gewan
whoever ever after honors spirit gained

und ez vernam, der quam dar.
and it heard, he came thither.

dar wart ein sô grôziu var,
there became a so great faring,

daz ichz iu niemer kan gesagen.
that I-it to-you never can tell.

die wurden alle sô gar erslagen,
they were all so wholly slain,

daz ir deheiner genas,
that of-them none survived,

der sô unverzaget was
who so undaunted was

an dem lîbe und an der frümekeit,
in the body and in the prowess,

daz er daz getwerc nie vermeit;
that he the dwarf never avoided;

die sint des tôdes gewert.
they are of-the death granted.

daz getwerc hât ein solh swert,
the dwarf has a such sword,

dâ nieman vor genesen kan.
there no-one before survive can.

swer wâfente einen man
whoever armed a man

in zwelf halsperge,
in twelve hauberks,

der enmohte vor dem getwerge
he might before the dwarf

eines slages niht gestân.
of-one blow not stand.

daz getwerc heizet Jurân.
the dwarf is-called Juran.

Nû bin ich durch daz her komen:
Now am I for that hither come:

ich han dicke vernomen,
I have often heard,

daz nie nieman herquam,
that never no-one hither-came,

wan der sîn ende hie nam;
except who his end here took;

ob ich den hie kunde erwerben,
if I him here could win,

der dort wolde sterben
who there would die

ein wênic gerner danne hie.
a little more-gladly than here.

nû half doch got dem rehten ie:
now helped yet God the right ever:

daz wurde villîhte sîn gewin,
that would-become perhaps his gain,

sît ich sus gar unschuldic bin.
since I thus wholly innocent am.

swen got des siges dâ gewert,
whom God of-the victory there grants,

dem wirt ein sô getânez swert,
to-him becomes a so made sword,

dâmit er wol erslüege
there-with he well should-slay

dise risen ungefüege,
these giants monstrous,

die alliu wâfen hânt vermiten,
who all weapons have avoided,

daz sie nie wurden versniten.
that they never were cut.

ez enwart nie stein sô herte,
there was never stone so hard,

der sich dem swerte erwerte,
which itself from-the sword defended,

ez zersnite in als ein holz.
it cut it as a wood.

des ist daz getwerc vil stolz,
of-that is the dwarf very proud,

daz ez giht, helfe im sîn lîp,
that it declares, (if)-helps it its body,

ich müese werden sîn wîp.
I must become its wife.

sît ichz sô ungerne tuo,
since I-it so unwillingly do,

ez welle mich twingen darzuo,
it will me force thereto,

daz ich ze jungest müeze
that I at last must

vallen für sîne füeze.
fall before its feet.

swenn ez mich dar zuo getrîbe,
whenever it me there to drives,

sô enwellez mîn niht ze wîbe
so wills-it me not as wife

wan zwô naht oder drî.
except two nights or three.

mîn burc und swaz darûf sî,
my castle and whatever thereon be,

daz müeze ich verlorn hân,
that must I lost have,

und nackent darabe gân;
and naked there-off go;

und swert mir grôze eide,
and swears to-me great oaths,

swenn ich sô dannen scheide,
whenever I so thence part,

daz sole ich vil gewis hân,
that shall I very certain have,

sô welle ez mich anegân
so will it me attack

mit birkînen ruoten,
with birchen rods,

unz ich beginne bluoten.
until I begin bleed.

swaz ich iendert hûte habe,
whatever I anywhere of-skin have,

die slahe ez mir gar abe
that strikes it from-me wholly off

über allen mînen lîp.
over all my body.

ich vil unsælic wîp,
I very unblessed woman,

wie sol ich daz erlîden!
how shall I that endure!

ez welle mir abesnîden
it will from-me cut-off

beidiu nasen unde munt;
both nose and mouth;

ez schende mich unz an die stunt,
it shames me until to the hour,

daz mich nieman gerne sehe.
that me no-one gladly sees.

ezn sî daz im geschehe
unless-it be that to-it happens

in kurzen zîten etewaz,
in short times something,

daz ich getrœstet werde baz,
that I comforted be better,

ich tuo mir selber ê den tôt,
I do to-myself self before the death,

ê ich gebeite solher nôt."
before I wait-for such distress."

VI · JURAN'S SWORD

Hearing of the giant, Daniel wavers and wishes himself home, then resolves to die bravely rather than live in shame, and pledges the lady his help. He rides with her to her castle, where her people beg her to keep him rather than lose him. In the morning Daniel tricks Juran into laying down his invincible sword and fighting with an ordinary one. The fight is fierce: the dwarf's sword shatters on Daniel's helmet, Daniel's blows cannot cut the dwarf's armor, and both run for Juran's sword.

Dô her Daniel vernam
When sir Daniel heard

diu mære alsô freissam,
the tidings so terrible,

daz der rise sô hart was,
that the giant so hard was,

daz nieman vor im genas,
that no-one before him survived,

und daz daz getwerc ein swert truoc,
and that the dwarf a sword bore,

dâmit er alle die ersluoc,
there-with he all those slew,

die ime quâmen ze slage,
who to-him came to blow,

und ouch hôrte an ir klage,
and also heard in her lament,

daz si sô was überladen
that she so was overladen

mit herzeleit und mit schaden,
with heart's-sorrow and with harm,

er dâhte in sînem muote:
he thought in his spirit:

„Kunde ich nû lêre guote,
„Knew I now teaching good,

daz wære mir ein sælekeit.
that would-be to-me a blessing.

ich wæne, darnâch ich ûz reit,
I think, what-for I out rode,

des wil mir volliu hant komen.
of-that will to-me full hand come.

ich hân beidiu wol vernomen,
I have both well heard,

ich endarf hie niht strîten,
I need here not fight,

noch mit der frouwen rîten.
nor with the lady ride.

ez muoz ein grôzez heil wesen,
it must a great fortune be,

sol ich vor den genesen,
(if)-shall I from those survive,

die sô getânen mort tuont,
who so made murder do,

daz sie nieman bestuont,
that them no-one withstood,

wan der den tôt hât erliten.
except who the death has suffered.

ich bin ze fruo ûz geriten.
I am too early out ridden.

owê, wær ich dâheime noch!
alas, were I at-home still!

ich enquam nie in leider loch. —
I came never into more-grievous hole.—

daz wizze got der rîche,
that know God the rich,

nû denke ich bœslîche.
now think I basely.

swie lange ich stille læge
however long I still lay

und mînes gemaches pflæge,
and of-my comfort took-care,

sô kunde niht von mir geschehen,
so could nothing from me happen,

daz man mir möhte gejehen
that one to-me might declare

deheiner frümekeite.
of-any prowess.

waz ob ich gearbeite
what if I toil

ze disen zîten sô wol,
at these times so well,

daz ez mich iemer helfen sol!
that it me ever help shall!

mac aber des niht ergân,
(if)-may however that not happen,

sô ist mir bezzer getân,
so is to-me better done,

als ez mir nû gewant ist,
as it to-me now turned is,

daz ich den lîp in kurzer frist
that I the life in short time

frümeclîche ûfgebe,
bravely give-up,

dann ich mit schanden iemer lebe."
than I with disgraces ever live."

des lîbes er sich bewac und sprach:
of-the life he himself resigned and spoke:

„Frouwe, iuwer ungemach
„Lady, your discomfort

müejet mich und iuwer nôt.
grieves me and your distress.

ich wil gewisseliche tôt
I will certainly dead

durch iuwer unschulde ligen
for your innocence lie

oder dem getwerge angesigen.
or the dwarf conquer.

rîtet für und wîset mich.
ride before and show me.

ez enist nie sô angestlich,
it is never so fearful,

ich welle ez gerne bestân,
I will it gladly withstand,

sît ez iu sus leide hat getân."
since it to-you thus sorrow has done."

Diu frouwe gnâdet im aber dô
The lady thanked him again then

und was des trôstes harte frô.
and was of-the comfort very glad.

doch weinde siu ir ungemach
yet wept she her discomfort

und ouch daz si sich versach,
and also that she herself expected,

daz siu an im müese sehen,
that she on him must see,

daz in dâ allen was geschehen,
what to-them there all was happened,

die daz getwerc ie ersluoc.
whom the dwarf ever slew.

sus hâte sie leides genuoc.
thus had she of-sorrow enough.

Dô wart lenger niht gebiten,
Then was longer not waited,

sie sâzen ûf unde riten.
they sat up and rode.

die frouwen twanc ir herzeleit,
the lady forced her heart's-sorrow,

daz siu vil trûreclîche reit.
that she very sadly rode.

daz was Daniêle ungemach;
that was to-Daniel discomfort;

er wolde si trœsten unde sprach:
he would her comfort and spoke:

„Frouwe, getrûwet ez gote,
„Lady, trust it to-God,

daz ich mit sînem gebote
that I with his command

überwinde daz getwerc.
overcome the dwarf.

got minnet sô sêre rehtiu werc,
God loves so sorely right works,

daz ir gewis muget wesen,
that you certain may be,

wir soln wol vor im genesen."
we shall well before it survive."

Die frouwen trôste daz;
The lady comforted that;

si gehabte sich ein wênic baz,
she bore herself a little better,

dann ir ze muote wære.
than to-her in spirit were.

ir herze was vil swære,
her heart was very heavy,

sô sêre rou sie sîn tôt.
so sorely grieved her his death.

ouch erbarmete in ir nôt.
also pitied him her distress.

sus was ir deweders muot
thus was of-them neither's spirit

zuo deheinen fröuden guot
to any joys good

und rou sie beide über maht.
and grieved them both beyond might.

si riten den tac unz an die naht.
they rode the day until to the night.

dô quâmen sie dar sie wolden
then came they where they would

und ouch von rehte solden,
and also by right should,

ze der frouwen heimüete.
to the lady's home.

mit vil grôzer güete
with very great kindness

wurden sie beide empfangen.
were they both received.

gegen in quam gegangen
toward them came going

wol sehzic juncfrouwen.
well sixty young-ladies.

ouch mac man dâ wunder schouwen,
also may one there wonder behold,

vil ritter unde knehte,
many knights and squires,

die enpfiengen nâch ir rehte
who received after their right

beide die frouwen und den gast.
both the lady and the guest.

wan daz dâ fröuden gebrast,
except that there of-joys lacked,

dâ was anders al diu êre,
there was otherwise all the honor,

die dehein man mêre
which any man more

ûf dem deheines hûse gesach.
on the any house saw.

nû wart ir aller ungemach
now became of-them all discomfort

aber grœzer danne ê;
again greater than before;

in tet ir herze alsô wê,
to-them did their heart so woe,

dô sie den ritter sâhen,
when they the knight saw,

daz sie des alle jâhen,
that they of-that all declared,

wurder dâ erslagen,
were-he there slain,

sie wolden in iemer klagen.
they would him ever lament.

des was ir jâmer alsô grôz,
therefore was their misery so great,

daz nie dehein sîn genôz
that never any his peer

lebende baz wart geklaget.
living better was lamented.

sie wâren darane verzaget,
they were thereof despaired,

daz er behielte den lîp.
that he should-keep the life.

der frouwen liebesten wîp,
of-the lady dearest women,

die ir wol getorsten râten,
who her well dared counsel,

mit flîze si sie dô bâten:
with diligence they her then asked:

der ritter wære sô wol getân,
the knight were so well made,

si solde in des gern erlân,
she should him of-that gladly release,

daz er den lîp dâ niht verlür,
that he the life there not should-lose,

daz sin ir zeinem herren erkür
that she-him to-her as-a lord should-choose

— er gezæme wol ir êren —
—he befitted well her honors—

und in niemer lieze kêren
and him never should-let turn

für die herberge.
before the lodging.

sie getrûweten vor dem getwerge
they trusted before the dwarf

die burc iemer wol bewarn.
the castle ever well guard.

den schaden müesen si lân varn,
the harm must they let go,

den ez in dâ ûzen tæte.
which it to-them there outside should-do.

daz sin hinnen bî ir hæte,
that she-him henceforth by her had,

si verklagte wol ir ungemach.
she ceased-to-lament well her discomfort.

diu frouwe frœlîche sprach:
the lady joyfully spoke:

„Daz næme ich vil gerne alsô
„That would-take I very gladly so

und wære der rede iemer frô,
and would-be of-the speech ever glad,

möhten wirs in überkomen.
might we-it him persuade.

nû hât er den strît genomen
now has he the fight taken

alsô sêre in sînen muot,
so sorely into his spirit,

daz ers leider niht entuot."
that he-it alas not does."

Dô man ezzen solde gân,
When one to-eat should go,

dô wart ein dienest getân,
then was a service done,

den er wol nemen mohte.
which he well take might.

swaz ze wirtschefte tohte,
whatever to hospitality availed,

des wart dâ wunder für getragen.
of-that was there wonder before borne.

ich mac iu lîhte sagen,
I may to-you easily say,

dô in an der state niht gebrast,
when to-him on the occasion nothing lacked,

und in ouch allen der gast
and to-them also all the guest

alsô rehte liep was,
so rightly dear was,

daz er des nahtes wol genas.
that he of-the night well fared.

sie zeigten im willigen muot,
they showed to-him willing spirit,

darzuo werk alsô guot,
thereto works so good,

daz er sich schiere bewac,
that he himself quickly resolved,

gelebeter iemer den tac,
lived-he ever the day,

er gediente die herberge
he repaid the lodging

oder er sturbe von dem getwerge.
or he died by the dwarf.

Des nahtes het er guot gemach,
In-the night had he good comfort,

unz er den morgen ersach.
until he the morning saw.

ein messe hôrter fruo
a mass heard-he early

und bereite sich darzuo,
and readied himself thereto,

er wolde kempfen an daz getwerc
he would fight against the dwarf

und ouch vil ritterlîchiu werk
and also very knightly works

des tages lâzen schouwen.
of-the day let behold.

dô sprach er zuo der frouwen
then spoke he to the lady

von dem Trüeben Berge:
of the Gloomy Mountain:

„Enbietet dem getwerge,
„Send-word to-the dwarf,

daz ez kome, ir welt ez gesehen.
that it come, you will it see.

swes ir mich danne hœret jehen,
whatever you me then hear declare,

des solt ir alles sîn gereit.
of-that shall you all be ready.

dem man ist dicke diu wîsheit
to-the man is often the wisdom

ze mangen dingen harte guot,
for many things very good,

der er mit sterke niht entuot."
which he with strength not does."

Nâch dem getwerge wart gesant.
For the dwarf was sent.

dô gie Daniel zehant
then went Daniel at-once

mit der frouwen an die zinnen
with the lady onto the battlements

und wolde des werden innen,
and would of-that become aware,

ob er mit deheinen listen
whether he with any cunning

sîn leben kunde gefristen.
his life could preserve.

daz getwerc sach er dort her gân,
the dwarf saw he there hither go,

daz was geheizzen Jurân.
that was named Juran.

ez gie zuo dem burgetor,
it went to the castle-gate,

dâ begundez frâgen vor,
there began-it ask before,

waz sîn frouwe wolde,
what its lady would,

ob ez iemer solde
whether it ever should

ir hulde gewinnen.
her favor win.

„Jâ“ sprach von der zinnen
„Yes“ spoke from the battlement

herre Daniel zehant,
lord Daniel at-once,

„mîner frouwen lîp und lant
„my lady's body and land

ist allez iuwer eigen,
is all your own,

ob ir wellet zeigen
if you will show

deheine iuwer frümekeit.
any your prowess.

iu ist ir minne bereit,
to-you is her love ready,

lâzet ir die sie sehen;
(if)-let you it her see;

sô wil sie iuwer ze herren jehen.“
so will she you as lord declare.“

daz getwerc antwurte im alsô:
the dwarf answered him so:

„Der rede wær ich iemer frô,
„Of-the speech would-be I ever glad,

kund ich mit mîner schulde
could I with my desert

komen an ir hulde.
come to her favor.

swaz siu mir für gelegen kan,
whatever she to-me before lay can,

dâmit iemer dehein man
there-with ever any man

frümekeit erzeigen sol,
prowess show shall,

daz tuon ich gern unde wol.“
that do I gladly and well.“

Daniel sprach fürbaz:
Daniel spoke further:

„Mîn frouwe hât gelobet daz,
„My lady has promised that,

si lâze disen zorn sîn,
she let this anger be,

darumbe daz ir tuot schîn,
therefore that you make visible,

ob ir sît der êren wert,
whether you are of-the honors worthy,

leget von iu iuwer swert
lay from you your sword

und nemet daz beste, daz hie sî,
and take the best, that here be,

und bestât danne dâbî
and withstand then thereby

den aller swachesten man,
the very weakest man,

den mîn frouwe geleisten kan.
whom my lady provide can.

muget ir an dem gesigen,
(if)-may you over him conquer,

mîn frouwe lât den strît ligen
my lady lets the fight lie

und tuot allez, des ir gert.
and does all, that you desire.

man zîhet es nieman wan daz swert,
one accuses of-it no-one except the sword,

swaz ir mordes hât getân,
whatever you of-murder have done,

dâ enkunde niht vor gestân.
there could nothing before stand.

nû lât mîne frouwen
now let my lady

und ouch ir gesinde schouwen,
and also her household behold,

ob ir âne daz swert
whether you without the sword

einen man des tôdes wert.
a man of-the death grant.

swaz ir dann welt, daz ist getân."
whatever you then will, that is done."

dô sprach daz getwerc Jurân:
then spoke the dwarf Juran:

„Hân ich danne ir hulde wol,
„Have I then her favor well,

ob ich den sic an im erhol?"
if I the victory over him gain?"

diu frouwe sprach iesâ
the lady spoke forthwith

harte frœlîche „Jâ!
very joyfully „Yes!

gewinnet ir im den lîp abe,
(if)-win you from-him the life off,

sô gebietet über allez, daz ich habe."
so command over all, that I have."

dô sprach daz getwerc Jurân:
then spoke the dwarf Juran:

„Sô wil ich gerne bestân
„So will I gladly withstand

iuwern aller tiuresten helt;
your very dearest hero;

swen ir darzuo hât erwelt,
whomever you thereto have chosen,

dem muoz der tôt geschehen.
to-him must the death happen.

ich wil iuch lâzen sehen,
I will you let see,

daz dehein mîn frümekeit
that none my prowess

an daz swert ist geleit,
on the sword is laid,

daz ichz an mînem lîbe hân.
that I-it in my body have.

heizet ir mich daz swert ligen lân
(if)-bid you me the sword lie let

und nemen einen stecken,
and take a stick,

des enwoldich niht erschrecken,
of-that would-I not take-fright,

noch danne getrûwetich mîner kraft,
still then trusted-I my strength,

ich wurde an im wol sigehaft;
I would-become over him well victorious;

wær er sterker danne Samsôn,
were he stronger than Samson,

ich bestüendin um solhen lôn."
I would-withstand-him for such reward."

Hie erzeigte frou Minne,
Here showed lady Love,

daz er vil starker sinne
that he very strong senses

in einem stæten muote hât,
in a steady spirit has,

den si des niht übergât,
whom she of-that not passes-over,

daz er diene nâch ir lône;
that he serve after her reward;

daz siu mit Salomône
which she with Solomon

harte wol erzeigen kan;
very well show can;

daz was der witzigeste man,
that was the wittiest man,

von dem ich ie gesagen hôrte,
of whom I ever say heard,

unz daz si im zerstôrte
until that she for-him destroyed

die wîsheit und die sinne.
the wisdom and the senses.

daz selbe hât frou Minne
the same has lady Love

vil mangem werden man getân.
to-very many-a worthy man done.

es endarf iuch niht wunder hân,
it needs you not wonder have,

daz si hie wart sigehaft.
that she here became victorious.

an swen si leget ir kraft,
on whomever she lays her strength,

der muoz ir sîn undertân.
he must to-her be subject.

daz selbe tet her Jurân,
the same did sir Juran,

er gap sich in ir gebot.
he gave himself into her command.

in dûhte, daz unser her got
him seemed, that our lord God

deheine engel mohte hân
no angel might have

alsô rehte wol getân
so rightly well made

sam die frouwen, die er dâ sach.
as the lady, whom he there saw.

daz wort er lachende sprach:
the word he laughing spoke:

„Ich tuon gerne, des ir gert."
„I do gladly, what you desire."

abe strickte er sîn swert
off untied he his sword

und truoc ez verre hindan,
and carried it far away,

daz sie ez alle sâhen an,
that they it all looked at,

und leitez zuo der erden:
and laid-it to the earth:

„Ich wil des innen werden"
„I will of-that aware become"

sprach daz getwerc Jurân,
spoke the dwarf Juran,

„wer mich türre bestân."
„who me dare withstand."

ez dûhte in ein senftiu nôt,
it seemed to-him a soft distress,

daz si sprach, swenn er den tôt
that she spoke, whenever he the death

einem man getæte,
to-a man should-do,

daz er ir hulde hæte.
that he her favor had.

er gie hin zuo dem burgetor,
he went thither to the castle-gate,

dâ machte er einen kreiz vor,
there made he a circle before,

darinne sie vehten solden,
therein they fight should,

ob sie zesamene wolden.
if they together would.

