OLD OCCITAN SERIES · VOLUME 5

Bertran de Born and Peire Vidal

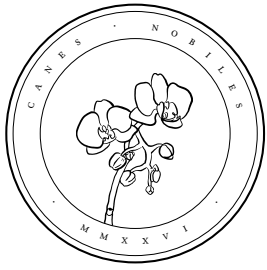
Bertran de Born · Peire Vidal

The Complete Poems, with the Lives and the Razos

---

with a word-for-word interlinear English translation

preserving the original word order



CANES NOBILES · MMXXVI

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Volume 5 of the Canes Nobiles Old Occitan interlinear texts

The Old Occitan text follows Albert Stimming's Bertran von Born,
zweite, verbesserte Auflage (Halle: Niemeyer, 1913),
and Joseph Anglade's Les poésies de Peire Vidal (Paris: Champion, 1913)

Set from page scans of the two 1913 printings

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

Bertran de Born's text and spelling are Stimming's, with his diaeresis marking a metrical hiatus; the two lives come first and each razo stands before the poem it explains, as he prints them, and the poems carry his numbers. Speech stands between guillemets, and ∗∗∗ marks verses the manuscripts have lost. Peire Vidal's text and spelling are Anglade's, with the corrections of his errata leaf; his forty-eight pieces keep his numbers, his Roman set as Arabic, and the life, the two razos, and Matfre Ermengaud's two passages from his first two appendices follow the songs. The opening guillemet he repeats at the head of each line of a quotation prints once, the brackets round a tenso's other voice are not reproduced, and the speaker's name stands above each stanza of a tenso, as he sets it. Neither editor's apparatus, cross-references, notes, or glossary is reproduced, nor Stimming's stanza numerals and indented short lines or the lives of Anglade's third appendix, and the English titles are this press's.

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BERTRAN DE BORN

The Lives and Poems of Bertran de Born

Vida

I · THE FIRST LIFE

Bertran de Born was a castellan of the bishopric of Périgord, lord of a castle called Hautefort, and at war all his days with every neighbor he had: the count of Périgord, the viscount of Limoges, his own brother Constantine, and Richard while Richard was count of Poitou. He was a good knight, a good warrior, a good wooer, and a good troubadour, and he could have his way with King Henry of England and with the king's son whenever he chose. What he wanted was that they should be at war with one another, and whenever peace or truce was made he set about undoing it with his sirventes.

Bertrans de Born si fo us chastelas de l'eveschat de
Bertran of Born thus was a castellan of the-bishopric of
Peiregorc, senher d'un chastel que avia nom Autafort. Totz
Périgord lord of-a castle which it-had name Hautefort All
temps ac guerra ab totz los sieus vezis: ab lo comte de
time he-had war with all the his neighbors with the count of
Peiregorc et ab lo vescomte de Lemotges et ab so fraire
Périgord and with the viscount of Limoges and with his brother
Constanti et ab Richart, tan quan fo coms de Peitau.
Constantine and with Richard so-long as he-was count of Poitou
Bos chavaliers fo e bos guerriers e bos domneiaire e
Good knight he-was and good warrior and good wooer and
bos trobaire e savis e be parlans e saup tractar mals
good troubadour and wise and well speaking and he-knew to-handle evils
e bes, et era senher totas vetz, quan si volia, de·l
and goods and he-was master all times when himself he-wished of-the
rei Henric d'Englaterra e de·l filh de lui. Mas totz temps
king Henry of-England and of-the son of him But all time

volia qu'ilh aguessen guerra ensems, lo paire e·l filhs
he-wished that-they they-might-have war together the father and-the son
e·lh fraire, l'us ab l'autre, e totz temps volc que·l reis
and-the brothers the-one with the-other and all time he-wished that-the king
de Franza e·l reis d'Englaterra aguessen guerra ensems.
of France and-the king of-England they-might-have war together
E s'ilh avian patz ni tregua, ades si penava e·s
And if-they they-had peace or truce at-once himself he-took-pains and-himself
perchassava ab sos sirventes de desfar la patz e de mostrar,
he-exerted with his sirventes to undo the peace and to show
com chascus era desonratz en la patz; e si n'ac de
how each-one was dishonored in the peace and thus of-it-he-had of
grans bes e de grans mals de so qu'el mesclet mal entre
great goods and of great evils from that that-he stirred ill among
lor. E fetz maintz bos sirventes de·ls quals son gran
them And he-made many good sirventes of-the which are great
re aissi escriut, segon que vos podetz vezer et entendre.
many here written according as you you-can to-see and to-understand

Vida

II · THE SECOND LIFE

The second life makes him viscount of Hautefort, a place of nearly a thousand men, and says he made only two cansos. It names his singer Papiol and the nicknames he coined: Rassa for the count of Brittany, Yes-and-No for the king of England, and Mariner for the young king. He set father against son until the young king was killed by a bolt in one of Bertran's own castles. The king took him prisoner and asked whether all his wits would serve him now; he answered that he had lost them the day the young king died. The king wept, pardoned him, gave him lands and honors, and Bertran gave himself at last to the order of Cîteaux.

Bertrans de Born si fo de Lemozi, vescoms d'Autafort,
Bertran of Born thus was of Limousin viscount of-Hautefort
que i avia prop de mil homes. Et avia fraires e
which there were close to thousand men And he-had brothers and
cujava·ls deseretar, si no fos lo reis d'Englaterra. Mout
he-thought-them to-disinherit if not were the king of-England Very
fo bos trobaire de sirventes et anc no fetz chanzos
he-was good troubadour of sirventes and ever not he-made songs
fors doas. E·l reis d'Arago donet per molhers las chanzos
except two And-the king of-Aragon gave for wives the songs
d'en Guiraut de Bornelh a sos sirventes. Et aquel que
of-Sir Guiraut of Bornelh to his sirventes And he who
chantava per el avia nom Papiol. Et era azautz hom e
sang for him had name Papiol And he-was pleasing man and
cortes. E clamava «Rassa» lo comte de Bretanha e lo rei
courteous And he-called Rassa the count of Brittany and the king
d'Englaterra «Oc e No» e·l rei jove, so filh, «Marinier».
of-England Yes and No and-the king young his son Mariner

Et avia aital usatge qu'ades fazia mesclar guerra entre·ls
And he-had such habit that-always he-made to-stir war among-the
barons. E fetz mesclar lo paire e·l filh d'Englaterra,
barons And he-made to-stir the father and-the son of-England
tan entro·l joves reis fo mortz d'un quairel en un chastel
so until-the young king was slain by-a bolt in a castle
d'en Bertran de Born. E·n Bertrans de Born si·s
of-Sir Bertran of Born and-Sir Bertran of Born thus-himself
vanava qu'el cujava tan valer que ja no cujava que totz
boasted that-he thought so to-be-worth that ever not he-thought that all
sos sens l'agues mestier. E puois lo reis lo pres, e
his wits to-him-were of-use And then the king him took and
quan l'ac pres, el li dis: «Bertrans, aura·us encara
when him-he-had taken he to-him said Bertran will-be-to-you still
mestier totz vostre sens?» Et el respos qu'el avia tot so sen
of-use all your wits And he answered that-he had all his sense
perdut, quan lo reis joves morit. Adoncs si ploret lo reis
lost when the king young died Then thus wept the king
de so filh e perdonet li e·l vestit e·lh det terras
for his son and pardoned him and-him clothed and-to-him gave lands
et honors. E visquet longamen e·l segle e puois rendet
and honors And he-lived long in-the world and then rendered
si a l'orde de Cistel. Et aqui trobaretz de sos sirventes.
himself to the-order of Cîteaux And here you-will-find of his sirventes

Lo coms m'a mandat e mogut

1 · THE COUNT HAS SENT TO ME

The count of Toulouse has asked, through Sir Aramon Luc of Esparron, for a song in which a thousand shields are cut. Bertran obliges: the count will plant his gonfalon at Toulouse, in the comital meadow beyond Montaigut, and the potentates and the barons will come for gain, for summons, or for prayers. The Catalans and the men of Aragon will tumble from their saddles, and nothing will be left whole — samite, brocade, and sendal, cords, tents, pegs, and poles. He wants the high barons angry with one another for ever.

Lo coms m'a mandat e mogut
The count to-me-has commanded and urged
per n'Aramon Luc d'Esparro
through Sir-Aramon Luc of-Esparron
qu'ieu fassa per lui tal chanzo
that-I make for him such song
on sian trenchat mil escut,
where be cut thousand shields
elm et ausberc et alcoto,
helm and hauberk and jerkin
e perponh falsat e romput.
and doublet pierced and broken

Et er ops que sia atendut,
And it-will-be need that it-be fulfilled
puois comtar mi fai sa razo,
since to-tell to-me he-makes his matter
e que ges no diga de no,
and that at-all not he-say of no

depuois que m'o a convengut;
since that to-me-it he-has agreed
que blastimaran m'en Guasco,
for will-blame me-of-it Gascons
quan de lor mi tenh per tengut.
when of them me I-hold as bound

A Tolosa, part Montagut,
At Toulouse beyond Montaigut
fermara·l coms son gonfano
will-plant-the count his gonfalon
a·l prat comtal josta·l peiro,
in-the meadow comital beside-the block
e quan aura son trap tendut,
and when he-will-have his tent pitched
e nos lor trairem de viro,
and we to-them will-shoot from around
tan que tres nochs i jairem nut.
so that three nights there we-shall-lie naked

E seran i ab nos vengut
And will-be there with us come
las poestatz e li baro
the potentates and the barons
e li plus honrat companho
and the most honored companions
de·l mon e li plus mentaugut;
of-the world and the most renowned

que per aver, que per somo,
whether for gain whether for summons
que per precs i seran vengut.
whether for prayers there will-be come

E desse que serem vengut,
And straightway when we-shall-be come
mesclar s'a·l torneis pe·l chambo,
to-join itself-will-the tourney over-the field
e·lh Catala e·lh d'Arago
and-the Catalans and-those of-Aragon
tombaran soven e menut,
will-tumble often and thick
que ja no·ls sostenran arzo;
for ever not-them will-hold saddle-bows
tan grans colps los ferrem nos drut.
so great blows them we-shall-strike we close-packed

E no pot esser remasut,
And not it-can to-be left-undone
contra cel no volen tronzo,
against sky — fly splinters
e que samit e cisclato
and that samite and brocade
e cendat no·i sian romput,
and sendal there be torn

cordas, tendas, bechas, paisso
cords tents pegs poles
e trap e pavilho tendut.
and tent and pavilion pitched

Lo reis qu'a Tarasco perdut
The king who-has Tarascon lost
e·l senher de Mon Albeo,
and-the lord of Mont Albeo
Rotgiers, e·l filhs Bernart Otho
Rotgier and-the son (of-)Bernart Otho
e lo coms Peire lor n'aiut
and the count Peire to-them of-it-may-help
e·l coms de Fois ab Bernardo
and-the count of Foix with Bernardo
e·n Sanso, frair de·l rei vencut.
and-Sir Sancho brother of-the king conquered

De lai pensen de guarnizo,
From there let-them-think of provision
que de sai lor er atendut.
for from here to-them it-will-be awaited

Totz temps vuolh que li aut baro
All time I-wish that the high barons
sian entre lor irascut.
be among them angered

Un sirventes on motz no falh

2 · A SIRVENTES WHERE NO WORD FAILS

The razo tells how Bertran's brother Constantine seized their shared castle of Hautefort, was driven out of the whole domain, and went to the viscount of Limoges for help; Richard and Adhemar then made war on Bertran and burned his land. The song answers them: Bertran shares the egg and the halfpenny with a brother, but throws him out of the partnership if he then wants Bertran's share. Talairan will not stir from his sand-heap, William of Gourdon has put a foolish clapper in his bell, and Bertran promises to come armed to Périgueux and make mud of brain and mail on a Poitevin's head.

Bertrans de Born, si com ieu vos ai dich en las autras
Bertran of Born just as I to-you I-have said in the other
razos, si avia un fraire, que avia nom Constanti de Born
razos thus he-had a brother who had name Constantine of Born
e si era bos chavaliers d'armas, mas non era hom
and thus he-was good knight of-arms but not he-was man
que s'entremeses mout de valor ni d'onor, mas totas sazos
who himself-concerned much with merit or with-honor but all seasons
volia mal a·n Bertran e ben a totz cels que volian
he-wished ill to-Sir Bertran and well to all those who wished
mal a·n Bertran. E si·lh tolc una vetz lo chastel
ill to-Sir Bertran And thus-from-him he-took one time the castle
d'Autafort, qu'era d'amdos comunalmen. E·n Bertrans
of-Hautefort which-was of-both in-common And-Sir Bertran
si·l recobret e si·l chasset de tot lo poder. Et
thus-it he-recovered and thus-him he-drove from all the domain And
aquel si s'en anet a·l vescomte de Lemotges, que·l
that-one thus himself-thence went to-the viscount of Limoges that-him

degues mantener contra so fraire, et el lo mantenc. E·l
he-should to-maintain against his brother and he him maintained And-the
reis Richartz lo mantenc contra·n Bertran. E·n Richartz
king Richard him maintained against-Sir Bertran And-Sir Richard
si guerreiava ab n'Aimar, lo vescomte de Lemotges. E·n
thus warred with Sir-Adhemar the viscount of Limoges And-Sir
Richartz e n'Aimars si guerreiavan ab en Bertran e·lh
Richard and Sir-Adhemar thus warred with Sir Bertran and-to-him
fondian la soa terra e la·lh ardian. Bertrans si avia fach
they-razed the his land and it-to-him they-burned Bertran thus had made
jurar lo vescomte de Lemotges e·l comte de Peiregorc,
to-swear the viscount of Limoges and-the count of Périgord
que avia nom Talairan, a·l qual Richartz avia touta la
who had name Talairan from-the whom Richard had taken the
ciutat de Peiregorc, e no·lh en fazia negu dan, quar
city of Périgueux and not-to-him of-it did any harm for
el era flacs e nualhos. E·n Richartz si avia tout Gordo
he was slack and sluggish And-Sir Richard thus had taken Gourdon
a·n Guilhem de Gordo; et avia promes de jurar ab lo
from-Sir William of Gourdon and had promised to swear with the
vescomte et ab Bertran de Born et ab los autres baros de
viscount and with Bertran of Born and with the other barons of
Peiregorc e de Lemozi e de Caerci, los quals en Richartz
Périgord and of Limousin and of Quercy the whom Sir Richard
deseretava, don Bertrans lo repres fort. E fetz de
was-disinheriting wherefore Bertran him reproached greatly And he-made from
totas aquestas razos aquest sirventes que dis: «Un sirventes
all these matters this sirventes which says A sirventes
on motz no falh ai fach, qu'anc no·m costet un alh.»
where word not fails I-have made that-ever not-to-me cost a garlic

Un sirventes on motz no falh
A sirventes where word not fails
ai fach, qu'anc no·m costet un alh,
I-have made that-ever not-to-me cost a garlic
et ai apres un' aital art
and I-have learned a such art
que, s'ai fraire, germa ni quart,
that if-I-have brother full-blood or fourth
part li l'uou e la medalha,
I-divide to-him the-egg and the halfpenny
e s'el puois vol la mia part,
and if-he then wants the my share
ieu l'en get de comunalha.
I him-thence throw from partnership

Tot mo sen tenh dintz mo serralh,
All my sense I-keep within my enclosure
si tot m'an donat gran trebalh
even though to-me-they-have given great trouble
entre n'Azemar e·n Richart;
between Sir-Adhemar and-Sir Richard
lonc temps m'an tengut en reguart,
long time to-me-they-have held on guard
mas aras an tal baralha
but now they-have such quarrel
que lor enfan, si·l reis no·ls part,
that their children if-the king not-them separates
n'auran pro en la coralha.
of-it-they-will-have enough in the innards

Guilhelms de Gordo, fol batalh
William of Gourdon foolish clapper
avetz mes dintz vostre sonalh,
you-have put within your bell
et ieu am vos, si dieus mi guart;
and I love you so God me keep
pero per fol e per musart
yet for fool and for dolt
vos tenon de la fermalha
you they-hold of the league
li dui vescomte, et es lor tart
the two viscounts and it-is to-them slow
que siatz en lor frairalha.
that you-be in their brotherhood

Tot jorn contendi e·m baralh,
All day I-contend and-myself I-quarrel
m'escrim e·m defen e·m tartalh,
I-fence and-myself I-defend and-myself I-bestir
e·m fon hom ma terra e la m'art
and-to-me razes one my land and it to-me-burns
e·m fai de mos arbres eissart
and-to-me makes of my trees clearing
e mescla·l gra ab la palha,
and mixes-the grain with the straw
e non ai ardit ni coart
and not I-have bold nor coward
enemic qu'er no m'assalha.
enemy who-now not me-assails

Tot jorn resoli e retalh
All day I-melt-down and I-recut
los baros e·ls refon e·ls calh,
the barons and-them I-recast and-them I-temper
que cujava metre en eissart;
whom I-thought to-put in clearing
e sui be fols quar m'en reguart,
and I-am well foolish for myself-of-it I-am-wary
qu'ilh son de peior obralha
for-they are of worse workmanship
que non es lo fers Saint Launart,
than — is the iron (of-)Saint Leonard
per qu'es fols qui s'en trebalha.
for which-is foolish who himself-of-it troubles

Talairans no trota ni salh
Talairan not trots nor leaps
ni no·s muou de son arenalh
and not-himself moves from his sand-heap
ni no geta lanza ni dart,
and not throws lance nor dart
anz viu a guisa de lombart;
rather he-lives in fashion of Lombard
tan es farcitz de nualha
so is stuffed with sloth
que, quan l'autra gens si compart,
that when the-other folk themselves divide
el s'estendilh' e badalha.
he himself-stretches and yawns

A Peiregors, pres de·l muralh,
At Périgueux near to-the wall
tan que·i puosch' om gitar ab malh,
so that-there might one to-throw with maul
venrai armatz sobre Baiart,
I-shall-come armed upon Bayard
e se·i trop peitavi pifart,
and if-there I-find Poitevin puffed-up
veiran de mon bran com talha,
they-shall-see of my sword how it-cuts
que sus pe·l chap li farai bart
for above on-the head to-him I-shall-make mud
de cervel mesclat ab malha.
of brain mixed with mail

Baro, dieus vos salf e vos guart
Barons God you save and you keep
e vos aiut e vos valha
and you help and to-you avail
e·us do que digatz a·n Richart
and-to-you grant that you-say to-Sir Richard
so que·l paus dis a la gralha.
that which-the peacock said to the jackdaw

Ges de far sirventes no·m tartz

3 · I AM IN NO WAY SLOW TO MAKE A SIRVENTES

The razo tells the long story of Hautefort: how Bertran took the castle from his brother Constantine in great treachery, on a Monday the auguries called unlucky; how Constantine fetched King Henry and Count Richard, who besieged it and took it; and how the king gave it back with the jest that so great a treachery had earned it. The song is Bertran unrepentant: he wants no truce from Adhemar, Amblart, or Talairan, will not leave a garden of Hautefort, keeps no law but war, and heeds neither Monday nor Tuesday nor April nor March.

Si com vos avetz maintas vetz auzit, en Bertrans de
Just as you you-have many times heard Sir Bertran of
Born e sos fraire, en Constantis, agron totz temps
Born and his brother Sir Constantine they-had all time
guerra ensems et agron gran malvolenza l'us a l'autre,
war together and they-had great ill-will the-one to the-other
per so que chascus volia esser senher d'Autafort, lo lor
for that that each-one wished to-be lord of-Hautefort the their
comunal chastel per razo. Et avenc si que, com so fos
common castle by right And it-befell thus that as it was
chausa qu'en Bertrans agues presa e tolguda Autafort e
(the)-case that-Sir Bertran had taken and seized Hautefort and
chassat Constanti e sos filhs de la terra, en Constantis
driven Constantine and his sons from the land Sir Constantine
s'en anet a n'Azemar, lo vescomte de Lemotges, et a
himself-thence went to Sir-Adhemar the viscount of Limoges and to
n'Amblart, comte de Peiregorc, et a·n Talairan, senhor de
Sir-Amblart count of Périgord and to-Sir Talairan lord of
Montanhac, querre lor merce, qu'ilh lo deguessen aiudar
Montignac to-seek their mercy that-they him should to-help

contra so fraire, en Bertran, que malamen tenia Autafort,
against his brother Sir Bertran who wrongfully held Hautefort
qu'era mieis sieus, e no l'en volia dar neguna
which-was half his and not to-him-of-it he-wished to-give any
part, anz l'avia malamen deseretat. Et ilh l'aiuderon e
share rather him-he-had wrongfully disinherited And they him-helped and
conselheron contra en Bertran e feiron lonc temps gran
counseled against Sir Bertran and they-made long time great
guerra ab lui et a la fi tolgron li Autafort. E·n
war with him and at the end they-took from-him Hautefort And-Sir
Bertrans s'en eschampet ab la soa gen e comenzet
Bertran himself-thence escaped with the his folk and began
a guerreiar Autafort ab totz sos amics e parens. Et
to to-war Hautefort with all his friends and kin And
avenc si qu'en Bertrans cerchet concordi e patz ab so
it-befell thus that-Sir Bertran sought accord and peace with his
fraire e fo facha grans patz, e vengron amic. Mas
brother and was made great peace and they-became friends But
quan en Bertrans fo ab tota la soa gen dintz lo chastel
when Sir Bertran was with all the his folk within the castle
d'Autafort, si·lh fetz falhimen e no·lh tenc sagramen
of-Hautefort thus-to-him he-did default and not-to-him he-kept oath
ni conven e tolc lo chastel a gran felonia a so fraire.
nor covenant and he-took the castle in great treachery from his brother
E so fo un dia de dilus, en lo qual era tals hora
And that was a day of Monday on the which was such hour
e tals pointz que segon la razo de·ls agurs ni de·ls
and such point that according-to the reckoning of-the auguries or of-the
pointz d'astrolomia non era bo comenzar negu gran fach.
points of-astrology not was good to-begin any great deed

E·n Constantis s'en anet a·l rei Henric d'Englaterra
And-Sir Constantine himself-thence went to-the king Henry of-England
et a·n Richart, lo comte de Peitau, querre mantenemen
and to-Sir Richard the count of Poitou to-seek support
contra·n Bertran. E·l reis Henrics, per so qu'el volia mal
against-Sir Bertran And-the king Henry for that that-he wished ill
a·n Bertran, per so qu'el era amics e conselhaire de·l
to-Sir Bertran for that that-he was friend and counselor of-the
rei jove, so filh, lo quals avia aguda guerra ab el, e
king young his son the which he-had had war with him and
crezia qu'en Bertrans n'agues tota la colpa: si·l pres
he-believed that-Sir Bertran of-it-had all the blame thus-him he-took
ad aiudar, el e·l coms Richartz, sos filhs; e feiron
to to-help he and-the count Richard his son and they-made
gran host et assetgeron Autafort et a la fi preseron lo
great host and they-besieged Hautefort and at the end they-took the
chastel e·n Bertran. E quan fo menatz a·l pavilho
castle and-Sir Bertran And when he-was led to-the pavilion
denan lo rei, ac gran paor. Mas per las paraulas las
before the king he-had great fear But through the words the
quals el membret a·l rei Henric de·l rei jove, so filh, lo
which he recalled to-the king Henry of-the king young his son the
reis li rendet Autafort, e perdonet li, el e·l coms
king to-him gave-back Hautefort and pardoned him he and-the count
Richartz, totz sos mals talans, si com vos avetz auzit en
Richard all his ill wills just as you you-have heard in
l'estoria que es escriuta denan sobre lo sirventes que dis:
the-story which is written before above the sirventes which says
«Puois lo gens terminis floritz.» Mas quan lo reis Henrics
Since the fair season flowered But when the king Henry

li rendia Autafort, dis solazan ves en Bertran: «Sia
to-him gave-back Hautefort he-said jesting toward Sir Bertran Let-it-be
toa, be la deves tu aver per razo, tan gran felonia
thine well it you-must you to-have by right so great treachery
fezist tu de to fraire.» Et en Bertrans s'engenolhet denan
did you to your brother And Sir Bertran himself-knelt before
lui e dis: «Senher, grans merces! Be·m platz aitals
him and said Lord great thanks Well-to-me pleases such
jutjamens.» E·n Bertrans entret e·l chastel, e·l reis
judgment And-Sir Bertran entered in-the castle and-the king
Henrics e·l coms Richartz s'en torneron en lor
Henry and-the count Richard themselves-thence returned into their
terra ab lor gen. Quan li autre baro qu'aiudavan Constanti
land with their folk When the other barons who-helped Constantine
auziron so e viron qu'en Bertrans avia ancaras lo chastel,
heard that and saw that-Sir Bertran had still the castle
foron mout dolen et irat e conselheron Constanti qu'el
they-were much grieved and angry and they-counseled Constantine that-he
si reclames d'en Bertran denan lo rei Henric, que·l
himself should-complain of-Sir Bertran before the king Henry who-him
mantenria ben en razo. Et el si fetz. Mas Bertrans
would-maintain well in right And he thus did But Bertran
mostret a·l rei lo jutjamen qu'el avia fach, quar el l'avia
showed to-the king the judgment which-he had made for he it-had
be fach escriure, e·l reis s'en ris e·s solazet.
well made to-write and-the king himself-of-it laughed and-himself amused
E·n Bertrans s'en anet ad Autafort, e Constantis
And-Sir Bertran himself-thence went to Hautefort and Constantine
no·n ac autra razo. Mas li baro que aiudavan Constanti
not-of-it had other redress But the barons who helped Constantine

feiron ab lui lonc temps gran guerra a·n Bertran et
made with him long time great war on-Sir Bertran and
el ad els. E tan com visquet, no·lh volc rendre lo
he on them And so long-as he-lived not-to-him he-would to-render the
chastel ni far patz ab so fraire ni tregua. E quan fo
castle nor to-make peace with his brother nor truce And when he-was
mortz, acorderon si li filh d'en Bertran ab en Constanti,
dead agreed thus the sons of-Sir Bertran with Sir Constantine
lor oncle, et ab sos filhs, lor cosis. E per aquestas
their uncle and with his sons their cousins And for these
razos fetz en Bertrans aquest sirventes que dis: «Ges de
matters made Sir Bertran this sirventes which says At-all of
far sirventes no·m tartz, anz lo fauc senes totz afans.»
to-make sirventes not-myself I-delay rather it I-make without all pains

Ges de far sirventes no·m tartz,
At-all of to-make sirventes not-myself I-delay
anz lo fauc senes totz afans;
rather it I-make without all pains
tan es sotils mos genhs e m'artz
so is subtle my wit and my-art
que mes m'en sui en tal enans
that put myself-in-it I-have in such advance
e sai tan de sort
and I-know so of craft
que ve·us m'en estort;
that behold-you myself-thence escaped

que comte ni rei
that count nor king
no·m forsfeiron rei.
not-to-me wronged anything

E puois lo reis e·l coms Richartz
And since the king and-the count Richard
m'an perdonat lor mals talans,
to-me-they-have pardoned their ill wills
ja mais n'Azemars ni n'Amblartz
ever more Sir-Adhemar nor Sir-Amblart
no·m do treguas ni·n Talairans;
not-to-me may-give truces nor-Sir Talairan
ni ja d'Autafort
nor ever of-Hautefort
no laissarai hort;
not I-shall-leave garden
qui·s vol, m'en guerrei,
who-himself wishes me-of-it let-him-war
puois aver lo dei.
since to-have it I-must

Quan fis es deves totas partz,
When peace is on all sides
a me resta de guerra us pans;
to me remains of war a piece
pustela en son uolh, qui m'en partz,
pustule in his eye who me-of-it parts

si tot m'o comenzei enans!
though wholly it-to-me I-began before
Patz no·m fai conort,
Peace not-to-me makes comfort
ab guerra m'acort,
with war I-agree
qu'ieu no tenh ni crei
for-I not hold nor believe
negun' autra lei.
any other law

E no·i guart dilus ni dimartz
And not-there I-heed Monday nor Tuesday
ni setmanas ni mes ni ans
nor weeks nor months nor years
ni·m lais per abril ni per martz
nor-myself I-leave for April nor for March
qu'ieu no tracte com venha dans
that-I not plot how comes harm
a cels que·m fan tort,
to those who-to-me do wrong
e ja·b me per fort
and ever-with me by force
no conquerran trei
not will-win three
lo pretz d'un correi.
the worth of-a strap

Qui que fassa sos bos eissartz,
Whoever that makes his good clearings
ieu m'en sui totz temps mes en grans,
I myself-in-it have all time put in care
com puoscha aver quairels e dartz,
how I-can to-have bolts and darts
elms et ausbercs, chavals e brans;
helms and hauberks horses and swords
qu'ab aisso·m conort
for-with this-myself I-comfort
e·m tenh a deport
and-myself I-hold as sport
assaut e tornei,
assault and tourney
donar e domnei.
to-give and to-woo

Mos parzoniers es tan galhartz
My partner is so gallant
qu'el vol la terra mos enfans,
that-he wants the land my children's
et ieu vuolh l'en dar, tan sui gartz;
and I wish to-him-of-it to-give so am-I churl
puois diran que mals es Bertrans,
then they-will-say that bad is Bertran
quar tot no lo·i port;
for wholly not it-to-him I-bring

mas a malvatz port
but to evil harbor
venra, so·us autrei,
he-will-come that-to-you I-grant
anz qu'ab me plaidei.
before that-with me he-plead

No·m chal d'Autafort
Not-to-me matters of-Hautefort
mas far drech ni tort,
but to-do right nor wrong
que·l jutjamen crei
for-the judgment I-believe
mo senhor lo rei.
of-my lord the king

Cortz e guerras e joi d'amor

4 · COURTS AND WARS AND THE JOY OF LOVE

Courts, wars, and love once made him glad, until his lady forbade him to sing and his song was excommunicated. Now he is absolved and sends his songs out again. He welcomes the little king of Terra Maior — France — for asserting himself, and sets one rich man against another, since vavasors and castellans profit by it. He answers the emperor's cowards over Cremona, the slanderers who call him a sufferer, and the party keeping back the gifts his brother swore him; Papiol carries the song to the young king.

