MIDDLE HIGH GERMAN SERIES · VOLUME 57

Tristrant

Eilhart von Oberg

Tristrant

Part One: The Potion and the Forest

---

with a word-for-word interlinear English translation

preserving the original word order



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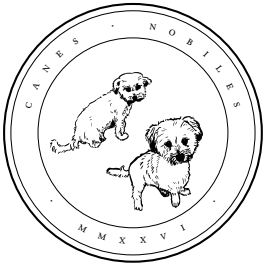

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The Middle High German text follows Eilhart von Oberge, herausgegeben von Franz Lichtenstein, Quellen und Forschungen zur Sprach- und Culturgeschichte der germanischen Völker 19 (Strassburg: Karl J. Trübner, 1877), verses 1 to 4708

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Artwork by Esther Steves

The verses are numbered as Lichtenstein numbers them, every fifth verse in the outer margin, and his paragraphs open with an indented verse. His text is the later redaction of Eilhart's poem, without the twelfth-century fragments his edition prints before it; its spelling, the circumflex and the quotation marks are his. The division into sections and their English heads are this press's.

CONTENTS

I · The Prologue and the Boyhood 7
II · Mark's Court and Morolt's Demand 24
III · Tristrant Takes the Fight 38
IV · The Death of Morolt 57
V · The Poisoned Wound 72
VI · The Swallows' Hair 87
VII · Tantris and the Dragon 101
VIII · The Notch in the Sword 119
IX · The Potion 139
X · Isalde's Lament 158
XI · The Wedding Night 172
XII · Brangene Spared 190
XIII · The Tryst under the Linden 209
XIV · The Flour on the Floor 230
XV · The Leap from the Chapel 251
XVI · The Lepers and the Hound 273
XVII · The Life in the Forest 285

The Prologue and the Boyhood

I

The poet asks for silence: whoever spoils a good tale is a child in sense, and he will tell truly, as the book has it, how Tristrant came into the world, won Isalde, and died with her. King Rivalin of Lohenois helps King Mark of Cornwall in his war and wins his sister Blankeflur; she dies at sea in childbirth, and her son, cut from her body, is named Tristrant. Rivalin gives the boy to a nurse, then to the squire Kurneval, who teaches him harping, arms, riding, honesty, and courtesy. At Kurneval's urging Tristrant asks his father's leave to see foreign lands, and sails with a small company to Cornwall, where no one knows them.

Sint zu sagene mir geschît
Since to tell to-me happens

den lûten die man hîr sît
to-the people whom one here sees

(der bete brengit mich dar zû,
(the request brings me there to,

daz ich daz williglîchin tû
that I it willingly do

als ich allir beste kan),
as I of-all best can),

nû wuste ich gerne ab îman
now would-know I gladly whether anyone

in desir wîse ummir wêre
in this manner ever were

der sulchir rede gerne entbêre:
who such tale gladly would-forgo:

des welde ich hir getrôsten mich.
of-that would I here resign myself.

doch man in lâze, her touget sich
yet one him leaves, he shows himself

an bôsem willen schîre,
in wicked will soon,

ir werdin lîchte mêr wen vîre
of-them become easily more than four

die des begint vordrîzen.
whom it begins to-weary.

die sollin des nicht genîzin
they shall of-it not profit

daz ir herze sô gar krank is,
that their heart so wholly weak is,

wan si ir undankis
for they their against-will

mûsen uns entwîchen.
must from-us withdraw.

bôsheite mag man sî gelîchen
to-wickedness may one them liken

und dar umbe wol schelten,
and there for well scold,

wan sie sîn billîche engelten.
for they of-it rightly pay-for.

die selbin warne ich hie mite,
the same warn I here with,

daz sie den selbin bôsin setin
that they the same wicked customs

eine wîle varin lâzin
a while go let

und sich sulchir wîse mâzin
and themselves of-such ways refrain

die an in wandelbêre sint.
which in them blameworthy are.

her ist klûkir sinne ein kint,
he is of-clever senses a child,

swer sulche rede vorstôret
whoever such tale disturbs

die man gerne hôret
which one gladly hears

und die nutze ist vornomen
and which useful is to-hear

und gûten lûten wol mag vromen.
and to-good people well may profit.

ich sage ûch, wolt ir swîgen stille
I tell you, (if)-would you keep-silent still

(wen ez ist mîn wille
(for it is my will

daz ich ûch ân alle valscheit
that I to-you without all falseness

hie kunde die rechten wârheit),
here announce the right truth),

als ich daz an dem bûche vant,
as I it in the book found,

wie der hêre Tristrant
how the lord Tristrant

zu disir werlde êrst bequam,
to this world first came,

und sîn ende wedir nam,
and his end again took,

und swaz he wundirs î begîng,
and whatever he of-wonders ever did,

und wie hers alles ane vîng
and how he-it all on took

des her in der werlde began,
which he in the world began,

und wie der listige man
and how the cunning man

die vrouwin Îsalden irwarp,
the lady Isalde won,

und wie sie dorch in irstarp,
and how she for him died,

her dorch sie und sie dorch in.
he for her and she for him.

nû merkit ebin desin sin.
now mark evenly this sense.

Vornemet recht als ich ûch sage
Hear rightly as I to-you say

beide von vroude und von clage
both of joy and of lament

einer rede daz nî kein man
of-a tale that never any man

bezzerer rede nî gewan
a-better tale ever got

von werltlîchin sinnen,
of worldly senses,

von manheit und von minnen:
of manhood and of love:

ir sult sie merkin deste baz.
you shall it mark the better.

ein koning hie bevorn saz
a king here before sat

zu Kornevâlis der hîz Marke,
in Cornwall who was-called Mark,

der orlôgete starke
who warred strongly

wider einen koning hêre,
against a king lordly,

man saget daz er wêre
one says that he were

gewaldig zû Îberne,
mighty in Ireland,

her hête gehât hulfe gerne.
he would-have had help gladly.

Marke der koning des besande
Mark the king for-it sent

in mancheme lande
into many-a land

die um in wâren gelegen
which about him were situated

manchin tûren * degin.
many-a dear (lacuna) warrior.

die quâmen ime zu helfe,
they came to-him to help,

wen jener vûr mit gelfe
for that-one went with boasting

und hâte ein mehtigez her,
and had a mighty host,

und sûchte in dicke obir mer,
and sought him often over sea,

und tet im schaden grôzen
and did to-him harm great

mit sinen vechtgenôzen.
with his fighting-fellows.

daz vornam ein koning rîche.
that perceived a king rich.

der quam ouch ritterlîche
he came also knightly

mit einer strîtbêren schar
with a warlike troop

zu Tintanjôl zû gevarn:
to Tintajol to journeyed:

der was Rivalîn genant,
he was Rivalin named,

Lohnois hîz des hêren lant.
Lohnois was-called the lord's land.

der hôrte sagin mêre,
he heard tell tidings,

daz dem koninge wêre
that to-the king were

geschadet an manegen enden.
harmed in many quarters.

dar begunde er wenden
there-to began he to-turn

und dînte im offinbâre,
and served him openly,

recht als her sîn man wâre.
right as he his man were.

daz wart umme daz getân,
that was for this done,

daz her gerne wolde hân
that he gladly would have

sîn swestir ze einem wîbe.
his sister as a wife.

mit pîne an sînem lîbe
with pain on his body

irwarp he daz he sie beslîf.
won he that he her lay-with.

der wart he alsô rechte lîf.
to-her became he so rightly dear.

dô daz orlôge ein ende nam,
when the war an end took,

daz die vrauwe wol getân
that the lady well made

mit dem hêren enweg vûr.
with the lord away went.

sie was geheizzin Blankeflûr.
she was called Blankeflur.

die selbe vrauwe swanger wart,
the same lady pregnant became,

eir sie sich hûbin ûf die vart.
before they themselves raised onto the journey.

dô sie quâmen ûf den sê,
when they came onto the sea,

dô wart ir alsô rechte wê,
then became to-her so rightly woe,

daz sie nemen muste den tôd:
that she take must the death:

von dem kinde quam ir die nôt.
from the child came to-her the distress.

dô sneit man deme wîbe
then cut one from-the woman

einen son ûz irem lîbe,
a son out-of her body,

den vûrte der koning in sîn lant,
whom carried the king into his land,

und wart geheizzen Tristrant.
and was called Tristrant.

Dô wart jâmer unde nôt,
Then was grief and distress,

dô die vrouwe lag tôd:
when the lady lay dead:

sie wârin alle unvrô.
they were all unhappy.

die vrauwen nâmen sie dô
the ladies took her then

und vûrten sie zu lande;
and carried her to land;

mit clage manchir hande
with lament of-many kinds

wart sie bestatit zû der erdin.
was she buried in the earth.

wie mochte leidir werdin
how might more-grievous become

dem koninge Rivalîne!
to-the king Rivalin!

her want die hende sîne
he wrung the hands his

und weinete bittirlîchen,
and wept bitterly,

sô tâtin si alle gelîche
so did they all alike

die dâ mit ime wârin.
who there with him were.

sie stundin bî der bârin,
they stood by the bier,

sie schrûen unde weinten,
they cried and wept,

wol sie bescheinten
well they showed

daz in die vrauwe nâhe gîng.
that to-them the lady near went.

dô daz ein ende gevîng,
when that an end took,

do beval der koning Rivalîn
then entrusted the king Rivalin

daz vil lîbe kindelîn
the very dear little-child

einer ammen die sîn plag,
to-a nurse who of-him took-care,

und zôch daz wol biz an den tag
and reared it well until to the day

daz ez mochte gerîten.
that it might ride.

dar nâch in korzen zîten
there after in short times

beval der edele koning rîche
entrusted the noble king rich

daz kind flîzlîchin
the child diligently

eime knapin der hîz Kurnevâl.
to-a squire who was-called Kurneval.

der kunde im wol legin mâl
he could to-him well lay marks

zu hovelîchin dingen.
for courtly things.

harfin unde sêtin klingen
harps and strings sound

lêrte Kurnevâl daz kint:
taught Kurneval the child:

beide eir noch sint
both before and since

wart nî kein kind gezogin baz,
was never any child reared better,

an im he nichtes nicht vorgaz
in him he nothing at-all forgot

daz zu êren stunt und zu lobe,
that to honor stood and to praise,

her lîz ez spelin unde tobin
he let it play and romp

mit andern kindern genûch
with other children enough

und lêrte in grôzin gevûch
and taught him great skill

mit hendin und mit beinen:
with hands and with legs:

werfen mit den steinen,
throwing with the stones,

loufin unde springen,
running and leaping,

listlîchin ringen,
cunning wrestling,

die schaft schîzen
the shafts shooting

nâch manlîchen genîzen.
after manly enjoyments.

her hîz in wesin milde
he bade him be generous

und lêrte in mit dem schilde
and taught him with the shield

ritterlîchen rîten,
knightly to-ride,

und wie he in strîte
and how he in battle

slûge mit dem swerte.
should-strike with the sword.

der knape in ouch mê lêrte
the squire him also more taught

togentlîchin sprechin
virtuously to-speak

und nîmermê gebrechin
and nevermore to-break

swaz er îman gelobte,
whatever he to-anyone promised,

und sagete im, ob er sô tobte,
and told him, if he so raved,

daz er wurde ein lugenêre,
that he should-become a liar,

er wurde gar unmêre.
he would-become wholly worthless.

Ouch hîz her in sîn getrûwe
Also bade he him be faithful

und î ân tugenden nûwe
and ever with virtues new

hobische gebêrde tragen
courtly bearing carry

und wîse behendikeit haben.
and wise deftness have.

mit gûte und mit dem lîbe
with goods and with the body

den vrouwen mit den wîben
to-the ladies with the women

hîz er in dînen gerne.
bade he him serve gladly.

‚mit vlîze' sprach er ‚lerne
‚with diligence' spoke he ‚learn

stête an gûter zuchte wesin.'
steadfast in good breeding to-be.'

ouch solde her an sîn herze lesin
also should he into his heart gather

daz beste daz he î vornême
the best that he ever heard

swâ he zû den lûten quême.
wherever he to the people came.

he lêrte im manchir hovescheit
he taught him many-a courtliness

und lêdete im di unkûscheit.
and made-loathsome to-him the unchastity.

waz sal der rede mêre?
what shall of-the tale more?

he lêrte im togent und êre,
he taught him virtue and honor,

wen he was selbe sô gemûd,
for he was himself so minded,

daz he lîber zwei gûd
that he rather two goods

tet wan eine bôsheit.
did than one wickedness.

iz wêre im lîp adir leit,
it were to-him dear or loath,

daz kint he dô dar zû twang,
the child he then there to forced,

und enwerte nicht lang,
and lasted not long,

daz ez die bôsheit vormeit.
that it the wickedness shunned.

ouch was daz kind sô gereit,
also was the child so ready,

daz ez des nicht en lîz
that it of-it not — left-undone

swaz ez sîn meistir tûn hîz.
whatever it his master to-do bade.

Kurnevâl des kindes phlag
Kurneval of-the child took-care

biz ûf den namelîchin tag
until on the named day

daz ez zû den creftin tochte
that it to the strengths was-fit

und wol gelîden mochte
and well endure might

beide leit und ungemach.
both sorrow and hardship.

zu deme kinde he dô sprach:
to the child he then spoke:

‚vil edele junchêre mîn,
‚very noble young-lord my,

dû salt betin den vatir dîn,
thou shalt ask the father thy,

nû merke ouch rechte wes:
now mark also rightly of-what:

daz he dir wolle gunnen des,
that he to-thee will grant it,

daz dû beschauwest vremde lant.
that thou beholdest foreign lands.

dû hâst die sînen wol irkant,
thou hast the his well known,

die dînen dir nû alle gerne;
they serve thee now all gladly;

dir entoug nicht zû enperne,
for-thee avails not to forgo,

dir werdin ouch ander lant kunt.‘
to-thee become also other lands known.‘

zu hant in der selben stunt
at once in the same hour

gîng daz kint wol getân
went the child well made

vor den koning sînen vater stân.
before the king his father to-stand.

als gezogenlîche bater,
as well-bred asked-he,

er sprach ‚lieber vater,
he spoke ‚dear father,

gerûche lâzen rîten mich.
deign to-let ride me.

lengir beiten ist mir schedelich,
longer waiting is to-me harmful,

ich wil besên vremde lant,
I will see foreign lands,

mich haben nicht vele lûte erkant,
me have not many people known,

wen die in dîme hofe sîn.
except those in thy court are.

die tûn alle gerne den willen mîn.
they do all gladly the will my.

nû merke ebin ab mir das toge:
now mark evenly whether to-me that avails:

bî vromdin lûtin ich mich zoge,
among foreign people I myself breed,

ob ich der dicke sêge vil
if I of-them often saw much

beide ze ernst und ze spil;
both in earnest and in play;

ez dorfte mir nicht wesin leid,
it needed to-me not be sorrowful,

ob ich nû hête arebeit
if I now had toil

und ouch in mîner jugent sêge
and also in my youth saw

welchir êren daz man pflêge
which honors that one practiced

in fremeden rîchen.
in foreign realms.

dar umbe tû ez willenglîchen,
there for do it willingly,

lîber vatir, nû gewere mich
dear father, now grant me

der dinge der ich bete dich,
the things for-which I ask thee,

und hilf daz ich dir vromde sî:
and help that I to-thee foreign be:

ich bin dir al zu nâhe bî.‘
I am to-thee all too near by.‘

Dô sprach der koning Rivalîn
Then spoke the king Rivalin

‚gerne, lîbir son mîn,
‚gladly, dear son my,

wil ich dînen willin tûn.‘
will I thy will do.‘

sîme scheffêre sprach he zû
to-his steward spoke he to

und gebôt im bî sîner holde
and bade him by his favor

swaz Kurnevâl wolde,
whatever Kurneval would,

daz her im daz gewinne.
that he for-him that get.

deme knapen und dem kinde
to-the squire and to-the child

schickte er swaz in nôt was.
sent he whatever to-them need was.

Kurnevâl dô ûz las
Kurneval then out chose

acht knapen ûz des koninges hove
eight squires out-of the king's court

und zwên junchêren wol ze love.
and two young-lords well to praise.

die hîz her mit dem kinde varn,
them bade he with the child go,

ouch bereitin sie sich gar.
also readied they themselves wholly.

swes her habin solde
whatever he have should

von silber und von golde
of silver and of gold

wart ein sômêre beladin:
was a pack-horse laden:

des hâte der koning kleinen schadin.
of-it had the king small harm.

einen andern mit gewande
an other with garments

und mit kleinôte manchir hande
and with jewels of-many kinds

fûrte Kurnevâl dâ mete:
carried Kurneval there with:

daz was sîn wille und sîn sete.
that was his will and his custom.

ein schif hîz he berâtin
a ship bade he furnish

mit gûten kemenâtin
with good chambers

vaste unde wol bedeckit
firmly and well covered

mit delen wol gevleckit.
with planks well boarded.

dô daz allez wart geant,
when that all was ended,

dô nam der hêre Tristrant
then took the lord Tristrant

orlop zu Rivalîne,
leave of Rivalin,

beide he und ouch die sîne,
both he and also the his,

und giengen in ir schif ze hant.
and went into their ship at once.

daz segel man dô ûf want
the sail one then up wound

daz sie der wint nicht errete,
that them the wind not hold-back,

der sie von dem lande verrete.
which them from the land carried-off.

her hîz dâr bûwin einen stal.
he bade there build a stall.

dar în zoug man die pfert al,
there into drew one the horses all,

swenne sie zu lande quêmen
whenever they to land came

daz sie si dar ûz nêmen
that they them there out took

und denne retin obir lant
and then rode over land

swenne die schiffart wêre geant.
whenever the voyage were ended.

alsô vûr daz kleine her
so went the little host

von Lohenois dô obir mer
from Lohenois then over sea

zu Kurnevâles lande,
to Cornwall's land,

dâ man ir nicht bekande.
where one them not knew.

Mark's Court and Morolt's Demand

II

In Cornwall Tristrant hides who he is and offers his service to Mark, who gives him to the steward Tinas; the boy wins the household's love. Morolt of Ireland, with the strength of four men, has forced every land around to pay tribute to his brother-in-law, the Irish king, all but Cornwall. He crosses the sea and demands the tribute Mark has withheld fifteen years: a man of his rank must fight him, or Mark his host, or lose the land, and the tribute is every third child born in fifteen years, boys as slaves, girls for his brothel. Mark summons his princes. Kurneval counsels Tristrant against fighting, then tells him to ask the king for knighthood.

Dô die unkunden
When the strangers

dar nâch rîten gunden
there after to-ride began

in des koninges Markin lant,
into the king Mark's land,

dô bat der hêre Tristrant
then bade the lord Tristrant

die sîne alle gelîche
the his all alike

gar minneclîche
wholly lovingly

und wart des mit in en ein,
and became of-it with them at one,

daz ez sagete ir nichein,
that it told of-them none,

von welchem lande sie wêrin,
from which land they were,

daz sie daz gar vorbêrin
that they it wholly forbore

und sîn geslechte woldin helin.
and his lineage would conceal.

he begunde in tûre bevelin,
he began to-them dearly to-enjoin,

swes man in dar ume zege,
whatever one them there about accused,

daz ez ir iegelîch vorswege,
that it of-them each kept-silent,

wie ez stunde umme sie.
how it stood about them.

‚ich engunde nîmanne hie,
‚I granted no-one here,

dêr mîn geslechte wiste.‘
that my lineage knew.‘

mit sulchir liste
with such cunning

quam der hêre Tristrant
came the lord Tristrant

dâ he den selbin koning vant.
where he the same king found.

dô he vor den koning gîng,
when he before the king went,

der hêre in dô wol entvîng.
the lord him then well received.

he dankte deme koninge dô
he thanked the king then

und sprach hovelîchin sô:
and spoke courtly so:

‚hêre, ich wil hie bî ûch sîn,
‚lord, I will here by you be,

is daz ir gerûchet mîn,
(if)-is that you deign of-me,

zu ûwerm dînste wil ich stân,
to your service will I stand,

wen ich von ûwerm hove hân
for I of your court have

grôze vromigheit vornomen.‘
great prowess heard.‘

„nû sît mir gote willekomen“
„now be to-me to-God welcome“

sprach der koning rîche
spoke the king rich

und hîz sich gar snelliglîche
and bade himself wholly swiftly

nâch deme drogsêzin gân:
after the steward go:

daz wart schîre getân.
that was soon done.

Dô der trogsêze quam,
When the steward came,

der koning daz selbe kind nam
the king the same child took

und beval ez im an sîne hûte.
and entrusted it to-him into his keeping.

dô nam der hêre gûte
then took the lord good

daz kind bî sînen wîzen handin
the child by his white hands

und gebôt in allen andin
and bade to-them all others

in dem hove den ammechtlûten,
in the court the officials,

daz sie in solden trûten.
that they him should cherish.

he gebôt dem marschalke daz,
he bade the marshal that,

daz he sîn plêge baz,
that he of-him took-care better,

wen der andern ichein.
than of-the others any.

des hêren hobischeit dar ane schein,
the lord's courtliness there on shone,

ich wêne er sîn nicht vorgêze.
I believe he of-him not forgot.

der selbe trogsêze
the same steward

was deme koninge lîp genûg:
was to-the king dear enough:

der scuzzele he doch nicht en trûg.
the dishes he yet not — carried.

wan in grôzer hôchzît,
except at great feast,

daz vorsach der koning im âne nît;
that forgave the king him without grudge;

wen he was ein forste hôch geborn.
for he was a prince high born.

der koning hâte in ûz irkorn,
the king had him out chosen,

daz he sînes rîches wîlt
that he of-his realm governed

und im lant und êre behîlt.
and for-him land and honor kept.

he was ein forste von dem lande,
he was a prince of the land,

und stunt zu sîner hande
and stood to his hand

allez daz in dem hove was,
all that in the court was,

und was geheizzen Tînas.
and was called Tinas.

Lîtân hîz sîne veste;
Litan was-called his fortress;

he tet î gerne dez beste.
he did ever gladly the best.

he was hobisch unde rîche:
he was courtly and rich:

daz irzêgete he gûtlîchin
that showed he kindly

dicke an dem kinde;
often on the child;

he bat daz ingesinde,
he bade the household,

daz sie im gût wêrin
that they to-him good were

und in vor allen swêren
and him from all griefs

wolden behûten,
would guard,

daz wolde he mit gûten
that would he with goods

vordînen um sie alle.
repay toward them all.

ouch sazte sich zu schalle
also set itself to renown

daz kint mit ganzir vromigheit,
the child with whole prowess,

wen ez mit nichte vormeit
for it by no-means shunned

swaz ez gûtes mochte getû
whatever it of-good might do

beide spâte und ouch vrû
both late and also early

des en lîz he dorch nichein ding.
of-it — left-off he for no thing.

sus wûchs der jungeling
thus grew the youth

mit êren und zu grôzem love
with honors and to great praise

in des koninges Markin hove,
in the king Mark's court,

daz im daz selbin dûchte
that to-him it himself seemed

daz he wol swert nemen mochte.
that he well sword take might.

Dô was ein hêre in Îrlant,
Then was a lord in Ireland,

der was sich Môrolt genant,
who was himself Morolt named,

der hâte an sich vîr manne sterke;
who had in himself four men's strength;

nû mogit ir hôren unde merkin:
now may you hear and mark:

her was vreislîch genûg,
he was terrible enough,

vil manchin her zu tôde slûg
very many-a he to death struck

sîner vîande.
of-his enemies.

der koning von Îrlande
the king of Ireland

hâte sîne swestir,
had his sister,

wol bewart vor lastir,
well guarded from vice,

und was ein helt hêrlich.
and was a hero lordly.

allenthalbin umme sich
everywhere about himself

betwang he die rîche
subdued he the realms

gar gewalteclîche
wholly mightily

deme koninge zu sîner hant.
for-the king to his hand.

bî ime lach nichein lant,
by him lay no land,

ez en hête betwungen der degin,
it unless had subdued the warrior,

daz sie im zins musten gebin,
that they to-him tribute must give,

wen Kurnevâles eine;
except Cornwall's alone;

die ander lant gemeine
the other lands in-common

hâte her betwungen.
had he subdued.

Marke der koning junge
Mark the king young

kârte sich an in niet.
turned himself to him not.

daz was Môrolde nicht liep.
that was to-Morolt not dear.

im dûchte her mustes lastir hân,
to-him seemed he must-it shame have,

machte he in im nicht undertân.
(if)-made he him to-him not subject.

dar umme wart her des zu râte,
there for became he of-it to counsel,

daz her in wolde sûchin drâte
that he him would seek quickly

mit einem mehtigen her
with a mighty host

in sîme lande obir mer.
in his land over sea.

sus wolde he in betwingen
thus would he him subdue

und sînem hêren bringen
and to-his lord bring

den zins von deme lande.
the tribute from the land.

vil kûner wîgande
very bold warriors

samnete he als her solde.
gathered he as he should.

dô he dar zîn wolde,
when he thither move would,

zû dem koninge he dô sprach
to the king he then spoke

‚mir ist grôz ungemach,
‚to-me is great vexation,

daz dir Marke nicht ensante
that to-thee Mark not sent

den zins von sînem lante.
the tribute from his land.

ich vorlore eir mînen lîp,
I would-lose before my life,

oder ich mache sûftende wîp
or I make sighing women

in allem sînem rîche.
in all his realm.

er mûz dir in lasterlîche
he must to-thee it shamefully

senden âne sînen dang,
send without his thanks,

adir ich tû im einen wang,
or I do to-him a blow,

daz im lîber wêre
that to-him dearer were

daz he dîn zinsêre
that he thy tributary

gewesen wêre manich jâr.‘
been had many-a year.‘

ich sage ûch vor wâr:
I tell you for true:

sô rechte zornig was sîn mût.
so truly angry was his mind.

dô vûr he obir des meres vlût.
then went he over the sea's flood.

Dô he quam obir sê,
When he came over sea,

do entbôt he Markin niht mê,
then sent-word he to-Mark nothing more,

wen daz her ime sante
except that he to-him sent

den zins von sîme lande:
the tribute from his land:

he wêre sô vormezzin,
he were so overbearing,

he hête in vorsezzin
he had it withheld

mê denne vunfzên jâr;
more than fifteen years;

und hîz im sagin vor wâr,
and bade to-him tell for true,

hête he nû einen man,
(if)-had he now a man,

,der mich torste bestân,
,who me dared withstand,

der von adele sî sô vrî,
who of nobility be so free,

daz her mîn genôze sî,
that he my peer be,

mit deme wil ich vechten
with him will I fight

und bewêren daz mit rechte,
and prove that with right,

daz he mîme hêren zins sal geben;
that he to-my lord tribute shall give;

und wil he [denne] dâ wedir strebin,
and (if)-will he [then] there against strive,

sô lâze ich in noch eines kîsen,
so let I him yet one choose,

oder he mûz sîn lant vorlîsen:
or he must his land lose:

her strîte kein mir mit sînem her,
he fight against me with his host,

mag he sich denne mîn irweren,
(if)-may he himself then of-me defend,

sô wil ich in vrî lâzin
so will I him free let

und zîn wedir mîne strâze.
and go back my road.

ouch solt ir ime daz sagen,
also shall you to-him that tell,

waz ich zu zinse wil haben:
what I as tribute will have:

ich wil î daz dritte kint,
I will ever the third child,

die in sîme lande geborn sint
who in his land born are

bî vunfzên jâren.
for fifteen years.

daz saget im vor wâre:
that tell to-him for true:

wil he sie mir niet geben,
(if)-will he them to-me not give,

sô wil ich selbe nemen
so will I myself take

maget unde knapen
maidens and squires

leien unde papen
laymen and priests

gar kurzlîche,
wholly shortly,

arme und ouch rîche.
poor and also rich.

die knapen solin mîn eigin sîn,
the squires shall my own be,

sô wil ich die magedîn
so will I the maidens

mînem hûrhûse tûn zû,
to-my brothel put to,

daz sie mir spâte unde frû
that they for-me late and early

gewinnen dar inne
earn there in

silber und pfenninge.‘
silver and pennies.‘

Dô daz zu Marken sprach der bote,
When that to Mark spoke the messenger,

ûf sach he trûrig zû gote
up looked he sorrowful to God

und clagete ime sêre
and lamented to-him sorely

die grôzen unêre.
the great dishonor.

sîne boten sante he wîte
his messengers sent he wide

und hîz sie balde rîten
and bade them quickly ride

zû den forsten in die lant.
to the princes in the lands.

schîre hâte he sie besant,
soon had he them summoned,

daz sie zu hofe quâmen
that they to court came

und recht von im vornâmen
and rightly from him heard

sînen angest und die nôt
his fear and the distress

die im Môrolt entbôt.
which to-him Morolt sent-word.

undir des daz diz geschach,
in the-while that this happened,

Tristrant zu Kurnevâle sprach
Tristrant to Kurneval spoke

‚vornim, lîbir meistir mîn,
‚hear, dear master my,

nu bedorfte ich wol des râtis dîn,
now needed I well of-the counsel thy,

swaz dir dar umme dunkit gût.
whatever to-thee there about seems good.

mich mûwet desir hômût
me grieves this arrogance

den der starke man begât.
which the strong man commits.

is daz in nîman bestât,
(if)-is that him no-one withstands,

sô wil ich mit im vechtin.
so will I with him fight.

got helfe mir ze dem rechtin.
God help me to the right.

wî sal ich des beginnen?‘
how shall I it begin?‘

der knape sprach mit sinnen
the squire spoke with sense

„hulfen ûch mîne rête,
„(if)-helped you my counsels,

vil lîbir ich sie ûch tête
very gladlier I them to-you would-do

denne îman anders, âne wân:
than to-anyone else, without doubt:

iz dunkit mir harte gût getân,
it seems to-me very well done,

daz ir den kamph lâzit sîn.“
that you the fight let be.“

‚nein, trût meistir mîn,
‚no, dear master my,

du salt mir daz wedirrâtin nît;
thou shalt to-me that counsel-against not;

wie ob uns heil dâ von geschît,
how if to-us luck there from happens,

wir gewunnen vromen und êre.
we would-win profit and honor.

wir en mochten nimir mêre
we — might never more

die schande vorwinnen,
the shame overcome,

vûre he alsô wedir hinnen
(if)-went he so back hence

daz in nîman bestunde.‘
that him no-one withstood.‘

„wol ich ûch des gunde,“
„well I to-you it would-grant,“

sprach der knape wol getân
spoke the squire well made

„mochte ich gewisheit hân,
„might I certainty have,

daz ir des gewunnet vromen.
that you of-it would-win profit.

swie ez ouch dar nâch solde komen,
however it also there after should come,

nû ich weiz ûwern mûd,
now I know your mind,

ez sî obil adir gût,
it be evil or good,

ich sal ûch helfin, ob ich mag.
I shall you help, if I may.

got, der die nacht und den tag
God, who the night and the day

geschûf, der helfe ûch dar zû,
created, he help you there to,

daz ûwir wille geschê nû.
that your will happen now.

nu ich ûch irwenden nicht en kan,
now I you turn-away not — can,

woldet ir mînen rât begân,
(if)-would you my counsel follow,

sô sult ir den koning betin,
so shall you the king ask,

daz her ûch nâ sîme setin
that he you after his custom

zu ritterschefte bringe."
to knighthood bring."

daz was dem jungelinge
that was to-the youth

ein vil harte lîbir rât:
a very exceedingly dear counsel:

sus volgete he im mit der tât.
thus followed he him with the deed.

Tristrant Takes the Fight

III

Mark knights Tristrant with sixty squires. When the princes hear Morolt's demand, none will fight him, and Tristrant offers himself; the princes bind Mark to let whoever will fight do so, and only then name him. When Morolt's messengers say their lord will not fight a lesser man, Tristrant declares himself the son of Rivalin and Blankeflur and Mark's sister's son. Mark begs, then angrily forbids him, but Tristrant holds the king and princes to their pledge. Mark sends Morolt word of the fight, arms Tristrant with his own harness, horse, sword, and shield, and kisses him farewell. Tristrant crosses alone to the island and pushes Morolt's boat adrift: only the victor will leave by ship.

Dô nam der hêre Tristrant
Then took the lord Tristrant

den trogsêzen bî der hant
the steward by the hand

und gîng sich vor den koning stân,
and went himself before the king to-stand,

‚ich worde gerne mîn man,
‚I would-become gladly my man,

woldet ir mir helfin dar zû.'
(if)-would you me help there to.'

der koning sprach: „ez ist zu frû,
the king spoke: „it is too early,

dû mûst noch beitin ein jâr.“
thou must still wait a year.“

‚hêre, ich sage ez ûch vor wâr,
‚lord, I tell it you for true,

daz ez nicht zu vrû en is,
that it not too early — is,

des sît sichir und gewis:
of-it be sure and certain:

sal ich ummir lop gewinnen,
(if)-shall I ever praise win,

ich mûz des in zît beginnen
I must it in time begin

und lange dar ane hertin.
and long there on persevere.

mir ist zu deme swerte
to-me is to the sword

wordin alsô rechte liep:
become so rightly dear:

ich lâze ez ungenomen niet,
I let it untaken not,

mochte ich ez vulbringen.‘
(if)-might I it accomplish.‘

dô lîz im der koning winnen
then let for-him the king get

swaz er haben solde.
whatever he have should.

unde swen er wolde,
and whomever he would,

der mit im nême swert.
who with him should-take sword.

sie wurden alle sîn gewert.
they were all of-it granted.

sechzig knapin hîz der degin
sixty squires bade the warrior

allen mit im swert gebin.
to-all with him swords give.

al in siben nachten
all in seven nights

die vorsten ouch dar brâchten
the princes also there brought

manchin tûren wîgant.
many-a dear warrior.

zu hove reit dô Tristrant,
to court rode then Tristrant,

mit im die jungen ritter al.
with him the young knights all.

dô he quam in den sal,
when he came into the hall,

dô sprâchen sie gemeine,
then spoke they in-common,

he wêre al eine
he were all alone

zû den schônsten irkorn,
to the fairest chosen,

daz wêre wâr al sundir zorn.
that were true all without anger.

Die tûrestin von dem lande
The dearest of the land

die der koning besande,
whom the king summoned,

dô sie quâmen alle
when they came all

zû dem grôzen schalle,
to the great clamor,

Marke zû den forsten sprach
Mark to the princes spoke

und clagete in sîn ungemach,
and lamented to-them his vexation,

als her hâte vornomen:
as he had heard:

‚dar umme daz ir sît her komen,
‚there for that you are hither come,

daz ich bekenne ûwern mûd,
that I know your mind,

waz ir aller lîbest tûd:
what you of-all dearest do:

swaz ir wellet ane gân,
whatever you will on go,

des helfe ich, sô ich beste kan.
in-that help I, as I best can.

sô vornam ich nî kein mêre,
so heard I never any tidings,

daz mir sô rechte leit wêre.
that to-me so rightly grievous were.

ist hie ergin ein man,
(if)-is here anywhere a man,

der dâ wolde bestân
who there would withstand

den starken Môrolden,
the strong Morolt,

ez wirt im sô vorgolden,
it becomes to-him so repaid,

daz he ummir blebe rîche.‘
that he ever remained rich.‘

dô gîngen sie gelîche
then went they alike

und sprâchin alle besundir:
and spoke all separately:

do en was dar nîman undir
then — was there no-one among-them
der den kamph wolde bestân.
who the fight would undertake.
dô quam Tristrant gegân
then came Tristrant going
und vrâgete sie al um wat
and asked them all about what
sie hêtin sulchin grôzin rât.
they had such great counsel.
ein forste sprach ‚wir vinden
a prince spoke ‚we find
undir al desim ingesinde
among all this household
keinen ritter alsô stolt
no knight so proud
der vechtin wil kein Môrolt,
who fight will against Morolt,
und hie steit doch starker lûte vil;
and here stands yet of-strong people much;
wen he kan sô herte spiln:
for he can so hard play:
swer in mit vechtin wil bestân,
whoever him with fighting will withstand,
der mûz sîn mit arge abe gân
he must of-it with harm off go
und mag lîchte schaden enpfân.‘
and may easily harm receive.‘
„daz wil ich an ein heil lân!“
„that will I on a luck let!“
sprach dô der hêre Tristrant
spoke then the lord Tristrant
„ich bestê den helt al zuhant,
„I withstand the hero all at-once,

mûz ich andirs ûwir kempe sîn:
(if)-may I otherwise your champion be:

waz ab mir unsir trechtîn
what if to-me our Lord

gunde, ê er mir nême den lîf,
granted, before he from-me took the life,

daz ich im stillete den kîf,
that I for-him stilled the strife,

und he des kampes worde sat?“
and he of-the fight became sated?“

sie alle sampt her dô bat,
them all together he then asked,

daz sie im hulfin kein den koning.
that they him helped toward the king.

daz he mit dem helde froming
that he with the hero valiant

muste vechtin als her solde.
must fight as he should.

he woldez bewîsen an Môrolde,
he would-it show on Morolt,

daz he in torste wol bestân,
that he him dared well withstand,

wolde in der koning vechten lân.
(if)-would him the king fight let.