Die porten sach man ûf getân.
The gates saw one open done.

dô sach er ze ime gân
then saw he to him go

Daniêlen von dem Blüenden Tal.
Daniel of the Blossoming Valley.

er gap im zweier swerte wal.
he gave him of-two swords choice.

er nam, daz im dâ baz geviel,
he took, what to-him there better pleased,

daz ander nam her Daniel.
the other took sir Daniel.

sie trâten beide in den rinc.
they stepped both into the ring.

dô wart gelobet ein dinc:
then was promised a thing:

man beslôz daz burgetor
one locked the castle-gate

und liez dâ nieman dâvor
and let there no-one before-it

wan Daniêlen und daz getwerc.
except Daniel and the dwarf.

die begunden manlîchiu werc
they began manly works

beide samet wîsen.
both together show.

sie wolden daz îsen
they would the iron

mit den schilden fristen;
with the shields preserve;

dô giengens ûz den listen;
then went-they out-of the arts;

ir slege wâren sô grôz,
their blows were so great,

daz sie der schilte wurden blôz
that they of-the shields became bare

in einer wêniger zît.
in a little time.

dô wart ein sô getâner strît,
then became a so made fight,

daz sie des alle jâhen,
that they of-that all declared,

die ez hôrten unde sâhen,
who it heard and saw,

ir deweder möhte genesen,
of-them neither might survive,

ez müese ir beider tôt wesen.
it must of-them both death be.

mit grimme bûten sie den kreiz;
with fury occupied they the circle;

ir ietweder sich vaste vleiz
of-them each himself hard strove

ûf des anderen tôt.
toward the other's death.

daz fiur lieht unde rôt
the fire bright and red

sach man von den helmen springen,
saw one from the helmets spring,

dô diu swert begunden klingen,
when the swords began ring,

diu sie in den henden truogen
which they in the hands bore

und ûf die helme sluogen
and on the helmets struck

und ûf die halsperge.
and on the hauberks.

sie wunschten dem getwerge
they wished to-the dwarf

des valles allegelîche.
of-the fall all-alike.

sie bâten got vil inneclîche
they asked God very heartily

durch sîne hêren namen drî,
for his holy names three,

daz er dem rehten stüende bî,
that he the right should-stand by,

und ez got enden wolde,
and it God end would,

als er von rehte solde.
as he by right should.

dô sprach daz getwerc Jurân:
then spoke the dwarf Juran:

„Frou, diz sî durch dich getân!“
„Lady, this be for thee done!“

Danîelen ez sluoc,
Daniel it struck,

ûf den helm, den er truoc,
on the helmet, which he bore,

daz im sîn swert enzwei brast.
that to-him his sword in-two burst.

darunder gap ouch im der gast
thereunder gave also it the guest

einen sô freislîchen slac,
a so terrible blow,

daz ez ûf der erden gelac
that it on the earth lay

und ez daz swert niht ensneit;
and it the sword not cut;

daz was Danîêle leit.
that was to-Daniel grievous.

daz getwerc was grimme unde karc
the dwarf was grim and crafty

und ouch âne mâzen starc.
and also beyond measure strong.

dô ez sich des slages erholde
when it itself from-the blow recovered

und wider ûf wolde,
and back up would,

dô sluoc ez aber Daniel,
then struck it again Daniel,

daz ez wider ûf diu knie viel,
that it back onto the knees fell,

und gap im harte schiere
and gave it very quickly

grôzer slege wol viere.
of-great blows well four.

diz was wunders genuoc,
this was of-wonder enough,

swie vil er ûf ez gesluoc,
however much he on it struck,

er versneit weder helm noch halsberc.
he cut neither helmet nor hauberk.

ûf spranc aber daz getwerc,
up sprang again the dwarf,

ez vergaz sîner zuht,
it forgot its breeding,

balde huop ez an die fluht
quickly raised it on the flight

gegen sînem swerte,
toward its sword,

wandez des lîbes gerte.
for-it of-the life desired.

des wart Daniel gewar,
of-that became Daniel aware,

er huop sich gâhende dar.
he raised himself hastening thither.

sie wâren beide an der vart.
they were both on the run.

hei! welh ein loufen dâ wart!
hey! what a running there became!

VII · THE COUNTESS OF THE BRIGHT FOUNTAIN

Daniel reaches the sword first and cuts off the dwarf's head. The lady of the Gloomy Mountain offers him all she has, but he rides on with the sword. Forty ladies meet him with their mistress, the countess of the Bright Fountain: a bellyless monster carrying a head that kills all who look at it has slain her children and her people, and her husband is shut in his tower.

Nû enwart nie wille sô guot,
Now was never will so good,

den man âne state tuot,
which one without opportunity does,

diu state enhelfe verre baz,
the opportunity not-helps far better,

ist der wille niht ze laz.
(if)-is the will not too slack.

si liefen vaste für sich.
they ran hard before themselves.

ir beider wille was gelich:
their both will was alike:

dâ was einhalp diu state,
there was on-one-side the opportunity,

des was dem andern ein schate.
that was to-the other a shadow.

der âne helfe dâ ranc,
who without help there struggled,

swaz er sich selbe getwanc, 1700
however-much he himself self forced,

er enmohte niht wider zwein,
he might nothing against two,

als ez an Daniêle schein:
as it in Daniel appeared:

im wâren diu bein alsô lanc,
to-him were the legs so long,

daz er daz getwerc für spranc
that he the dwarf before sprang

und im daz selbe swert wart. 1705
and to-him the same sword became.

dô wart ez lenger niht gespart,
then was it longer not spared,

als im diu êre geschach,
as to-him the honor happened,

er zucktez ûz unde sprach:
he drew-it out and spoke:

„Wiltû iht lenger leben,
„(if)-Wilt-thou at-all longer live,

sô muostû dich gevangen geben 1710
so must-thou thyself captive give

in mîner frouwen gewalt."
into my lady's power."

nû was daz getwerc alsô balt,
now was the dwarf so bold,

daz ez den tôt niht entsaz,
that it the death not feared,

und gar vor leide vergaz
and wholly for sorrow forgot

aller sîner sinne,
all its senses,

durch des swertes minne.
for the sword's love.

ez weste sich sô manhaft,
it knew itself so manly,

daz ez im mit sîner kraft
that it from-him with its strength

daz swert wolde hân genomen.
the sword would have taken.

dô enliez erz niht nâher komen:
then let he-it not nearer come:

er spranc von im drîstunt
he sprang from it three-times

und tet im allez dicke kunt,
and made to-it all often known,

er næme im daz leben,
he should-take from-it the life,

wolder sich niht gevangen geben.
would-it itself not captive give.

des ennam ez deheine war
of-that took it no heed

und lief ie swîgende dar,
and ran ever silent thither,

unz erz genuoc versuohte,
until he-it enough tried,

daz ez niht geruohte
that it not deigned

langer ze lebene.
longer to live.

dô geruohter im ze gebene
then deigned-he to-it to give

mit dem swerte einen swanc,
with the sword a swing,

daz im daz houbet dâhin spranc
that to-it the head away sprang

und nie wort mê gesprach.
and never word more spoke.

Dô daz diu frouwe gesach,
When that the lady saw,

si neic tiefe ze gote
she bowed deeply to God

und gnâdete sînem gebote
and thanked his command

mit herzen und mit worten.
with heart and with words.

dô entslôz man ûf die porten;
then unlocked one open the gates;

diu frouwe nam ir gesinde gar,
the lady took her household wholly,

daz was ein hêrlîchiu schar,
that was a lordly company,

und quam gegen im gegangen.
and came toward him going.

er wart vil wol empfangen.
he was very well received.

ir herze wart enbunden;
her heart was unbound;

sie hâte überwunden
she had overcome

beide den kumber und ir nôt.
both the affliction and her distress.

diu êre, die man im erbôt,
the honor, which one to-him offered,

der was vil und genuoc.
of-that was much and enough.

dô er daz houbet für sich truoc,
when he the head before himself bore,

dô mohte man dienest schouwen
then might one service behold

von dem gesinde und von der frouwen.
from the household and from the lady.

si gâben sich ze sînem gebote,
they gave themselves to his command,

sie dankten im unde gote
they thanked him and God

der êren, diu in dâ was geschehen.
of-the honor, which to-them there was happened.

ir mohtet hœren unde sehen,
you might hear and see,

hæter nâch lône deheinen muot,
had-he after reward any spirit,

wolder lîp unde guot,
would-he body and goods,

daz ez ir fröude wære.
that it their joy were.

sie begundim die gebære
they began-him the bearing

zuo den werken zeigen.
to the works show.

wær diu welt ir eigen,
were the world their own,

der dûhter sie wol wert.
of-that seemed-he to-them well worthy.

wolder ir lîbes hân begert,
would-he of-her body have desired,

als diu âventiure giht,
as the adventure declares,

si enhætes im verseit niht.
she would-have-it him refused not.

Nû begunder urloubes gern.
Now began-he of-leave desire.

di rede bat si in verbern
the speech bade she him to-forgo

und sprach, ir wær iemer leit,
and spoke, to-her would-be ever grievous,

solder sîner arbeit
should-he of-his labor

ungelônet rîten.
unrewarded ride.

si bat in doch bîten,
she bade him yet to-wait,

unz er geruowete nâch der nôt.
until he rested after the distress.

swaz si des gebat oder gebôt,
whatever she of-that asked or commanded,

des beleip si alles ungewert.
of-that remained she all ungranted.

er was frô, daz er daz swert
he was glad, that he the sword

an dem getwerge hâte gewunnen,
from the dwarf had won,

und wolde rehte erkunnen,
and would rightly find-out,

ob ez den risen mohte snîden,
whether it the giant might cut,

des enwolder niht vermîden.
of-that would-he not avoid.

er saz ûf unde reit.
he sat up and rode.

daz was der frouwen harte leit
that was to-the lady very grievous
und dem gesinde überal.
and to-the household everywhere.
Dô Daniel von dem Blüenden Tal
When Daniel of the Blossoming Valley
die frouwen von dem Trüeben Berge
the lady of the Gloomy Mountain
erlôste von dem getwerge
released from the dwarf
und urloup genomen hâte,
and leave taken had,
er kêrte dannen drâte.
he turned thence quickly.
als er von der burc begunde traben,
as he from the castle began trot,
dô sach er vor im haben
then saw he before him halt
wol vierzic juncfrouwen.
well forty young-ladies.
dô in die begunden schouwen,
when him they began behold,
sie erbeizten nider an daz gras.
they dismounted down onto the grass.
diu ir aller frouwe was,
who of-them all lady was,
der giengens'alle samet nâch;
her went-they-all together after;
gegen Daniêle wart in gâch.
toward Daniel became to-them haste.
sie klagten unde weinten.
they lamented and wept.
er sach, daz sie in meinten.
he saw, that they him meant.

er erbeizte ouch nider an den sant,
he dismounted also down onto the sand,

und zôch sîn ors an der hant,
and drew his horse by the hand,

unz er sô nâhe bequam,
until he so near came,

daz er ir grüezen vernam.
that he their greeting heard.

dô vielen sie im alle
then fell they to-him all

mit einem glîchen valle
with a like fall

samet für sîne füeze.
together before his feet.

sîn wille der was süeze,
his will it was sweet,

daz wart schiere schîn getân.
that was quickly visible done.

er hiez sie balde ûfstân
he bade them quickly up-stand

und frâgte sie der mære,
and asked them of-the tidings,

waz diu rede wære.
what the matter were.

ir aller frouwe diu sprach:
of-them all lady she spoke:

„Herre, dâ ist mîn ungemach
„Lord, there is my discomfort

und mîn nôt, die ich dulde,
and my distress, which I suffer,

alles leides übergulde.
of-all sorrow surpassing.

ich was ein rîchiu grævîn,
I was a rich countess,

der gewalt was aller mîn
the power was all mine
dâ ze dem Liehten Brunnen.
there at the Bright Fountain.
nû ist er mir abgewunnen
now is it from-me won-away
gar und al mîn êre.
wholly and all my honor.
ich enwirde niemer mêre
I become never more
weder gefröut noch getrôst,
neither gladdened nor comforted,
ich enwerde mit iu von leide erlôst.
I unless-become with you from sorrow released.
ich hâte verzwîfelt daran,
I had despaired thereof,
daz mir iemer dehein man
that to-me ever any man
ze deheiner state möhte komen.
to any opportunity might come.
sît ir dirre frouwen hât benomen
since you from-this lady have taken
den grôzen kumber, den si leit,
the great affliction, which she suffered,
nû weiz ich mit der wârheit,
now know I with the truth,
sol mir iht sælden widervarn,
(if)-shall to-me at-all fortunes befall,
der muoz mich got mit iu bewarn.
in-that must me God with you guard.
er hât sô manic hundert
he has so many-a hundred
von der welt gesundert,
from the world parted,

an dem ir hât gesiget,
over whom you have conquered,

daz ouch der trôst an iu liget,
that also the comfort in you lies,

dâmit ich mîne swære,
with-which I my grief,

ob ich sô sælec wære,
if I so blessed were,

diu mir zuo gênde ist
which to-me to going is

unde komt in kurzer frist,
and comes in short time,

daz ich ez an iu funde,
that I it in you found,

mit fröuden überwunde.
with joys should-overcome.

ich swere wol des einen eit
I swear well of-that an oath

und ist ein rehtiu wârheit,
and is a right truth,

wird ich mit iu niht erlôst,
(if)-become I with you not released,

sô wird ich niemer getrôst."
so become I never comforted."

Er sprach: „Frouwe, daz ist mir leit.
He spoke: „Lady, that is to-me grievous.

ich hân an grôze arbeit
I have to great labor

gekêret und genendet.
turned and ventured.

daz hân ich niht volendet,
that have I not completed,

dâ muoz ich hin kêren.
there must I thither turn.

ich bin von mînen êren
I am from my honors

gar gescheiden unde komen,
wholly parted and come,

des ich mich hân angenomen,
which I myself have undertaken,

ob ich ez niht volende."
if I it not complete."

diu frouwe want ir hende,
the lady wrung her hands,

si sprach: „Lât die rede sîn.
she spoke: „Let the speech be.

ich nim ez ûf die sêle mîn,
I take it on the soul my,

ir enmüget niemer mêre
you may never more

iuwer sælde und iuwer êre
your fortune and your honor

baz bemêren danne hie.
better increase than here.

ir enkomet niemer noch quâmet nie,
you come never nor came never,

dâ iuwer gnâde nœter sî.
where your grace more-needful be.

ir muget erwerben dâbî
you may win thereby

gotes hulde und den prîs.
God's favor and the prize.

iuwer êre gât in alle wîs
your honor goes in all ways

iemer mêre für sich.
ever more before itself.

erbarmet iuch, herre, über mich
have-pity yourself, lord, over me

durch got und durch iuwer hövescheit,
for God and for your courtliness,

sô geschiht iu niemer dehein leit
so happens to-you never any sorrow

an êren noch an lîbe.
in honors nor in body.

helfet mir armen wîbe
help me poor woman

von mînem herzen sêre:
from my heart's pain:

got hilfet iu iemer mêre."
God helps you ever more."

er sprach: „Frouwe, nû saget,
he spoke: „Lady, now say,

waz ez sî daz ir klaget.
what it be that you lament.

mac ich, ich mache es iu buoz."
(if)-may I, I make it to-you amends."

si gnâdetim an sînen fuoz;
she thanked-him at his foot;

des betwanc sie grôz ungemach;
to-that forced her great discomfort;

sie weinte sêre unde sprach:
she wept sorely and spoke:

„Herre, daz vergelt iu got.
„Lord, that repay you God.

ich lîde schaden unde spot
I suffer harm and mockery

von einem tîvelsman,
from a devil's-man,

dem nieman niht geschaden kan.
to-whom no-one nothing harm can.

er ist des tîvels genôz.
he is the devil's peer.

im ist daz houbet sô grôz,
to-him is the head so great,

ez getrüegen kûme zwêne man.
it would-carry barely two men.

er treit niht gewandes an,
he wears no garment on,

1885 er ist allenthalben rûch
he is all-over hairy

und ist gar âne bûch,
and is wholly without belly,

er hât ouch niht barm,
he has also no bosom,

im ist bein und arm
to-him is leg and arm

gewahsen an daz houbet.
grown onto the head.

1890 herre, daz geloubet,
lord, that believe,

im gât daz kinne an diu knie.
to-him goes the chin to the knees.

zwei grœzer ougen enwurden nie,
two greater eyes became never,

dann an sînem kopfe stât.
than on his head stands.

einen munt den er hât,
a mouth which he has,

1895 der ist wîter dann ein eln.
it is wider than an ell.

der iemer und iemer solde weln,
who ever and ever should choose,

der enfunde sô ungehiure
he would-find so monstrous

deheine kreatiure.
any creature.

ich bin des âne zwîvel,
I am of-that without doubt,

in habe der leidige tîvel
him have the loathsome devil

ûz der helle gesant.
out-of the hell sent.

er nimt ein houbet an die hant,
he takes a head into the hand,

swenn er die liute tœten wil.
whenever he the people kill will.

der sî lützel oder vil,
of-those be few or many,

die ez under den ougen sehent an,
who it under the eyes look at,

der komt niemer deheiner dan;
of-them comes never any thence;

sie ligent dâ zehant tôt.
they lie there at-once dead.

daz ist diu grœste nôt:
that is the greatest distress:

sô er den mannen nimet den lîp,
when he from-the men takes the life,

sô tœtet er kint unde wîp.
so kills he child and woman.

er füeret ein her freislich,
he leads a host terrible,

die sint im alle gelich.
who are to-him all alike.

sie sint komen von dem mer,
they are come from the sea,

sie strîtent allez âne wer;
they fight all without defense;

in enist deheiner wer nôt,
to-them is no defense need,

swer daz houbet siht, der lît tôt.
whoever the head sees, he lies dead.

swem er den tôt getuot,
to-whomever he the death does,

dem sûgentsûz daz warme bluot;
from-him suck-they-out the warm blood;

daz habentsin ir munde
that hold-they-in their mouth

eine kurze stunde
a short while

und lânt ez wider ûz vallen.
and let it back out fall.

alsô lebent sie mit in allen;
so live they with them all;

anders pflegent sie deheiner spîse.
other practice they no food.

in derselben wîse
in the-same way

hât er verwuostet mîn lant
has he wasted my land

âne roup und âne brant,
without robbery and without burning,

âne stich und âne slac.
without thrust and without blow.

den schaden den ich des haben mac,
the harm which I of-that have may,

der dûhte mich als ein wint;
it seemed to-me as a wind;

ich hâte sehs fromiu kint,
I had six good children,

diu ligent von sînen schulden tôt.
they lie by his fault dead.

doch verklagete ich die nôt;
yet ceased-to-lament I the distress;

ich hâte mîn hûs unz gestern fruo
I had my house until yesterday early

und vil gesindes darzuo
and much household thereto

und einen ritterlîchen man,
and a knightly man,

bî dem ich mîniu kint gewan.
by whom I my children gained.

gestern, dô wir gâzen
yesterday, when we ate

und in unruowen sâzen
and in unrest sat

umb unsern schaden, den wir hân,
about our harm, which we have,

dô quam der tîvel gegân
then came the devil going

und tôte allez, daz dâ was.
and killed all, that there was.

ich selbe kûme genas,
I self barely survived,

ich verstal mich abe als ein mûs
I stole myself away as a mouse

hinden abe von dem hûs,
behind off from the house,

ich und ander mîniu wîp,
I and other my women,

diu hie bî mir hânt den lîp.
who here by me have the life.

dô wart mînem herren zorn,
then became to-my lord anger,

der flôch ûf den hôhen torn
he fled up the high tower

und beslôz sich darinne.
and locked himself therein.

den enweiz ich wie ich gewinne.
him not-know I how I win.

wirt im der lîp benomen,
(if)-is to-him the life taken,

sô wil ich dar wider komen.
so will I thither back come.

daz ich daz houbet gesehe
that I the head should-see

und ouch mir der tôt geschehe,
and also to-me the death should-happen,

daz ich nâch mînem herren var.
that I after my lord fare.

ich verklage mînen schaden gar
I cease-to-lament my harm wholly

und dunke mich vil rîche,
and seem to-myself very rich,

gewert ir mir gewærlîche,
(if)-grant you me truly,

ob mîn herre sî tôt;
whether my lord be dead;

sô wil ich komen von der nôt
so will I come from the distress

und ouch mich tœten lâzen."
and also myself kill let."

Watching in a borrowed mirror, Daniel cuts off the bellyless monster's legs and the hand that holds its head, and turns the head on the monster and its followers, who fall dead. Judging its use against the giants shameful and dangerous, he throws it into the sea and calls the count down from his tower.

„Nû rîtet für an der strâzen",
„Now ride before on the road",

sprach Daniel ze der frouwen,
spoke Daniel to the lady,

„unz wir daz hûs beschouwen.
„until we the house behold.

sô lât mich dar rîten.
so let me thither ride.

ir gesehet in kurzen zîten,
you see in short times,

ob ich iu iht gehelfen kan.
whether I to-you at-all help can.

ich gewinniu wider iuwern man,
I win-you back your husband,

oder ich verliuse den lîp."
or I lose the life."

diu frouwe und iriu wîp
the lady and her women

genâdeten im vil sêre,
thanked him very sorely,

und biten dâ niht mêre,
and waited there not more,

und riten dan schiere
and rode thence quickly

über langer mîle viere,
over long miles four,

unz sie begunden nâhen,
until they began near,

daz sie daz hûs sâhen.
that they the house saw.