Cortz e guerras e joi d'amor
Courts and wars and joy of-love
mi solian far esbaudir
me they-used to-make to-rejoice
e tener gai e chantador,
and to-keep gay and singing
tro per lieis cui dei obezir
until through her whom I-must to-obey
mi fo mos chantars devedatz,
to-me was my singing forbidden
et en la lei
and in the law
es mos chans escomoniatz.
is my song excommunicated

Ara sui assoutz en amor,
Now I-am absolved in love
e veiretz anar e venir
and you-will-see to-go and to-come
chanzos, puois a la belazor
songs since to the fairest
platz que mos chans deia colhir
it-pleases that my song should to-gather
en m'onranza, s'es acordatz
in my-honor if-is agreed
son cors a drei,
her heart to right
e non a negu de·ls comtatz.
and not there-is any of-the things-told

De·l pauc rei de Terra-Maior
Of-the little king of Terra-Maior
mi platz qu'aissi·s vol enantir,
to-me it-pleases that-thus-himself he-wishes to-advance
qu'oimais lo tenran per senhor
for-henceforth him they-will-hold as lord
cilh que·lh devon so fieu servir;
those who-to-him owe his fief to-serve
puois vencut los a ves Arratz,
since conquered them he-has toward Arras
ara s'estei
now let-him-stay
e cobre sos drechs daus totz latz.
and let-him-recover his rights from all sides

No·m tenhatz per envazidor,
Not-me hold-you as invader
s'ieu vuolh qu'us rics l'autre azir,
if-I wish that-one rich the-other hate
quar mielhs s'en poiran vasvassor
for better themselves-of-it will-be-able vavasors
e chastela de lor jauzir;
and castellans of them to-enjoy
que plus es francs, larcs e privatz,
for more is noble generous and familiar
fe qu'ieu vos dei,
faith that-I to-you owe
rics hom ab guerra que ab patz.
rich man with war than with peace

E·lh volpilh de l'emperador
And-the cowards of the-emperor
volian Lombart envazir
wished Lombards to-invade
e ja no laissan per paor
and ever not they-cease for fear
sobre de Cremona bastir;
above of Cremona to-build
que·l coms Raimons es sai honratz
for-the count Raymond is here honored
* * *
(lacuna)
Quar ab lo rei s'es afiatz.
For with the king himself-be-has allied

Be sai que li mal parlador,
Well I-know that the evil speakers
quar vuolh de lor guilas ver dir,
for I-wish of their wiles truth to-tell
m'en apelaran sofridor,
me-of-it they-will-call sufferer
quar mi lais forzar ni balhir;
for me I-let to-force or to-master
que·ls dos que mos frair m'a juratz
that-the gifts which my brother to-me-has sworn
et autre autrei
and another grant
vol retener l'autra meitatz.
wishes to-keep the-other half

Puois no volon drech ni amor
Since not they-wish right nor love
faire ni negu plach sofrir,
to-do nor any agreement to-suffer
ges per lezeros d'obrador,
at-all by idlers of-workshop
s'ieu m'en podia revestir,
if-I myself-of-it could to-take-possession
no dei esser mal razonatz;
not I-must to-be ill judged
qu'ilh fan plaidei
for-they make plea
maintas vetz qu'om no·ls n'a pregatz.
many times that-one not-them of-it-has begged

Mas ieu ai tan ensenhador,
But I have so-many instructors
no sai, per Crist, lo mielhs chausir:
not I-know by Christ the best to-choose
quan ieu pren e tuolh la ricor
when I take and seize the wealth
d'aquels que no·m laissan guarir,
of-those who not-me let to-live
dizon que trop mi sui cochatz;
they-say that too-much myself I-have hastened
quar no guerrei,
for not I-war
aras dizon que sui malvatz.
now they-say that I-am wicked

Papiols, e tu vai viatz,
Papiol and you go swiftly
a·l jove rei
to-the young king
diras que trop dormir no·m platz.
you-will-say that too-much to-sleep not-to-me pleases

En Oc e No ama mais patz
Sir Yes and No loves more peace
ab Felip, crei,
with Philip I-believe
que·l frair Johans deseretatz.
than-the brother John disinherited

Puois Ventadorns e Comborns ab Segur

5 · SINCE VENTADORN AND COMBORN WITH SEGUR

The razo lists the league sworn against Richard — Ventadorn, Comborn, Segur, Turenne, Périgord, Gourdon, Montfort, and the burghers — and Bertran's charge that Richard took the young king's cart revenue and built a castle on his brother's land. The song reassures that country: he would not want Toledo if he could not sit safe there, and prizes a small plot held in honor above a great empire held in shame. He calls on Gascony, Taillebourg, Pons, and Lusignan, and asks whether King Philip takes after his father or follows Charles.

Bertrans de Born, si com vos ai dich, en la sazo
Bertran of Born just as to-you I-have said in the season
qu'el avia guerra ab lo comte Richart, el fetz si que·l
that-he had war with the count Richard he did thus that-the
vescoms de Ventadorn e·l vescoms de Comborn e·l
viscount of Ventadorn and-the viscount of Comborn and-the
vescoms de Segur, so fo lo vescoms de Lemotges,
viscount of Segur that was the viscount of Limoges
e·l vescoms de Torena si jureron ab lo comte de
and-the viscount of Turenne thus swore with the count of
Peiregorc et ab los borges d'aquelas encontradas et ab
Périgord and with the burghers of-those regions and with
lo senhor de Gordo et ab lo senhor de Monfort, e
the lord of Gourdon and with the lord of Montfort and
si si serreron ensems, per qu'ilh si defendessen
thus themselves they-bound together so that-they themselves might-defend
da·l comte Richart, que·ls volia deseretar, per so quar
from-the count Richard who-them wished to-disinherit for that because
ilh volian ben a·l rei jove, so fraire, ab cui el si
they wished well to-the king young his brother with whom he himself

guerreiava, a·l qual el avia tout totas las rendas de
warred from-the which he had taken all the revenues of
las charretas, de las quals charretas lo reis joves prendia
the carts of the which carts the king young took
certa chausa, si com lo paire li avia donat, e no·l
certain thing just as the father to-him had granted and not-him
laissava neis albergar segur en tota la soa terra. E per
he-let even to-lodge safe in all the his land And through
aquest sagramen que tuit aquist avian fach de guerreiar
this oath which all these had made of to-war
en Richart, Bertrans de Born si fetz aquest sirventes:
Sir Richard Bertran of Born thus made this sirventes
«Puois Ventadorns e Comborns ab Segur» per assegurar
Since Ventadorn and Comborn with Segur to to-reassure
totas las gens d'aquela encontrada per lo sagramen que
all the folk of-that region through the oath which
aquilh avian fach contra·n Richart e reprenden lo rei
they had made against-Sir Richard and reproving the king
jove, quar el en guerra non era plus pros, remembran
young because he in war not was more worthy recalling
a lui, com en Richartz l'avia toutas las rendas de
to him how Sir Richard from-him-had taken the revenues of
las charretas e com li avia fach levar un chastel
the carts and how to-him he-had made to-raise a castle
e·l miei luoc de la terra que·l paire l'avia dada, e
in-the middle place of the land which-the father to-him-had given and
lauzan lo senhor de Puoi-Guilhelm e de Clarens e de
praising the lord of Puy-Guilhem and of Clarens and of
Granhol e de Saint-Astier, qu'eran quatre gran baro de
Grignols and of Saint-Astier who-were four great barons of

Peiregorc, e lauzan se mezeis e Torena et Engolmes,
Périgord and praising him self and Turenne and Angoumois
e dis que, si·l vescoms de Bearn e de Gavarda, so
and he-said that if-the viscount of Béarn and of Gavardan that
era en Gastos de Bearn, qu'era chaps de tota Guasconha,
was Sir Gaston of Béarn who-was head of all Gascony
e·n Vivias de Lomanha e·n Bernardos d'Armanhac
and-Sir Vivian of Lomagne and-Sir Bernardon of-Armagnac
e·l vescoms de Tartas venian sai ad els, que volian mal
and-the viscount of Tartas came here to them who wished ill
a·n Richart: assatz auria el que far; e que·l senher
to-Sir Richard enough would-have he which to-do and that-the lord
de Mauleo, so era en Raols de Mauleo, lo paire d'en
of Mauléon that was Sir Raoul of Mauléon the father of-Sir
Savaric, e·l senher de Taunai e·l vescoms de Sivrai
Savaric and-the lord of Taunay and-the viscount of Civray
e·l senher de Talhaborc e·l vescoms de Toartz, —
and-the lord of Taillebourg and-the viscount of Thouars
que tuit aquist lor aiudarian, si lor fossen de pres,
that all these them would-help if to-them they-were of near
per lo gran tort qu'en Richartz lor fazia; e tuit
through the great wrong that-Sir Richard to-them did and all
aquist eran gran baro de Peitau. E de totas aquestas
these were great barons of Poitou And of all these
razos si fetz en Bertrans aquest sirventes que comenza:
matters thus made Sir Bertran this sirventes which begins
«Puois Ventadorns e Comborns ab Segur e Torena e
Since Ventadorn and Comborn with Segur and Turenne and
Monfortz.»
Montfort

Puois Ventadorns e Comborns ab Segur
Since Ventadorn and Comborn with Segur
e Torena e Monfortz ab Gordo
and Turenne and Montfort with Gourdon
an fach acort ab Peiregorc e jur,
have made accord with Périgord and oath
e li borges si clavan de viro:
and the burghers themselves lock round about
m'es bel qu'ieu chan e qu'ieu m'en entremeta
to-me-is fair that-I sing and that-I myself-in-it engage
d'un sirventes per lor assegurar;
of-a sirventes for them to-reassure
qu'ieu no vuolh ges, sia mia Toleta,
for-I not wish at-all be mine Toledo
per qu'ieu segur non i auses estar.
for which-I safe not there might-dare to-stay

A! Puoi-Guilhelm e Clarenz e Granhol
Ah Puy-Guilhem and Clarens and Grignols
e Saint-Astier, mout avetz gran honor,
and Saint-Astier much you-have great honor
et ieu mezeis, qui conoisser la·m vol,
and I myself whoever to-know it-to-me wishes
et a sobrier Engolesmes maior
and in excess Angoulême greater
d'en charretier que guerpis la charreta;
than-Sir carter who abandons the cart
non a deniers ni no·n pren ses paor;
not has pence and not-of-it takes without fear

per qu'ab honor pretz mais paucha terreta
for which-with honor I-prize more little plot
que gran empier tener a desonor.
than great empire to-hold in dishonor

Si·l rics vescoms que es chaps de·ls Guascos,
If-the rich viscount who is head of-the Gascons
a cui s'ate Bearns e Gavardas,
to whom belongs Béarn and Gavardan
e·n Vezias si·s vol e·n Bernardos
and-Sir Vezian if-himself wishes and-Sir Bernardon
e·l senher d'Aics e cel cui es Marsas:
and-the lord of-Dax and he whose is Marsan
d'aquela part aura·l coms pro que fassa,
from-that side will-have-the count enough that he-do
et eissamen, aissi com el es pros,
and likewise thus as he is worthy
ab sa gran host qu'atrai e que amassa
with his great host which-he-draws and which he-gathers
passe s'en sai et ajoste·s ab nos.
let-him-pass himself-thence here and let-him-join-himself with us

Si Talhaborcs e Ponz e Lizinhas
If Taillebourg and Pons and Lusignan
e Mauleos e Taunais fos en pes,
and Mauléon and Taunay were on foot
et a Sivrai fos vescoms vius e sas,
and at Civray were viscount alive and sound

ja no creirai que no nos aiudes;
ever not I-shall-believe that not us he-would-help
cel de Toartz, puois lo coms lo menassa,
he of Thouars since the count him threatens
tenha·s ab nos e no sia ges vas;
let-him-hold-himself with us and not be at-all empty
e demandem li que el drech nos fassa
and let-us-ask him that he right to-us do
de·ls homes qu'el nos a trachs d'entre·ls mas.
of-the men whom-he from-us has drawn from-between-the hands

Entre Peiteus e la Isla-Bochart
Between Poitiers and the Isle-Bouchard
e Mirabel e Laudu e Chino,
and Mirebeau and Loudun and Chinon
a Clarasvals an bastit ses reguart
at Clairvaux they-have built without heed
un bel chaslar e mes en pla chambo;
a fair fort and put in flat field
mas no vuolh ges, lo sapcha ni lo veia
but not I-wish at-all (that)-it knows nor it sees
lo joves reis, que no·lh sabria bo;
the young king for not-to-him it-would-taste good
mas paor ai, puois que tan fort blancheia,
but fear I-have since that so greatly it-gleams-white
que lo veira be de Matafelo.
that it he-will-see well from Matafelon

De·l rei Felip sabrem be, si paireia
Of-the king Philip we-shall-know well if he-takes-after
o s'el segra los usatges Charlo
or if-he will-follow the customs of-Charles
d'en Talhafer, que per senhor l'autreia
of-Sir Taillefer who as lord him-grants
d'Engolesme, et el l'en a fach do.
of-Angoulême and he to-him-of-it has made gift

E non es drechs de rei que ren autreia,
And not is right of king who anything grants
puois qu'a dich d'oc, que mais diga de no.
after that-he-has said of-yes that more he-say of no

D'un sirventes no·m chal far lonhor guanda

6 · OF A SIRVENTES I AM IN NO HASTE

The young king has made peace with Richard, given up his claim, and gone off to Lombardy to tourney, leaving the barons who upheld him in the war. Bertran's answer is contempt: a crowned king who lives on an allowance is no Arnaut of Bellanda and no William who took the tower of Mirmanda. Sleeping, he will never be king of the English, never hold Anjou, never be called duke of Normandy. Bertran sends Richard counsel to the tune of Lady Alamanda, and ends by wishing that Count Geoffrey had been the eldest.

En la sazo que·l reis joves ac facha la patz ab so fraire
In the season that-the king young had made the peace with his brother
Richart e·lh ac fenida la demanda que·lh fazia de
Richard and-to-him had ended the claim which-to-him he-made of
la terra, si com fo la volontatz de·l rei Henric, lor paire;
the land just as was the will of-the king Henry their father
e·l paire li dava certa liurazo de deniers per vianda
and-the father to-him gave certain allowance of pence for food
e per so que besonhs l'era; e neguna terra no tenia
and for that which need to-him-was and any land not he-held
ni possezia, ni negus hom a lui no venia per mantenemen
nor possessed and any man to him not came for support
ni per socors de guerra: en Bertrans de Born e tuit
nor for succor of war Sir Bertran of Born and all
li autre baro que l'avian mantengut contra·n Richart
the other barons who him-had upheld against-Sir Richard
foron mout dolen. E·l reis joves si s'en anet en
were much grieved And-the king young thus himself-thence went into
Lombardia torneiar e solazar e laisset totz aquestz baros
Lombardy to-tourney and to-disport and left all these barons

en la guerra ab en Richart. E·n Richartz assetja borcs
in the war with Sir Richard and-Sir Richard besieges towns
e chastels e pres terras e derocha et ars et abrasa.
and castles and took lands and throws-down and burned and sets-ablaze
E·l reis joves si torneiava e dormia e solazava. Don
And-the king young thus tourneyed and slept and disported Wherefore
en Bertrans si fetz aquest sirventes que comenza: «D'un
Sir Bertran thus made this sirventes which begins Of-a
sirventes no·m chal far lonhor guanda.»
sirventes not-to-me it-matters to-make longer avoidance

D'un sirventes no·m chal far lonhor guanda,
Of-a sirventes not-to-me it-matters to-make longer avoidance
tal talan ai que·l diga e que l'espanda,
such desire I-have that-it I-say and that it-I-spread
quar n'ai razo tan novela e tan granda
for of-it-I-have matter so new and so great
de·l jove rei qu'a fenit sa demanda
of-the young king who-has ended his claim
so frair Richart, puois sos pairs lo comanda;
(to-)his brother Richard since his father it commands
tan es forzatz!
so is-he forced
Puois n'Aenrics terra no te ni manda,
Since Sir-Henry land not holds nor commands
sia reis de·ls malvatz.
let-him-be king of-the wicked

Que malvatz fai, quar aissi viu a randa
For wickedly he-does for thus he-lives on measure
de liurazo a comte et a guaranda;
of allowance by count and by limit
reis coronatz que d'autrui pren liuranda
king crowned who from-another takes allowance
mal sembla Arnaut, lo marques de Bellanda,
ill resembles Arnaut the marquis of Bellanda
ni·l pro Guilhelm que conquis Tor Mirmanda;
or-the worthy William who conquered Tower Mirmanda
tan fo prezatz!
so was-he prized
Puois en Peitau lor men e los truanda,
Since in Poitou to-them he-lies and them cheats
no·i er mais tan amatz.
not-there will-be-be any-more so loved

Ja per dormir non er de Coberlanda
Ever through to-sleep not will-be-be of Cumberland
reis de·ls Engles ni conquerra Yrlanda
king of-the English nor will-conquer Ireland
ni tenra Anjau ni Monsaurel ni Canda
nor will-hold Anjou nor Monsoreau nor Candé
ni de Peitau non aura la miranda
and of Poitou not will-have the watch-tower

ni ducs clamatz de la terra normanda
nor duke called of the land Norman
ni coms palatz
nor count palatine
sai de Bordel ni de·ls Guascos part Landa
here of Bordeaux nor of-the Gascons beyond Landes
senher ni de Basatz.
lord nor of Bazas

Conselh vuolh dar e·l so de n'Alamanda
Counsel I-wish to-give in-the tune of Lady-Alamanda
lai a·n Richart, si tot no lo·m demanda:
there to-Sir Richard although even not it-to-me he-asks
ja per so frair mais sos homes no blanda;
ever for his brother more his men not let-him-spare
noncas fai el, anz assatja e·ls aranda,
never does he rather he-assails and-them harries
tol lor chastels e derocha et abranda
takes-away their castles and throws-down and sets-afire
deves totz latz;
on all sides
e·l reis tornei lai ab cels de Garlanda
and-the king let-him-tourney there with those of Garlande
e l'autre sos conhatz.
and the-other his brothers-in-law

Lo coms Jaufres, cui es Bresilianda,
The count Geoffrey whose is Broceliande
volgra, fos primiers natz,
I-should-wish were first born
quar es cortes, e fos en sa comanda
for he-is courteous and were in his command
reiesmes e duchatz.
kingdoms and duchies

Ieu chan que·l reis m'en a pregat

7 · I SING BECAUSE THE KING HAS ASKED ME

The war is a game set out on a board, and the song will say which of the sons wins the land. The young king would soon have checkmated the count if the count had not learned the game; the Gascons have risen, and the pawns of Valia are swept off. Bertran wants the cries of Arras and Monjoie heard between France and Normandy, holds the French king ill counseled, and calls the French to leave no companion behind. Charlemagne is spoken of still because he conquered Spain; the tornadas turn to Rassa and to the young king's worth.

Ieu chan (que·l reis m'en a pregat
I sing for-the king me-of-it has begged
a l'auzen de mo menassat)
in the-hearing of my threatened-one
de l'afar d'aquesta guerra,
of the-business of-this war
d'aquest juoc que vei entaulat;
of-this game which I-see set-out
e sabrem, quan l'auran jogat,
and we-shall-know when it-they-will-have played
de·l qual de·ls filhs er la terra.
of-the which of-the sons will-be the land

Tost l'agra·l reis joves matat,
Soon him-would-have-the king young mated
si·l coms no·s n'agues ensenhat,
if-the count not-himself of-it-had instructed

mas aissi·ls clau e·ls enserra
but thus-them he-shuts and-them encloses
qu'Engolmes a per fort cobrat
for-Angoumois he-has by force recovered
e tot Saintonge desliurat
and all Saintonge freed
tro lai part Finibus-Terra.
as-far there beyond Finisterre

Si·l coms pot far sa volontat,
If-the count can to-do his will
que no·l vendon cist afiat,
that not-him betray these sworn
ni de·l tot si desenferra:
nor of-the all himself unshackles
anc cinglar no vim plus irat,
ever boar not we-saw more enraged
quan l'an brochat ni l'an chassat,
when him-they-have goaded or him-they-have hunted
qu'el er, mas sos cors no l'erra.
than-he will-be if his heart not him-fails

De mo senhor lo rei annat
Of my lord the king gone-away
conosc que an siei filh pechat,
I-know that have his sons sinned

que de·l sojorn d'Englaterra
for from-the sojourn of-England
l'an aoras dos ans lonhat;
him-they-have now two years kept-away
de·l tot lo·n tenh per enjanat
of-the all him-of-it I-hold as deceived
mas quan de Johan ses Terra.
save only of John without Land

Li Guascon si son acordat
The Gascons thus are agreed
entr' els e ves lui revelat
among them and against him rebelled
com aissilh de Lombardia;
as those of Lombardy
mais volon esser be menat
more they-wish to-be well led
per rei que per comte forzat,
by king than by count forced
d'aitan lor trac guarentia.
of-so-much for-them I-draw warrant

Aquest juoc tenh per guazanhat
This game I-hold as won
deves nos e per renvidat,
on-the-side-of us and as raised

que de·ls pezos de Valia
for of-the pawns of Valia
avem l'escachier desliurat,
we-have the-chessboard cleared
que tuit n'aneron esfreidat
for all thence-went frightened
ses comjat qu'us no·n prendia.
without leave that-one not-of-it took

En Lemozi fo comenzat,
In Limousin it-was begun
mas de lai lor es afinat;
but from there for-them it-is ended
qu'entre Franza e Normandia
for-between France and Normandy
ves Gisortz e ves Nuoumerchat
toward Gisors and toward Neufmarché
vuolh qu'en auian cridar «Arrat»!
I-wish that-of-it they-hear to-cry Arras
E «Monjoi»! e «Dieus, äia»!
And Monjoie and God help

Lo sen venzerem ab foudat
The sense we-shall-conquer with folly
nos Lemozi et envezat,
we Limousins and merry
que volem qu'om do e ria;
for we-wish that-one give and laugh

que·lh Norman en son enoiat
for-the Normans of-it are annoyed
e dizon, si·s n'eron tornat,
and they-say if-themselves of-it-were returned
qu'us mais d'els sai no venria.
that-one more of-them here not would-come

Lo rei tenh per mal conselhat
The king I-hold as ill counseled
de Franza e per pieis guizat,
of France and as worse guided
quar vei que sos fachs estanha,
for I-see that his deeds he-tins
que li valrian mais daurat,
which to-him would-avail more gilded
e si no val a son conhat,
and if not he-avails to his brother-in-law
sens e pretz tem que·lh sofranha.
sense and worth I-fear that-to-him fail

Frances, si com etz abdurat
Frenchmen since as you-are hardened
sobre totz e li plus lauzat,
above all and the most praised
paresca qu'us no remanha
let-it-appear that-one not remain
companh que·l reis aia mandat,
companion whom-the king has summoned

que ja mais no seretz prezat,
for ever more not you-will-be prized
si non etz en la mesclanha.
if not you-are in the mêlée

Lo ducs de Borgonh' a mandat
The duke of Burgundy has sent-word
qu'el nos aiudara l'estat
that-he us will-help the-summer
ab lo socors de Champanha,
with the succor of Champagne
on venran tal cinc cen armat
where will-come such five hundred armed
que, quan tuit serem ajostat,
that when all we-shall-be joined
non er, Peitaus no s'en planha.
not will-be that-Poitou not itself-of-it complain

Reis que per son drech si combat
King who for his right himself fights
a mielhs drech en sa heretat,
has better right in his heritage
e, quar conqueret Espanha
and because he-conquered Spain
Charles, n'a hom totz temps parlat;
Charles of-it-has one all time spoken

qu'ab trebalh et ab larguetat
for-with toil and with largesse
conquier reis pretz e·l guazanha.
wins king worth and-it gains

Senhe·n Rassa, aquest comtat
Lord-Sir Rassa this county
vos crescha·l reis ab Bretanha.
to-you let-increase-the king with Brittany

Lo reis joves s'a pretz donat
The king young himself-has worth given
de Burcs tro qu'en Alamanha.
from Bourges as-far as-into Germany

Mon chan fenisc ab dol et ab mal traire

8 · I END MY SONG WITH GRIEF

The razo explains that the lament holds no matter but this: the young king was the best man in the world, and he and Bertran loved each other above all others, which is why King Henry and Count Richard hated Bertran. The song mourns a king generous, well-spoken, a fine horseman, fair of face, and humble of bearing, who would have been king of the courteous and emperor of the brave had he lived longer. Welcome and giving, fair answers, paid lodging, and feasting with viol and song go into the grave with him; the English, Normans, Bretons, and Irish are stricken, France as far as Compiègne cannot hold back from weeping, and the Lorrainers and Brabanters will grieve when they next tourney.