Der rede vrauwetin sie sich,
In-the speech rejoiced they themselves,

und was in îdoch engestlich
and was to-them yet fearful

daz sie alsô grôze ding
that they so great things

soldin lâzin an den jungeling.
should leave to the youth.

doch gîngen sie zu râte,
yet went they to counsel,

daz siez noch gerner tâtin,
that they-it still more-gladly did,

wen daz sie ez zu mâle beswegin.
than that they it for good kept-silent.

sie gedâchtin, daz sie den sege
they thought, that they the victory

woldin an daz heil lân.
would to the luck leave.

‚ez sal uns harte wol irgân‘
‚it shall to-us very well go‘

sprach Tristrant der degin gût
spoke Tristrant the warrior good

‚ich habe ouch selbe den mût,
‚I have also myself the mind,

er muge mir niet geschaden.
he may to-me not harm.

doch solt ir niet sagen
yet shall you not say

mînem hêren von mir snelle,
to-my lord of me quickly,

eir er ûch geloben welle,
before he to-you promise will,

swer sô wille vechtin
whoever so will fight

wedir dem gûtin knechte,
against the good knight,

daz man ez deme wol gewere.‘
that one it to-him well grant.‘

dô sie vornâmen sîn begere,
when they heard his desire,

zû dem koninge sie gîngen,
to the king they went,

mit gesprêche sie in umme vîngen
with speech they him about caught

‚hêre, hêr ist ein man,
‚lord, here is a man,

der wil uns Môroldin bestân,
who will for-us Morolt withstand,

ob im daz wirt gewunnen;
if to-him that becomes won;

dem mogit ir wol des gunnen.‘
to-him may you well it grant.‘

„swes her zem rechten begert,
„whatever he by-the right desires,

des wirt er alles wol gewert“
of-that becomes he all well granted“

sprach der koning mêre
spoke the king famed

und vrâgete wer daz wêre.
and asked who that were.

dô sprach ein vorste rîche
then spoke a prince rich

‚gelobet uns genzlîche
‚promise us wholly

daz her sîn gewis sî,
that he of-it certain be,

er sî eigen oder frî,
he be bondman or free,

daz ir in lâzit vechtin.‘
that you him let fight.‘

„ich gelobe bî allem rechte
„I promise by all right

daz ich daz wil gerne tûn:
that I that will gladly do:

mîne hulfe hât her dar zû,
my help has he there to,

und ist mir inniglîchin liep.“
and is to-me inwardly dear.“

do en sûmetin sie des lengir niet,
then — delayed they it longer not,

sie sagetenz im al zuhant,
they told-it him all at-once,

ez wêre sîn vrûnt, her Tristrant.
it were his friend, lord Tristrant.

Dô sprâchen die boten sân,
Then spoke the messengers straightway,

ir hêre wolde nicht bestân
their lord would not withstand

einen sîn ungenôz.
one his unequal.

der rede wênig verdrôz
of-the speech little vexed

den kûnen Tristranden.
the bold Tristrant.

he sprach zu den wîganden
he spoke to the warriors

‚merket rechte wer ich sî:
‚mark rightly who I be:

sie was von adele wol vrî
she was of nobility well free

Blankeflûr die mûtir mîn.
Blankeflur the mother my.

mîn vater heizzet Rivalîn.
my father is-called Rivalin.

von Lohenois bin ich geborn
of Lohenois am I born

und bin Markes swestir son.
and am Mark's sister's son.

dô wart dem koninge beide
then became to-the king both

liebe und ouch leide:
joy and also sorrow:

liebe, daz he daz weste
joy, that he that knew

daz he was ein son sîner swestir;
that he was a son of-his sister;

sô was im inniglîchen leit
so was to-him inwardly sorrowful

daz her die grôzin erbeit
that he the great toil

sô junger wolde grîfen an.
so young would grasp on.

dô sprach der werde koning sân
then spoke the worthy king straightway

zû dem lîben nebin sîn
to the dear nephew his

‚dû salt dorch den willen mîn
‚thou shalt for the will my

desin kamph vermîden
this fight avoid

und nicht leid lîden!‘
and not sorrow suffer!‘

„war umme, nebe?“ ‚daz wil ich sagen:
„what for, uncle?“ ‚that will I say:

man hête die vor zagin
one would-have them for cowards

die in dem lande wêren,
who in the land were,

waz mag dich daz beswêren?‘
what may thee that burden?‘

„ez wêre mir jâ leit.“
„it would-be to-me indeed sorrowful.“

‚des kome ich in grôze arebeit.‘
‚of-that come I into great toil.‘

„nû, wie denne nû?
„now, how then now?

schemt ir ûch mîn?“ ‚jâ ich tû.‘
shame you yourself of-me?“ ‚yes I do.‘

„ir hât mîn keine schande
„you have of-me no shame

hie in ûwerm lande.“
here in your land.“

‚ouch sô geit ez nicht ûf dich.‘
‚also so goes it not upon thee.‘

„ich en mag sîn nicht vorzîn mich.“
„I — may of-it not renounce myself.“

‚dû machst wol.‘ „ich enmag.“
‚thou mayst well.‘ „I may-not.“

‚owê! daz ich dir î swert gegab!‘
‚alas! that I to-thee ever sword gave!‘

„ist ûch daz leit?“ ‚entrûwen ez is.‘
„is to-you that sorrowful?“ ‚in-truth it is.‘

„war um?“ ‚daz ich ez dich î hîz.‘
„what for?“ ‚that I it thee ever bade.‘

„daz tetet ir.“ ‚alsô tû ich noch:
„that did you.“ ‚so do I still:

sô lâz den kampf!‘ „nein ich doch,
so leave the fight!‘ „no I yet,

des enwil ich tûn nît,
of-it will I do not,

swaz sô mir dar umme geschît.“
whatever so to-me there for happens.“

sô sprach der helt gûte
so spoke the hero good

mit ernesthaften mûte,
with earnest mind,

daz he des nicht wolde lâzin sîn;
that he it not would let be;

swie vil sô man bête in,
however much so one asked him,

ez wêre vil gar vorlorn.
it would-be very wholly lost.

dô wart deme koninge zorn,
then became to-the king anger,

daz her ez sô herte wedirsprach.
that he it so hard gainsaid.

zorniglîchin her in an gesach
angrily he him on looked

und sprach offenbâre
and spoke openly

‚dû fichtest nît zewâre.'
‚thou fightest not in-truth.'

Dô manete der helt stête
Then reminded the hero steadfast

den koning umme daz he hête
the king about that he had

gelobit sînen holden,
promised to-his loyal-men,

daz er Môrolden
that he Morolt

al eine solde bestân.
all alone should withstand.

ouch irmanete he vaste sundir wân
also reminded he hard without doubt

den vorsten der die trûwe entvîng,
the princes who the pledge received,

dâ von îdoch sîn wille irgîng,
there from yet his will came-about,

daz er vechten dô wart.
that he to-fight then became.

,daz ist ein wunderlîche vart‘
‚that is a wondrous journey‘

sprach der koning zu sîme nebin
spoke the king to his nephew

,daz du nû vorlîsen wilt dîn lebin,
‚that thou now lose wilt thy life,

du en weist selbe umme waz.‘
thou not knowest thyself about what.‘

„irsleit her mich, umme daz:
„(if)-slays he me, about that:

hêre, ich sal doch sterben,
lord, I shall yet die,

adir nâch êren werben.“
or after honors strive.“

,dû mochtest doch den lîp vristen.‘
‚thou mightest yet the life preserve.‘

„ob ich daz vor wâre wiste,
„if I that for true knew,

daz ich vor im solde ligen tôd,
that I before him should lie dead,

ê wolde ich lîden die nôd,
sooner would I suffer the distress,

ê dann er daz sêge,
sooner than he that saw,

daz im sô liebe geschêge,
that to-him so dear happened,

daz on nîman torste bestân.“
that him no-one dared withstand.“

,daz lâze dû ûf mich gân!‘
‚that let thou upon me go!‘

sprach der koning rîche.
spoke the king rich.

„nein ich, wêrlîche“
„no I, truly“

sprach Tristrant der helt
spoke Tristrant the hero

„he wert des kamps von mir gezelt,
„he becomes of-the fight by me told,

dar en steit andirs nicht zû.“
there — stands otherwise nothing to.“

waz mochte dô der koning getû?
what might then the king do?

her entbôt dô Môrolde
he sent-word then to-Morolt

daz her komen solde
that he come should

bî den sê ûf ein wert.
by the sea onto an island.

swes er hête begert,
whatever he had desired,

daz solde gewislîche irgân,
that should certainly come-about,

Tristrant der wolde in bestân
Tristrant he would him withstand

dar nâch an dem dritten tage.
there after on the third day.

dar zû sô hîz her im sagin,
there to so bade he him tell,

he brêchte den zins dare,
he should-bring the tribute thither,

dan solde er sîn nemen ware;
then should he of-it take heed;

mochte her im den abe gewinnen
(if)-might he from-him it off win

mit drowe oder mit minnen,
with threat or with love,

daz her in dannen vôrte,
that he it thence carried,

he woldin im antwortin.
he would-it to-him hand-over.

Dô der koning diz gesprach,
When the king this spoke,

daz was den botin ungemach.
that was to-the messengers vexation.

dannen sie dô kârten
thence they then turned

dâr sie Môroldin sulden wartin.
where they for-Morolt should wait.

dô sie der hêre komen sach,
when them the lord coming saw,

nû mogit ir hôrin wie he sprach:
now may you hear how he spoke:

‚waz entbûtet mir der koning rîch?‘
‚what sends-word to-me the king rich?‘

„nicht wen ellengelîch.“
„nothing but valorous-combat.“

‚ist daz wâr?‘ „in trûwin jâ.“
‚is that true?‘ „in truth yes.“

‚wâ sal daz sîn?‘ „hîr gar nâ;
‚where shall that be?‘ „here wholly near;

daz sal geschên morgen vrû.“
that shall happen tomorrow early.“

‚wer besteit mich?‘ „daz wil einer tûn
‚who withstands me?‘ „that will one do

der ist Markes swestir son
who is Mark's sister's son

und hât korzlîche swert genomen.“
and has lately sword taken.“

Der rede was im harte lîp,
Of-the speech was to-him very dear,

doch was ez âne zorn nît,
yet was it without anger not,

daz her in bestân torste.
that he him withstand dared.

dô bereite sich der vorste
then readied himself the prince

mit grôzim vlîze dar zû.
with great diligence there to.

des dritten morgens rechte vrû
on-the third morning right early

quam der hêre her geretin,
came the lord hither ridden,

dâ sîn Marke hâte irbetin
where him Mark had awaited

mit eime kreftigen here.
with a mighty host.

an dem stade bî dem mere
on the shore by the sea

vîlen sie nedir an daz velt.
dismounted they down onto the field.

ûf sô slûgen sie ir gezelt.
up so struck they their tents.

dô sie wârin ûf geslagin,
when they were up struck,

dô hîz der koning her vore tragin
then bade the king hither forth carry

sîn stêlîne harnas,
his steel harness,

daz im harte lîp was,
which to-him very dear was,

und gap ez hêren Tristrande.
and gave it to-lord Tristrant.

mit sînen koninglîchin handin
with his kingly hands

wâpente her den jungeling.
armed he the youth.

daz wârin gar vrûntlîche ding!
those were wholly friendly things!

dâ wart die grôze lîbe schîn.
there became the great love shown.

ouch gab her im daz ros sîn;
also gave he to-him the horse his;

daz was ein edel kastelân
that was a noble Castilian

grôz stark und wol getân
great strong and well made

mit kofirtûren wol gecleit.
with caparisons well clad.

ein gerête was dar ûf geleit
a saddle was there upon laid

mit bernischem golde.
with Bernese gold.

der zôm als her solde
the bridle as it should

was mit silber geslagen,
was with silver struck,

mit rôtem golde ubertragen.
with red gold overlaid.

daz gab der koning rîche
that gave the king rich

sînem nefen minneglîche
to-his nephew lovingly

und ein swert zu mâze breit:
and a sword in measure broad:

den stâl ez nergin vormeit,
the steel it nowhere shunned,

swâ ez mit zorne wart geslagin.
wherever it with anger was struck.

ouch hîz her im vore tragin
also bade he for-him before carry

einen schônen schild nûwe,
a fair shield new,

der was geworcht mit ganzin trûwin.
which was wrought with whole faithfulness.

Dô der [edele] hêre Tristrant
When the [noble] lord Tristrant

von des werdin koninges hant
by the worthy king's hand

alsô schône wart gare
so finely became ready

und ûf den weg solde vare,
and onto the way should go,

der koning in dô kuste
the king him then kissed

und druckte in zu sîner bruste.
and pressed him to his breast.

he sprach ‚got der werde gûte
he spoke ‚God the worthy good

dich gnêdiglîche behûte
thee graciously guard

und sende dich her wedir
and send thee hither back

und slâ dînen vînd nedir!'
and strike thy enemy down!'

sie bâtin [alle] unseren trechtîn
they asked [all] our Lord

daz he sîn hulfêre solde sîn.
that he his helper should be.

zu dem schiffe dô der helt gîng.
to the ship then the hero went.

mit dem zôme he sîn ros bevîng;
with the bridle he his horse caught;

he nam sînen schilt und sîn swert.
he took his shield and his sword.

aleine vûr he ûf den wert.
alone went he onto the island.

dô was der grôze Môrolt komen.
then was the great Morolt come.

als ir wol eir hât vornomen,
as you well before have heard,

kein im al dar an den sant.
toward him all there on the sand.

der kûne degin Tristrant
the bold warrior Tristrant

sîn schef gar harte hafte
his ship wholly firmly fastened

und stîz dô mit dem schafte
and pushed then with the shaft

Môroldes schef an den sint.
Morolt's ship onto the way.

dô sprach daz grûwelîche kint
then spoke the dreadful child

‚warumme tûstû, degin, daz?'
‚why dost-thou, warrior, that?'

he sprach „ich sage dir umme waz:
he spoke „I tell thee about what:

wir sîn beide here komen
we are both hither come

durch schaden und durch vromen
for harm and for gain

die wir hie mogen gewinnen.
which we here may win.

ir komet wol hinnen
of-you comes well hence

in einem schiffe der helt
in one ship the hero

dem der sege hie wirt gezelt.“
to-whom the victory here becomes told.“

The Death of Morolt

IV

Morolt offers Tristrant half his inheritance to give up the fight but will not free Mark of the tribute, and Tristrant would rather die than ask it. They joust, and Tristrant is wounded by a poisoned spear; on foot he strikes off Morolt's hand and, as he flees, cleaves his helmet, leaving a piece of his sword in the wound. Tristrant is brought home with rejoicing. Morolt's men carry him off and send for Isalde, his niece and a healer, who sails out to meet him, finds him dead, and keeps the splinter from his wound. Her father orders every man of Cornwall who lands in Ireland killed. Only Isalde could heal Tristrant's poison, and she wished him dead.

Der rede wart her im holt,
Of-the speech became he to-him friendly,

und sprach der starke Môrolt
and spoke the strong Morolt

zu hêren Tristrande
to lord Tristrant

‚nû vare mit mir zu lande,
‚now go with me to land,

alsô wil ich dich flêhen:
thus will I thee beseech:

eigen unde lêhen
own and fief

wil ich mit dir teilen,
will I with thee share,

und durch dich vûren veile
and for thee carry for-sale

îmer lîb unde gût,
ever life and goods,

daz dû kêrest dînen mût
that thou turn thy mind

und lâzest den kamp sîn.
and let the fight be.

gedenke an den lîp dîn!
think on the life thy!

daz dunkit mich gar wol getân.
that seems to-me wholly well done.

sal ich dich nû zu dôde slân,
(if)-shall I thee now to death strike,

daz ist mir inniglîchin leit.
that is to-me inwardly sorrowful.

schône jungeling gemeit,
fair youth glad,

bedenke dich des in zît
consider thyself of-it in time

und vriste dînen jungen lîp!
and preserve thy young life!

ich spreche daz wêrlîchin:
I speak that truly:

ich wil dich machen rîche
I will thee make rich

und gebe dir halp mîn erbe.
and give to-thee half my inheritance.

sal ich dich nû vorterbin,
(if)-shall I thee now destroy,

daz ist vil schedelîch getân:
that is very harmfully done:

hîr um saltû dîn vechtin lân.‘
here for shalt-thou thy fighting let.‘

dô sprach der degin stête
then spoke the warrior steadfast

„vil gerne ich daz tête,
„very gladly I that would-do,

woldestû den koning lâzen vrî.“
(if)-wouldst-thou the king let free.“

‚nein, des mag nicht gesîn‘
‚no, that may not be‘

sprach Môrolt der starke,
spoke Morolt the strong,

‚ich wil den koning Markin
‚I will the king Mark

des zinses nicht vorlâzin,
of-the tribute not release,

ouch wêre ez eine unmâze.
also would-be it an excess.

sie mochten alle wênen
they might all think

die ez vernêmen,
who it heard,

daz ich daz vor vorchte tête:
that I that for fear did:

alsulchir clûgin rête
such clever counsels

mag ich dir nicht vorvolgin,
may I to-thee not follow,

mir worden alzu sêre irbolgin
to-me would-become all-too sorely angered

alle mînes hêren lant.‘
all my lord's lands.‘

dô sprach abir Tristrant
then spoke again Tristrant

„nû wil ich dir wedir sagin
„now will I to-thee back say

swaz ich dir zû gesprochen habe;
whatever I to-thee to spoken have;

solde ich vor dir nîmêre genesin,
(if)-should I before thee never-more survive,

daz mochte mir lîbir wesin,
that might to-me dearer be,

wan daz ich dir des mûte î."
than that I of-thee it desired ever."

nicht lengir beitin dô sî:
not longer waited then they:

zû ên andir was ir ger.
to each other was their desire.

zu samene neigtin sie ir sper,
to together lowered they their spears,

under die arme sie si slûgen.
under the arms they them couched.

die ros sie zu samen trûgen,
the horses they to together carried,

dô die helde vormezzen
when the heroes daring

wâren ûf gesezzen.
were up seated.

dorch die schilde sie sich stâchin,
through the shields they each-other pierced,

daz in die schefte brâchen
that to-them the shafts broke

die sie vûrten an der hant.
which they carried in the hand.

dô wart der hêre Tristrant
then became the lord Tristrant

dorch die stêlîn ringe gewunt:
through the steel rings wounded:

des was he lange ungesunt.
of-it was he long unhealed.

Dô stunt ez âne sône,
Then stood it without reconciliation,

daz die helede kône
that the heroes bold

zu samen wâren gerant.
to together were run.

gewunt wart dô Tristrant
wounded became then Tristrant

mit eime geluppeten spîze.
with a poisoned spear.

wen mochte des nicht vordrîzen?
whom might of-it not vex?

îtlîcher dô eîn sper brach.
each then a spear broke.

Tristrant dô balde nedir stach
Tristrant then quickly down thrust

den kônen Môrolden:
the bold Morolt:

sô hâte he im vorgoldin.
so had he him repaid.

ûf sprang he wedir zû hant,
up sprang he again at once,

do erbeizte ouch Tristrant.
then dismounted also Tristrant.

zu samene sie abir lîfen.
to together they again ran.

sie slûgen sich wundin tîfe.
they struck each-other wounds deep.

mit grimme sie dô vâchtin,
with fury they then fought,

zu den handin sie gedâchtin:
to the hands they took-thought:

daz was die herteste strît,
that was the hardest strife,

die bevorn adir sît
which before or since

von zwên mannen î wart.
by two men ever was.

dô was ein sturm hart:
then was a storm hard:

von den slegin sach man dicke
from the blows saw one often

daz heizze wilde vûr blickin
the hot wild fire flash

ûz den helmen ûz erwelt.
out-of the helmets out chosen.

dô werte Tristrant der helt
then defended Tristrant the hero

den zins gar menlîchin.
the tribute wholly manfully.

Môrolt gar freislîchin
Morolt wholly terribly

vacht als ein wilde swîn.
fought as a wild boar.

sô tet im Tristrant wol schîn,
so did to-him Tristrant well evident,

daz her ein gût swert trûg.
that he a good sword carried.

den schilt vorhau her im genûg:
the shield hewed-up he him enough:

des was dewedir ir gewert.
of-it was neither of-them spared.

dicke slûgin sie die swert,
often struck they the swords,

daz sie lûte irclungen.
that they loudly rang.

do en mochte nicht der junge
then — might not the young-one

lengir ûf sînen vûzen stân.
longer upon his feet stand.

der starke was sô vreissam,
the strong-one was so terrible,

daz her in slûg undir die knî:
that he him struck under the knees:

des irholte sich sint dî
from-it recovered himself afterward though

der vil kûne Tristrant.
the very bold Tristrant.

he traf im wedir die hant
he struck him back the hand

mit eime solichen slage,
with a such blow,

daz sie im vîl abe.
that it from-him fell off.

zu hant he daz swert vorlôs.
at once he the sword lost.

do gewan he grôzin untrôst
then got he great despair

und gab sich zû der fluchte,
and gave himself to the flight,

wan im dô nicht mê tochte
for to-him then nothing more availed

wedir in vechten.
against him fighting.

glîch eime gûten knechte
like a good knight

lîf en an her Tristrant
ran him on lord Tristrant

und slûg mit ellenthafter hant
and struck with valiant hand

in dorch sînen stâlhût,
him through his steel-hat,

eine wundin tîf unde grôt,
a wound deep and great,

sô daz he vîl vor sînen fûz
so that he fell before his feet

(sint ich ûch rechte sagin mûz)
(since I to-you rightly tell must)

und im beleib ein stucke
and to-him remained a piece

zu grôzem ungelucke
to great misfortune

des swertes in der wundin,
of-the sword in the wound,

daz sint an im wart vundin,
which afterward on him was found,

daz von dem slage abe brach.
which from the blow off broke.

Tristrant vormezzenlîchin sprach
Tristrant boldly spoke

,dû hâst des zinses genûg:
,thou hast of-the tribute enough:

dîn hômûd der dich vortrûg,
thy arrogance which thee misled,

der hât dich sêre betrogin.
it has thee sorely deceived.

ich wil dir sagin ungelogin:
I will to-thee say unlied:

dû lêst mînen hêren vrî,
thou leavest my lord free,

swie ungemach ez dir sî.‘
however vexing it to-thee be.‘

Sus wart der kamp geant.
Thus was the fight ended.

dô wart geholt Tristrant
then was fetched Tristrant

mit vroudin und mit gesange.
with joys and with song.

ouch beiten nicht lange
also waited not long

die Môrolden man.
the Morolt's men.

ez wêre ouch bôslîche getân,
it would-be also wickedly done,

hêten sie in dâ lâzen ligen:
(if)-had they him there let lie:

weinende holtin sie den degin
weeping fetched they the warrior

und sprâchin in herzensêre
and spoke in heart's-pain

‚ôwê, waz schadin und unêre
‚alas, what harm and dishonor

wir hie gewunnen hân!‘
we here won have!‘

dô hûben sie sich schîre dan
then raised they themselves soon thence

wedir heim zu lande.
back home to land.

wie schiere man botin sande
how soon one messengers sent

zu sîner juncfrouwen.
to his maiden.

ob sie wolde schowen
if she would behold

iren hêren lebende,
her lord living,

daz sie im quême engegene
that she to-him came toward

sô sie allerêrist mochte:
so she first-of-all might:

sômen ir nicht tochte.
delay to-her not availed.

Îsalde was sie genant,
Isalde was she named,

sie was gar wîte erkant
she was wholly widely known

und was ein juncfrawe hêre;
and was a maiden lordly;

ouch kunde sie arzedîe mêre
also knew she healing more

denne in dem lande ichein man.
than in the land any man.

dô sie die botschaft vornam,
when she the message heard,

dô wart sie gar unvrô
then became she wholly unhappy

und hûb sich weinende dô
and raised herself weeping then

ûf den sê wedir in.
onto the sea toward him.

sie wênte des gewis sîn,
she thought of-it certain be,

ob sie in lebende vunde,
if she him living found,

sie machte in wol gesunde
she would-make him well healthy

und hulfe im schiere ûz der nôd:
and would-help him soon out-of the distress:

dô sie quam, dô was he tôd.
when she came, then was he dead.

zû den selbin stundin
at the same hours

greif sie im in die wundin
reached she him into the wound

mit irer snêwîzen hant.
with her snow-white hand.

die scharte sie dar inne vand,
the notch she there in found,

die von Tristrandes swerte was.
which from Tristrant's sword was.

weinende sie die an gesach.
weeping she it on looked.

die vil reine gûte
the very pure good-one

behîlt daz stucke in ir hûte.
kept the piece in her keeping.

zu lant sie wedir fûren.
to land they back went.

grôz was ir trûren,
great was their mourning,

und bestatten Môroldin,
and buried Morolt,

als sie von rechte soldin.
as they by right should.

Îsalde weinete sêre
Isalde wept sorely

und dar zû manche vrauwe hêre
and there to many-a lady lordly

und alle die ez sâgen,
and all who it saw,

frûnd unde mâgen.
friends and kinsmen.

der koning vîl ûf daz grab:
the king fell upon the grave:

dese wort he weinende sprach
these words he weeping spoke

‚solte ich leben î mêre,
‚(if)-should I live ever more,

ich mochte nîmêre
I might nevermore

dînen tôd vorwinnen.‘
thy death overcome.‘

von den ingesinden
from the household

was dô jâmer unde nôt.
was then grief and distress.

der koning obir al gebôt
the king over all commanded

daz sich die wîgande
that themselves the warriors

vlizzen in dem lande,
should-strive in the land,

swer von Kurnevâles quême,
whoever from Cornwall came,

daz man im den lîb nême.
that one from-him the life took.

Joch bat he sîne lîbin holdin
Even bade he his dear loyal-men

daz sie wol bewarin woldin,
that they well guard would,

swaz man ir gevînge,
whatever one of-them caught,

daz man die balde hînge,
that one them quickly hanged,

oder sie slûge âne rechtes zil.
or them slew without right's limit.

dô irslûg man ir vil
then slew one of-them many

die nie schuld dar an gewunnen.
who never guilt there in won.

dô sprâchen die kunden,
then spoke the knowing,

ez quême von Tristrande
it came from Tristrant

daz nieman zu lande
that no-one to land

von Kurnevâles mochte komen
from Cornwall might come

(sô ich recht habe vernomen),
(so I rightly have heard),

man vûre dann mit schiffen dare.
one went unless with ships thither.

dô hîz der koning ouch bewarin,
then bade the king also guard,

swer in schiffin dar quême,
whoever in ships thither came,

daz man im den lîp nême.
that one from-him the life took.

daz tet he dorch den grimmen zorn
that did he for the grim anger

daz her hête verlorn
that he had lost

den kônen Môrolden.
the bold Morolt.

ouch hât her im vorgoldin
also has he him repaid

mit einer wundin die was grôz,
with a wound which was great,

der Tristrant sêre vordrôz.
which Tristrant sorely vexed.

wen nichein arzet tochte,
for no physician availed,

der in geheilin mochte:
who him heal might:

dâ von der degin kûme genas.
there from the warrior barely survived.

in der werlde nîman was
in the world no-one was

der luppe geheilin kunde,
who the-poison heal could,

wen Îsalde die im wol gunde
except Isalde who to-him well granted

daz he begrabin wêre,
that he buried were,

wen he or machte grôze swêre
for he to-her made great grief

die sie vil kûme mochte getragin,
which she very barely might bear,

wen he or hâte irslagin
for he to-her had slain

den allir lîbestin man
the of-all dearest man

den sie ze der werlde î gewan:
whom she in the world ever got:

Daz was der kône Môrold.
That was the bold Morolt.

dâ mete hâte he vorscholt,
there with had he deserved,

daz im die vrauwe wêre gram,
that to-him the lady were hostile,

wen he irem ôhêmen nam
for he from-her uncle took

beide lîp und êre.
both life and honor.

von Îrland der koning hêre
of Ireland the king lordly

was der juncvrawen vatir.
was the maiden's father.

wâ vant man î mê iren gaten
where found one ever more her peer

in deheinem lande?
in any land?

ferre man sie bekande,
far one her knew,

ouch lobete man sie genûg:
also praised one her enough:

swâ man gûter vrauwin gewûg,
wherever one of-good ladies made-mention,

da behîlt sie eine den prîs.
there kept she alone the prize.

sie was behegelich unde wîs,
she was pleasing and wise,

an allen setin wol getân,
in all customs well made,

ouch kunde sie wol begân
also could she well practice

êre unde vromigheit:
honor and prowess:

sie was mit zuchtin gemeit.
she was with good-breeding glad.

zu ir nam daz ganze rîche rât.
to her took the whole realm counsel.

sie was die beste arzât
she was the best physician

die in dem lande inne was.
who in the land in was.

von irer hulfe genas
by her help survived

manch sêre sîchir man:
many-a sorely sick man:

daz von ir wîsheite quam.
that from her wisdom came.

The Poisoned Wound

V

No physician can heal Tristrant's poisoned wound. Despairing, he has himself set adrift with his harp and sword, telling Kurneval to wait a year, then go home as Rivalin's heir. The wind drives him to Ireland. Calling himself Pro, a robbed minstrel, he is taken in; the king's daughter Isalde sends plasters that fail, then, guessing poison, one that heals him. Ireland is starving, since ships dare not come for fear of him, and Pro advises the king to buy grain in England. He sails there, stands surety for the grain, sends the Irish home, and returns on a ship from Mark's land to Cornwall, where he is warmly received.

Tristrant der edele gûte
Tristrant the noble good

der was in grôzem unmûte,
he was in great distress,

he enmochte ezzin noch trinken.
he might-not eat nor drink.

zu lest begunde im stinken
at last began for-him to-stink

daz geluppe ûz der wunde,
the poison out-of the wound,

daz nîman enkunde
that no-one could

im von stanke nâhen.
to-him for stench approach.

dô hîz he Kurnevâlen,
then bade he Kurneval,

daz he den koning bête,
that he the king should-ask,

daz he ez dorch got tête
that he it for God did

und lîze im ein hûs machin
and let for-him a house make

mit behendin sachin
with handy things

bûzen der stad bî dem sê.
outside the town by the sea.

im wêre alsô rechte wê,
to-him were so rightly woe,

her enmochte doch nicht genesin,
he might yet not survive,

ab her icht lengir solde wesin
if he at-all longer should be

bî den lûten in der stad.
by the people in the town.

do des Kurnevâl den koning bat,
when of-it Kurneval the king asked,

dô hîz her daz hûs sân
then bade he the house straightway

setzin dâ ez solde stân.
set where it should stand.

dâ wart der sîche în getragin
there was the sick-one into carried

mit unmêzigen clagin
with immoderate laments

obir lût und tougen.
out loud and secretly.

dô worden lûtir ougen
then became clear eyes

trûbe von weinen,
dim from weeping,

dô man den helt reinen
when one the hero pure

ûz der stad in daz hûs trûg.
out-of the town into the house carried.

lûte volgeten im genûg
people followed him enough

die alle sêre clageten,
who all sorely lamented,

daz sie vorlorn habeten
that they lost had

alsô den wîgant.
such the warrior.

sîne wunde im sô sêre stang
his wound to-him so sorely stank

daz sie in medin gemeine,
that they him shunned in-common,

niwan der koning aleine
except the king alone

und der trogsêze Tînas,
and the steward Tinas,

Kurnevâl der dritte was,
Kurneval the third was,

die des armen sîchen plâgin.
who of-the poor sick-one took-care.

alle tage sie zû im sâgin,
all days they to him looked,

wen he vorlore den lîp.
for he would-lose the life.

des wârin beide man und wîb
of-it were both man and woman

mit ên andir rechte unvrô.
with each other rightly unhappy.

Tristrant gedâchte in sich dô,
Tristrant thought in himself then,

her wolde varin ûf den sê.
he would go onto the sea.

he gerûchte, ab he nimmir mê
he was-content, if he never more

alsô siech zu lande quême.
so sick to land came.

he bat daz man in nême
he asked that one him should-take

und trûge in in ein schiffelîn:
and carried him into a little-ship:

dâ wolde he eine inne sîn
there would he alone in be

und ûf dem irsterbin.
and upon it die.

he wolde eir vorderbin
he would rather perish

ûf dem wazzer eine,
upon the water alone,

den he die lûte gemeine
than he the people in-common

vorterbete mit gestanke:
destroyed with stench:

des wârin sîne gedanke.
of-that were his thoughts.

dô sprach he zû dem knapen sîn
then spoke he to the squire his

,dû salt ein jâr beitin mîn
,thou shalt a year await me

bî mîme lîben herren:
by my dear lord:

hîr enmag dir nicht gewerren.
here may to-thee nothing harm.

is daz ich behalde den lîp,
(if)-is that I keep the life,

sô kome ich eir des jâres zît
so come I before the year's time

her wedir zû dir:
hither back to thee:

daz geloube dû mir.
that believe thou me.

Ab ich denne nicht enkome,
If I then not come,

sô schaffe selbe dînen vromen!
so provide thyself thy profit!

vare hin wedir in daz dîn
go hence back into the thine

und sage ouch dem vatir mîn,
and say also to-the father my,

daz he dir wol lône
that he thee well reward

und dich sîne krônen
and thee his crown

nâ sînem tôde lâze tragen
after his death let bear

und dich ze eime sone wolle haben,
and thee as a son will have,

als her mich solde hân;
as he me should have;

und wes des sichir sundir wân:
and be of-it sure without doubt:

ich engan des nîmanne baz.‘
I grant it to-no-one better.‘

Kurnevâl dô schîre vorgaz
Kurneval then soon forgot

der krônen und des rîches
the crown and the realm

und weinete bittirlîchin.
and wept bitterly.

die andern des ouch nicht verbârin,
the others it also not forbore,

alle die dâ bî wârin,
all who there by were,

beide rîche und arme,
both rich and poor,

begunde dô irbarmen
began then to-pity

Tristrandes ungemach.
Tristrant’s hardship.

grôz jâmir dâr geschach,
great grief there happened,

dô sie in trûgen an den sê.
when they him carried to the sea.

dô bat der hêre nicht mê
then bade the lord nothing more

mit im an daz schif tragin,
with him onto the ship carry,

wen sîne harfin, hôrte ich sagin,
except his harp, heard I tell,

und sîn swert des he begerte.
and his sword which he desired.

den edelin man des [schiere] gewerte.
the noble man of-it [soon] they-granted.

hin stîzen sie die barken.
hence pushed they the bark.

dem rîchen koninge Markin
to-the rich king Mark

nî sô leide geschach:
never so grievously happened:

do he sînen lîben nebin sach
when he his dear nephew saw

von dem stade vlîzen einen,
from the shore float alone,

sîne rûwe was nicht cleine:
his grief was not small:

mit weinendin ougen,
with weeping eyes,

solt ir mir gelouben,
shall you me believe,

sach der koning nâch sînem nebin.
looked the king after his nephew.

dô gîng daz schif aftir wegin
then went the ship off away

verre ûf den wilden sê.
far upon the wild sea.

der wint ted im von herzin wê,
the wind did to-him from heart woe,

der treib in beide hin und dare:
it drove him both hence and thither:

sus muste der arme sîche vare
thus must the poor sick-one go

âne stûre, wâ he mochte;
without steering, where he might;

wen daz hers nicht mê gerûchte,
for that he-of-it not more cared,

wâ daz schifchin hin gîng.
where the little-ship hence went.

ein grôz wint in dô gevîng
a great wind him then caught

und treip in kein Îrlant
and drove him toward Ireland

und warf in ûz ûf daz sant
and threw him out onto the sand

vor eine borg des koningis.
before a castle of-the king.

den tôd den wênte he hân gewis,
the death that thought he to-have certain,

dô he sach wâ daz he was.
when he saw where that he was.

nû vornemet, wie he genas!
now hear, how he survived!

der koning wart sîn geware
the king became of-him aware

und sante einen botin dare,
and sent a messenger thither,

daz he im irvûre die mêre,
that he for-him should-learn the tidings,

waz in dem schiffe komen wêre.
what in the ship come were.

do der bote quam dâr he lach
when the messenger came where he lay

gewunt in tôdes ungemach,
wounded in death's hardship,

hin wedir he balde jagete.
hence back he quickly hastened.

dem koninge he mêre sagete,
to-the king he tidings told,

dâ lêge ein sîch man inne,
there lay a sick man within,

der wêre mit ungewinne
who were with misfortune

dorch sîne sîten sêre wunt.
through his side sorely wounded.

der koning in der selbin stunt
the king in the same hour

gîng selbe zû dem stade
went himself to the shore

und hîz in in ein hûs tragin,
and bade him into a house carry,

und vrâgete in wer he wêre.
and asked him who he were.

die rede dûchte in swêre
the speech seemed to-him grievous

und ein engestlîche nôt,
and a fearful distress,

wen he vorehte den tôt.
for he feared the death.