Daniel sprach wider sie:
Daniel spoke toward them:

„Frouwe, bîtet ir mîn hie,
„Lady, wait you for-me here,

unz daz ich versuoche,
until that I try,

ob daz got geruoche,
whether that God deign,

daz iu gnâde sole geschehen.
that to-you grace shall happen.

sol ich iuch iemer mê gesehen,
shall I you ever more see,

daz muoz harte an gote stân.
that must very on God stand.

swie diu nôt wære getân,
however the distress were made,

die ich getorste schouwen,
which I dared behold,

dar lieze ich mir wol zouwen
there let I myself well hasten

durch iuwer angeste gebot.
for your fear's command.

ich enweiz, daz wizze got,
I not-know, that know God,

wie ich âne diu ougen getuo,
how I without the eyes do,

sît sie mir schade sint darzuo.
since they to-me harm are thereto.

hât ir deheinen spiegel dâ?“
have you any mirror there?“

diu frouwe sprach zehant: „Jâ!
the lady spoke at-once: „Yes!

ir ist hie vil, waz welt ir der?“
of-them is here much, what will you of-them?“

er sprach: „Dâ gebet mir einen her!“
he spoke: „There give me one hither!“

als Daniel daz gejach, 1995
as Daniel that declared,

zuo ir wîben si sprach:
to her women she spoke:

„Tuot her die spiegel alle,
„Do hither the mirrors all,

swelher im gevalle,
whichever to-him please,

daz lât in selber besehen!“
that let him self see!“

daz was schiere geschehen. 2000
that was quickly happened.

der spiegel man im dar truoc,
of-the mirrors one to-him thither bore,

unz er sprach: „Es ist genuoc.“
until he spoke: „It is enough.“

nû nam her Daniel,
now took sir Daniel,

der im aller bast geviel.
what to-him of-all best pleased.

in sînen buosen er in stiez. 2005
into his bosom he it thrust.

der frouwen er für wâr gehiez,
to-the lady he for true promised,

er bræhte ir liebiu mære,
he should-bring her dear tidings,

ez enerwanten solhiu swære,
it unless-prevented such grief,

darumbe erz müese mîden
for-which he-it must avoid
und grôzen schaden lîden.
and great harm suffer.
dannen wart im vil gâch.
thence became to-him very hasty.
die frouwen sprâchen im nâch,
the ladies spoke to-him after,
swaz sie guotes kunden;
whatever they of-good could;
die trehen in begunden
the tears to-them began
von den ougen vallen,
from the eyes fall,
der frouwen und in allen.
to-the lady and to-them all.
Er gâhte zuo der veste
He hastened to the fortress
und vant die leiden geste
and found the grievous guests
in der burc beslozzen.
in the castle locked.
nû reit er unverdrozzen
now rode he unwearied
und erbeizte an daz burgetor.
and dismounted at the castle-gate.
dâ ruorter den rinc vor,
there touched-he the ring before,
und ruofte vil lûte hin,
and called very loud thither,
daz man in lieze dâ in.
that one him should-let there in.

sus antwurte im zehant
thus answered him at-once

der bûchlôse vâlant
the bellyless fiend

mit zornlîchen worten:
with angry words:

„Wer ist dâ vor der porten?“
„Who is there before the gate?“

Daniel sprach: „Daz bin ich.“
Daniel spoke: „That am I.“

diu rede dûhte in wunderlich,
the speech seemed to-him wondrous,

daz er sich niht ennante,
that he himself not named,

daz er in niht erkante.
that he him not knew.

er sprach im zornlîche zuo:
he spoke to-him angrily to:

„Dir komt dîn unheil ze fruo.
„To-thee comes thy misfortune too early.

wiltû alsô darnâch streben,
(if)-wilt-thou so thereafter strive,

ich enlâze dich niht lenger leben,
I let thee not longer live,

dû sagest mir dîn gewerp zehant,
thou tellest me thy errand at-once,

und wie dû selber sîst genant,
and how thou self art named,

und dîn geslehte dâbî,
and thy lineage thereby,

als liep dir dîn leben sî.“
as dear to-thee thy life be.“

diu rede was Danîêle ein spot,
the speech was to-Daniel a mockery,

er sprach: „Ich leiste dîn gebot
he spoke: „I perform thy command

an disen dingen michels ê,
in these things much sooner,

dann ez mir an daz leben gê.
than it to-me to the life goes.

hœre, ich sage dir mînen namen,
hear, I tell thee my name,

ich wil michs niemer geschamen:
I will myself-of-it never be-ashamed:

ich heize sam mich der pfaffe hiez,
I am-called as me the priest called,

dô er mich in den touf stiez.
when he me into the baptism thrust.

mîn geslehte ich dir wol gesagen kan:
my lineage I to-thee well tell can:

mîn vater was mîner muoter man,
my father was my mother's husband,

der zweier sun bin ich.
of-the two son am I.

dabî erkenne dû mich."
thereby know thou me."

dô sprach der bûchlôse:
then spoke the bellyless-one:

„Ich vernam nie rede sô lôse,
„I heard never speech so wanton,

als ich dich hœre sprechen.
as I thee hear speak.

daz wil ich selber rechen.
that will I self avenge.

dû endunkest dich nie sô frome,
thou seemest thyself never so bold,

erbeitestû unz ich darûz kome,
(if)-waitest-thou until I thereout come,

wær al der welte frümekeit
were all the world's prowess

in dich einen geleit,
into thee alone laid,

ich enlieze dich niht genesen.
I let thee not survive.

daz muoz dir gewislich wesen,
that must to-thee certainly be,

dû solt den gewissen tôt hân,
thou shalt the certain death have,

des enmahtû mir niht engân."
of-that mayest-thou me not escape."

Diu unsælde in betwanc,
The misfortune him forced,

daz er vil zornlich ûf spranc.
that he very angrily up sprang.

daz houpt er an die hant gevienc,
the head he into the hand caught,

gegen der porten er gienc
toward the gate he went

mit grôzen drôworten.
with great threat-words.

daz hôrter vor der porten
that heard-he before the gate

und warp als die wîsen tuont.
and acted as the wise do.

ein linde vor der burge stuont
a linden before the castle stood

an einem acker herdane,
on a field thence,

dâ hafte er sîn ors ane.
there tied he his horse to.

eines listes er sich underwant,
a cunning he himself undertook,

er nam den spiegel in die hant,
he took the mirror into the hand,

als in sîn wîsheit lêrte,
as him his wisdom taught,

sînen rucken er kêrte
his back he turned

rehte gegen dem burgetor;
right toward the castle-gate;

dâ stuont er unlange vor,
there stood he not-long before,

unz ez wart ûf getân.
until it was open done.

dô begunde dort herûz gân,
then began there hither-out go,

der die liute âne wâfen sluoc;
who the people without weapons slew;

daz houbet er in der hant truoc,
the head he in the hand bore,

dâvon in der tôt geschach.
from-which to-them the death happened.

Daniel in dem spiegel sach,
Daniel in the mirror saw,

wie er sîn dinc anevienc,
how he his affair began,

und wâ er dort her gienc,
and where he there hither went,

wie er daz houbet für sich bôt.
how he the head before himself offered.

er wære selbe dâvon tôt,
he would-be self thereof dead,

hæte erz vornen gesehen an,
had he-it in-front looked at,

nû truoc erz vor im dan
now bore he-it before him thence

und wolde den tiurlîchen helt
and would the precious hero

mit dem tôde hân gekelt.
with the death have chilled.

daz sach er in dem spiegel wol.
that saw he in the mirror well.

des was sîn herze fröuden vol,
of-that was his heart of-joys full,

daz dûhte in harte sæleclich,
that seemed to-him very blessed,

und gienc vil balde hinder sich,
and went very quickly behind himself,

unz er dar quam gegangen,
until he thither came going,

daz er in getrûwete erlangen.
that he him trusted to-reach.

er wart des tôdes gewert.
he was of-the death granted.

Daniel zuckte daz swert,
Daniel drew the sword,

daz er ze dem Trüeben Berge
that he at the Gloomy Mountain

vor dem küenen getwerge
from the bold dwarf

als manlich erspranc,
so manfully won,

und tet hinder sich einen swanc.
and did behind himself a swing.

er schankte im eine minne
he poured him a love-cup

und sluoc im under dem kinne
and struck him under the chin

diu bein samet enzwei.
the legs together in-two.

des viel er nider unde schrei
therefore fell he down and cried

mit michelem grimme
with great fury

ein freislîche stimme.
a terrible voice.

er begunde ruofende sagen
he began calling say

den sînen, er wær ze tôde erslagen,
to-the his, he were to death slain,

daz sie balde quæmen
that they quickly should-come

und daz houbet næmen.
and the head should-take.

dô er diu wort gesprach,
when he the words spoke,

Daniel in dem spiegel sach,
Daniel in the mirror saw,

wâ er dâ lac mit ungehabe.
where he there lay with distress.

und sluoc im ouch die hant abe,
and struck him also the hand off,

dâ er daz houbet inne hâte.
there he the head in held.

daz huop er ûf vil drâte;
that raised he up very quickly;

er huop ez vornen hindan
he raised it in-front away

und sach niht wan hinden dran.
and looked not except behind thereon.

daz er daz houbet gewan,
that he the head gained,

des was er ein frô man.
of-that was he a glad man.

er sprach ze im, dô er lac:
he spoke to him, as he lay:

„Dû hâst diz houbet manegen tac
„Thou hast this head many-a day

allez hinden an gesehen;
all behind at looked;

dû solt ez ouch undern ougen spehen,
thou shalt it also under eyes espy,

wie ez dâ sî getân;
how it there be made;

des enwil ich dich niht erlân."
of-that will I thee not release."

daz houbet er im dar bôt,
the head he to-him thither offered,

unz erz gesach; dô lac er tôt.
until he-it saw; then lay he dead.

Die bûchlôsen geste,
The bellyless guests,

wie sie her ûz der veste
how they hither out-of the fortress

gâhten unde drungen
hastened and pressed

und hâten zuo getwungen
and had to forced

alle samet diu ougen,
all together the eyes,

in was dâ niht tougen,
to-them was there not secret,

derz houbet gesæhe vorne,
who-the head should-see in-front,

er wære der verlorne.
he were the lost-one.

im was liebe geschehen.
to-him was joy happened.

daz er wol torste gesehen;
that he well dared see;

sie liefen alsô blinden
they ran as blind-men

und wolden daz houbet finden.
and would the head find.

der êrste der den herren vant,
the first who the lord found,

der suohte imz houbet in der hant;
he sought for-him-the head in the hand;

dô was siu im abegeslagen.
then was it from-him struck-off.

daz begunder in allen sagen.
that began-he to-them all say.

darnâch ersuohten sie daz gras
thereafter searched they the grass

als wît sô ez umb in was,
as wide as it around him was,

sô sie garest kunden,
as they most-thoroughly could,

unz daz sie niht erfunden;
until that they nothing found;

dô begunden sie alle jehen,
then began they all declare,

sie wolden umbe sich sehen;
they would around themselves look;

daz wart ouch ir ungewin.
that became also their loss.

Daniel stuont dâ vor in
Daniel stood there before them

und huop in daz houbet dar,
and raised to-them the head thither,

unz daz sie es wurden gewar.
until that they of-it became aware.

dâvon vielen sie alle
therefrom fell they all

mit einem glîchen valle
with a like fall

tôt nider in daz gras,
dead down into the grass,

daz ir nie deheiner genas.
that of-them never any survived.

Als Daniel daz ersach,
When Daniel that saw,

wider sich selber er sprach:
against himself self he spoke:

„Wer kunde mir daz widerstân,
„Who could me that withstand,

sît ich diz houbet hân,
since I this head have,

ez müezen die risen schouwen,
it must the giants behold,

die dâ nieman mac verhouwen?
whom there no-one may hew-down?

sie müezen hie von tôt ligen,
they must here from dead lie,

ich mac wol dâmit gesigen
I may well therewith conquer

in dem lande ze Clûse
in the land at Cluse

und helfen dem künec Artûse
and help the king Arthur

von dem künec Matûre.
from the king Matur.

ez wirt in allen ze sûre,
it becomes to-them all too sour,

die uns wellent widerstân;
who us will withstand;

ich wil sie diz houbet sehen lân.
I will them this head see let.

des hæte ich aber schande,
of-that would-have I however disgrace,

swenn ich in dem lande
whenever I in the land

begienge einen grôzen mort;
should-commit a great murder;

ich hæte dester bœser wort.
I would-have the more-evil word.

man weste wol, ein armez wîp
one knew well, a poor woman

næm al der welte wol den lîp,
would-take all the world well the life,

swenn siu diz houbet trüege
whenever she this head should-bear

und al die liute dâmit erslüege.
and all the people therewith should-slay.

man jæhe, ich wær ein tîvel,
one would-declare, I were a devil,

und trüegez durch den zwîvel,
and should-bear-it for the doubt,

ich getörste nieman bestân,
I dared no-one withstand,

und begunden mich für ein zagen hân.
and would-begin me for a coward hold.

die liute schulten alle mich
the people would-rebuke all me

und wurden mir unheimlich.
and would-become to-me unfamiliar.

ouch kund ich des niht ergân,
also could I of-that not escape,

sold ichz deheine wîle hân,
should I-it any while have,

ich wurde es lîhte unfrô;
I would-become of-it perhaps unglad;

ez quæm eteswenn alsô,
it would-come sometime so,

daz ich ez vornen sæhe
that I it in-front should-see

und mir der tôt geschæhe.
and to-me the death should-happen.

dû hâst sô mangem den lîp benomen,
thou hast so from-many-a-one the life taken,

dû bist von dem tîvel komen,
thou art from the devil come,

der müeze dîn ouch walten:
he must of-thee also rule:

ich wil dich niht behalten."
I will thee not keep."

iesâ warf erz in den sê.
forthwith threw he-it into the sea.

er sprach: „Niemer wirdest dû mê
he spoke: „Never becomest thou more
deheinem guoten manne kunt“
to-any good man known“
und liez ez sinken an den grunt.
and let it sink to the ground.
Dô er daz houbet gewarf in,
When he the head threw in,
dô îlt er ze der burge hin
then hastened he to the castle thither
balde gegen dem torne.
quickly toward the tower.
dâ ruofte der wolgeborne
there called the well-born-one
dem wirte, ob er noch lebete,
to-the host, whether he still lived,
daz er sich wol gehebete,
that he himself well should-bear,
im wære benomen sîn ungemach.
to-him were taken his discomfort.
daz vernam der wirt unde sprach:
that heard the host and spoke:
„Wolte got, wær daz geschehen!“
„Would God, were that happened!“
„Jâ lâze ich iuch die wârheit sehen,“
„Yes let I you the truth see,“
sprach Daniel von dem Blüenden Tal,
spoke Daniel of the Blossoming Valley,
„sich hât verendet ir schal.
„itself has ended their noise.
sie hât ir tîvel erslagen,
it has their devil slain,
den sie lange hânt getragen.“
whom they long have borne.“

Dô entslôz der grâve die türe
Then unlocked the count the door

und gienc mit vorhten dâfüre.
and went with fears before-it.

er hâte dannoch niht vernomen,
he had yet not heard,

wie ez darumbe was komen.
how it there-about was come.

er hiez in willekomen sîn,
he bade him welcome be,

er bat in durch unsern trehtîn,
he bade him for our Lord,

daz er im sagete mære,
that he to-him should-tell tidings,

wie er genesen wære
how he survived were

und warumbe er wære komen dar.
and why he were come thither.

her Daniel sagete im gar,
sir Daniel told him wholly,

daz sîn frouwe und ir wîp
that his lady and her women

noch alle hæten den lîp,
still all had the life,

daz er dar quæme durch ir bete,
that he thither should-come for her request,

die siu sô jæmerlîche tete;
which she so miserably made;

und seit im, wie er den ersluoc,
and told him, how he him slew,

der daz houbet dâ truoc
who the head there bore

und sie alle ertœtet hâte.
and them all killed had.

dô giengen sie vil drâte
then went they very quickly

beide durch daz burgetor.
both through the castle-gate.

dâ sach er alle tôt vor.
there saw he all dead before.

dô wart ez im geloubet.
then was it to-him believed.

„Owê, wâ ist daz houbet?“
„Alas, where is the head?“

sprach des hûses herre,
spoke the house's lord,

„ich gewan nie leit merre,
„I gained never sorrow greater,

danne mich dâvon ist anekomen.
than me thereof is befallen.

hætez der tîvel hingenomen,
had-it the devil taken-away,

sô wolde ich sammir wesen frô.“
so would I so-help-me be glad.“

Daniel sprach aber dô:
Daniel spoke again then:

„Ir dürfet darumbe niht sorgen,
„You need there-about not care,

ich hân ez sô verborgen,
I have it so hidden,

daz ez niht geschaden kan,
that it not harm can,

weder iu noch deheinem man.“
neither you nor any man.“

er sprach: „Daz vergelt iu got!“
he spoke: „That repay you God!“

und bôt gar in sîn gebot
and offered wholly into his command

beidiu guot unde lîp.
both goods and body.

er sprach: „Wîset mich, wâ ist mîn wîp?
he spoke: „Show me, where is my wife?

sô hât ir wol ze mir getân.
so have you well to me done.

muoz ich mînen lîp hân,
(if)-must I my life have,

daz gedien ich, swie ich sol,
that repay I, as I shall,

michn gehandelte nie kein man sô wol."
me treated never any man so well."

IX · THE FLOODED GATE

The count and countess are reunited, and the count rides with Daniel to serve him. Lost in the forest by night, they come next day to a richly laid tent before the mountain. A knight rides past carrying a captive and will not greet them; the count chases him into the mountain, and a stone falls behind him, releasing a flood that drives Daniel back. Daniel eats in the tent, grieving for the lost count.

Sie sâzen ûf beide
They sat up both

und riten über die heide.
and rode over the heath.

sie quâmen in kurzen stunden,
they came in short hours,

dâ sie die frouwen funden.
where they the lady found.

dô diu frouwe si anesach,
when the lady them looked-at,

vil frœlîche siu sprach:
very joyfully she spoke:

„Sît got wilkomen beide!“
„Be to-God welcome both!“

ir swære und ir leide
her grief and her sorrow

vergaz si unde wart frô.
forgot she and became glad.

der herre wart ouch alsô,
the lord became also so,

daz er die frouwen hâte,
that he the lady had,

und sagete ir vil drâte,
and told her very quickly,

ir vîende lægen alle tôt,
their foes lay all dead,

in hæte geholfen ûzer nôt
him had helped out-of distress

der herre, der dâ mit im rite;
the lord, who there with him rode;

unde sagete ir dâ mite,
and told her there with,

ir schadete'z houbet niht mê,
to-her harmed-the head not more,

ez wære geworfen in den sê.
it were thrown into the sea.

diu frouwe sagete im zehant,
the lady told him at-once,

wie er der frouwen ir lant
how he for-the lady her land

dâ ze dem Trüeben Berge
there at the Gloomy Mountain

hæte erlôst von dem getwerge;
had released from the dwarf;

er wære biderbe unde wîs,
he were upright and wise,

daz bejagete im den prîs.
that won him the prize.

Swie grôz ir schade was gewesen,
However great their harm was been,

daz sie noch wâren genesen,
that they still were survived,

des dûhten sie sich rîche.
of-that seemed they themselves rich.

harte willeclîche
very willingly

sprach er Danîelen an:
spoke he Daniel to:

„Edel ritter, nû woldan!
„Noble knight, now up!

ir solt mit uns dar hein;
you shall with us thither home;

unde werdet selbe enein,
and become self agreed,

waz ir ze lône wellet hân,
what you as reward will have,

daz ist allez getân.
that is all done.

ich wil des hiute gote jehen,
I will of-that today to-God declare,

mir ist ein liep von iu geschehen,
to-me is a joy from you happened,

daz grœste daz mir ie geschach."
the greatest that to-me ever happened."

Daniel dâwider sprach:
Daniel there-against spoke:

„Herre, nû enwelle got.
„Lord, now not-will God.

ez ist mîn bete und mîn gebot,
it is my request and my command,

daz ir die rede gar verbert.
that you the speech wholly forgo.

waz lônes wær ich darumbe wert,
what of-reward would-be I therefore worth,

daz iuwer vîende ligent tôt?
that your foes lie dead?

diz ist mir selber alsô nôt
this is to-me self so needful

als iu und iuwern liuten.
as to-you and your people.

hæter iuch ertœtet hiuten,
had-he you killed today,

so tœte er mich morgen.
so would-kill he me tomorrow.

nû sind wir von den sorgen
now are we from the cares

genædeclîche getrôst.
graciously comforted.

uns hât got dâvon erlôst.
us has God therefrom released.

des solt ir im genâde sagen.
for-that shall you to-him thanks say.

ich muoz einer verte nâchjagen,
I must a journey pursue,

der ich verre nâch gevolget hân.
which I far after followed have.

daz ich die sô lange hân verlân,
that I it so long have left,

daz ist mir leit und ungemach."
that is to-me sorrow and discomfort."

der grâve aber dô sprach
the count again then spoke

von dem Liehten Brunnen:
of the Bright Fountain:

„Ir hât mir wider gewunnen
„You have to-me back won

beidiu hûs unde lîp
both house and body

und darzuo êre unde wîp; 2320
and thereto honor and wife;

nû ist daz ouch mîn reht,
now is that also my right,

daz ich iuwer ritter und iuwer kneht
that I your knight and your squire

iemer darumbe sî.
ever therefore be.

ez sî verre oder bî,
it be far or near,

swem ir dâ nâch hât gejaget, 2325
whatever you there after have hunted,

ich sol iu helfen unverzaget.
I shall you help undaunted.

wolt ir niht lenger bîten,
(if)-would you not longer wait,

sô wil ich mit iu rîten.
so will I with you ride.

swar ir welt, dâ rîtet ir,
whither you will, there ride you,

ich hilf iu gerne, ir hulfet mir.“ 2330
I help you gladly, you helped me.“

Dô sprach ze hant diu grævîn:
Then spoke at once the countess:

„Er sol des wol gewis sîn,
„He shall of-that well certain be,

möht ich im ze hilfe komen,
might I to-him to help come,

als er mir sorge hât benomen,
as he from-me care has taken,

alsô benæm ich im die swære,
so would-take I from-him the grief,

swelher hant si wære.“
of-whatever kind it were.“

Sie nâmen urloup beide;
They took leave both;

mit fröuden und mit leide
with joys and with sorrow

schiet diu frouwe und ir man.
parted the lady and her husband.

zwên gedanke si dô gewan.
two thoughts she then gained.

si dâhte: „Der ritter ist sô frome,
she thought: „The knight is so bold,

ich vorhte, daz er etswar kome
I fear, that he somewhere comes

durch sîn grôze frümekeit,
for his great prowess,

dâ mir geschehe ein herzeleit,
where to-me happens a heart's-sorrow,

daz mir mîn herre werde erslagen.
that to-me my lord be slain.