Lo plaintz qu'en Bertrans de Born fetz de·l rei jove no
The lament that-Sir Bertran of Born made of-the king young not
porta autra razo si no que·l reis joves era lo melher hom
bears other matter if not that-the king young was the best man
de·l mon, e·n Bertrans li volia mielhs qu'ad home de·l
of-the world and-Sir Bertran to-him wished better than-to man of-the
mon, e lo reis joves ad el mielhs qu'ad home de·l mon
world and the king young to him better than-to man of-the world
e plus lo crezia que home de·l mon; per que lo reis
and more him believed than man of-the world for which the king
Henrics, sos paire, e·l coms Richartz, sos fraire, volian
Henry his father and-the count Richard his brother wished
mal a·n Bertran. E per la valor que·l reis joves avia e
ill to-Sir Bertran And for the merit that-the king young had and
per lo gran dol qu'en fo a tota la gen el fetz lo plaint
for the great grief which-of-it was to all the folk he made the lament
de lui que dis: «Mon chan fenisc ab dol et ab mal traire.»
of him which says My song I-end with grief and with ill enduring

Mon chan fenisc ab dol et ab mal traire
My song I-end with grief and with ill enduring
per totz temps mais e·l tenh per remasut,
for all time more and-it I-hold as ceased
quar ma razo e mon gauch ai perdut
for my matter and my joy I-have lost
e·l melhor rei que anc nasques de maire:
and-the best king who ever was-born of mother
larc e gen parlan
generous and nobly speaking
e be chavalgan,
and well riding
de bela faisso
of fair fashion
e d'umil semblan
and of-humble seeming
per far grans honors;
for to-do great honors
tan crei que·m destrenha
so I-believe that-me constrains
lo dols, que m'estenha,
the grief that me-quenches
quar en vau parlan;
for of-it I-go speaking
a dieu lo coman,
to God him I-commend
que·l meta en luoc Saint Johan.
that-him sets in place of-Saint John

Reis de·ls cortes e de·ls pros emperaire
King of-the courteous and of-the worthy emperor
foratz, senher, si acsetz mais viscut,
you-would-be lord if you-had more lived
quar reis joves aviatz nom agut
for king young you-had name had
e de joven eratz vos guitz e paire,
and of youth were you guide and father
et ausberc e bran
and hauberk and sword
e bel bocharan,
and fair buckram
elm e gonfano
helm and gonfalon
e perponh e pan
and doublet and cloth
e jois et amors
and joy and love
non an qui·ls mantenha
not have who-them upholds
ni qui los retenha,
nor who them retains
mas lai vos segran,
but there you they-will-follow
qu'ab vos s'en iran
for-with you themselves-thence they-will-go
e tuit ric fach ben estan.
and all rich deeds well becoming

Gen acolhir e donar ses cor vaire
Nobly welcoming and giving without heart changing
e bel respos e be-siatz-vengut
and fair answer and be-you-welcome
e gran hostal pagat e gen tengut,
and great lodging paid and nobly kept
dos e guarnirs et estar ses tort faire,
gifts and outfittings and to-stay without wrong to-do
manjar ab mazan
to-eat with din
de viula e de chan
of viol and of song
ab pro companho,
with worthy company
ardit e poissan
bold and mighty
de totz los melhors —
of all the best
tot vuolh qu'ab vos tenha,
all I-wish that-with you it-hold
qu'om re no·n retenha
that-one anything not-of-it retain
a·l segle truan
to-the age base
pe·l malastruc an,
through-the ill-starred year
que nos mostret bel semblan.
which to-us showed fair seeming

Senher, en vos non era res a faire,
Lord in you not was anything to to-do
que totz lo mons vos avia elescut
for all the world you had chosen
pe·l melhor rei que anc portes escut
as-the best king who ever bore shield
e·l plus ardit e·l melhor torneiaire;
and-the most bold and-the best tourneyer
des lo temps Rotlan
since the time of-Roland
ni de lai denan
nor from there before
no vi hom tan pro
not saw one so worthy
ni tan guerreian
nor so warring
ni don sa lauzors
nor of-whom his praise
tan pe·l mon s'empenha
so through-the world itself-drives
ni si lo revenha
nor if it returns
ni que l'an cerchan
nor that him-they-go seeking
per tot a guaran
through all to bound
de·l Nil tro·l solelh colgan.
from-the Nile to-the sun setting

Senher, per vos mi vuolh de joi estraire,
Lord for you myself I-wish from joy to-withdraw
e tuit aquilh que·us avian vegut
and all those who-you had seen
devon estar per vos irat e mut,
must to-stay for you sad and mute
e ja mais jois la ira no m'esclaire:
and ever more joy the grief not to-me-lighten
Engles e Norman,
English and Norman
Breto et Yrlan,
Breton and Irish
Guia et Guasco
Guyenne and Gascon
et Anjaus pren dan;
and Anjou takes harm
e Maines e Tors,
and Maine and Tours
Franza tro Compenha
France as-far-as Compiègne
de plorar no·s tenha,
from to-weep not-itself may-hold
e Flandres de Gan
and Flanders from Ghent
tro·l port de Guisan
to-the port of Wissant
ploran, neis li Alaman.
they-weep even the Germans

Loirenc e Braiman,
Lorrainers and Brabanters
quan torneiaran,
when they-shall-tourney
auran dol, quan no·us veiran.
they-will-have grief when not-you they-will-see

No pretz un bezan
Not I-prize a bezant
ni·l cop d'un aiglan
nor-the blow of-an acorn
lo mon ni cels que·i estan;
the world nor those who-in-it stand

per la mort pesan
for the death heavy
de·l bo rei prezan,
of-the good king prized
on tuit devem aver dan.
in-which all we-must to-have harm

Si tuit li dol e·lh plor e·lh marrimen

9 · IF ALL THE GRIEFS AND TEARS

The second lament for the young king. If all the griefs, tears, and wretchedness the world has ever heard of were gathered into one, they would seem light beside his death. The courteous soldiers, the troubadours, and the jongleurs are left desolate, and death may boast of having taken the best knight there ever was. The song ends in prayer, that He who came into the world for our sorrow may pardon the young king and set him among honored companions where grief never was.

Si tuit li dol e·lh plor e·lh marrimen
If all the griefs and-the tears and-the sorrows
e las dolors e·lh dan e·lh chaitivier
and the pains and-the harms and-the miseries
que om anc auzis en est segle dolen
that one ever heard in this age doleful
fossen ensems, sembleran tot leugier
were together they-would-seem all light
contra la mort de·l jove rei engles,
against the death of-the young king English
don rema pretz e jovens doloros
whereby remains worth and youth grieving
e·l mons oscurs e teintz e tenebros,
and-the world dark and stained and shadowed
sems de tot joi, ples de tristor e d'ira.
empty of all joy full of sadness and of-grief

Dolen e trist e ple de marrimen
Doleful and sad and full of sorrow
son remasut li cortes soudadier
are left the courteous soldiers
e·lh trobador e·lh joglar avinen,
and-the troubadours and-the jongleurs pleasing
trop an agut en mort mortal guerrier;
too-much they-have had in death mortal warrior
que tout lor a lo jove rei engles,
for taken from-them has the young king English
ves cui eran li plus larc cobeitos;
toward whom were the most generous covetous
ja non er mais ni no crezatz que fos
ever not will-be more and not believe-you that were
ves aquest dan e·l segle plors ni ira.
against this harm in-the age weeping nor grief

Estenta mortz, plena de marrimen,
Grim death full of sorrow
vanar ti potz que·l melhor chavalier
to-boast yourself you-can that-the best knight
as tout a·l mon qu'anc fos de nula gen,
you-have taken from-the world who-ever was of any folk
quar non es res qu'a pretz aia mestier,
for not is anything which-to worth has use
que tot no fos e·l jove rei engles,
which wholly not was in-the young king English
e fora mielhs, s'a dieu plagues razos,
and it-would-be better if-to God pleased reason

que visques el que maint autre enoios
that lived he than many another tiresome
qu'anc no feiron a·ls pros mas dol et ira.
who-ever not did to-the worthy but grief and pain

D'aquest segle flac, ple de marrimen,
Of-this age slack full of sorrow
s'amors s'en vai, son joi tenh menzongier,
if-love itself-thence goes its joy I-hold false
que re no·i a que no torn en cozen,
for anything not-in-it there-is that not turn to smarting
totz jorns veuzis e val mens huoi que hier;
all days it-worsens and is-worth less today than yesterday
chascus si mir e·l jove rei engles,
let-each-one himself mirror in-the young king English
qu'era de·l mon lo plus valens de·ls pros;
who-was of-the world the most worthy of-the brave
ar' es anatz sos gens cors amoros,
now is gone his noble body loving
don es dolors e desconortz et ira.
whence is pain and dismay and grief

Celui que plac pe·l nostre marrimen
Him whom it-pleased through-the our sorrow
venir e·l mon nos traire d'encombrier
to-come into-the world us to-draw from-hindrance
e receup mort a nostre salvamen,
and received death for our salvation

com a senhor humil e drechurier
as to lord humble and righteous
clamem merce, qu'a·l jove rei engles
let-us-cry mercy that-to-the young king English
perdo, si·lh platz, si com es vers perdos,
he-pardon if-to-him it-pleases just as is true pardon
e·l fassa estar ab honratz companhos
and-him let-him-make to-stay with honored companions
lai on anc dol non ac ni aura ira.
there where ever grief not there-was nor there-will-be pain

Ges no mi desconort

10 · AT ALL I DO NOT LOSE HEART

The razo tells how the whole league Bertran had raised against Richard abandoned him one by one, until Richard sat down before Hautefort and swore not to leave without it. Bertran surrendered the castle, was pardoned with a kiss, and won it back with a single stanza of this song. In the song he counts the forsworn — three palatines, the four viscounties of Limousin, two men of Périgord, and three of Angoulême — and reckons a friend who gives no help no better than an enemy who does no harm. He asks the count to do as the sea does, which keeps what is good and casts the rest on the sand.

A·l temps qu'en Richartz era coms de Peitau, anz qu'el
At-the time that-Sir Richard was count of Poitou before that-he
fos reis, Bertrans de Born si era sos enemics, per so
were king Bertran of Born thus was his enemy for that
qu'en Bertrans volia ben a·l rei jove, que guerreiava adoncs
that-Sir Bertran wished well to-the king young who warred then
ab en Richart, qu'era sos fraire. E·n Bertrans si avia
with Sir Richard who-was his brother and-Sir Bertran thus had
fach jurar contra·n Richart lo bo vescomte de Lemotges,
made to-swear against-Sir Richard the good viscount of Limoges
que avia nom n'Azemars, e·l vescomte de Torena e·l
who had name Sir-Adhemar and-the viscount of Turenne and-the
vescomte de Ventadorn e·l vescomte de Gimel e·l comte
viscount of Ventadorn and-the viscount of Gimel and-the count
de Peiregorc e so fraire e·l comte d'Engolesme e sos
of Périgord and his brother and-the count of-Angoulême and his
dos fraires e·l comte Raimon de Tolosa e·l comte de
two brothers and-the count Raymond of Toulouse and-the count of

Flandres e·l comte de Bretanha e·n Centol d'Estarac,
Flanders and-the count of Brittany and-Sir Centulle of-Astarac
un comte de Guasconha, e·n Gasto de Bearn, comte de
a count of Gascony and-Sir Gaston of Béarn count of
Begora, e·l comte de Dijo. E tuit aquist si l'abandoneron
Bigorre and-the count of Dijon And all these thus him-abandoned
e feiron patz ses lui e si·s perjureron ves lui.
and made peace without him and thus-themselves they-forswore toward him
E n'Azemars, lo vescoms de Lemotges, que plus l'era
And Sir-Adhemar the viscount of Limoges who most to-him-was
tengutz d'amor e de sagramen, si l'abandonet e fetz
bound by-love and by oath thus him-abandoned and made
patz ses lui. E·n Richartz, quan saub que tuit aquist
peace without him and-Sir Richard when he-learned that all these
l'avian abandonat, el s'en venc denan Autafort ab
him-had abandoned he himself-thence came before Hautefort with
la soa host e dis e juret que ja mais no s'en
the his host and said and swore that ever more not himself-thence
partiria, s'el no·lh dava Autafort e no venia a son
he-would-part if-he not-to-him gave Hautefort and not came to his
comandamen. Bertrans, quan auzit so qu'en Richartz avia
command Bertran when he-heard that which-Sir Richard had
jurat, e sabia qu'el era abandonatz de totz aquestz que
sworn and knew that-he was abandoned by all these whom
vos avetz auzit: si·lh det lo chastel e si venc a son
you you-have heard thus-to-him gave the castle and thus came to his
comandamen. E·l coms Richartz lo receup perdonan li
command And-the count Richard him received pardoning him
e baisan lo. Don Bertrans fetz d'aquestas doas razos
and kissing him Wherefore Bertran made of-these two matters

aquest sirventes: «Ges no mi desconort.» E sapchatz que
this sirventes At-all not me I-dishearten And know-you that
per una cobla qu'el fetz e·l sirventes, la quals comenza:
for one stanza which-he made in-the sirventes the which begins
«Si·l coms m'es avinens e non avars», lo coms Richartz
If-the count to-me-is gracious and not grudging the count Richard
li perdonet son brau talan e rendet li son chastel
to-him pardoned his fierce anger and gave-back to-him his castle
Autafort, e vengron fi amic coral. E vai s'en en
Hautefort and they-became true friends heartfelt And goes himself-thence Sir
Bertrans e comenza a guerreiar n'Azemar, lo vescomte que
Bertran and begins to to-war Sir-Adhemar the viscount who
l'avia desamparat, e·l comte de Peiregorc; don Bertrans
him-had forsaken and-the count of Périgord whereby Bertran
receup de grans dans, et el a lor fetz de grans mals.
received of great harms and he to them did of great ills
En Richartz, quan fo devengutz reis, passet outra mar,
Sir Richard when he-was become king passed beyond sea
e·n Bertrans remas guerreian.
and-Sir Bertran remained warring

Ges no mi desconort,
At-all not me I-dishearten
s'ieu ai perdut,
if-I have lost

que no chan e·m deport
that not I-sing and-myself I-disport
e no m'aiut
and not I-help-myself
com cobres Autafort,
how I-might-recover Hautefort
qu'ieu ai rendut
which-I have surrendered
a·l senhor de Niort,
to-the lord of Niort
quar l'a volgut;
for it-he-has wished
e puois en merceian
and since in beseeching
li sui vengutz denan,
to-him I-am come before
e·l coms en perdonan
and-the count in pardoning
m'a retengut baisan,
me-has retained kissing
ges no·i dei aver dan,
at-all not-in-it I-must to-have harm
que que·m disses antan,
whatever to-me he-said last-year
ni lauzengier no blan.
and slanderer not I-flatter

Ves me son perjurat
Toward me are forsworn
trei palazi
three palatines
e·lh quatre vescomtat
and-the four viscounties
de Lemozi
of Limousin
e li dui penchenat
and the two combed
Peiregorzi
Périgord-men
e li trei comte fat
and the three counts foolish
Engolmesi;
Angoumois-men
e·n Centols ab Gasto
and-Sir Centulle with Gaston
e tuit l'autre baro
and all the-other barons
mi feiron plevizo
to-me made pledge
e lo coms de Dijo
and the count of Dijon
ab lo comte breto
with the count Breton
e·n Raimons d'Avinho,
and-Sir Raymond of-Avignon
et anc us no·m tenc pro.
and ever one not-to-me held profit

Ses pro tener amic
Without profit to-hold friend
tenh per engal
I-hold as equal
com fatz mon enemic
as I-do my enemy
que no·m fai mal;
who not-to-me does ill
qu'en un mostier antic
for-in a minster ancient
de Saint Marzal
of Saint Martial
mi jureron maint ric
to-me swore many rich-(men)
sobr' un messal;
upon a missal
tals mi plevit sa fe,
such-(a-one) to-me pledged his faith
no fezes plach ses me,
not he-would-make pact without me
qu'anc puois no m'en tenc re,
who-ever then not to-me-of-it kept anything
e no·lh estet ges be
and not-to-him it-stood at-all well
quar si mes a merce
for himself he-put at mercy
e s'acordet ab se,
and himself-agreed with him
so vos pliu per ma fe.
that to-you I-pledge by my faith

Si·l coms m'es avinens
If-the count to-me-is gracious
e non avars,
and not grudging
mout li serai valens
much to-him I-shall-be worthy
en sos afars
in his affairs
e fis com us argens,
and pure as — silver
humils e chars,
humble and dear
e·l coms fassa los sens
and-the count let-him-do the sense
que fai la mars:
which does the sea:
quan ren i chai de bo,
when anything in-it falls of good
vol que ab lieis s'esto,
it-wishes that with her it-stay
e so que no·lh te pro
and that which not-to-her holds profit
geta fors e·l sablo;
it-casts out on-the sand
aissi tanh de baro
thus it-befits of baron
que tenha son perdo
that he-keep his pardon
e, s'el tol, que puois do.
and if-he takes that then he-give

Lo comte vuolh pregar
The count I-wish to-beg
que ma maiso
that my house
mi coman a guardar
to-me he-commend to to-keep
o que la·m do;
or that it-to-me he-give
qu'ades mi son avar
for-now to-me are grudging
tuit cist baro,
all these barons
qu'ab els no puosc estar
that-with them not I-can to-stay
ses contenzo;
without strife
ara mi pot cobrar
now me can to-recover
lo coms ses mal estar,
the count without ill standing
et ieu ves lui tornar
and I toward him to-turn
e servir et honrar,
and to-serve and to-honor
e non o volgui far,
and not it I-wished to-do
tro qu'a·l desamparar
until that-at-the forsaking
sui vengutz de n'Aimar.
I-am come of Sir-Adhemar

Domna ab cor avar
Lady with heart grudging
de prometre e de dar,
of to-promise and of to-give
puois no·m voletz colgar,
since not-me you-wish to-bed
donassetz m'un baisar;
you-would-give to-me-a kiss
aissi·m podetz ric far
thus-me you-can rich to-make
e mon dan restaurar,
and my harm to-repair
si dieus e saintz m'ampar!
so God and saints me-protect

Papiols, mon chantar
Papiol my song
vai a mi dons comtar:
go to my lady to-tell
per amor de n'Aimar
for love of Sir-Adhemar
mi lais de guerreiar.
me I-leave from to-war

Rassa, mes si son primier

11 · RASSA, THEY HAVE PUT THEMSELVES FIRST

The lords, retainers, and barons have made their peace and left Bertran out of it, though he is the one who has not recovered his land. Thirty of them fought in torn cloaks and gained not a penny; now they leave him last in the mêlée each year, and the men of the Colombier tell him to take what redress he can. He foresees rich porters and idle crossbowmen, hawks and hounds and lined cloaks instead of war. From Montpellier to the salt sea he can find no baron whole, and he asks God for a lady he has desired to death.

Rassa, mes si son primier
Rassa put themselves are first
en la fi que an parlada
in the peace which they-have discussed
li senhor e·lh maisnadier
the lords and-the retainers
e·lh baro de l'encontrada;
and-the barons of the-country
s'ilh an fach ves vos passada,
if-they have made toward you crossing
et ieu qual mal vos en mier,
and I what harm to-you of-it deserve
que terra non ai cobrada?
that land not I-have recovered

Nos fom tal trenta guerrier,
We were such thirty warriors
chascus ab chapa traucada,
each-one with cloak pierced

tuit senhor e parzonier,
all lords and partners
per cor de guerra mesclada,
through heart of war mingled
qu'anc no·n cobrem denairada;
that-ever not-of-it we-recovered penny-worth
anz, a·ls colps quan ac mestier,
rather at-the blows when it-had need
an lor coralha prestada.
they-have their courage lent

Cad' an mi laissan derier,
Each year me they-leave last
quan m'an mes en la mesclada
when me-they-have put in the mêlée
li gentil e li lainier;
the gentle and the base
puois qu'an ma terra adermada
after that-they-have my land laid-waste
et arsa et abrasada,
and burnt and set-ablaze
dizon cilh de·l Colombier
they-say those of-the Colombier
qu'en prenda drech, si m'agrada.
that-of-it I-take right if to-me-it-pleases

Oimais seran ric portier,
Henceforth they-will-be rich porters
que tenran porta serrada,
who will-hold gate barred
e sabran arbalestier
and will-know crossbowmen
qu'es la patz en l'encontrada;
that-is the peace in the-country
qu'om no lor dara soudada,
that-one not to-them will-give pay
anz auran cha e lebrier
rather they-will-have dog and greyhound
de·l comte s'amor privada.
of-the count his-love private

Austor e falco gruier,
Goshawk and falcon crane-hunting
corn e tabors en cuirada,
horn and drums in leather
e brachet e liamier,
and brachet and leash-hound
arc e saieta barbada,
bow and arrow barbed
ganacha e chapa folrada
tunic and cloak lined
et hosas de Salabier
and boots of Salabier
seran mais de lor maisnada.
will-be more of their household

Cerchat ai da Monpeslier
Sought I-have from Montpellier
tro lai part la mar salada,
as-far there beyond the sea salt
que no trop baro entier
that not I-find baron whole
qu'aia proeza achabada,
who-has prowess perfect
qu'e·l miei luoc no sia oschada
that-in-the middle place not be notched
o fracha en l'un quartier,
or broken in the-one quarter
ni mas us no mi agrada.
and but one not to-me pleases

Bela domna, a dieu vos quier,
Fair lady to God you I-ask
que tan vos ai desirada
that so-much you I-have desired
que mort m'an li desirier,
that slain me-have the desires
avinens domna prezada.
pleasing lady prized
N'Atempres genzer m'agrada,
Sir-Temperate fairer to-me-pleases
que m'a per son messatgier
who to-me-has by her messenger
de·l mon la razo celada.
of-the world the matter hidden

Papiols, te drech semtier,
Papiol hold straight path
no temas ven ni gelada,
not fear-you wind nor frost
digas mi a mon Rainier
say for-me to my Rainier
que sa proeza m'agrada.
that his prowess to-me-pleases

Puois lo gens terminis floritz

12 · SINCE THE FAIR SEASON HAS FLOWERED

The long razo of the siege of Hautefort: how the king of Aragon begged bread and wine of Bertran within the walls and then sold him for King Henry's money, how the castle fell, and how Bertran won it back with a word about the dead young king that made Henry faint for grief. The song is the answer to Aragon. It sends the king's upstart lineage back where it came from, to Millau and Carladès, calls him a hired soldier and a counterfeit, remembers Berenger of Besaudunes murdered, and ends with the emperor Manuel's daughter robbed of her treasure and sent back across the sea.

Lo reis Henrics d'Englaterra si tenia assis en Bertran
The king Henry of-England thus held besieged Sir Bertran
de Born dedintz Autafort e·l combatia ab sos edefizis,
of Born within Hautefort and-him assailed with his engines
que mout li volia gran mal, quar el crezia que tota
for much to-him he-wished great ill because he believed that all
la guerra que·l reis joves, sos filhs, l'avia facha qu'en
the war which-the king young his son to-him-had made that-Sir
Bertrans la·lh agues facha far, e per so era vengutz
Bertran it-to-him had made to-do and for that he-was come
denan Autafort per lui deseretar. E·l reis d'Arago venc
before Hautefort for him to-disinherit And-the king of-Aragon came
en l'ost de·l rei Henric denan Autafort. E quan Bertrans
into the-host of-the king Henry before Hautefort And when Bertran
o saup, si fo mout alegres que·l reis d'Arago era
it learned thus he-was much glad that-the king of-Aragon was
en l'ost, per so qu'el era sos amics especials. E·l reis
in the-host for that that-he was his friend special And-the king

d'Arago si mandet sos messatges dintz lo chastel, qu'en
of-Aragon thus sent his messengers within the castle that-Sir
Bertrans li mandes pa e vi e charn, et el si
Bertran to-him should-send bread and wine and meat and he thus
l'en mandet assatz. E per lo messatge per cui el
to-him-of-it sent enough And by the messenger by whom he
mandet los presens el li mandet pregan qu'el fezes
sent the presents he to-him sent begging that-he might-do
si qu'el fezes mudar los edifizis e far traire en
so that-he might-make to-move the engines and to-make to-draw into
autra part, que·l murs on ilh ferian era tot rotz. Et
other part for-the wall where they struck was all broken And
el, per gran aver de·l rei Henric, el li dis tot so
he for great wealth of-the king Henry he to-him told all that
qu'en Bertrans l'avia mandat a dir. E·l reis Henrics
which-Sir Bertran to-him-had sent to to-say And-the king Henry
si fetz metre de·ls edifizis plus en aquela part on saup
thus made to-put of-the engines more in that part where he-knew
que·l murs era rotz, e fo lo murs ades per terra e·l
that-the wall was broken and was the wall at-once on ground and-the
chastels pres. E·n Bertrans ab tota sa gen fo menatz
castle taken And-Sir Bertran with all his folk was led
a·l pavilho de·l rei Henric, e·l reis lo receup mout
to-the pavilion of-the king Henry and-the king him received much
mal, e·l reis Henrics si·lh dis: «Bertrans, Bertrans,
ill and-the king Henry thus-to-him said Bertran Bertran
vos avetz dich que anc la meitatz de·l vostre sen no·us
you you-have said that ever the half of-the your sense not-to-you
ac mestier nuls temps, mas sapchatz qu'ara vos a el be
had need any time but know-you that-now to-you has it well

mestier totz.» — «Senher», dis en Bertrans, «el es be vers
need all Lord said Sir Bertran it is well true
qu'ieu o dissi, e dissi be vertat.» — E·l reis dis: «Ieu
that-I it said and I-said well truth And-the king said I
cre be qu'el vos sia aras falhitz.» — «Senher», dis en
believe well that-it to-you be now failed Lord said Sir
Bertrans, «be m'es falhitz». — «E com?» dis lo reis. —
Bertran well to-me-it-is failed And how said the king
«Senher», dis en Bertrans, «lo jorn que·l valens joves reis,
Lord said Sir Bertran the day that-the worthy young king
vostre filhs, morit, ieu perdei lo sen e·l saber e la
your son died I lost the sense and-the knowledge and the
conoissenza». — E·l reis quan auzit so qu'en Bertans
understanding And-the king when he-heard that which-Sir Bertan
li dis en ploran de·l filh, venc li grans dolors a·l
to-him said in weeping of-the son came to-him great grief to-the
cor de pietat et a·ls uolhs, si que no·s puoc tener
heart of pity and to-the eyes so that not-himself he-could to-hold
qu'el no pasmes de dolor. E quan el revenc de pasmazo,
that-he — swoon of grief And when he came-back from swooning
el crida e dis en ploran: «En Bertrans, en Bertrans, vos
he cries and said in weeping Sir Bertran Sir Bertran you
avetz be drech, et es be razos, si vos avetz perdut
you-have well right and it-is well reason if you you-have lost
lo sen per mo filh, qu'el vos volia mielhs que ad home
the sense for my son for-he to-you wished better than to man
de·l mon. Et ieu, per amor de lui, vos quit la persona
of-the world And I for love of him to-you I-release the person
e l'aver e·l vostre chastel, e vos ren la mia amor
and the-goods and-the your castle and to-you I-render the my love

e la mia gracia, e vos do cinc cens marcs d'argen
and the my grace and to-you I-give five hundred marks of-silver
per los dans que vos avetz receubutz.» — E·n Bertrans
for the harms which you you-have received and-Sir Bertran
si·lh chazet a·ls pes, referen li gracias e merces.
thus-to-him fell at-the feet rendering to-him thanks and mercies
E·l reis ab tota la soa host s'en anet. — E·n
And-the king with all the his host himself-thence went and-Sir
Bertrans, quan saup que·l reis d'Arago l'avia facha si
Bertran when he-learned that-the king of-Aragon to-him-had done so
laida felonia, fo mout iratz ab lo rei n'Anfos. E si
foul treachery he-was much angered with the king Sir-Alfonso And thus
sabia com el era vengutz a·l rei Henric esser soudadiers
he-knew how he was come to-the king Henry to-be soldier
logaditz, e sabia com lo reis d'Arago era vengutz de
hired and he-knew how the king of-Aragon was come of
paubra generacio de Carlades, d'un chastel que a nom
poor stock of Carladès of-a castle which has name
Carlat, qu'es en Rosergue, en la senhoria de·l comte de
Carlat which-is in Rouergue in the lordship of-the count of
Rodes. E·n Peire de Carlat, qu'era senher de·l chastel,
Rodez And-Sir Peire of Carlat who-was lord of-the castle
per valor e per proeza si pres per molher la comtessa
by merit and by prowess thus took for wife the countess
d'Amilhau, qu'era chazeguda en eretat, e si n'ac
of-Millau who-was fallen into inheritance and thus of-her-be-had
un filh, que fo valens e pros e conquis lo comtat
a son who was worthy and brave and conquered the county
de Proenza. Et us sos filhs si conquis lo comtat de
of Provence And one his son thus conquered the county of