Tristrant antworte ime dô
Tristrant answered him then

‚hêre, ich bin geheizzin Prô,
‚lord, I am called Pro,

zu Jemsetir ist mîn hûs.
at Jemsetir is my house.

ich vare dorch mînen kouf ûz.
I travel for my trade out.

ûf dem sê ich schaden nam.
upon the sea I harm took.

ich was ouch ein speleman
I was also a minstrel

und hâte gûtes harte vil.
and had of-goods very much.

ez geit mir nû als got wil.
it goes to-me now as God wills.

der wint hât mich getrebin here.
the wind has me driven hither.

ich bin beroubit ûf dem mere.
I am robbed upon the sea.

ich bin gewunt biz an den tôd.‘
I am wounded even unto the death.‘

dô he gesach sîne nôt,
when he saw his distress,

dô hîz her sîn wol plegin
then bade he of-him well take-care

und sante balde hinder wegin
and sent quickly behind away

ûf zu sîner tochter,
up to his daughter,

ab sie sîn gerûchte
if she of-him cared

und im ein plastir sande
and to-him a plaster sent

und salbe manchir hande:
and salve of-many kinds:

dâ wêre ein harte sîch man.
there were a very sick man.

do he plastir von ir genam,
when he plaster from her took,

des en half im allis nît:
it — helped him at-all not:

daz was der vrauwen nicht lîp,
that was to-the lady not dear,

und sante im abir ein andir:
and sent him again an other:

do enwerte daz nicht langir
then lasted that not longer

denne obir die sibende nacht,
than over the seventh night,

als im daz plastir wart brâcht,
as to-him the plaster was brought,

daz man der vrauwin sagete,
that one to-the lady said,

die salbe im mêre schadete,
the salve to-him more harmed,

den daz sie im wêre gût.
than that it to-him were good.

die vrauwe dâchte in irem mût
the lady thought in her mind

und sprach an der selbin stunt
and spoke in the same hour

‚he ist mit gelubbe gewunt.‘
‚he is with poison wounded.‘

die vil schône Îsalde
the very fair Isalde

sante im dô balde
sent him then quickly

ein plaster daz gût was,
a plaster that good was,

dâ von der sîche schîre genas.
there from the sick-one soon recovered.

alsus heilte in die vrauwe
thus healed him the lady

mit michelîcher trûwe,
with great faithfulness,

daz her sie nî an gesach.
that he her never on looked.

Dô he vorwan sîn ungemach
When he overcame his hardship

der werde degin junger,
the worthy warrior young,

dô was grôz hunger
then was great hunger
al dâ in Îrlande.
all there in Ireland.
daz quam von dem wîgande,
that came from the warrior,
daz die schif nicht gein torsten.
that the ships not toward dared.
do besante der koning sîne vorsten.
then summoned the king his princes.
und bat sie getrûwer rête,
and asked them for-faithful counsels,
waz he zû dem bestin tête
what he for the best did
um die grôzin hungirnôt.
about the great hunger-distress.
‚der lûte ist mir vele tôt'
‚of-the people is to-me much dead'
sprach der koning rîche
spoke the king rich
‚nû râtet alle gelîche,
‚now counsel all alike,
wes wir werdin in ein.'
of-what we become in one.'
dô was der sînen nichein
then was of-the his none
der icht gûtes rîte dar zû
who aught of-good counseled there to
der koning sprach ‚wie swîgt ir nû?'
the king spoke ‚why keep-silent you now?'
schiere her dô sande
soon he then sent
nâch dem wîsen Tristrande.
after the wise Tristrant.

dô her vor den koning quam,
when he before the king came,
der koning ouch sînen rât nam,
the king also his counsel took,
waz he dar umme mochte getû.
what he there about might do.
Tristrant antworte ime dô
Tristrant answered him then
‚got mûze ûch, hêre, lônen
‚God may you, lord, reward
mit der himelischin krônen
with the heavenly crown
des gûtes, daz ir mir hât getân.
for-the good, that you to-me have done.
wollet ir nû mînen rât hân,
(if)-will you now my counsel have,
als ich den kan gevindin,
as I it can find,
sô sullit ir kîle sendin
so shall you keels send
zu Engillant nâch spîse.
to England after food.
dare wil ich sie wîsen
thither will I them guide
und wil in helfin dingen
and will them help bargain
spîse mit phenningen,
food with pennies,
sô ich beste kan und mach.‘
as I best can and may.‘
der koning zû den sînen sprach
the king to the his spoke
‚dese rât gevellit mir wol.
‚this counsel pleases me well.

Prô williglîchin sol
Pro willingly shall

zu lande varin obir mer
to land go over sea

und uns die spîse sendin her:
and to-us the food send hither:

wir antwortin im den schaz.‘
we hand-over to-him the treasure.‘

alle lobeten sie im daz.
all praised they to-him that.

Dô der koning diz gesprach
When the king this spoke

und an in allin wol gesach,
and on them all well saw,

daz in der rât wol gevîle,
that to-them the counsel well pleased,

dô hîz he bereitin kîle,
then bade he make-ready keels,

sô vele als he ir wol bedorfte,
as many as he of-them well needed,

wen he den hungir sêre vorchte,
for he the hunger sorely feared,

und sante den hêren Tristrant
and sent the lord Tristrant

nâch der spîse kein Engellant.
after the food toward England.

dô nam der helt urlob
then took the hero leave

obir al des koninges hof.
over all the king’s court.

swert und harfe he zû im vîng,
sword and harp he to himself took,

rischlîche he zu schiffe gîng
quickly he to ship went

und segelte kein Engellant,
and sailed toward England,

als her von dem koninge ward gesant.
as he by the king was sent.

dô he zu Engellande quam,
when he to England came,

dô mêdete he einen koufman
then hired he a merchant

der im gewan die spîse.
who for-him got the food.

Tristrant der edele und wîse
Tristrant the noble and wise

schickete sie in korzin stundin
sent them in short hours

dâ sie daz korn vundin
where they the grain found

und hîz in die kîle beladin.
and bade them the keels load.

an dem koufe stunt he in vor schadin
in the purchase stood he for-them against harm

wol mit tûsent marken.
well with thousand marks.

sie danketen im starke
they thanked him strongly

unde vûren heim wedir.
and went home back.

dô lîzen sie dâr nedir
then let they there down

Tristrande an dem stade stân.
Tristrant on the shore stand.

daz hâte he selbe gerne getân,
that had he himself gladly done,

nû merket rechte umme waz:
now mark rightly about what:

in ein ander schif her saz,
into an other ship he sat,

daz was ûz Marken lande.
that was out-of Mark's land.

dô he diz bekande,
when he this knew,

als in die stûre gelârte,
as him the steering taught,

zu lande he dâ mede kârte,
to land he there with turned,

dar in wart belangen.
thither him came longing.

dô wart he wol entvangin.
then was he well received.

The Swallows' Hair

VI

Tristrant lands at Tintajol, healed, a year to the day after he left, and Kurneval weeps for joy; Mark rewards the messenger richly and the whole court welcomes him. Mark, who loves him, will not marry, meaning to make him his heir, and his kinsmen envy Tristrant for it. Pressed by the lords to take a wife, Mark sees two fighting swallows drop a long fair hair and, taking it as his way out, swears he will marry only its lady. The lords suspect a trick and blame Tristrant, who offers to seek her and sails with a hundred knights. After a month at sea he bids the steersman avoid Ireland, but a storm drives them onto the Irish coast beside the castle where he was healed, and he bids his men keep silent and leave the talking to him.

Zu Tintanjôl quam he zu stade
At Tintajol came he to shore

rechte an dem selbin tage,
right on the same day,

dô vorgangin was ein jâr,
when passed was a year,

daz der kûne helt dâr
that the bold hero there

allirnêst hâte gewesin.
last had been.

dô was he von der sêre genesin:
then was he from the sore healed:

he was gesunt unde vrô.
he was healthy and glad.

Kurnevâl irsach in dô
Kurneval saw him then

aleine ûz dem schiffe gân.
alone out-of the ship go.

dô irkante her in sân.
then recognized he him straightway.

ab im icht lîbe [wesin] wêre?
whether to-him aught dear [been] were?

jâ! ich sage ûch ein mêre:
yes! I tell you a tale:

he was sô inniglîchin vrô,
he was so inwardly glad,

von grôzen vrouden weinte dô
from great joys wept then

Kurnevâl der getrûwe.
Kurneval the faithful.

he vorgaz allir rûwe
he forgot all grief

dô sîn lîbir hêre komen was.
when his dear lord come was.

dô lîf ein bote, als ich daz las,
then ran a messenger, as I it read,

und sagete dem koninge mêre,
and told the king tidings,

daz Tristrant komen wêre.
that Tristrant come were.

dem gab der koning sulch boten brôt,
to-him gave the king such messenger's bread,

daz her biz an sînen tôt
that he until on his death

îmêre beleip rîche.
evermore remained rich.

der koning gîng hêrlîche
the king went lordly

Tristranden engegene
to-Tristrant toward

mit einer grôzin menege
with a great company

und hîz in willekome sîn,
and bade him welcome be,

und lobeten got den trechtîn
and praised God the Lord

daz he sô wol genesin was.
that he so well recovered was.

der getrûwe schenke Tînas
the faithful cupbearer Tinas

der entphîng in minniglîche
he received him lovingly

und al daz ganze rîche:
and all the whole realm:

beide wîp unde man,
both woman and man,

swer sîn kunde î gewan,
whoever of-him acquaintance ever got,

die wârin al sîner zûkunft vrô.
they were all of-his arrival glad.

der edele Tristrant wart dô
the noble Tristrant became then

von togende ein harte vrô man,
from virtue a very glad man,

und swaz he togende î gewan
and whatever he of-virtue ever got

zu tornei und zu strîte,
at tourney and at strife,

des lobete man in harte wîte.
for-it praised one him very widely.

Dem koninge wart he sô lîp,
To-the king became he so dear,

daz he dorch sînen willen nît
that he for his will not

êlîches wîbes wolde plegin.
of-wedded wife would keep.

he dâchte daz he den degin
he thought that he the warrior

wolde ze eime sone hân
would as a son have

und daz her im undirtân
and that he to-him subject

sîn rîche wolde machen.
his realm would make.

daz begunde sêre swachen
that began sorely to-displease

des koninges nêste mâge.
the king's nearest kinsmen.

dicke sie im an lâgen,
often they to-him on lay,

daz he ein wîp nême
that he a wife took

di sînem namen wol gezême.
who to-his name well befitted.

he sprach, daz he keine wolde:
he spoke, that he none would:

des wart âne scholde
for-it became without guilt

Tristrant sêre geniden.
Tristrant sorely envied.

ouch en wart es nicht vormiden,
also — was it not avoided,

man sprach ez, daz er ez vornam,
one said it, that he it heard,

ouch wânden etlîche man,
also thought some men,

daz ez wêre sîn rât:
that it were his counsel:

und was es âne missetât.
and was it without misdeed.

Zu einem mâl frûnd unde man
At one time friends and men

gîngen vor den koning stân.
went before the king to-stand.

die bestin von dem lande
the best of the land

die nâmen Tristrande
they took Tristrant

und gîngen mit im zu râte,
and went with him to counsel,

daz sie den koning alle bâtin,
that they the king all asked,

daz he wolde nemen ein wîp.
that he would take a wife.

do bescheide her in eine zît,
then appointed he to-them a time,

daz her in sagite sînen mûd.
that he to-them should-tell his mind.

die rede dûchte sie alle gût,
the speech seemed to-them all good,

daz he sô unzwîvellîche sprach,
that he so undoubtingly spoke,

wen he dicke bevorn jach,
for he often before declared,

daz her keine wolde.
that he none would.

dô her kunden solde
when he announce should

waz sîn wille wêre,
what his will were,

dô saz der koning mêre
then sat the king famed

in sîme sale aleine;
in his hall alone;

sîn sorge was nicht cleine,
his care was not small,

wen he gar hertlîchen dâchte,
for he wholly hard thought,

wie he die sîne brâchte
how he the his brought

wîslîchen von der rede,
wisely from the speech,

daz sie in woldin lân mit vrede,
that they him would let in peace,

wen he enwolde wîbes nît,
for he would of-woman not,

ez wêre on leit adir lîp.
it were to-them sorrowful or dear.

Dô begundin sich zwû swalen
Then began themselves two swallows

bîzen in des koninges sale.
to-bite in the king's hall.

des wart der hêre geware
of-it became the lord aware

und sach ernstlîchin dare.
and looked earnestly thither.

diz merkit recht, wen ez ist wâr:
this mark rightly, for it is true:

do entvîl in beidin ein hâr
then fell from-them both a hair

daz was schône unde lang.
that was fair and long.

do gewan der koning den gedang
then got the king the thought

daz he daz wolde schauwin.
that he that would behold.

‚diz ist einer vrauwin‘
‚this is of-a lady‘

sprach he selbe wedir sich,
spoke he himself to himself,

‚hie mit wil ich werin mich.
‚here with will I defend myself.

der wil ich zu wîbe gerin:
of-her will I as wife desire:

sie enmogen mich ir nicht geweren.
they may me of-her not grant.

wâ mit werte ich mich baz?
where with could-defend I myself better?

sie sîn mîme neben haz
they are to-my nephew hostile

dar umme daz he bederwe is,
there for that he worthy is,

doch bin ich selbe des gewis,
yet am I myself of-it certain,

daz es im nicht moge geschadin.
that it to-him not may harm.

he sal doch mîn rîche habin,
he shall yet my realm have,

daz sie im werden undirtân.‘
that they to-him become subject.‘

seht, dô quam Tristrant gegân
see, then came Tristrant going

und die hêren alle mede!
and the lords all with!

ein vorste ir allir rede tede,
a prince of-them all speech did,

daz er sich lieze vorstân,
that he himself should-let understand,

wie er es wolde ane vân
how he it would on take

um des rîches êre.
for the realm's honor.

dô sprach der koning hêre
then spoke the king lordly

‚ich habe hie einer vrauwin hâr,
‚I have here of-a lady hair,

ich wil ûch sagin daz vor wâr:
I will to-you say that for true:

die neme ich, ab daz mag gesîn,
her take I, if that may be,

wizzet des den willin mîn.
know of-it the will my.

mag mir abir die nicht werdin,
(if)-may to-me however she not become,

sô ist nergin ûf der erdin
so is nowhere upon the earth

keine die ich nemen welle:
any whom I take will:

ê wolde ich die helle
sooner would I the hell

bûwen êwiglîche,
inhabit eternally,

daz geloubit mir gelîche!‘
that believe me alike!“

Dô der koning diz gesprach,
When the king this spoke,

ez was den hêren ungemach
it was to-the lords vexation

und vrâgetin, wer sie wêre.
and asked, who she were.

dô sprach der koning hêre,
then spoke the king lordly,

daz he des niht en wiste.
that he of-it not — knew.

sie sprâchin ‚he wil uns mit listen
they spoke ‚he will us with cunning

von desir rede bringen,‘
from this speech bring,‘

und sprâchin hêlingen,
and spoke secretly,

ez wêre Tristrandes scholt,
it were Tristrant’s guilt,

der en wêre im nicht holt;
he — were to-him not friendly;

des hête he grôze sunde,
for-it had he great sin,

daz her im nicht engunde
that he to-him not granted

sîner êre und sînes vromen.
his honor and his gain.

doch hêtin sie alle gerne vornomen,
yet would-have they all gladly heard,

wanne im daz hâr komen wêre:
whence to-him the hair come were:

die rede was in zû swêre.
the speech was to-them too grievous.

Tristrant der werde sprach dô
Tristrant the worthy spoke then

‚wie tût ir, lîbir hêre, sô?
‚how do you, dear lord, so?

daz ir nicht nemet wîbes,
that you not take of-wife,

daz ist sorge mînes lîbes
that is care of-my body

und steit mir an der wâge.
and stands to-me in the balance.

jâ redin ûwir mâge,
yes speak your kinsmen,

ir tût daz dorch den willin mîn.
you do that for the will my.

ir sollit in nû tûn schîn,
you shall to-them now make shown,

daz ich ez ûch nî gerît.
that I it to-you never counseled.

ist ûch die vrauwe icht lîp
is to-you the lady at-all dear

dâ ir abe hât gesagit,
where you of have said,

sie sî wîb adir magit,
she be woman or maiden,

ich gewinne sîn vromen adir schadin,
I win of-it gain or harm,

heizzet mir ein schif ladin
bid for-me a ship load

mit deme daz ich bedarf dar zû:
with that which I need there to:

ich wil ez dorch ûwern willen tûn
I will it for your will do

und wil sie wîte sûchin,
and will her widely seek,

ab got des wil gerûchin,
if God of-it will deign,

daz ich sie vinde eteswâ.
that I her find somewhere.

des antwurtet mir daz hâr,
for-it hand-over to-me the hair,

daz ich sie irkenne dâ bî,
that I her may-recognize there by,

ab ich ummir kome dâ sie sî.
if I ever come where she be.

wen mir ûwir êre lîbir is
for to-me your honor dearer is

denne îmans, des sît gewis,
than anyone's, of-it be sure,

und wil ûwer gerne entgelten.‘
and will for-you gladly pay.‘

„daz mûze dir got vorgelten!“
„that may thee God repay!“

sprach der koning rîche
spoke the king rich

und hîz im gar snellîche
and bade for-him wholly swiftly

ein gût schiffelîn berâtin
a good little-ship furnish

mit al dem daz he dar zû hâte.
with all that which he there to had.

der trugsêze Tînas,
the steward Tinas,

wol hundert ritter harnas
well hundred knights' harness

hîz he in daz schif tragin,
bade he into the ship carry,

ouch wart der kîl wol beladin
also was the keel well laden

mit golde und mit gewande.
with gold and with garments.

dô vûren mit Tristrande
then went with Tristrant

wol hundert ritter dannen,
well hundred knights thence,

des koninges dînstmanne.
the king's retainers.

Ez was eine grôze kintheit,
It was a great childishness,

daz he sô michel erbeit
that he so great toil

bestunt umme den wint.
undertook for the wind.

dô hûbin sie sich ûf den sint.
then raised they themselves onto the way.

einen mânen vûrin sie ûf dem sê,
a month went they upon the sea,

daz sie gesâgin nicht mê,
that they saw nothing more,

wen himel unde vlût.
than heaven and flood.

sie hâtin ellenthaftin mûd
they had valiant mind

und bestundin eine grôze nôd.
and withstood a great distress.

Tristrant dem stûrmanne entbôt
Tristrant to-the steersman sent-word

daz he Îrlant vormede,
that he Ireland avoided,

ab he den tôd nicht gerne lede.
if he the death not gladly suffered.

he sprach ‚ich habez wol vornomen,
he spoke ‚I have-it well heard,

ab wir mit schiffen dare komen,
if we with ships thither come,

daz wir vorlîsen den lîp;
that we lose the life;

wir sullin sûchin ein wîp
we shall seek a woman

und mûzen al die lant irjagin
and must all the lands hunt-through

dar uns der kîl mag henne tragin
where us the keel may hence carry

und dar man gerîten mag,
and where one ride may,

adir wir lebin noch den tag,
or we live yet the day,

daz wir die vrauwin vinden.‘
that we the lady find.‘

dô hûb sich von den winden
then raised itself from the winds

ein stormwetir vreissam.
a storm-weather terrible.

den kîl ez mit gewalt nam
the keel it with force took

vnd mit michellîcher macht
and with great might

und warf in an der selbin nacht
and threw it on the same night

rechte hen kein Îrlant
right hence toward Ireland

vor eine borg an daz sant,
before a castle onto the sand,

dâ Tristrant geheilet wart.
where Tristrant healed was.

daz was ein engestlîche vart!
that was a fearful journey!

Dô der hêre sich besach,
When the lord himself looked-about,

zu sînen mannen he dô sprach
to his men he then spoke

‚alhîr wart ich geheilet:
‚here was I healed:

ich wêne wir sîn vorteilet,
I believe we are condemned,

daz uns sô leide geschê hie,
that to-us so sorrowful happen here,

als mir dô lîbe irgie.
as to-me then dear went.

wen diz des koninges borg is
for this the king's castle is

in Îrland, des sît gewis,
in Ireland, of-it be sure,

wir bedorfen wol wîser sinne.
we need well of-wise wits.

sulle wir komen hinnen,
(if)-shall we come hence,

daz mûz mit grôzin listen geschîn.
that must with great cunning happen.

nû tût daz dorch den willin mîn
now do that for the will my

und swîget ir algemeine
and keep-silent you all-in-common

und lât mich redin aleine!
and let me speak alone!

ich versûche, ab ich mit listen
I try, if I with cunning

uns den lîp mag gevristen.‘
for-us the life may preserve.‘

Tantris and the Dragon

VII

The Irish king orders the strangers beheaded; Tristrant bribes the marshal with a golden cup and passes as Tantris, a merchant bringing food. Hearing that the dragon’s slayer will have the king’s daughter, he kills it after it burns his horse, cuts out its tongue, and, scorched, lays himself in a cool spring. The steward, who watched from a lookout, finds the carcass, has his men swear he slew it, and claims Isalde; she will not believe him and has her father put him off till morning. At dawn she rides out with Brangene and Perenis, reads the foreign horseshoes, finds the burned shield and horse, and fears the hero murdered.

Dô der koning diz vornam,
When the king this heard,

sêre he zurnen began,
sorely he to-rage began,

daz der kîl sô nâhe lach.
that the keel so near lay.

zu sînem marschalke er daz sprach,
to his marshal he that spoke,

daz he des nicht vortrûge
that he it not should-tolerate

und in die houbet abe slûge.
and from-them the heads off should-strike.

des en torste he gelâzin nît,
it — dared he leave-undone not,

iz wêre im leit adir lîp:
it were to-him sorrowful or dear:

zu dem schiffe quam he gegân
to the ship came he going

und sagete den hêren sân,
and told the lords straightway,

he solde on den lîp nemen.
he should from-them the life take.

‚daz mag ûch obele gezemen‘
‚that may you ill befit‘

sprach dô der hêre Tristrant
spoke then the lord Tristrant

unde bôt om al zuhant
and offered to-him all at-once

einen gûtin guldînen kop,
a good golden cup,

daz he vûre ûf den hof
that he should-go onto the court

und dem koninge wolde sagen
and to-the king would tell

sîne rede und sîne clage
his speech and his lament

und sie die wîle lîze lebin:
and them the while let live:

dar um wolde he im den kop gebin.
there for would he to-him the cup give.

der marschalk in gewerte
the marshal him granted

swes her an in begerte:
whatever he of him desired:

wen her was ein hobisch man.
for he was a courtly man.

den kop man her vore nam,
the cup one hither forth took,

der marschalk den von in entvîng:
the marshal it from them received:

dar an he hobischeit begîng.
there on he courtliness practiced.

dô sprach der hêre Tristrant
then spoke the lord Tristrant

‚wir sîn gekomen in diz lant,
‚we are come into this land,

sus sult ir dem koninge vorzellin,
thus shall you to-the king tell,

ich und zwelfe mîner sellin
I and twelve of-my companions

der allir tûrestin koufmanne.
of-the of-all dearest merchants.

wir vûren ûz von Engellande.
we went out from England.

wir hôrtin sagin mêre,
we heard tell tidings,

daz hie grôz hungir wêre
that here great hunger were

in disem koningrîche.
in this kingdom.

dô lûden wir flîzlîche
then loaded we diligently

zwelf kîle mit spîse:
twelve keels with food:

die habe wir brâcht zu ûwir wîse,
those have we brought to your manner,

und begundin her kêren.
and began hither to-turn.

wir meinten gût und êre
we meant goods and honor

beide hie gewinnen.
both here to-win.

ez fûren lûte hinnen
there went people hence

die man sêre jagete:
whom one sorely hunted:

der ein uns sagete,
the one to-us said,

swer dâ her quême,
whoever there hither came,

daz man ime den lîp nême.
that one from-him the life took.

Des begunden wir sêre clagin
For-it began we sorely to-lament

den vil michellîchin schadin
the very great harm

den wir hâten vornomen:
which we had heard:

sus kunde wir nicht zu rucke komen.
thus could we not to back come.

dô giengen wir ze râte
then went we to counsel

daz wir ein urteil tâten
that we a judgment made

und dar umme worfin daz lôz
and there for cast the lot

(des ist mîn rûwe wordin grôz),
(of-it is my grief become great),

ûf swen daz gevîle,
upon whomever that fell,

daz der mit sîme kîle
that he with his keel

fûre und versûchte,
should-go and tried,

ab man des hie gerûchte,
if one of-it here cared,

daz wir mit koufe vûren here.
that we with trade went hither.

mîne sellin swebin ûf dem mere.
my companions float upon the sea.

die botschaft quam und vîl ûf mich.
the errand came and fell upon me.

nû betit den koning rîch,
now ask the king rich,

daz her uns lâze den lîp:
that he to-us leave the life:

sô brenge wir im in korzir zît
so bring we to-him in short time

dese gûte spîse allentsamen.
this good food altogether.

ouch solt ir im sagen mînen namen:
also shall you to-him tell my name:

ich bin geheizzin Tantris.‘
I am called Tantris.‘

dô was der marschalk gewis,
then was the marshal certain,

daz ez alsô wêre,
that it so were,

und sagete deme koninge mêre,
and told the king tidings,

als im der koufman entbôt:
as to-him the merchant sent-word:

des wart gelengit in der tôt.
for-it was prolonged to-them the death.

dô lâgen die geste
then lay the guests

mit sorgen vor der veste
with cares before the fortress

biz ûf den mitten tag.
until on the mid day.

hôret wie ein ze dem andern sprach!
hear how one to the other spoke!

‚sal unsir nû ichein genesin,
‚(if)-shall of-us now any survive,

der mûz ummir mêre wesin
he must ever more be

in Îrlande gefangen.‘
in Ireland captive.‘

dô quam ein man gegangen,
then came a man going,

der sagete Tristranden
who told Tristrant

von einem serpande,
of a serpent,

der vorterbete daz rîche,
which destroyed the realm,

und sprach wêrlîchen,
and spoke truly,

swer den serpand bestunde
whoever the serpent should-take-on

und swem got der êren gunde
and to-whomever God the honor granted

daz her im den lîp nême,
that he from-it the life took,

daz im der koning gêbe
that to-him the king would-give

âne zwîbel die tochtir sîn.
without doubt the daughter his.

dâ wart abir wol schîn
there became however well shown

daz die unvorvêrte Tristrant
that the unafraid Tristrant

was ein kûner wîgant.
was a bold warrior.

he dâchte he wolde sînen lîp
he thought he would his life

wâgin um daz selbe wîp,
risk for the same woman,

und ouch durch den willen,
and also for the will,

daz die sîne gesellen
that the his companions

mochten alsô genesen;
might so survive;

und dâchte im sulde lîbir wesin,
and thought to-him should dearer be,

daz he von dem worme vortorbe,
that he by the worm perished,

den daz he âne wer irstorbe.
than that he without defense died.

Zu hant des morgenes vrû
At once in-the morning early

wâpente he sich dar zû
armed he himself there to

gar vlîziclîche
wholly diligently

und reit vormezzenlîche
and rode daringly

dâ he grôzen prîs gewan.
where he great prize won.

ûf dem velde sach he vunf man
upon the field saw he five men

haldin an einer warte.
halt at a lookout.

dar drabete he vil harte,
thither trotted he very hard,

ûf die strâze vor sie.
onto the road before them.

dô sach he einen man vlien
then saw he a man flee

swaz he mochte, wen im was gâch.
as-much-as he might, for to-him was haste.

deme reit he îlande nâch
him rode he hastening after

und vîng in bî dem hâre
and caught him by the hair

und vrâgete in offenbâre,
and asked him openly,

wer in sô harte jagete.
who him so hard hunted.

der man im schîre sagete,
the man to-him soon said,

daz ez ein trache tête
that it a dragon did

der der lûte hête
which of-the people had

in dem lande vel vorbrant.
in the land many burned.

‚der komt mit zorne nû ze hant,
‚it comes with anger now at once,

der wil mir den lîp nemen:
it will from-me the life take:

hêre, lâzit mich entvlien deme,
lord, let me escape from-it,

daz ûch got ummir mûze lône!‘
that you God ever may reward!“

her hîz on varin schône
he bade him go fair

und vrâgete in, wâ he gîng.
and asked him, where it went.

zu om wîsete in der jungeling.
to it showed him the youth.

Dô wart Tristrant wol geware,
Then became Tristrant well aware,

wâ der serpant quam gevarin.
where the serpent came moving.

he reit in einen tîfen grunt
he rode into a deep hollow

und hîlt stille biz an die stunt,
and held still until on the hour,

daz he nebin in quam.
that it beside him came.

dô sprengte zu im der edele man.
then galloped to it the noble man.

daz sper stach he ûf im en zwei,
the spear thrust he upon it in two,

daz schatte dem trachen nicht ein ei.
that harmed to-the dragon not an egg.

nû vornemet, wie her stêche:
now hear, how he thrust:

eir he den schaft zubrêche,
before he the shaft broke-asunder,

dô hâte he sîn swert in der hant.
then had he his sword in the hand.

joch brante im der serpant
even burned to-him the serpent

sîn ros undir im tôd.
his horse under him dead.

an lîf in der helt gût,
on ran it the hero good,

wen he sînes lîbes gerte.
for it of-his life desired.

her heu in mit dem swerte
he hewed it with the sword

daz he an sîner hant trûg:
which he in his hand carried:

swâ he ez mit zorne slûg,
wherever he it with anger struck,

dar en mochte nicht vor bestân.
there — might nothing before stand.

der helt dô den sige genam
the hero then the victory took

an dem trachin, der was grôz.
over the dragon, which was great.

swie vele her des sint genôz,
however much he of-it afterward enjoyed,

her kouftez doch vil tûre,
he bought-it yet very dearly,

wen he was von dem vûre
for he was by the fire

nâ zu tôde vorbrunnen.
near to death burned.

den sege hâte he gewunnen
the victory had he won

mit menlîchir deginheit.
with manly valor.

die zungin her im ûz sneit.
the tongue he from-it out cut.

her stackte sie an sîne hûte;
he stuck it into his hose;

und ist ûch wol zu mûte,
and (if)-is to-you well to mind,

sô mogit ir daz gerne losen:
so may you that gladly hear:

dô kârte he zu einem mose,
then turned he to a moor,

dâ wolde he kûlen sich.
there would he cool himself.

dô was der degin hêrlich
then was the warrior lordly

gewordin swarz als ein brant.
become black as a brand.

ein kôlez spring he dô vant,
a cool spring he then found,

dâ legete sich der helt în,
there laid himself the hero in,

he meinte he solde tôd sîn:
he thought he should dead be:

daz îsen hâte in sô vorbrant.
the iron had him so burned.

dô lach der hêre Tristrant
then lay the lord Tristrant

in engestlîchin swêrin.
in fearful griefs.

Nû merkit, wer die wêrin
Now mark, who they were

die ûf der warte hîlden,
who upon the lookout halted,

und wes sie dô gewîlden:
and what they then managed:

daz was der trogsêze.
that was the steward.

wes he sich vormêze
what he himself presumed

mit sînen gesellen,
with his companions,

daz mag hôrin swer dâ welle!
that may hear whoever there will!

he wart mit in ze râte:
he became with them to counsel:

der ein der alsô drâte
the one who so quickly

mit dem schilde und mit dem sper
with the shield and with the spear

* quam geretin her
(lacuna) came ridden hither

rechte als ein grôzir storm,
right as a great storm,

der kârte sîn antliz kein den worm,
he turned his face toward the worm,

dâ her lach vorborgen.
where he lay hidden.

die andern wolten in sorgen
the others would in cares

gar lîse nâch im slîchen
wholly softly after him creep

und quâmen unversênlîchen
and came unforeseen

dâ der trache tôd lach.
where the dragon dead lay.

zu sînen mannen he dô sprach
to his men he then spoke

‚nû sprechit daz ich in habe irslagin,
‚now say that I it have slain,

sô sît ir ummir mêr irhabin:
so are you ever more exalted:

ich mache ûch alle rîche.‘
I make you all rich.‘

dô sprâchin sie getrûwelîche
then spoke they faithfully

daz sie ez têten gerne.
that they it did gladly.

ez tochte in nicht ze emperne,
it availed to-them not to forgo,

sie sûchtin Tristranden,
they sought Tristrant,

und woldin in mit schandin
and would him with shame

von sîme lîbe bringen.
from his life bring.

daz mochte in nicht gelingen,
that might to-them not succeed,

hêten sie in funden.
(if)-had they him found.

sie sprâchen dô in den stunden
they spoke then in the hours

‚hêre, er ist wêrlîche tôd.‘
‚lord, he is truly dead.‘

der zage wânde sîne nôt
the coward thought his distress

ze mâl habin obirwunden.
for good to-have overcome.

in den selbin stundin
in the same hours

zû dem koninge her dô reit,
to the king he then rode,

und sagete im grôze tumheit,
and told him great folly,

he hête irslagin den trachen.
he had slain the dragon.

mit desin valschlîchen sachin
with these false things

sprach he zû dem koninge sân,
spoke he to the king straightway,

he solde sîne tochtir hân.
he should his daughter have.

dô sprach der koning rîche
then spoke the king rich

‚ich welde denne tûn bôslîchen,
‚I would unless do wickedly,

sô mag ich des nicht wedir komen;
so may I of-it not back come;

doch hête ich gerne baz vornomen,
yet would-have I gladly better heard,

wer den trachen slûge.‘
who the dragon slew.‘

„daz wêre vngefûge“
„that would-be unfitting“

sprach der truchsêze
spoke the steward

„daz ich mich des vormêze
„that I myself of-it presumed

daz doch wêre gelogen.“
which yet were lied.“

den koning hête he nâ betrogin;
the king had he nearly deceived;

he wânde daz ez wâr wêre.
he thought that it true were.

der koning dô daz mêre
the king then the tidings

sîner tochtir selbe sagete,
to-his daughter himself told,

wie der trogsêze habete
how the steward had

sie gewunnen ze eime wîbe
her won as a wife

mit sîn selbis lîbe
with his self's person

gar harte menlîche,
wholly very manfully,

und sprach offenlîche,
and spoke openly,

he solde sie im zu wîbe gebin:
he should her to-him as wife give:

daz mochte sie vil gerne lebin
that might she very gladly live

dorch daz he irslûg den serpant.
for that he slew the serpent.

dô sprach die vrauwe al zuhant
then spoke the lady all at-once

‚vatir, daz geloube mir,
‚father, that believe me,

he hât nicht rechte gesaget dir.
he has not rightly told thee.

her begîng doch nî vromigheit.
he did yet never prowess.

wâ nam he nû die manheit,
where took he now the manhood,

daz her in torste bestân?
that he it dared take-on?

lâz dînen mût zugân
let thy mind go-down

und vornim die wârheit rechte:
and hear the truth rightly:

sage dem gûten knechte
tell the good knight

daz he beite biz morgen vrû.‘
that he wait until morning early.‘

der koning sprach „ich wil daz tû.“
the king spoke „I will that do.“

Dô diz was irgangen,
When this was passed,

do begunde harte irlangin
then began very to-long

deme trogsêzin, sundir wân.
to-the steward, without doubt.

den koning manete he sân,
the king reminded he straightway,

sînen hêren, daz he tête
his lord, that he did

als he gelobit hête
as he promised had

bî sîner rechtin wârheit.
by his right truth.

vornemet, mit welchir wîsheit
hear, with what wisdom

frauwe Îsalde dô ervûre,
lady Isalde then learned,

wer den trachin irslûge!
who the dragon slew!

sie sprach zu Perenîse
she spoke to Perenis

daz he brêchte lîse
that he brought softly

die pfert, swenne ez tagete.
the horses, whenever it dawned.