ôwê möht ich im versagen!“
alas might I him refuse!“

dô dâhte si aber zehant:
then thought she again at-once:

„Sît er disen tîvel überwant,
„Since he this devil overcame,

er überwindet wol, swaz er wil;
he overcomes well, whatever he will;

sîner wîsheit der ist vil.“
of-his wisdom of-it is much.“

diu frouwe reit wider hein
the lady rode back home

unde wart des enein
and became of-that agreed

mit den die noch lebeten,
with those who still lived,

daz sie sich wol gehebeten,
that they themselves well bore,

sie hæten noch danne daz got wolde,
they had still then that God would,

und sprâchen, sie solde
and spoke, they should

alles des genüegen,
with-all that be-content,

daz in got wolde füegen;
which to-them God would grant;

sie möhtenz anders niht hân,
they might-it otherwise not have,

wan als in got wolde lân.
except as to-them God would let.

Daniel und sîn geverte,
Daniel and his companion,

den er ûz dem torne nerte,
whom he out-of the tower saved,

die riten für sich balde
they rode before themselves quickly

und quâmen zeinem walde
and came to-a forest

wol nâch mittem tage.
well after mid day.

dâ volgten si einem huofslage,
there followed they a hoofprint,

unz der tac ein ende nam
until the day an end took

und ein sô vinster naht quam,
and a so dark night came,

daz ir deweder den andern sach.
that of-them neither the other saw.

nû gâhten sie durch ir gemach
now hastened they for their comfort

beide samet dester mê.
both together the more.

in tet diu müede harte wê
to-them did the weariness very woe

und wæren ouch wol dar komen,
and would-be also well thither come,

dâ siu in wære benomen.
where it from-them were taken.

daz was dem grâven wol kunt.
that was to-the count well known.

nû verkêrte ez sich zestunt,
now turned it itself at-once,

(daz geschuof ir gâhen
(that caused their hastening

und daz sie ouch niht gesâhen)
and that they also not saw)

daz sie den burcwec verlorn
that they the castle-way lost

und einen andern erkorn.
and an other chose.

dem volgten sie die naht,
it followed they the night,

sô sie mit aller ir maht
as they with all their might

iemer baldest kunden,
ever quickest could,

daz sie nie niht enfunden
that they never nothing found

wan allez walt unde walt.
except all forest and forest.

Sus riten die helde balt,
Thus rode the heroes bold,

unz sie belûhte der tac.
until them lit the day.

nû sach er wâ der berc lac,
now saw he where the mountain lay,

dâ er den risen vor vant.
where he the giant before found.

ze dem grâven sprach er zehant:
to the count spoke he at-once:

„Unser dinc daz vert wol.
„Our affair it fares well.

hie ist der berc, dâ ich hin sol."
here is the mountain, where I thither shall."

Dô sie des berges wurden gewar,
When they of-the mountain became aware,

dannoch hâten sie dar
yet had they thither

zwô vil grôze mîle.
two very great miles.

in einer kurzen wîle
in a short while

quâmen sie an ein velt.
came they to a field.

dâ was geslagen ein zelt
there was struck a tent

vor dem berc an einem grase.
before the mountain on a grass.

dâ was der schœneste wase,
there was the fairest turf,

den ieman kunde finden.
which anyone could find.

ûf einer grüenen linden
on a green linden

was dâ schœner vogelgesanc.
was there fair bird-song.

darunder ein kalter brunne enspranc,
thereunder a cold spring sprang,

lûter und ouch reine.
clear and also pure.

ein troc von marmelsteine
a trough of marble-stone

gezieret ûz der mâzen wol,
adorned beyond the measure well,

der stuont darunder des wazzers vol.
it stood thereunder of-the water full.

dô sie begunden nâhen,
when they began near,

daz sie ez wol gesâhen,
that they it well saw,

Daniel ze dem grâven sprach:
Daniel to the count spoke:

„Hie hânt diu ors guot gemach,
„Here have the horses good comfort,

der in die state lât geschehen.
who to-them the occasion lets happen.

ich wil gewisselîche sehen,
I will certainly see,

waz in dem gezelte sî."
what in the tent be."

schier erbeizt er dâbî,
quickly dismounted he thereby,

sîn ors er an die linden bant.
his horse he to the linden bound.

in daz gezelt gie er zehant
into the tent went he at-once

und vant darinne wîp noch man;
and found therein woman nor man;

swaz man aber genennen kan,
whatever one however name can,

des man ezzen und trinken sol,
of-which one eat and drink shall,

des stuont ein tavel dâ vol.
of-that stood a table there full.

her Daniel sach umbe sich.
sir Daniel looked around himself.

daz gezelt was sô wunneclich
the tent was so delightfully

gemâlt und geschriben,
painted and written,

daz er dâ gerne wære bliben,
that he there gladly were remained,

unz er enbizzen wære.
until he breakfasted were.

nû vorht er, daz ein mære
now feared he, that a tale

vil lîhte erwante sîn vart,
very easily should-prevent his journey,

sam er dâvor erwendet wart.
as he before-that prevented was.

ouch tet ins diu vorhte wê,
also did him-it the fear woe,

ob der künec Artûs ê
whether the king Arthur before

in daz lant ze Clûse rite
into the land at Cluse should-ride

und ân in mit den risen strite,
and without him with the giants should-fight,

daz er den lîp dâ verlüre;
that he the life there should-lose;

wand er hâte ez dâfüre,
for he held it for-that,

daz er mit sînem swerte
that he with his sword

des tôdes dâ gewerte
of-the death there should-grant

die risen und etslîche mê.
the giants and some more.

sus was im beidenthalben wê:
thus was to-him on-both-sides woe:

er wære gern enbizzen,
he would-be gladly breakfasted,

mohter rehte wizzen,
might-he rightly know,

daz er niht lenger dorfte bîten.
that he not longer needed to-wait.

Nû sach der grâve rîten
Now saw the count ride

einen ritter über jenez velt.
a knight over that field.

sâ sprach er under daz gezelt,
straightway spoke he under the tent,

Danièle saget er:
to-Daniel said he:

„Ich sihe einen ritter dorther
„I see a knight from-there

freislîche gâhen,
terribly hasten,

der beginnet uns vaste nâhen,
he begins to-us hard near,

ich enweiz waz er welle."
I not-know what he will."

unz Daniel sîn geselle
until Daniel his companion

ûz dem gezelte gegie.
out-of the tent went.

dô rante er für sie
then galloped he before them

und fuorte einen man gevangen.
and led a man captive.

den mohte der zîte belangen,
him might the time weary,

durch daz er vor im lac
for that he before him lay

über daz ros als ein sac.
over the steed as a sack.

herre Daniel der gruozte in:
lord Daniel he greeted him:

nû sach er für sich und reit hin.
now looked he before himself and rode away.

daz er alsô stille sweic
that he so still kept-silent

und weder sprach noch enneic,
and neither spoke nor bowed,

daz was in beiden ungemach.
that was to-them both discomfort.

der grâve zornlîche sprach
the count angrily spoke

von dem Liehten Brunnen:
of the Bright Fountain:

„Dêswâr, ich wil erkunnen,
„Truly, I will find-out,

waz den ritter darzuo trage,
what the knight thereto brings,

daz er uns sînen gruoz versage."
that he to-us his greeting refuses."

er nam daz ros mit den sporn
he took the steed with the spurs

und jagete in, im was zorn.
and chased him, to-him was anger.

in den berc gie ein strâze
into the mountain went a road

niht zweier manne mâze,
not of-two men's measure,

dâ reit der ritter hin.
there rode the knight in.

der grâve jagete in
the count chased him

mit einem erzogenen slage.
with a drawn blow.

er flôch vor im als ein zage.
he fled before him as a coward.

Dô Daniel ûf das ros geschreit,
When Daniel onto the steed strode,

nâch dem grâven er dô reit,
after the count he then rode,

swaz er mohte gevarn.
whatever he might go.

er wolde des weges niht sparn.
he would of-the way not spare.

doch reit in der ritter vor,
yet rode him the knight before,

unz er quam an daz tor,
until he came to the gate,

dâmite man den berc beslôz,
with-which one the mountain closed,

daz was ein stein harte grôz.
that was a stone very great.

nû kêrte er sich widere
now turned he himself back

und lie den stein niht nidere.
and let the stone not down.

dô der grâve hin in gereit,
when the count thither in rode,

der stein was dicke unde breit,
the stone was thick and broad,

den ruorter daz er nider viel.
it touched-he that it down fell.

des beleip her Daniel
therefore remained sir Daniel

leider alters eine
alas all alone

hie ûze vor dem steine.
here outside before the stone.

daz was im leit und ungemach.
that was to-him sorrow and discomfort.

swaz sînem gesellen dô geschach,
whatever to-his companion then happened,

des mohter niht zerstœren.
that might-he not destroy.

Hie muget ir wunder hœren,
Here may you wonder hear,

wie kûme Daniel genas,
how barely Daniel survived,

sô nâhe im doch der tôt was.
so near to-him yet the death was.

dô der stein nider geschôz,
when the stone down shot,

dô sach man einen bach sô grôz
then saw one a brook so great

rinnen ûz dem steine,
run out-of the stone,

daz der berc algemeine
that the mountain all-together

von dem wazzer wart vol,
from the water became full,

swaz sîn iendert was hol.
whatever of-it anywhere was hollow.

ein sê was in den berc gegraben;
a lake was into the mountain dug;

swenn der stein wart ûfgehaben,
whenever the stone was up-raised,

sô gienc daz wazzer in den sê.
so went the water into the lake.

er friesch nie niht wunders mê.
he heard-of never no wonder more.

alsô was der selbe stein
so was the same stone

gefüeget zuo den dingen zwein:
fitted to the things two:

swenn er ûfgehaben wart,
whenever it up-raised was,

sô was daz wazzer bespart;
so was the water shut-off;

sît er nider wart verlâzen,
since it down was let,

sô beslôz er die strâzen
so closed it the street

und flôz daz wazzer herfüre:
and flowed the water forth:

dâmite beslozzen sie die türe.
therewith closed they the door.

Nû mugen wir wol gelouben,
Now may we well believe,

wir enwellen in rehtes rouben,
we unless-will him of-right rob,

Daniel von dem Blüenden Tal,
Daniel of the Blossoming Valley,

daz im sîn herze vor zorne qual,
that to-him his heart for anger tormented,

daz im sô leide nie geschach
that to-him so grievous never happened

und in mê nieman gesach
and him more no-one saw

fliehen durch deheine nôt;
flee for any distress;

stüendez sô daz er den tôt
stood-it so that he the death

mit êren möhte hân geholt,
with honors might have fetched,

den hæter gerner gedolt,
it would-he-have more-gladly suffered,

dann er sich hüebe an die fluht:
than he himself raised to the flight:

wær er durch die unzuht
were he for the unseemliness

wider ûz niht geriten
back out not ridden

und hæte des tôdes dâ gebiten,
and had of-the death there waited,

daz zalte man im ze tôrheit
that counted one to-him as folly

mê danne ze frümekeit.
more than as prowess.

Daz der wâc ob im zesamene flôz,
That the wave above him together flowed,

des wart sîn angest harte grôz,
of-that became his fear very great,

er vorhte sêre den tôt.
he feared sorely the death.

iedoch gewanter in der nôt
yet turned-he in the distress

daz ros herwider umbe.
the steed back around.

swie gern erz dâ begunde,
however gladly he-it there began,

er enmohte niht über daz wazzer.
he might not over the water.

iedoch gesaz er,
yet kept-seat he,

daz er von dem satel niht enquam,
that he from the saddle not came,

unz er geflôz und geswam
until he floated and swam

herûz an die wîten.
hither-out to the open.

nû muoser wider rîten,
now must-he back ride,

dâ er die linden gesach.
where he the linden saw.

alsus schuof er sîn gemach,
thus made he his comfort,

sîn ros er darane bant.
his steed he thereto bound.

abe zôch er sîn gewant,
off drew he his garment,

daz spreit er an die sunnen
that spread he in the sun

und nam wazzer ze dem brunnen
and took water at the spring

und gie in daz gezelt enbîzen.
and went into the tent to-breakfast.

daz endurfte im nieman wîzen.
that needed him no-one reproach.

er was ungâz geriten,
he was unfed ridden,

sît er mit dem getwerge hâte gestriten,
since he with the dwarf had fought,

daz er mit sîn selbes swerte ersluoc.
which he with its self's sword slew.

nû vant er spîse genuoc
now found he food enough

ûf der tavel in dem gezelte.
on the table in the tent.

daz lobete er niht ze gelte
that praised he not at worth

um den grâven den er dâ verlôs.
for the count whom he there lost.

er was vil gar fröudelôs,
he was very wholly joyless,

daz er im was benomen.
that he from-him was taken.

möhter nâch im sîn komen,
might-he after him be come,

er hæte in gewunnen widere,
he would-have him won back,

oder er læge tôt dâ nidere.
or he would-lie dead there down.

Daniel waits nearly a week at the tent, fed by four young men who say their lord lets no one he sees live. On the day Arthur's host is due at Cluse he rides to the mountain; the giant's fist strikes the sword Daniel holds out, and his hand and a third of his arm fly off. Daniel mocks him.

Dô er getrank unde gaz
When he drank and ate

und darnâch in unmuote saz,
and thereafter in ill-humor sat,

daz im sô leide dâ geschach,
that to-him so grievous there happened,

wider sich selben er dô sprach:
against himself self he then spoke:

„Het ich disen ritter nie gesehen,
„Had I this knight never seen,

sô wære mir verre baz geschehen.
so would-be to-me far better happened.

man mohte an sîner frouwen
one might in his lady

sô grôzen jâmer schouwen,
so great misery behold,

dô er lebende in dem torne lac,
when he living in the tower lay,

daz ich fürwâr wizzen mac,
that I for-true know may,

freischet siu sînen tôt,
(if)-bears she of-his death,

sô mac man jâmer unde nôt
so may one misery and distress

aller êrst schouwen an ir.
of-all first behold in her.

owê, sô ist siu von mir
alas, so is she by me

ir fröuden gar entsetzet.
of-her joys wholly deprived.

ich hân sie mit leide ergetzet
I have her with sorrow repaid

des liebes, des ir von mir geschach:
for-the joy, which to-her from me happened:

daz ist mîn êwig ungemach.
that is my eternal discomfort.

Mir ist hie geschehen sô leide,
To-me is here happened so grievous,

daz ich noch niht hinnen scheide.
that I still not hence part.

ich wil hie lenger bîten.
I will here longer wait.

soln sie herûz eht rîten,
(if)-shall they hither-out just ride,

sie müezen ouch mich besehen lân,
they must also me see let,

wiez in dem berge sî getân.
how-it in the mountain be made.

lât mir got sô wol beschehen,
(if)-lets me God so well happen,

daz ich sie drinne sol gesehen,
that I them therein shall see,

sie müezen mir mînen gesellen geben.
they must me my companion give.

hânt sie im aber benomen daz leben,
(if)-have they from-him however taken the life,

ich enwirde nimer frô,
I become never glad,

ê daz ich in geriche sô,
before that I him avenge so,
daz man ez iemer sagen mac."
that one it ever say may."
Sus huote er allen den tac
Thus watched he all the day
unz ez nahten began.
until it grow-night began.
dô sach er vier junge man
then saw he four young men
gegen dem gezelte komen.
toward the tent come.
die hâten ûf sich genomen
they had upon themselves taken
fleisch, brôt und wîn.
meat, bread and wine.
swaz spîse solde sîn,
whatever food should be,
der einen künec genuogte,
which a king satisfied,
ob ez sich sô fuogte,
if it itself so contrived,
daz er dâ ezzen solde,
that he there eat should,
swes er danne wolde,
whatever he then would,
des brâhten sie mit in ein teil.
of-that brought they with them a part.
ern weste, weder im ein heil
he-not knew, whether to-him a fortune
nâhete oder ein ungemach,
neared or a discomfort,
dô er sie komen sach.
when he them come saw.

ze sînem rosse er hin gienc,
to his steed he thither went,

sînen zoum er gevienc,
his bridle he caught,

den hâter schier daran geleit,
it had-he quickly thereon laid,

und reit an sîne gewarheit.
and rode to his safety.

unz si im sô nâhe quâmen,
until they to-him so near came,

daz sie ez wol vernâmen,
that they it well heard,

er gruozte sie alle viere.
he greeted them all four.

sie tâten im vil schiere
they did to-him very quickly

gezogenlîche widergelt
courteously requital

und giengen in daz gezelt.
and went into the tent.

nû sie darin quâmen,
now they therein came,

die spîse sie alle nâmen
the food they all took

von der tavelen gar
from the table wholly

unde sazten dise dar,
and set this thither,

die sie dâ brâhten mit in.
which they there brought with them.

die andern truogen sie hin,
the other bore they away,

die sie dâ hâten genomen.
which they there had taken.

dâ sie her wâren komen,
whence they hither were come,

dâ wolden sie hin wider gân.
there would they thither back go.

Daniel bat sie stille stân.
Daniel bade them still stand.

„Waz werbet ir hie?“ sprach er.
„What do you here?“ spoke he.

„Dâ tragen wir dise spîse her.“
„There bear we this food hither.“

„Wer sol sie aber ezzen hie?“
„Who shall it however eat here?“

„Swer sie suochet“ sprâchen sie.
„Whoever it seeks“ spoke they.

„Wer hât sie danne her gesant?“
„Who has it then hither sent?“

„Der herre ist über diz lant.“
„The lord is over this land.“

„Komt er selbe her iht?“
„Comes he self hither at-all?“

„Lîhte komt er, lîhte niht.
„Perhaps comes he, perhaps not.

niht anders trœsten wir iuch darzuo.
nothing else comfort we you thereto.

wir komen aber morgen fruo
we come however tomorrow early

und bringen ander spîse her.“
and bring other food hither.“

„Sô helfe iu got“ sprach er,
„So help you God“ spoke he,

„saget mir die rede gar,
„tell me the speech wholly,

unde wîset mich dar,
and show me thither,

dâ ich iuwer herren gesehe,
where I your lord should-see,

daz in iemer wol geschehe.
that to-him ever well happen.

ich sihe in gerne in kurzer frist,
I see him gladly in short time,

sît er sô rehte hövesch ist.“
since he so rightly courtly is.“

sie sprâchen: „Lieber herre,
they spoke: „Dear lord,

nû frâget uns niht ze verre.
now ask us not too far.

wir wizzen drumbe niht ein hâr.
we know there-about not a hair.

er ist gewesen diz jâr,
he is been this year,

daz er uns nie zuo gesprach.
that he to-us never to spoke.

swelhen unser er gesach,
whichever of-us he saw,

möht er den ergriffen hân,
might he him seized have,

er hæte im den tôt getân.
he would-have to-him the death done.

wir enwizzen, waz im wirret.
we not-know, what to-him troubles.

er ist alsô verirret,
he is so strayed,

daz er nieman gesiht,
that he no-one sees,

wan dem ze sterbene geschiht,
except to-whom to die happens,

ob erz iemer geahten kan.
if he-it ever notice can.

er was ie ein hövesch man,
he was ever a courtly man,

wan diz jâr ist er gewesen,
but this year is he been,

daz er nieman gerne lât genesen.
that he no-one gladly lets survive.

welt ir in über daz gesehen,
(if)-will you him over that see,

daz mac anders niht geschehen
that may otherwise not happen

wan an dirre selben stat."
except at this same place."

Daniel in got bat
Daniel to-them God bade

lônen der mære
reward for-the tidings

und wâren im doch swære.
and were to-him yet heavy.

Sie giengen dannen drâte.
They went thence quickly.

nû was ez alsô spâte,
now was it so late,

daz er kûme gesach.
that he barely saw.

er hâte grôz ungemach
he had great discomfort

wol von vier leiden:
well from four sorrows:

daz er was gescheiden
that he was parted

von sînem gesellen alsô gar;
from his companion so wholly;

daz ander, daz im ouch war,
the other, that to-him also troubled,

daz er niht wizzen kunde,
that he not know could,

ob er an sînem gesunde
whether he in his health

iht geletzet wære;
at-all injured were;

sô was ouch diz sîn swære,
so was also this his grief,

daz ers niht kunde ervarn;
that he-it not could find-out;

ouch wester niht wie er sich bewarn
also knew-he not how he himself guard

solt an dem künec Artûse,
should regarding the king Arthur,

daz er den ze Clûse
that he him at Cluse

von dem risen niht verlüre.
to the giant not should-lose.