Barsalona et ac nom Raimons Berengiers, lo quals conquis
Barcelona and had name Raymond Berenger he who conquered
lo reiesme d'Arago e fo lo primiers reis que anc fos en
the kingdom of-Aragon and was the first king who ever was in
Arago. Et anet penre corona a Roma e, quan s'en
Aragon And he-went to-take crown at Rome and when himself-thence
tornava e fo a·l borc Saint-Dalmas, el morit. E
he-returned and was at-the town Saint-Dalmas he died And
remaseron ne trei filh: Anfos, lo quals fo reis d'Arago,
there-remained of-him three sons Alfonso he who was king of-Aragon
aquest que fetz lo mal d'en Bertran de Born, e l'autre,
this-one who did the ill of-Sir Bertran of Born and the-other
don Sanchos, e l'autre, Berengiers de Besaudunes. — E
lord Sancho and the-other Berenger of Besaudunes And
saup com el avia träida la filha de l'emperador Manuel,
he-knew how he had betrayed the daughter of the-emperor Manuel
que l'emperaire l'avia mandada per molher ab gran
whom the-emperor to-him-had sent for wife with great
tesaur et ab gran aver et ab mout honrada companhia,
treasure and with great wealth and with much honored company
et los raubet de tot l'aver que la domna e·lh Grec
and them he-robbed of all the-goods which the lady and-the Greeks
avian; e com los envïet per mar marritz e consiros
had and how them he-sent by sea grieved and anxious
e desconselhatz; e com sos fraire Sanchos l'avia
and helpless and how his brother Sancho from-him-had
touta Proenza; e com si perjuret, per l'aver que·l
taken Provence and how himself he-forswore for the-wealth which-the
reis Henrics li det, contra·l comte de Tolosa. — E de
king Henry to-him gave against-the count of Toulouse And of

totas aquestas razos fetz en Bertrans de Born lo sirventes
all these matters made Sir Bertran of Born the sirventes
que ditz: «Puois lo gens terminis floritz s'espandis etc.»
which says Since the fair season flowered itself-spreads etc

Puois lo gens terminis floritz
Since the fair season flowered
s'espandis jauzions e gais,
itself-spreads joyous and gay
m'es vengut en cor que m'eslais
to-me-is come in heart that myself-I-dart
de far un novel sirventes
of to-make a new sirventes
on sapchan li Aragones
where know the Aragonese
qu'ab mal agur,
that-with ill omen
d'aisso sian ilh tuit segur,
of-this be they all sure
sai venc lo reis, don es aunitz,
here came the king whereby he-is shamed
e siei soudadier logaditz.
and his soldiers hired

Sos bas paratge sobreissitz
His low lineage upstart
sai que fenira coma lais
I-know that it-will-end like lay
e tornara lai don si trais,
and will-return there whence it draws
a Melhau et en Carlades;
to Millau and into Carladès
quan quecs n'aura son drech conques,
when each of-it-will-have his right won
an s'en ves Sur;
let-him-go himself-thence toward Tyre
mas grieu er qu'en mar no·l debur
but hard it-will-be that-in sea not-him drive
l'aura, quar tan es pauc arditz,
the-wind for so is-he little bold
flacs e vas e sojornaditz.
slack and empty and stay-at-home

Proenza pert, don es eissitz,
Provence he-loses whence he-is sprung
que so frair Sanso prezan mais;
for his brother Sancho they-prize more
qu'el non a sonh mas que s'engrais
for-he not has care but that he-fatten
e beva per Rossilhones,
and drink through Roussillon
on fo deseretatz Jaufres;
where was disinherited Geoffrey

qu'a Vilamur,
for-at Villemur
en Tolsa·l tenon per prejur
in Toulousain-him they-hold as perjured
tuit cilh ab cui s'era plevitz,
all those with whom himself-he-had pledged
quar los a per paor giquitz.
for them he-has for fear abandoned

Lo reis cui es Castrasoritz
The king whose is Castrojeriz
e te de Toleta·l palais
and holds of Toledo-the palace
lau que mostre de sos eslais
I-advise that he-show of his onsets
sai a·l filh de·l Barsalones,
here to-the son of-the Barcelonan
quar per drech sos malvatz hom es;
for by right his wicked man he-is
de·l rei tafur
of-the king vagabond
pretz mais sa cort e son atur,
I-prize more his court and his steadfastness
no fatz cela don fui träitz
than I-do that-one whereby I-was betrayed
lo jorn qu'el fo per me servitz.
the day that-he was by me served

Lo bos reis Garsia Ramitz
The good king Garcia Ramirez
cobrera, quan vida·lh sofrais,
would-have-recovered when life-to-him failed
Arago, que·l monges l'estrais:
Aragon which-the monk from-him-took
e·l bos reis navars, cui drechs es,
and-the good king Navarrese whose right it-is
cobrara·l ab sos Alaves,
will-recover-it with his Alavese
sol s'i atur;
only himself-there he-apply
aitan com aurs val mais d'azur,
as-much as gold is-worth more than-lapis
val mielhs e tan es plus complitz
is-worth better and so is more perfect
sos pretz que de·l rei apostitz.
his worth than of-the king counterfeit

Per cela de cui es maritz,
For her of whom he-is husband
per la bona rëina·m lais,
for the good queen-me I-forbear
e des que·m dis so don m'apais;
and since that-to-me she-said that whereby me-I-feed
Berengier de Besaudunes
Berenger of Besaudunes
li retraissera, si·lh plagues;
to-him I-would-recount if-to-him it-pleased

mas tot rencur
but wholly I-lament
sos malvatz fachs, que son tafur,
his wicked deeds which are vagabond
quar per el fo mortz e träitz,
for by him he-was slain and betrayed
don es sos linhatges aunitz.
whereby is his lineage shamed

Mout träit lait l'emperairitz
Much betrayed foully the-empress
com fals reis prejurs e savais,
as false king perjured and base
quan pres a quintals et a fais
when he-took by hundredweights and by loads
l'aver que Manuels trames
the-wealth which Manuel sent
e la rauba et tot l'arnes;
and the raiment and all the-gear
puois ab cor dur,
then with heart hard
quan n'ac trach lo vert e·l madur,
when of-it-he-had drawn the green and-the ripe
el n'envïet per mar marritz
he of-it-sent by sea grieved
la domna e·ls Grecs que ac träitz.
the lady and-the Greeks whom he-had betrayed

Quan vei pe·ls vergiers desplegar

13 · WHEN I SEE THROUGH THE ORCHARDS

The razo sets out a further reckoning against the king of Aragon. He takes Castellote from Espanhol, who had received him as a guest, and carries off to Aragon the ransom money of fifty knights. He sells the jongleur Artuset and his companion to the Jews, who burn them on Christmas Day, and the old queen of England has Peire the jongleur killed at the king of Aragon's word. The song opens on silks, horses, and jongleurs' tunes in the orchards, then turns to that reckoning and closes by asking to be sung to the king of Navarre and spread through Castile.

Ben avetz entendutz los mals qu'en Bertrans de Born
Well you-have heard the ills that-Sir Bertran of Born
remembret que·l reis d'Arago avia fachs de lui e d'autrui.
recalled that-the king of-Aragon had done of him and of-another
Et a chap d'una gran sazo, qu'el n'ac apres d'autres
And at end of-a great season when-he of-it-had learned of-other
mals qu'el avia fachs, si lo·lh volc retraire en un
ills which-he had done thus it-to-him he-wished to-recount in an
autre sirventes. E fo dich a·n Bertran qu'un chavalier
other sirventes And it-was said to-Sir Bertran that-a knight
avia en Arago que avia nom n'Espanhols, et avia un
there-was in Aragon who had name Sir-Espanhol and had a
bo chastel mout fort, que avia nom Castellot et era
good castle very strong which had name Castellote and it-was
proprïetatz d'en Espanhol et era en la frontereza de·ls
property of-Sir Espanhol and it-was on the frontier of-the
Sarazis, don el fazia gran guerra a·ls Sarazis. E·l reis
Saracens whence he made great war on-the Saracens And-the king
si entendia mout en aquel chastel e venc un jorn en
thus aimed much at that castle and came one day into

aquela encontrada, e n'Espanhols si·lh venc encontra
that region and Sir-Espanhol thus-to-him came to-meet
per servir lo e per envidar lo a·l sieu chastel e
for to-serve him and for to-invite him to-the his castle and
menet lo charamen, lui ab tota soa gen. E·l reis,
led him graciously him with all his folk And-the king
quan fo dedintz lo chastel, lo fetz penre e menar
when he-was within the castle him made to-take and to-lead
deforas e tolc li lo chastel. — E fo vertatz
outside and took from-him the castle And it-was truth
que, quan lo reis venc a·l servizi de·l rei Henric, lo
that when the king came to-the service of-the king Henry the
coms de Tolosa si·l desconfis en Guasconha e tolc
count of Toulouse thus-him routed in Gascony and took
li be cinquanta chavaliers; e·l reis Henrics li
from-him fully fifty knights and-the king Henry to-him
det tot l'aver que·lh chavalier devian pagar per la reenzo,
gave all the-money which-the knights owed to-pay for the ransom
et el no·l paguet, l'aver, a·ls chavaliers, anz l'en
and he not-it paid the-money to-the knights rather it-thence
portet en Arago. E·lh chavalier eissiron de preiso e
carried into Aragon And-the knights came-out of prison and
pagueron l'aver. — E fo vertatz qu'us joglars, que
paid the-money And it-was truth that-a jongleur who
avia nom Artusetz, li prestet dos cens marabotis,
had name Artuset to-him lent two hundred maravedis
e menet lo ben un an ab se e no·lh en det
and led him fully a year with himself and not-to-him of-it gave
denier. E quan venc un dia, Artusetz joglars si si
(a-)penny And when came one day Artuset jongleur thus himself

mesclet ab un Juzieu, e·lh Juzieu li vengron sobre
embroiled with a Jew and-the Jews to-him came upon
e nafreron Artuset malamen, lui et un son companho.
and wounded Artuset badly him and one his companion
Et Artusetz e·l companhs auciseron un Juzieu, don
And Artuset and-the companion killed a Jew whence
li Juzieu aneron a reclam a·l rei e pregueron lo
the Jews went in complaint to-the king and begged him
qu'el en fezes vendeta e que lor des Artuset
that-he of-it should-make vengeance and that to-them he-should-give Artuset
e·l companho per aucire, e qu'ilh li darian dos
and-the companion for to-kill and that-they to-him would-give two
cens marabotis. E·l reis los lor donet amdos e
hundred maravedis And-the king them to-them gave both and
pres los dos cens marabotis. E·lh Juzieu los feiron ardre
took the two hundred maravedis And-the Jews them made to-burn
lo jorn de la nativitat de Crist, si com dis Guilhelms
the day of the nativity of Christ just as says Guilhem
de Bergueda en un sieu sirventes, dizen en el mal de·l
of Berguedan in a his sirventes saying in it ill of-the
rei:
king

«E fetz una mespreiso
And he-did a misdeed
don hom no·l deu razonar,
whereof one not-him must to-defend

que·l jorn de la naissio
that-(on-)the day of the birth
fetz dos crestias brusar:
he-made two Christians to-burn
Artus ab autre son par,
Artuset with another his fellow
e no degra aissi jutjar
and not he-should-have thus to-judge
a mort ni a passio
to death nor to torment
dos per un Juzieu felo.
two for one Jew felon

Don us autre, que avia nom Peire joglars, li
Wherefore one other who had name Peire jongleur to-him
prestet deniers e chavals, et aquel Peire joglars
lent pence and horses and that Peire jongleur
si avia grans mals dichs de la vielha rëina
thus had great ill said of the old queen
d'Englaterra, la quals tenia Font-Ebrau, que es
of-England the which held Fontevraud which is
una abadia, on si rendon totas las vielhas
an abbey where themselves render all the old-women
richas. Et ela lo fetz aucire per paraula de·l rei
rich And she him made to-kill by word of-the king
d'Arago.
of-Aragon

E totz aquestz laitz fachs remembret en Bertrans de
And all these foul deeds recalled Sir Bertran of
Born a·l rei d'Arago en aquest sirventes que dis:
Born to-the king of-Aragon in this sirventes which says
«Quan vei pe·ls vergiers desplegar los cendatz grocs,
When I-see through-the orchards to-unfurl the sendals yellow
indis.»
indigo

Quan vei pe·ls vergiers desplegar
When I-see through-the orchards to-unfurl
los cendatz grocs, indis e blaus,
the sendals yellow indigo and blue
m'adoussa la votz de·ls chavaus
to-me-sweetens the voice of-the horses
e·lh sonet que fan li joglar,
and-the tunes which make the jongleurs
que viulan de trap en tenda,
who fiddle from pavilion to tent
trombas e corn e graile clar;
trumpets and horn and bugle clear
adoncs vuolh un sirventes far
then I-wish a sirventes to-make
tal que·l coms Richartz l'entenda.
such that-the count Richard it-hears

Ab lo rei mi vuolh acordar
With the king myself I-wish to-agree
d'Arago e tornar en paus;
of-Aragon and to-turn into peace
mas trop fo deschausitz e braus,
but too-much he-was uncourtly and rough
quan venc sai sus per hosteiar;
when he-came here up for to-campaign
per qu'es drechs qu'ieu l'en reprenda;
for which-is right that-I him-of-it reprove
ieu ho dic per lui chastiar,
I it say for him to-chastise
e pesa·m si·l vei foleiar
and it-grieves-to-me if-him I-see to-play-the-fool
e vuolh que de me aprenda.
and I-wish that from me he-learn

Ab me·l volon tuit encusar,
With me-him wish all to-accuse
qu'us mi comtet de sos vassaus
for-one to-me told of his vassals
que de Castellot ac mals laus,
that of Castellote he-had ill praises
quan ne fetz n'Espanhol gitar;
when of-it he-made Sir-Espanhol to-cast
e no·m par que si defenda
and not-to-me it-seems that himself he-defend
ves el, s'el lo n'ausa proar;
against him if-he it of-it-dares to-prove

e, quan entret per convidar,
and when he-entered for to-feast
conquerit lai pauc de renda.
he-won there little of revenue

Oimais no li puosc re celar,
Henceforth not to-him I-can anything to-hide
anz li serai amics coraus:
rather to-him I-shall-be friend heartfelt
Gastos, cui es Bearns e Paus,
Gaston whose is Béarn and Pau
mi trames sai novas comtar
to-me sent here news to-tell
que de sos pres pres esmenda
that of his prisoners he-took amends
de·l rei, que·ls i degra liurar,
of-the king who-them to-him should-have to-deliver
e volc en mais l'aver portar
and he-wished of-it more the-money to-carry
que hom totz sos pres li renda.
than one all his prisoners to-him render

Que so m'an dich de lui joglar
For that to-me-have said of him jongleurs
qu'en perdo an fachs totz lor laus;
that-in vain they-have made all their praises

s'anc lor det vestirs vertz ni blaus
if-ever to-them he-gave garments green or blue
ni lor fetz nul denier donar,
or to-them made any penny to-give
lait l'es qu'om l'en sobreprenda
foul to-him-is that-one him-of-it reproach
que d'un sol s'en saup be pagar,
for of-one alone himself-of-it he-knew well to-pay
d'Artuset, don fai a blasmar,
of-Artuset whereof he-does to be-blamed
qu'en mes a·ls Juzieus en venda.
that-of-it he-put to-the Jews on sale

Peire joglar saup mal pagar,
Peire jongleur he-knew ill to-pay
que·lh prestet deniers e chavaus,
who-to-him lent pence and horses
que la vielha que Fons-Ebraus
for the old-woman whom Fontevraud
aten, lo fetz tot pesseiar;
awaits him made wholly to-hack-in-pieces
qu'anc l'entresenhs fachs ab benda
that-ever the-badge made with band
de la jupa de·l rei d'armar,
of the tunic of-the king of-arming
que·lh balhet, no lo puoc guizar,
which-to-him he-gave not him could to-guard
qu'om ab coutels tot no·l fenda.
that-one with knives wholly not-him cleave

Peire Röis saup devinar,
Peire Röis knew to-divine
a·l prim que·l vi joves reiaus,
at-the first that-him he-saw young royal
que no seria arditz ni maus,
that not he-would-be bold nor fierce
e conoc lo a·l badalhar;
and he-knew him at-the yawning
reis que badalh ni s'estenda
king who yawns or himself-stretches
quan au de batalha parlar,
when he-hears of battle to-speak
sembla, ho fassa per vaneiar
it-seems-(that) it he-do for to-boast
o qu'en armas no s'entenda.
or that-in arms not himself-he-engage

Ieu lo·lh perdo si·m fetz mal far
I it-to-him pardon if-to-me he-made ill to-do
a Catalas ni a Laraus;
to Catalans or to Aragonese
puois lo senher cui es Peitaus
since the lord whose is Poitou
lo·lh mandet, non auset als far;
it-to-him ordered not he-dared else to-do
e reis que logier atenda
and king who wage awaits
de senhor, be·l deu afanar,
of lord well-it he-must to-toil

et el venc sai per guazanhar
and he came here for to-earn
mais que per autra fazenda.
more than for other business

Vuolh, sapcha·l reis et aprenda
I-wish may-know-the king and may-learn
de son grat e fassa chantar
of his goodwill and may-make to-sing
mo sirventes a·l rei navar
my sirventes to-the king Navarrese
e per Castela l'estenda.
and through Castile it-may-spread

Quan la novela flors par e·l verjan

14 · WHEN THE NEW FLOWER APPEARS

The razo tells how the barons of the Limousin and Périgord took back their castles while Richard was overseas, and how, when he came out of prison and threatened to disinherit them, the viscount of Limoges and the count of Périgord sent word that they would make him courteous by war. Bertran, who had no gladness but setting barons at war, was glad of it. The song opens as a love song, denies that he is any lady's lover, and turns sirventes: shame on Richard if he loses his labor in the Limousin, where the poet counts the bolts, the towers, and the hunger; and let him claim the land of Saint Edmund and be anointed king. It goes to Raymond Gauceran of Pinós in Catalonia.

Quan lo reis Richartz s'en fo passatz outra mar, tuit
When the king Richard himself-thence had passed beyond sea all
li baro de Lemozi e de Peiregorc si jureron ensems
the barons of Limousin and of Périgord thus swore together
e feiron gran host et aneron a·ls chastels et a·ls borcs
and made great host and went to-the castles and to-the towns
qu'en Richartz lor avia toutz. Et enaissi combateron
that-Sir Richard from-them had taken And thus they-fought
e preseron totz aquels que·s defendian et enaissi
and took all those who-themselves defended and thus
cobreron gran re d'aquel qu'en Richartz lor avia
they-recovered great deal of-that which-Sir Richard from-them had
tout. E quan en Richartz fo vengutz d'outra mar et
taken And when Sir Richard was come from-beyond sea and
eissitz de preiso, mout fo iratz e dolens de·ls chastels
come-out of prison much he-was angry and grieving of-the castles
e de·ls borcs que·lh baro l'avian toutz e comenzet
and of-the towns which-the barons from-him-had taken and began

los a menassar fortmen de deseratar los e de destruire
them to threaten strongly of to-disinherit them and of to-destroy
los. E·l vescoms de Lemotges e·l coms de Peiregorc,
them And-the viscount of Limoges and-the count of Périgord
per lo mantenemen que·l reis de Franza lor avia fach
for the support which-the king of France to-them had made
e fazia, si·lh tengron las soas menassas a nïen
and made thus-to-him held the his threats at nothing
e·lh manderon dizen qu'el era vengutz trop braus e
and-to-him sent saying that-he was come too rough and
trop orgolhos e que ilh mal son grat lo farian franc
too proud and that they despite his will him would-make noble
e cortes et humil e qu'ilh lo chastiarian guerreian.
and courteous and humble and that-they him would-chastise warring
Don Bertrans de Born, si com cel que non avia autra
Wherefore Bertran of Born just as he who not had other
alegreza mas de mesclar los baros de guerra, quan auzit
gladness but of to-set the barons in war when he-heard
que·l reis menassava aquels baros que no·l prezavan ren
that-the king threatened those barons who not-him prized anything
e metian per nïen lo sieu dich, e que ilh l'avian
and put at nothing the his word and that they to-him-had
mandat dizen que ilh lo chastiarian e·l farian mal
sent saying that they him would-chastise and-him would-make despite
son grat tornar franc e cortes et humil: en Bertrans
his will to-turn noble and courteous and humble Sir Bertran
si·n fo mout alegres. E sabia que·l reis en era fort
thus-of-it was much glad And he-knew that-the king of-it was very
dolens et iratz, d'aisso que ilh dizian e de·l chastel
grieved and angry of-this which they said and of-the castle

de Nontron e d'Agen que·lh avian tout, e fetz
of Nontron and of-Agen which-to-him they-had taken and he-made
un so sirventes per far salhir lo rei Richart a la
one (of)-his sirventes for to-make to-leap the king Richard to the
guerra. E quan el ac fach so sirventes, el lo mandet
war And when he had made his sirventes he it sent
a·n Raimon Gauceran, qu'era de Catalonha, de·l comtat
to-Sir Raymond Gauceran who-was of Catalonia of-the county
d'Urgel, senher de Pinos, valens hom e larcs e cortes
of-Urgell lord of Pinós worthy man and generous and courteous
e gentils, e non era nuls hom en Catalonha que
and gentle and not was any man in Catalonia who
valgues lui per la persona, et entendia si en na
might-be-worth him for the person and he-was-in-love himself with Lady
Marquesa, qu'era filha de·l comte d'Urgel e molher d'en
Marquesa who-was daughter of-the count of-Urgell and wife of-Sir
Guiraut de Cabrera, qu'era lo plus rics hom e·l plus
Guiraut of Cabrera who-was the most rich man and-the most
gentils de Catalonha trach lo comte d'Urgel, so senhor.
gentle of Catalonia except the count of-Urgell his lord
E comenza enaissi lo sirventes: «Quan la novela flors
And it-begins thus the sirventes When the new flower
par e·l verjan.»
appears in-the green-branch

Quan la novela flors par e·l verjan,
When the new flower appears in-the green-branch
on son vermelh, vert e blanc li brondel,
where are red green and white the twigs

per la doussor qu'ieu sen a·l torn de l'an
through the sweetness which-I feel at-the turn of the-year
chan autresi com fan li autre auzel;
I-sing likewise as do the other birds
quar per auzel mi tenh en maintas res,
for as bird myself I-hold in many things
quar aus voler tot lo mielhs qu'e·l mon es,
for I-dare to-desire all the best which-in-the world is
voler l'aus ieu et aver cor volon,
to-desire it-I-dare I and to-have heart eager
mas no l'aus dir mon cor, anz lo·lh rescon.
but not to-her-I-dare to-say my heart rather it-to-her I-hide

Ieu no sui drutz, ni d'amor no·m fenh tan
I not am lover and of-love not-myself I-feign so-much
qu'e·l mon domna n'enrazo ni n'apel,
that-in-the world lady of-it-I-plead nor of-it-I-call
ne no domnei, e si·m val autretan,
and not I-woo and yet-to-me it-avails as-much
que lauzengier fals, enoios, fradel,
for slanderers false tiresome base
desensenhat, vila e mal apres
unschooled churlish and ill taught
an de me dich, tan ne son entremes,
have of me said so-much of-it they-have meddled
que fan cujar que la genzer de·l mon
that they-make to-think that the fairest of-the world
mi tenha gai, jauzen e desiron.
me holds gay rejoicing and desiring

Qu'om ses domna no pot far d'amor chan,
For-one without lady not can to-make of-love song
mas sirventes farai fresc e novel;
but sirventes I-shall-make fresh and new
puois chastiar cujan en guerreian
since to-chastise they-think in warring
nostre baro lo senhor de Bordel
our barons the lord of Bordeaux
e per forza tornar franc e cortes,
and by force to-turn noble and courteous
mal estara, s'ancar vilas non es
ill it-will-stand if-still churl not he-is
tan que chascus aia gauch, si·lh respon,
so-much that each-one has joy if-to-him he-answer
e no·ls enoi si be·ls pela ni·ls ton.
and not-them it-annoy if even-them he-shear nor-them shave

Anta aura, s'aissi pert son afan
Shame he-will-have if-thus he-lose his toil
en Lemozi, on a trach tan quairel
in Limousin where he-has hurled so-many bolt
e tanta tor, tan mur e tan anvan
and so-many tower so-many wall and so-many outwork
fach e desfach e fondut tan chastel
made and unmade and thrown-down so-many castle

e tan aver tout e donat e mes
and so-much wealth taken and given and spent
e tan colp dat e receubut e pres
and so-many blow dealt and received and taken
e tanta fam, tanta set e tan son
and so-much hunger so-much thirst and so-much sleep
com el a trach d'Agen tro a Nontron.
as he has borne from-Agen as-far to Nontron

Rassa, per vos remanon sai claman
Rassa through you they-remain here complaining
en Lemozi, de sai ves Monmaurel,
in Limousin from here toward Monmaurel
per vostre pro avetz fach de lor dan,
for your profit you-have made of their harm
so·m dis n'Aimars e·l senher de Martel
so-to-me said Sir-Adhemar and-the lord of Martel
e·n Talhafers e·n Folcaus e·n Jaufres
and-Sir Taillefer and-Sir Foucaud and-Sir Geoffrey
e tuit aissilh qu'ab vos s'eran empres;
and all those who-with you themselves-had engaged
non an las patz ges per vos en que son,
not have the peace at-all through you in which they-are
anz fan lor grat lai a·l comte Raimon.
rather they-make their gratitude there to-the count Raymond

Una re sapchan Breto e Norman
One thing let-them-know Bretons and Normans
et Anjavi, Peitavi e Mancel
and Angevins Poitevins and Manceaux
que d'Otasvals entro a Monferran
that from-Ostabat as-far to Montferrand
e de Rosiers entro a Mirabel
and from Rosiers as-far to Mirebeau
no·i aura un, no veia son arnes;
not-there will-be one (who)-not he-see his harness
e puois lo coms ho vol e sos drechs es,
and since the count it wishes and his right it-is
deman ades la terra Saint Aimon,
let-him-claim at-once the land (of-)Saint Edmund
tro que·lh pausen la cresma sobre·l fron.
until that-to-him they-set the chrism upon-the brow

Sirventes, vai a·n Raimon Gauceran
Sirventes go to-Sir Raymond Gauceran
lai a Pinos, en ma razo l'espel
there to Pinós in my matter it-expound
quar tan aut son siei dich e siei deman
for so high are his words and his claims
de lieis que te Cabrera e fo d'Urgel;
of her who holds Cabrera and was of-Urgell
a mo Fraire en ren gratz e merces
to my Brother of-it I-render thanks and mercies
de Bergueda, de·l fi joi que m'enques,
of Berguedan of-the true joy which to-me-be-asked

que tot mon cor mi tornet jauzion,
that all my heart to-me turned rejoicing
quan nos partim amdui a·l chap de·l pon.
when we parted both at-the head of-the bridge

Gauceran Durtz e so frair, en Raimon,
Gauceran Durtz and his brother Sir Raymond
am autretan com s'eran miei segon.
I-love as-much as if-they-were my seconds

Si com l'auzel son desotz l'aurion
Just as the-birds are beneath the-eagle
son las autras sotz la genzor de·l mon.
are the others beneath the fairest of-the world

Mout m'es deissendre charcol

15 · IT GOES HARD WITH ME TO COME DOWN

It is a long way down the stair, Bertran says, to be reduced to making war on a castle, with neither assault nor skirmish for more than a year: one side holds off from fear, the other from love of the lord of Mouliherne. The lord of Bordeaux whets the barons like knives, but they stay thick in front and blunt at the edge; Berlai and William of Monmaurel were never so eager as our barons each year when summer comes in, until the cold turns boldness to fear. He mocks Mirandol for waiting on the French, Richard for preferring Benauges to Cognac, and the Aragonese for a lord who praises himself in song and hanged his forebear. He ends by accusing his lady of treason and naming the goshawk with whom he calls himself Tristan.