Brangênen sie sagete,
to-Brangene she said,

irer juncfrauwin,
her maiden,

sie wolde balde schauwin,
she would quickly behold,

wie der worm gewunt wêre.
how the worm wounded were.

Perenîs der kemmerêre
Perenis the chamberlain

brâchte ir die pferd vrô.
brought her the horses glad.

ûf sâzin sie dô
up sat they then

und retin îlentlîchin.
and rode hastily.

zu hant die vrauwe rîche
at once the lady rich

Tristrandes slâwe dô gesach.
Tristrant's track then saw.

Brangênen sie dô zû sprach
to-Brangene she then to spoke

‚sich, wie daz ros was beslagin.
‚see, how the horse was shod.

daz hât den helt her getragin,
that has the hero hither carried,

der den trachin irslûg.
who the dragon slew.

merke ebin den gevûg:
mark closely the skill:

die ros man hîr nicht besleit
the horses one here not shoes

als an desir slâwen geit.
as on this track goes.

desir die hîr geretin is,
this-one who here ridden is,

des wes sichir und gewis,
of-it be sure and certain,

der hât irslagin den serpant.‘
he has slain the serpent.‘

dô quâmen die vrauwin al zu hant
then came the ladies all at once

dâ der trache lag tôt.
where the dragon lay dead.

dô vundin sie einen schilt rôt
then found they a shield red

besengit alsô garwe
singed so completely

daz sie in bî der varwe
that they it by the color

nicht mochtin irkennen;
not might know;

die was doch eteswenne
which was yet at-some-time

gewesen lîcht und tûre.
been bright and dear.

ouch vunden sie von dem vûre
also found they from the fire

ein ros vorbrant vil gare,
a horse burned very completely,

des nâmen sie ernstlîchen ware.
of-it took they earnestly heed.

îdoch sie wol erkandin
yet they well knew

daz ez in den landin
that it in the lands

nicht gezogen noch gevallen was,
not raised nor foaled was,

als ich an dem bûche las;
as I in the book read;

ouch habe ich die rede vornomen:
also have I the speech heard:

‚owê, wâ ist der helt hen komen
‚alas, where is the hero hence come

der diz ros her reit?‘
who this horse hither rode?‘

sprach die vrauwe gemeit
spoke the lady glad

‚wie gerne ich daz erfunde,
‚how gladly I that found-out,

ab ich in vinden kunde.
if I him find could.

die mordêre habin in irslagin.
the murderers have him slain.

he lît hîr eteswâ begrabin.‘
he lies here somewhere buried.‘

The Notch in the Sword

VIII

Brangene finds Tristrant in the bog, and Isalde disarms him and has him carried to town, secretly bathed, and healed. He knows her by the hair he came to seek; cleaning his sword, she sees its notch, fits into it the splinter she kept, and knows him as her uncle's slayer. She threatens to betray him to her father, but Brangene persuades her that otherwise she must marry the steward, her father's dish-bearer. Isalde relents, tells her father she knows the dragon-slayer, and wins his pardon for him, and the king summons his lords to see the stranger prove the steward a liar. Tristrant's men come to court in splendid clothes and sit silent until Isalde leads him in; the king, at her word, kisses him and grants a lasting reconciliation.

Di vrauwe Perenîsin bat,
The lady Perenis asked,

daz he sûchte daz grab.
that he sought the grave.

ab he vunde den degin,
if he found the warrior,

sie welde im hundirt mark gebin.
she would to-him hundred marks give.

dô sûchtin sie nicht lange.
then sought they not long.

Brangêne quam gegangin
Brangene came going

zû dem mose dâ he lag.
to the moor where he lay.

dô die juncvrauwe ersach
when the maiden saw

den helm glîzen sô ein glas,
the helmet gleam as a glass,

schîre sie dar komen was.
soon she thither come was.

ir dûchte daz her sich regete,
to-her seemed that he himself stirred,

zu der vrauwin sie dô redete
to the lady she then spoke

‚ich habe den helt vundin
‚I have the hero found

vil harte ungesundin.
very sorely unhealthy.

nû komet bald îlende here,
now come quickly hastening hither,

ab ir in mochtet irneren‘
if you him might save‘

sprach Brangêne die gûte.
spoke Brangene the good.

der vrauwen wart wol zu mûte:
to-the lady became well to mind:

dô sie des hêren wart geware,
when she of-the lord became aware,

sie quam vil schîre dare.
she came very soon thither.

den helm sie im abe bant.
the helmet she from-him off unbound.

do irhôrte wol her Tristrant
then heard well lord Tristrant

daz dâ wârin vrauwin:
that there were ladies:

he begunde sie schauwin
he began them to-behold

und vrâgete wer dâ quême
and asked who there came

der im den helm abe nême.
who from-him the helmet off took.

Di vrauwe im dô antworte
The lady to-him then answered

‚nu en habe, helt, keine vorte,
‚now — have, hero, no fear,

he wirt dir vil wol wedir.‘
it becomes to-thee very well back.‘

sie sazte sich bî in nedir
she set herself by him down

und sprach ‚ich wil in wol behaldin.‘
and spoke ‚I will him well keep.‘

sie entwâpente in vil balde,
she disarmed him very quickly,

nicht lengir sie in legin liez.
not longer she him lie let.

Perenîsin sie dô hîz
Perenis she then bade

daz he vûrte den man.
that he carried the man.

selbe sie daz wâpen nam,
herself she the arms took,

den helm unde daz swert.
the helmet and the sword.

Brangêne nam den halsberg,
Brangene took the hauberk,

und retin balde zû der stad.
and rode quickly to the town.

dô hiez sie im machin ein bad
then bade she for-him make a bath

gar verholenlîche.
wholly secretly.

die juncvrauwe rîche
the maiden rich

den helt selbe badete.
the hero herself bathed.

von der sûche sie in labete:
from the sickness she him refreshed:

mit vil gûter salben
with very good salve

bestreich sie in allenthalbin,
anointed she him everywhere,

daz he wedir sîne varwe gewan:
that he again his color got:

dô wart he harte lustsam.
then became he very lovely.

dô Tristrant die kûne man
when Tristrant the bold man

sîne varwe wedir gewan,
his color again got,

âne zwîvel im bedûchte,
without doubt to-him seemed,

ez wêre die vrauwe die er sûchte.
it were the lady whom he sought.

He besach ir hâr vil ebene,
He looked-at her hair very evenly,

dar nâch her unvorgebene
there after he not-in-vain

lange gevaren hête.
long journeyed had.

der kûne helt stête
the bold hero steadfast

irlachete inniglîchin.
smiled inwardly.

daz irsach die vrauwe rîche
that saw the lady rich

und gedâchte in irem mûte sân
and thought in her mind straightway

‚ich habe eteswaz getân
‚I have something done

daz in dunket tôrlîch.
that to-him seems foolish.

noch kan ich mich vorsinnen nît,
still can I myself bethink not,

waz ich mê tûn solde,
what I more do should,

ez en sî daz he wolde
it unless be that he would

daz ich im wischete sîn swert:
that I for-him wiped his sword:

des ist der helt wol gewert.‘
of-it is the hero well granted.‘

des gedâchte sie in irem mûte.
that thought she in her mind.

do begunde die vil gûte
then began the very good-one

daz swert wischen harte.
the sword to-wipe hard.

dô sach sie bî der scharte
then saw she by the notch

daz ez Tristrant was.
that it Tristrant was.

nedir sazte sie sich an daz gras.
down set she herself on the grass.

grôzir jâmir sie bevîng.
great grief her seized.

zu irer ladin sie dô gîng
to her chest she then went

und zoug her ûz daz stucke,
and drew hither out the piece,

sie stîz ez in die lucken,
she thrust it into the gap,

dâ ez ouch vor inne stunt:
where it also before in stood:

dô was die zorn ungesûnt.
then was the anger unreconciled.

Si sprach ‚dû bist ez Tristrant
She spoke ‚thou art it Tristrant

und hâst irslagin den serpant:
and hast slain the serpent:

daz en mag dir alliz nicht gevromen
that — may thee all not profit

daz dû mogest hinnen komen
that thou may hence come

mit dînem lîbe untôtlîche.
with thy body unkilled.

dû mûst sicherlîche
thou must surely

mînen ôm geldin.
my uncle pay-for.

ich wil dich selbe meldin
I will thee myself betray

zu mînem vatir dem koninge.‘
to my father the king.‘

„frauwe, sô tût ir obele.“
„lady, so do you ill.“

‚dû tête ouch obele wedir mich.‘
‚thou didst also ill against me.‘

„nein ich, zwâr.“ ‚daz meine ich:
„no I, truly.“ ‚that mean I:

dû slûge doch tôd mînen nebin.‘
thou struck yet dead my uncle.‘

„des ted mir nôd.“ ‚daz wizze ebin:
„that did to-me need.“ ‚that know evenly:

dû mûst in geldin.‘ „wâ mete?“
thou must him pay-for.‘ „where with?“

‚mit dem lîbe.‘ „daz en ist nicht sete
‚with the life.‘ „that — is not custom

daz man lîp gebe umme lîp;
that one life give for life;

nein, schône zartez wîp,
no, fair tender woman,

sal ich den setin lernen?“
shall I the custom learn?“

‚jâ dû.‘ „daz tû ich gar ungerne.“
‚yes thou.‘ „that do I wholly ungladly.“

‚daz weiz ich * wol.‘
‚that know I (lacuna) well.‘

„so erlât es mich.“ ‚nein, ich sol
„so release it me.“ ‚no, I shall

rechin mînes nebin lîp.‘
avenge my uncle’s life.‘

„des en plegin doch nicht gûte wîp.“
„of-that — practice yet not good women.“

‚jâ bin ich dir bôse.' „sît ir sô?"
‚yes am I to-thee wicked.' „are you so?"

‚jâ.' „des bin ich unfrô."
‚yes.' „of-it am I unglad."

‚war ume?' „daz wil ich sagen."
‚what for?' „that will I say."

‚jâ, sprich!' „ich habe sîn schaden."
‚yes, speak!' „I have of-it harm."

‚du enhâst.' „zwâre ich hân."
‚thou hast-not.' „truly I have."

‚ich bin joch sichir, sundir wân,
‚I am even sure, without doubt,

daz dir nicht nutze wêre.' „jâ ez tût."
that to-thee not useful were.' „yes it does."

‚war ane?' „wêret ir gût,
‚where on?' „(if)-were you good,

ir gedêchtet an ûwerm mûte:
you would-think in your mind:

her ist in mîner hûte
he is in my keeping

und ist in mînen bandin,
and is in my bonds,

swer in sleit, ich wil ez anden:
whoever him slays, I will it punish:

wen ir hât mich selbe here brâcht!"
for you have me yourself hither brought!"

‚daz habe ich allez wol bedâcht,
‚that have I all well considered,

wie ez kome um die schanden.
how it come about the shame.

ich wil jâ mînen anden
I will indeed my vengeance

an dîme lîbe rechin
on thy body avenge

und wil mînen vatir sprechin
and will my father speak

und sagin, daz dû hîr bist:
and tell, that thou here art:

dir en hilfet nicht al dîn list,
thee — helps not all thy cunning,

dû mûst mînen ôm koufen.‘
thou must my uncle buy.‘

Brangêne quam geloufin,
Brangene came running,

dô dise schiere gân wolde.
when this-one soon go would.

die selbe gotes holde
the same of-God beloved

vil kûme sie geswêgete:
very barely her silenced:

jene sêre weinete
that-one sorely wept

und wolde ez irem vater sagin.
and would it to-her father tell.

‚wirt der man nû irslagin,
‚(if)-becomes the man now slain,

sô mûzet ir im bevasten
so must you him take

und vorwinnet nimmir daz laster,
and overcome never the shame,

ab he vorlore den lîp.
if he lost the life.

dar zû mustet ir werdin wîp
there to must you become wife

ûwers vatir schuzzeltregeres.
of-your father's dish-bearer.

welche êre hât ir des?
what honor have you of-it?

daz ist, des ich ûch vorga.
that is, of-which I to-you begrudge.

Tristrant ist ein edil man,
Tristrant is a noble man,

in allir werlde ein helt gût.
in all world a hero good.

merket recht in ûwerm mût.
mark rightly in your mind.

hête he al ûwir mâge irslagin,
(if)-had he all your kinsmen slain,

ir mochtet lîbir daz vortragin,
you might more-gladly that bear,

wen daz ir sulchin dîb solt nemen,
than that you such thief should take,

die ûch ze den êren nicht en zeme.'
who you to the honors not — befits.'

Die vrauwe dô bedâchte sich
The lady then bethought herself

und wart im wedir gnêdich,
and became to-him again gracious,

dô Brangêne diz gesprach.
when Brangene this spoke.

ir vorgîng daz grôze ungemach,
from-her passed the great vexation,

und vorgaz der michelîchen clage
and forgot the great lament

und hîz im dare tragin
and bade for-him thither carry

nûwe cleider samît rôt
new clothes of-samite red

(Brangêne sie dem helde bôt),
(Brangene them to-the hero offered),

und beval in in ir hûte.
and entrusted him into her keeping.

dô der hêre gûte
when the lord good

die nûwen cleider an sich nam,
the new clothes on himself took,

dô wart he harte lustsam.
then became he very lovely.

die vrawe kuste in an den munt.
the lady kissed him on the mouth.

sie gîng zû der selbin stunt
she went in the same hour

zu irme vater und sagete,
to her father and said,

daz sie irfarin habete,
that she found-out had,

wer den trachin hête irslagin.
who the dragon had slain.

‚hâst dû?' „jâ ich, dîn zage
‚hast thou?' „yes I, thy coward

gerûrte in nie." ‚er tet ez doch.'
touched it never." ‚he did it yet.'

„nein er." ‚er bezûget ez joch.'
„no he." ‚he proves it even.'

„wâ mete?" ‚mit vieren sîner man.'
„where with?" ‚with four of-his men.'

„und sind sie bedirwe dan?"
„and are they worthy then?"

‚daz weiz ich nicht, sie sind sîn man.'
‚that know I not, they are his men.'

„swaz he sie heist, daz wirt getân:
„whatever he them bids, that becomes done:

wiltû ez lâzen an sie?
wilt-thou it leave to them?

her gerûrte den trachen nie."
he touched the dragon never."

,daz weist dû?‘ „jâ ich weiz ez wol.
,that knowest thou?‘ „yes I know it well.

dîne hulde her habin sol,
thy favor he have shall,

der in slûg?“ ,in trûwin jâ.
who it slew?“ ,in truth yes.

wâ ist her nû?‘ „hîr vil nâ,
where is he now?‘ „here very near,

dâr ich in wol gevinde.“
where I him well find.“

,sô heiz in vor mich bringen!‘
,so bid him before me bring!‘

„sal he dîne hulde hân?“
„shall he thy favor have?“

,jâ, swaz he mir hât getân,
,yes, whatever he to-me has done,

daz sî om umme daz vorgebin.‘
that be to-him for that forgiven.‘

„kusse mich, vatir, vor den degin
„kiss me, father, before the warrior

und mache die sûne vullen stête!“
and make the reconciliation fully steadfast!“

,swaz he mir tede unde hête
,whatever he to-me did and had

getân, daz vorkîse ich.‘
done, that renounce I.‘

„sô saltû vor in kussen mich!“
„so shalt-thou before him kiss me!“

,waz wiltû mêre daz ich tû?‘
,what wilt-thou more that I do?‘

„sô hâstû lûtirlîchin nû
„so hast-thou purely now

vorkorn?“ ,jâ, ich hûte hân.‘
renounced?“ ,yes, I today have.‘

„sô mag he wol her vor gân,
„so may he well hither forth go,

doch vriste daz biz morgen vrû
yet put-off that until morning early

und nim dîne man dar zû.
and take thy men there to.

ich wil dir brengin den helt:
I will to-thee bring the hero:

zu dînem gerichte her bezelt
to thy court he tells

an des trogsêzin lîp,
against the steward's body,

wiltû nû beschauwen den strîd,
wilt-thou now behold the strife,

daz her im daz mûz jên,
that he to-him that must avow,

daz her in nî habe gesên
that he it never have seen

wâ der worm irstorbe,
where the worm died,

adir wie he sîn ende irworbe.“
or how he its end won.“

‚daz lobe ich‘ sprach der koning hêr.
‚that promise I‘ spoke the king lordly.

dô en beite he nicht mêr,
then — waited he not more,

zu hant he batin sante
at once he messengers sent

nâch den vorsten in dem lande.
after the princes in the land.

nâch grâfen unde herzogen.
after counts and dukes.

dô daz mêre quam geflogen
when the tidings came flown

zû den hêren rîche,
to the lords rich,

dô quâmen sie al gelîche:
then came they all alike:

frîhêren unde dînestman.
free-lords and retainers.

der trogsêze ouch began
the steward also began

sendin nâch sînen holdin.
to-send after his loyal-men.

he gedâchte daz im wolde
he thought that to-him would

der koning sîn tochtir gebin.
the king his daughter give.

dô quam manch kûne degin
then came many-a bold warrior

Des andern morgenes vrû.
On-the other morning early.

Tristrant was alliz dô
Tristrant was all then

In der kemenâtin,
In the chamber,

dâ he wol was berâtin:
where he well was provided:

des nam in selbin hâle.
of-it took him self secrecy.

dô wolde he Kurnevâle
then would he to-Kurneval

gerne zû sprechin lîse.
gladly to speak softly.

dô bat he Perenîse
then asked he Perenis

daz he zû dem schiffe lîfe
that he to the ship ran

und Kurnevâle rîfe
and Kurneval called

und in zû im brêchte;
and him to him brought;

die andern sîne knechte
the other his knights

und daz ander volg blebe dâ.
and the other folk remained there.

dô tet Perenîs alsâ
then did Perenis so

als in der hêre Tristrant hîz.
as him the lord Tristrant bade.

Kurnevâl des nicht en lîz,
Kurneval it not — left-off,

sînen hêren sprach her sân.
to-his lord spoke he straightway.

dô hîz her in wedir gân
then bade he him back go

und entbôt sînen sellin
and sent-word to-his companions

daz sie dorch sînen willin
that they for his will

woldin vrû komen al
would early come all

zu hofe in des koninges sal,
to court into the king's hall,

und sêzin alle an eine bang,
and sat all on a bench,

und ir allir beste gewant
and their of-all best garment

ieglîch an sich legite.
each on himself laid.

swaz sô man dâ redete,
whatever so one there spoke,

daz sie dorch sînen willin
that they for his will

sêzin alle stille
sat all still

biz daz sie in selbin sêgin komen.
until that they him self saw come.

he sprach ‚ich habez wol vornomen:
he spoke ‚I have-it well heard:

ez sal hie werdin gendit
it shall here be ended

dar nâch wir sîn gesendit.‘
there after we are sent.‘

Dô Kurnevâl hin wedir quam,
When Kurneval hence back came,

und daz volg al vornam
and the folk all heard

swaz in der hêre hête entbotin,
whatever them the lord had sent-word,

des danktin sie inniglîchen gote.
for-it thanked they inwardly God.

mit vlîze bereitin sie sich dô:
with diligence readied they themselves then:

zu hand des andern morgens vrû
at once on-the other morning early

legtin an sich die helede
laid on themselves the heroes

manchin purpur schône und edele,
many-a purple fair and noble,

beide buntwerg und hermîn
both fur-work and ermine

mit breitin lîsten zobelîn,
with broad borders of-sable,

in gesniten ze gewande,
for-them cut to garments,

der sie von Markes lande
which they from Mark's land

vil dar hâten brâcht.
much thither had brought.

die vederen wârin wol bedacht
the furs were well covered

mit tûren samîten.
with dear samites.

manchen belz wîten
many-a fur-cloak wide

bestellit brûn als ein brâmbere
trimmed brown as a blackberry

wol nâch ir aller gere,
well after of-them all desire,

zîrheit manchir slachte,
adornment of-many kinds,

swaz îman kunde irtrachtin:
whatever anyone could devise:

cyclât unde cornît,
ciclaton and cornit,

dîasper und samît,
diaper and samite,

gestein unde gold fîn,
gems and gold fine,

so ez allir beste mochte sîn
as it of-all best might be

ergin in einem rîche:
anywhere in a realm:

des trûgen wêrlîche
of-it carried truly

vil an in die hêren
much on them the lords

und hâten ez in zu êren
and had it them to honors

brâcht ûz Kurnevâles lande.
brought out-of Cornwall's land.

irem hêren sie dô sandin
to-their lord they then sent

in vil schôner hûte
in very fair keeping

cleider alsô gûte,
clothes so good,

daz des landes hêren jâgen,
that the land's lords declared,

die ez gesâgen,
who it saw,

daz noch nî quam in Îrlant
that still never came into Ireland

alsô rechte gût gewant.
so rightly good garment.

Dô quâmen die geste
Then came the guests

gegangin in die veste
going into the fortress

an eine bang sitzin.
on a bench to-sit.

sie plâgin sulchir witze,
they practiced such wisdom,

daz ir nichein en lîz
that of-them none — left-undone

daz in ires hêren bote hîz.
what them their lord's messenger bade.

swaz man dâr tete,
whatever one there did,

sie sâzin veste an einer stete,
they sat firmly in one place,

daz sie nicht ûf en stundin.
that they not up — stood.

der koning dô begunde
the king then began

vrâgin um die wîgande
to-ask about the warriors

‚sint sie von desim lande?‘
‚are they from this land?‘

nîman dâ von icht wiste.
no-one there of aught knew.

der koning dô mit listen
the king then with cunning

nâch sîner tochtir sande
after his daughter sent

daz sie mit dem wîgande
that she with the warrior

vor in quême schîre.
before him came soon.

dô nam die vrauwe hêre
then took the lady lordly

Tristranden vaste bî der hant
Tristrant firmly by the hand

und ging dâ sie iren vatir vant.
and went where she her father found.

dô he trat in den sal,
when he stepped into the hall,

dô sprungin ûf obir al
then sprang up over all

die eir sô stille sâzin.
who before so still sat.

sie woldin es nicht lâzin,
they would it not leave,

sie gîngen zû im dar.
they went to him thither.

dô wordin sie alle wol gewar
then became they all well aware

daz sie den helt bestundin.
that they the hero belonged-to.

der koning abir begunde
the king however began

vrâgin, wer he mochte sîn.
to-ask, who he might be.

dô sprach die junge koningîn,
then spoke the young princess,

daz her in ze dem êrsten kuste.
that he him at the first kissed.

dem koninge des vil wol geluste:
to-the king it very well pleased:

he ted, als in sîn tochtir bat.
he did, as him his daughter asked.

eine stête sûne her im gab
a steadfast reconciliation he to-him gave

vor in und al die sîne.
before them and all the his.

The Potion

IX

Isalde names the knight as the slayer of her uncle, and the king keeps his peace with him. The steward still claims the dragon; Tristrant offers to fight him and to prove the deed with the tongue, and the steward, warned by his kin, confesses and leaves in disgrace. The king entrusts Isalde to Tristrant for Mark. Her mother gives Brangene a love drink for the wedding night: for four years it binds those who drink it so that a day apart brings sickness and a week unspoken death. In a harbor a maid brings Tristrant the potion for his thirst, and he and Isalde drink it unknowing and fall helplessly in love; both sicken and hide it.

,nu wil ich dir lâzin schînen‘ 2130
,now will I to-thee let shine‘

sprach die vrauwe ,wer he ist:
spoke the lady ,who he is:

wen dû sô wârhaftig bist,
for thou so truthful art,

daz die sûne sî stête
that the reconciliation be steadfast

die dû dem helde tête,
which thou to-the hero didst,

und he die wol gedînen kan. 2135
and he it well deserve can.

he irslûg dir den tûrsten man
he slew for-thee the dearest man

den die sunne î beschein:
whom the sun ever shone-on:

daz was mîn lîbir ôhein.‘
that was my dear uncle.‘

Dô sprach der koning zû hant
Then spoke the king at once

„nû weiz got, her Tristrant, 2140
„now knows God, lord Tristrant,

wêrez nû nicht vorsônet,
(if)-were-it now not reconciled,

ir wordet hî von mir gehônet:
you would-become here by me shamed:

abir swaz ir mir hât getân,
however whatever you to-me have done,

des sult ir gûten vrede hân."
of-it shall you good peace have."

die vrauwe sprach, daz wêre recht
the lady spoke, that would-be right

‚wen he ist ein gût knecht
‚for he is a good knight

und hât êren genûg.
and has honors enough.

daz he mînen ôm slûg,
that he my uncle slew,

daz ted he âne sînen dang.
that did he against his will.

he en mochte sînes nebin lant
he — might his uncle's land

von dem zinse anders nicht irweren.
from the tribute otherwise not defend.

nû vûr he dorch daz obir mere,
now went he for that over sea,

daz he dir lîbez bescheine:
that he to-thee love might-show:

den trachin bestunt he eine
the dragon attacked he alone

und hât im den lîp benomen:
and has from-it the life taken:

des habe wir alle grôzin vromen.'
of-it have we all great gain.'

Dô sprach der trogsêze,
Then spoke the steward,

wes her sich vormêze,
why he himself presumed,

daz he den trachin slûge:
that he the dragon slew:

daz wêre eine ungefûge.
that would-be an outrage.

den koning he dô manete
the king he then reminded

des he gelobit habete
of-what he promised had

bî sîner rechten wârheit.
by his right truth.

die rede was Tristranden leid.
the speech was to-Tristrant sorrowful.

dô sprach der gûte
then spoke the good-one

in zornigem mûte
in angry mind

‚hêre, her hât unrecht,
‚lord, he has wrong,

und ist he als ein gût knecht,
and (if)-is he as a good knight,

daz he mich aleine tar bestân,
that he me alone dare attack,

ich wil in an sînen hals slân,
I will him on his neck strike,

adir ich lige vor im tôt.
or I lie before him dead.

hêre koning, wêre es nôt,
lord king, (if)-were it need,

ich mag daz wol bezûgen,
I may that well prove,

daz ich ûch nicht en lûge,
that I to-you not — lie,

mit vîren sînen holden,
with four of-his loyal-men,

ab sie ez bekennen woldin,
if they it acknowledge would,

die mit ime wârin dâ
who with him were there

dô he mir vaste stappete nâ
when he to-me hard stepped near

(des ist im misselungen),
(at-it is to-him failed),

und ouch mit desir zungen
and also with this tongue

die ich dem trachin ûz sneit.
which I from-the dragon out cut.

ouch bûte ich mine sichirheit
also would-offer I my surety

mit hulfe mîner vrauwin,
with help of-my lady,

daz her nî torste beschauwin
that he never dared behold

wâ ich den trachin irslûg.‘
where I the dragon slew.‘

des dûchte sie wesin genûg,
of-it seemed to-them to-be enough,

und ime dûchte des zu vele,
and to-him seemed it too much,

dô ging ez im ûz sîme spele.
then went it to-him out-of his game.

Zu sînen vrûndin sprach der tumme,
To his friends spoke the fool,

he wolde sich dar umme
he would himself there about

mit in besprechin gerne,
with them confer gladly,

des tochte im nicht ze entperne.
of-it availed to-him not to forgo.

dô gîngen sî dô besunder;
then went they then apart;

und ein sîn mâge was dar undir,
and one his kinsman was there among,

der sprach: ‚bestelltestû den strît,
who spoke: ‚(if)-orderedst-thou the strife,

dû bist der, der dâ nedir lîd.
thou art he, who there down lies.

wen Tristrant ist ein kûne man.
for Tristrant is a bold man.

daz hât he dicke schîn getân,
that has he often manifest done,

daz he ein gût helt ist.
that he a good hero is.

ab du den trachin nicht enslûgist,
if thou the dragon not slewest,

sô lâz mit im dîn vechten sîn:
so let with him thy fighting be:

daz râte ich dir, nebe mîn.
that counsel I thee, nephew my.

ez geit dir andirs unrechte.‘
it goes to-thee otherwise wrongly.‘

„ich en wil ouch nicht vechten
„I — will also not fight

mit Tristrande“ sprach der zage,
with Tristrant“ spoke the coward,

„ich habe den trachin nicht irslagen.“
„I have the dragon not slain.“

Dô sich der zage alsô besprach,
When himself the coward so conferred,

vor al dem volke he dô jach,
before all the folk he then declared,

he irslûge nicht den serpant,
he slew not the serpent,

ez solde habin Tristrant
it should have Tristrant

die vrauwin billîche.
the lady rightly.

dô sprach der koning rîche
then spoke the king rich

‚diz hêtestû eir geredit baz!‘
‚this hadst-thou before spoken better!‘

deme zagin wordin gehaz
to-the coward became hostile

alle die dâ wârin.
all who there were.

daz he sô offenbâre
that he so openly

diz bevorn hâte gesaget,
this before had said,

ich wêne er ez noch hûte claget,
I believe he it still today laments,

daz he sîn î gedâchte.
that he of-it ever thought.

daz laster in dô brâchte
the shame him then brought

von allen sînen êren.
from all his honors.

dô muste he dannen kêren
then must he thence turn

unde quam nicht mêre dare.
and came not more thither.

ich enrûche ouch wâ he hin vare.
I care-not also where he hence go.

daz in got hône!
that him God shame!

um die maget schône
about the maiden fair

Tristrant den koning dô manete.
Tristrant the king then reminded.

der hêre im nicht vorsagete:
the lord him not refused:

daz was der tochtir harde lîp,
that was to-the daughter very dear,

ouch errete in dô nîman nît.
also hindered him then no-one at-all.

Tristrant der sprach sân
Tristrant he spoke straightway

‚hêre, ir solt wol vorstân,
‚lord, you shall well understand,

wie ich die maget wil nemen,
how I the maiden will take,

daz mag ûch ze den êren zemen:
that may you to the honors befit:

ich wil sie vûren nû zu hant
I will her carry now at once

mit mir in Kurnevâles lant
with me into Cornwall's land

unde wil sie dâr gebin
and will her there give

Marken mîme lîbin nebin:
to-Mark my dear uncle:

der ist ein koning mêre.
he is a king famed.

zu jung ich dar zû wêre,
too young I there to were,

daz ich wîp nême sô vrû.‘
that I wife took so early.‘

der koning sprach „daz wil ich tû,
the king spoke „that will I do,

nû ez dir sô lîp ist.“
now it to-thee so dear is.“

‚ja ez, hêre, daz wizze Crist:
‚yes it, lord, that knows Christ:

ich gan ir im harde wol.‘
I grant her to-him very well.‘

„âne zwîvel her sie habin sol,
„without doubt he her have shall,

wen dû ir leide hâst getân.
for thou to-her sorrow hast done.

ouch vorchte ich, ab sie dar an
also feared I, if she there on

gedêchte eteswenne,
thought at-some-time,

daz ir lîchte denne
that you perhaps then

nicht lebetet als ez wêre recht.
not lived as it were right.

zewâre“ sprach her „gût knecht,
truly“ spoke he „good knight,

dînem nebin wil ich sie sendin.“
to-thy uncle will I her send.“

he gab sie im bî den hendin
he gave her to-him by the hands

und beval sie im ûf sîne trûwe,
and entrusted her to-him upon his faith,

daz he die schône juncfrauwe
that he the fair maiden

mit êren wol bedêchte
with honors well should-provide-for

und sie sîme nebin brêchte.
and her to-his uncle brought.

Dô nam der hêre Tristrant
Then took the lord Tristrant

die maget bî irer wîzen hant:
the maiden by her white hand:

die sante der koning rîche
her sent the king rich

von im rechte hêrlîche
from him right lordly

als eime koninge wol gezam.
as to-a king well befitted.

or mûter einen trang nam.
her mother a drink took.

Brangênen sie den tede
to-Brangene she it gave

und sprach ‚lîbe, dorch mîne bete
and spoke ‚dear, for my request

desin trang den saltû vûren;
this drink it shalt-thou carry;

sich wol daz in berûre
see well that it touch

nîman wen dîn eines hant,
no-one but thy alone hand,

und sô ir komet in daz lant,
and when you come into the land,

und mîn tochtir und ir man
and my daughter and her husband

insampt slâfin sollin gân,
together to-sleep shall go,

und sie in dem bette legin,
and they in the bed lie,

sô saltû in des trankes gebin.
so shalt-thou to-them of-the drink give.

heiz si in ûz trinken gare.
bid them it out drink wholly.

dû salt mit vlîze wol bewaren
thou shalt with diligence well guard

daz sîn nîman entbîze mê!‘
that of-it no-one taste more!“

daz wart gebrochin an dem sê.
that was broken on the sea.

Der trang der was sô getân:
The drink it was so made:

swelch wîp unde man
whichever woman and man

des getrunkin beide,
of-it drank both,

die enmochten sich mit nichte scheiden
they might themselves by no-means part

innewendig vîr jâren.
within four years.

swie gerne sie es vorbârin,
however gladly they it forbore,

sie musten sich minnen
they must each-other love

mit allen iren sinnen
with all their senses

die wîle daz sie lebetin:
the while that they lived:

vîr jâr sie abir phlegetin
four years they however practiced

sô grôzir lîbe beide,
so great love both,

daz sie sich nicht gescheidin
that they themselves not part

mochtin einen halbin tag.
might a half day.

swedir daz ander nicht en sach
whichever the other not — saw

alle tage, daz wart siech:
all days, that became sick:

von dem tranke hâten sie sich lîp.
from the drink had they each-other dear.

ab sie wêrin eine wochen
if they were a week

von ein ander ungesprochen,
from each other unspoken,

sie musten beide wesin tôt:
they must both be dead:

der trang was sô getemperôt,
the drink was so tempered,

von alsô grôzir sterke.
of so great strength.

daz mogit ir wol gemerkin!
that may you well mark!

dô der koning rîche
when the king rich

sîne tochtir sô hêrlîchin
his daughter so lordly

von im hâte gesant,
from him had sent,

dô nam der hêre Tristrant
then took the lord Tristrant

orlop zû der koninginne
leave of the queen

mit lîbe und mit minne.
with love and with affection.

die segele wordin ûf gezogin,
the sails were up drawn,

die winde quâmin her gevlogin
the winds came hither flown

und trebin sie dannen balde.
and drove them thence quickly.

dô was frauwe Îsalde
then was lady Isalde

unde ir gesinde
and her household

an des kieles ende
at the keel's end

in einer kemenâten
in a chamber

harte wol berâtin
very well provided

swes sie begerte.
with-what she desired.

iedoch was sie der verte
yet was she to-the journey

ungewone ûf der sê
unaccustomed upon the sea

und sprach, ez têde ir sêre wê
and spoke, it did to-her sorely woe

daz sie sô balde vûren.
that they so quickly went.

dô lîfen zû den stûren
then ran to the rudders

die des schiffes plâgen.
those-who of-the ship took-care.

dô sie lant sâgen,
when they land saw,

sie zogin den segil vaste
they drew the sail firmly

nedir mit dem maste.
down with the mast.

do begunde der wind stillen:
then began the wind to-still:

daz was mit irem willin.
that was with their will.

zu einer have sie dô quâmen,
to a haven they then came,

dâr sie ire rûge nâmen.
where they their rest took.

die lûte ze state alle gîngen
the people to shore all went

und ir gemach dâr entvîngen,
and their ease there received,

der wîle lutzel sie vordrôz.
the while little them vexed.

dô was die hitze gar grôz.
then was the heat wholly great.

sie gîngen hen unde here
they went hence and hither

ûf dem stade bî dem mere
upon the shore by the sea

mê wen eine grôze stunde.
more than a great hour.

Tristrant dô schîre begunde
Tristrant then soon began

gân zu sîner vrauwin,
to-go to his lady,

he wolde hôren unde schauwin,
he would hear and behold,

ab sie noch varin torste.
if she still to-journey dared.

do begunde in sêre dorsten
then began him sorely to-thirst

und hîz sich ein trinken gebin.
and bade to-himself a drink give.

dô was der schenke achtir wegin.
then was the cupbearer behind away.

dô sprach ein hobisch juncfrauwelîn
then spoke a courtly little-maiden

‚ich wêne, hêre, hie steit wîn.‘
‚I believe, lord, here stands wine.‘

her hîz on im reichin.
he bade it to-him to-hand.

daz was ein bôse zeichin!
that was a wicked sign!

den trang sie ime brâchte.
the drink she to-him brought.

vil wênig her gedâchte
very little he thought

daz her im bôse wêre,
that it to-him wicked were,

her trang in sundir swêre:
he drank it without grief:

dô dûchte im der wîn gût.
then seemed to-him the wine good.

sîner frauwin her in ouch bôt.
to-his lady he it also offered.

alsô schîre sie in trang,
as soon she it drank,

dô dûchte sie beide sundir wang
then seemed to-them both without doubt

sie vorlorin alle ire sinne:
they lost all their senses:

sie musten ein ander minne.
they must each other love.

do en wuste irer kein nît
then — knew of-them none at-all

daz he dem andern was sô lîp
that he to-the other was so dear

wordin in sô korzin stundin,
become in so short hours,

eir sie ez dar nâ bevundin.
before they it there after found.