Sus dâhter wider unde füre.
Thus thought-he back and forth.

ein wîle wolder rîten
a while would-he ride

und aber danne bîten.
and again then wait.

er wære gerner anderswâ,
he were more-gladly elsewhere,

iedoch gelac er dâ
yet lay he there

vil nâch eine wochen
very nearly a week

und hæte gerne gerochen
and would-have gladly avenged

den grâven von dem Liehten Brunnen,
the count of the Bright Fountain,

oder er hæte in wider gewunnen,
or he would-have him back won,

wan daz nieman herûz reit,
except that no-one hither-out rode,

unz er an den tac gebeit,
until he to the day waited,

daz mit dem künec Artûse
that with the king Arthur

in daz lant ze Clûse
into the land at Cluse

ein kreftic her quam geriten.
a mighty host came ridden.

er dâhte: „Ich hân nû gebiten,
he thought: „I have now waited,

unz ich niht lenger belîben mac.
until I not longer remain may.

hiute ist der selbe tac,
today is the same day,

daz mîn her komt in daz lant,
that my host comes into the land,

und hât den tôt an der hant.
and has the death at the hand.

swie gerne er sich werte,
however gladly he himself defended,

sô sint die risen sô herte,
so are the giants so hard,

daz er in des lîbes niht ennimet,
that he from-them of-the life not takes,

sô tuont sie im, swes sie gezimet.
so do they to-him, whatever them befits.

ich endarf niht lenger bîten,
I need not longer wait,

ich muoz hinnen rîten,
I must hence ride,

ob ich im ze hilfe komen sol.
if I to-him to help come shall.

ich getriuwe disem swerte wol,
I trust this sword well,

daz mir ze dem Trüeben Berge wart.
which to-me at the Gloomy Mountain became.

die risen die sint nie sô hart,
the giants they are never so hard,

ich versnîde sie mite sô sêre,
I cut them with-it so sorely,

daz sie deheinen künec mêre
that they no king more

twingent, daz er sîn lant ûfgebe
force, that he his land give-up

und darnâch in ir gebote lebe.
and thereafter in their command live.

sît ich vare nû hinnen,
since I fare now hence,

wie sol ich danne wider gewinnen
how shall I then back win

den grâven, der mir hie ist benomen.
the count, who from-me here is taken.

sol ich sîn einic hinnen komen,
(if)-shall I of-him alone hence come,

daz müejet mich iemer mê,
that grieves me ever more,

und tuot mir jenez alsô wê,
and does to-me that so woe,

wirt mîn herre dort erslagen,
(if)-is my lord there slain,

den mac ich niemer verklagen.
him may I never cease-to-lament.

ez ist bezzer, daz ich rîte,
it is better, that I ride,

swenn ich dort gestrîte,
whenever I there fight,

daz ich wider her kome.
that I back hither come.

mîn ligen ist hie dehein frome.
my lying is here no benefit.

belîbe ich lenger umb ein hâr,
(if)-remain I longer by a hair,

sô weiz ich wol für wâr,
so know I well for true,

ich versûme mich dort und hie!“
I neglect myself there and here!“

Ze sînem rosse er dô gie
To his steed he then went

und huop sich balde an die vart.
and raised himself quickly onto the journey.

vil zorn im was unde wart.
much anger to-him was and became.

dêr ân den grâven dannen reit,
that-he without the count thence rode,

daz was im gar ein herzeleit.
that was to-him wholly a heart's-sorrow.

dicke er hinder sich sach,
often he behind himself looked,

wider sich selber er sprach:
against himself self he spoke:

„Geselle, nû bewar dich got!
„Companion, now keep thee God!

sîn genâde und sîn gebot
his grace and his command

sende uns in vil kurzer stunt
send us in very short time

wider ein ander gesunt.“
back to-each other sound.“

Er gâhte für sich drâte.
He hastened before himself quickly.

wander hin ze dem berge hâte
for-he thither to the mountain had

kurzer mîle niht wan zwô,
of-short miles nothing except two,

dar quam er vil schiere dô.
thither came he very quickly then.

Nû saz der rise aber dort.
Now sat the giant again there.

diz was sîn êrste wort,
this was his first word,

dô Daniel begunde nâhen,
when Daniel began near,

war er sô wolde gâhen.
whither he so would hasten.

Daniel sprach zehant:
Daniel spoke at-once:

„Durch den berc in daz lant."
„Through the mountain into the land."

der rise sprach: „Dû bist ein kint,
the giant spoke: „Thou art a child,

habe dich stille und erwint.
hold thyself still and desist.

rîtest dû einen fuoz fürbaz,
(if)-ridest thou a foot further,

fürwâr sô sage ich dir daz,
for-true so tell I thee that,

ich zerbriche dich als ein huon."
I break thee as a hen."

„Swaz dû nû mügest getuon,"
„Whatever thou now mayest do,"

sprach Daniel, „daz lâ sehen.
spoke Daniel, „that let see.

hie enmac widerkêrens niht geschehen."
here may turning-back not happen."

Der rise stuont ûf ze berge,
The giant stood up on high,

vil ungelich einem getwerge
very unlike a dwarf

was sîn lîp überal.
was his body everywhere.

Daniel von dem Blüenden Tal
Daniel of the Blossoming Valley

gelanget im kûme unz an diu knie.
reached to-him barely until to the knees.

nû enwart der rise nie
now was the giant never

von deheinen wâfen wunt;
by any weapons wounded;

von diu was im niht kunt,
from that was to-him not known,

ob er sich solde hüeten.
whether he himself should guard.

er begunde vor zorne wüeten,
he began for anger rage,

er gedâhte niht an sînen val.
he thought not of his fall.

Daniel von dem Blüenden Tal,
Daniel of the Blossoming Valley,

der quam gegen im geriten.
he came toward him ridden.

dô quam der rise dorther geschriten,
then came the giant from-there striding,

diu fûst er zornlîche truoc,
the fist he angrily bore,

gegen Daniêle er sluoc.
toward Daniel he struck.

des nam er vil guote war
of-that took he very good heed

und habete daz swert dar.
and held the sword thither.

daz was dem risen unwert.
that was to-the giant unwelcome.

mit grimme sluoc er an daz swert,
with fury struck he onto the sword,

daz ez ein wênic erklanc
that it a little rang

und im diu hant dort hin spranc
and to-him the hand there away sprang

und des armes wol der dritte teil.
and of-the arm well the third part.

daz was daz êrste unheil,
that was the first misfortune,

daz im von swerte ie beschach.
which to-him by sword ever happened.

Daniel schimpflîche sprach:
Daniel mockingly spoke:

„Sage mir ze tiute,
„Tell me to explain,

hâst dû iht vil liute
hast thou at-all many people

alsô erworfen mit der hant?
so thrown-down with the hand?

ich quam nie in dehein lant,
I came never into any land,

dâ man sô wunderlîche strite.
where one so wondrously fought.

nû waz ob ich selb zwelfte rite,
now what if I self twelfth rode,

die dich alle wolden bestân?
who thee all would withstand?

sô müeses dû vil fiuste hân,
so mustest thou many fists have,

ê dû uns alle erwürfest.
before thou us all threw-down.

ich wæne, dû bedürfest
I think, thou needest

vil guoter arzâte;
very good physicians;

sie komen aber drâte,
they come however quickly,

dû wirfest niht mê mit der hant;
thou throwest not more with the hand;

des sî mîn triuwe dîn pfant."
of-that be my faithfulness thy pledge."

XI · THE DEATH OF KING MATUR

Daniel kills the giant. Gawain, Parzival, and Iwein ride up, try their swords on the body, and cannot cut it; Daniel offers his, but they bid him keep it. The four ride through the mountain and pull the banner from the golden beast's mouth; its roar fells Arthur's host until Daniel thrusts it back. The other giant, waiting to close the mountain behind them, finds his brother slain and swears revenge. King Matur rides out, and Arthur jousts with him, fights him on foot, and kills him.

Nû was daz dem risen leit.
Now was that to-the giant grievous.

zeinem grôzen steine er schreit
to-a great stone he strode

und wolde in mit geworfen hân.
and would him there-with thrown have.

dô lie Daniel dar gân
then let Daniel thither go

und sluoc im abe daz bein.
and struck him off the leg.

dannoch zôch er den stein
still drew he the stone

und warf Daniêlen ûf den schilt,
and threw Daniel onto the shield,

daz in vil nâch hæte bevilt,
that him very nearly would-have overcome,

daz sîn ros under im nider saz.
that his steed under him down sat.

noch wolder sich rechen baz
still would-he himself avenge better

und greif aber nâch einem steine.
and grasped again for a stone.

dô mohter ûf einem beine
then might-he on one leg

niht lenger gestân.
not longer stand.

er begunde sich nider lân
he began himself down let

und wolde sich sitzende wern.
and would himself sitting defend.

dô geruoht in got niht nern;
then deigned him God not to-save;

des muos er wesen unfrô.
therefore must he be unglad.

daz ros erholte sich dô,
the steed recovered itself then,

dâ Daniel ûf saz;
where Daniel on sat;

er sprancte dar nâher baz
he spurred thither nearer better

und sluoc im den andern arm abe.
and struck him the other arm off.

nû viel der ungefüege knabe
now fell the misshapen lad

ûf den rugge alein
onto the back alone

und hâte niht wan ein bein.
and had nothing except one leg.

des gewan er grôze unsite.
from-that gained he great ill-temper.

daz ros stiez er dâmite
the steed thrust he there-with

sô sêre an die sîten,
so sorely on the side,

daz ez sich in kurzen zîten
that it itself in short times

überwarf wol drîstunt.
over-turned well three-times.

Daniel was ungesunt
Daniel was unsound

vil nâch worden dâvon.
very nearly become thereby.

er was der stürze niht gewon.
he was of-the tumbles not accustomed.

des wart er vil zornvar
therefore became he very anger-colored

und huop sich ze fuoze dar
and raised himself on foot thither

und sluoc im daz houbet abe.
and struck him the head off.

er sprach: „Ich wæne, ich dir habe
he spoke: „I think, I to-thee have

wol vergolten den stôz.
well repaid the thrust.

dû sîst nie sô herte noch sô grôz,
thou be never so hard nor so great,

an dir gesiget nû wol, swer dich bestât,
over thee conquers now well, whoever thee withstands,

dû habest denne guoten arzât."
thou have then good physician."

Dô er mit dem risen hâte gestriten, 2845
When he with the giant had fought,

dô quam der künec Artûs geriten
then came the king Arthur ridden

unde manic ritter gemeit,
and many-a knight merry,

der wol ze strîte was bereit.
who well to fight was ready.

nû wâren sîner gesellen drî
now were of-his companions three

zuo geriten alsô bî, 2850
to ridden so near,

daz sie sâhen den slac,
that they saw the blow,

und der rise dannoch lebende lac.
and the giant yet living lay.

daz was herre Gâwein,
that was lord Gawain,

Parcifâl und her Jwein.
Parzival and sir Iwein.

die kanden Daniêlen dô 2855
they knew Daniel then

und wâren des risen tôdes frô,
and were of-the giant's death glad,

und daz Daniel was genesen.
and that Daniel was survived.

sie wolden vil gewis wesen,
they would very certain be,

daz er wære anderswâ,
that he were elsewhere,

daz im missegienge dâ.
that to-him misfortune-came there.

Daniel bat si alle drî,
Daniel bade them all three,

daz sie erbeizten dâbî
that they should-dismount thereby

und ir swert versuohten umbe daz,
and their swords should-try for that,

daz sie westen dester baz,
that they should-know the better,

ob sie sînen gesellen
whether they his companion

mit slegen möhten ervellen.
with blows might fell.

sie erbeizten vil drâte,
they dismounted very quickly,

durch daz sie wunder hâte,
for that they wonder had,

ob er wære alsô hart,
whether he were so hard,

sam von im geseit wart,
as of him said was,

ob ez wære wâr oder gelogen.
whether it were true or lied.

ir swert dô wurden ûz gezogen
their swords then were out drawn

diu sluogen sie ûf den tôten
those struck they on the dead-one

und kunden sîn nie verschrôten
and could him never cut

alsô grôz sô ein hâr.
so great as a hair.

sie sprâchen alle: „Daz ist wâr,
they spoke all: „That is true,

des wir sîn bruoder hôrten jehen.
which we his brother heard declare.

lât uns iuwer swert sehen,
let us your sword see,

unseriu sint nihtes wert."
ours are of-nothing worth."

Daniel zucte sîn swert,
Daniel drew his sword,

er sprach: „Ez ist hie nâhe bî,
he spoke: „It is here near by,

swelhem iuwer ez liep sî,
to-whichever of-you it dear be,

dem gan ichs als wol sô mir."
to-him grant I-it as well as to-me."

sie sprâchen: „Jâ solt ir
they spoke: „Yes shall you

selbe füeren iuwer swert.
self carry your sword.

ir sît es michels baz wert
you are of-it much better worthy

dann unser aller dehein."
than of-us all any."

Dô sprach her Gâwein:
Then spoke sir Gawain:

„Wir mugen niht mê gebîten,
„We may not more wait,

wir soln für uns rîten."
we shall before us ride."

sie sâzen ûf alle viere
they sat up all four

und wâren harte schiere
and were very quickly

durch den berc geriten.
through the mountain ridden.

niht lenger sie dô biten,
not longer they then waited,
sie begunden vaste gâhen,
they began hard hasten,
dâ sie die linden sâhen
where they the linden saw
und ouch daz guldîn tier.
and also the golden beast.
dem zogen sie die banier
from-it drew they the banner
ûzer sînem munde.
out-of its mouth.
sâ huop ez und begunde
straightway raised it and began
ein stimme schrîen sô grôz
a voice cry so great
und machte einen solhen dôz,
and made a such din,
daz nieman den andern vernam,
that no-one the other heard,
unz der künic Artûs quam
until the king Arthur came
durch den berc in daz lant.
through the mountain into the land.
dô gehôrter ouch zehant
then heard-he also at-once
die stimme von dem tiere.
the voice from the beast.
sie kêrten dar schiere,
they turned thither quickly,
er und manic ritter guot,
he and many-a knight good,
die alle hâten den muot,
who all had the spirit,

daz sie dâ wolden gesigen
that they there would conquer

oder sigelôs geligen.
or victoryless lie.

Der rise, der sie dar leite,
The giant, who them thither led,

vor dem berge er dâ beite,
before the mountain he there waited,

unz sie alle quâmen darin.
until they all came therein.

daz tet er durch den sin,
that did he for the purpose,

er wolde den berc besliezen
he would the mountain close

unz sie wâr geliezen,
until they truly should-perform,

daz der künec Matûr wolde.
what the king Matur would.

dô er nâch in rîten solde
when he after them ride should

ze hinderst an der schar,
at hindmost at the company,

aller êrst wart er gewar,
of-all first became he aware,

daz sîn bruoder was erslagen.
that his brother was slain.

den begunder grôzlîche klagen.
him began-he greatly lament.

einen segen tet er für sich,
a blessing made he before himself,

er sprach: „O wê! wie hân ich dich
he spoke: „O woe! how have I thee

sus wunderlîche verlorn.
thus wondrously lost.

dû wære doch herter dann ein horn.
thou were yet harder than a horn.

hæt ez der tîvel niht getân,
had it the devil not done,

sô kundez niemer sîn ergân.
so could-it never be happened.

nû müezen si mir ir leben
now must they to-me their life

alle samet darumbe geben.
all together therefore give.

der künec Artûs und die sîn,
the king Arthur and the his,

sie engeltent alle samet dîn.
they pay all together for-thee.

ir komet niemer deheiner wider."
you come never any back."

den stein liez er schiezen nider
the stone let he shoot down

und reit dem here vaste nâch,
and rode the host hard after,

dô was im zorn unde gâch.
then was to-him anger and haste.

Dô sich bî dem tiere
When themselves by the beast

gesamneten sô schiere
gathered so quickly

der künec Artûs und die sîn,
the king Arthur and the his,

nû wart ez wol an in schîn,
now became it well in them visible,

daz sie von dem tiere hôrten sagen.
what they of the beast heard say.

sam sie wæren erslagen
as-if they were slain

als vielen sie von den rossen nider.
so fell they from the steeds down.

ir gehabte nie deheiner wider,
of-them held-on never any back,

ê er ûf der erden gelac.
before he on the earth lay.

ez wart nie kein donerslac
there was never any thunder-clap

ze hœren alsô freislich.
to hear so terrible.

dô erholte der edel ritter sich,
then recovered the noble knight himself,

Daniel von dem Blüenden Tal;
Daniel of the Blossoming Valley;

der geleite den schal,
he laid the noise,

er stiez dem tier an der stunt
he thrust to-the beast at the hour

die banier wider in den munt.
the banner back into the mouth.

dâ wære anders nieman genesen;
there would-be otherwise no-one survived;

swer dâbî solde wesen,
whoever thereby should be,

der kundez niemer bewarn,
he could-it never prevent,

im wære daz houbet gar zerfarn.
to-him would-be the head wholly shattered.

Nû bereite sich ze wer
Now readied itself to defense

des künec Artûses her.
the king Arthur's host.

in was von sagene kunt,
to-them was by telling known,

daz dâ quæme in kurzer stunt
that there came in short hour

der künec Matûr geriten.
the king Matur ridden.

dô begunde der êrsten juste biten
then began of-the first joust ask

manic ritter unervorht,
many-a knight unafraid,

der gerne wolde hân geworht
who gladly would have wrought

wunder mit dem swerte.
wonder with the sword.

dô es sô maneger gerte,
when it so many-a-one desired,

dô sprach der künec Artûs:
then spoke the king Arthur:

„Die dâ heime in mînem hûs
„Those-who there at-home in my house

hôrten waz der rise sprach,
heard what the giant spoke,

die wizzen wol, daz er jach,
they know well, that he declared,

dehein künec sî sô frome,
no king be so bold,

daz er iemer in diz lant kome,
that he ever into this land should-come,

wan daz ich sô sælic bin,
except that I so blessed am,

daz er mich verlâzen hât herin.
that he me let has herein.

nû wil ich versuochen dâbî,
now will I try thereby,

ob ich vollen sælec sî
whether I fully blessed be

und in der êren dunke wert,
and to-him of-the honor seem worthy,

daz er geruoche sîn swert
that he deign his sword

ûz ze ziehene gegen mir.
out to draw against me.

ir herren, daz solt ir
you lords, that shall you

alle lâzen âne zorn.
all let without anger.

sît er mich darzuo hât erkorn,
since he me thereto has chosen,

daz er mîn geruochet ze man
that he of-me deigns as vassal

und mir der grôzen êre gan,
and to-me the great honor grants,

die er manegem künege hât verseit,
which he to-many-a king has refused,

nû dunket mich daz ein sælekeit,
now seems to-me that a blessing,

geruoht er ze stechene wider mich."
(if)-deigns he to joust against me."

diz dûhte s'alle ritterlich,
this seemed to-them-all knightly,

daz er sichz selbe het angenomen.
that he himself-it self had taken-on.

Zehant sâhen sie komen
At-once saw they come

den künec Matûr geriten.
the king Matur ridden.

der hâte ein ros überschriten,
he had a steed bestridden,

daz in nâch sînem willen truoc.
which him after his will bore.

er was gezieret genuoc.
he was adorned enough.

als ein künec solde,
as a king should,

der ouch des wænen wolde,
who also of-that think would,

daz im nieman wære gelich.
that to-him no-one were like.

den schilt bôt er für sich,
the shield held he before himself,

darane stuont ein Babiân
thereon stood a Babian

dâvon ich iu ê gesaget hân,
of-which I to-you before told have,

der was gezieret genuoc.
it was adorned enough.

daz sper er under den arm sluoc,
the spear he under the arm struck,

daz ros er mit den sporn nam,
the steed he with the spurs took,

unz er in die rehte mâze quam.
until he into the right measure came.

Dô erspranctе der künic Artûs,
Then spurred the king Arthur,

daz man hôrte den sûs
that one heard the rush

als ein weter dâhin gevarn.
as a storm thither fared.

einen gekrœnten arn
a crowned eagle

fuorte er an sînem schilte.
bore he on his shield.

sîn herze vor fröuden spilte,
his heart for joys played,

daz er in versuochen solde,
that he him try should,

der in zemanne wolde
who him as-vassal would

und sînes landes het gegert.
and his land had desired.

ob er der êren wære wert,
whether he of-the honor were worthy,

daz wolder dâ zehant erfarn.
that would-he there at-once find-out.

sie kunden beide wol bewarn,
they could both well ensure,

daz in die stiche niht enlogen.
that to-them the thrusts not lied.

sie quâmen alsô dargeflogen,
they came so thither-flown,

dô sie ûf einander stâchen,
when they on each-other thrust,

daz die setel beide brâchen.
that the saddles both broke.

des entweich in diu habe
from-that slipped-away from-them the hold

und fuoren beide hinden abe
and went both behind off

und gestuonden ûf der erden.
and stood on the earth.

dô liezen sie schîn werden,
then let they visible become,

wes sie beide gerten.
what they both desired.

sie huoben mit den swerten
they raised with the swords

den allergrœzesten strît,
the very-greatest fight,

den man bî ir zît
which one in their time

von zwein mannen ie gesach.
from two men ever saw.

wie man slac mit slage rach!
how one blow with blow avenged!

sie wâren beide manhaft.
they were both manly.

sie zeigten kunst unde kraft
they showed art and strength

mit dem lîbe und mit den swerten.
with the body and with the swords.

die wîle die schilte werten,
the while the shields lasted,

dâmit kunden sie sich wol bewarn.
therewith could they themselves well guard.

sie mohten aber niht gesparn,
they might however not spare,

sie enwurden schiere alsô blôz,
they not-became quickly so bare,

daz in niht beleip eins hâres grôz.
that to-them not remained a hair's size.

sît der schilte ein ende wart,
since of-the shields an end became,

sô wart dâ lenger niht gespart
so was there longer not spared

weder helm noch halsberc.
neither helmet nor hauberk.

daz erwelte stahelwerc
the choice steel-work

gerieten sie dô schrôten
began they then cut

und begunden einander nôten
and began each-other press

ein vil lange stunde,
a very long while,

daz nieman wizzen kunde,
that no-one know could,

weder ir hæte daz bezzer teil.
which of-them had the better part.

nû geviel dem künec Artûs ein heil,
now befell the king Arthur a fortune,

daz er den künec Matûr sluoc
that he the king Matur struck

durch einen helm, den er truoc,
through a helmet, which he wore,

daz ez im ûf der swarten widerwant.
that it to-him on the scalp turned.

dâwider gap er im zehant
there-against gave he him at-once

einen freislîchen slac,
a terrible blow,

der sô sêre nider wac,
which so sorely down weighed,

daz er quam ûf sîniu knie.
that he came onto his knees.

daz geschach dem künec Artûs nie.
that happened to-the king Arthur never.

von diu wânders iemer sîn geschant
from that thought-he ever to-be shamed

und spranc ûf alzehant.
and sprang up at-once.

er brâhte ez im ze sûre
he brought it to-him to sourness

und gap dem künec Matûre
and gave the king Matur

einen slac, des er sîn ende nam,
a blow, from-which he his end took,

als ez von ungelücke quam,
as it from misfortune came,

dâ sich nieman vor behüeten mac.
there itself no-one before guard may.

er traf in in den êrren slac
he struck him in the earlier blow

und versneit in dâ sô harte,
and cut him there so hard,

daz sich daz houbet zarte
that itself the head split

und tôt viel ûf daz gras.
and dead fell onto the grass.

der künec Artûs genas,
the king Arthur survived,

der künec Matûr was erslagen.
the king Matur was slain.