Mout m'es deissendre charcol
Much to-me-is to-descend spiral-stair
de guerra far ab chastel
of war to-make with castle
e quar assaut ni cembel
and because assault nor skirmish
no vim, mais aura d'un an,
not we-saw more (it)-will-be than-a year
e tenh m'o a gran afan
and I-hold it-to-me as great vexation
quar ilh n'estan per paor
for they of-it-refrain for fear
e nos autre per s'amor
and we others for his-love
de·l senhor de Molïerna.
of-the lord of Mouliherne

Que·ls aguza e·ls esmol
That-them sharpens and-them grinds
e·ls tocha coma coutel
and-them touches like knife
lo senher que te Bordel,
the lord who holds Bordeaux
mas trop son espes denan
but too they-are thick in-front
e motz deves lo trenchan
and blunt toward the cutting-edge
e plus leial d'un prior;
and more loyal than-a prior
merce de l'esmoledor
thanks to the-grinder
tuit venran a vida eterna.
all they-will-come to life eternal

Ja·n Berlais de Mosterol
Ever-Sir Berlai of Mosterol
ni·n Guilhelms de Monmaurel
nor-Sir William of Monmaurel
non agron cor tan isnel
not had heart so swift
com nostre baro cad' an,
as our barons each year
quan ve a l'estiu entran;
when it-comes at the-summer entering
puois, quan entra la freidor,
then when enters the cold

l'arditz torna en paor,
the-boldness turns into fear
quan lo clars temps s'esbuzerna.
when the clear weather itself-clouds

De·l senhor de Mirandol,
Of-the lord of Mirandol
que te Croissa e Martel,
who holds Croissa and Martel
no crei, ogan se revel,
not I-believe this-year himself he-rebel
tro que veia que faran
until that he-see what will-do
Frances, que van menassan;
Frenchmen who go threatening
mas no son tan gabador,
but not they-are so boastful
be non atenda·l pascor,
well not let-him-await-the springtime
que oimais pluou et inverna.
for henceforth it-rains and winters

Puois lo coms Richartz mais vol
Since the count Richard more wishes
Benauges sai pres Bordel
Benauges here near Bordeaux
que Conhac ni Mirabel
than Cognac or Mirebeau
ni Chartres ni Saint-Johan,
or Chartres or Saint-Jean
grieu cobrera Botenan
hardly he-would-recover Botenan
ni feira a so senhor
or would-make to his lord
braias molhar per paor,
breeches to-wet for fear
per qu'ieu crei, Merlis l'esquerna.
for which-I believe Merlin him-mocks

Aragones fan gran dol,
Aragonese make great lament
Catala e cilh d'Urgel
Catalans and those of-Urgell
quar non an qui los chapdel
for not they-have who them leads
mas un senhor flac e gran,
but a lord slack and tall

tal que·s lauza en chantan
such who-himself praises in singing
e vol mais deniers qu'onor
and wishes more money than-honor
e pendet son ancessor,
and hanged his forebear
per que·s destrui et enferna.
for which-himself he-destroys and damns

Lai vir on la dens mi dol,
There I-turn where the tooth me aches
ves cela de cui m'es bel
toward her of whom to-me-is fair
qu'ieu la repti e l'apel
that-I her I-challenge and her-I-accuse
de trazio e d'enjan,
of treason and of-deceit
quar per son leugier talan
for by her light desire
sofre que·lh fals fenhedor
she-suffers that-the false feigners
s'anen fenhen de s'amor
themselves-go feigning of her-love
de lieis, cui bos pretz governa.
of her whom good worth governs

Ieu sai un austor terzol,
I know a goshawk tercel
mudat, qu'anc no pres auzel,
mewed which-ever not took bird
franc e cortes et isnel,
noble and courteous and swift
ab cui ieu m'apel Tristan,
with whom I myself-call Tristan
e tot per aital semblan
and all by such seeming
a·m pres per entendedor
she-me has-taken as suitor
et a·m dat mais de ricor
and she-to-me-has given more of riches
que, s'era reis de Palerna.
than if-I-were king of Palermo

Tristans, per la vostr' amor
Tristan for the your love
mi veiran torneiador
me they-shall-see tourneyer
en Peitau, qui que·m n'esquerna.
in Poitou whoever that-me-of-it mock

Puois la rëina d'amor
Since the queen of-love
m'a pres per entendedor,
me-has taken as suitor
be puosc far cinc et ilh terna.
well I-can to-make five and she three

A·l doutz nuou termini blanc

16 · AT THE SWEET NEW WHITE SEASON

The razo gathers what Bertran had already told King Philip: three duchies of five lost, the revenue of Gisors, Quercy left in war, and the sterlings sown among the Champenois. It then tells how Richard gave Philip the lie at the parley, and the two parted in enmity. The song is the spur: nothing is worth so much as war, toil, and burden; Philip has never broken a lance on a shield, and loves peace more than the good man of Tarentaise, while Yes-and-No loves war more than any of the Algais.

Quan en Bertrans ac fach lo sirventes que ditz: «Puois a·ls
When Sir Bertran had made the sirventes which says Since to-the
baros enoia e lor pesa» et ac dich a·l rei Felip com
barons it-vexes and to-them it-weighs and had said to-the king Philip how
perdia de cinc duchatz los tres e de Gisortz la renda
he-was-losing of five duchies the three and of Gisors the revenue
e·l perchatz, e com Caercis remania en guerra et en
and-the profit and how Quercy remained in war and in
barata e la terra engolmesa, e com Frances e Borgonho
trouble and the land of-Angoulême and how Frenchmen and Burgundians
avian chambjat honor per cobeiteza, e com lo reis Felips
had changed honor for covetousness and how the king Philip
avia anat plaideian sobre la riba de l'aiga, e com el non
had gone parleying upon the bank of the-water and how he not
avia volguda la patz, quan fo desarmatz e, si tost com
had wished the peace when he-was disarmed and as soon as
el fo armatz, perdet per viutat l'ardimen e la forza,
he was armed he-lost through vileness the-boldness and the strength
e que mal semblava lo sor Gueric, l'oncle de Raol de
and that ill he-resembled the tawny Gueric the-uncle of Raoul of

Cambrais, que desarmatz volc que la patz si fezes de
Cambrai who disarmed wished that the peace itself be-made of
Raol, so nebot, ab los quatre filhs n'Albert e, depuois
Raoul his nephew with the four sons of-Sir-Albert and after
que fo armatz, no volc patz ni concordi, e com totz
that he-was armed not he-wished peace nor concord and how every
reis era aunitz e desonratz, puois comenzava guerra ad
king was shamed and dishonored after he-began war against
autre rei per terra qu'aquel reis li tolgues, quan el
other king for land which-that king from-him took when he
fazia patz ni tregua, tro la demanda que·lh fazia agues
made peace or truce until the claim which-to-him he-made had
conquista e recobrat so que fos drechs e razos, don li
conquered and recovered that which were right and reason whereby the
autre rei lo tenon deseretat, e per far vergonha a·ls
other kings him hold disinherited and for to-make shame to-the
Champanes de·ls esterlis que foron semenat entre lor, per
Champenois of-the sterlings which were sown among them for
so que ilh no volguessen tornar a la guerra: tuit li baro
that that they not might-wish to-return to the war all the barons
de Peitau e de Lemozi en foron mout alegre, que mout
of Poitou and of Limousin of-it were much glad for much
eran trist de la patz, per so que mens n'eran honrat
they-were sad at the peace for that that less of-it-they-were honored
e char tengut per amdos los reis. Lo reis Richartz si
and dear held by both the kings The king Richard thus
charguet mout d'orguolh d'aquesta patz e comenzet far
loaded much with-pride from-this peace and began to-do
tortz e desmesuras en las terras de·l rei de Franza que
wrongs and outrages in the lands of-the king of France which

marchavan ab las terras d'en Richart. E·l reis Felips venia
marched with the lands of-Sir Richard And-the king Philip came
a reclam ad aissels que avian facha la patz entre lor dos,
in complaint to those who had made the peace between them two
e·n Richartz no volia per lor tort ni drech far; don fo
and-Sir Richard not wished for them wrong nor right to-do whereby was
ordenatz per lor us parlamens, on foron ensems en la
appointed by them a parley where they-were together in the
marcha de Torena e de Beiriu. E·l reis Felips si fetz
march of Touraine and of Berry And-the king Philip thus made
maintz reclams d'en Richart, don amdui vengron a grans
many complaints of-Sir Richard whereby both came to great
paraulas et a malas, si qu'en Richartz lo desmentit e·l
words and to bad(-ones) so that-Sir Richard him gave-the-lie and-him
clamet vil recrezen. E si·s desfieron e si·s
called vile recreant And thus-themselves they-defied and thus-themselves
partiron mal. E quan Bertrans de Born auzit que ilh
they-parted ill And when Bertran of Born heard that they
eran mal partit, si fo mout alegres. Et aisso fo e·l
were ill parted thus he-was much glad And this was in-the
temps a·l comenzamen d'estiu, don Bertrans fetz aquest
time at-the beginning of-summer whereof Bertran made this
sirventes que vos aras auziretz: «A·l doutz nuou termini
sirventes which you now will-hear At-the sweet new season
blanc de·l pascor vei la elesta.» Et en aquel sirventes el
white of-the springtide I-see the choice And in that sirventes he
poins fort lo rei Felip qu'el degues comenzar la guerra ab
spurred greatly the king Philip that-he should to-begin the war with
lo rei Richart a fuoc et a sanc e dis que·l reis Felips
the king Richard with fire and with blood and said that-the king Philip

volia mais patz qu'us mongues, e·n Richartz, ab cui el
wished more peace than-a monk and-Sir Richard with whom he
s'apelava «Oc e No», volia mais guerra que negus de·ls
himself-called Yes and No wished more war than any of-the
Algais, qu'eran quatre fraire, gran raubador e raubavan e
Algais who-were four brothers great robbers and they-robbed and
menavan be ab lor mil raubadors a chaval e be doa
they-led fully with them thousand robbers on horse and fully two
milia a pe e no vivian d'autra renda ni d'autre perchatz.
thousand on foot and not they-lived on-other revenue nor on-other profit

A·l doutz nuou termini blanc
At-the sweet new season white
de·l pascor vei la elesta
of-the springtide I-see the choice
de·l novel temps ses contenta;
of-the new time without strife
quan la sazos es plus genta
when the season is more fair
e plus avinens e val mais,
and more pleasing and is-worth more
et hom deuria esser plus gais,
and one ought to-be more gay
e melhor sabor mi a jais.
and better savor to-me has joy

Per que·m pesa quar m'estanc,
For which-to-me it-grieves that I-halt
qu'ieu ades no pas la festa,
that-I at-once not pass the feast
qu'us sols jorns mi sembla trenta
for-a single day to-me seems thirty
per una promessa genta
for a promise noble
don mi sortz trebalhs et esglais,
whence to-me arises trouble and terror
e no vuolh, sia mieus Doais
and not I-wish be mine Douai
ses la sospeisso de Cambrais.
without the hope of Cambrai

Pustela en son uolh e cranc
Pustule in his eye and canker
qui ja mais l'en amonesta!
who ever more him-of-it admonishes
Que ja malvastatz dolenta
For ever baseness doleful
no valra messio genta,
not will-be-worth outlay noble
ni sojorns ni estar ad ais
nor sojourn nor to-stay at ease
tan com guerra, trebalhs e fais,
so-much as war trouble and burden
so sapcha·l senher de Roais.
that knows-the lord of Roais

Ni anc no·n vi bratz ni flanc
And ever not-of-it I-saw arm nor flank
tronchat, ni chamba ni testa
hacked nor leg nor head
ferit de plaia dolenta,
struck with wound doleful
ni ab gran host ni ab genta
nor with great host nor with fair(-host)
no·l vi a Roam ni a Sais;
not-him I-saw at Rouen nor at Sées
e membres li qu'om li retrais
and let-it-remember to-him that-one to-him recounted
qu'anc en escut lanza no frais.
that-ever on shield lance not he-broke

Guerra ses fuoc e ses sanc
War without fire and without blood
de rei ni de gran poesta
of king or of great potentate
cui coms laidis ni desmenta
whom count insults or gives-the-lie
non es ges paraula genta;
not is at-all word noble
qu'el puois si sojorn ni s'engrais!
that-he then himself let-repose or let-himself-fatten
E joves cui guerra no pais
And young-man whom war not feeds
n'esdeve lieu flacs e savais.
of-it-becomes soon slack and base

Reis de Franza, ie·us tenh per franc;
King of France I-you hold as noble
quar hom a Tors no·us fai questa
for one at Tours not-of-you makes claim
ni de Gisortz no·us presenta
and of Gisors not-to-you presents
patz ni fi que sia genta:
peace nor accord which be noble
ec vos la guerra e la pais!
behold you the war and the peace
E ja, entro qu'om s'i eslais,
And ever until that-one himself-into-it dart
non er sos pretz fis ni verais.
not will-be his worth pure nor true

Ges de n'Oc e No no·m planc,
At-all of Sir-Yes and No not-myself I-complain
qu'ieu sai be qu'en lui no resta
for-I know well that-in him not stays
la guerra ni no s'alenta,
the war and not itself-slackens
qu'anc patz ni fis no·lh fo genta,
that-ever peace or accord not-to-him was noble
ni hom plus volontiers no trais
and man more willingly not endured
ni no fetz cochas ni assais
and not made onsets nor assaults
ab pauc de gens ni ab gran fais.
with few of folk nor with great burden

Lo reis Felips ama la pais
The king Philip loves the peace
plus que·l bos hom de Tarantais.
more than-the good man of Tarentaise

En Oc e No vol guerra mais
Sir Yes and No wishes war more
plus que no fetz us de·ls Algais.
more than — did one of-the Algais

Puois a·ls baros enoia e lor pesa

17 · SINCE IT VEXES THE BARONS

The volume's longest razo. Richard of England and Philip of France face each other across the Sèvre near Niort for fifteen days, until churchmen with crosses in their arms come between the armies and beg them not to fight. Philip loses heart when the Champenois refuse to put on their helms, and the two kings swear a ten-year peace, disband their hosts, and turn niggardly, leaving the barons on both sides sorrowful. Bertran is angrier than any of them, and the song says why: a king should not sit disinherited in peace, three of the crown's five duchies are wanting, and a king who seeks a parley in arms is slack.

En lo temps et en la sazo que lo reis Richartz d'Englaterra
In the time and in the season that the king Richard of-England
guerreiava ab lo rei Felip de Franza, si foron amdui
warred with the king Philip of France thus they-were both
en champ ab tota lor gen. Lo reis de Franza si avia
in field with all their folk The king of France thus had
ab se Frances e Borgonhos e Champanes e Flamencs
with him French and Burgundians and Champenois and Flemings
e cels de Beiriu; e·l reis Richartz avia ab se Engles
and those of Berry and-the king Richard had with him English
e Normans e Bretos e Peitavis e cels d'Anjau e de
and Normans and Bretons and Poitevins and those of-Anjou and of
Torena e da·l Maine e de Saintonge e de Lemozi, et
Touraine and of-the Maine and of Saintonge and of Limousin and
era sobre la riba d'un flum que a nom Sevra, lo quals
he-was upon the bank of-a river which has name Sèvre the which
passa a·l pe de Niort. E l'una hostz si era d'una riba
passes at-the foot of Niort And the-one host thus was of-one bank

e l'autra hostz era da l'autra, et enaissi esteron quinze
and the-other host was of the-other and thus they-stood fifteen
jorns, e chascu jorn s'armavan et aparelhavan de
days and each day themselves-they-armed and made-ready of
venir a la batalha ensems. Mas arcivesque et evesque et
to-come to the battle together But archbishops and bishops and
abat et home d'orde, que cerchavan patz, eran en miei e
abbots and men of-order who sought peace were in between and
defendian que la batalha no fos. Et un dia foron armat
forbade that the battle — be And one day were armed
tuit aquilh qu'eran ab lo rei Richart et esqueirat de
all those who-were with the king Richard and drawn-up of
venir a la batalha e de passar la Sevra, e li Frances
to-come to the battle and of to-cross the Sèvre and the French
s'armeron et esqueireron. E li bon home de religio
themselves-armed and drew-up And the good men of religion
foron ab las crotz en bratz, pregan Richart e·l rei Felip
were with the crosses in arms begging Richard and-the king Philip
que la batalha no degues esser. E·l reis de Franza dizia
that the battle not should to-be And-the king of France said
que la batalha no remanria, si·l reis Richartz no·lh fazia
that the battle not would-cease if-the king Richard not-to-him did
fezeutat de tot so que avia de sai mar: de·l duchat de
fealty of all that which he-had of this-side sea of-the duchy of
Normandia e de·l duchat de Quitania e de·l comtat de
Normandy and of-the duchy of Aquitaine and of-the county of
Peitau e que·lh rendes Gisortz, lo qual lo reis Richartz
Poitou and that-to-him he-render Gisors the which the king Richard
l'avia tout. Et en Richartz, quan auzit aquesta paraula
from-him-had taken And Sir Richard when he-heard this word

que·l reis Felips demandava, per la gran baudeza qu'el
which-the king Philip demanded through the great boldness which-he
avia (quar li Champanes avian a lui promes que no·lh
had because the Champenois had to him promised that not-to-him
serian a l'encontra per la gran quantitat de·ls esterlis
they-would-be at the-encounter through the great quantity of-the sterlings
que avia semenatz entre lor) si montet en destrier e
which he-had sown among them thus he-mounted on charger and
mes l'elm en la testa e fai sonar las trombas e fai
put the-helm on the head and makes to-sound the trumpets and makes
deserrar los sieus gonfanos encontra l'aiga per passar outra
to-unfurl the his gonfalons toward the-water for to-pass over
et aordena las esqueiras de·ls baros e de la soa gen per
and orders the squadrons of-the barons and of the his folk for
passar outra a la batalha. E·l reis Felips, quan lo vi
to-pass over to the battle And-the king Philip when him he-saw
venir, montet en destrier e mes l'elm en testa, e tota
to-come mounted on charger and put the-helm on head and all
la soa gens monteron en destriers e preseron lor armas
the his folk mounted on chargers and took their arms
per venir a la batalha, trach los Champanes, que no
for to-come to the battle except the Champenois who not
meseron elms en testa. E·l reis Felips, quan vi venir
put helms on head And-the king Philip when he-saw to-come
en Richart e la soa gen ab tan gran vigor e vi
Sir Richard and the his folk with so great vigor and he-saw
que·lh Champanes no venian a la batalha, el fo avilitz et
that-the Champenois not came to the battle he was daunted and
espaventatz e comenza far apelar los arcivesques e·ls
terrified and begins to-make to-call the archbishops and-the

evesques et homes de religio, totz aquels que l'avian pregat
bishops and men of religion all those whom him-had begged
de la patz far; e preguet lor qu'ilh anessen pregar en
of the peace to-make and he-begged them that-they should-go to-beg Sir
Richart de la patz far e de·l concordi, e si lor
Richard of the peace to-make and of-the concord and thus to-them
promes de far e de dir aquela patz et aquel concordi
he-promised of to-do and of to-speak that peace and that concord
de·l deman de Gisortz e de·l vassalatge que·lh fazia en
of-the claim of Gisors and of-the homage which-to-him did Sir
Richartz. E li saint home vengron ab las crotz en bratz
Richard And the holy men came with the crosses in arms
encontra lo rei Richart, ploran qu'el agues pietat de
toward the king Richard weeping that-he might-have pity of
tanta bona gen com avia e·l champ, que tuit eran a
so-many good folk as there-was in-the field who all were to
morir, e qu'el volgues la patz; qu'ilh li farian laissar
to-die and that-he might-wish the peace for-they to-him would-make to-leave
Gisortz e·l rei partir de sobre la soa terra. E li
Gisors and-the king to-depart from off the his land And the
baro, quan auziron la gran honor que·l reis Felips li
barons when they-heard the great honor which-the king Philip to-him
presentava, foron tuit a·l rei Richart e conselheron lo
offered went all to-the king Richard and counseled him
qu'el preses lo concordi e la patz. Et el, per los precs
that-he take the concord and the peace And he through the prayers
de·ls bos homes de religio e per lo conselh de·ls sieus
of-the good men of religion and through the counsel of-the his
baros, si fetz la patz e·l concordi si que·l reis Felips
barons thus made the peace and-the concord so that-the king Philip

li laisset Gisortz quitamen, e·l vassalatges remas en
to-him left Gisors freely and-the homage remained in
penden si com el estava, e partit si de·l champ,
suspense just as it stood and he-parted himself from-the field
e·l reis Richartz remas. E feiron jurar ambedui la
and-the king Richard remained And they-made to-swear both the
patz a detz ans, e desfeiron lor hostz e deron comjat
peace for ten years and they-unmade their hosts and gave leave
a·ls soudadiers e vengron eschars et avar ambedui li
to-the soldiers and they-became niggard and miserly both the
rei e cobe e no volgron far host ni despendre si
kings and greedy and not they-wished to-make host nor to-spend if
non en falcos et en austors et en chas et en lebriers
not on falcons and on goshawks and on dogs and on greybounds
et en comprar terras e possessios et en far tort a
and on to-buy lands and possessions and on to-do wrong to
lor baros. Don tuit li baro de·l rei de Franza foron
their barons Whereby all the barons of-the king of France were
trist e dolen e li baro de·l rei Richart, quar avian
sad and grieving and the barons of-the king Richard because they-had
la patz facha per que chascus de·ls dos reis era vengutz
the peace made for which each-one of-the two kings was become
eschars e vilas. E·n Bertrans de Born si fo plus iratz
niggard and churlish and-Sir Bertran of Born thus was more angry
que negus de·ls autres baros, per so quar el no si
than any of-the other barons for that because he not himself
delechava mas en guerra de se e d'autrui e mais en
delighted but in war of himself and of-another and more in
la guerra de·ls dos reis, per so que, quan ilh avian, li
the war of-the two kings for that that when they had the

dui rei, guerra ensems, el avia d'en Richart tot so qu'el
two kings war together he had of-Sir Richard all that which-he
volia d'aver e d'onor et era temsutz d'amdos los reis
wished of-wealth and of-honor and he-was feared by-both the kings
per lo dire de la lenga. Don el, per volontat qu'el
for the speaking of the tongue Whereby he through desire which-he
ac que·lh rei tornessen a la guerra e per la volontat
had that-the kings might-turn to the war and through the desire
qu'el vi a·ls autres baros, si fetz aquest sirventes lo
which-he saw in-the other barons thus made this sirventes the
quals comenza: «Puois a·ls baros enoia e lor pesa.»
which begins Since to-the barons it-vexes and to-them weighs

Puois a·ls baros enoia e lor pesa
Since to-the barons it-vexes and to-them weighs
d'aquesta patz qu'an facha li dui rei,
of-this peace which-have made the two kings
farai chanzo tal que, quan er apresa,
I-shall-make song such that when it-will-be learned
a cadäu sera tart que guerrei;
to each-one it-will-be late [long-to-wait] that he-war
e no m'es bel de rei qu'en patz estei
and not to-me-is fair of king that-in peace he-stay
deseretatz ni que perda son drei,
disinherited nor that he-lose his right
tro la demanda que fai a conquesa.
until the claim which he-makes he-has won

Ad ambedos te hom ad avolesa
To both holds one for baseness
quar an fach plach don quecs de lor sordei;
for they-have made pact whereby each of them worsens
cinc duchatz a la corona francesa,
five duchies has the crown French
e, si·ls comtatz, son a dire li trei;
and if-them you-count are to to-say [missing] the three
e de Gisortz pert la rend' e l'esplei,
and of Gisors he-loses the revenue and the-profit
e Caercis rema sai en trepei
and Quercy remains here in turmoil
e Bretanha e la terra engolmesa.
and Brittany and the land of-Angoulême

Ges aitals patz no melhura proesa
At-all such peace not betters prowess
com aquesta ni autra qu'om li grei,
as this-one nor other that-one to-him grant
ni deu sofrir qu'om li bais sa richesa,
nor he-must to-suffer that-one to-him lower his wealth
puois Essaudu a tornat deves sei
since Issoudun has turned toward himself
lo reis Henrics e mes en son destrei;
the king Henry and put in his straits
e no·s cujes qu'a son home s'autrei,
and not-himself let-him-think that-to his man himself-he-yield
si·l fieu d'Anjau li merma una tesa.
if-the fief of-Anjou to-him lessens a fathom

Si·l reis engles li fetz do ni larguesa,
If-the king English to-him made gift or largesse
a·l rei Felip, drechs es que l'en mercei,
to-the king Philip right it-is that him-of-it he-thank
que·lh fetz liurar la moneda englesa,
who-to-him made to-deliver the money English
qu'en Franza·n son charcit sac e correi;
that-in France-of-it are stuffed sack and belt
e no foron Anjavi ni Mancei,
and not were Angevins nor Manceaux
que d'esterlis foro·lh primier conrei
for of-sterlings were-the first squadron
que desconfis la lor gen champanesa.
which routed the their folk Champenois

Lo sors Guerics dis paraula cortesa,
The tawny Gueric said word courteous
quan so nebot vi tornat en esfrei:
when his nephew he-saw turned into fright
que desarmatz volgra·n fos la fis presa,
that disarmed he-would-wish-of-it were the accord taken
quan fo armatz, no volc penre plaidei;
when he-was armed not he-wished to-take parley
e no semblet ges lo senhor d'Orlei,
and not he-resembled at-all the lord of-Orleans
que desarmatz fo de peior mercei
who disarmed was of worse mercy
que, quan e·l chap ac la ventalha mesa.
than when in-the head he-had the ventail put

A rei armat lo te hom a flachesa,
To king armed it holds one for slackness
quan es en champ e vai querre plaidei;
when he-is in field and goes to-seek parley
ben an chamjat honor per cobeitesa,
well they-have changed honor for covetousness
segon qu'auch dir, Borgonho e Francei;
according as-I-hear to-say Burgundians and French
e valgra mais, per la fe qu'ieu vos dei,
and it-would-be-worth more by the faith which-I to-you owe
a·l rei Felip, comenzes lo desrei
to-the king Philip he-should-begin the onset
que plaideiar armatz sobre la gresa.
than to-parley armed upon the gravel

Vai, Papiols, mo sirventes a drei
Go Papiol my sirventes at once
mi portaras part Crespi e·l Valei
for-me you-shall-carry beyond Crépy and-the Valois
mon Isembart en la terra artesa;
my Isembart into the land of-Artois

e digas li qu'a tal domna soplei
and say to-him that-to such lady I-bow
que marves puosc jurar sobre la lei
that boldly I-can to-swear upon the law
que·l melher es de·l mon e·l plus cortesa.
that-the best she-is of-the world and-the most courteous

Nostre senher somonis el mezeis

18 · OUR LORD HIMSELF SUMMONS

The crusading song. Our Lord himself summons the bold and the valiant, for the True Cross and the king are taken and the Sepulcher lacks succor. The holy fire descends there for all to see, and a man who believes that makes no great effort in going. The man who is count and duke and will be king has put himself forward and doubled his worth, since he wants more worth than any man of either law, Christian or unbaptized. Bertran now takes King Philip for a rightful king: they say he has taken the cross, and he boasts he will press into worth as Charlemagne never did.