Si wordin beide tougin
They became both secretly

zu hand undir den ougin
at once under the eyes

beide bleich unde rôt.
both pale and red.

ir ieglîch wênde den tôt
of-them each thought the death

von dem andern gewinnen:
from the other to-win:

sô grôz was die minne
so great was the love

undir in âne iren dang:
between them against their will:

daz hâte gemachit der trang.
that had made the drink.

die vrawe sich schemen begunde,
the lady herself to-shame began,

dô sie in sô korzin stundin
when she in so short hours

liebte Tristranden.
loved Tristrant.

ouch was he sêre bevangin
also was he sorely caught

in gar grôzem leide.
in wholly great sorrow.

des gewunnen sie beide
of-it got they both

harde grôze swêre
very great grief

mêr wen sie gewone wêrin:
more than they accustomed were:

sie wordin heiz unde kalt,
they became hot and cold,

ir angesicht was manchvalt
their countenance was manifold

und daz gischen daz sie tâten.
and the sighing that they did.

grôze sorge sie hâten
great care they had

iegelîchez von der scholt,
each from the cause,

daz ez dem andern was holt,
that it to-the other was devoted,

unde sie enwisten
and they knew-not

von welchen listen
from which arts

daz daz ander sô qual
that the other so suffered

und ez nicht * vorhal.
and it not (lacuna) concealed.

sus wârin sie schîre vorgangin.
thus were they soon passed.

do en mochte vor getwange
then — might for constraint

Tristrant dâr nicht belîben mêr.
Tristrant there not remain more.

sie hâtin beide hertesêr:
they had both heart-pain:

nedir sie sich legetin.
down they themselves laid.

zu nîman sie redeten,
to no-one they spoke,

wâ von sie beide quâlen,
where from they both suffered,

sêre sie daz hâlen.
sorely they that concealed.

Dô ledin sie grôz ungemach
Then suffered they great hardship

beide tag und ouch die nacht,
both day and also the night,

Tristrant und die vrauwe sîn.
Tristrant and the lady his.

‚owê, lîber trechtîn,'
‚alas, dear Lord,'

sprach dô die juncfrauwe
spoke then the maiden

‚waz ich grôze rûwe
‚what I great grief

inwendig in mîme herzen hân
within in my heart have

umme den leiden lîben man!
for the loathsome dear man!

ach, wie torste ich sprechin sô?
ah, how dared I speak so?

jâ bin ich inniglîchen vrô,
yes am I inwardly glad,

ab he mir lîp wil wesin.
if he to-me dear will be.

âne in mag ich nicht genesin:
without him may I not survive:

he nimet mir ezzin unde trang,
he takes from-me eating and drink,

ich werde schîre alsô crang
I become soon so sick

daz ich vorlîsen mûz den lîp.
that I lose must the life.

waz sal ich armez sundig wîp?
what shall I poor sinful woman?

ich vorchte daz he nicht rûche mîn:
I fear that he not care of-me:

wie mag ich im denne holt sîn?
how may I to-him then devoted be?

holt? war umme spreche ich daz?
devoted? what for speak I that?

wie mochte ich im sîn gehaz
how might I to-him be hostile

adir ummirmêre gram werdin?
or evermore hateful become?

zwischin himil unde erdin
between heaven and earth

en mag nichein bezzir lebin:
— may none better live:

he ist ein vil kûner degin,
he is a very bold warrior,

daz hât he dicke schîn getân.
that has he often manifest done.

he tar wol eine bestân
he dares well alone undertake

swaz ein helt tûn sol.
whatever a hero do shall.

ich erkenne sîne togent wol:
I know his virtue well:

he ist bedirwe unde gût,
he is worthy and good,

schône unde wol gemûd,
fair and well minded,

wârhaft unde wol gezogin,
truthful and well bred,

sîner sinne unbetrogin;
of-his senses undeceived;

he wirbet gerne umme êre.
he strives gladly about honor.

waz sal he denne tûn mêre?
what shall he then do more?

he ist der sterkeste man
he is the strongest man

den î vrauwin lîp gewan,
whom ever woman's body bore,

reiner togende vullenkomen:
of-pure virtue perfect:

wen ich daz dicke habe vornomen,
for I that often have heard,

des ist im mîn herze holt.
of-it is to-him my heart devoted.

he ist lûter vor andir volg,
he is pure above other folk,

alse daz golt ist vor daz blî.
as the gold is above the lead.

ab he mir icht lîp sî?
if he to-me at-all dear be?

jâ, dorch sîne vromigkeit
yes, for his prowess

ist he mir lîp âne leit.
is he to-me dear without sorrow.

Isalde's Lament

x

Isalde laments her love alone. She asks her heart why it will not turn from Tristrant, pleads with Cupid and Lady Love, who make her hot and cold, and remembers that he once refused her as a wife. She resolves to put him from her mind, then judges it better to love him than to die, and wavers over telling him. Tristrant suffers the same longing, and both lie three and a half days without food or drink. Brangene finds the drink gone and understands; she and Kurneval resolve to bring the lovers together, since otherwise both will die. On the fourth day the ship comes to a haven.

Hêre got, wie ist mir sô geschên,
Lord God, how is to-me so happened,

sô dicke und ich in habe gesên,
so often as I him have seen,

daz her mich dunket sô gût?
that he me seems so good?

ôwê, herze unde mûd,
alas, heart and mind,

wan wolt ir von im kêren?'
why-not would you from him turn?'

„wer sol uns daz nû lêren?"
„who shall us that now teach?"

,ich rede ez ungerne.'
,I speak it ungladly.'

„wir en turren ez nicht lernen."
„we — dare it not learn."

,war umme?' „uns hât die minne
,what for?' „us has the love

gelêret solche sinne
taught such senses

daz wir an in gedenken:
that we on him think:

nu en turre wir sie nicht krenken
now — dare we her not weaken

mit deheiner slachte sinne.“
with any kind-of sense.“

‚jâ hât mich die minne
‚yes has me the love

alsus harte bestân.
thus very beset.

des en hâte ich nî keinen wân,
of-it — had I never any expectation,

daz sie tête alsô rechte wê.
that she did so truly woe.

wes entgelde ich arme wedir sê,
what pay-for I poor over sea,

daz sie mir sô wê tût?
that she to-me so woe does?

von ir mir liep unde gût
of her to-me dear and good

dicke vil gesaget is:
often much said is:

jâ was ich arme des gewis,
yes was I poor of-it sure,

daz sie sanfte und sûze wêre.
that she gentle and sweet were.

nu is sie mir leidir wordin swêre
now is she to-me alas become grievous

unde als ein ezzich sûr.
and as a vinegar sour.

ôwê, frauwe Amûr,
alas, lady Amor,

wan wirst dû mir sûze,
why-not becomest thou to-me sweet,

daz ich dich loben mûze?
that I thee praise must?

Cupîdô‘ sprach sie ‚der minne got,
Cupid‘ spoke she ‚the love's god,

habe ich ergin dîn gebot
(if)-have I anywhere thy command

mit ichte î missehaldin
with aught ever ill-kept

und habe ich arme Îsalde
and (if)-have I poor Isalde

icht wedir dich getân,
aught against thee done,

daz ich vormedin solde hân:
that I avoided should have:

daz hâstû an mir wol gerochin.
that hast-thou on me well avenged.

mîn herze ist mir zubrochin
my heart is to-me broken-asunder

vil nâ von dîner schulde:
very near through thy guilt:

du en gibest mir dîn hulde,
thou unless givest me thy favor,

sô en mag ich nicht genesin.
so — may I not survive.

wiltû mir ungenêdig wesin,
(if)-wilt-thou to-me ungracious be,

sô mêret sich mîn unheil.
so increases itself my misfortune.

Minne, nû senfte mir ein teil,
Love, now soften for-me a part,

daz ich dich moge irlîden!
that I thee may endure!

dû bist nicht allen wîben
thou art not to-all women

als ungenêdig als mir.
as ungracious as to-me.

waz habe ich î getân dir?
what have I ever done to-thee?

ungemaches unde schaden
of-hardship and of-harm

hân ich mê dann ich turre clagen,
have I more than I dare lament,

und clage doch iezû genûg.
and lament yet now enough.

ez dunket mich ein unfûg,
it seems to-me an unfittingness,

daz dû mich sô heftiglîche bestâst
that thou me so violently besettest

und mich sô sêre ane gâst,
and me so sorely on goest,

daz ich vorlîsen mûz den sin,
that I lose must the sense,

und nû koningîn wordin bin,
and now queen become am,

daz ich von dir nicht wiste.
that I of thee not knew.

du hâst mich gevân mit dîner liste:
thou hast me caught with thy cunning:

nû gân mich an seltsêne sete,
now go me on strange customs,

wankelmût volget mete:
inconstancy follows with:

was ich bevorn an hitze balt,
was I before in heat bold,

ich werde nû als ein îs kalt
I become now as an ice cold

und dar nâ alsô sêre heiz,
and there after so sorely hot,

daz mir rinnet der sweiz
that to-me runs the sweat

ûz allen mînen geledin:
out-of all my limbs:

daz hân ich iezû getrebin
that have I now driven

sô lange, daz ich sterbin mûz,
so long, that I die must,

wirt mir nicht schîre bûz.
(if)-becomes to-me not soon remedy.

Eia, frawe Minne,
Ah, lady Love,

mit welchem unsinne
with what folly

habe ich dîne hulde vorlorn,
have I thy favor lost,

daz dû sô sêre dînen zorn
that thou so sorely thy anger

richest an mîme lîbe?
avengest on my body?

dû tûst mir armen wîbe
thou dost to-me poor woman

leides mêr wen alzu vele.
of-sorrow more than all-too much.

Minne, ez geit mir ûz dem spele.
Love, it goes to-me out-of the game.

Minne, dû zornest âne recht
Love, thou ragest without right

mit mir um den gûten knecht,
with me about the good knight,

wen ich minne in mê den he mich.
for I love him more than he me.

Minne, wes mir nû gnêdich!
Love, be to-me now gracious!

Minne, frowe rîche,
Love, lady rich,

dû zornest billîche
thou ragest rightly

mit im, wan ich in lîp hân
with him, for I him dear have

und he mich nicht. âne wân.
and he me not. without doubt.

Minne, ich wil dînen dir,
Love, I will serve thee,

dorch recht saltû genâdin mir,
by right shalt-thou have-mercy on-me,

wen ich minne einen man,
for I love a man,

daz nichein wîp mê gewan
that no woman more got

zu manne grôzir minne.
for husband greater love.

wes wiltû nû beginnen
what wilt-thou now begin

mit mir mêre?
with me more?

wizze, lîp und êre,
know, life and honor,

Minne, ich dorch dich wâge:
Love, I for thee risk:

nû habe mîn genâde!
now have on-me mercy!

Minne, mînem herzen
Love, to-my heart

tûstû grôzen smerzen.
dost-thou great pain.

Minne, dîn grôze gewalt
Love, thy great power

sie machit mir heiz unde kalt.
it makes for-me hot and cold.

Minne, ich bin dir undirtân,
Love, I am to-thee subject,

gnâde machstû an mir begân.
mercy mayst-thou on me practice.

Minne, ich sûche dînen fûz,
Love, I seek thy foot,

daz dû mir sorgen machist bûz.
that thou for-me cares makest remedy.

Minne, ich werde sô gar vorwût,
Love, I become so wholly mad,

wiltû mir nicht wesin gût.
(if)-wilt-thou to-me not be good.

wiltû mich hazzen, Minne,
(if)-wilt-thou me hate, Love,

wes sal ich arme beginnen?
what shall I poor begin?

Minne, genâde mir in zît,
Love, have-mercy on-me in time,

eir ich vorlîse mînen lip!
before I lose my life!

Minne, dû machst mich wol vorterbin
Love, thou mayst me well destroy

und dîne dirne irsterbin.
and thy maid kill.

Minne, ich bin nû schîre tôd,
Love, I am now soon dead,

hilfestû mir nicht ûz der nôd.
(if)-helpest-thou me not out-of the distress.

waz dû mir ungemaches tûst,
what thou to-me of-hardship doest,

wen dû ez wol tûn mûst!‘
for thou it well do must!‘

Îsalde sprach abir dô
Isalde spoke again then

‚hêre, wie ist mir geschên sô,
‚Lord, how is to-me happened so,

daz ich minne den man
that I love the man

der des nî keinen mûd gewan,
who of-it never any mind got,

daz her mich minnen wolde?
that he me love would?

dô mîn vatir solde
when my father should

mich im zu wîbe habin gegebin,
me to-him as wife have given,

do vorsprach mich der zarte degin
then refused me the tender warrior

und hâte mîn keine rûche.
and had of-me no care.

nû wil ich abir vorsûchin
now will I however try

wie ich des beginne,
how I it begin,

daz ich mîne sinne
that I my senses

von im moge kêren.
from him may turn.

herze, dû ensalt nicht mêre
heart, thou shalt not more

gedenkin an den helt gût,
think on the hero good,

wen ich wil mînen mûd
for I will my mind

von im gerne wendin.
from him gladly turn.

wie mochte ich daz vulenden
how might I that accomplish

daz ich mich von im zoge?
that I myself from him drew?

ich vorchte daz ez mir nicht en toge,
I fear that it to-me not — avail,

ab ich des wolde beginnen:
if I it would begin:

ez ist bezzir daz ich in minne,
it is better that I him love,

wen ich vorlîse mînen lîp.
than I lose my life.

wen worde ich nicht sîn wîp,
for (if)-became I not his wife,

sô bin ich sichirlîchin tôd.
so am I surely dead.

eia, wiste he nû mîne nôd
ah, knew he now my distress

die ich nâch sîme lîbe hân!
which I after his body have!

wie sal ich ane vân
how shall I on take

daz he vorneme mîne clage?
that he perceive my lament?

ich wêne, ich mûz ez im sagin.
I believe, I must it to-him tell.

Owê, wie tûn ich denne sô?
Alas, how do I then so?

waz ab he obele dar zû
what if he ill there to

gedenke, sô her wol mag,
think, as he well may,

sô vorwinne ich den tag
so overcome I the day

wedir in nû noch nimmir mêre.
against him now nor never more.

ich wêne daz ich mîn êre
I believe that I my honor

wâge‘ sprach daz schône wîp:
risk‘ spoke the fair woman:

‚ich wil vorlîsen mînen lîp,
‚I will lose my life,

eir ich ez ime gesage.
before I it to-him tell.

nein, daz wêre grôz schade,
no, that would-be great harm,

wen der lîp ist mir sô lîp:
for the life is to-me so dear:

he ist sô hertes herzin nît,
he is so hard-of heart not,

vornimet he mîne sinne
(if)-perceives he my senses

daz ich in von herzin minne,
that I him from heart love,

he gedenkit ouch an mich ein teil.
he thinks also on me a part.

ich wil daz lâzin an ein heil
I will that leave to a luck

und sage im wie ez mir zû stêt.
and tell him how it to-me to stands.

waz ab he ez obele entphêt?‘
what if he it ill receives?‘

sprach die schône juncfrauwe.
spoke the fair maiden.

mit sorgin und mit rûwe
with cares and with grief

was sie bevangin sêre.
was she caught sorely.

sie mochte dô nicht kêren
she might then not turn

ir herze von dem man:
her heart from the man:

sô was her ouch bevân
so was he also caught

mit dem selbin mûte.
with the same mind.

zu der reinen vrauwin gûten
to the pure lady good

gedâchte he nacht unde tag
thought he night and day

daz he nichtes mêr gephlag,
that he of-nothing more took-care,

wen daz he gedâchte an sie:
than that he thought on her:

in was beiden harte wê.
to-them was both very woe.

Si lâgin vîrdehalbin tag
They lay three-and-a-half days

daz ir nicheinez enplag
that of-them none partook

ezzen adir trankes.
of-eating or of-drink.

sie wârin ir undankes
they were their against-will

beide vil nâch hungers tôd:
both very near hunger's death:

in en mochte nichein brôd
them — might no bread

gehelfin noch nichein wîn,
help nor no wine,

sie musten ungesunt sîn
they must unhealthy be

unde beide obele varin.
and both ill fare.

des wart Brangêne geware
of-it became Brangene aware

und Kurnevâl der gûte.
and Kurneval the good.

des wârin sie in unmûte
for-it were they in distress

und sprâchin ein andir sus zû:
and spoke to-each other thus to:

‚waz sulle wir armen lûte tûn?
‚what shall we poor people do?

vorlîse wir unsir hêrschaft,
(if)-lose we our lords,

sô werde wir sêre schadehaft:
so become we sorely harmed:

daz mag man wol schauwin.‘
that may one well see.‘

do gedâchte die juncfrauwe
then thought the maiden

des trankes unde gîng vil drâte
of-the drink and went very quickly

hen zû der kemenâtin
hence to the chamber

dâ sie in behaldin habete.
where she it kept had.

sie weinete und hantslagete,
she wept and wrung-hands,

dô sie des trankes nicht en vant.
when she the drink not — found.

‚owê, lîbir hêre Tristrant
‚alas, dear lord Tristrant

und lîbe juncfrauwe mîn,
and dear maiden my,

nû mûzet ir vorlorn sîn.
now must you lost be.

got sweche in der ûch gab den trang!‘
God weaken him who to-you gave the drink!‘

gar trûriglîch stunt ir gedang.
wholly sorrowfully stood her thought.

Brangêne gîng hin wedir dô
Brangene went hence back then

und sprach zu Kurnevâle sô:
and spoke to Kurneval so:

‚ich weiz wol wie ez hîr umme gât:
‚I know well how it here about goes:

dîn hêre den tôd hât
thy lord the death has

und mîn juncfrauwe,
and my maiden,

des hân ich vil grôze rûwe.
of-it have I very great grief.

sie mogin nicht genesin,
they may not survive,

sie enwollin ein andir holt wesin
they unless-will each other loyal be

sô daz sie sich minnen.
so that they each-other love.

wie brenge wir sie des inne?‘
how bring we them of-it within?‘

sprach daz getrûwe megetîn
spoke the faithful little-maiden

‚jâ wil ich den lîp mîn
‚yes will I the life my

wâgin und alle mîn êre,
risk and all my honor,

eir ich von sulchir swêre
before I from such grief

dese zwei lâze irsterbin.‘
these two let die.‘

„ouch wolde ich selbe eir vorterbin“
„also would I myself rather perish“

sprach Kurnevâl der gûte.
spoke Kurneval the good.

dô wart in zwên des zu mûte,
then became to-them two of-it to mind,

daz sie sî zu samen brâchtin
that they them to together brought

und, ab sie es selbe nicht gedâchten,
and, if they it themselves not thought,

daz man sie des ermanete.
that one them of-it reminded.

Brangêne sêre clagete:
Brangene sorely lamented:

‚daz sie des trankes enbizzen,
‚that they of-the drink tasted,

ez wirt mir noch vorwizzen;
it becomes to-me yet reproached;

doch wil ichz lâzen an ein heil.
yet will I-it leave to a luck.

Kurnevâl, tû dînen teil,
Kurneval, do thy part,

bring mir sie ze samene:
bring me them to together:

waz toug die mêr zu sagene?
what avails it more to say?

adir sie sîn beide vorlorn,
or they are both lost,

sô wêre wir lîbir ungeborn.‘
so would-be we more-gladly unborn.‘

Recht an deme vîrden tage
Right on the fourth day

quâmen sie abir zu einer habe.
came they again to a haven.

The Wedding Night

XI

At Kurneval’s urging Tristrant goes to Isalde, who calls him lord, and they confess their love and lie together for the rest of the voyage. To hide her lost maidenhead Isalde begs Brangene to take her place with Mark on the wedding night; Brangene refuses, then yields. Mark marries Isalde at Tintajol, and Tristrant, telling him that in her land no light may burn on the first night, puts out the lights as chamberlain; Brangene goes to Mark, and at midnight the women change places. After a year, fearing Brangene will betray her, Isalde pays two knights to kill her at a spring. Brangene pleads that her only fault was lending Isalde her own shift for the first night, and begs them to spare her and report her slain with that message.

die lûte gîngen an den stat.
the people went onto the shore.

Kurnevâl sînen hêren bat
Kurneval his lord asked

daz he zu vraun Îsalden gînge
that he to lady Isalde went

und sêge, wie sie ez ane vînge,
and saw, how she it on took,

im worde lîchte deste baz.
to-him became perhaps the better.

‚ir werret ouch ich en weiz waz'
‚to-you ails also I not know what'

sprach Kurnevâl mit listen:
spoke Kurneval with cunning:

‚waz ab sie gerne wiste,
‚what if she gladly knew,

wie ûwir sûche wêre getân?'
how your sickness were made?'

do begunde der hêre dar gân.
then began the lord thither to-go.

als he in die kemenâtin trat,
as he into the chamber stepped,

so en Kurnevâl vore bat,
as him Kurneval before asked,

dô hâte he krefte nicht sô vil
then had he strength not so much

(daz mag geloubin swer dâ wil),
(that may believe whoever there will),

daz he vullin nâhe quême
that he fully near came

unde rechte vornême,
and rightly perceived,

wie ez wêre umme sîn trût.
how it were about his beloved.

dô rîf die vrauwe ubir lût
then called the lady over loud

sô schîre und sie in an gesach:
as soon as she him on looked:

‚hêre' sie zû im sprach
‚lord' she to him spoke

‚komet her zu mir vil balde!'
‚come hither to me very quickly!'

„nû bistû mit unsâldin"
„now art-thou with misfortunes"

dâchte Tristrant an sînem mûte,
thought Tristrant in his mind,

„sie entbûtet dir mit keinem gûte
„she offers to-thee with no good

dese michelîchin êre,
this great honor,

wen dû bist ir unmêre.
for thou art to-her worthless.

wêrest dû ir icht lîp,
(if)-wert thou to-her at-all dear,

sie hîze dich hêre nît."
she would-call thee lord not."

der gedang ward im wê,
the thought became to-him woe,

zu hant sîn mût dâ wedir schrê:
at once his mind there against cried:

„daz sie dir die êre bôt,
„that she to-thee the honor offered,

dâ mit hât sie dir geoffenôt
there with has she to-thee revealed

daz dû ir wêrlîchin bist
that thou to-her truly art

allir manne lîbist:
of-all men dearest:

ja bedûtet hêre meistirschaft!"
yes signifies lord mastery!"

von vroude gewan he sulche craft,
from joy got he such strength,

daz he vullin hene gie,
that he fully thither went,

und sazte sich harte nebin sie.
and set himself very beside her.

Daz was den râtgebin lîp.
That was to-the counselors dear.

do en sûmetin sie lengir nît,
then — delayed they longer not,

sie rûmtin die kemenâtin sân.
they cleared the chamber straightway.

ich bin des sichir, sundir wân,
I am of-it sure, without doubt,

dâ beleib nîman inne
there remained no-one within

wen die zwei und die Minne.
but the two and the Love.

ich en weiz wedir ir dô sprach,
I not know which of-them then spoke,

wen ir iegelîch besundern jach
for of-them each separately avowed

dem andern, wie ez um in stunt,
to-the other, how it about him stood,

und daz sie beide wol gesunt
and that they both well healthy

wordin eir wen sie sich scheiden.
became before than they themselves parted.

daz spreche ich zwâre bî den eiden:
that speak I truly by the oaths:

dar nâch sie mit vroudin lâgin
there after they with joys lay

und grôzir minne plâgin,
and great love practiced,

biz daz sie sô verne quâmen
until that they so far came

daz sie Markes lant vornâmen.
that they Mark's land perceived.

dô wordin sie des zu râte
then became they of-it to counsel

eines âbendes [gar] spâte
on-an evening [wholly] late

daz sie Brangênen bête,
that they Brangene should-ask,

daz sie ez dorch ire lîbe têde
that she it for their love did

und bî dem koninge lêge
and by the king lay

und mit ime plêge
and with him practiced

der minne an der êrsten nacht.
the love on the first night.

der list was umme daz irdâcht,
the cunning was for that devised,

daz sie den koning sus betruge
that she the king thus deceived

und iren magetûm vorluge,
and her maidenhood belied,

daz he ir wêre rechte vore,
that he to-her were rightly before,

und ûf daz sie nicht vorlore
and so that she not lost

or werltlîche êre.
her worldly honor.

Brangêne weinete sêre,
Brangene wept sorely,

dô sie die rede hôrte.
when she the speech heard.

nu vornemet, mit welchem worte
now hear, with what word

des vrauwe Îsalde irhûb,
it lady Isalde raised,

dô sie es von êrste kein ir wûg!
when she it from first toward her moved!

‚Brangêne, lîbe vrûndin mîn,
‚Brangene, dear friend my,

nu bedarf ich wol des râtis dîn,
now need I well of-the counsel thy,

wie ich mîn ding sulle ane vân
how I my thing shall on take

swen ich bi den koning sal slâfin gân.‘
when I by the king shall to-sleep go.‘

„vrauwe, dar umme enweiz ich nît.“
„lady, there about know I not.“

‚sprich nicht sô, mîn lîbe lîp!‘
‚speak not so, my dear life!‘

„vrauwe, was sal ich denne redin?“
„lady, what shall I then speak?“

‚dû salt mir bezzern rât gebin.‘
‚thou shalt to-me better counsel give.‘

„owê, vrauwe, ich en kan.“
„alas, lady, I not can.“

‚sô ist mîn vroude gar zugân.‘
‚so is my joy wholly gone-to-nothing.‘

„daz wêre mir inniglîche leit.“
„that would-be to-me inwardly sorrowful.“

‚nu irzeigez dor dîn vromigheit!‘
‚now show-it through thy worth!‘

„vrauwe, wie sal ich daz tûn schîn?“
„lady, how shall I that make manifest?“

‚tû ein ding dorch den willin mîn!‘
‚do a thing for the will my!‘

„nû lâzit hôrin waz daz sî!“
„now let hear what that be!“

‚dû salt dem koninge legin bî
‚thou shalt the king lie by

an der êrsten nacht eine wîle!‘
on the first night a while!‘

„vrauwe, daz wizzet âne île,
„lady, that know without haste,

daz ich daz nimmir getû.“
that I that never do.“

‚ich wil dir danken sô hô
‚I will to-thee thank so high

mit dienste und mit minnen.‘
with service and with love.‘

„wie wolt ir des beginnen?“
„how would you it begin?“

‚daz wil ich lâzen sên.‘
‚that will I let see.‘

„ûwern dienst wil ich ê verjên.“
„your service will I sooner renounce.“

‚sô bete ich dich des dorch got.‘
‚so ask I thee of-it for God.‘

„ir hât einen ungefûgin spot.“
„you have an unfitting mockery.“

‚owê, wie grôz ernst mich an geit!‘
‚alas, how great earnest me on goes!‘

„der rede ûch nicht wol an steit.“
„the speech to-you not well on stands.“

‚doch mag ich ir nicht vorbern.‘
‚yet may I of-it not forbear.‘

„ir endorft des von mir nimmir gern.“
„you need of-it from me never desire.“

‚nein, lîbe vrûndinne mîn,
‚no, dear friend my,

dû salt mir ungeswechin sîn.
thou shalt to-me unfailing be.

daz vordîne ich nû und ummir gerne.‘
that repay I now and ever gladly.‘

„ich habe ûch gevolgit verne,
„I have you followed far,

vrauwe, der trûwe gedenkit!
lady, the faithfulness remember!

sêt, daz ir mich nicht en krenkit!“
see, that you me not — wrong!“

‚sô vorlîse ich al mîn êre
‚so lose I all my honor

und enmag dir nimmir mêre
and may to-thee never more

wedir lîp noch gût getûn,
neither kindness nor good do,

noch mir selbin dar zû:
nor to-me self there to:

daz machstû nû bewarin wol.‘
that mayst-thou now guard well.‘

„von rechte mir dar umme sol
„by right to-me there for shall

schade und lastir wedirfarn,
harm and shame befall,

wen ich den trang solde bewarn“
for I the drink should guard“

sprach Brangêne die getrûwe.
spoke Brangene the faithful.

dô sprach die juncfrauwe
then spoke the maiden

‚des gedenke dorch dîn gûte
‚of-it think for thy goodness

und hilf mir ûz der nôte.‘
and help me out-of the distress.‘

„ich wil ûch helfin ûz der nôt,
„I will you help out-of the distress,

doch wêre lîbir mir der tôt.“
yet would-be dearer to-me the death.“

Di vrauwe ted an der stunt
The lady made at the hour

deme hêren Tristrande kunt
to-the lord Tristrant known

daz Brangêne gerne tête
that Brangene gladly did

dar umme sie si bête.
there for she her asked.

des wart der hêre vil vrô.
of-it became the lord very glad.

dem koninge Markin entbôt he dô,
to-the king Mark sent-word he then,

daz he kegin im quême
that he toward him came

und die juncfrauwe zû im nême,
and the maiden to himself took,

dar nâch her in hête gesant.
there after he him had sent.

dô hûb sich [koning] Marke ze hant
then raised himself [king] Mark at once

ûf den sê gein in.
onto the sea toward them.

her hîz in willekome sîn
he bade them welcome be

und nam die juncfrawin hêre
and took the maiden noble

zu Tintanjôl mit grôzin êren.
to Tintajol with great honors.

die brûtlouf wart rîche.
the wedding was rich.

Tristrant dô listichlîche
Tristrant then cunningly

sprach zu sîme lîben herren
spoke to his dear lord

‚ez en mag ûch nicht gewerren
‚it — may you not trouble

des ûch mîn vrawe lêst betin,
of-what you my lady lets ask,

daz ir iren lantsetin
that you her land's-custom

mit ir wollit begân.‘
with her will practice.‘

dô vrâgete der koning sân,
then asked the king straightway,

waz setis ir land hête?
what of-custom her land had?

dô sprach der helt stête,
then spoke the hero steadfast,

bî dem bette solde nicht lîchtes sîn,
by the bed should no light be,

swenne sô die koningîn
whenever so the queen

zu dem êrsten bî im lêge,
at the first by him lay,

daz sie nîman gesêge
that her no-one saw

biz des morgens daz sie ûf stunde.
until in-the morning that she up stood.

wie wol he ir des gunde,
how well he to-her it granted,

sprach der koning zu sînem nebin
spoke the king to his nephew

und hîz in kemmerêre wesin,
and bade him chamberlain be,

daz er die lîcht leschte,
that he the lights quenched,

wen her wol weste
for he well knew

wie ez gescîn solde,
how it happen should,

und swaz die frauwe wolde
and whatever the lady would

daz her daz allez tête,
that he that all did,

mit vlîze er in des bête.
with diligence he him of-it asked.

Der kemmerêre Tristrant
The chamberlain Tristrant

der kemenâtin sich undirwant.
the chamber himself undertook.

dô der koning slâfin solde;
when the king sleep should;

und alse die vrauwe wolde,
and as the lady would,

sô ted he iren willen.
so did he her will.

Brangênen brâchte he stille
Brangene brought he quietly

zu bette deme koninge.
to bed to-the king.

dez was die meiste trugene
that was the greatest deceit

die Tristrant î getete,
which Tristrant ever did,

wen he rechte an der selbin stete
for he right at the same place

lag bî sîner vrauwin.
lay by his lady.

daz enwas nichein untrûwe.
that was no faithlessness.

wen he ted daz âne sînen dang:
for he did that against his will:

der vil unsêlige trang
the very unblessed drink

hâte ez dar zû brâcht.
had it there to brought.

rechte an der mitter nacht
right at the mid night

quam Brangêne gegân,
came Brangene going,

ire frauwe hîz sie ûf stân,
her lady bade she up stand,

daz sie gînge ze irem man.
that she went to her husband.

sus sô wart daz ane gevân,
thus so was that on taken,

daz der koning ward betrogin.
that the king was deceived.

dô was Tristrant in dem hove
then was Tristrant in the court

ein jâr sô stêtlîche,
a year so steadfastly,

sô daz her wêrlîche
so that he truly

selbe zu Kurnevâle sprach,
himself to Kurneval spoke,

daz he einen einigen tach
that he a single day

nicht ûze sîn mochte.
not away be might.

âne zwîvel in dûchte,
without doubt to-him seemed,

solde he zwêne tage sîn,
(if)-should he two days be,

daz he nicht en sêge die koningîn,
that he not — saw the queen,

he vorlore sînen lîp.
he would-lose his life.

den selbin mût hâte ouch daz wîp.
the same mind had also the woman.

Dar nâch abir nicht lang
There after however not long

gewan die vrauwe den gedang,
got the lady the thought,

daz sie mit des tôdes dône
that she with the death's tune

Brangênen wolde lônen
Brangene would reward

daz sie ir sô wol gedînet habete.
that she to-her so well served had.

sie vorchte daz sie sagete
she feared that she told

swaz sie von ir wiste.
whatever she of her knew.

sie wolde ir mit liste
she would from-her with cunning

den lîp abe gewinnen.
the life off win.

daz wârin bôse sinne!
those were wicked senses!

zwên armen rittern sie gebôt,
to-two poor knights she commanded,

daz sie ir têdin den tôd:
that they to-her did the death:

sechzig mark sie in gêbe silberes.
sixty marks she to-them would-give of-silver.

die ritter wârin willig des
the knights were willing of-it

und sprâchin daz sie gerne têtin
and spoke that they gladly did

swes sie die vrauwe bête.
whatever them the lady asked.

daz silber sie in zu hant gab
the silver she to-them at once gave

und wîsete sie an eine stad
and directed them to a place

dâr sie eins brunnen hûtin soldin,
where they a spring guard should,

und swer des scheppin wolde,
and whoever of-it draw would,

daz sie deme nêmen den lîp,
that they from-him took the life,

ez wêre man adir wîp,
it were man or woman,

und ir die leber brâchtin.
and to-her the liver brought.

di ritter dô gedâchtin
the knights then thought

an daz silber vil harte
on the silver very hard

und hûbin sich an die warte.
and raised themselves to the lookout.

die koningîn sich dô legete,
the queen herself then laid,

zu Brangênen sie dô redete,
to Brangene she then spoke,

daz ir unsanfte wêre.
that to-her uneasy were.

daz clagite vil sêre
that lamented very sorely

Brangêne die getrûwe.
Brangene the faithful.

dô sprach die falsche frawe
then spoke the false lady

daz sie ir holete des brunnen
that she for-her fetched of-the spring

der dorch den bômgarten runne.
which through the orchard ran.

Brangêne des nicht en lîz
Brangene it not — left-undone

daz ir die koninginne hîz:
which her the queen bade:

ein goltvaz siê in die hant gevîng,
a gold-vessel she in the hand took,

in den bômgarten sie gîng
into the orchard she went

zû dem brunnen dâ sie in vant.
to the spring where she it found.

die ritter quâmen al zuhant.
the knights came all at-once.

sie en wusten waz sie tâtin.
they not knew what they did.

zu Brangênen sie sprâchin
to Brangene they spoke

‚frauwe, ir mogit nicht genesin.‘
‚lady, you may not survive.‘

„ir hêren, waz sal diz wesin?“
„you lords, what shall this be?“

sprach daz getrûwe wîp.
spoke the faithful woman.

‚ir sult vorlîsen ûwern lîp‘
‚you shall lose your life‘

sprach der selbin ritter ein.
spoke of-the same knights one.