Matur's two thousand knights avenge him, and Daniel cuts through their ranks. The surviving giant, blinded by Arthur's archers, slaughters Arthur's men; Keie mocks the others, is flung into a linden, and lies abed for more than twelve weeks. Arthur's host escapes the giant by mixing among the enemy and claiming to be on his side.

Nû sâhen sie darnâch jagen
Now saw they thereafter hunt

eine küneclîche schar,
a kingly company,

zwei tûsent ritter wol gar,
two thousand knights well wholly,

die des tages solden
who of-the day should

und turnieren wolden,
and joust would,

als in der künec Matûr gebôt.
as them the king Matur commanded.

daz sie den gesâhen ligen tôt,
that they him saw lie dead,

des wart ir zorn manicvalt.
from-that became their anger manifold.

sie gâhten für sich mit gewalt
they hastened before themselves with force

und nâmen des küneges Artûs war.
and took of-the king Arthur heed.

dô erspranctен die guoten ritter gar
then spurred the good knights wholly

von der Tavelrunde.
of the Round-Table.

in einer kurzen stunde
in a short while

zerbrâchen sie mê dan tûsent sper.
broke they more than thousand spears.

ez wære dirre oder der,
it were this-one or that-one,

der dâ geviel, der was verlorn.
who there fell, he was lost.

dâ wart der grœzeste zorn
there was the greatest anger

des tages zesamen getragen,
of-the day together borne,

dâvon ir ie gehôrtet sagen.
of-which you ever heard say.

nû zerhiuwen sie mit nîde
now hewed-apart they with hostility

die schilte und daz gesmîde,
the shields and the armor,

daz ez zerstoup sam ein melm.
that it scattered like a dust.

dâ wart manic herter helm
there was many-a hard helmet

mit den swerten zerslagen.
with the swords struck-apart.

iu künde nieman gesagen,
to-you could no-one tell,

wie daz fiur darûz spranc,
how the fire therefrom sprang,

dâ ein stahel durch den andern dranc.
where one steel through the other pressed.

der sô gewâfent was,
who so armed was,

daz er ie vor slegen wol genas,
that he ever from blows well survived,

der was dâ nacket unde blôz.
he was there naked and bare.

swer sîn selbes genôz,
whoever of-his self enjoyed,

der hâte sælde unde heil;
he had fortune and luck;

ez muose aber ein michel teil
it must however a great part

komen von sîner frümekeit.
come from his prowess.

swaz uns von strîte ist geseit,
whatever to-us of fight is told,

daz was hie wider als ein wint.
that was here against-it as a wind.

dâ wâren sô getâniu kint
there were so made children

beidenthalben zesamen komen,
on-both-sides together come,

als ir ê hât vernomen,
as you before have heard,

die wol kunden strîten.
who well could fight.

ez was zallen zîten
it was at-all times

ein unmuoze, der sie pflâgen.
a business, which they practiced.

von diu kunden sie wol gelâgen,
from that could they well lay-low,

daz ir kraft ze staten quam,
that their strength to use came,

des maniger dâ sîn ende nam.
from-which many-a-one there his end took.

sie zerschrieten, swaz sie trâfen;
they cut-apart, whatever they struck;

sie fuorten sô scharpfiu wâfen,
they carried so sharp weapons,

daz man ez niht gelouben kan.
that one it not believe can.

sie fuocten, daz der stahel bran
they caused, that the steel burned

rehte als ez holz wære.
right as-if it wood were.

daz wart ein spil sô swære,
that became a game so heavy,

daz sie die wunder worhten,
that they the wonders wrought,

daz sie des alle vorhten,
that they of-that all feared,

daz der suontac wolde werden
that the Doomsday would become

und über al die erden
and over all the earth

daz himelfiur wære komen;
the heaven-fire were come;

in was diu vorhte benomen,
from-them was the fear taken,

dô daz fiur gegen den lüften bran.
when the fire toward the air burned.

dô wart manic fromer man
then became many-a bold man

von der hitze zwîfelhaft.
from the heat doubtful.

sie hâten beidenthalp die kraft,
they had on-both-sides the strength,

sie hæten ez iemer wol getriben,
they would-have it ever well driven,

ir deweder enwæren beliben
of-them either not-would-be remained

sigelôs in dem wal,
victoryless on the battlefield,

wan Daniel von dem Blüenden Tal
except Daniel of the Blossoming Valley

mit dem swerte, daz des getwerges was,
with the sword, which the dwarf's was,

dâmit valter ûf daz gras
therewith felled-he onto the grass

manigen ritter wol gar.
many-a knight well wholly.

er reit enmitten durch die schar
he rode amid through the company

mê danne drîstunt.
more than three-times.

dâ wart des tages maniger wunt,
there became of-the day many-a-one wounded,

der des gewis wolde wesen,
who of-that certain would be,

daz er vor swerten wære genesen;
that he from swords were survived;

der beleip vor Daniêle tôt.
he remained before Daniel dead.

Dô der strît und diu nôt
When the fight and the distress

volleclîche was erhaben,
fully was raised,

dô sâhen sie dorther traben
then saw they from-there trot

den risen, der den berc beslôz.
the giant, who the mountain closed.

dem was âne mâzen grôz
to-him was beyond measure great

beide der lîp und der zorn.
both the body and the anger.

er gâhte vaste mit den sporn,
he hastened hard with the spurs,

sît er des strîtes wart gewar,
since he of-the fight became aware,

und wære gerne balde dar.
and were gladly quickly thither.

nû was sîn ros alsô laz,
now was his steed so slack,

in dûhte im lunge ze fuoze baz,
him seemed to-him should-succeed on foot better,

im wâren diu bein unmâzen lanc.
to-him were the legs beyond-measure long.

er erbeizte drabe unde spranc
he dismounted therefrom and sprang

gegen dem here manigen grôzen sprunc;
toward the host many-a great leap;

sô begunde ouch manic helt junc
so began also many-a hero young

vil balde gegen im îlen
very quickly toward him hasten

mit bogen und mit pfîlen,
with bows and with arrows,

der hâten sie sich gewarnet dar,
with-which had they themselves provided thither,

und nâmen im der ougen war.
and took to-him of-the eyes heed.

sie schuzzen zallen mâlen
they shot at-all times

beidiu pfîl und strâlen
both arrows and darts

mê danne hundert.
more than hundred.

sie hâten in gesundert
they had him parted

schiere von den ougen;
quickly from the eyes;

diu rede ist âne lougen.
the speech is without lie.

dô wart im freislîche zorn;
then became to-him terrible anger;

swen er traf, der was verlorn.
whomever he struck, he was lost.

mit grimme zôch er den schaft
with fury drew he the shaft

und sluoc mit sô grôzer kraft,
and struck with so great strength,

swen er mohte erlangen,
whomever he might reach,

daz sîn leben was ergangen.
that his life was ended.

daz was in freislîche zorn
that was to-them terrible anger

den edelen rittern wol geborn,
to-the noble knights well born,

des künec Artûs gesellen;
the king Arthur's companions;

die twanc ir baldez ellen,
them forced their bold valor,

daz sie gerne wæren sigehaft.
that they gladly should-be victorious.

sie zeigten an im grôze kraft
they showed on him great strength

mit den guoten swerten.
with the good swords.

swie harte sie des gerten,
however hard they of-that desired,

daz sie im den tôt wolden geben,
that they to-him the death would give,

dô muosens in doch lâzen leben.
then must-they him yet let live.

des engolten sie genuoc.
for-that paid they enough.

dô er den schaft gar zersluoc,
when he the shaft wholly struck-apart,

daz im niht beleip in der hant,
that to-him nothing remained in the hand,

swen er darnâch vor im vant,
whomever he thereafter before him found,

den zerbrach er als ein huon.
him broke-apart he as a hen.

swem er des niht wolde tuon,
to-whomever he that not would do,

den nam er bî dem beine,
him took he by the leg,

er wære grôz oder kleine,
he were great or small,

und sluoc die andern dàmite.
and struck the others therewith.

swie gerne man in dô versnite,
however gladly one him then should-cut,

dô was er nihtes gewert.
then was he of-nothing granted.

man versuohte an im manic swert,
one tried on him many-a sword,

daz im niht leides dâvon geschach.
that to-him no sorrow thereby happened.

swie vil man sper ûf in gestach,
however many one spears on him thrust,

swie vil man pfîl ûf in geschôz,
however many one arrows at him shot,

man kunde in nie alsô grôz
one could him never so great

sô ein hâr verwunden.
as a hair wound.

Dô sie daz rehte erfunden,
When they that rightly found,

dô fluhen sie balde
then fled they quickly

von dem risen alle.
from the giant all.

des wart im zorn unde gâch.
from-that became to-him anger and haste.

nû lief er in allez nâch,
now ran he them ever after,

swâ er daz gedrenge vernam.
wherever he the throng heard.

swer im zehanden quam,
whoever to-him to-hands came,

der muose daz leben verwandeln.
he must the life exchange.

er begunde in alsô handeln,
he began them so treat,

daz man in in stucken moht ûflesen.
that one them in pieces might up-gather.

wie kunder danne sîn genesen?
how could-he then be survived?

dâ dirre blinde vâlant
when this blind fiend

sô mangen sehenden überwant,
so many-a seeing-one overcame,

waz welt ir, daz er hæte getân,
what will you, that he would-have done,

ob er sîn ougen mohte hân?
if he his eyes might have?

sô wærez gewesen ir aller tôt.
so would-be-it been of-them all death.

er brâhte sie in solhe nôt,
he brought them into such distress,

daz im nieman getorste nâhen.
that him no-one dared near.

sie begunden von im gâhen,
they began from him hasten,

durch daz in sô misselanc.
for that to-them so misfortune-came.

Dô ers alsus zeder fluhte twanc,
When he-them thus to-the flight forced,

dô quam her Keiî dar.
then came sir Keie thither.

der wart des risen ouch gewar.
he became of-the giant also aware.

ern hâte dannoch niht gesehen,
he had yet not seen,

waz in dâvon was geschehen.
what to-them thereby was happened.

er zeigte aber sîn alten wort,
he showed again his old word,

ez was sîner fröuden hort,
it was his joy's hoard,

sô er einen biderben man beschalt.
when he an upright man reviled.

er was ze den worten alsô balt,
he was to the words so bold,

wester ob er sîn leben
knew-he whether he his life

durch bœse rede solde geben,
for evil speech should give,

er hæte ir doch niht verswigen.
he would-have them yet not kept-silent.

swie er niht möhte gesigen,
however he not might conquer,

er schalt sie zallen stunden,
he reviled them at-all hours,

die niht gesigen kunden,
who not conquer could,

er sprach: „Wie nû, künec Artûs?
he spoke: „How now, king Arthur?

sæzet ir dâheime in iuwerm hûs,
sat you at-home in your house,

sô hætet ir frome gesellen,
so would-have you bold companions,

die wol ritter kunden vellen,
who well knights could fell,

sô man in vaste schancte
when one to-them hard poured

und sie zefromen trancte,
and them to-boldness gave-drink,

dâ slüegens unde stæchen,
there would-strike-they and thrust,

unz s'allez daz geræchen,
until they-all that avenged,

daz iuwerm vater ie geschach.
which to-your father ever happened.

wie sint sie aber hie sô swach?
how are they however here so weak?

ich sihe wol, der man ist blint;
I see well, the man is blind;

in möhte ein wênigez kint
him might a little child

mit deheinen êren bestân.
with any honors withstand.

sie soln es iemer schande hân,
they shall of-it ever disgrace have,

daz sie sich alsus lâzent jagen.
that they themselves thus let hunt.

lât iuwer tavel dise zagen
(if)-lets your table these cowards

iemer ze ir gesitzen,
ever at it sit,

die ein blinde von ir witzen
whom a blind-man from their wits

alsus trîbet âne swert,
thus drives without sword,

sô ist sie niht einer slêhen wert.
so is it not a sloe worth.

ez ist wol, daz ich lebe,
it is well, that I live,

wand ich nâch den êren strebe.
for I after the honors strive.

waz dann, enwellent sie mirs niht jehen?
what then, will they to-me-it not grant?

nû wil ich iuch selbe lâzen sehen,
now will I you self let see,

daz ich in wol eine getar bestân,
that I him well alone dare withstand,

den sie dort alle lâzent gân."
whom they there all let go."

Mit den selben worten erspranctе er
With the same words spurred he

und zerstach vil wol sîn sper
and shattered very well his spear

ûf des risen brust enzwei;
on the giant's breast in-two;

des enahter niht ein ei.
of-that heeded-he not an egg.

der rise zornlîche schreit,
the giant angrily strode,

dâ er hôrte daz gereit.
where he heard the gear.

er ergreif in bî dem beine,
he seized him by the leg,

des wart sîn vehten kleine.
therefore became his fighting small.

er truoc in rehte als einen stoc;
he carried him right as a stock;

daz halsberc und der wâfenrok
the hauberk and the surcoat

diu vielen im über daz houbet.
they fell to-him over the head.

er wart alsô betoubet,
he was so stunned,

er hâte es vil nâch iemer gnuoc.
he had of-it very nearly ever enough.

der rise umbe sich sluoc,
the giant around himself struck,

im tâten sîn ougengruoben wê,
to-him did his eye-sockets woe,

und wolde der ritter mê
and would of-the knights more

mit hern Keiî hân erslagen.
with sir Keie have slain.

iu kunde nieman gesagen,
to-you could no-one tell,

wie freislich er swancte.
how terribly he swung.

daz liut im hindan wancte,
the people from-him away swerved,

daz der slac nieman ruorte
that the blow no-one touched

und im der swanc enfuorte
and to-him the swing carried-off

hern Keiî ûz der hende.
sir Keie out-of the hand.

daz er ouch sîn ende
that he also his end

von dem valle niht ennam,
from the fall not took,

daz sage ich iu wie daz quam:
that tell I you how that came:

ez was bî einer linden,
it was by a linden,

dâ Keiî dem blinden
where Keie from-the blind-one

ûz der hende entwischte.
out-of the hand slipped.

ein sælde sich dar mischte,
a fortune itself there mixed,

daz er niht viel, daz er zerbrast.
that he not fell, that he burst.

er quam rehte ûf einen ast,
he came right onto a branch,

der oben an der linden was;
which above on the linden was;

der half im daz er genas,
that helped him that he survived,

und viel dô vil vaste
and fell then very hard

von aste nider ze aste,
from branch down to branch,

unz er ze jungest gelac
until he at last lay

ûf der erden als ein sac.
on the earth as a sack.

Nû muget ir gerne hœren sagen,
Now may you gladly hear say,

wie sie Keiî begunden klagen,
how they Keie began lament,

die von der tavelrunde.
those of the round-table.

sie sprâchen mit einem munde:
they spoke with one mouth:

„Der tîvel næme die linden
„The devil take the linden

und neme ouch disen blinden,
and take also this blind-one,

daz er in ûz der hant verlie.
that he him out-of the hand let-go.

nû hôrten wir doch sagen ie,
now heard we yet say ever,

blinden hebeten vaste sêre.
blind-men held hard sorely.

verliesen muoz er sîn êre.
lose must he his honor.

warumbe liez er in entvarn?
why let he him escape?

wold in der vâlant niht bewarn,
would him the fiend not guard,

er wære anderswar
he would-have elsewhere

als lîhte komen als dar.“
as easily come as thither.“

swie leit sie inz dô liezen wesen,
however grievous they to-him-it then let be,

dô was her Keiî doch genesen.
then was sir Keie yet survived.

ez wart im doch alsô sûr,
it became to-him yet so sour,

daz er des bettes nâchgebûr
that he of-the bed neighbor

mê danne zwelf wochen was,
more than twelve weeks was,

ê er des valles genas.
before he from-the fall recovered.

Der rise sluoc und zerbrach,
The giant struck and broke,

sîniu ougen er rach
his eyes he avenged

an des künec Artûses mannen.
on the king Arthur's men.

die gerne wæren dannen,
those-who gladly would-be thence,

die enmohten vor der enge:
they not-might for the narrowness:

dâ was ein solh gedrenge,
there was a such throng,

daz nieman kunde entwîchen.
that no-one could escape.

der rise lie dar strîchen,
the giant let thither sweep,

er fröute sich, daz dâ nieman flôch.
he rejoiced himself, that there no-one fled.

dô enwas dehein ros sô hôch,
then was no steed so high,

er hüebe den fuoz noch ûf baz.
he would-raise the foot still up better.

daz ros und swer darûfe saz,
the steed and whoever thereon sat,

diu trat er, daz er gar zerbrast;
them trod he, that he wholly burst;

ouch was sîn fuoz ein solh last,
also was his foot a such burden,

swer in ein wîle solde tragen
whoever it a while should bear

der was es iemer erslagen.
he was by-it ever slain.

ich sage iu rehte wie er wac:
I tell you rightly how he weighed:

ûf swem er sô lange lac,
on whomever he so long lay,

unz ein brâ zer andern sluoc,
until one brow at-the other struck,

der hâte es iemer alsô genuoc,
he had of-it ever so enough,

er wære stark oder swach,
he were strong or weak,

daz im der rucke enzwei brach.
that to-him the back in-two broke.

Dâvon sluoc er ûz der wer
Therefore struck he out-of the defense

des künec Artûses al sîn her,
the king Arthur's all his host,

âne Daniel von dem Blüenden Tal.
except Daniel of the Blossoming Valley.

der was dort anderhalp in dem wal
he was there on-the-other-side in the battlefield

under des künec Matûres mannen.
among the king Matur's men.

die enliezen sîn niht dannen.
they let him not thence.

swie grôzen schaden er in tete,
however great harm he to-them did,

er muose leisten ir bete.
he must fulfill their request.

diu bete was alsô getân,
the request was so made,

er müese dâ under in stân,
he must there among them stand,

daz sie in niht von in liezen.
that they him not from them let.

mit gêren und mit spiezen
with javelins and with spears

stâchen si unde schuzzen;
thrust they and shot;

des sie niht vil genuzzen;
of-that they not much profited;

er sluoc sie nider als ein hagel.
he struck them down as a hail.

dô verlôs vil manger sînen nagel,
then lost very many-a-one his nail,

dâ er den schilt an fuorte.
there he the shield on carried.

swâ er den man beruorte,
wherever he the man touched,

daz muose wesen sîn tôt.
that must be his death.

sîn swert half im ûz der nôt,
his sword helped him out-of the distress,

daz er fuorte an sînen handen.
which he carried in his hands.

er wart vil sêre bestanden
he was very sorely withstood

von al des künec Matûres her,
by all the king Matur's host,

des bedorfter wol guoter wer.
therefore needed-he well good defense.

sîn gebærde wâren freissam.
his bearing were terrible.

er zerhiu sie rehte als einen swam,
he hewed-apart them right as a sponge,

den lîp und swaz dâvor was.
the body and whatever before-it was.

swer der wunden genas,
whoever from-the wounds survived,

die Daniel dâ sluoc,
which Daniel there struck,

der hâte sælden genuoc.
he had of-fortunes enough.

ouch leit er nôt harte vil.
also suffered he distress very much.

ez was gar ein gewâget spil,
it was wholly a ventured game,

daz er die belde ie gewan,
that he the boldness ever gained,

daz er durch zweitûsent man
that he through two-thousand men

alsô verre gebrach,
so far broke,

daz in dehein sîn geselle sach,
that him no his companion saw,

der im ze hilfe wære komen.
who to-him to help were come.

sie hæten im nâch den lîp benomen,
they would-have from-him nearly the life taken,

sô sêre sazten sie sich ze wer,
so sorely set they themselves to defense,

wan des künec Artûses her.
except the king Arthur's host.

dô daz rehte besach,
when that rightly saw,

daz sie der rise sô gar zerbrach,
that them the giant so wholly broke,

swaz er ir mohte bestrîchen,
whatever he of-them might sweep,

des begunden sie im entwîchen.
therefore began they from-him escape.

sie fluhen von sînen handen
they fled from his hands

hin gegen den vîanden
thither toward the foes

und begunden sich darunder mischen.
and began themselves among-them mix.

dâmite woldens im entwischen.
therewith would-they from-him slip.

unz der rise hin dar quam,
until the giant away thither came,

swen er in die hende dô nam
whomever he into the hands then took

und in wolde zerbrechen,
and him would break,

der begunde zehant sprechen,
he began at-once speak,

sô in diu nôt anegie:
when him the distress attacked:

„Lâ stân, ich bin doch mit dir hie."
„Let stand, I am yet with thee here."

sô wânder wærez und liez in leben.
so thought-he were-it and let him live.

die rede begundens im alle geben,
the speech began-they to-him all give,

der ein und der ander.
the one and the other.

durch die rede erwander,
for the speech desisted-he,

daz er dâ nieman zerbrach,
that he there no-one broke,

wan er der wârheit niht ensach,
for he the truth not saw,

und geloubte sich des gar.
and believed himself of-that wholly.