Nostre senher somonis el mezeis
Our Lord summons he himself
totz los arditz e·ls valens e·ls prezatz,
all the bold and-the worthy and-the prized
qu'anc mais guerra ni cocha no·l destreis,
for-ever before war or straits not-him constrained
mas d'aquesta si te fort per grevatz;
but of-this himself he-holds greatly as burdened
quar presa es la vera crotz e·l reis,
for taken is the true cross and-the king
e·l sepolcres a de socors frachura,
and-the sepulcher has of succor lack
don tuit crezem ab leial fe segura
whereof all we-believe with loyal faith sure
que lo saintz fuocs i deissen, qu'om ho ve,
that the holy fire there descends for-one it sees
per que no fai nul esfortz qui so cre.
for which not makes any effort who that believes

Cel que es coms e ducs e sera reis
He who is count and duke and will-be king
s'es mes enan, per qu'es sos pretz doblatz,
himself-has put forward for which-is his worth doubled
qu'el vol mais pretz qu'om de las doas leis,
for-he wishes more worth than-one of the two laws
de·ls crestias e de·ls no-bateiatz;
of-the Christians and of-the not-baptized
e s'el vol pretz, a las obras pareis,
and if-he wishes worth in the works it-appears
qu'el vol tan pretz e tan bon' aventura,
for-he wishes so-much worth and so good fortune
per que sos pretz creis ades e melhura,
for which his worth grows ever and betters
qu'el vol lo pretz de·l mal e·l pretz de·l be:
for-he wishes the worth of-the ill and-the worth of-the good
tan ama pretz qu'ambedos los rete.
so-much he-loves worth that-both them he-keeps

Aras sai ieu qu'adrechs vol esser reis
Now know I that-rightful he-wishes to-be king
lo reis Felips, que dizon qu'es crozatz,
the king Philip whom they-say that-he-is crossed
et anc Charles en tal pretz no s'empeis
and ever Charles into such worth not himself-thrust
com el fara, d'aisso s'es be vanatz.
as he will-do of-this himself-is well vaunted

No puosc mudar, un chantar non esparga

19 · I CANNOT HELP SCATTERING A SONG

The razo says that nothing Bertran ever said could move King Philip, but that Richard leapt to the war of himself as soon as he saw how feeble Philip was. The song is glad of it: war makes a niggardly lord generous, and he wants to see the two kings' pomp, the tents pitched, and the armies meeting by thousands. He would take blows on his own targe if he had Lusignan or Rancon to pay for it. He wishes Philip would burn a barge before Gisors and shut Rouen so close that no letter could get out but by dove.

Anc mais per re qu'en Bertrans de Born disses en coblas
Ever more for anything that-Sir Bertran of Born said in stanzas
ni en sirventes a·l rei Felip ni per recordamen de tort ni
or in sirventes to-the king Philip or for recalling of wrong or
d'aunimen que·lh fos dichs ni fachs no volc guerreiar
of-shaming which-to-him was said or done not he-wished to-war
lo rei Richart; mas en Richartz si salhit a la guerra, quan
the king Richard but Sir Richard thus leapt to the war when
vi la frevoleza de·l rei Felip, e raubet e prezet et ars
he-saw the feebleness of-the king Philip and he-robbed and seized and burned
chastels e borcs e vilas et aucis homes e pres; don tuit
castles and towns and villages and killed men and took whereby all
li baro, a cui desplazia la patz, foron mout alegre, e·n
the barons to whom displeased the peace were much glad and-Sir
Bertrans de Born plus que tuit, per so que plus volia guerra
Bertran of Born more than all for that that more he-wished war
que autr' om e quar crezia que per lo sieu dire lo reis
than other man and because he-believed that through the his speaking the king
Richartz agues comenzada la guerra, ab lo qual el s'apelava
Richard had begun the war with the which he himself-called

«Oc e No», si com auziretz e·l sirventes qu'el fetz, si
Yes and No just as you-will-hear in-the sirventes which-he made as
tost com el auzit qu'en Richartz era salhitz a la guerra, lo
soon as he heard that-Sir Richard was leapt to the war the
quals comenza: «No puosc mudar, un chantar non esparga.»
which begins Not I-can to-forbear a song — I-scatter

No puosc mudar, un chantar non esparga,
Not I-can to-forbear a song — I-scatter
puois n'Oc e No a mes fuoc e trach sanc,
since Sir-Yes and No has put fire and drawn blood
quar grans guerra fai d'eschars senhor larc,
for great war makes of-niggard lord generous
per que·m platz be de·ls reis vezer la bomba,
for which-to-me it-pleases well of-the kings to-see the pomp
que n'aian ops paisso, cordas e pom,
that of-it-they-have need pole ropes and pommel
e·n sian trap tendut per fors jazer,
and-of-them be tents pitched for outside to-lie
e·ns encontrem a miliers et a cens,
and-ourselves we-meet by thousands and by hundreds
si qu'apres nos en chan hom de la gesta.
so that-after us of-it sing one of the deed

Qu'ieu n'agra colps receubutz en ma targa
For-I of-it-would-have blows received on my targe
e fach vermelh de mon gonfano blanc,
and made red of my gonfalon white

mas per aisso m'en sofrisc e m'en parc
but for this myself-of-it I-refrain and myself-of-it I-part
que n'Oc e No conosc qu'un dat mi plomba;
for Sir-Yes and No I-know that-a die to-me he-loads
mas non ai ges Lizinha ni Rancom,
but not I-have at-all Lusignan nor Rancon
qu'ieu puoscha lonh hosteiar ses aver,
that-I might far to-campaign without wealth
mas aiudar puosc a mos conoissens,
but to-help I-can to my acquaintances
escut a·l col e chapel en ma testa.
shield at-the neck and helmet on my head

Si·l reis Felips n'agues ars' una barga
If-the king Philip of-it-had burnt a barge
denan Gisortz o crebat un estanc,
before Gisors or broken a pond
si qu'a Roam entres per forza e·l parc,
so that-at Rouen he-might-enter by force in-the park
que l'assetges pe·l puoi e per la comba,
that he-might-besiege-him through-the hill and through the valley
qu'om no·n pogues traire brieu ses colom:
that-one not-of-it might to-draw letter without dove
adoncs sai ieu qu'el volgra far parer
then know I that-he would-wish to-make to-appear
Charle, que fo de·ls mielhs de sos parens,
Charles who was of-the best of his kindred
per cui fo Polha e Sansonha conquesta.
through whom was Apulia and Saxony conquered

Anta l'adutz e de pretz lo descharga
Shame to-him-brings and of worth him unloads
guerra celui cui hom no·n troba franc,
war him whom one not-of-it finds noble
per qu'ieu no cuch, lais Caortz ni Cajarc
for which-I not think he-leave Cahors nor Cajarc
mos Oc e No, puois tan sap de trastomba;
my Yes and No since so-much he-knows of tumbling
si·l reis li da lo tesaur de Chinom,
if-the king to-him gives the treasure of Chinon
de guerra a cor et aura·n puois poder;
of war he-has heart and will-have-of-it then power
tan l'es trebalhs e messios plazens
so-much to-him-are toil and outlay pleasing
que los amics e·ls enemics tempesta.
that the friends and-the enemies he-storms

Anc naus en mar, quan a perdut sa barga
Ever ship on sea when it-has lost its barge
et a mal temps e vai urtar a·l ranc
and has ill weather and goes to-strike on-the reef
e cor plus fort qu'una saieta d'arc
and runs more greatly than-an arrow of-bow
e leva en aut e puois aval jos tomba,
and rises on high and then downward below tumbles
no trais anc pieis, e dirai vos be com,
not endured ever worse and I-shall-tell to-you well how
qu'ieu fatz per lieis que no·m vol retener,
that-I do for her who not-me wishes to-retain

que no·m mante jorn, terme ni convens,
who not-to-me keeps day term nor covenant
per que mos jois, qu'era floritz, bissesta.
for which my joy which-was flowered leaps-a-year [*goes-amiss*]

Vai, Papiols, ades tost e correns,
Go Papiol at-once quickly and running
a Träinac sias anz de la festa;
at Trainac be-you before of the feast

di·m a·n Rotgier et a totz sos parens
say-for-me to-Sir Rotgier and to all his kindred
qu'ieu no trop mais «omba» ni «om» ni «esta».
that-I not find more omba nor om nor esta

Ara sai ieu de pretz quals l'a plus gran

20 · NOW I KNOW WHO HAS THE GREATEST WORTH

The song for Conrad of Montferrat, holding out at Tyre against Saladin. Conrad has the truest worth of all those who rose early; the succor is slow, and he who alone endures the toil will alone have the worth. Bertran would be there himself, but the counts and dukes and kings delayed, and then he saw his lady. He names the two kings who hold back — Philip fearing Richard and Richard fearing Philip — and wishes both in Saladin's fetters for cheating God, yet hears both will cross this year; the song goes by Savoy and Brindisi over the sea.

Ara sai ieu de pretz quals l'a plus gran
Now know I of worth which it-has more great
de totz aquels que·s leveron mati:
of all those who-themselves rose in-the-morning
messers Conratz l'a plus fi ses enjan,
messer Conrad it-has more true without deceit
que·s defen lai a Sur d'en Saladi
who-himself defends there at Tyre from-Sir Saladin
e de sa maisnada croia;
and from his household vile
socora·l dieus! que·l socors vai tarzan:
succor-him God for-the succor goes tarrying
sols aura·l pretz, que sols sofre l'afan.
alone he-will-have-the worth who alone endures the-toil

Senher Conratz, a Jesu vos coman,
Lord Conrad to Jesus you I-commend
qu'ieu fora lai, a Sur, so vos afi;
that-I would-be there at Tyre that to-you I-affirm

mas laissei m'en, quar s'anavan tarzan
but I-left myself-of-it for they-were-going tarrying
li comt' e·lh duc e·lh rei e li princi;
the counts and-the dukes and-the kings and the princes
puois vi mi dons bel' e bloia,
then I-saw my lady fair and blonde
per que s'anet mos cors afebleian,
for which itself-went my heart weakening
qu'ieu fora lai, ben a passat un an.
that-I would-be there well it-has passed a year

Senher Conratz, ieu sai dos reis qu'estan
Lord Conrad I know two kings who-hold-back
d'aiudar vos, ara entendatz qui:
from-to-help you now hear-you who
lo reis Felips es l'us, quar vai doptan
the king Philip is the-one for he-goes fearing
lo rei Richart, e cel lui dopt' aissi;
the king Richard and he him fears likewise
ar fos usquecs d'els en boia
now were each-one of-them in fetters
d'en Saladi, puois van dieu gualian,
of-Sir Saladin since they-go God beguiling
quar son crozat e d'anar mot no fan.
for they-are crusaders and of-to-go word not they-make

Senher Conratz, tot per vostr' amor chan
Lord Conrad all for your love I-sing
ni ges no·i guart amic ni enemi,
and at-all not-in-it I-heed friend nor enemy
mas per so·l fatz que·ls crozatz vau reptan
but for that-it I-do that-the crusaders I-go reproving
de·l passatge qu'an si mes en obli,
of-the passage which-they-have thus put in oblivion
no cujan qu'a dieu enoia;
not thinking that-to God it-vexes
qu'ilh si paisson e si van sojornan,
for-they themselves feed and themselves go sojourning
e·us enduratz fam, set, et ilh estan.
and-you you-endure hunger thirst and they remain

Senher Conratz, la roda·s vai viran
Lord Conrad the wheel-itself goes turning
en aquest mon pur en mal a la fi,
in this world only into ill at the end
quar paucs en sai que no s'anen penan,
for few of-them I-know who not themselves-go striving
com enjanen vezi e no-vezi;
how they-deceive neighbor and not-neighbor
mas cel que pert, no·lh par joia;
but he who loses not-to-him seems joy
doncs sapchan be cilh qu'ieu dic qu'aisso fan
therefore let-know well those that-I say that-this they-do
que dieus escriu so que dich e fach an.
that God writes that which said and done they-have

Senher Conratz, lo reis Richartz val tan,
Lord Conrad the king Richard is-worth so-much
si tot, quan vuolh, de lui gran mal m'en di,
though wholly as-much I-wish of him great ill of-it I-say
qu'el passara ab tal esfortz ogan
that-he will-cross with such force this-year
com far poira, so auch dir tot de fi,
as to-do he-will-be-able that I-hear to-say wholly of certain
e·l reis Felips en mar poia
and-the king Philip on sea climbs
ab autres reis, qu'ab tal esfortz venran
with other kings who-with such force will-come
que part l'Arbre Sec irem conquistan.
that beyond the-Tree Dry we-shall-go conquering

De n'Oc e No no·m vau ara doptan,
Of Sir-Yes and No not-me I-go now fearing
quar pesa li, si nula re·lh chasti,
for it-weighs to-him if any thing-to-him I-chide
e·l reis frances vai si trop apriman,
and-the king French goes himself too approaching
et ai paor que venha sobre mi;
and I-have fear that he-come upon me
mas anc a·l setge de Troia
but ever at-the siege of Troy
non ac tan duc, prince ni amiran
not there-was so-many duke prince nor emir
com ieu ai mes per chantar a mon dan.
as I have put through to-sing to my harm

A mon Isembart part Troia
To my Isembart beyond Troy
vai, sirventes, e di li·m, qu'ieu lo·lh man,
go sirventes and say to-him-for-me that-I it-to-him send
qu'a·ls reis crozatz es anta quar no van.
that-to-the kings crusading it-is shame for not they-go

Bels Papiols, ves Savoia
Fair Papiol toward Savoy
te ton chami e ves Branditz brochan
take your road and toward Brindisi spurring
e passa·l mar, qu'a·l rei Conrat ti man.
and cross-the sea for-to-the king Conrad you I-send
Quan seras lai, no t'enoia,
When you-will-be there not you-it-vex
tu li diras que, s'ar no·lh valh ab bran,
you to-him you-shall-say that if-now not-to-him I-avail with sword
e·lh valrai tost, si·lh rei no·m van bausan.
and-to-him I-shall-avail soon if-the kings not-me go deceiving

Mas ben es vers qu'a tal domna·m coman,
But well it-is true that-to such lady-me I-commend
si·l passatges no·lh platz, no crei que·i an.
if-the passage not-to-her pleases not I-believe that-there I-go

Anc no·s puoc far maior anta

21 · NEVER WAS GREATER SHAME DONE

A bitter song against a lady who has taken him back and put him aside again. If she beds another man's children in his cradle it is no loss to him, since he is grown. He tells his own body that it is bewitched and playing the fool over a woman who strips herself of joy and washes herself clean of worth. Between the Dordogne and the Charente, said Auriol, a certain lord is too soft and has conquered nothing yet. The song ends with a catalog of the towns Yes-and-No holds in England and Normandy, and a word for the Mariner.

Anc no·s puoc far maior anta,
Ever not-itself could to-do greater shame
quan m'assols
when me-you-absolve
ni mi pres en dols,
and me you-took in mourning
e, puois ilh so a enquest,
and since they that have asked-for
e platz mi dons que m'esclava
and it-pleases my lady that me-she-enslave
ni que·m lais,
nor that-me she-leave
no m'es dans
not to-me-is harm
si·ls autrui enfans
if-the another's children
colga e·l mieu berzol,
she-beds and-the my cradle
qu'ieu sui grans.
for-I am grown

Fatz cors, puois ela t'enchanta,
Foolish body since she you-enchants
tu t'o cols
you it-to-yourself gather
e fas i que fols,
and you-do in-it as fool
que de tot joi si desvest
who of all joy herself strips
e de pretz si cura e·s lava;
and of worth herself cleanses and-herself washes
per ja mais
for ever more
lo bobans
the pomp
remanha e·l mazans,
let-remain and-the din
qu'ieu ho vuolh, si·l vol,
that-I it wish if-it she-wishes
dos aitans.
two as-much

Lo senher de cui es Manta
The lord of whom is Manta
e Murols
and Murols
s'es prims de terzols
himself-has thin of tercels
tornatz, ab que sai no rest:
turned with that here not he-stay

sieus seria, s'el anava,
his he-would-be if-he went
lai Roais,
there Edessa
Tervagans,
Tervagant
Alaps et Arans;
Aleppo and Harran
puois feira filhol
then he-would-make godson
de·ls Persans.
of-the Persians

Enaps e copas mazanta
Cups and bowls he-clatters
et orzols
and pitchers
d'argen e pairols
of-silver and cauldrons
e sec ribieira e forest
and he-follows riverside and forest
e sai tolia e donava:
and here he-took and gave
no·s biais
not-himself he-swerves
de·ls afans:
from-the toils
pressas e mazans,
throngs and dins

guerra ab tribol
war with tumult
l'es enans.
to-him-is advantage

Entre Dordonha e Charanta
Between Dordogne and Charente
es trop mols,
he-is too soft
so·m dis n'Auriols,
so-to-me said Sir-Auriol
qu'ancar re no·i a conquest,
that-still anything not-there he-has conquered
et er l'anta, si·s pausava,
and it-will-be the-shame if-himself he-rested
qu'aissi lais
that-thus he-leave
benanans
prospering
e gortz e tirans
and gorged and tyrant
cels qu'amar no sol
those whom-to-love not he-is-wont
e poissans.
and puissant

Ves mon Oc e No t'avanta,
Toward my Yes and No you-boast
Papiols,
Papiol
quar sieus es Bristols
for his is Bristol
e Nortensems e Susest
and Northampton and Sussex
e Londres e Titagrava
and London and Titgrave
e Carais
and Carhaix
e Roans
and Rouen
e Coras e Cans;
and Coras and Caen
puois tot a quan vol,
since all he-has whatever he-wishes
sai s'eslans.
here himself-he-flings

Bels Senher, truans
Fair Lord truants
seretz, si no·us dol
you-will-be if not-to-you grieves
lo mieus dans.
the my harm

Mariniers, enjans
Mariner deceit
es qu'amar destol
it-is that-to-love turns-away
a·ls amans.
from-the lovers

Volontiers feira sirventes

22 · WILLINGLY WOULD I MAKE A SIRVENTES

He would gladly make a sirventes if anyone would hear it sung, for worth and honor and goodness are dead — and if he could avenge them, so many would be dead or taken that neither water nor fire could dispose of them. God gives revenue and tribute, but sense must guide them, and nothing is anything without measure. There are kingdoms without kings, counties without counts, castles without castellans; plenty of fine persons and fine harness, but no Ogier the Dane. If Philip has given Richard Gisors, Richard owes him great thanks — yet Richard is a lion, and Philip a lamb who lets himself be disinherited.

Volontiers feira sirventes,
Willingly I-would-make sirventes
s'om lo volgues auzir chantar,
if-one it wished to-bear to-sing
que pretz es mortz, honors e bes,
for worth is dead honor and good
e si los pogues revenjar,
and if them I-could to-avenge
tans n'i agra que mortz que pres
so-many of-them there-would-be whether dead whether taken
que, si fis de·l mon no·i vengues,
that if end of-the world not-there came
tans no·n pogra aiga negar
so-many not-of-them could water to-drown
ni tuit li fuoc de·l mon cremar.
nor all the fires of-the world to-burn

Si non es tortz ni nescïes
Indeed not is wrong nor folly
so qu'en chantan m'auzetz comtar;
that which-in singing me-you-hear to-tell
quar dieus dona la rend' e·l ces,
for God gives the revenue and-the tribute
que·l sens deia saber guidar,
which-the sense must to-know to-guide
segon que l'om e l'avers es;
according as the-man and the-wealth is
mas ses mesura non es res:
but without measure not is anything
aissel que·s vol desmesurar
he who-himself wishes to-go-beyond-measure
no pot sos fachs en aut poiar.
not can his deeds on high to-mount

Reiesme son, mas reis no ges,
Kingdoms there-are but kings not at-all
e comtat, mas no coms ni bar;
and counties but not counts nor barons
las marchas son, mas no·lh marques,
the marches there-are but not-the marquises
e·lh ric chastel e·lh bel estar,
and-the rich castles and-the fair dwellings
mas li chastela non i so,
but the castellans not in-them are
et avers es plus qu'anc no·n fo;
and wealth is more than-ever of-it was

pro an conduchs e pauc manjar
plenty they-have (of-)provisions and little to-eat
en colpa d'avol ric avar.
in fault of-a-worthless rich niggard

Belas personas, bels arnes
Fair persons fair harness
pot hom pro vezer e trobar,
can one plenty to-see and to-find
mas no·i es Augiers lo Danes,
but not-there is Ogier the Dane
Berartz ni Baudüis no·i par;
Berart or Baudouin not-there appears
e de pel penchenat son pro,
and of hair combed there-are plenty
rasas dens et en chais greno,
scraped teeth and on jaw whiskers
mas no ges cel que sapch' amar,
but not at-all he who knows to-love
cort tener, domneiar ni dar.
court to-hold to-woo nor to-give

Si flacha gen! On so·lh Tornes
What slack folk Where are-the Tourangeaux
que solon chastels assetjar,
who are-wont castles to-besiege

e que solon setman' e mes
and who are-wont week and month
cort mantener ab gen renhar,
court to-maintain with nobly to-govern
e que solon donar rics dos
and who are-wont to-give rich gifts
e far las autras messios
and to-make the other outlays
a soudadier et a joglar?
to soldier and to jongleur
Un sol no·n vei, so aus comtar.
One alone not-of-them I-see that I-dare to-tell

Si·l reis Felips, reis de·ls Frances,
If-the king Philip king of-the French
a volgut a Richart donar
has wished to Richard to-give
Gisortz, aut luoc et aut paes,
Gisors high place and high country
Richartz l'en deu fort merceiar;
Richard him-for-it must greatly to-thank
mas si Felips de·l mieu cor fos,
but if Philip of-the my heart were
Richartz no mouria·ls talos
Richard not would-move-the heels
a son dan senes encontrar;
to his harm without to-encounter
e puois no·l vol, lais s'en ferrar.
and since not-it he-wishes let-him himself-of-it to-take-arms

Papiols, sias tan cochos,
Papiol be-you so hasty
di·m en Richart qu'el es leos,
say-for-me Sir Richard that-he is lion
e·l reis Felips anhels mi par,
and-the king Philip lamb to-me seems
qu'aissi·s laissa deseretar.
who-thus-himself lets to-disinherit

Be·m platz quar tregua ni fis

23 · IT PLEASES ME WELL THAT NEITHER TRUCE NOR ACCORD

The razo tells of Richard taken in Germany and ransomed, and of Bertran keeping in his heart every harm the war-makers had done in the Limousin. The song is glad there is no truce among the barons, who have taken to planting bushes and keeping gardens with small company, like men on guard against assassins. He would have the king a diviner, so that he might know which of his barons is false, and heal the sore the Limousin limps of; and he warns that Frederick would never have made his son's bargain over the pilgrims.