„ich weiz wol leidir den mein“ 2910
„I know well alas the wickedness“

sô sprach die junge vrauwe:
so spoke the young lady:

„ich entgelde mîner grôzin trûwe:
„I pay-for my great faithfulness:

mîn vrauwe heizet mich irslân.
my lady orders me slain.

nû solt ir ûwir togent begân
now shall you your virtue practice

und tûd ez dorch gotis lîbe, 2915
and do it for God's love,

wen ich ez nicht mag vordînen,
for I it not may repay,

und lât mich eine wîle lebin
and let me a while live

und ûwir ein gê achtir wegin
and of-you one go behind away

und jê daz ich irslagin sî
and say that I slain be

und sage mîner vraun dar bî 2920
and tell my lady there by

daz ich wedir ûch sprêche,
that I to you spoke,

ich en weiz waz sie an mir rêche,
I not know what she on me avenged,

daz sie mich âne schult vorrît;
that she me without guilt betrays;

got weiz wol, ich erdenkez nît,
God knows well, I think-of-it not,

daz ich ie icht getête
that I ever aught did

des sie billîche zorn hête,
for-which she rightly anger had,

wen ich lîz alle mîne mâge
for I left all my kinsmen

ûf ir einige genâde
upon her single grace

und vûr mit ir in fremede rîche:
and went with her into foreign realms:

sal ich dan sô jêmerlîche
shall I then so lamentably

mînen lîp verlîsen?
my life lose?

dô wir von lande begundin rîsen,
when we from land began to-journey,

dô gab uns ir mûter“
then gave us her mother“

sprach die juncfrauwe gûte
spoke the maiden good

„zwei hemede harde cleine:
„two shifts very fine:

sie weiz wol, waz ich meine.
she knows well, what I mean.

eir wie dô quâmen in diz lant,
before we then came into this land,

dô was daz ire sô zutrant
then was the hers so torn

und sô garwe zebrochen
and so completely broken

daz sie ez mit êren nicht en mochte
that she it with honors not — might

bî dem koninge an gehaben.
by the king on have.

dô was daz mîn ungetragin,
then was the mine unworn,

daz was ganz unde nûwe.
it was whole and new.

sie bat daz ich ez ir lege dor trûwe,
she asked that I it to-her lent for faithfulness,

daz ted ich vil ungerne.
that did I very ungladly.

dô bat sie mich alsô verne,
then asked she me so far,

daz ich ez zu lestin leig ir.
that I it at last lent to-her.

ich weiz ir nicht inbêtin mêr,
I know to-her nothing to-blame more,

wen daz ich obir mere
than that I over sea

mîn hemede mit mir here
my shift with me hither

ganz und nûwe hâte brâcht:
whole and new had brought:

daz leig ich ir die êrsten nacht,
that lent I to-her the first night,

dô sie lach bî dem koninge.
when she lay by the king.

dô wart ez mir obele
then was it to-me ill

in irem dienste zevôrt.
in her service torn.

nû merket rechte mîne wort
now mark rightly my words

und sagit ir daz ich nî
and tell her that I never

desin tôt vorschulte umme sî.“
this death deserved toward her.“

Brangene Spared

XII

Moved by Brangene's plea, the two knights Isalde sent to kill her spare her life, kill a passing dog instead, and carry its liver to the queen. Told that Brangene confessed no fault but the shift she lent her lady on the wedding night, Isalde curses herself and repents; the knight reveals that Brangene lives, and the two women reconcile. Tristrant, told of it by Kurneval, bids the queen make amends. His virtue now earns him the envy of seven lords, led by Mark's nephew Antret, who tell Mark that Tristrant loves the queen. Mark refuses to believe them and twice rebukes them, then finds Tristrant embracing Isalde before his bed and banishes him from court.

Die ritter irbarmete daz,
The knights pitied that,

daz sie nicht en wusten waz
that they not — knew what

an der vrauwin rechin.
on the lady to-avenge.

ir jêmirlîchez sprechin
her lamentable speaking

behîlt ir dô den lîb.
kept for-her then the life.

sie dâchtin, irslûgen sî daz wîb,
they thought, (if)-slew they the woman,

sin verwunnen ez nimmermêre
they would-overcome it nevermore

zir werltlîchen êre.
to-their worldly honor.

dô quam dar ein hunt gegân;
then came there a dog going;

der eine der irslûg in sân
the one he slew it straightway

und nam ze hant die lebere
and took at once the liver

und want sie in sîn hemede
and wrapped it in his shirt

und trûg sie verholenlîche
and carried it secretly

hen zû der koninginne rîche.
hence to the queen rich.

sie sagete im des gûten dang
she said to-him for-it good thanks

und vrâgete in al zuhant
and asked him all at-once

‚sprach sie icht?' „jâ sie tete."
‚spoke she aught:' „yes she did."

‚nû sage mir, waz.' her hûb ze stete
‚now tell me, what.' he raised at once

und sagete ir recht wie sie sprach
and told her right how she spoke

von dem hemde unde wie sie jach,
of the shift and how she declared,

sie hête ez von ir lûwin.
she had it from her lent.

‚nû, zu dînen trûwin,
‚now, by thy faithfulness,

sprach sie icht mêr?' „nein, sie niet,
spoke she aught more:' „no, she not,

wen daz wêre or von herzin lîp,
except that were to-her from heart dear,

hête wir or den lîp gelâzin."
(if)-had we to-her the life left."

‚nû mûze mich got vorwâzin'
‚now may me God curse'

sprach die vrauwe lustsam,
spoke the lady lovely,

‚daz ich daz lebin î gewan,
‚that I the life ever got,

daz mûze ummir gote irbarmen!
that may ever God pity!

waz sal ich nû vil arme,
what shall I now very poor,

daz ich mich sus gevelschit hân?
that I myself thus falsified have?

nu en sal mir wîp noch man
now — shall me woman nor man

getrûwin nimmir mêre.
trust never more.

got lâz it an mîn êre
God let it upon my honor

und schîre an mîn lîp gân,
and soon upon my life go,

den mort den ich habe getân!
the murder which I have done!

der tûfil‘ sprach sie ‚neme mich!‘
the devil‘ spoke she ‚take me!‘

sie slûg unde roufte sich
she struck and tore herself

sô frevelîchen harte,
so outrageously hard,

daz jener von der warte
that that-one from the lookout

sie zu wundir an gesach.
her to wonder on looked.

grôzir rûwe sie dô phlach.
great grief she then practiced.

Dô der ritter daz vornam
When the knight that perceived

daz ir von grôzir leide quam
that to-her from great sorrow came

die rûwe die sie habete,
the grief which she had,

nicht lengir er gedagete
not longer he kept-silent

[He sprach] ‚vrauwe trôstet ûwern mût:
[He spoke] ‚lady comfort your mind:

Brangêne die en ist nicht tôt.
Brangene she — is not dead.

daz ist mir nû von herzin lîp.
that is to-me now from heart dear.

ich torstez ûch vore sagin nît:
I dared-it to-you before say not:

ich vorchte daz ez ûch leit wêre.‘
I feared that it to-you sorrowful were.‘

„dînes spotes ich wol entpêre“
„of-thy mockery I well forbear“

sprach sie jêmerlîche
spoke she lamentably

„mir en ist nicht gemelîche
„to-me — is not merry

daz ich sie sus vorlorn hân.“
that I her thus lost have.“

‚daz wizzet, vrauwe, sundir wân:
‚that know, lady, without doubt:

ich spote nicht, iedoch
I mock not, yet

Brangêne lebet noch.
Brangene lives still.

wolt ir daz ich sie ûch bringe?‘
would you that I her to-you bring?‘

sie sprach „sô mag dir wol gelingen:
she spoke „so may to-thee well succeed:

lebet sie“ sprach die koningîn,
(if)-lives she“ spoke the queen,

dû salt ummir rîche sîn:
thou shalt ever rich be:

daz lobe ich dir trûwelîchen.“
that promise I thee faithfully.“

der ritter gîng [hen] vrôlîchen
the knight went [hence] gladly

und sagete sînem sellin
and told his companion

der koninginne willen.
the queen's will.

dô wurden sie beide vrô.
then became they both glad.

Brangênen nâmen sie nû
Brangene took they now

und brâchtin sie [gar] drâte
and brought her [wholly] quickly

zu der vrauwin kemenâtin.
to the lady's chamber.

dô sie die koningîn gesach,
when her the queen saw,

nû moget ir hôren, wie sie sprach:
now may you hear, how she spoke:

‚wes willekome, lîbez wîp.
‚be welcome, dear woman.

daz dû behaldin hâst den lîp,
that thou kept hast the life,

des lobe ich got von himele:
for-that praise I God of heaven:

zwâre her was hie nidene
truly he was here below

und half dir ûz desir nôt.
and helped thee out-of this distress.

têt er mir nû den selbin tôt
(if)-did he to-me now the same death

den ich dir hâte gedâcht,
which I for-thee had thought,

adir versenkete mich sîn macht
or sank me his might

alhie in des meres grunde,
all-here in the sea's bottom,

adir vorgâbe mir mîn sunde,
or forgave me my sin,

sô richte er keiserlîche.‘
so judged he imperially.‘

dô vîl die vrauwe rîche
then fell the lady rich

Brangênen zû fûze.
to-Brangene at foot.

sie bôt ir grôze bûze
she offered to-her great amends

und dar zû minneglîche wort
and there to loving words

daz sie vorgêze den mort
that she should-forget the murder

den sie an or wolde begân.
which she on her would commit.

ouch sûchte Brangêne sân
also sought Brangene straightway

der koninginne genâde,
the queen's grace,

daz sie ir vorgâbe,
that she to-her forgave,

ab sie icht hête getân
if she aught had done

daz sie vormedin solde hân.
that she avoided should have.

dâ lâgin sie beide,
there lay they both,

mit micheler leide
with great sorrow

wâren sie bevangin.
were they caught.

dâ lâgin sie sô lange,
there lay they so long,

daz sie nîman ûf hûp,
that them no-one up raised,

biz ez sie beide dûchte gût
until it them both seemed good

daz sie dô ûf stunden
that they then up stood

und den nît versûnden.
and the enmity reconciled.

dô kusten sich die vrauwen zwû.
then kissed each-other the ladies two.

die koninginne gedâchte dô,
the queen thought then,

wie sie es Brangênen irgetzte
how she it to-Brangene made-good

und ir wedir liebe setzte
and to-her again love set

kein dem leit sôgetân:
against the sorrow so-made:

daz wolde sie an ir gerne begân.
that would she on her gladly practice.

do en was Tristrant nicht ze hûs.
then — was Tristrant not at home.

he was mit dem koninge ûz
he was with the king out

geretin birsen in den walt.
ridden to-hunt into the wood.

dô im diz mêre wart gezalt
when to-him this tidings was told

von Kurnevâle dem gûten,
by Kurneval the good,

dô wart im an sînem mûte
then became to-him in his mind

beide leide unde zorn.
both sorrow and anger.

‚diz wêre bezzir vorborn‘
‚this would-be better forborne‘

sprach he zû der koningîn.
spoke he to the queen.

‚nû des nicht mag gesîn,
‚now it not may be,

so ergetzit sie es mit êren.‘
so make-good to-her it with honors.‘

dô sprach die vrauwe hêre,
then spoke the lady lordly,

daz sie daz gerne tête.
that she that gladly did.

dô wart die sûne stête.
then became the reconciliation steadfast.

Dar nâch in korzin stundin
There after in short hours

dô wart âne wundin
then was without wounds

Tristrant sêre vorsnetin.
Tristrant sorely cut.

nû merket rechte wâ mete:
now mark rightly where with:

he wart besagit und belogin
he was accused and lied-about

von dren bôsin herzogin
by three wicked dukes

und von vîr grâbin
and by four counts

die des koninges hofes plâgin.
who of-the king's court attended.

ich wil ûch sagin umme waz:
I will to-you tell about what:

sie wârin im des gehaz
they were to-him for-it hostile

daz he mit schalle lebete
that he with renown lived

und nâch den êrin strebete
and after the honors strove

und daz beste ted zu allir zît:
and the best did at all time:

dar umme hâtin sie den nît,
there for had they the envy,

wan sie wârin selbe nicht vrome.
for they were themselves not valiant.

sô ist daz sint vil dicke komen
so is that since very often come

und geschît manchem frumen man,
and happens to-many-a valiant man,

daz im der bôse nicht en gan
that to-him the wicked not — grants

und sînen prîs zustôret.
and his prize destroys.

swen he in ergin lobin hôret,
whenever he him anywhere praise hears,

mag he ez nicht wedir reden,
(if)-may he it not against speak,

er gêt lîhte von dem wege
he goes perhaps from the way

und sprichet ‚ez ist ein lugene.‘
and speaks ‚it is a lie.‘

daz gezême ûch allin ubele,
that befitted you all ill,

woldet ir daz rechte merkin;
(if)-would you it rightly mark;

wen mit sulchin werkin
for with such works

selten nie kein man
seldom never any man

prîs und êre gewan
prize and honor got

alsô stêt an der minne.
so stands on the love.

nurâ jungelinge,
now-then youths,

gedenkit an die vromigheit
think on the prowess

und lât ûch die bôsheit wesin leit!
and let to-you the wickedness be loathsome!

swer gôt von herzin minnet
whoever God from heart loves

und nâch den êrin ringet,
and after the honors wrestles,

dem volgit selden unheil.
him follows seldom misfortune.

ouch mag her wol sîn teil
also may he well his part

gewinnen, al des er bedarf.
win, all of-what he needs.

ôwol in daz er î wart!
oh-well for-him that he ever became!

Swer bedirwe und getrûwe ist
Whoever worthy and faithful is

unde dan wîse list
and then wise cunning

mit setin an sîme herzin hât,
with customs in his heart has,

der mag des habin gûtin rât,
he may of-it have good counsel,

ab in die bôsen nîden.
if him the wicked envy.

sie mogen es nicht vormîden,
they may it not avoid,

sie mûzin im unwillig sîn;
they must to-him unwilling be;

sô ist im abir mîn trechtîn
so is to-him however my Lord

und alle gûte lûte holt:
and all good people loyal:

daz hât he dicke wol vorscholt
that has he often well deserved

und noch alle tage tût.
and still all days does.

dennoch ist der bôsin mûd
yet is the wicked's mind

sô harte zû im irbolgin,
so very toward him angered,

wolden in die vromen volgin,
(if)-would them the valiant follow,

sie nêmen im gerne den lîp:
they would-take from-him gladly the life:

alsô michel ist der nît
so great is the envy

den die bôsin zû den gûten hân
which the wicked toward the good have

um daz sie vromigheit begân.
for that they prowess practice.

Daz wart an Tristrande schîn.
That became on Tristrant shown.

dar um muste he genedin sîn
there for must he envied be

von den hêren die ich nande êr:
by the lords whom I named before:

he en hâte keine schult mêr,
he — had no guilt more,

wen daz he nâch den êren rang
than that he after the honors wrestled

und î zu vorderôst drang
and ever to foremost pressed

swâ man manheit solde tûn,
wherever one manhood should do,

wen he um êre unde rûm
for he for honor and fame

zu allin zîten gerne warp.
at all times gladly strove.

ouch was he milde biz he starp:
also was he generous until he died:

dar umme wârin sie im gehaz.
there for were they to-him hostile.

ouch was he geminnet baz
also was he loved better

von dem koninge, den ir kein.
by the king, than of-them any.

dô wordin die sibene des in ein
then became the seven of-it at one

daz sie im vornichtigen woldin
that they from-him bring-to-nothing would

sînes hêren [des koninges] hulde,
his lord's [the king's] favor,

und daz geschêge schiere.
and that should-happen soon.

von den sibenen viere
of the seven four

die wârin im alsô gram:
they were to-him so hostile:

die hâtin einen houbetman,
they had a captain,

Antrêt der zage hîz.
Antret the coward was-called.

sîn valsche in nicht lîz
his falseness him not let

nî nicht gûtis getûn.
ever anything of-good do.

he was des koninges swestir son
he was the king's sister's son

und solde Tristrandes nebe sîn.
and should Tristrant's cousin be.

der tûfil senke in in den Rîn!
the devil sink him into the Rhine!

wan, swie he was sîn frûnt,
for, however he was his kinsman,

frûntschaft tet he im nicht kunt.
friendship made he to-him not known.

Di bôsheit was im alsô lîp:
The wickedness was to-him so dear:

he lîz ez dorch die sebbe nît,
he left it for the kinship not,

he rît im an sîn êre.
he rode to-him at his honor.

he gîng zu dem koninge hêre,
he went to the king lordly,

beide he und sîne gesellin,
both he and his companions,

und begundin im vorzellin
and began to-him to-tell

nîdesch lugenmêre:
envious lying-tales:

‚ab ez dir, hêre, wêre
‚if it to-thee, lord, were

nicht leit, sô woldin wir dir sagin
not sorrowful, so would we to-thee tell

swaz wir vornomen habin.
whatever we heard have.

wiltû nicht vordenkin mich,
(if)-wilt-thou not hold-against me,

Tristrant der wil hônen dich.
Tristrant he will shame thee.

daz ist uns sebenen harte leit,
that is to-us seven very sorrowful,

wen wir wizzen des die wârheit,
for we know of-it the truth,

daz he minnet dîn wîp.
that he loves thy wife.

dar umme sal he den lîp
there for shall he the life

vorlîsen ab got wil;
lose if God will;

wen der schanden ist ze vil
for of-the shames is too much

die he dir alle tage tût.
which he to-thee all days does.

ouch hâstû, hêre, dînen mûd
also hast-thou, lord, thy mind

zu sêre an in gelâzin.
too sorely on him let.

daz dunket mir eine unmâze,
that seems to-me an excess,

daz dû dorch einen man
that thou for one man

uns alle wilt vor nicht hân:
us all wilt for nothing have:

daz dunket mir unmogelîch.‘
that seems to-me impossible.‘

„nû swîg!“ sprach der koning rîch
„now be-silent!“ spoke the king rich

„nebe, als lîp wir dir sîn,
„nephew, as dear we to-thee are,

Tristrant sal uns wesen bî,
Tristrant shall to-us be by,

wen ich en mag sîn nicht entperen.
for I — may of-him not forgo.

dû en darft des nimmir geren,
thou — needest of-it never desire,

daz ich im dorch dich werde gram.
that I to-him for thee become hostile.

den schadin den ich sîn î gewan
the harm which I of-him ever got

den mag ich lîchte vorclagin.
that may I easily get-over.

die schande wil ich ouch vordagin:
the shame will I also pass-over:

ich habe sîn vil dicke genomen
I have of-him very often taken

beide êre unde vromen:
both honor and gain:

he wart dor mich tôdwunt
he became for me deadly-wounded

dô he Môroldin bestunt,
when he Morolt withstood,

und behîlt mir mîne êre.
and kept for-me my honor.

hête he mir nicht mêre
(if)-had he to-me not more

gedienet wan daz eine,
served than that one,

sô mag er mir bescheine
so may he to-me show

trûwe unde gunst mê,
faithfulness and favor more,

dan sît adir ê
than since or before

ûwer kein ie getête:
of-you any ever did:

ich habe ouch sîner stête
I have also of-his steadfastness

dicke vil genozzen.
often much enjoyed.

he was î unvordrozzen
he was ever unwearied

zu tûne swaz ich im gebôt.
to do whatever I to-him commanded.

ich wil im lîp unde gût
I will him life and goods

mete teilin die wîle ich lebe:
with share the while I live:

daz lâz dir lîp sîn, mîn nebe!“
that let to-thee dear be, my nephew!“

Den nîdêren was von herzin leit
To-the enviers was from heart sorrowful

daz der koning sô sêre streit
that the king so sorely strove

an Tristrandes êre.
for Tristrant's honor.

sie begundin dannen kêren
they began thence to-turn

in zornigem mûte
in angry mind

und schûfen dô ir hûte:
and set then their watch:

ab Tristrant mit der koningîn
if Tristrant with the queen

nergin vorholin mochte sîn,
anywhere hidden might be,

daz wusten sie nicht rechte:
that knew they not rightly:

sie irhûbin ein gedichte
they raised a fabrication

und sagetin ez dem koninge.
and told it to-the king.

der hâte ez al vor logine
he had it all for lying

und woldes in nicht getrûwen.
and would-it them not trust.

‚nû sal es uns rûwen'
‚now shall it us rue'

sprach Antrêt der herzoge,
spoke Antret the duke,

‚daz ez sal allez sîn gelogen,
‚that it shall all be lied,

swaz wir unsern hêren sagin.
whatever we to-our lord say.

wuste wir daz weme clagin
(if)-knew we that to-whom to-lament

die uns bûzete desir nôd
who for-us remedied this distress

die uns unsir hêre tûd,
which to-us our lord does,

von dem wir haben diz herzesêr!‘
from whom we have this heart-pain!‘

„nû swîgit ûwir clage mêr!“
„now silence your lament more!“

sprach der koning hêre,
spoke the king lordly,

„und sêt daz ich nimmir mêre
„and see that I never more

sulche rede von ûch gehôre.
such speech from you hear.

ir sît wol rechte tôren,
you are well right fools,

daz ir drauwet einem man
that you threaten a man

dem ich sô wol gûtis gan.
to-whom I so well of-good grant.

he sal vor ûch wol genesin:
he shall from you well survive:

mûz he andirs gesunt wesin,
(if)-may he otherwise healthy be,

swie vil ir im tût nîdes,
however much you to-him do of-envy,

ich enwil es nicht vormîden,
I will it not avoid,

ich lege ez im ze êren.“
I lay it to-him to honors.“

der koning gîng von den hêren
the king went from the lords

in zorne und wolde slâfin gân.
in anger and would to-sleep go.

do vant he vor sînem bette stân
then found he before his bed stand

den kûnen Tristranden.
the bold Tristrant.

mit armen hâte he bevangin
with arms had he embraced

die koninginne he kuste
the queen he kissed

und dwang sie zu sînen brusten
and pressed her to his breasts

gar minneglîche.
wholly lovingly.

der koning dô freislîche
the king then terribly

zornete von ungemach.
raged from vexation.

zu Tristrande he dô sprach
to Tristrant he then spoke

‚daz sîn obele minne!
‚that be ill love!

wie mochte ich daz vorwinnen
how might I that overcome

zu mîner wereltlîchen êre,
to my worldly honor,

tût ir mir sô grôze sêre
(if)-do you to-me so great pain

mit ûwir valschen lîbe?
with your false love?

sîd nîman an des anderen wîbe
since no-one on the other's wife

icht sal habin, leit noch liep,
aught shall have, sorrow nor joy,

ich wolde es geloubin niet
I would it believe not

dô sie mir ez dicke sagetin.
when they to-me it often said.

ab ichz geloubit habete,
if I-it believed had,

sô hête ich recht getân.
so had I right done.

ir sît ein ungetrûwer man:
you are a faithless man:

balde rûmet mir den hof
quickly clear for-me the court

und sagit ûwerm gote lof
and say to-your God praise

daz ir behaldit den lîp!‘ 3275
that you keep the life!‘

sulch kussin machit sulchen nît.
such kissing makes such enmity.

The Tryst under the Linden

XIII

Parted, Tristrant and Isalde both fall sick. Through Brangene, Tristrant tells Isalde to watch for a chip marked with a cross floating down the stream through her chamber and to meet him under the linden in the orchard, and the lovers meet there by night. The enviers hire a dwarf who reads the stars; on his counsel Mark announces a hunt of seven nights, and the dwarf brings him back alone up the linden to spy. Tristrant sees their shadow in the spring and holds back; Isalde, seeing it too, plays the offended queen. When he asks her help to regain his uncle's favor, or leave to redeem his pledge and quit the land, she refuses to plead for him.

Nû wêne ich daz zwei herzen
Now believe I that two hearts

gewunnen nie sô grôze smerze,
got never so great pain,

als dô sich die vil lîben
as then themselves the very dear-ones

sô unbesprochin schîden 3280
so unspoken parted

und ein andir mîden soldin.
and each other shun should.

Tristrant dô wolde
Tristrant then would

rûmen daz lant sân.
clear the land straightway.

mit sorgin quam her gegân
with cares came he going

vor sîne herbergen.
before his lodging.

vor leide mochte er sterben.
for sorrow might he die.

im wart zu sîme herzin wê,
to-him became to his heart woe,

im dûchte daz he ez nimmir mê
to-him seemed that he it never more

vorwunne, rite he dannen.
overcame, (if)-rode he thence.

ouch was die koningîn bevangin
also was the queen caught

mit vil grôzir leide.
with very great sorrow.

dâr lâgin sie abir beide,
there lay they again both,

daz sie nichtes entbizzen.
that they nothing tasted.

dô wart dem koninge zu wizzen
then became to-the king to know

daz Tristrant sîch wêre.
that Tristrant sick were.

‚daz ist mir gar unmêre'
‚that is to-me wholly indifferent'

sprach der koning rîche,
spoke the king rich,

‚wen he ungetrûwelîchin
‚for he faithlessly

wedir mich getân hât.‘
against me done has.‘

nu en mag des nicht werdin rât,
now — may of-it not become counsel,

daz sie beide mûzin sterbin,
that they both must die,

ir enmogit denne irwerbin
you unless-may then win

daz sie sich abir wedir sên.
that they themselves again each-other see.

râtet, wie mag daz geschên?
counsel, how may that happen?

wie wirt-in des leides bûz?
how becomes-to-them of-the sorrow remedy?

ich wêne, Brangêne mûz
I believe, Brangene must

sie abir zu samene bringen.
them again to together bring.

dô clagete die koninginne
then lamented the queen

irer maget die grôzen swêre,
to-her maid the great grief,

daz sie des tôdis wêre,
that she of-the death were,

sie en sêge den helt gût.
she unless saw the hero good.

des gewan Brangêne swêren mûd.
of-it got Brangene heavy mind.

dô muste sie abir schîre gân,
then must she again soon go,

als sie dicke hâte vor getân,
as she often had before done,

nâch hêren Tristrande.
after lord Tristrant.

dô sie dô quam gegangin,
when she then came going,

lîse rûrte sie die tore.
softly touched she the gate.

Kurnevâl stunt dâ vore
Kurneval stood there before

und lîz sie dar în gân.
and let her there in go.

dô sie daz hâte getân,
when she that had done,

vor den hêren sie gîng.
before the lord she went.

minneglîche er sie entvîng:
lovingly he her received:

‚wie hât sich die koningîn?'
‚how has herself the queen?'

„obele, dorch den willen dîn:
„ill, for the will thy:

hête sie dich besprochin
(if)-had she thee spoken-with

und wêre gerochin
and would-be avenged

an den nîdêren
on the enviers

die or manche swêre
who to-her many-a grief

und grôz leit habin getân,
and great sorrow have done,

sô wêre ir sîchtûm vorgân."
so would-be her sickness passed."

Der rede her antworte
To-the speech he answered

mit korzlîchem worte
with short word

‚nû sage mîner vrauwin
‚now tell my lady

daz ich dorch nîmans drauwin
that I for no-one's threatening

sie lengir wil vormîden.
her longer will shun.

ich en rûche wer ez nîde,
I not care who it begrudge,

ich wil sie noch hînt gesên,
I will her still tonight see,

ab ez ummir mag geschên,
if it ever may happen,

in ireme bômgartin:
in her orchard:

dar inne sal sie mîn wartin.
there in shall she for-me wait.

swen sô ir kumt gerunnen
whenever so to-her comes running

ein loub in den brunnen
a leaf in the spring

dorch ire kemenâte,
through her chamber,

sô gê sie hin vil drâte
so go she hence very quickly

und warte eines spâns dâ bî.
and watch-for a chip there by.

dar an sal gemâlet sîn
there on shall painted be

ein crûce mit vunf orten,
a cross with five points,

wen ich sie mit den worten
for I her with the words

besprechin leidir nicht en mag.
speak-with alas not — may.

ez sî nacht adir tag,
it be night or day,

swen sie daz crûce vinde,
whenever she the cross finds,

sô bin ich bî der linde
so am I by the linden

die dâ bî deme brunnen stât
which there by the spring stands

die dorch die kemenâten gât:
which through the chamber goes:

diz sage dû der vrauwen mîn!‘
this tell thou to-the lady my!‘

dô hîz sie in gesunt sîn
then bade she him healthy be

und sagete irer vrauwin sô.
and told her lady so.

des wart die koninginne vrô
of-it became the queen glad

und hîz ir zu ezzene gebin.
and bade to-her to eat give.

dô quam ir wedir daz lebin
then came to-her again the life

von der grôzin unmacht.
from the great swoon.

Brangêne hâte ir brâcht
Brangene had to-her brought

einen trang die ir lîp was,
a drink which to-her dear was,

dâ sie wol von genas.
there she well from recovered.

Von der lîben botschaft
From the dear message

quâmen sie in mittirnacht
came they at midnight

in den bômgarten zu samene.
into the orchard to together.

mit vroudin und mit gamene
with joys and with sport

vortriben sie di sorgen.
drove-away they the cares.

Brangêne hâte in irworbin
Brangene had for-them won

daz sie beide in korzir stunt
that they both in short hour

wârin wordin gesunt.
were become healthy.

die hûte sie zubrâchen
the watch they broke

des nachtes sie sich besprâchen,
of-the night they themselves spoke-together,

îdoch lag Tristrant den tag
yet lay Tristrant the day

und clagete sîn ungemach
and lamented his hardship

als ab he tôdsiech wêre.
as if he deathly-sick were.

der kûne helt mêre,
the bold hero famed,

sîne heimlîcheit hal he harte
his secret concealed he hard

und was in dem bômgarten
and was in the orchard

als dicke, als in des luste.
as often, as him of-it pleased.

die nîdêre die musten
the enviers they must

die minne abir zubrechin.
the love again break.

sie begundin zû ên ander sprechen,
they began to each other to-speak,

ab noch die koninginne
if still the queen

Tristranden gêbe ir minne.
to-Tristrant gave her love.

‚nein' sprach ir ein, der ander „jâ,"
‚no' spoke of-them one, the other „yes,"

der dritte ‚ich, hêre, zwîvel dâ.'
the third ‚I, lord, doubt there.'

dô sprach sich Antrêt ir herre
then spoke himself Antret their lord

‚hîr bî en ist nicht verre
‚here by — is not far

ein getwerg, daz hât sulche list:
a dwarf, who has such cunning:

alliz daz geschên ist
all that happened is

adir ergin mag geschên,
or anywhere may happen,

daz kan he wol besên
that can he well see

an dem gesterne, swen he wil.
in the stars, whenever he will.

dem gebe wir schatzes alsô vil,
to-him give we of-treasure so much,

daz her uns sage die wârheit.'
that he us tell the truth.'

dô wârin sie des vil bereit
then were they of-it very ready

und worbin um daz mennelîn.
and strove for the little-man.

dô quam der geselle sîn
then came the companion his

den die lûte heizzin Satanâs,
whom the people call Satan,

und wîsete in recht wâ he was.
and showed them right where he was.

Do sie den getwerg vundin,
When they the dwarf found,

und her in solde kundin,
and he them should announce,

wie ez dar umme stunde,
how it there about stood,

der vâlant dô begunde
the fiend then began

daz gesterne schauwin
the stars to-behold

und sprach ‚mîne vrauwin
and spoke ‚my lady

Tristrant sicherlîchin hât:
Tristrant surely has:

wil nû der koning mînen rât
(if)-will now the king my counsel

tûn, ich wil in lâzin sên,
do, I will him let see,

daz he mir daz mûz jên,
that he to-me that must avow,

daz ich ûch wâr habe gesagit,
that I to-you true have said,

und ab ich loge, daz ir habit
and if I lied, that you have

mînen lîp gewunnen
my life won

zu swelchin marterungen
to whatever tortures

sô mîn hêre welle.‘
so my lord will.‘

ich wêne, sîn geselle
I believe, his companion

der tûfil ûz im sprach,
the devil out-of him spoke,

daz her es allis vorjach,
that he it all avowed,

daz Tristrant wêre lugensiech.
that Tristrant were lie-sick.

her sprach ‚ne sî daz wâr niet,
he spoke ‚(if) be that true not,

sô heizzet mir mîn hôbit abe slân!‘
so bid for-me my head off strike!‘

dô brâchtin si in vor den koning sân
then brought they him before the king straightway

und sageten, wie ez sich vormaz
and told, how it itself presumed

‚ich wil ûch bescheidin baz‘
‚I will you inform better‘

sprach der unholde;
spoke the fiend;

‚ab mîn hêre selbe wolde,
‚if my lord himself would,

her mochte ez wol irvindin:
he might it well find-out:

he nême sîn gesinde
he should-take his household

und rete jagin in den walt,
and ride to-hunt into the wood,

sô worde Tristrant sô balt,
so would-become Tristrant so bold,

daz he quême zû der vrauwin.
that he came to the lady.

sô lîze ich in wol schauwin,
so let I him well behold,

wâ he zû ir quême,
where he to her came,

und brêchte in daz he vornême
and brought him that he perceived

selbe wol die wârheit.‘
himself well the truth.‘

daz was dem koninge rechte leit
that was to-the king right sorrowful

und wart sêre irbolgin:
and became sorely angered:

des muste he im gevolgin
of-it must he him follow

und gebôt al offinbâre
and commanded all openly

allen den [die] dâ wâren
to-all those [who] there were

daz sie sich bereitin dar zû:
that they themselves readied there to:

he wolde des morgenes vrû
he would in-the morning early

in den walt rîten jagin,
into the wood ride to-hunt,

und hîz in offinbâre sagin,
and bade them openly say,

he wolde siben nacht ûze sîn:
he would seven nights out be:

des vrauwete sich die koningîn.
of-that rejoiced herself the queen.

Do der koning in den walt quam,
When the king into the wood came,

und der vil cleine man
and the very small man

vil rechte hâte vornomen.
very rightly had perceived.

daz Tristrant ze der vrauwen wolde komen,
that Tristrant to the lady would come,

her en wolde nicht lengir bîten,
he — would not longer wait,

den koning hîz her rîten
the king bade he ride

dar mit im aleine
thither with him alone

und wolde im bescheinen
and would to-him show

swes he sich hête vormezzin.
of-what he himself had presumed.

do der koning ûf was gesezzin,
when the king up was seated,

den getwerg he hinder sich nam.
the dwarf he behind himself took.

dô der hêre dar gequam,
when the lord thither came,

dar in daz getwerg rîten bat,
there in the dwarf to-ride asked,

und her im wîsete die stat,
and he to-him showed the place,

dâ die linde bî dem brunnen stunt,
where the linden by the spring stood,

‚ich sage ûch, hêre, waz ir tûnt‘
‚I tell you, lord, what you do‘

sprach der bôse getwerg
spoke the wicked dwarf

‚wir nehabin hîr anders kein geberg,
‚we have here otherwise no hiding-place,

wene ir sulit her ûf stîgen
except you shall hither up climb

und sult rechte stille swîgen:
and shall right still keep-silent:

ûf desim selben bôme
upon this same tree

sule wir nemen gôme,
shall we take heed,

waz hie geschê von disen zwein.‘
what here happen from these two.‘

der mâne dô vil lîchte schein,
the moon then very brightly shone,

recht ab ez tag wêre.
right as-if it day were.

dô hafte der koning mêre
then fastened the king famed

sîn ros dâ bî an ein rîs.
his horse there by to a branch.

dô steig der koning wîs
then climbed the king wise

ûf den boim als her in hîz.
up the tree as he him bade.

daz getwerg des nicht en lîz,
the dwarf it not — left-off,

her enstege im nâch dar ûf.
he unless-climbed him after there up.

ich wêne in sîn geselle hûf,
I believe him his companion lifted,

Satanâs der tûfel;
Satan the devil;

ich bin des âne zwîvel,
I am of-it without doubt,

er hûb in sicherlîche,
he lifted him surely,

wan her wil sîn rîche
for he will his realm

mit im hân gemeine.
with him have in-common.

wie mochte er in dan aleine
how might he him then alone

ûf den bôm stîgen lâzen?
up the tree climb let?

daz si beide got verwâze!
that them both God curse!

Dâr ne stundin sie nicht lange.
There — stood they not long.

Tristrant quam gegangin.
Tristrant came going.

des lôbes brach her in den vlîz,
of-the leaves broke he into the stream,

den spân her ouch mete lîz
the chip he also with let

dar daz crûce ane was geschrebin.
where the cross on was written.

der koning was belebin
the king was remained

ûf dem boime und sîn gegate;
up the tree and his mate;

do irsach her Tristrant iren schatin
then saw he Tristrant their shadow

von dem mânen in dem brunnen:
from the moon in the spring:

dô was her des wol vorsunnen,
then was he of-it well minded,

daz her nicht ûf en sach.
that he not up — looked.

wedir sich selbin he dô sprach
to himself self he then spoke

‚nû mûz ich leidir tôd sîn.
‚now must I alas dead be.

oia, wuste die koningîn
oh, (if)-knew the queen

dese hûte die uns ist getân!‘
this watch which to-us is done!‘

dô vlôz daz loup und der spân
then floated the leaf and the chip

dorch die kemenâte.
through the chamber.

die vrauwe dô vil drâte
the lady then very quickly

zu ireme nezzelîne gîng,
to her little-net went,

dâ sie den spân mede vîng,
where she the chip with caught,

und begunde dez crûce schauwin.
and began the cross to-behold.

dô wuste wol die vrauwe
then knew well the lady

Tristranden in der warte;
Tristrant in the lookout;

sie îlete dô vil harte
she hastened then very hard

dâ sie den kûnen helt vant.
where she the bold hero found.

dô saz der hêre Tristrant
then sat the lord Tristrant

und wenkete alliz hindir sich.
and drew-back all behind himself.