XIII · DANIEL BREAKS THROUGH

Arthur's knights press the fight on Matur's men, and Arthur with Gawain, Iwein, and Parzival cuts deep into their host. Daniel, beset in a ring of the dead, sees the king breaking through toward him and cuts his own way to Arthur, who tells him the blind giant is killing them. Gawain tells the king that Daniel killed the first giant, and Arthur asks Daniel to deal with the second.

Dô liez des künec Artûses schar
Then let the king Arthur's company

an die vîande gân:
at the foes go:

alsô wart ouch in getân.
so was also to-them done.

sie zeigten beide grôzen nît.
they showed both great hostility.

allerêrst huop sich der strît.
first-of-all raised itself the fight.

dô ruofte jener unde dise;
then called that-one and this-one;

von diu enweste der rise,
from that not-knew the giant,

an wen er sîn ougen solde rechen.
on whom he his eyes should avenge.

er hôrtes alle sprechen:
he heard-them all speak:

„Lâ stân, waz wîzest du mir?
„Let stand, what blamest thou me?

nû bin ich doch hie mit dir."
now am I yet here with thee."

sô liez er in sô drâte.
so let he him so quickly.

swer dâ gelogen hâte,
whoever there lied had,

den erkander niht, er was blint.
him knew-he not, he was blind.

Der êrste strît was ein wint,
The first fight was a wind,

sie begunden allerêrst houwen.
they began first-of-all hew.

dâ mohte man strîten schouwen,
there might one fighting behold,

dô sie diu swert twungen,
when they the swords forced,

daz sie durch die helme drungen
that they through the helmets pressed

und durch die stahelringe.
and through the steel-rings.

sie wâren jungelinge
they were youths

gar des lîbes unverzaget.
wholly of-the body undaunted.

dô wart der krefte niht versaget,
then was of-the strength nothing refused,

swaz ir ein man brâhte dar,
whatever of-it a man brought thither,

die liez er sehen alle gar,
it let he see all wholly,

daz er nie dehein teil verbarc.
that he never any part hid.

dâ was nieman sô stark,
there was no-one so strong,

in dûhte doch er wær ze swach.
him seemed yet he were too weak.

vil mangen man dâ toben sach,
very many-a man there rage saw,

der doch vil rehte kündic was.
who yet very rightly skillful was.

swer dâ gerne genas,
whoever there gladly survived,

der muose wunder stellen.
he must wonders set-up.

Der künec Artûses gesellen,
The king Arthur's companions,

die worhten mit den swerten
they wrought with the swords

wunder, wan sie gerten,
wonders, for they desired,

daz sie verkouften daz leben.
that they should-sell the life.

des hâten sie sich ergeben.
to-that had they themselves given.

sie drungen hin mit grôzen slegen,
they pressed thither with great blows,

sie begunden mangen tôt legen,
they began many-a-one dead lay,

den sie âne wunden valten
whom they without wounds felled

und im sô starke erschalten
and to-him so strongly shook

durch den helm daz houbet,
through the helmet the head,

daz er wart betoubet
that he was stunned

und tôt viel ûf daz gras.
and dead fell onto the grass.

der wol gewâfent was,
who well armed was,

den dûhte doch er wære blôz.
him seemed yet he were bare.

diu nôt was freislîche grôz,
the distress was terribly great,

die sie beidenthalben hâten.
which they on-both-sides had.

swaz sie dâ leides tâten
whatever they there of-sorrow did

des künec Artûses mannen,
to-the king Arthur's men,

daz envolgte in niht dannen,
that followed them not thence,

sie vergolten in ez vil tiure.
they repaid them it very dearly.

Dâ getorste vor dem fiure
There dared before the fire

nieman volleclîche sehen.
no-one fully see.

ir deheiner mohte jehen,
of-them none might declare,

daz im daz houbet tohte
that to-him the head availed

und vor den slegen mohte
and before the blows might

iht lenger genesen.
at-all longer survive.

sie wolden gewis wesen,
they would certain be,

daz sie in wæren enzwei.
that they to-them were in-two.

maneger vor zorne schrei,
many-a-one for anger cried,

sô er daz swert niht mohte twingen,
when he the sword not might force,

daz ez für sich wolde dringen
that it before itself would press

durch die stahelhüete.
through the steel-hats.

sie hâten alle ungemüete:
they had all ill-humor:

der dâheime was vil wol gezogen,
who at-home was very well bred,

an dem was man dâ betrogen;
in him was one there deceived;

darzuo twanc in diu nôt.
thereto forced him the distress.

swaz einer dem andern verbôt,
whatever one to-the other refused,

des hiez er drî gelten.
that bade he threefold pay.

man gewinnet vil selten
one wins very seldom

diu verlornen spil.
the lost games.

ez engalt dâ lützel noch vil,
there paid there little nor much,

wan beidiu lîp und êre.
except both body and honor.

der engalt ez alsô sêre
he paid it so sorely

swer diu zwei verspilte.
whoever the two gambled-away.

durch daz sie des bevilte,
for that them of-it wearied,

sô enwolden sies niht lâzen.
so would they-it not let.

sie begunden vaste grâzen,
they began hard rage,

dise hin und jene her,
these thither and those hither,

von der ritterlîchen ger,
from the knightly desire,

die sie zesamen hâten.
which they together had.

swaz eine den andern tâten,
whatever one to-the other did,

sie enmohten sie niht verjagen:
they might them not drive-away:

dem hundert wunden wâren geslagen,
to-whom hundred wounds were struck,

wâren sie sô kleine,
were they so small,

daz er sîn gebeine
that he his bones

dannoch ganz hæte,
still whole had,

er enwolde ûz sîner dræte
he would out-of his speed

darumbe niht getreten.
therefore not step.

dâ wart nieman gebeten,
there was no-one asked,

daz er sîn vehten wolde lân,
that he his fighting would let,

im enwurde allerêrst getân
to-him unless-were first-of-all done

mit den swerten sô wê,
with the swords so woe,

daz er einen slac niht mê
that he a blow not more

mohte geslân herwider.
might strike back-again.

sô er von dem rosse viel dâ nider,
when he from the steed fell there down,

dannoch werter sich ze fuoz.
still defended-he himself on foot.

dâ wart beidiu antwurt und gruoz
there was both answer and greeting

mit den swerten gegeben;
with the swords given;

daz gie manegem an daz leben.
that went to-many-a-one at the life.

der strît stuont sô lange,
the fight stood so long,

unz von hitze und von gedrange
until from heat and from throng

manegem sô wê wart,
to-many-a-one so woe became,

daz er vorhte, daz er ein vart
that he feared, that he a journey

mit dem tôde müese tuon;
with the death must do;

er wart swach alsam ein huon
he became weak like a hen

und vaht doch als ein wildez swîn.
and fought yet as a wild boar.

der künec Artûs und die sîn
the king Arthur and the his

die begunden für sich brechen
they began before themselves break

und begunden mit grimme rechen
and began with fury avenge

daz leit, daz in dâ was geschehen.
the sorrow, which to-them there was happened.

dâ mohte man hœren unde sehen
there might one hear and see

michel borgen unde gelten;
great borrowing and paying;

dâ enwas dehein schelten.
there was no reviling.

swie lützel man dâ vertruoc,
however little one there endured,

diz was wunders genuoc,
this was of-wonder enough,

swaz einer dem andern engalt,
whatever one to-the other paid-for,

daz ern mit worten niht enschalt;
that he with words not reviled;

er schalten aber mit dem swerte,
he reviled-him however with the sword,

unz daz er in gewerte
until that he him granted

ein teil sînes willen.
a part of-his will.

ez kunde nieman gestillen.
it could no-one still.

Der künec Artûs dranc hin
The king Arthur pressed thither

mit den besten rittern drin.
with the best knights three.

daz was sîn neve her Gâwein
that was his nephew sir Gawain

und der edel ritter Jwein,
and the noble knight Iwein,

darzuo der helt Parzivâl.
thereto the hero Parzival.

sie entwurfen seltsæniu mâl:
they drew strange marks:

swer ir einez enpfie,
whoever of-them one received,

dem ez niht anders ergie,
to-him it not otherwise went,

wan daz er den lîp verlôs,
except that he the life lost,

oder aber den tôt erkôs,
or else the death chose,

oder er niht lenger genas;
or he not longer survived;

swelhez der drîer bestez was,
whichever of-the three best was,

daz wart im vil schiere.
that became to-him very quickly.

sie wâren alle viere
they were all four

tiurlîche schrîbære.
precious scribes.

ir griffel wâren swære,
their styluses were heavy,

sie schriben solhe buochstabe,
they wrote such letters,

daz sie niemer nieman abe
that them never no-one off

mohte geweschen noch geschaben.
might wash nor scrape.

sie begunden manegen laben,
they began many-a-one refresh,

daz er daz wîze für kêrte.
that he the white before turned.

swen der künec versêrte,
whomever the king wounded,

dem was niht arzâtes nôt;
to-him was no physician's need;

unz er geviel, sô lac er tôt.
until he fell, so lay he dead.

Nû sach er verre durch daz wal
Now saw he far through the battlefield

Daniêlen von dem Blüenden Tal.
Daniel of the Blossoming Valley.

der habte in einem ringe wît
he halted in a ring wide

und hâte ein grôzen hamît
and had a great fence

umbe sich gevellet
around himself felled

und hâte dâ gestellet
and had there set

mit dem swerte solhe getât,
with the sword such deed,

dâ diu welt alsô zergât,
where the world so perishes,

daz ez dehein man mê getuot,
that it no man more does,

ob er joch hæte ein swert sô guot.
if he even had a sword so good.

er hâte der tôten
he had of-the dead

um sich zetal verschrôten
around himself down hewn

hôhe als ein burcgrabe
high as a castle-moat

und werte sich darabe,
and defended himself therefrom,

rehte als ein dietdegen.
right as a folk-hero.

ouch begunden sie sîn pflegen
also began they of-him take-care

alsô guote ritter solden,
as good knights should,

unz sie den tôt erholden.
until they the death fetched.

Dô der künec Artûs gesach
When the king Arthur saw

hern Daniels ungemach,
sir Daniel's discomfort,

daz wart im freislîche zorn.
that became to-him terrible anger.

mit dem swerte und mit den sporn
with the sword and with the spurs

begunde er dar gâhen.
began he thither hasten.

alle die daz sâhen,
all who that saw,

waz der künec Artûs begie,
what the king Arthur did,

sie sprâchen, ez enwurde nie
they spoke, there became never

ein man zer welte geborn,
a man into-the world born,

dem ie sîn kraft und sîn zorn
to-whom ever his strength and his anger

sînen willen sô wol volbræhte.
his will so well accomplished.

sie sagent uns, daz er væhte,
they tell us, that he should-fight,

daz man in sêre vorhte.
that one him sorely feared.

er begieng unde worhte
he did and wrought

mit slegen solhiu wunder,
with blows such wonders,

daz sie sprâchen albesunder:
that they spoke all-apart:

„Des enist dehein zwîvel,
„Of-that is no doubt,

diz ist der leidige tîvel.
this is the loathsome devil.

wir hân alle gar den lîp verlorn."
we have all wholly the life lost."

sie hæten alle wol gesworn,
they would-have all well sworn,

daz in nieman mohte betouben.
that him no-one might stun.

er brâhtes in den glouben,
he brought-them into the belief,

daz man die vorhte vor im gewan,
that one the fear before him gained,

daz sie noch baz tûsent man
that they still more-easily thousand men

getorsten hân bestanden.
dared have withstood.

er sluoc ze beiden handen,
he struck with both hands,

der edel künec Artûs;
the noble king Arthur;

von sînem swerte gienc ein sûs,
from his sword went a rush,

der durch die helme wâte,
which through the helmets waded,

daz daz bluot darnâch schrâte
that the blood thereafter spurted

und der man dâvon tôt gelac.
and the man thereof dead lay.

im gehalf manic grôz slac,
to-him helped many-a great blow,

daz er gehiuw ein pfat
that he hewed a path

durch daz her an ein stat,
through the host to a place,

dâ ez im wol tûsent werten.
where it to-him well thousand defended.

dâ sach man in beherten
there saw one him force

durch die vîende ein vart,
through the foes a way,

diu mangem man ze sûre wart,
which to-many-a man to sourness became,

Dô her Daniel wart gewar,
When sir Daniel became aware,
daz der künec Artûs durch die schar
that the king Arthur through the company
gegen im sô gewalteclîche brach,
toward him so powerfully broke,
und er daz rehte gesach,
and he that rightly saw,
des wart er stark unde frô;
from-that became he strong and glad;
gegen im huop er sich dô.
toward him raised he himself then.
dô tet Daniel wol schîn,
then made Daniel well visible,
daz er den lieben herren sîn
that he the dear lord his
vil gerne hôrte unde sach.
very gladly heard and saw.
swem sô tumplich geschach,
to-whomever so foolishly happened,
daz er den schilt gegen im bôt,
that he the shield toward him offered,
dem was gereit der tôt.
to-him was ready the death.
Daniel was gar ein helt,
Daniel was wholly a hero,
ouch was sîn swert ûzerwelt.
also was his sword chosen.
daz sluoc er, daz ez für sich wuot
that struck he, that it before itself waded
und weder ringe noch huot
and neither rings nor hat
den man mohte gefriden.
the man might protect.

er begunde freislîche smiden;
he began terribly forge;

er smidete, als ich iu sage:
he forged, as I to-you say:

im quam dehein helm zeslage,
to-him came no helmet to-blow,

er machte drûz zwên âne gluot,
he made thereout two without glow,

und wâren beide niht so guot,
and were both not so good,

sô ê was der eine.
as before was the one.

nû merket, waz ich meine:
now mark, what I mean:

er sluoc in enmitten enzwei.
he struck him in-the-middle in-two.

swen er traf, der schrei
whomever he struck, he cried

nâch hilfe niht mêre;
for help not more;

er versneit in sô sêre,
he cut him so sorely,

daz er wart innen,
that he became aware,

er dorfte niht sinnen,
he needed not to-think,

daz er iemer wurde erlôst;
that he ever were released;

daz was ein michel untrôst.
that was a great uncomfort.

sie sluoc der ritter Daniel,
them struck the knight Daniel,

daz in diu zuoversiht entviel,
that from-them the confidence fell,

diu zuo dem lebene gezôch,
which to the life drew,

und daz diu sêle hinflôch,
and that the soul away-fled,

reht alsam ein jegere
right as a hunter

ob eines hasen legere
above a hare's lair

ûf den busch drischet
on the bush threshes

und der hase hinwischet:
and the hare away-slips:

alsô sluoc er ûf den man,
so struck he on the man,

daz im diu sêle kûme endran.
that from-him the soul barely escaped.

hei wie daz swert klanc,
hey how the sword rang,

sô her Daniel dranc
when sir Daniel pressed

durch die ritter dâze Clûse
through the knights at Cluse

gegen dem künec Artûse!
toward the king Arthur!

mit vlîze er durch die helme swanc.
with diligence he through the helmets swung.

er schancte einer hande tranc,
he poured of-one kind drink,

dâ was der twalm zuogetân.
there was the stupor added.

er wart es niemer erlân,
he was of-it never released,

der es enbeiz, er müese slâfen.
who of-it tasted, he must sleep.

daz tranc was sîn wâfen,
the drink was his weapon,

der twalm was der tôt,
the stupor was the death,

der slâf was diu grôze nôt,
the sleep was the great distress,

diu in dâ ze ligene twanc,
which him there to lie forced,

dâ er âne sînen danc
where he without his thanks

des suontages muose bîten.
for-the Doomsday must wait.

er hiuw einen pfat sô wîten,
he hewed a path so wide,

daz er durch sie ân ir danc brach.
that he through them without their thanks broke.

swer sîne gebærde sach,
whoever his bearing saw,

der entweich im unde rûmde;
he escaped him and made-way;

swer aber sich versûmde,
whoever however himself delayed,

dem gap er ein kleinôte,
to-him gave he a little-jewel,

daz er mit grôzer nôte
that he with great distress

zuo der erden bequam
to the earth came

und under wegen sîn ende nam.
and on-the way his end took.

dô Daniel schriet unde sluoc
when Daniel cut and struck

durch swaz der man ane truoc
through whatever the man on wore

reht als durch ein wazzer,
right as through a water,

sîn swert was niht lazzer,
his sword was not slacker,

swem ez durch den stahel brach,
to-whomever it through the steel broke,

wan als ez füer durch einen bach.
than as-if it fared through a brook.

er sluoc man unde man.
he struck man and man.

daz fiur nâch sînem swerte bran,
the fire after his sword burned,

als ez von himele wær ein blick.
as-if it from heaven were a flash.

sie enpfiengen alle einen schrick,
they received all a fright,

als dicke sô er sluoc,
as often as he struck,

und segeneten sich genuoc.
and crossed themselves enough.

sô stark und grôz wart der glast,
so strong and great became the gleam,

daz der herte stahel brast
that the hard steel burst

und alsô swinde enzwei fuor.
and so swiftly in-two went.

er zimberte wol âne snuor;
he carpentered well without cord;

ez enwas niht wæher zimberman;
there was not finer carpenter;

swâ er traf, dâ sluoc er an
wherever he struck, there struck he on

mit grimme sîne barten.
with fury his broadaxe.

Durch sîne widerwarten
Through his adversaries

reit er als er wolde,
rode he as he would,

daz er niht leides dolde
that he no sorrow suffered

und maneger von im schaden nam,
and many-a-one from him harm took,

unz er zem künec Artûse quam.
until he to-the king Arthur came.

der tet im guoten willen schîn
he made to-him good will visible

und hiez in willekomen sîn
and bade him welcome be

und sîn gesellen alle.
and his companions all.

swie kûme er vor dem schalle
however barely he for the noise

und vor der unmuoze
and for the occupation

gehôrt ir aller gruoze,
heard of-them all greetings,

doch tâtens im mit worten kunt,
yet made-they to-him with words known,

daz er in liep was gesunt;
that he to-them dear was sound;

sie wâren sîn inneclîche frô.
they were of-him heartily glad.

der künec klagete im dô
the king lamented to-him then

von dem risen grôze nôt;
of the giant great distress;

„Unser lît dâ vil tôt,
„Of-us lie there many dead,

wir enmugen im niht ze schaden komen,
we may to-him not to harm come,

wan diu ougen hân wir im benomen.
except the eyes have we from-him taken.

sît er diu hât verlorn,
since he them has lost,

des hât er sô grôzen zorn
therefore has he so great anger

dâwider ûf uns gewunnen,
there-against on us got,

daz wir im kûme sîn entrunnen."
that we from-him barely are escaped."

noch dô hôrte der künec niht sagen,
still then heard the king not say,

wer den risen hæte erslagen,
who the giant had slain,

den er vor dem berge tôt vant.
whom he before the mountain dead found.

er erfuor ez aber dâ zehant
he learned it however there at-once

mit einem worte daz er sprach:
with a word which he spoke:

„Wir sîn im alle ze swach,
„We are to-him all too weak,

in kan nieman gevellen,
him can no-one fell,

ez entuo der sînen gesellen
unless-it do who his companion

vor dem berge dâ sluoc,
before the mountain there slew,

wan er benamen ein swert truoc,
for he truly a sword bore,

dâmit er ouch disen wol erslüege.
there-with he also this-one well should-slay.

wær ieman nû sô gefüege,
were anyone now so skillful,

daz er uns den kunde gewinnen,
that he us him could win,

daz er uns hulfe hinnen,
that he us should-help hence,

wir verliesen anders daz leben,
we lose otherwise the life,

dem wolde ich lîhen unde geben
to-him would I lend and give

und wolde in mit mir füeren hein."
and would him with me lead home."

dô sprach der herre Gâwein:
then spoke the lord Gawain:

„Her Daniel sluoc jenen risen,
„Sir Daniel slew that giant,

alsô hæte er ouch disen,
so would-have he also this-one,

wære er bî uns gewesen;
were he with us been;

er möhte niht vor im genesen,
he might not before him survive,

im hulfe sîn herte niht ein hâr."
to-him would-help his hardness not a hair."

dô sprach der künec: „Ist daz wâr,
then spoke the king: „(if)-Is that true,

sô bin ich gar vor sorgen frî."
so am I wholly of cares free."

die ritter sprâchen alle drî:
the knights spoke all three:

„Geloubet daz erz getân habe,
„Believe that he-it done have,

wir sâhen daz er im daz houbet abe
we saw that he to-him the head off

schône zeinem slage swanc
beautifully at-one blow swung

und er noch mit dem tôde ranc,
and he still with the death wrestled,

dô wir erbeizten über in.
when we dismounted over him.

ez ist nû gar sîn ungewin,
it is now wholly his loss,

sît her Daniel noch wert.
since sir Daniel still lasts.

im hât sîn frümekeit ein swert
to-him has his prowess a sword

erworben sît er ûzreit,
won since he out-rode,

daz den risen als ein wazzer sneit."
which the giant as a water cut."

der künec wart fröuden rîche,
the king became of-joys rich,

er sprach frœlîche:
he spoke joyfully:

„Woldan, Daniel, zierer helt!
„Up-then, Daniel, adorned hero!

der mir mit dem tôde hât gekelt
who to-me with the death has chilled

hiute mangen guoten kneht,
today many-a good fellow,

hilf, daz im geschehe sîn reht."
help, that to-him happen his right."