Quan Richartz ac facha la patz ab Bertran de Born
When Richard had made the peace with Bertran of Born
e·lh ac rendut son chastel d'Autafort, el si crozet,
and-to-him had given-back his castle of-Hautefort he thus took-the-cross
lo reis Richartz, e passet outra mar. E Bertrans remas
the king Richard and passed beyond sea And Bertran remained
guerreian ab n'Aimar, lo vescomte de Lemotges, et ab
warring with Sir-Adhemar the viscount of Limoges and with
lo comte de Peiregorc et ab totz los autres baros de
the count of Périgord and with all the other barons of
viro. E, si com avetz entendut, quan Richartz s'en
around And just as you-have heard when Richard himself-thence
tornava, el fo pres en Alamanha e si estet en preiso
returned he was taken in Germany and thus he-stayed in prison
dos ans e si si rezemet per aver. E quan Bertrans
two years and thus himself he-ransomed for wealth And when Bertran
de Born saup que·l reis devia eissir de preiso, mout
of Born learned that-the king was-to to-come-out of prison much
fo alegres per lo gran be qu'el sabia qu'el auria
he-was glad for the great good which-he knew that-he would-have

de·l rei e per lo dan que seria a sos enemics. E
of-the king and for the harm which would-be to his enemies And
sapchatz qu'en Bertrans avia escriut en son cor totz los
know-you that-Sir Bertran had written in his heart all the
mals e·ls dans que aquist guerreiador avian fachs en
ills and-the harms which these warriors had done in
Lemozi et en las terras de·l rei Richart, e·n fetz
Limousin and in the lands of-the king Richard and-of-it he-made
so sirventes.
his sirventes

Be·m platz quar tregua ni fis
Well-to-me it-pleases that truce nor accord
no rema entre·ls baros,
not remains among-the barons
qu'ades plantavan boissos,
for-continually they-were-planting bushes
tan aman hortz e jardis,
so they-love gardens and orchards
aise ab pauc de companha;
ease with little of company
sembla·s guarden d'ansessis,
it-seems-themselves they-guard from-assassins
que ja lai on us d'els fos
that ever there where one of-them were
non entreratz ses mesclanha.
not you-would-enter without brawl

Ancaras i aura ris,
Still there will-be laughter
e be lieu amaran nos
and well easily [perhaps] they-will-love us
et acolhiran los pros
and they-will-welcome the worthy
e daran de·ls barbaris,
and will-give of-the Barbary-horses
si volon qu'ab lor remanha;
if they-wish that-with them he-remain
que ja per cridar «Paris!»
for ever through to-cry Paris
Senes autras messios
Without other outlays
no conquerran gen estranha.
not they-will-conquer folk strange

Ja no crezatz qu'om ressis
Ever not believe-you that-a-man craven
puoi de pretz dos eschalos,
climb of worth two rungs
mas a·l soteira de jos
but on-the lowest of below
pot ben estar quetz e clis
he-can well to-stay quiet and stooping
et en aquel que remanha;
and in that may he-remain

que per mil marcs d'esterlis
since for thousand marks of-sterlings
no·n poiria poiar dos,
not-of-them he-would-be-able to-climb two
tan tem qu'avers li sofranha.
so-much he-fears that-wealth to-him fail

Be volgra·l reis fos devis
Well I-should-wish-the king were a-diviner
e que passes sai mest nos
and that he-passed here among us
e que saubes de·ls baros
and that he-knew of-the barons
quals l'es fals ni quals l'es fis
which to-him-is false and which to-him-is pure
e conogues la malanha
and he-knew the sore
de que clocha Lemozis,
of which limps Limousin
qu'era sieus e fora·lh bos,
which-was his and would-be-to-him good
mas us sobros lo·lh gavanha.
but a bone-swelling it-to-him spoils

Be volgra, en ma·l chausis,
Well I-should-wish of-it to-me-it he-tended
coras qu'en fos lezeros,
whenever that-of-it he-were at-leisure

e qu'en passes dos sedos,
and that-of-it he-passed two setons
anz que trop li endurzis,
before that too to-him it-harden
puois vengutz es d'Alamanha;
since come he-is from-Germany
e vuolh, n'Aimars, lo mesquis,
and I-wish Sir-Adhemar the wretch
e·n Guis fassan partizos
and-Sir Gui make partitions
tan engäls qu'us no s'en planha.
so equal that-one not himself-of-it complain

Mariniers, ges pe·ls Chanzis,
Mariner at-all through-the Chanzis
si·ls alberga·n Malmiros,
if-them lodges-Sir Malmiros
no·m fassatz mal a rescos;
not-to-me do-you ill in secret
no·us en serai plus aclis
not-to-you of-it I-shall-be more bowed
ni pe·n Peiro La Cassanha,
nor through-Sir Peiro La Cassanha
de que s'es mal menatz Guis
of which himself-is ill conducted Gui
ves me de doas preisos
toward me of two prisons
en amor et en companha.
in love and in company

Papiols, ja·n Frederis
Papiol ever-Sir Frederick
no feira aital barganha
not would-make such bargain
com fetz sos filhs n'Aenris,
as made his son Sir-Henry
quan pres romieus ab bordos,
when he-took pilgrims with staves
don pert Polha e Romanha.
whereby he-loses Apulia and Romagna

Ar ve la coindeta sazos

24 · NOW COMES THE PRETTY SEASON

The ships are coming and with them a king more gallant than Richard ever was; then gold and silver will be spent, mangonels untented, walls breached, and towers brought down. Bertran has no patience with barons who have sworn he knows not what oaths and will stand shamefaced as a wolf in a snare once the king can tarry among them. He loves the press of shields and the lances shattering; he has no use for Basque companies or venal women or sacks of sterlings got by fraud; and he praises the lion, who is never fierce to a beaten thing.

Ar ve la coindeta sazos
Now comes the pretty season
que aribaran nostras naus,
when will-arrive our ships
e venra·l reis galhartz e pros,
and will-come-the king gallant and worthy
qu'anc lo reis Richartz no fo taus;
that-ever the king Richard not was such
adoncs veirem aur et argen despendre,
then we-shall-see gold and silver to-spend
peirieiras far destrapar e destendre,
mangonels to-make to-untent and to-unfurl
murs esfondrar, tors baissar e deissendre
walls to-breach towers to-lower and to-bring-down
e·ls enemics enchadenar e prendre.
and-the enemies to-enchain and to-take

Ges no·m platz de nostres baros
At-all not-to-me it-pleases of our barons
qu'an fachs sagramens, no sai quaus;
who-have made oaths not I-know which
per so n'estaran vergonhos
for that of-it-they-will-be shamefaced
com lo lops qu'a·l latz es enclaus,
as the wolf who-in-the snare is shut
quan nostre reis poira mest nos atendre;
when our king will-be-able among us to-tarry
qu'estiers nuls d'els no s'en poiran defendre,
that-otherwise any of-them not themselves-thence will-be-able to-defend
anz diran tuit: «Me no pot hom reprendre
rather they-will-say all Me not can one to-reproach
de nul mal plach, anz mi vuolh a vos rendre.»
of any ill pact rather myself I-wish to you to-yield

Bela m'es pressa de blezos,
Fair to-me-is press of shields
cobertz de teintz vermelhs e blaus,
covered of dyes red and blue
d'entresenhs e de gonfanos
of-devices and of gonfalons
de diversas colors tretaus,
of divers colors all-such
tendas e traps e rics pavilhos tendre,
tents and pavilions and rich awnings to-pitch

lanzas frassar, escutz traucar, e fendre
lances to-shatter shields to-pierce and to-cleave
elmes brunitz, e colps donar e prendre
helms burnished and blows to-give and to-take
* * *
(lacuna)

No·m platz companha de basclos
Not-to-me pleases company of Basques
ni de las putanas venaus;
nor of the harlots venal
sacs d'esterlis e de moutos
sacks of-sterlings and of sheep
m'es laitz, quan son vengut de fraus;
to-me-is foul when they-are come of frauds
e maisnadier eschars deuria hom pendre
and retainer niggard ought one to-hang
e ric home, quan son donar vol vendre;
and rich man when his giving he-wishes to-sell
en domn' escharsa no·s deuria hom entendre
on lady niggard not-himself ought one to-fix
que per aver pot plegar et estendre.
who for wealth can to-fold and to-unfold

Bo·m sap l'usatges qu'a·l leos,
Good-to-me tastes the-custom which-has-the lion
qu'a re vencuda non es maus,
who-to thing conquered not is fierce
mas contr' orguolh es orgolhos;
but against pride he-is proud
e·l reis non a baros aitaus,
and-the king not has barons such
anz, quan vezon que sos afars es mendre,
rather when they-see that his affair is smaller
ponha chascus cossi·lh puoscha mesprendre;
strives each-one how-to-him he-may to-wrong
e no·us cujetz qu'ieu fassa motz a vendre,
and not-you think-you that-I make words for to-sell
mas per ric bar deu hom tot jorn contendre.
but for rich baron must one all day to-contend

S'ieu fos aissi senher ni poderos

25 · IF I WERE SO MUCH MY OWN MASTER

If he were master of himself and not in love's power, he would tell everyone what a death and what a grief it is that King Philip is not worthy and that Poitou is dwindling along with France. Richard takes hares and lions and leaves nothing in the plains or the bushes, while Philip hunts partridges with falcons and lets himself decay little by little. Philip's sister is set aside by a proud husband whom the king of Navarre has since given to his own daughter, and Philip is not even wrathful for his land. If he loses his rights as a boy, he will be ashamed when old; and come spring, Gaston will not save the Mont near Saint-Sever.

S'ieu fos aissi senher ni poderos
If-I were thus lord and powerful
de me mezeis que no fos amoros,
of me myself that not I-were amorous
ni no m'agues amors e·l sieu poder,
and not me-had love in-the its power
be feira tan qu'a totz feira saber
well I-would-do so-much that-to all I-would-make to-know
de·l rei Felip, quals mortz es e qual dan
of-the king Philip what death it-is and what harm
e quals dols es quar el be non es pros
and what grief it-is because he well not is worthy
e quar Peitaus vai ab Franza merman.
and because Poitou goes with France diminishing

E sai Richartz pren lebres e leos,
And here Richard takes hares and lions
que no·n rema per plas ni per boissos,
that not-of-them remains through plains nor through bushes
enanz los fai dos e dos remaner
rather them he-makes two and two to-remain
per sa forza, qu'us no·s n'ausa mover,
by his strength that-one not-himself of-it-dares to-move
e cuja be penre d'aissi enan
and he-thinks well to-take from-this forward
las grans aiglas ab los esmerilhos
the great eagles with the merlins
et ab buzacs metr' austors en soan.
and with buzzards to-put goshawks in scorn

E·l reis Felips chassa lai ab falcos
And-the king Philip hunts there with falcons
sos perdigals e·ls petitz auzelos,
his partridges and-the little birdlings
e siei home no l'ausan dire·l ver
and his men not him-dare to-say-the truth
quar pauc e pauc si laissa dechazer
for little and little himself he-lets to-decay
sai a·n Richart, que l'a tolgut ogan
here to-Sir Richard who from-him-has taken this-year
Engolesme, don s'es fachs poderos,
Angoulême whence himself-he-has made powerful
e Tolosa, qu'el te sobre deman.
and Toulouse which-he holds beyond claim

E puois non es per sa terra iros,
And since not he-is for his land wrathful
membre·lh sa sor e·l maritz orgolhos,
let-remember-to-him his sister and-the husband proud
que la laissa e no la vol tener;
who her leaves and not her wishes to-keep
aquest forfachs mi sembla desplazer,
this misdeed to-me seems displeasure
e tot ades que s'en vai perjuran,
and all at-once that himself-thence he-goes forswearing
que·l reis navars l'a sai dat per espos
for-the king Navarrese him-has here given as spouse
a sa filha, per que l'ant' es plus gran.
to his daughter for which the-shame is more great

E s'aissi pert sos drechs, entre qu'es tos,
And if-thus he-loses his rights while that-he-is boy
lai quan er vielhs, en sera vergonhos;
there when he-will-be old of-it he-will-be shamed
e ja Frances no n'aian bo esper,
and ever French not of-it-have good hope
quar an lor tout qu'om sol sai tan temer,
for they-have from-them taken which-one used here so to-fear
no prezan re lor dich ni lor deman
not they-prize anything their word nor their claim
sai ves Peitau, enanz s'en fan janglos,
here toward Poitou rather themselves-thence they-make scoffers
quan son ensems en Richartz e·n Bertran.
when they-are together Sir Richard and-Sir Bertran

E venran sai ab las novelas flors,
And they-will-come here with the new flowers
e lor bobans sera de sobr' en jos,
and their pomp will-be from above to below
e ja·n Gastos no poira pro tener
and ever-Sir Gaston not will-be-able profit to-hold
que no·ns tolam lo Mon pres Saint-Sever,
that not-us we-take the Mont near Saint-Sever
a Rocafort tot quan tolgut nos an,
at Rocafort all that taken from-us they-have
si qu'en Peitau sera nostre brandos
so that-in Poitou will-be our firebrand
gen alumnatz, si que tuit ho veiran.
nobly kindled so that all it they-will-see

Miei sirventes vuolh far de·ls reis amdos

26 · I WILL MAKE HALF A SIRVENTES

Half a sirventes about both kings, for we shall soon see which has the more knights: the worthy king of Castile is coming and will want soldiers, and Richard will pour out gold and silver by the hogshead and wants war more than a sparrowhawk wants a quail. If both kings are brave we shall see fields strewn with quarters of helms and shields, chargers running loose, and lances through flanks and breasts. Trumpets, drums, and standards; wealth taken from the usurers; and no merchant safe on the road. If the king comes, Bertran will be alive or in quarters.

Miei sirventes vuolh far de·ls reis amdos,
Half sirventes I-wish to-make of-the kings both
qu'en brieu veirem qu'aura mais chavaliers,
for-in short we-shall-see who-will-have more knights
de·l valen rei de Castela, n'Anfos,
of-the worthy king of Castile Sir-Alfonso
qu'auch dir que ve e volra soudadiers;
whom-I-hear to-say that he-comes and will-want soldiers
Richartz metra a muois et a sestiers
Richard will-lay-out by hogsheads and by sesters
aur et argen e te s'a benananza
gold and silver and he-holds himself-to happiness
metr' e donar e no vol sa fianza,
to-lay-out and to-give and not he-wishes his security
anz vol guerra mais que qualha esparviers.
rather he-wishes war more than quail sparrowhawk

S'amdui li rei son pro ni coratjos,
If-both the kings are worthy and courageous
en brieu veirem champs jonchatz de quartiers,
in short we-shall-see fields strewn of quarters
d'elms e d'escutz e de brans e d'arzos
of-helms and of-shields and of swords and of-saddlebows
e de fendutz per bustz tro a·ls braiers,
and of split through trunks as-far to-the belts
et arratge veirem anar destriers
and astray we-shall-see to-go chargers
e per costatz e per pechs mainta lanza
and through flanks and through breasts many-a lance
e gauch e plor e dol et alegranza:
and joy and weeping and grief and gladness
lo perdr' er grans e·l guazanhs er sobriers.
the losing will-be great and-the gaining will-be greater

Trombas, tabors, senheras e penos
Trumpets drums standards and pennons
et entresenhs e chavals blancs e niers
and devices and horses white and black
veirem en brieu, que·l segles sera bos,
we-shall-see in short for-the age will-be good
que hom tolra l'aver a·ls usuriers,
for one will-take the-wealth from-the usurers

e per chamis non anara saumiers
and by roads not will-go pack-driver
jorn afiatz ni borges ses doptanza
day pledged nor burgher without doubting
ni merchadiers que venha de ves Franza,
nor merchant who come from toward France
anz sera rics qui tolra volontiers.
rather will-be rich whoever will-take willingly

Mas si·l reis ve, ieu ai en dieu fianza,
But if-the king comes I have in God trust
qu'ieu serai vius o serai per quartiers;
that-I shall-be alive or shall-be in quarters

e si sui vius, er mi grans benananza,
and if I-am alive it-will-be to-me great happiness
e si ieu muoir, er mi grans deliuriers.
and if I die it-will-be to-me great deliverance

Un sirventes fatz de·ls malvatz baros

27 · A SIRVENTES ABOUT THE WICKED BARONS

A sirventes about the wicked barons, and the last he will make of them: he has broken more than a thousand goads on them and never got one to run or trot, and they let themselves be disinherited without so much as an outcry. God curse them. Not one of them but you may shear and shave him like a lay-brother, or shoe him on all fours without tongs. Bos, Adhemar, Archambaut, and Gui ought to be showing their youth by now, for a young rich man who dislikes spending, courts, and war can never rise in worth.

Un sirventes fatz de·ls malvatz baros,
A sirventes I-make of-the wicked barons
e ja mais d'els no m'auziretz parlar,
and ever more of-them not me-you-will-hear to-speak
qu'en lor ai frachs mais de mil agulhos,
for-in them I-have broken more than thousand goads
qu'anc no·n puoc far un correr ni trotar,
that-ever not-of-them I-could to-make one to-run nor to-trot
anz si laissan ses clam deseretar;
rather themselves they-let without outcry to-disinherit
maldiga·ls dieus! E que cujan doncs far
curse-them God And what think-they then to-do
nostre baro? Qu'aissi com un confraire
our barons That-thus as a lay-brother
non i es us, no·l poschatz tondr' e raire
not there is one not-him you-may to-shear and to-shave
o ses congrenhs de·ls quatre pes ferrar.
or without tongs of-the four feet to-shoe

Bos e n'Aimars, n'Archambautz e·n Guios
Bos and Sir-Adhemar Sir-Archambaut and-Sir Gui
degran oimais lor joven demostrar;
they-ought henceforth their youth to-show
quar joves rics cui no platz messios,
for young rich-man whom not pleases outlay
cortz ni guerra, no pot en pretz montar
courts or war not can in worth to-mount
ni·s fai temer ni grazir ni honrar;
nor-himself he-makes to-fear nor to-welcome nor to-honor
* * *
(lacuna)
Que da Londres tro qu'a la ciutat d'Aire
For from London as-far as-to the city of-Aire
no·n i a un qu'en la terra son paire
not-of-them there is one that-in the land (of-)his father
no·lh fassan tort senes tot chalonjar.
not-to-him they-do wrong without any challenging

Rassa, tan creis e monta e poia

28 · RASSA, SO SHE GROWS AND MOUNTS

The razo explains that Bertran called Count Geoffrey of Brittany Rassa, and that Richard, Geoffrey, the king of Aragon, and the count of Toulouse were all suitors to his lady Maeut of Montanhac, who refused them all for him. To keep them off he described her so exactly that he might have seen her naked. The song praises her hair, her color, her elbow, her breast, and her back, and then turns on the rich who give nothing, welcome nobody, accuse the innocent, and talk of hawking and never of arms or love.

Bertrans de Born si s'apelava «Rassa» ab lo comte
Bertran of Born thus (mutually-)called Rassa with the count
Jaufre de Bretanha, qu'era fraire de·l rei jove e d'en
Geoffrey of Brittany who-was brother of-the king young and of-Sir
Richart, qu'era coms de Peitau. E·n Richartz e·n Jaufres
Richard who-was count of Poitou and-Sir Richard and-Sir Geoffrey
si s'entendian en la domna d'en Bertran de Born, na
thus themselves-aimed at the lady of-Sir Bertran of Born Lady
Maeut de Montanhac, e·l reis n'Anfos d'Arago e·n
Maeut of Montanhac and-the king Sir-Alfonso of-Aragon and-Sir
Reimons, lo coms de Tolosa. Et ela los refudava totz
Raymond the count of Toulouse And she them refused all
per en Bertran de Born, que avia pres per entendedor
for Sir Bertran of Born whom she-had taken as suitor
e per chastiador. E per so que ilh remasessen de·ls
and as chastiser And for that that they might-desist from-the
precs d'ela, el volc mostrar a·l comte Jaufre, quals
prayers of-her he wished to-show to-the count Geoffrey which
era la domna en cui el s'entendia, e si la lauzet
was the lady at whom he himself-aimed and thus her he-praised

en tal manieira que paria qu'el l'agues vista nuda e
in such manner that it-seemed that-he her-had seen naked and
tenguda. E volc be qu'om saubes que na Maeuz
held And he-wished well that-one might-know that Lady Maeut
era la soa domna, aquela que refudava Peitau, so era en
was the his lady she who refused Poitou that was Sir
Richartz, qu'era coms de Peitau, e·n Jaufre, qu'era coms
Richard who-was count of Poitou and-Sir Geoffrey who-was count
de Bretanha, e·l rei d'Arago, qu'era senher de Saragosa,
of Brittany and-the king of-Aragon who-was lord of Saragossa
e·l comte Raimon, qu'era senher de Tolosa, e per so
and-the count Raymond who-was lord of Toulouse and for that
dis en Bertrans:
said Sir Bertran

Rassa, a·ls rics es orgolhosa
Rassa to-the rich she-is haughty
e fai gran sen a lei de tosa,
and does great sense in manner of maid
que no vol Peitau ni Tolosa
who not wishes Poitou nor Toulouse
ni Bretanha ni Saragosa,
nor Brittany nor Saragossa

anz es de pretz tan enveiosa
rather she-is of worth so desirous
qu'a·ls pros paubres es amorosa.
that-to-the worthy poor she-is loving

E d'aquesta razo que·us ai dicha el fetz so
And of-this matter which-to-you I-have said he made his
sirventes e de blasmar los rics que re no donan
sirventes and of to-blame the rich who anything not give
e que mal acolhon e sonan e que senes tort
and who ill welcome and speak and who without wrong
ochaisonan e, qui lor quier merce, que no perdonan
accuse and who to-them asks mercy that not they-pardon
ni servizi no guizerdonan; et aquels que mais no
and service not they-requite and those who more not
parlan si no de volada d'austor, ni mais d'amor ni
speak if not of flight of-goshawk and more of-love or
d'armas non ausan parlar entre lor. E volia que·l
of-arms not they-dare to-speak among them And be-wished that-the
coms Richartz guerreies lo vescomte de Lemotges e
count Richard might-war the viscount of Limoges and
que·l vescoms si defendes proosamen. — E d'aquestas
that-the viscount himself might-defend valiantly And of-these
razos si fetz lo sirventes que ditz: «Rassa, tan
matters thus be-made the sirventes which says Rassa so
creis e mont' e poia cela qu'es de totz enjans
grows and mounts and climbs she who-is of all deceits
voia».
empty

Rassa, tan creis e monta e poia
Rassa so grows and mounts and climbs
cela qu'es de totz enjans voia,
she who-is of all deceits empty
sos pretz a las autras enoia,
her worth to the others vexes
qu'una no·i a que ren i noia,
for-one not-there there-is that anything there harms
que·l vezers de sa beutat loia
for-the seeing of her beauty binds
los pros a sos ops, cui que coia;
the worthy to her uses whom that it-irks
que·lh plus conoissen e·lh melhor
for-the most knowing and-the best
mantenon ades sa lauzor
uphold ever her praise
e la tenon per la genzor,
and her hold as the fairest
qu'ilh sap far tan entieir' onor,
for-she knows to-do so entire honor
no vol mas un sol pregador.
not she-wishes but one single wooer

Rassa, domn' ai qu'es frescha e fina,
Rassa lady I-have who-is fresh and fine
coinda e gaia e mesquina,
comely and gay and slender
pel saur ab color de robina,
hair golden with color of ruby

blancha pe·l cors com flors d'espina,
white through-the body as flower of-thorn
coude mol ab dura tetina,
elbow soft with firm breast
e sembla conil de l'esquina;
and she-resembles rabbit of the-back
a la fina frescha color,
by the fine fresh color
a·l bo pretz et a la lauzor
by-the good worth and by the praise
lieu podon triar la melhor
easily they-can to-choose the best
cilh que si fan conoissedor
those who themselves make judges
de me ves qual part ieu azor.
of me toward which part I adore

Rassa, a·ls rics es orgolhosa
Rassa to-the rich she-is haughty
e fai gran sen a lei de tosa,
and does great sense in manner of maid
que no vol Peitau ni Tolosa
who not wishes Poitou nor Toulouse
ni Bretanha ni Saragosa,
nor Brittany nor Saragossa
anz es de pretz tan enveiosa
rather she-is of worth so desirous
qu'a·ls pros paubres es amorosa;
that-to-the worthy poor she-is loving

puois m'a pres per chastiador,
since me-she-has taken as chastiser
prec li que tenha char s'amor
I-pray to-her that she-hold dear her-love
et am mais un pro vasvassor
and she-love more a worthy vavasor
qu'un comte o duc gualiador
than-a count or duke deceiver
que la tengues a desonor.
who her would-hold to dishonor

Rassa, rics hom que re no dona
Rassa rich man who anything not gives
ni acuolh ni met ni no sona
nor welcomes nor spends and not speaks
e que senes tort ochaisona
and who without wrong accuses
e, qui merce·lh quier, no perdona
and who mercy-to-him asks not pardons
m'enoia, e tota persona
me-vexes and every person
que servizi no guizerdona;
who service not requites
e li ric home chassador
and the rich men hunters
m'enoian e·lh buzacador
me-vex and-the buzzard-keepers
gaban de volada d'austor,
boasting of flight of-goshawk

ni ja mais d'armas ni d'amor
and ever more of-arms nor of-love
no parlaran mot entre lor.
not they-will-speak word among them

Rassa, aisso·us prec que vos plassa:
Rassa this-to-you I-pray that to-you it-please
rics hom que de guerra no·s lassa
rich man who of war not-himself wearies
ni no s'en recre per menassa,
and not himself-thence gives-up for threat
tro qu'om si lais que mal no·lh fassa,
until that-one himself leave that ill not-to-him he-do
val mais que ribieira ni chassa,
is-worth more than fowling or hunting
que bo pretz n'acuolh e n'abrassa;
for good worth of-it-he-gathers and of-it-embraces
Maurin ab n'Aigar, so senhor,
Maurin with Sir-Aigar his lord
te hom per bo envazidor,
holds one as good assailant
e·l vescoms defenda s'onor,
and-the viscount let-him-defend his-honor
e·l coms deman la·lh per vigor,
and-the count let-him-claim it-from-him by force
e veiam l'ades a·l pascor.
and let-us-see it-at-once at-the springtime

Mariniers, vos avetz honor,
Mariner you you-have honor
e nos avem chamjat senhor
and we have changed lord
bo guerrier per torneiador,
good warrior for tourneyer
e prec a·n Golfier de la Tor,
and I-pray to-Sir Golfier of — Lastours
mos chantars no·lh fassa paor.
my singing not-to-him may-cause fear

Papiols, mon chantar recor
Papiol my song recite
en la cort mo mal Bel Senhor.
in the court (of-)my ill Fair Lord

Ai! Lemozis, francha terra cortesa

29 · AH, LIMOUSIN, NOBLE AND COURTEOUS LAND

The razo tells how Maeut of Montanhac dismissed Bertran and accused him of loving Guischarda, wife of the viscount of Comborn, a Burgundian lady of great beauty and breeding whom he had praised before he ever saw her. These two stanzas are his welcome to her: joy and worth and delight and courtesy are coming into the Limousin, and a man who paints himself a lover should look to the works by which a lady is to be sought — gifts, service, outfitting, largesse, arms, courts, wars, and tourneys.

Bertrans de Born si era drutz de ma domna Maeut
Bertran of Born thus was lover of my lady Maeut
de Montanhac, de la molher de Talairan, que era
of Montanhac of the wife of Talairan who was
aitals domna com vos ai dich en la razo de·l
such lady as to-you I-have said in the matter of-the
sirventes de «la domna soisseubuda». E si com ieu
sirventes of the lady borrowed And just as I
vos dis, ela·l partit de se e det li comjat
to-you said she-him parted from herself and gave to-him leave
et encusava lo de ma domna Guischarda, de la
and accused him of my lady Guischarda of the
molher de·l vescomte de Comborn, d'una valen domna,
wife of-the viscount of Comborn of-a worthy lady
que fo de Borgonha, sor d'en Guischart de Beljoc.
who was of Burgundy sister of-Sir Guischart of Beaujeu
Avinens domna et ensenhada era, complida de totas
Pleasing lady and schooled she-was complete of all
beutatz; si la lauzava fort en comtan et en chantan
beauties thus her praised greatly in telling and in singing

Bertrans. Enanz qu'el la vis, era sos amics per lo
Bertran Before that-he her saw he-was her friend for the
be qu'el auzit d'ela, et enanz qu'ela fos venguda a
good which-he heard of-her and before that-she were come to
marit a·l vescomte de Comborn, e per l'alegreza qu'el
husband to-the viscount of Comborn and for the-gladness which-he
ac de la soa venguda si fetz aquestas coblas que
had of the her coming thus he-made these stanzas which
dizon:
say

Ai! Lemozis, francha terra cortesa,
Ah Limousin noble land courteous
mout mi sap bo quar tals honors vos creis,
much to-me it-tastes good for such honor to-you grows
que jois e pretz e deportz e gaiesa,
that joy and worth and delight and gaiety
cortesia e solatz e domneis
courtesy and cheer and wooing
s'en ve a nos, o·l cors estet anceis;
itself-thence comes to us where-the heart stood before
be·s deu guardar qui a drutz si depeis,
well-himself must to-guard who as lover himself paints
per quals obras deu domna esser quesa.
by what works must lady to-be sought

Dos e servirs e guarnirs e larguesa
Gifts and services and outfittings and largesse
noiris amors, com fai l'aiga los peis,
nourishes love as does the-water the fishes
ensenhamens e valors e proesa,
schooling and merit and prowess
armas e cortz e guerras e torneis;
arms and courts and wars and tourneys
e, qui pros es ni de proeza·s feis,
and who worthy is or of prowess-himself feigns
mal estara, s'aoras no pareis,
ill it-will-stand if-now not he-appears
puois na Guischarda nos es sai tramesa.
since Lady Guischarda to-us is here sent

E per aquesta domna Guischarda si·l partit de
And for this lady Guischarda thus-him parted from
se ma domna Maeuz, qu'ela crezia qu'el li volgues
herself my lady Maeut for-she believed that-he to-her wished
mielhs que ad ela, e qu'ela li fezes amor. E per
better than to her and that-she to-him showed love And for
aquest departimen el fetz «la domna soisseubuda» e·l
this parting he made the lady borrowed and-the
sirventes que ditz: «Ieu m'escondisc, domna, que mal no
sirventes which says I excuse-myself lady that ill not
mier».
I-deserve

Cel que chamja bo per melhor

30 · HE WHO CHANGES GOOD FOR BETTER

He who exchanges good for better is worth the more for it, and Bertran means to serve the Best so well that she may turn him to hope from the grief of the lady who wronged him and meant to kill him. Better-than-good has come to the Limousin, and no lady could hold all the good a man can see in her; her joy makes the sad laugh, and her courtiers go away from her longing. She has promised him her love when she wants a knight, and will take the man who best knows how to be worth something.