‚der rîche got beware mich‘
‚the rich God guard me‘

dâchte die koninginne,
thought the queen,

‚waz werret deme jungelinge,
‚what ails the youth,

daz her nicht ûf en steit
that he not up — stands

und kegin mir al her geit:
and toward me all hither goes:

des bin ich harte ungewone,
of-it am I very unaccustomed,

ich en weiz war abe daz kome.‘
I not know where from that come.‘

Do irsach sie daz wenkin
Then saw she the drawing-back

und begunde sân denkin
and began straightway to-think

‚im werret swaz sô ez sî;
‚to-him ails whatever so it be;

ich wêne, hîr ist etswer bî,
I believe, here is someone by,

der unsir hîr hât gehût.‘
who of-us here has watched.‘

dô wart ouch die vrauwe gût
then became also the lady good

der spegêre wol geware.
of-the spies well aware.

der mâne trûg den schaten dare
the moon carried the shadow thither

in den brunnen von in zwein.
into the spring from them two.

der vrawin wîsheit dâ schein,
the lady's wisdom there shone,

daz sie ire ougen nî dar kârte
that she her eyes never thither turned

und rechte alsô gebârte,
and right so behaved,

als ob sie es nicht en wiste,
as if she it not — knew,

und sprach mit grôzir liste
and spoke with great cunning

‚Tristrant, waz sal ich her zû dir?'
‚Tristrant, what shall I hither to thee?'

„vrauwe, daz ir helfet mir,
„lady, that you help me,

daz mir mîn hêre sîne hulde gebe,
that to-me my lord his favor give,

und mich abir lâze lebin,
and me again let live,

als ich eir was, in sîme hove."
as I before was, in his court."

‚ich wil dir zwâre gelovin:
‚I will to-thee truly promise:

dar zû en helfe ich dir nît,
there to — help I thee not,

wen mir ist von herzin lîp,
for to-me is from heart dear,

daz dir mîn hêre gram is.
that to-thee my lord hostile is.

des wis sichir und gewis,
of-it be sure and certain,

daz ich dir nicht dar zû vrome,
that I thee not there to profit,

wen ich bin zu worte komen
for I am into talk come

von dir âne mîne scholt.
because-of thee without my guilt.

ich was dir dorch mînen hêren holt,
I was to-thee for my lord loyal,

wen dû sîn nebe wêrist
for thou his nephew wert

und im êre gebêrist
and to-him honor bore

mêr wen die andern alle.
more than the others all.

nû bin ich zu schalle
now am I into talk

von dir wordin âne nôt;
because-of thee become without need;

têde dir mîn hêre den tôd,
(if)-did to-thee my lord the death,

daz wêre mir zu lîbir wîs.‘
that would-be to-me in dearer manner.‘

„nein, vrauwe, dorch dînen prîs,
„no, lady, for thy prize,

dû salt mich des genîzin lân,
thou shalt me of-it enjoy let,

daz ich dorch dich geledin hân
that I for thee suffered have

manche grôze erbeit,
many-a great toil,

und lâz dir doch wesin leit
and let to-thee yet be sorrowful

daz he mir unrecht tût.
that he to-me wrong does.

wiltû mir aleine wesin gût,
(if)-wilt-thou to-me alone be good,

sô wirt mir wol sîn hulde,
so becomes to-me well his favor,

wen her âne schulde
for he without guilt

gezornet hât wedir mich.“
raged has against me.“

dô sprach die koninginne rîch
then spoke the queen rich

‚ich en helfe dir nicht dar zû.
‚I — help thee not there to.

wil dir mîn hêre gnâde tûn,
(if)-will to-thee my lord grace do,

des gan ich dir wol und ist mir lîp,
that grant I thee well and is to-me dear,

ich bete in abir dar umme nît.‘
I ask him however there for not.‘

Dô sprach der hêre Tristrant
Then spoke the lord Tristrant

„sô mûz ich rûmen daz lant.
„so must I clear the land.

swie wênig daz mîn hêre clage,
however little that my lord lament,

iedoch ne mag he den schadin
yet — may he the harm

nimmir mêr vorwinnen,
never more overcome,

ab ich mit unminnin
if I with unlove

ûz sîme lande vare.
out-of his land go.

es wirt gût rât: ich kome dare,
it becomes good counsel: I come thither,

dâr man mir daz bûtet baz,
where one to-me that offers better,

und mich die lûte âne haz
and me the people without hatred

êren unde habin lîp.
honor and have dear.

mîn hêre wil gedenkin nît:
my lord will think not:

swen ich zu lande kêre,
whenever I to land turn,

sô bin ich ein koning hêre
so am I a king lordly

alsô rîche als he is.
as rich as he is.

ouch bin ich selbe des gewis,
also am I myself of-it certain,

wil ich belîbin andirswâ,
(if)-will I remain elsewhere,

daz man mich nicht vortrîbe dâ,
that one me not drives-out there,

und aleine wol vordîne daz,
and alone well deserve that,

daz man mich schôner unde baz
that one me more-finely and better

haldit unde nicht en hazzet
holds and not — hates

und mit zênzig rittern vazzet,
and with hundred knights furnishes,

und gibit in ros unde pfert.
and gives to-them steeds and horses.

vrauwe, wêre ich wedir ûch des wert,
lady, (if)-were I toward you of-it worthy,

daz ir den koning woldit betin,
that you the king would ask,

daz her ez dorch sîn êre tete
that he it for his honor did

und lîze mir lôsen mîn pfant,
and let me redeem my pledge,

sô wolde ich im al zuhant
so would I for-him all at-once

rûmen sîn rîche.“
clear his realm.“

‚nein ich, wêrlîchin.
‚no I, truly.

ich bete in nicht umme dich,
I ask him not for thee,

wen he hât irzornet sich
for he has angered himself

kein mir von dîner schulde:
against me through thy guilt:

daz dû sîne hulde
that thou his favor

nimmer mêre gewinnest,
never more winnest,

daz ist mir daz allir minnest.‘
that is to-me the of-all least.‘

The Flour on the Floor

XIV

Mark, glad of what he overheard from the tree, draws his sword on the dwarf, who escapes. He begs Isalde, then Brangene, to win Tristrant back; Brangene brings him to court, and Mark sets his bed in the royal chamber. The dwarf, restored to favor and threatened by Antret, insists that Tristrant has the queen. On his advice Mark sends Tristrant on an errand to Arthur at dawn, has flour strewn between the beds, and sets the seven enviers at the door. Tristrant sees the flour but, driven by the potion, leaps to Isalde's bed; the leap reopens his wound and covers her in blood, the dwarf cries out, and Tristrant, leaping back, sets a foot on the floor.

Dô gîng die vrauwe wedir în.
Then went the lady back in.

„nû mûze gote leit sîn“
„now may to-God sorrowful be“

sprach Tristrant der helt gût,
spoke Tristrant the hero good,

„daz mir mîn hêre unrecht tût.“
„that to-me my lord wrong does.“

zu herberge begunde her gân.
to lodging began he to-go.

dô her ûz dem gartin quam,
when he out-of the garden came,

dô zoug der koning ûz sîn swert
then drew the king out his sword

und hête gerne daz getwerg
and would-have gladly the dwarf

ûf dem boime ze tôde geslân.
upon the tree to death struck.

dô vîl der cleine man
then fell the small man

von dem boime unde vlô.
from the tree and fled.

dô wart der hêre vil vrô
then became the lord very glad

des he gehôrt habete;
of-what he heard had;

îdoch he harte clagete
yet he very lamented

daz im daz getwerg entrunnen was:
that from-him the dwarf escaped was:

dô half im abir Satanâs,
then helped him however Satan,

daz daz getwerg von im quam.
that the dwarf from him came.

deme koninge irlangen dô began
to-the king to-long then began

biz im der tag quême,
until to-him the day came,

dorch daz, daz he vornême,
for that, that he might-learn,

ab her ez mit keinen dingen
if he it with any things

dar zû mochte gebringen,
there to might bring,

daz Tristrant blîben wolde.
that Tristrant remain would.

dô ted her als he solde
then did he as he should

und reit wedir in den walt.
and rode back into the wood.

sîn gedanke wârin manchvalt,
his thoughts were manifold,

ab Tristrant ummir wolde blîben.
if Tristrant ever would remain.

he quam zu sîme wîbe
he came to his wife

des morgens vrû in die stad.
in-the morning early into the town.

vil minniglîche her sie bat
very lovingly he her asked

daz sie im rechte sagete
that she to-him rightly told

swaz sie gesprochin habete
whatever she spoken had

mit Tristrande des nachtes.
with Tristrant of-the night.

sie sprach ‚hêre, dû machtest
she spoke ‚lord, thou mightest

mich der dinge wol vortragin:
me of-the things well spare:

ich sach in nî in zwelf tagin
I saw him never in twelve days

und wil in nimmir mê gesên,
and will him never more see,

wen mir ist von im geschên
for to-me is from him happened

wedirmûtes alsô vil
of-vexation so much

daz ich in nî mêre wil
that I him never more will

mînes dankis schawin.‘
of-my will behold.‘

„zwâre“ sprach her „vrauwe,
„truly“ spoke he „lady,

dû sâge in in desir nacht,
thou sawest him in this night,

wen ich was ûf den boim brâcht,
for I was onto the tree brought,

dar ich dich undir sach
where I thee under saw

und hôrte swaz he zû dir sprach:
and heard whatever he to thee spoke:

daz lâz dir nicht wesin leit
that let to-thee not be sorrowful

und hilf mir dorch dîn vromigheit
and help me through thy prowess

daz her wille hie bestân.
that he will here remain.

ich wil im machin undirtân
I will to-him make subject

swaz sô in mîme hofe is,
whatever so in my court is,

des sî sichir und gewis.“
of-it be sure and certain.“

Dô sprach die vrauwe schône
Then spoke the lady fair

‚um den helt kône
‚for the hero bold

wil ich dir nicht helfin noch enmag.
will I thee not help nor may.

hînacht, dô he zû mir sprach,
tonight, when he to me spoke,

dô schîde wir uns zorniglîchen.
then parted we ourselves angrily.

mir ist lîber wêrlîchen,
to-me is dearer truly,

daz man in hinnen trebe,
that one him hence drove,

denne daz he alhîr blebe.
than that he all-here remained.

he mochte mir mit nichte vromen,
he might me by no-means profit,

und soldez lîchte alsô komen
and should-it perhaps so come

daz dir dîne lîben holdin
that to-thee thy dear loyal-men

von uns beidin sagin woldin,
of us both tell would,

sô mêrte sich mîne schande:
so increased itself my shame:

wir lâzin Tristranden
we let Tristrant

rîten swar he wille.‘
ride wherever he will.‘

„neinâ, trûtgeselle,
„no-no, dear-companion,

ez wêre uns beidin nicht gût.
it would-be to-us both not good.

dar abe kêre dînen mût
there from turn thy mind

und hilf mir daz he belîbe:
and help me that he remain:

sin mag ich nicht vormîden.“
of-him may I not do-without.“

‚dar umme soldestû ez ouch tûn.‘
‚there for shouldst-thou it also do.‘

„ich torste im nicht sprechin zû.“
„I dared to-him not speak to.“

he sprach „ich gebe dir die gewalt
he spoke „I give thee the power

daz dû stête bî in wesin salt
that thou steadily by him be shalt

alse dicke, als dich des geluste.
as often, as thee of-it pleases.

nêhest, dô her dich kuste,
lately, when he thee kissed,

dô zornete ich zû sêre.
then raged I too sorely.

ez geschît nimmir mêre:
it happens never more:

ich wânde ûch tûn recht.
I thought to-you do right.

nû hât mir der gûte knecht
now has to-me the good knight

und dû sô wol bezeigit
and thou so well shown

daz ir mich mit trûwin meinit.“
that you me with faithfulness mean.“

Dô sprach die koninginne
Then spoke the queen

‚wiltû in ie wedir winnen,
‚(if)-wilt-thou him ever back win,

sô bete die juncfrauwen mîn
so ask the maiden my

daz sie zû dem helde dîn
that she to the hero thy

dorch dînen willen wille gên
for thy will will go

unde in dar umme vlên.
and him there for beseech.

ich wêne daz abir wol,
I believe that however well,

daz sie dar umme werbin sol
that she there for strive shall

als ungerne als ich ez tû.‘
as ungladly as I it do.‘

dô sprach he Brangênen zû
then spoke he to-Brangene to

und begunde sie sêre betin
and began her sorely to-ask

daz sie im dorch iren gûtin setin
that she him for her good customs

hulfe daz Tristrant belebe.
helped that Tristrant remained.

‚war umme hât ir in vortrebin?‘
‚what for have you him driven-out?‘

„daz machit, he was zû mir belogin.“
„that makes, he was to me lied-about.“

‚wer ted daz?‘ „ein herzoge.“
‚who did that?‘ „a duke.“

‚der gewinne in ouch wedir!‘
‚he win him also back!‘

„her en mag.“ ‚alsô mag ich ouch redin.‘
„he not may.“ ‚so may I also speak.‘

„sô geschach mir nie sô leide.“
„so happened to-me never so sorrowful.“

‚ist ez wâr?‘ „jâ ez, bî dem eide.“
‚is it true?‘ „yes it, by the oath.“

‚nein, ich tar sîn nicht getrûwin.‘
‚no, I dare of-it not trust.‘

„dû machst wol werbin âne rûwin,
„thou mayst well strive without grief,

ich wil in sô lîplîchen haldin:
I will him so lovingly hold:

he sal wesin bî Îsaldin
he shall be by Isalde

als dike als im sî lîp.“
as often as to-him be dear.“

‚nein, ich trûwe sîn nît,
‚no, I trust of-it not,

daz her icht wedir kome,
that he aught back come,

ouch wêre ez im kein vrome:
also would-be it to-him no gain:

im geschêge lîchte alsam.
to-him would-happen perhaps the-same.

wil he mînen rât begân,
(if)-will he my counsel follow,

ich râte im daz her bî zîte
I counsel him that he in time

dare von hinnen rîte,
thither from hence ride,

dâr man im rechte frûntschaft bîte.‘
where one to-him right friendship offered.‘

der koning dô sîne mîte
the king then his gifts

Brangênen grôzlîchen bôt,
to-Brangene greatly offered,

daz sie hulfe, daz der helt gût
that she helped, that the hero good

mit im wedir wolde stân.
with him again would stand.

„swaz ich im leides habe getân,
„whatever I to-him of-sorrow have done,

des wil ich in irgetzin:
for-it will I him make-good:

sîn bette lâze ich setzin
his bed let I set

in mîne kemenâtin,
in my chamber,

und her sî vrû und spâte
and he be early and late

mit der koninginne.
with the queen.

dar zû hât her wol mîne minne,
there to has he well my love,

wan her ist unschuldich
for he is innocent

allir bôsheit wedir mich.“
of-all wickedness toward me.“

Brangêne muste entwîchen,
Brangene must yield,

dô sie der koning rîche
when her the king rich

alsus inniglîchen bat.
thus inwardly asked.

sie quam geretin in die stat
she came ridden into the town

zu Tristrandes herbergin.
to Tristrant's lodging.

sie mochte lîchte werbin,
she might easily achieve,

daz her williglîche bleip:
that he willingly remained:

mit liste sie ez zu samene treip.
with cunning she it to together drove.

do he wedir in den hof quam,
when he back into the court came,

der koning hîz mâge unde man
the king bade kinsmen and men

daz ir nichein en lîze
that of-them none — left-undone

swaz in Tristrant hîze.
whatever them Tristrant bade.

he sprach ‚he was bî mir belogin
he spoke ‚he was to me lied-about

von etlîchem herzogin
by a-certain duke

den ich wol genennen kan:
whom I well name can:

der sal immir mêr hân
he shall ever more have

deste ergir wedir mich.
the worse toward me.

nebe‘ sprach der koning rîch
nephew‘ spoke the king rich

‚du salt mîner kemenâten plegin
‚thou shalt of-my chamber take-care

und bî mir sîn alle wege
and by me be all ways

und mit der koninginne
and with the queen

(daz merke an dîme sinne)
(that mark in thy mind)

alse dicke ez dir gevalle,
as often it thee pleases,

und zurizzen sie sich alle
and tear they themselves all

vor zorne und vor leide
for anger and for sorrow

daz ich dich nicht von mir scheide.‘
that I thee not from me part.‘

Dô hîz der hêre Tristrant
Then bade the lord Tristrant

in die kemenâten ze hant
into the chamber at once

Kurnevâle sîn bette tragin.
Kurneval his bed carry.

mit vrouden mochte he vorclagin
with joys might he get-over

swaz im zu leide î geschach.
whatever to-him to sorrow ever happened.

wen he bî der koninginnen lach
for he by the queen lay

alsô dicke sô her wolde
as often as he would

und eines tages dô solde
and on-one day then should

der trogsêze rîten jagin.
the steward ride to-hunt.

dô quam he vrû vor dem tage
then came he early before the day

in deme walde ûf einen berg.
in the wood onto a hill.

dô sach he den getwerg
then saw he the dwarf

vor im in dem holze gân.
before him in the wood go.

dô hîz in der hêre vân,
then bade him the lord catch,

Tînas der wîgant,
Tinas the warrior,

und vrâgete in al zuhant,
and asked him all at-once,

waz he in dem walde tête.
what he in the wood did.

daz getwerg sprach, her hête
the dwarf spoke, he had

des koninges hulde vorlorn.
the king's favor lost.

‚ich wil dir mînes hêren zorn
‚I will for-thee my lord's anger

helfin wol vorsûnen‘
help well reconcile‘

sprach der helt kûne,
spoke the hero bold,

,und wil den nît zustôren.‘
,and will the enmity destroy.‘

he hîz in mit im [heim] vûren
he bade him with him [home] carry

und half im der hulde.
and helped him to-the favor.

wuste he recht sîne schulde,
(if)-knew he rightly his guilt,

he hête in eir irhangin.
he would-have him before hanged.

dô stunt ez nicht gar lange,
then stood it not wholly long,

eir daz die [bôsin] nîdêre
before that the [wicked] enviers

abir gewunnen swêre,
again got grief,

daz Tristrant sô wol fûr.
that Tristrant so well fared.

bî sîme houbte dô swûr
by his head then swore

Antrêd der valsche herzoge,
Antret the false duke,

daz in daz getwerg hête betrogin:
that him the dwarf had deceived:

dar umme wolde he in irslân.
there for would he him slay.

dô sprach der lîbelôse man,
then spoke the lifeless man,

von swelchir list so ez quême
from whatever cunning so it came

daz man des nicht vornême,
that one it not perceived,

,Tristrant hât jâ die koningîn,
,Tristrant has indeed the queen,

als gewis als ich lebende bin.
as certain as I living am.

Wêre mir mîn hêre nicht irbolgin
(if)-Were to-me my lord not angered

und woldit ir mir nâch volgin,
and (if)-would you me after follow,

ich wolde im die wârheit wîsen.‘
I would to-him the truth show.‘

die nîdêre abir lîse
the enviers again softly

sprâchin diz ze dem koninge.
spoke this to the king.

mit wârheit und mit logine
with truth and with lie

brâchten sie den hêren dar zû,
brought they the lord there to,

daz he sprach ‚ich wil ez tûn:
that he spoke ‚I will it do:

iz wirt abir vorsûchit,
it becomes however tried,

und ab des got gerûchit,
and if it God deigns,

daz he unschuldig ist,
that he innocent is,

geselle getwerg, dû wirdist
companion dwarf, thou becomest

vorbrant in deme vûre.‘
burned in the fire.‘

dô sprach der ungehûre
then spoke the monster

„hêre, jâ, daz ist mir lîp,
„lord, yes, that is to-me dear,

ich en rûche, waz mir geschiet.“
I not care, what to-me happens.“

Dô sprach abir daz mennelîn
Then spoke again the little-man

„hêre, daz ist der rât mîn,
„lord, that is the counsel my,

daz ir sagit Tristrande,
that you tell Tristrant,

her sulle ûz dem lande
he shall out-of the land

nâch ûwir botschaft rîten,
after your message ride,

her en moge nicht lengir bîten
he — may not longer wait

wen biz morgen vrû,
than until morning early,

und ir habit nîman dar zû
and you have no-one there to

denne in, der ez schafte.
than him, who it should-manage.

ir wolt daz mit allir slachte
you will that with all kind

gûte um in irarnen.
of-good toward him repay.

alsus wil ich ûch warnen:
thus will I you warn:

wil her denne ûf die strâze,
(if)-will he then onto the road,

sô enmag her des nicht lâzin,
so may he it not leave,

he mûz die koninginne sên.
he must the queen see.

ich sage ûch, wie daz sal geschên:
I tell you, how that shall happen:

sô wil ich mit wîzem mele
so will I with white meal

bestrauwin gar die dele
strew wholly the floor

zwischen iren bettin zwein,
between their beds two,

sô werdit ir des obir ein:
so become you of-it over one:

he sulle siben nacht ûze sîn.
he shall seven nights out be.

sêge he denne nicht die vrawen mîn
(if)-saw he then not the lady my

in desir nacht vor dem tage,
in this night before the day,

sô heizet mir mîn houbet abe
so bid me my head off

mit einem dilen stôzen morgen.
with a plank thrust tomorrow.

sô lege ich dan vorborgen
so lie I then hidden

under mîner vrauwin bette
under my lady's bed

und wil ûch denne weckin,
and will you then wake,

swen ich in dâ hôre gân:
whenever I him there hear go:

so en mag he des nicht vorslân,
so — may he it not deny,

swen he in daz mel hât getretin
whenever he into the meal has trodden

ouch solt ir eir hân gebetin
also shall you before have asked

lûte bî der tore stân
people by the gate to-stand

die ûch den helt helfin vân.
who you the hero help catch.

wen her ist harte starg.
for he is very strong.

heizet ouch“ sprach daz getwerg
bid also“ spoke the dwarf

„Antrêt und sîne gesellin,
„Antret and his companions,

daz der drî dar inne wellin
that of-them three there in will

wol behûtin die tore,
well guard the gate,

die andern vîre stein dâ vore.“
the other four stand there before.“

Der koning des allis nicht en lîz,
The king of-it all not — left-undone,

die seben hêren her dô hîz
the seven lords he then bade

daz sie der tore nêmen ware.
that they of-the gate took heed.

die zagin wârin hantgare,
the cowards were hand-ready,

wen sie daz alle gerne tâtin:
for they that all gladly did:

des wart Tristrant vorrâtin.
so was Tristrant betrayed.

dô daz in die nacht quam,
when that into the night came,

der koning in betin began
the king him to-ask began

daz he worbe die boteschaft:
that he carried-out the message:

mit listen her im zû sprach
with cunning he to-him to spoke

,gedenke, lîber vrûnt mîn,
,think, dear friend my,

ich habe nîmans wen dîn
I have no-one but thee

der mir dar zû wol getoge,
who to-me there to well avails,

den ich dar sendin moge:
whom I thither send may:

dorch daz bereite dich dar zû
for that ready thyself there to

und rîte hen morgen vrû
and ride hence tomorrow early

zu Artûse deme herren:
to Arthur the lord:

Britanja ist nicht verre.
Britain is not far.

dû kumest in siben nachten wedir.
thou comest in seven nights back.

sô wil ich dir abir sedir
so will I to-thee again afterward

lâzen schaffin dîn gemach.
let make thy ease.

sô schîre als ez werde tag,
as soon as it become day,

geloube mir, sundir vrâgin,
believe me, without asking,

sô wil ich dir die botschaft sagin
so will I to-thee the message tell

und lône dir es mit minnen.
and reward thee for-it with love.

des wart an sînen sinnen
of-it became in his senses

Tristrande wê zu mûte.
to-Tristrant woe to mind.

dô sprach der degin gûte
then spoke the warrior good

daz her ez mit willin tête,
that he it with will did,

swes sô her in bête.
whatever so he him asked.

Der koning dankte im harte,
The king thanked him greatly,

îdoch schûf he die warte.
yet set he the watch.

dô Tristrant an sîn bette quam,
when Tristrant to his bed came,

und der vil cleine man
and the very small man

die dele bestrauwit habete
the floor strewn had

mit dem mele, als her sagete,
with the meal, as he said,

unde die nîdâre
and the enviers

in der kamere wâren
in the chamber were

dâ sie in vân soldin,
where they him catch should,

nû hôret, wie Tristrant wolde
now hear, how Tristrant would

sîne vrauwen gote bevelin.
his lady to-God commend.

dô sach he, daz mit dem mele
then saw he, that with the meal

die erde was bestrauwit.
the earth was strewn.

‚swaz ir hie habit gesawit‘
‚whatever you here have sown‘

dâchte her in sînem mûte,
thought he in his mind,

‚ûch en hilfet nicht ûwir hûte
‚you — helps not your watch

unde dar zû ûwir spên:
and there to your spying:

ich wil mîne vrauwen sên.‘
I will my lady see.‘

Daz was eine grôze tumheit
That was a great folly

daz her daz nicht vormeit
that he that not shunned

dorch sînes lîbes freise.
for his body's peril.

her wolde vor der reise
he would before the journey

zû der koninginne komen,
to the queen come,

doch habe wir wol vornomen
yet have we well heard

daz ez von dem tranke quam.
that it from the drink came.

he was andirs sô ein wîse man,
he was otherwise so a wise man,

her hêtiz wol gelâzin:
he would-have-it well left:

die grôzen unmâze
the great excess

lêrte in des trankes craft.
taught him the drink's power.

recht an der mittirnacht
right at the midnight

wolde he zû der vrauwen gân.
would he to the lady go.

dô stunt ir bette alsô nâ,
then stood her bed so near,

daz im des bedûchte,
that to-him of-it seemed,

daz her wol springen mochte
that he well leap might

zû der vrauwin hêre.
to the lady lordly.

dô sprang her alsô sêre,
then leapt he so sorely,

daz im die wunde ûf brach.
that to-him the wound up broke.

dô her bî der vrauwin lach,
when he by the lady lay,

sie wart von im recht als ein blût.
she became from him right as a blood.

daz getwerg lûte an hûb,
the dwarf loud up started,

Aquitain der arge.
Aquitain the wicked.

wê dem selbin getwerge,
woe to-the same dwarf,

daz her den edelin man vorrît!
that he the noble man betrays!

dô wolde he lengir beitin nît
then would he longer wait not

,nû mogit ir Tristrandin vân!‘
,now may you Tristrant catch!“

ûf sprang der koning sân
up sprang the king straightway

und wackte die hûtêre.
and woke the watchmen.

wie gerne Tristrant von ir wêre
how gladly Tristrant from her would-have

gesprungin wedir ûf sîn bette!
leapt back onto his bed!

dô mochte he des nicht irreckin,
then might he it not reach,

daz her mit gûte quême wedir
that he with good came back

und trat mit eime fûze nedir.
and stepped with one foot down.

The Leap from the Chapel

XV

Mark condemns Tristrant to the wheel and Isalde to the stake, on Antret's counsel. Tinas begs for them and is refused; he unbinds Tristrant's hands on the way to execution. At a chapel Tristrant asks leave to pray, bars the door, and leaps from a window into the sea and swims ashore. Kurneval, grieving, meets him with his horse and sword. Tristrant refuses to flee without Isalde and hides near the place of judgment. Mark offers a reward for him, and his men search in vain. Mark then turns his anger on Isalde and orders her burned, but a leprous duke tells him of a more shameful death: to give her to his lepers. Mark hands the queen over to him.

Dô der koning rîche
When the king rich

die wârheit offenlîche
the truth openly

von Tristrande vornam
of Tristrant perceived

und zû der vrauwen bette quam,
and to the lady's bed came,

‚nurâ helde gûte,
‚now-then heroes good,

swes ûch sî zu mûte.
whatever to-you be to mind.

daz grîfet an zu desir nôt!‘
that grasp on to this need!‘

sie tâtin als her in gebôt
they did as he them commanded

und vîngen Tristranden.
and caught Tristrant.

sie bundin in mit bandin,
they bound him with bonds,

die hende zû rucke
the hands to back

(daz was sîn [grôz] ungelucke)
(that was his [great] misfortune)

recht als eime dîbe.
right as a thief.

do geschach nî sô lîbe
then happened never so dear

den bôsen nîdêren;
to-the wicked enviers;

ouch wart dem koninge mêre
also became to-the king famed

vil grimme ze mûte
very grim to mind

zu Tristrande deme gûten
toward Tristrant the good

und zû der koninginne.
and toward the queen.

he sprach, daz he ir minne
he spoke, that he their love

gerne sô gar zubrêche
gladly so wholly would-break-asunder

daz man dar von sprêche
that one there of spoke

die wîle die welt wêre.
the while the world were.

do gebôt der koning hêre
then commanded the king lordly

sînen lîbin holdin
his dear loyal-men

daz sie im râtin woldin,
that they him counsel would,

welchin tôd daz her in tête
what death that he to-them did

den man sêre ze laster hête.
which one sorely for shame held.

Antrêd dô her vore trat
Antret then hither forth stepped

und irteilete im daz rat
and adjudged to-him the wheel

und der vrauwin die hort.
and to-the lady the hurdle.

sie soldin irarnin sô den mort
they should pay-for so the murder

den sie hêten begangen.
which they had committed.

do begunde deme koninge irlangen
then began to-the king to-long

biz daz der tag quême
until that the day came

daz er in den lîp nême
that he from-them the life took

nâch Antrêtes râte.
after Antret's counsel.

dô hîz her drâte
then bade he quickly

wâfin schrîen in die lant.
to-arms cry into the lands.

swaz lûte man dâ heime vant,
whatever people one there at-home found,

die hîz man ze dem gerichte komen.
them bade one to the court come.

sie hêtin alle gerne vornomen,
they would-have all gladly heard,

waz sie dâr soldin.
what they there should.

die boten nicht enwoldin
the messengers not would

in sagen dar abe,
to-them tell there of,

wan swer daz land mochte haben,
except whoever the land might have,

daz er quême ze dem gerichte vrû.
that he came to the court early.

daz volg berichte sich dar zû.
the folk made-ready itself there to.

Des morgens dô ez tagete,
In-the morning when it dawned,

der koning harte jagete
the king very hastened

ûz der stad zu dem gerichte
out-of the town to the court

den lûten ze eime angesichte.
to-the people to a sight.

nîman in ichtes betin torste
no-one him of-aught ask dared

wen der eine vorste,
except the one prince,

der trugsêze Tînas.
the steward Tinas.

ei, wie holt he Tristrande was!
ah, how loyal he to-Tristrant was!

her bat den koning sêre
he asked the king sorely

daz he dorch sînes selbis êre
that he for his self's honor

lîze sînen zorn zugân.
let his anger pass-away.

‚swaz ûch Tristrant hât getân,
‚whatever to-you Tristrant has done,

daz helfe ich im kein ûch bûzin.‘
that help I him toward you atone.‘

he vîl im zû den fûzin
he fell to-him to the feet

und bat in inniglîchen.
and asked him fervently.

dô zornete gar ernstlîchen
then raged wholly earnestly

ûf in der koning hêre;
at him the king lordly;

he sprach „ûch en ist mîn êre
he spoke „to-you — is my honor

sô lîp nicht, als ich wânde,
so dear not, as I thought,

daz ir um Tristrande
that you for Tristrant

mich sô sêre soldit betin:
me so sorely should ask:

ja vorzornet ir mich dâ mete.“
yes anger you me there with.“

‚neinâ, lîber hêre gût,
‚no-no, dear lord good,

dorch ûwirn hôhen mût
for your high mind

lâzit den wîgant genesin.‘
let the warrior survive.‘

„nein, he sal geradebrecht wesin
„no, he shall broken-on-the-wheel be

eir desir tag halb irgê.“
before this day half passes.“

‚daz en wil ich nimmer gesên,
‚that — will I never see,

daz der allir beste man
that the of-all best man

des ich kunde î gewan
of-whom I acquaintance ever got

sus vorlîsen sal den lîp
thus lose shall the life

und ein alsô vromez wîp‘
and a so valiant woman‘

sprach Tînas, der getrûwe,
spoke Tinas, the faithful,

‚gote von himele mûze ez rûwen
‚to-God of heaven may it rue

daz ich im gehelfin nicht en mach,
that I him help not — may,

und ir en moget den tach
and you — may the day

nimmir mê vordouwin,
never more digest,

wolt ir ûwir eigin vrauwin
(if)-would you your own lady

und den helt sô gar vorterbin.‘
and the hero so wholly destroy.‘

„jâ, sie mûzin sterbin
„yes, they must die

an desim tage beide.
on this day both.

mir geschach nie sô leide:
to-me happened never so sorrowful:

daz mûz in trûwin alsô sîn.“
that must in truth so be.“

‚neinâ, lîbir hêre mîn,
‚no-no, dear lord my,

bedenkit ûch dar umme baz!‘
bethink yourself there about better!‘

der koning von zorne nedir saz
the king from anger down sat

und begunde burnen als ein kole.
and began to-burn as a coal.

dô irkante Tînas wole
then knew Tinas well

sînen vreislîchen sete
his terrible custom

und torste in nicht mêr beten
and dared him not more ask

noch wedir sînen willen sprechin.
nor against his will speak.

sîn herze mochte im brechin
his heart might to-him break

von der grôzin leide.
from the great sorrow.

dô musten sie sich scheiden,
then must they themselves part,

der koning unde Tînas.
the king and Tinas.

swie grôz jâmer dô was
however great grief then was

von manchen gûten mannen,
from many good men,

dô reit Tînas dannen.
then rode Tinas thence.

Tînas der edele gûte
Tinas the noble good

was in vil grôzem unmûte
was in very great distress

von dem koninge dô gescheidin.
from the king then parted.

mit grôzem leide
with great sorrow

was sîn herze gefangen.
was his heart caught.

dô reit her unlange:
then rode he not-long:

dô vûrte man im entkegine
then led one to-him toward

mît grôzer menige
with great company

den hêren Tristrande,
the lord Tristrant,

vaste mit den handen
firmly with the hands

ûf den rucke gebunden.
onto the back bound.

zû den selbin stundin
at the same hours

begunde he sêre weinen.
began he sorely to-weep.

‚mochte ich dir irzêgin
‚might I to-thee show

mînen gûten willen‘
my good will‘

sprach her zu im gar stille,
spoke he to him wholly quietly,

‚den ich zû dir, lîbe, hân!
‚which I toward thee, dear, have!

daz saltû wizzen sundir wân:
that shalt-thou know without doubt:

swie mir daz hîr nâ gînge,
however to-me that here near went,

und wuste ich daz man mich vînge
and (if)-knew I that one me caught

und hînge mich als einen dîb,
and hanged me as a thief,

ich en lîzez dorch die quâle nît,
I — left-it for the torment not,

mit dir kore ich den tôd
with thee would-choose I the death

adir ich hulfe uns ûz der nôd.
or I would-help us out-of the distress.

Nu enmag des leidir nicht gesîn:
Now may it alas not be:

sô wil ich mit der walt mîn
so will I with the power my

entbinden dîne hende‘
unbind thy hands‘

und entsneit im sîne bende
and cut for-him his bonds

und gebôt den die in vûrten
and commanded those who him led

mit ernstlîchin worten
with earnest words

daz sie in nicht bundin mêre
that they him not bound more

und sprach ‚ir hêtet es êre,
and spoke ‚you would-have of-it honor,

ab he dâ behîlde sîn recht.‘
if he there kept his right.‘

dô kuste he den gûten knecht
then kissed he the good knight

mit weinenden ougen.
with weeping eyes.

uber lût und tougen
over loud and secretly

weinete he î mê und mê.
wept he ever more and more.

he sprach ‚owê, ach und owê,
he spoke ‚alas, ah and alas,

daz dich min ouge î gesach!
that thee my eye ever saw!

nû wil ich‘ sprach he ‚desin tach
now will I‘ spoke he ‚this day

nimmir mêr vorwinnen.‘
never more overcome.‘

daz wârin rechte minne
that was right love

die her zu Tristrande hête:
which he toward Tristrant had:

sîn herze was im vil stête.
his heart was to-him very steadfast.