XIV · THE KNIGHT IN THE MERMAID'S SKIN

Daniel cuts the giant down and Matur's men surrender. Arthur's host rests to await the next of Matur's seven companies. At night Daniel rides back to the mountain for the count, hews through the stone, and meets the knight who parted them; the mermaid's hide the knight wears under his hauberk turns Daniel's sword, but Daniel fells him with a blow to the head, spares his life, and swears to learn what he has done to his companion.

Dô habten sie sich zesamene.
Then held they themselves together.

dô gienc ez ûz dem gamene 3760
then went it out-of the game

und kêrte wider durch die schar.
and turned back through the company.

er was nie sô wol gar,
he was never so well armed,

swer im dâ wolde widerstân,
whoever to-him there would withstand,

er muose den lîp verlorn hân.
he must the life lost have.

dâ sach man vallen tôten 3765
there saw one fall dead-ones

und ungefüege schrôten
and monstrously cut

helm unde halsperc.
helmet and hauberk.

man sach dâ manlîchiu werc
one saw there manly works

an manger tiefen wunden.
in many-a deep wound.

sie ougten, daz sie kunden
they showed, that they could

ritterlich gebâren
knightly behave

und mit den swerten vâren
and with the swords strike-at

grôzer slege unde tief.
great blows and deep.

maneger weinende rief:
many-a-one weeping called:

„owê, daz ich ie geborn wart!“
„alas, that I ever born was!“

dô wart ein strît alsô hart,
then became a fight so hard,

daz dâ nieman triuwete genesen.
that there no-one trusted to-survive.

sie wolden gewis wesen,
they would certain be,

daz die tîvel dâ riten
that the devils there rode

und alsô freislîche striten.
and so terribly fought.

Daniel ersach den risen,
Daniel saw the giant,

sâ sprach er ze disen,
straightway spoke he to these,

die dâ mit ime riten:
who there with him rode:

„Hie wirt niht mê gebiten.
„Here is not more waited.

weiz got, ich sihe in dort stân,
knows God, I see him there stand,

der uns den schaden hât getân.“
who us the harm has done.“

daz ros liez er dar springen
the steed let he thither spring

und ouch daz swert klingen
and also the sword ring

durch manic stehelîn gewant.
through many-a steel garment.

swen er vor im vant,
whomever he before him found,

der was drâte erbeizet.
he was quickly dismounted.

er wart sô gereizet,
he was so provoked,

dô er den risen stân sach,
when he the giant stand saw,

daz dehein stehelîn dach
that no steel roof

daz houbet kunde bewarn.
the head could guard.

er liez daz swert dâdurch varn,
he let the sword therethrough fare,

daz sîn einer niht genas.
that of-them one not survived.

swie der man bewart was,
however the man guarded was,

daz half in rehte als ein tou.
that helped him right as a dew.

owê wie sêre es in gerou,
alas how sorely it him rued,

der sîner slege erbeite!
who his blows awaited!

wan er in des bereite,
for he him of-that readied,

dâmit er iemer was gewert.
there-with he ever was granted.

hern Daniêles swert,
sir Daniel's sword,

des site was sô fremede,
whose manner was so strange,

ein klein flehsîn hemede
a little linen shirt

was dâvor als ein guot werc
was against-it as a good work

als ein helm und ein halsberc.
as a helmet and a hauberk.

weder îsen noch leder
neither iron nor leather

der enschirmde deweder
of-them shielded neither

dâvor niht anders dann ein loup.
against-it nothing other than a leaf.

swaz er traf, daz zerstoup,
whatever he struck, that scattered,

sam ez vol stoubes wære.
as-if it full of-dust were.

Sus reit der helt mære,
Thus rode the hero famous,

unz er hin ze dem risen quam.
until he thither to the giant came.

mit beiden handen er nam
with both hands he took

daz guote swert, daz er truoc.
the good sword, which he bore.

dem risen er zeinem slage sluoc
to-the giant he at-one blow struck

abe beidiu sîniu bein.
off both his legs.

des viel er nider als ein stein, 3820
from-that fell he down as a stone,

er schrei unde wuote,
he cried and raged,

daz ez in sô starke muote,
that it him so strongly vexed,

daz erz im niht vertruoc
that he-it to-him not endured

und im ouch daz houbet abe sluoc.
and to-him also the head off struck.

Nû was der künec und die drî 3825
Now was the king and the three

dar komen alsô bî,
thither come so near,

daz sie sâhen des risen val
that they saw the giant's fall

und ouch hôrten den schal,
and also heard the noise,

den er machte mit der stimme,
which he made with the voice,

und sâhen, wie in dâ mit grimme 3830
and saw, how him there with fury

her Daniel gesweigte.
sir Daniel silenced.

der künec sich dar neigte
the king himself thither inclined

und sagete im genâde unde danc.
and said to-him grace and thanks.

Sît was diu wîle niht lanc,
Since was the while not long,

ê sie widerkêrten in daz wal;
before they turned-back into the battlefield;

dâ wart vil maneges mannes val.
there was very many-a man's fall.

daz der rise was erslagen,
that the giant was slain,

daz begunde in sô wol behagen,
that began them so well please,

daz in nieman wider reit,
that them no-one against rode,

sie erliezen in der arbeit,
they released them from-the labor,

sie hulfen im zer erde
they helped to-him to-the earth

und vazten im vil werde.
and equipped for-him very worthily.

wan sie in niht entsâzen,
for they them not feared,

dâ wâren sie ûz verlâzen,
there were they out let,

sie umbehabten die vîende gar.
they surrounded the foes wholly.

der künec hiez ir nemen war,
the king bade of-them take heed,

daz ir niemer deheiner entrunne.
that of-them never any should-escape.

des wart ir schar sô dunne,
therefore became their company so thin,

daz sie des wurden innen,
that they of-that became aware,

sie mohten in niht entrinnen
they might them not escape

und mohten ouch niht gevehten.
and might also not fight.

sie hâten sich guoten knehten
they had themselves against-good knights

des tages griulich gewert;
of-the day grimly defended;

nû sie sô sêre wâren behert,
now they so sorely were beset,

daz ez in den tôt galt,
that it them the death cost,

in des küniges gewalt
into the king's power

begunden sie sich alle geben.
began they themselves all give.

alsô behielten sie daz leben.
so kept they the life.

Daz was an der vesperzît,
That was at the vesper-time,

daz der angestlîche strît
that the fearful fight

allerêrst ein ende hâte.
first-of-all an end had.

dô gie der künec ze râte,
then went the king to counsel,

weder in bezzer wære, daz sie biten
whether to-them better were, that they should-wait

oder für sich in daz lant riten.
or before themselves into the land should-ride.

dô sie daz bedâhten überal,
when they that considered everywhere,

dô sprach Daniel von dem Blüenden Tal:
then spoke Daniel of the Blossoming Valley:

„Ez ist bezzer, daz wir bîten.
„It is better, that we wait.

swenne wir hie gestrîten,
whenever we here fight,

sô hân wir daz lant gewunnen.
so have we the land won.

ir solt dem liute gunnen,
you shall to-the people grant,

daz ez tâlanc habe sîn gemach.
that it today have its comfort.

ir hôrtet wol, daz er sprach,
you heard well, that he spoke,

dis landes sint siben schar,
of-this land are seven companies,

der kome ie des tages einiu har,
of-them come ever of-the day one hither,

und sint gelêhent darzuo.
and are enfeoffed thereto.

von diu weiz ich wol, her komt fruo
from that know I well, hither comes early

ein alsô grôze geriten
a so great-one ridden

sô diu mit der wir hiute striten:
as the-one with which we today fought:

sô ruofen wir mit dem tiere,
so call we with the beast,

daz bringet sie her vil schiere.
that brings them hither very quickly.

die wîle ruowen doch wir.
the while rest yet we.

ich weiz doch vil wol an mir,
I know yet very well in myself,

in ist allen ruowenes nôt.
to-them is all of-resting need.

ez wære gewislich unser tôt,
it would-be certainly our death,

riten wir für uns in daz lant.
rode we before us into the land.

daz befunde man zehant
that would-learn one at-once

und wurden unser gewar:
and would-become of-us aware:

sô besamneten sich die sehs schar
so would-gather themselves the six companies

und bestüenden uns algemeine.
and would-withstand us all-together.

dâ uns hiute disiu eine
since to-us today this one

sô lange vor gestanden ist,
so long before stood is,

sô lebeten wir unlange frist."
so would-live we unlong time."

Den rât lobeten sie dô
The counsel praised they then

und wâren alle samet frô,
and were all together glad,

daz in ze ruowene geschach,
that to-them to rest happened,

unde schuofen ir gemach.
and made their comfort.

sie sluogen ûf daz velt
they struck on the field

manic hêrlich gezelt.
many-a lordly tent.

sie hâten spîse wunder brâht,
they had food wonder brought,

sie hâten des alles vor gedâht,
they had of-that all before thought,

daz in lîhte wurde nôt.
that to-them easily would-become need.

sie hâten wîn unde brôt,
they had wine and bread,

fleisch unde vische,
meat and fish,

dürre unde frische,
dry and fresh,

3905 môrat unde lûtertrank.
mulberry-wine and clear-drink.

Sie sageten im alle danc
They said to-him all thanks

Daniêle, der die risen sluoc
to-Daniel, who the giants slew

und sie des leides übertruoc,
and them of-the sorrow spared,

des in dâvon wære geschehen;
which to-them thereby were happened;

3910 sie muosen tôt sîn gesehen,
they must dead be seen,

heter die risen niht erslagen.
had-he the giants not slain.

des begunden sie im gnâde sagen,
therefore began they to-him thanks say,

sie lobeten alle daz heil.
they praised all the fortune.

Daniel fröute sich ouch ein teil,
Daniel rejoiced himself also a part,

3915 sam der sînen kumber hilt
as he his affliction hides

und lachet, sô daz herze kilt.
and laughs, when the heart laments.

ern wolde niemer werden frô,
he would never become glad,

ez engefuogte sich alsô,
it unless-contrived itself so,

daz er nâch dem grâven mohte komen,
that he after the count might come,

der im vor dem berge was benomen,
who from-him before the mountain was taken,

dâ in daz wazzer widertreip.
where him the water drove-back.

dô er bî dem her beleip
when he with the host remained

wol unz umbe mitternaht,
well until about midnight,

er dâhte, als im was geslaht,
he thought, as to-him was natural,

er wolde hin ze dem berge traben,
he would thither to the mountain trot,

ob der stein wære ûf gehaben,
whether the stone were up raised,

daz er rite nâch sînem gesellen,
that he should-ride after his companion,

der durch sîn baldez ellen
who for his bold valor

dâ von im gescheiden wart;
there from him parted was;

wær aber diu strâze noch bespart,
were however the road still shut,

daz er her wider rite;
that he hither back should-ride;

swenn er den morgen hie gestrite,
whenever he the morning here should-fight,

daz er aber desselben næme war
that he again of-the-same should-take heed

und alsô iemer rite dar,
and so ever should-ride thither,

unz er den berc funde ûfgetân
until he the mountain found open-done

und man in dar in lieze gân.
and one him thither in let go.

Nû saz er ûf unde reit.
Now sat he up and rode.

daz was ein grôz gefüegekeit,
that was a great skillfulness,

daz er sich sô verhal
that he himself so hid

und sich von den liuten stal,
and himself from the people stole,

daz dâ nieman innen wart
that there no-one aware became

sîner tougenlîchen vart.
of-his secret journey.

er mante daz ros dester baz;
he urged the steed the better;

daz tet er niht wan umbe daz:
that did he not except for that:

ob er dort niht endete,
if he there not succeeded,

daz er herwider wendete,
that he hither-back turned,

ê daz ez ieman wurde kunt.
before that it to-anyone became known.

nû quam er in kurzer stunt,
now came he in short while,

dâ er niht fürbaz mohte komen;
where he not further might come;

im was diu strâze benomen.
from-him was the road taken.

daz hâte der rise getân,
that had the giant done,

der hâte für den wec verlân
he had before the way let-down

einen vil michelen stein.
a very great stone.

daz enweste ir dehein,
that knew of-them none,

unz ez Daniel gesach.
until it Daniel saw.

daz was im zorn unde sprach:
that was to-him anger and spoke:

„Ich hân niht heiles zuo der fart.
„I have no fortune to the journey.

daz der grâve mîn geselle wart,
that the count my companion became,

daz hilft in harte kleine.
that helps him very little.

der unsæligen steine
of-the unblessed stones

der stât sô vil an mînem wege,
of-them stands so many on my way,

(daz ir der tîvel iemer pflege!)
(that them the devil ever keep!)

daz ich niht wizzen kan,
that I not know can,

ob ich alder dehein man
whether I or any man

im ze hilfe komen sol.
to-him to help come shall.

ich hæte den willen harte wol,
I would-have the will very well,

ich quæme im gerne, moht ez sîn.
I would-come to-him gladly, might it be.

owê trûtgeselle mîn!
alas beloved-companion my!

sol ich dich iemer mê gesehen,
(if)-shall I thee ever more see,

sô wil ich hiute gote jehen,
so will I today to-God declare,

daz ich alle fröude wil ûfgeben.
that I all joy will give-up.

mir ist iemer mîn leben
to-me is ever my life

unwert und unmære,
worthless and indifferent,

ich engereche dise swære
unless-I avenge this grief

an dem, der uns gescheiden hât.
on him, who us parted has.

er weiz noch niht, wiez im ergât."
he knows still not, how-it to-him goes."

Daniel erbeizte,
Daniel dismounted,

als in sîn manheit reizte,
as him his manliness urged,

und wolde den stein ûf hân gehaben,
and would the stone up have raised,

daz er darûz möhte traben.
that he thereout might trot.

daz enhæten sîn hundert niht getân;
that would-have of-him hundred not done;

nû muose er in lâzen stân.
now must he it let stand.

daz wart im zorn und unwert,
that became to-him anger and offense,

mit grimme zuckte er daz swert
with fury drew he the sword

und begunde den stein houwen,
and began the stone hew,

wan er die juncfrouwen
for he the young-lady

von dem Trüeben Berge hôrte sagen,
of the Gloomy Mountain heard say,

swar ûf daz swert wurde geslagen,
whither on the sword were struck,

daz ez daz allez snite
that it that all should-cut

und rehte niht vermite.
and rightly nothing should-avoid.

des wold er werden gewar.
of-that would he become aware.

er sluoc ez freislîche dar.
he struck it terribly thither.

er hâte sælde in alle wîs:
he had fortune in all ways:

er hiuw den stein als ein îs.
he hewed the stone as an ice.

Dô diz Daniel gesach,
When this Daniel saw,

daz im an dem swerte niht geschach,
that to-him on the sword nothing happened,

nû begunder balde zouwen
now began-he quickly hasten

und hâte schier gehouwen
and had quickly hewn

ein loch sô breit und sô hôch,
a hole so broad and so high,

daz er daz ros dâdurch zôch.
that he the steed therethrough drew.

Diz dûhte in ein sælekeit,
This seemed to-him a blessing,

er saz ûf unde reit
he sat up and rode

und gâhte für sich vaste.
and hastened before himself hard.

dar was ein kleiniu raste,
there was a little stage,

dar er dô rîten solde.
where he then ride should.

dô ez êrst tagen wolde,
when it first dawn would,

dô was er ûf dem velde
then was he on the field

bî dem schœnen gezelde,
by the fair tent,

dâ er inne enbizzen was,
there he in breakfasted was,

dô er von dem wazzer genas.
when he from the water survived.

ê daz er quam dar,
before that he came thither,

dô wart er gewar,
then became he aware,

daz daz wazzer niht herûzflôz,
that the water not out-flowed,

dâmite man den berc beslôz.
there-with one the mountain closed.

Unz er begunde nâhen,
While he began near,

dô sach er in her gâhen,
then saw he him hither hasten,

der in von sînem gesellen schiet.
who him from his companion parted.

sîn manheit im dô geriet,
his manliness him then counseled,

daz er in vaste rante an;
that he him hard galloped at;

daz selbe tet im jener man.
the same did to-him that man.

sie neigten beide diu sper,
they lowered both the spears,

Daniel hin und jener her.
Daniel thither and that-one hither.

sie nâmen einander der brust war
they took of-each-other the breast heed

und stâchen alsô vaste dar,
and thrust so hard thither,

daz diu sper niht lenger werten.
that the spears not longer lasted.

sô griffen sie zuo den swerten,
so grasped they to the swords,

sie zerhiuwen die schilte zehant,
they hewed-apart the shields at-once,

darnâch daz stehelîn gewant.
thereafter the steel garment.

ez gienc in nâch an daz leben.
it went to-them nearly at the life.

ir ietweder begunde dem andern geben
of-them each began to-the other give

grôzer slege als vil,
of-great blows so many,

unz sie erhuoben ein spil,
until they raised a game,

daz ir deweder nie gewan
that of-them neither never gained

sô grôze nôt von einem man.
so great distress from a man.

der wider Daniel vaht,
who against Daniel fought,

der hâte rîche maht,
he had rich might,

daz tet er mit slegen schîn.
that made he with blows visible.

under dem halsberge sîn
under the hauberk his

truoc jener eine guote hût,
wore that-one a good hide,

diu was im liep unde trût;
which was to-him dear and beloved;

si was einem merwîbe
it was from-a mermaid

gesniten von ir lîbe;
cut from her body;

diu half im, daz er genas,
it helped him, that he survived,

wande siu gebeizet was
for it steeped was

in eines wurmes bluote,
in a dragon's blood,

daz er in frîem muote
that he in free spirit

vaht, mit swem er wolde
fought, with whomever he would

und doch niht wunden dolde.
and yet not wounds suffered.

dô Daniel wart innen,
when Daniel became aware,

daz er sîn niht gewinnen
that he of-him not win

mit dem swerte kunde,
with the sword could,

des vorhte er, daz diu stunde
therefore feared he, that the hour

verenden möhte sîn leben.
end might his life.

er begunde im solhe slege geben,
he began to-him such blows give,

die wol des tôdes knehte
which well of-the death servants

mohten sîn mit rehte.
might be by right.

wan daz er in niht versneit.
except that he him not cut.

ouch galt er im die arbeit
also repaid he him the labor

mit sô rîcher gulte.
with so rich payment.

daz er in niht enschulte,
that he him not reproached,

lebeten sie noch beide
lived they still both

und hæten sie mit eide
and had they with oath

die selben arbeit gelobet,
the same labor promised,

sie endorften hân getobet
they not-needed have raged

herter dann sie tâten.
harder than they did.

die stegereife sie trâten,
the stirrups they trod,

dô sie gegen einander sturnden,
when they against each-other stormed,

(die zwêne wunder zurnden,)
(the two wonders raged,)

diu swert sie hôhe ûfzogen,
the swords they high up-drew,

nâch den slegen sie sich bogen
after the blows they themselves bent

sêre mit des herzen kraft:
sorely with the heart's strength:

sie wâren beide manhaft.
they were both manly.

dô sluoc der ritter Daniel,
then struck the knight Daniel,

daz sînem kampfgenôz enpfiel
that to-his combat-companion fell

der halsperc und der helm
the hauberk and the helmet

in stucken nider in den melm.
in pieces down into the dust.

doch hâte er sîne hût an
yet had he his hide on

und was ein wol behuot man.
and was a well guarded man.

sie quâmen ze fuoz, daz tet in nôt,
they came to foot, that did to-them need,

diu ros gelâgen beidiu tôt.
the steeds lay both dead.

sie hâten den willen beide,
they had the will both,

ir ietweder tet ze leide
of-them each did to sorrow

dem andern, swaz er mohte,
to-the other, whatever he might,

unz ez niht lenger tohte
until it not longer availed

und Daniel den tôt entsaz.
and Daniel the death feared.

des werte er sich dester baz,
therefore defended he himself the better,

wan er des lîbes gerte.
for he of-the life desired.

er gap im mit dem swerte
he gave him with the sword

ûf daz houbet einen slac,
on the head a blow,

dâvon er sô sêre erschrac,
from-which he so sorely took-fright,

daz er für die füeze viel.
that he before the feet fell.

dô vienc in her Daniel
then caught him sir Daniel

und hiez in balde sagen,
and bade him quickly say,

ob er den grâven hæte erslagen
whether he the count had slain

oder waz im wære geschehen.
or what to-him were happened.

nu enwolder nihtes verjehen
now would-he nothing declare

unde was doch niht wunt.
and was yet not wounded.

durch daz er ze der stunt
for that he at the hour

gesweic unde niht ensprach,
kept-silent and not spoke,

diz was Danîele ungemach,
this was to-Daniel discomfort,

daz er âne nôt was geswigen;
that he without need was silent;

er gie hin und liez in ligen.
he went away and let him lie.

er sprach: „Ich wil dich leben lân.
he spoke: „I will thee live let.

waz du mînem gesellen hâst getân,
what thou to-my companion hast done,

daz wil ich iesâ besehen;
that will I forthwith see;

daz muoz ouch dir beschehen.
that must also to-thee happen.

daz gelobe ich triulîche dir,
that promise I faithfully thee,

oder du entrinnest mir.“
or thou escapest me.“