Die Tristrandes plâgin,
Those-who of-Tristrant guarded,

dô sie den jâmer sâgin
when they the grief saw

von dem trogsêzen Tînas,
from the steward Tinas,

do gewunnen sie des ungemach
then got they of-it vexation

unde trûrigen mût.
and sorrowful mind.

dô fûrten sie den helt gût
then led they the hero good

vor eine cappelle.
before a chapel.

dô bat der helt snelle
then asked the hero swift

daz sie in dar în lîzin gân
that they him there in let go

und daz sie dâ vore blebin stân
and that they there before remained standing

biz daz her sîn gebet tête.
until that he his prayer did.

sie sprâchin, daz her sie hête
they spoke, that he them had

gesûmet al ze lange.
delayed all too long.

‚ez ist schîre irgangin‘
‚it is soon passed‘

sprach einer der dâ mede was:
spoke one who there with was:

‚uns bat der hêre Tînas
‚us asked the lord Tinas

daz wir im gût wêrin.
that we to-him good were.

lâze wir den rûesêre
(if)-let we the penitent

clagin sîne sunde,
lament his sins,

ab he sich des tûfils wern kunde.
if he himself from-the devil defend could.

sô tûn wir sînen willen‘
so do we his will‘

sprach her zu sîme gesellin.
spoke he to his companion.

‚is wert doch vil gût rât:
‚it becomes yet very good counsel:

dese cappelle die enhât
this chapel it has

keine tore wen dese eine
no gate but this one

und die ist alsô cleine,
and it is so small,

daz wir sie wol behûten.
that we it well guard.

ouch geit mit vullin vlûten
also goes with full floods

jenenthalp der mûren ein sê.
on-that-side of-the wall a sea.

im sî wol adir wê,
to-him be well or woe,

wir lâzin im sîne sunde clagin:
we let him his sins lament:

daz en mag uns nicht geschaden.‘
that — may us not harm.‘

Dô hîzin sie in dar în gân.
Then bade they him there in go.

daz wart von im schiere getân.
that was by him soon done.

dô her in die cappellin quam,
when he into the chapel came,

he ted rechte als ein wîser man:
he did right as a wise man:

die tore her innen beslôz.
the gate he within locked.

die knechte des sêre vordrôz.
the knights it sorely vexed.

rechte stille he dô sweig
right still he then kept-silent

biz her ein fenster begreif.
until he a window grasped.

dar ûz lîz her sich ebene:
there out let he himself evenly:

he wolde sîme lebene
he would for-his life

gerne vrist gewinnen.
gladly respite win.

dô begunde er dringen
then began he to-press

biz daz he sich dar ûz drang.
until that he himself there out pressed.

in den sê he dô sprang
into the sea he then leapt

und swam ûz an daz lant.
and swam out to the land.

dô lîf der hêre Tristrant
then ran the lord Tristrant

bî dem wazzer lengis nedir.
by the water along down.

dicke sach he hinder sich wedir,
often looked he behind himself back,

ab in îman jagete.
whether him anyone hunted.

Kurnevâl sich dô habete
Kurneval himself then had

vil nâ zu tôde geweinet,
very near to death wept,

wen her hâte im bezeigit
for he had to-him shown

vil liebe unde trûwe:
very love and faithfulness:

grôz was sîne rûwe.
great was his grief.

he quam ûz der stad geretin;
he came out-of the town ridden;

sînes hêren ros brâchte he mete
his lord's horse brought he with

und sîn swert an sîner hant.
and his sword in his hand.

dô irsach her Tristrant
then saw lord Tristrant

daz he rechte kein im reit:
that he right toward him rode:

dô gestillete sich sîn leit.
then stilled itself his sorrow.

Kurnevâl der getrûwe
Kurneval the faithful

begunde sêre rûwin
began sorely to-grieve

und gedâchte an sînem mûte
and thought in his mind

‚ach, hêre got vil gûte,
‚ah, lord God very good,

he mochte wol entrinnen,
he might well escape,

mochte he sîn ros gewinnen
(if)-might he his horse win

und sîn swert von geschichte:
and his sword by chance:

ez hulfe im vil lîchte,
it would-help him very easily,

daz he quême hinnen.‘
that he came hence.‘

daz quam von grôzen minnen
that came from great love

die her an sîme herzin trûg.
which he in his heart carried.

dicke clagete he genûg
often lamented he enough

daz he î worde geborn:
that he ever became born:

he hête lîbir vorlorn
he would-have more-gladly lost

mit sîme hêren den lîp.
with his lord the life.

dô quam he in korzir zît
then came he in short time

dâ he des hêren wart gewar.
where he of-the lord became aware.

he reit îlende dar
he rode hastening thither

und wolde in umme mêre vrâgen.
and would him about tidings ask.

dô sie ein andir sâgin,
when they each other saw,

dô wârn sie beide rechte vrô.
then were they both rightly glad.

ûf sîn ros saz he dô,
upon his horse sat he then,

sîn swert he um sich gurte,
his sword he about himself girded,

schîre he vort hurte.
soon he forth rushed.

der knape sprach mit sinnen
the squire spoke with sense

‚nû hebe wir uns hinnen!‘
‚now raise we ourselves hence!‘

„wâ welle wir hin kêren?“
„where will we hence turn?“

‚jâ, vorchte ich gar sêre,
‚yes, fear I wholly sorely,

swen ez der koning irvinde
whenever it the king finds-out

und ouch sîn ingesinde
and also his household

daz ir alsus entloufin sît,
that you thus escaped are,

sô kumet lîchte die zît,
so comes likely the time,

daz wir gerne woldin vlîn.‘
that we gladly would flee.‘

„jâ wil ich den lîp mîn
„yes will I the life my

nimmir brengin hinnen,
never bring hence,

sal die [edele] koninginne
(if)-shall the [noble] queen

werdin nû gemarterôt:
become now tortured:

mit ir kore ich eir den tôd,
with her would-choose I rather the death,

adir ich helfe ir dannen.
or I help her thence.

an etlîchin iren mannen
on certain of-her men

reche ich mînen zorn dâ.“
avenge I my anger there.“

deme gerichte reit he nâ
to-the court rode he near

in einen pusch, der was dicke.
into a thicket, which was thick.

mit deme lôbe he sich bestickte,
with the leaves he himself covered,

swer dâ vor hin solde gên,
whoever there before hence should go,

daz her sîn nicht mochte gesên,
that he him not might see,

und her doch alliz wol gesach
and he yet all well saw

swaz an dem gerichte geschach.
whatever at the court happened.

Jenen irlangete harte
To-those longed very

die vor der capellin warten.
who before the chapel waited.

sie sprâchin dô vor der tore
they spoke then before the gate

‚heizet in gein her vore:
‚bid him go hither forth:

sîn gebet ist al zu lang.‘
his prayer is all too long.‘

einer zû der tore sprang
one to the gate sprang

und rûfte gar lûte
and called wholly loud

‚ir mochtet hûte
‚you might today

ûwir knîbeten lâzin,
your kneeling-prayers leave,

wen ez ist eine unmâze
for it is an excess

daz wir sô lange hîr stân.‘
that we so long here stand.‘

do en antworte in kein man.
then — answered them no man.

die dar ûze stunden
those-who there outside stood

mit zorne dô begunden
with anger then began

die tore ûf brechin.
the gate up to-break.

sie woldin gerne rechin
they would gladly avenge

an deme helde iren zorn.
on the hero their anger.

dô was die erbeit gar vorlorn,
then was the toil wholly lost,

dô sie sîn nicht en vundin.
when they him not — found.

dar nâch in korzin stundin
there after in short hours

quâmen dem koninge mêre,
came to-the king tidings,

daz Tristrant entloufin wêre:
that Tristrant escaped were:

daz muste im missevallin.
that must him displease.

dô sprach her zû in allin
then spoke he to them all

die an dem gerichte wâren
who at the court were

‚ich wil ûch sô genâden:
‚I will you so reward:

swer in mir wedir gewinnet,
whoever him for-me back wins,

ich gelobe om daz im nî zurinnet
I promise to-him that to-him never runs-out

swaz sô her habin wil:
whatever so he have will:

schatzes gebe ich im sô vil,
of-treasure give I him so much,

daz he ummir sal wesin rîche.‘
that he ever shall be rich.‘

dô sprungen alle gelîche
then sprang all alike

die ritter hin ûf ire ros.
the knights hence upon their horses.

ich wêne und sûchtin sie in noch,
I believe and (if)-sought they him still,

sie en vundin sîn doch nît.
they — would-find him yet not.

daz was dô vil manchem lîp
that was then very to-many dear

und ouch etelîchem leit.
and also to-some sorrowful.

Antrêd dô schîre wedir reit.
Antret then soon back rode.

im was lîp daz he sîn nicht en vant:
to-him was dear that he him not — found:

he vorchte, he nême im ein pant.
he feared, he took from-him a pledge.

Dô die sûchir alle quâmen
When the searchers all came

und nergin recht vornâmen
and nowhere rightly perceived

Tristrande den helt gût,
Tristrant the hero good,

dô wolde der koning sînen mût
then would the king his mind

irkûlen an der vrauwin:
cool on the lady:

he begunde ir harte drauwin,
he began her hard to-threaten,

he sprach, he wolde ire minne
he spoke, he would her love

mit freislîchem sinne
with terrible sense

ze mâle zustôren.
for good destroy.

des hîz her sie hin fûren
for-it bade he her hence lead

und ir schiere tûn den mort:
and to-her soon do the murder:

he wolde sie ûf einer hort
he would her upon a hurdle

habin lâzin vorbrant.
have let burned.

dô quam ein herzoge gerant,
then came a duke running,

der was gar miselsiech.
who was wholly leprous.

den koning he vaste an rîf.
the king he loudly on called.

der koning gab im eine lust.
the king gave him a hearing.

dô sprach der sieche alsust
then spoke the sick-one thus

‚sît die koningîn sal irsterbin
‚since the queen shall die

und dû ir gerne woldest werbin
and thou for-her gladly wouldst seek

einen lestirlîchin tôd,
a shameful death,

nû dunket mir des nicht wesin nôt,
now seems to-me of-it not be need,

ab sie vorbrant wert;
if she burned becomes;

lastir denne sie vorbert,
shame then she escapes,

wen dû bist wol sô rîche:
for thou art well so rich:

dû machst sie gewaldiglîchin
thou mayst her mightily

hâhin adir vorbrennen:
hang or burn:

einen tôd wil ich dir nennen, 4270
a death will I to-thee name,

dâ von sie mêr lasters habete.‘
there from she more shame had.‘

he sprach, daz her ez im sagete.
he spoke, that he it to-him should-tell.

‚nû saltû mir die vrauwen gebin,
‚now shalt-thou me the lady give,

sô beneme ich or daz lebin.‘
so take I from-her the life.‘

der koning vrâgete in „wie?“ 4275
the king asked him „how?“

dô sprach der herzoge ‚ich wil sie
then spoke the duke ‚I will her

mînen sîchen bringen:
to-my sick-ones bring:

die suln sie alle minnen,
they shall her all love,

sô stirbet sie lestirlîchen.‘
so dies she shamefully.‘

dô sprach der koning rîche 4280
then spoke the king rich

„dû sagist mir die wârheit:
„thou tellest me the truth:

wer tût mir des wizzenheit,
who makes to-me of-it certainty,

ab ich dir die vrawin gebe.
if I to-thee the lady give.

daz man sie von dem lîbe tede?“
that one her from the life did?“

dô sprach der ungehûre
then spoke the monster

‚ich gelobe dir daz vil tûre:
‚I promise thee that very dearly:

ab ich die vrawen lâze lebin,
if I the lady let live,

daz dû mich und mînen nebin
that thou me and my nephew

an einen boim heizzest hân,
on a tree bid hang,

adir zu tôde lâzzist slân,
or to death let strike,

und dar zû alle die sîchin mîn.‘
and there to all the sick-ones my.‘

dô gab her im die koningîn.
then gave he to-him the queen.

The Lepers and the Hound

XVI

The leprous duke takes Isalde before him on his horse, and Mark is reproached throughout the land for giving his wife to the lepers. Tristrant charges the duke and cuts him in two, the pair kill nearly all his company, and Tristrant takes Isalde into a dark wood. One leper escapes to tell Mark, who promises a share in all his goods to whoever seizes Tristrant; his knights search in vain. Mark orders Tristrant's hound Utant hanged, but the squire lets it run, and it follows its master's track. Kurneval stays behind alone, ready to die so that the lovers may escape, but the hound comes without hunters; he silences it and has it lead him after Tristrant.

Di sîche wart dô vil vrô:
The sick-one became then very glad:

die schônen vrauwen nam he dô
the fair lady took he then

ûf sîn ros vaste vor sich.
onto his horse firmly before himself.

dô hâte sich der koning rîch
then had himself the king rich

an ir sô gerochin
on her so avenged

daz im wart gesprochin
that to-him became spoken

manch lastir in dem lande;
many-a reproach in the land;

wen he hâtis grôze schande
for he had-of-it great shame

daz he sîn wîb den sîchin gab.
that he his wife to-the sick-ones gave.

der selben weg dô gelag
the same way then lay

recht hin vor Tristrande.
right hence before Tristrant.

Kurnevâl dô irkande
Kurneval then recognized

die vrauwin harte verre.
the lady very far.

he sprach zu sîme herren
he spoke to his lord

‚dort vûret man die vrauwen mîn!'
‚there leads one the lady my!'

dô wart die lîbe ave schîn:
then became the love again shown:

dô clagete Tristrant sêre
then lamented Tristrant sorely

die grôzin unêre
the great dishonor

daz sie die vrauwen torsten vûren
that they the lady dared lead

und daz he sie torste ane rûren
and that he her dared on touch

mit sîner vil unreinen hant.
with his very unclean hand.

dô garte sich der wîgant.
then readied himself the warrior.

dô her in sô nâhe quam,
when he to-them so near came,

sîn ros her in die sporn nam
his horse he into the spurs took

und was ûz der mâzin zorn.
and was out-of the measure angry.

dô hâte der sîche den lîp vorlorn:
then had the sick-one the life lost:

her heu in mit dem swerte enzwei.
he hewed him with the sword in-two.

dô vîl im daz obirteil
then fell from-him the upper-part

nedir mit der vrauwen.
down with the lady.

dô gîngen sie hauwen
then went they to-hew

under die siechen.
among the sick-ones.

ich wêne sie dô lîzen
I believe they then let

ir gar wênig genesen.
of-them wholly few survive.

ouch en mochte ez sô nicht wesin,
also — might it so not be,

daz ir etelîch behîlt den lîp.
that of-them any kept the life.

Tristrant nam dô daz wîp
Tristrant took then the woman

und hûb sich dannen balde
and raised himself thence quickly

kein einem vinstern walde.
toward a dark wood.

Ein der sîchin dô genas.
One of-the sick-ones then survived.

der quam dâ der koning was
he came where the king was

und begunde im jêmerlîchen clagin
and began to-him lamentably to-lament

daz sîn hêre wêre irslagin
that his lord were slain

und mit im alle sîne man.
and with him all his men.

,daz hât Tristrant getân
,that has Tristrant done

und hât die vrauwe mit im nomen.
and has the lady with him taken.

ich bin kûme dannen komen.‘
I am barely thence come.‘

sô sprach der arme sîche.
so spoke the poor sick-one.

wie der koning dô gesprêche,
how the king then spoke,

daz mag ûch allin habin wundir.
that may you all have wonder.

her bat sie abir alle besundir
he asked them again all separately

man unde mâge
men and kinsmen

daz sie im woldin lâgen:
that they for-him would lie-in-wait:

,swer in nû begriffe
,whoever him now seizes

daz ich an ime reche
that I on him avenge

daz grôze leit daz her mir tût,
the great sorrow which he to-me does,

mit deme wil ich al mîn gût
with him will I all my goods

î mêre teilen.‘
ever more share.‘

die ritter algemeine
the knights all-in-common

ûf die ros dô sprungin,
upon the horses then sprang,

beide alde und junge,
both old and young,

und sûchtin Tristrandin
and sought Tristrant

allenthalben in dem lande.
everywhere in the land.

dô was her komen in den walt
then was he come into the wood

und reit hin an sîn behalt.
and rode hence to his refuge.

dô sie sîn nicht en vundin
when they him not — found

dar nâch in korzin stundin,
there after in short hours,

dô retin sie wedir în
then rode they back in

und sageten ir hêren den sin.
and told their lord the sense.

der koning manete dô starke
the king urged then strongly

die hêren von der marke
the lords of the march

und ouch sîne holdin
and also his loyal-men

daz ez in leit wesin solde.
that it to-them sorrowful be should.

her bat, ab sie im zû quêmen,
he asked, if they to-him to came,

daz sie im den lîp nêmen,
that they from-him the life took,

adir daz sie on im brêchtin.
or that they him to-him brought.

do begunde harte vechtin
then began hard to-struggle

ein bracke der hîz Ûtant.
a hound who was-called Utant.

den hâte der hêre Tristrant
him had the lord Tristrant

lîp vor allin hundin.
dear before all hounds.

der stunt dâ harte gebundin
he stood there hard bound

und vacht vil ernstlîche.
and struggled very earnestly.

dô sprach der koning rîche
then spoke the king rich

eime knapen zû der dâ stunt,
to-a squire to who there stood,

wes dâ wêre der hunt
whose there were the dog

der dâ gulle sô sêre.
who there howled so sorely.

dô sprach he zû dem koninge hêre,
then spoke he to the king lordly,

ez wêre Tristrandes bracke.
it were Tristrant's hound.

dô hîz he deme knapin
then bade he the squire

daz he balde gînge
that he quickly went

und den bracken hînge.
and the hound hanged.

lieze her in leben,
(if)-let he it live,

sîne ougen muste her im gebin.
his eyes must he to-him give.

Dô nam der selbe knape
Then took the same squire

Ûtant den bracken.
Utant the hound.

von dem wege er mit im reit.
from the way he with it rode.

im was grôzlîche leit
to-him was greatly sorrowful

daz he in hengin solde.
that he it hang should.

he gedâchte daz he wolde
he thought that he would

sich des landes eir getrôstin
himself of-the land rather renounce

eir wen he den hunt irlôste
than that he the dog released

sînes lîbes: um die scholt,
of-its life: for the reason,

wen he was Tristrande holt.
for he was to-Tristrant loyal.

den bracken he dô loufin lîz.
the hound he then run let.

daz in der koning tûn hîz,
what him the king do bade,

daz wart von im nicht getân;
that was by him not done;

he tet rechte wol dar an
he did right well there on

daz her den bracken liez leben.
that he the hound let live.

dô reit der knape after wegen.
then rode the squire off away.

ouch quam der bracke Ûtant
also came the hound Utant

recht dâ der hêre Tristrant
right where the lord Tristrant

hin geretin habete.
hence ridden had.

ûf der vart her jagete
upon the track he hunted

in den walt gar verre.
into the wood wholly far.

do irhôrte in der herre
then heard him the lord

und sprach sich Kurnevâle zû
and spoke himself to-Kurneval to

‚hôre, waz moge wir nû tûn?
‚hear, what may we now do?

nû mûze wir schiere tôd sîn,
now must we soon dead be,

wen ich hôre den brackin mîn.
for I hear the hound my.

dâ mit sport man uns nâ.
there with tracks one us after.

nû kan ich nicht gedenkin, wâ
now can I not think, where

wir uns hene mogin kêren:
we ourselves hence may turn:

wir mûzen ouch mit êren
we must also with honors

alhie mit in strîten.
all-here with them strive.

wir en mogen nicht entrîten
we — may not ride-away

noch niendert entloufen.
nor anywhere run-away.

wir mûzin in vorkoufen
we must to-them sell

alsô tûre unsen lîp,
so dearly our life,

daz dâ heime ire wîp
that there at-home their wives

unsern tôd beriezen:
our death bewailed:

sie solin sîn nicht genîzen
they shall of-it not enjoy

daz sie uns sô verne volgin.
that they us so far follow.

er wirt sîn lîchte irbolgin
he becomes of-it easily angered

swer sô zu vorderôst jaget,
whoever so at foremost hunts,

swen he kumt dâ her gedrabit:
whenever he comes there hither trotted:

den habe ich schîre an gerant‘
him have I soon on run‘

sprach der kûne wîgant.
spoke the bold warrior.

Kurnevâl sprach abir dô
Kurneval spoke again then

„hêre, ez ist nicht unse vrome sô:
„lord, it is not our gain so:

wir mogen mit in nicht gevechten,
we may with them not fight,

wen sie sîn sô tûre knechte,
for they are so worthy knights,

dar zû ist or uns zû vele.
there to is of-them for-us too many.

bestê wir sie mit nîdes spele.
(if)-attack we them with hostility's game.

sô mûze wir alle wesin tôd.
so must we all be dead.

ich wil eine lîden die nôt
I will alone suffer the distress

und rîtet ir dâ ir ûch nert!
and ride you where you yourself save!

der bracke der uns nâch vert,
the hound who us after goes,

mit deme wil ich wol bewaren
with it will I well guard

daz her ûch nicht verre nâch vare,
that he you not far after go,

wan biz her an dese stad."
except until hither to this place."

sînen hêren her dô bat
his lord he then asked

daz her balde hin weg rete
that he quickly hence away rode

und die vrauwen vûrte mete
and the lady led with

daz sie behielten daz leben.
that they kept the life.

„ich wil alhie ûf geben
„I will all-here up give

mînen lîp mit êren."
my life with honors."

do begunde dannen kêren
then began thence to-turn

Tristrant und die vrauwe.
Tristrant and the lady.

dô mochte man jâmir schawen
then might one grief behold

und grôz leit und ungemach.
and great sorrow and hardship.

Kurnevâl dô wedir sach,
Kurneval then back looked,

wie nâhe im der hunt wêre.
how near to-him the dog were.

he hîlt rechte in der gebêre
he held right in the bearing

als ab he wolde sîn lebin
as if he would his life

umme des brackin tôd gebin.
for the hound's death give.

Kurnevâl der gûte,
Kurneval the good,

in vil zorniglîchem mûte
in very angry mind

hîlt he bî einem boime
held he by a tree

und nam vil rechte goime,
and took very rightly heed,

wâ he den brackin hôrte.
where he the hound heard.

he gedâchte, swer in vûrte
he thought, whoever it led

dem wolde he gerne ein dînst tû
to-him would he gladly a service do

und dem brackin dar zû
and to-the hound there to

daz ez mit êren mochte gesîn.
that it with honors might be.

dô quam daz gûte hundelîn
then came the good little-dog

aleine dâ her gejagit
alone where he hunted

als ich ûch vor habe gesagit
as I to-you before have said

daz sîn nîman gephlach.
that of-it no-one took-care.

dô daz Kurnevâl gesach,
when that Kurneval saw,

ich wêne he vil vrô wart.
I believe he very glad became.

und reit zu hant an die vart.
and rode at once onto the track.

he sprach dem hundelîne zû;
he spoke to-the little-dog to;

dô wart der bracke vil vrô
then became the hound very glad

daz he Kurnevâle vant.
that he Kurneval found.

des knapin angest dô vorswant,
of-the squire fear then vanished,

zugangin was sîn herzeleit.
gone-to-nothing was his heart's-sorrow.

vrôlîche he von dannen reit
gladly he from thence rode

nâch hêren Tristrande
after lord Tristrant

dâ her die slauwen irkande.
where he the tracks knew.

dô he gereit eine wîle,
when he had-ridden a while,

kûme eine halbe mîle,
barely a half mile,

he vorlôs die slauwen an der stunt.
he lost the tracks at the hour.

den vorswêgetin hunt
the silenced dog

Kurnevâl dar nedir lîz:
Kurneval there down let:

al swîgende her in wîsen hîz,
all silent he it show bade,

wâ sîn hêre hin wêre.
where his lord hence were.

dô vûr der hunt sêre
then went the dog sorely

nâch eime wilde, daz was zam:
after a game, which was tame:

daz was [beide] wîp unde man. 4490
that was [both] woman and man.

The Life in the Forest

XVII

Kurneval finds Tristrant and Isalde, and for more than two years they live in the wild wood on herbs and what Tristrant takes with bow and angle, said to be the first to fish with a hook and to train hounds to the track; their clothes rot from them. At night Tristrant lays his naked sword between himself and Isalde. A huntsman finds them asleep and brings Mark, who sees the sword, takes it, leaves his own in its place and his glove on Isalde, and rides away. Waking, the lovers flee in fear; at evening they come near the cell of the hermit Ugrim, Mark's confessor.

Dô Kurnevâl der wîgant
When Kurneval the warrior

quam dâ her Tristrant
came where lord Tristrant

was mit der koninginne,
was with the queen,

dô wart dem jungelinge
then became to-the youth

vrôlîche ze mûte. 4495
gladly to mind.

Tristrant der gûte
Tristrant the good

wart dô ouch rechte vrô:
became then also rightly glad:

Kurnevâle vrâgete he dô,
Kurneval asked he then,

wâ he den brackin nême.
where he the hound took.

he sagete im daz he quême
he told him that it came

aleine gejagit ûf der vart.
alone hunting upon the track.

die vroude die dô wart,
the joy which then was,

die enkan ûch nîman gesagin:
that can to-you no-one say:

sie vorgâzin swaz sie solden clagin
they forgot whatever they should lament

daz in zu leide î geschach
that to-them to sorrow ever happened

und retin allen den tach
and rode all the day

in den walt sô verre
into the wood so far

daz Tristrant der herre
that Tristrant the lord

meinte wêrlîche.
thought truly.

ab in sûchte al daz rîche,
if him sought all the realm,

die envundin in nimmir dâre.
they found him never there.

dô hîlt der helt mâre
then halted the hero famed

und sprach zu sîme gesellin,
and spoke to his companion,

sie musten dâ entwellin.
they must there linger.

Al dâr sâzin sie hin nedir.
All there sat they hence down.

sie torsten nicht komen wedir
they dared not come back

nergin ûz dem walde.
anywhere out-of the wood.

Kurnevâl vil balde
Kurneval very quickly

holzes und loubes genûg
of-wood and of-leaves enough

sîme hêren ze samene trûg,
for-his lord to together carried,

und machtin eine hutte.
and made a hut.

die vrauwe torste sich nicht entschutten:
the lady dared herself not shake-off:

die pfert hîlt sie die wîle.
the horses held she the while.

dô wârin sie âne spîse
then were they without food

mê denne andirhalbez jâr.
more than one-and-a-half year.

ich wil ûch sagin vor wâr
I will to-you say for true

daz die armen lûte
that the poor people

nicht âzin wen gekrûte
nothing ate but herbs

daz sie in dem walde vundin.
which they in the wood found.

swâ sie daz sûchen kundin,
wherever they that seek could,

daz was ir beste spîse,
that was their best food,

und sô Tristrant der wîse
and when Tristrant the wise

mit sîme bogin icht irschôz
with his bow aught shot

und sîner liste genôz
and his cunning enjoyed

daz he etlîchin visch gevîng
that he some fish caught

in eime wazzer daz dâ gîng
in a water which there went

mit eime angel den he habete.
with a hook which he had.

vor wâr mir man daz sagete.
for true to-me one that said.

Tristrant wêre der êrste man
Tristrant were the first man

der daz angelin î began.
who the angling ever began.

ouch hôrte ich sagin mêre,
also heard I tell more,

daz he der êrste wêre
that he the first were

der daz erdêchte,
who that devised,

wie man bracken brêchte
how one hounds brought

ûf wildes verte:
onto game's tracks:

sie hâtin ein lebin herte
they had a life hard

in dem wilden walde
in the wild wood

her und die schône Îsalde.
he and the fair Isalde.

îdoch was in daz ein kinder spel,
yet was to-them that a children's play,

wen sie hâtin dâ bî vroude vel
for they had there by joy much

von der grôzen minne.
from the great love.

sô ich mich besinne,
as I myself bethink,

Kurnevâl leit eine die nôt:
Kurneval suffered alone the distress:

daz he nicht irlag tôd,
that he not lay dead,

daz was ein michel wundir.
that was a great wonder.

nû merkit al besundir,
now mark all separately,

wie sie ir ding vîngen an,
how they their thing began on,

wen ich ûch berichten kan:
as I you inform can:

Tristrant und die koningîn
Tristrant and the queen

und Kurnevâl der knape sîn
and Kurneval the squire his

ledin [alle drî] grôzin kummer:
suffered [all three] great hardship:

swer nû sulchin hunger
whoever now such hunger

ein jâr solde lîden
a year should suffer

(ich kan des nicht vorswîgen),
(I can of-it not keep-silent),

he muste wesin hungers tôd;
he must be of-hunger dead;

wen sie hâtin wedir vûr noch brôt.
for they had neither fire nor bread.

ouch sô âzin ire ros
also so ate their horses

nicht wen loup gras unde mos:
nothing but leaves grass and moss:

daz mag ûch wol grôz wundir haben.
that may you well great wonder have.

ouch gîngen in die cleider abe
also went from-them the clothes off

von weter und von regene:
from weather and from rain:

daz die vrauwe und die degene
that the lady and the warriors

nicht zu tôde irvroren
not to death froze

dô sie die cleider gar vorloren,
when they the clothes wholly lost,

daz hât mich wundir gar genûg.
that has me wonder wholly enough.

îdoch sô sagit uns daz bûch
yet so tells us the book

und ouch die lûte vor wâr,
and also the people for true,

daz sie mêr denne zwei jâr
that they more than two years

in dem wilden walde lâgin
in the wild wood lay

und nî dorf noch stad gesâgin.
and never village nor town saw.

Dô hâte Tristrant einen sete,
Then had Tristrant a custom,

des volgete im die vrauwe mete:
in-it followed him the lady with:

swen sie sich gelegetin
whenever they themselves laid

und mit ein andir redeten
and with each other spoke

daz ez in dûchte genûch,
that it to-them seemed enough,

sîn swert er ûz der scheide zôch
his sword he out-of the sheath drew

und legete ez zwischin sich und sie:
and laid it between himself and her:

daz en wolde der helt nie
that — would the hero never

dorch kein ding gelâzen.
for any thing leave.

wan sie en soldin slâfen,
for they not should sleep,

daz swert en lêge zwischin in.
the sword unless lay between them.

daz was ein vromder mannes sin
that was a strange man's sense

und quam im doch zu heile sît,
and came to-him yet to luck afterward,

wen ez quam zu einer zît
for it came at a time

ein des koninges weideman
a of-the king huntsman

zû der hutten gegân
to the hut going

eines morgenes vrû
on-a morning early

heimlîche hin zû.
secretly hence to.

dô wârin sie entslâfen.
then were they asleep.

dô he gesach daz wâfin
when he saw the weapon

und zu hant irkande
and at once recognized

den hêren Tristrande.
the lord Tristrant.

do begunde her dannen gâhen
then began he thence to-hasten

daz sie sîn nicht en sâhen
that they him not — saw

und quam ze dem koninge rîche.
and came to the king rich.

ted he dô icht lestirlîche
did he then aught shamefully

daz her ime sagete
that he to-him told

swaz her gesên habete
whatever he seen had

unde wie her sie vant?
and how he them found?

der koning bat in dô zuhant
the king asked him then at-once

daz her swige al stille
that he kept-silent all still

dorch sînen willen
for his will

und in selbin dare brêchte.
and him self thither brought.

wes her dâ mit gedêchte,
of-what he there with thought,

daz mag ûch grôz wundir hân,
that may you great wonder have,

wan ich ez ûch nicht sagen kan.
for I it to-you not tell can.

Zu hant des morgenes vrû
At once in-the morning early

der weideman reit balde dô
the huntsman rode quickly then

als in der koning Marke bat
as him the king Mark asked

und brâchte in recht an die stad
and brought him right to the place

da he vant die helfelôsin dît.
where he found the helpless people.

der koning beite lengir nît
the king waited longer not

sîne lûte hîz he der rosse plegin.
his people bade he of-the horses take-care.

he gîng aleine after wegin
he went alone off away

dâ Tristrant der helt lach.
where Tristrant the hero lay.

daz swert he selbe legin sach
the sword he himself lie saw

zwischin in, des nam he ware
between them, of-it took he heed

und greif harte lîse dare,
and reached very softly thither,

wen sie wârin * entslâfin.
for they were (lacuna) asleep.

dô nam he Tristrandes wâfin
then took he Tristrant's weapon

den tûrlîchen beiden
from-the dear-ones both

und zoug daz sîne ûz der scheide.
and drew the his out-of the sheath.

Tristrandes stackte he wedir în
Tristrant's stuck he back in

und legete dô daz swert sîn
and laid then the sword his

dâ jenez hâte vor gelegin:
where that-one had before lain:

daz vorslîf alliz der degin
that slept-through all the warrior

und die vrauwe dar zû.
and the lady there to.

der koning sînen hantschû
the king his glove

ûf die vrauwen legete.
upon the lady laid.

daz he sie nicht en regete
that he them not — stirred

daz ist âne lougen.
that is without denial.

sîne hant zôg he tougen
his hand drew he secretly

wedir von der koningîn
back from the queen

und gîng zû dem rosse sîn
and went to the horse his

und reit swar he wolde
and rode wherever he would

als he zu rechte solde.
as he by right should.

Dô Tristrant irwachete
When Tristrant awoke

und sich ûf gemachete,
and himself up made,

do gesach he den hantschû;
then saw he the glove;

die vrauwe vrâgete he dô,
the lady asked he then,

wes der hantschû wêre.
whose the glove were.

do irquam sie von der mêre
then was-startled she at the tidings

und sprach, sie enwiste
and spoke, she knew-not

von wie getâner liste
by how made cunning

der hantschû wêre komen dare.
the glove were come thither.

dô wart der hêre ouch geware
then became the lord also aware

daz im sîn swert was genomen.
that from-him his sword was taken.

do irkante der tûrlîche gome
then recognized the dear man

des koninges swert al zuhant.
the king's sword all at-once.

dô sprach der hêre Tristrant
then spoke the lord Tristrant

zû der [edelin] koninginne
to the [noble] queen

‚wir en komen nimmir hinnen
‚we — come never hence

mit gesundem lîbe und lebene.
with healthy body and life.

daz merke dû vil ebene:
that mark thou very evenly:

hie was der koning mîn herre,
here was the king my lord,

wen he enist nicht verre;
for he is not far;

swâ he hie vorholn sî,
wherever he here hidden be,

he ist eteswâ hîr bî:
he is somewhere here by:

wir habin den tôd al gereit,
we have the death all ready,

wir genîzen den sîner hobischeit,
we enjoy it of-his courtliness,

daz her uns slâfene vant
that he us sleeping found

und uns nicht tôte zu hant.
and us not killed at once.

sô schîre wir nû ûf stân,
as soon we now up stand,

sô mûze wir vorlorn hân
so must we lost have

wir alle beide unsern lîp.‘
we all both our life.‘

dô hîz der hêre daz wîp
then bade the lord the woman

daz sie Kurnevâle rîfe
that she Kurneval called

und im die ros brengin lîze.
and him the horses bring let.

Dô sie ûf die ros quâmen,
When they onto the horses came,

dennoch sie nicht vornâmen,
still they not perceived,

war der koning wêre komen
whither the king were come

(ab ich daz rechte habe vornomen)
(if I that rightly have heard)

und vlogin doch vil harte
and fled yet very hard

zû der selbin warte,
to the same lookout,

als ich wol gehôrin mag.
as I well hear may.

al dorch den langin lîchten tag
all through the long bright day

drabeten sie ummir walt în.
trotted they ever wood in.

do ez vesperzît mochte sîn,
when it vesper-time might be,

dô quâmen sie in ein gevelle.
then came they into a clearing.

dâ blebin die gesellin
there remained the companions

und tâtin daz in nôt was:
and did what to-them need was:

ir ieglîch sînen teil las
of-them each his part gathered

krûtes daz sie âzin.
of-herbs that they ate.

zu samene sie abir sâzin
to together they again sat

und âzin daz wilde krûdelîn.
and ate the wild little-herbs.

dô muste die koningîn
then must the queen

ezzen swaz sie mochte hân.
eat whatever she might have.

ich wil daz sprechin sundir wân:
I will that speak without doubt:

sie wâren alsô wîse,
they were so wise,

hêtin sie gehât bezzer spîse,
(if)-had they had better food,

sie hêtin sie libir gezzin.
they would-have it more-gladly eaten.

dô was dar bî gesezzin
then was there by settled

ein hêlig klûsenêre
a holy hermit

und was ein bîchtigêre
and was a confessor

Markes des koninges.
of-Mark the king.

swaz er tet obeles,
whatever he did of-evil,

zû im er des bûze nam:
to him he for-it penance took:

Ûgrîm hîz der gûte man.
Ugrim was-called the good man.