Cel que chamja bo per melhor,
He who changes good for better

si·l mielhs pren, be deu mais valer,
if-the best he-take well he-must more to-be-worth

qu'ieu ai cor, e dieus do·m poder,
that-I have heart and God give-me power

que tan serva·l Mielhs et azor
that so I-serve-the Best and adore

que de l'ira e de la dolor
that of the-grief and of the pain

o·m mes cilh que·m degra valer,
where-me put she who-to-me ought to-avail

que·m träit e cujet m'aucire,
who-me betrayed and thought me-to-kill

plassa·lh que·m torn en bo esper;
may-it-please-to-her that-me I-turn into good hope

qu'enves me no·s pot escondire,
for-toward me not-herself she-can to-excuse

qu'a·l sieu tort no·m dones lezer.
that-at-the her wrong not-to-me she-give respite

Lemozi, be vos deu plazer
Limousin well to-you must to-please
qu'ara·us es vengutz Mielhs-de-be;
that-now-to-you is come Better-than-good
tan com mars clau ni terra te
so-much as sea encloses or land holds
non a domna on puoscha chaber
not there-is lady where she-might to-fit
lo bes qu'om pot en lieis vezer;
the good which-one can in her to-see
no·i a joi qui de lieis no·l te,
not-there there-is joy who of her not-it holds
qu'ela sap tan gen far e dire
for-she knows so nobly to-do and to-say
tot so qu'a bo pretz aperte
all that which-to good worth belongs
qu'ab son joi fai los iratz rire,
that-with her joy she-makes the sad to-laugh
tan avinenmen si chapte.
so becomingly herself she-bears

Aquesta vos dic que mante
This-one to-you I-say that upholds
pretz e joi, tan ama·n honor,
worth and joy so-much she-loves-thereof honor

joven e solatz et amor
youth and cheer and love
et acuolh, dona e rete
and welcomes gives and keeps
grat de totz cels que si conve;
thanks of all those whom thus it-befits
per que tuit siei corteiador
for which all her courtiers
parton denan lieis ab desire,
part before her with longing
tan lor a sos vezers sabor;
so-much to-them has her seeing savor
qu'om no la ve que no consire
that-one not her sees who not considers
qu'anc de sos uolhs no vi genzor.
that-ever of his eyes not he-saw fairer

Et a·m convenguda s'amor,
And she-to-me-has promised her-love
quan volra chavalier aver;
when she-will-wish knight to-have
que cel que mais sabra valer
for he who most will-know to-be-worth
sofrira per entendedor;
she-will-suffer as suitor
et er be malvatz qui no cor
and he-will-be well wicked who not runs
a·l cors on hom met tan d'aver;
to-the body where one puts so of-wealth

que·l mielhs qu'om puosch' e·l mon eslire
for-the best which-one can in-the world to-choose
pot guazanhar e conquerer,
he-can to-gain and to-conquer
s'es larcs et adrechs e servire
if-he-is generous and upright and serving
e sap far e dire plazer.
and he-knows to-do and to-say pleasure

Guilhelme Bertran, fai saber
Guilhem Bertran make to-know
per tot aquest dir de part me,
through all this saying on part of-me
e qui pros er esforze·n se,
and who worthy will-be let-him-exert-therein himself
paubre e ric, segon poder,
poor and rich according-to power
qu'ela volra son dich tener,
that-she will-wish her word to-keep
que cel on mais veira de be
for he in-whom most she-will-see of good
n'aura guizerdo ses desdire,
of-it-will-have reward without refusal
* * *
(lacuna)
Qu'en tal luoc vol son joi assire
For-in such place she-wishes her joy to-set
* * *
(lacuna)

Guilhelme, a Torena vai dire
Guilhem at Turenne go to-say
a·n Bos, que·s chaptenha tan be
to-Sir Bos that-himself he-bear so well
qu'om puoscha d'uoi enan eslire
that-one may from-today onward to-choose
que amors de son joi l'estre.
that love of his joy him-shape

Ieu m'escondisc, domna, que mal no mier

31 · I CLEAR MYSELF, LADY

An escondich, a song of denial. Bertran swears he has not deserved what the slanderers told his lady, and stakes a chain of forfeits on it: may he lose his sparrowhawk at the first cast, may his strength fail him when the two of them are alone, may he never win a penny at the board, may his lady leave him for another knight and the wind fail him at sea. He ends by asking whether a man with a good goshawk would want a poor one instead, and turns on the slanderers who carried the tale.

Ieu m'escondisc, domna, que mal no mier,
I excuse-myself lady that ill not I-deserve
de so que·us an de me dich lauzengier;
of that which-to-you have of me said slanderers
per merce·us prec qu'om no puoscha mesclar
by mercy-to-you I-pray that-one not may to-embroil
lo vostre cors fi, leial, vertadier,
the your body true loyal truthful
humil e franc, cortes e plazentier
humble and noble courteous and pleasing
ab me, domna, per menzonjas comtar.
with me lady through lies to-tell

A·l primier get perd' ieu mon esparvier,
At-the first cast may-lose I my sparrowhawk
que·l m'aucian e·l ponh falco lanier
that-it for-me-kill on-the fist falcon lanner
e porten l'en, qu'ieu·l lor veia plumar,
and let-them-carry it-thence that-I-it to-them see to-pluck

s'ieu non am mais de vos lo consirier
if-I not love more of you the thinking
que de nul' autra aver lo desirier
than of any other to-have the desiring
que·m do s'amor ni·m retenha a·l colgar.
that-to-me she-give her-love or-me she-keep at-the bedding

Autr' escondich vos farai plus sobrier,
Other excuse to-you I-shall-make more excessive
e no mi puosc orar plus d'encombrier:
and not myself I-can to-pray more of-harm
s'ieu anc falhi ves vos neis de·l pensar,
if-I ever failed toward you even in-the thinking
quan serem sol en chambra o dintz vergier,
when we-shall-be alone in chamber or within orchard
falha·m poders deves mon companhier
let-fail-to-me power toward my companion
de tal guisa que no·m puoscha aiudar.
of such wise that not-me it-can to-help

S'ieu per jogar m'asset pres de·l taulier,
If-I for to-play myself-seat near of-the gaming-board
ja no·i puoscha baratar un denier
ever not-there I-may to-win a penny
ni ab taula presa no puoscha entrar,
and with board taken not I-may to-enter
anz get ades lo reirazar derier,
rather may-I-throw always the back-losing-throw last

s'ieu autra domna deman ni enquier
if-I other lady I-ask or seek
mas vos, cui am e desir e tenh char.
but you whom I-love and desire and hold dear

Senher sia ieu de chastel parzonier,
Lord may-be I of castle sharer
et en la tor siam quatre parier,
and in the tower let-us-be four peers
e ja l'us l'autre no·ns poscham amar,
and ever the-one the-other not-us may-we to-love
anz m'aian ops totz temps arbalestier,
rather me-let-there-be need all time crossbowmen
metg' e sirven e guachas e portier,
physician and sergeant and watchmen and porter
s'ieu anc aic cor d'autra domna amar.
if-I ever had heart of-other lady to-love

Ma domna·m lais per autre chavalier,
My lady-me let-leave for other knight
e puois no sai a que m'aia mestier,
and then not I-know to what me-is need
e falha·m vens, quan serai sobre mar,
and let-fail-to-me wind when I-shall-be upon sea
en cort de rei mi batan li portier,
in court of king me let-beat the porters

et en cocha fassa·l fugir primier,
and in rout let-me-make-the fleeing first
si no mentit cel que·us anet comtar.
if not lied he who-to-you went to-tell

Domna, s'ieu ai mon austor anedier
Lady if-I have my goshawk duck-hunting
bel e mudat, be prenden e maisnier,
fair and mewed well seizing and tame
que tot auzel puoscha apoderar,
which every bird can to-master
cinh' e grua et aigro blanc e nier,
swan and crane and heron white and black
volrai lo donc mal mudat, galinier,
shall-I-wish it then ill mewed hen-hunting
gras, debaten, que no puoscha volar?
fat flapping which not can to-fly

Fals, enveios, fementit lauzengier,
False envious perjured slanderer
puois ab mi dons m'avetz mes destorbier,
since with my lady me-you-have put hindrance
be lauzera que·m laissassetz estar.
well I-would-advise that-me you-would-let to-stay

Domna, puois de me no·us chal

32 · LADY, SINCE YOU CARE NOTHING FOR ME

The razo of the borrowed lady, and the song it introduces. Maeut of Montanhac has dismissed him, and finding no woman her equal, Bertran sets out to assemble one from the best ladies he knows: fresh color and a loving glance from Cembelis, jesting speech from Lady Elis, throat and hands from the viscountess of Chalais, Agnes' hair, Audiart's features, Better-than-good's body, Faidida's teeth, gaiety and stature from Fair Mirror. He asks only that he may want the made lady as much as he wants his Fair Lord.

Bertrans de Born si era drutz d'una domna gentil e
Bertran of Born thus was lover of-a lady gentle and
jove e fort prezada, et avia nom ma domna Maeuz de
young and greatly prized and she-had name my lady Maeut of
Montanhac, molher d'en Talairan, qu'era fraire de·l comte
Montanhac wife of-Sir Talairan who-was brother of-the count
de Peiregorc, et ela era filha de·l vescomte de Torena
of Périgord and she was daughter of-the viscount of Turenne
e sor de ma domna Maria de Ventadorn e de n'Elis
and sister of my lady Maria of Ventadorn and of Lady-Elis
de Monfort. E, segon qu'el dis en son chantar, ela·l
of Montfort And according as-he says in his song she-him
partit de se e·lh det comjat, don el fo mout tristz
parted from herself and-to-him gave leave whereby he was much sad
et iratz e fetz razo que ja mais no la cobraria
and angered and made reckoning that ever more not her he-would-recover
ni autra no trobava que fos tan bela ni tan bona ni tan
and another not he-found who were so fair or so good or so
plazens ni tan ensenhada. E penset, puois qu'el no·n
pleasing or so schooled And he-thought since that-he not-of-it

poiria cobrar neguna que pogues esser engals a la soa
would-be-able to-recover any who might to-be equal to the his
domna, qu'el en fezes una en aital guisa qu'el soisseubes
lady that-he of-it should-make one in such wise that-he might-borrow
de las autras bonas domnas e belas de chascuna una
of the other good ladies and fair of each-one a
beutat o un bel semblan o un bel acolhimen o un avinen
beauty or a fair seeming or a fair welcoming or a pleasing
parlar o un bel chaptenemen o un bel gran o un bel talh
speech or a fair bearing or a fair stature or a fair shape
de persona; et enaissi el anet queren a totas las bonas
of person and thus he went seeking to all the good
domnas que chascuna li dones un d'aquestz dos que
ladies that each-one to-him should-give one of-these gifts which
m'avetz auzit nomar per restaurar la soa domna, qu'avia
me-you-have heard to-name for to-restore the his lady whom-he-had
perduda. Et e·l sirventes qu'el fetz d'aquesta razo vos
lost And in-the sirventes which-he made of-this matter you
auziretz nomar totas las domnas a las quals el anet querre
you-will-hear to-name all the ladies to the whom he went to-seek
socors et aiuda a far la domna soisseubuda. E·l
succor and aid to to-make the lady borrowed And-the
sirventes qu'el fetz d'aquesta razo si comenza: «Domna
sirventes which-he made of-this matter thus begins Lady
puois de me no·us chal e partit m'avetz de vos.»
since of me not-to-you it-matters and parted you-have-me from you

Domna, puois de me no·us chal
Lady since of me not-to-you it-matters
e partit m'avetz de vos
and parted you-have-me from you
senes totas ochaisos,
without any grounds
no sai on m'enquieira;
not I-know where I-should-seek
que ja mais
that ever more
non er per me tan rics jais
not will-be through me so rich joy
cobratz; e, si de·l semblan
regained and if of-the seeming
no trop domna a mon talan
not I-find lady to my liking
que valha vos qu'ai perduda,
who be-worth you whom-I-have lost
ja mais no vuolh aver druda.
ever more not I-wish to-have mistress

Puois no·us puosc trobar engal,
Since not-you I-can to-find equal
que fos tan bela ni pros,
who were so fair or worthy
ni sos rics cors tan joios,
nor her rich body so joyous

de tan bela tieira
of so fair bearing
ni tan gais
or so gay
ni sos rics pretz tan verais:
nor her rich worth so true
irai per tot achaptan
I-shall-go through all begging
de chascuna un bel semblan
of each-one a fair seeming
per far domna soisseubuda,
for to-make lady borrowed
tro vos mi siatz renduda.
until you to-me you-be restored

Frescha color natural
Fresh color natural
pren, bels Cembelis, de vos
I-take fair Cembelis of you
e·l doutz esguart amoros
and-the sweet glance loving
e fatz gran sobrieira
and I-do great excess
quar re·i lais,
for anything-there I-leave
qu'anc res de be no·us sofrais;
that-ever anything of good not-to-you failed

mi dons na Elis deman
my lady Lady Elis I-ask
son adrech parlar gaban,
her apt speech jesting
que·m do a mi dons aiuda,
that-to-me she-give to my lady aid
puois non er fada ni muda.
so-that not she-will-be foolish nor mute

De Chales la vescomtal
Of Chalais the viscountess
vuolh que·m done ad estros
I-wish that-to-me she-give at once
la gola e·ls mas amdos;
the throat and-the hands both
puois tenh ma charrieira,
then I-hold my road
no·m biais,
not-me I-swerve
ves Rochachoart m'eslais
toward Rochechouart myself-I-dart
a·ls pels n'Anhes que·m dara·n;
to-the hairs of-Lady-Agnes which-to-me she-will-give-of-them
qu' Iseutz, la domna Tristan,
for Iseut the lady of-Tristan
qu'en fo per totz mentauguda,
who-of-it was by all renowned
no·ls ac tan bels a saubuda.
not-them had so fair to knowledge

N'Audiartz, si be·m vol mal,
Lady-Audiart though well-me she-wishes ill
vuolh que·m do de sas faissos,
I-wish that-to-me she-give of her features
que·lh estai gen liazos,
for-to-her stands nobly lacing
e quar es entieira,
and because she-is entire
qu'anc no·s frais
that-ever not-itself it-broke
s'amors ni·s vols en biais;
her-love nor-itself it-turned in slant
a mo Mielhs-de-be deman
of my Better-than-good I-ask
son adrech, nuou cors prezan,
her apt new body prized
de que par a la veguda,
of which it-appears at the sight
la fassa bo tener nuda.
her it-would-make good to-hold naked

De na Faidid' autretal
Of Lady Faidida likewise
vuolh sas belas dens en dos,
I-wish her fair teeth in gift

l'acolhir e·l gen respos
the-welcoming and-the noble answer
don es presentieira
whereof she-is bountiful
dintz son ais;
within her dwelling
mos Bels Miralhs vuolh que·m lais
my Fair Mirror I-wish that-to-me she-leave
sa gaieza e son bel gran,
her gaiety and her fair stature
e quar sap son benestan
and because she-knows her seemliness
far, don es reconoguda,
to-do whereby she-is acknowledged
e no·s chambia ni·s muda.
and not-herself she-changes nor-herself alters

Bels Senher, ieu no·us quier al
Fair Lord I not-of-you ask anything-else
mas que fos tan cobeitos
but that I-were so covetous
d'aquesta com sui de vos;
of-this as I-am of you
qu'una lechadieira
that-a greedy
amors nais,
love is-born
don mos cors es tan lechais,
whence my heart is so greedy

mais vuolh de vos lo deman
more I-wish of you the asking
que autra tener baisan;
than another to-hold kissing
doncs mi dons per que·m refuda,
therefore my lady for what me-she-refuses
puois sap que tan l'ai volguda?
since she-knows that so-much her-I-have wished

Papiols, mon Aziman
Papiol my Magnet
m'anaras dir en chantan
me-you-shall-go to-say in singing
qu'amors es desconoguda
that-love is unacknowledged
sai e d'aut bas chazeguda.
here and from-high low fallen

S'abrils e fuolhas e flors

33 · IF APRIL AND LEAVES AND FLOWERS

The razo tells how Bertran, dismissed by Maeut, went to Saintonge to Tibors of Montausier, and what she answered: she would not take him as knight and servitor until she knew whose the fault was, but she would undertake to make the peace. Maeut then took him back and told him to take leave of Tibors; the song does so, then turns on the rich — those who want praise without giving, the warriors who cannot keep themselves without engineers, the builders of towers and vaults, the hunters, and the tourneyers who follow pledged tourneys to take their own vavasors.

Bertrans de Born si fo acomjadatz de soa domna,
Bertran of Born thus was dismissed by his lady
ma domna Maeut de Montanhac, e no·lh tenc pro
my lady Maeut of Montanhac and not-to-him held profit
sagramens ni esdichs qu'el fezes en comtan ni en chantan
oaths nor disclaimers which-he made in telling or in singing
qu'ela volgues creire qu'el non ames na Guischarda. E si
that-she might-wish to-believe that-he not loved Lady Guischarda And thus
s'en anet en Saintonge vezer ma domna na Tiborc
himself-thence he-went into Saintonge to-see my lady Lady Tibors
de Montausier, qu'era de las plus prezadas domnas que
of Montausier who-was of the most prized ladies who
fossen e·l mon, de beutat e de valor e d'ensenhamen.
were in-the world of beauty and of merit and of-breeding
Et aquesta domna era molher de·l senhor de Chales e
And this lady was wife of-the lord of Chalais and
de Berbesil e de Montausier. E·n Bertrans si·lh fetz
of Barbezieux and of Montausier and-Sir Bertran thus-to-her made

reclam de ma domna Maeut que l'avia partit de se
complaint of my lady Maeut who him-had parted from herself
e no·l volia creire per sagramen ni per esdich que
and not-him wished to-believe by oath nor by disclaimer which
li fezes qu'el no volgues ben a na Guischarda. E si
to-her be-made that-he not wished well to Lady Guischarda And thus
la preguet qu'ela·l degues recebre per chavalier e per
her he-begged that-she-him should to-receive as knight and as
servidor. Ma domna na Tibors, com savia domna qu'ela
servitor My lady Lady Tibors as wise lady that-she
era, si·lh respondet enaissi: «Bertrans, per la razo
was thus-to-him answered in-this-way Bertran for the matter
que vos etz vengutz sai a me, ieu en sui mout alegra
for-which you are come here to me I of-it am much glad
e gaia e tenh m'o a gran honor, e d'autra part
and gay and I-hold it-to-me as great honor and of-other part
si mi desplatz: ad honor m'o tenh, quar vos m'etz
thus to-me it-displeases to honor it-to-me I-hold because you to-me-are
vengutz vezer ni pregar qu'ieu vos prenda per chavalier e
come to-see and to-beg that-I you take as knight and
per servidor, e desplatz mi mout, si vos avetz fach ni
as servitor and it-displeases to-me much if you you-have done or
dich so per que ma domna Maeuz vos aia dat comjat ni
said that for which my lady Maeut to-you has given leave or
per que sia irada ab vos. Mas ieu sui aquela que sai
for which she-be angered with you But I am she who I-know
be com si chambja tost cors d'amadors e d'amairitz.
well how itself changes soon heart of-lovers and of-women-lovers
E si vos non avetz falhit ves ma domna Maeut, tost
And if you not you-have failed toward my lady Maeut soon

en sabrai la vertat; e si vos retornarai en la soa
of-it I-shall-know the truth and thus you I-shall-return into the her
gracia, s'enaissi es. E si en vos es lo falhimens, ieu
grace if-thus it-is And if in you is the fault I
ni autra domna no·us deu mais acolhir ni recebre per
or other lady not-you must more to-welcome nor to-receive as
chavalier ni per servidor. Mas ieu farai ben aitan qu'ieu
knight nor as servitor But I shall-do indeed so-much that-I
vos penrai a mantener et a far lo concordi entre vos
you I-shall-take to to-uphold and to to-make the concord between you
et ela.» Bertrans si s'en tenc mout per pagatz de la
and her Bertran thus himself-thence held much as satisfied of the
responsio de ma domna na Tiborc e promes li qu'el
answer of my lady Lady Tibors and promised to-her that-he
non amara mais autra domna ni servira si no ma domna
not would-love more other lady nor would-serve if not my lady
na Tiborc, si chausa era qu'el no pogues recobrar l'amor
Lady Tibors if thing it-were that-he not might to-recover the-love
de ma domna Maeut. E ma domna na Tibors promes
of my lady Maeut And my lady Lady Tibors promised
a·n Bertran, s'ela no·l podia acordar ab ma domna
to-Sir Bertran if-she not-him could to-accord with my lady
Maeut, qu'ela·l recebria per chavalier e per servidor. E
Maeut that-she-him would-receive as knight and as servitor And
non anet longa sazos, que ma domna Maeuz saup qu'en
not went long season that my lady Maeut learned that-Sir
Bertrans non avia colpa, et escoutet los precs que·lh
Bertran not had fault and she-listened-to the prayers which-to-her
eran fach per en Bertran e si·l tornet en gracia de
were made by Sir Bertran and thus-him she-returned into grace of

vezer lo e d'auzir sos precs. Et el li comtet e·lh
to-see him and of-to-hear his prayers And he to-her recounted and-to-her
dis lo mantenemen que·lh avia fach ma domna na
said the upholding which-to-him had done my lady Lady
Tibors e la promessio qu'ela avia fach' ad el. Don ma
Tibors and the promise which-she had made to him Whereby my
domna Maeuz li dis qu'el preses comjat de ma domna
lady Maeut to-him said that-he take leave of my lady
na Tiborc e que·s fezes absolver las promessios e·ls
Lady Tibors and that-himself he-make to-absolve the promises and-the
sagramens que ilh avian fachs entre lor. Don Bertrans de
oaths which they had made between them Whereby Bertran of
Born fetz aquest sirventes: «S'abrils e fuolhas e flors.»
Born made this sirventes If-April and leaves and flowers
E si recordet lo socors qu'anet a demandar a ma
And thus he-recalled the succor which-he-went to to-ask of my
domna na Tiborc e l'acolhimen qu'ela li fetz dintz son
lady Lady Tibors and the-welcome which-she to-him made within her
repaire en una cobla que dis: «Domna, s'ieu quisi socors.»
dwelling in a stanza which said Lady if-I sought succor
Et en las autras coblas blasmet los rics baros que ses
And in the other stanzas he-blamed the rich barons who without
donar, per paor volian pretz aver e cujavan qu'om non auses
to-give for fear wished worth to-have and thought that-one not dared
retraire los mals que ilh fazian; et autres que basten volian
to-recount the ills which they did and others who building wished
si far parer rics, autres per tener chas et austors; et
themselves to-make to-seem rich others for to-keep dogs and goshawks and
autres que per guerreiar laissavan joi e joven et amor, et
others who for to-war left joy and youth and love and

autres per los grans guazanhs que fazian a·ls torneiamens
others for the great gains which they-made at-the tourneys
on raubavan los paubres chavaliers e laissavan los grans
where they-robbed the poor knights and they-left the great
fachs d'onor. E d'aquestas razos fetz aquest sirventes:
deeds of-honor And of-these matters be-made this sirventes

S'abrils e fuolhas e flors
If-April and leaves and flowers
e·lh bel mati e·lh clar ser
and-the fair mornings and-the clear evenings
d'un ric joi cui ieu esper
of-a rich joy which I await
no m'aiudan et amors,
not me-help and love
e·lh rossinholet qu'auch braire
and-the little-nightingale whom-I-hear to-cry
e·l nuous temps vertz e grazitz
and-the new season green and welcome
que·ns adutz jois e doussors
which-us brings joys and sweetnesses
e·l coindes pascors floritz
and-the comely springtide flowered
mi dons son ardit no creis,
my lady her boldness not increases
e no·lh merma l'espavens:
and not-to-her lessens the-fear
tart m'en venra jauzimens.
late to-me-of-it will-come rejoicing

Domna, s'ieu quisi socors
Lady if-I sought succor
alhors, non ho fis en ver,
elsewhere not it I-did in truth
e ve·us m'a·l vostre plazer,
and behold-you me-at-the your pleasure
me e mos chans e mas tors;
me and my songs and my towers
e pren comjat de·l repaire
and I-take leave of-the dwelling
on tan gen fui acolhitz,
where so nobly I-was welcomed
on nais jois, sens e valors;
where is-born joy sense and merit
e cel que mante faiditz
and he who upholds exiles
per honor de se mezeis,
for honor of him himself
quan fai bos acordamens,
when he-makes good accords
a sols los afiamens.
has alone the pledges

Vostre reptars m'es sabors,
Your reproaching to-me-is savor
ric, quar cujatz tan valer
rich-man for you-think so to-be-worth
que ses donar, per temer
that without to-give through to-fear
volriatz aver lauzors
you-would-wish to-have praises
e qu'om no·us auses retraire,
and that-one not-you dared to-recount
quan us fai que deschausitz;
when one acts as discourteous
mas semblaria paors,
but it-would-seem fear
si n'era per me cobritz
if of-it-were by me covered
coms ni vescoms, ducs ni reis;
count or viscount duke or king
mas faitz vostres fachs tan gens
but do-you your deeds so nobly
que·us en sega dichs valens.
that-you of-it follow words worthy

Us n'i a guerreiadors,
Some of-them there-are warriors
que an de mal far lezer
who have of ill to-do leisure
e no·s sabon chaptener
and not-themselves know to-govern
nul temps ses enginhadors,
any time without engineers
tan aman lanzar e traire;
so they-love to-hurl and to-shoot
e vei los totz temps guarnitz
and I-see them all time armed
coma Vivia de cors;
like Vivian of body
per qu'ieu no lor sui aisitz,
for which-I not to-them am at-ease
qu'anc a bo pretz non ateis
that-ever to good worth not attained
rics hom, si jois e jovens
rich man if joy and youth
e dars no l'en fo guirens.
and giving not to-him-of-it was warrant

D'autres n'i a bastidors,
Of-others of-them there-are builders
rics homes de gran poder
rich men of great power
que sabon terra tener
who know land to-hold
e fan portals e bestors
and make portals and turrets
de chauz e d'arena ab quaire
of lime and of-sand with squared-stone
e fan tors, voutas e vitz;
and make towers vaults and stairs
e vei los bos manjadors,
and I-see them good eaters
e·n fan lor dos plus petitz,
and-of-it they-make their gifts more small
e ges bos pretz no lor creis,
and at-all good worth not to-them grows
quar aitals chaptenemens
for such conduct
no val mest las bonas gens.
not is-worth among the good folk

D'autres n'i a chassadors
Of-others of-them there-are hunters
per la costuma tener,
for the custom to-keep
que·s fan ric home parer,
who-themselves make rich men to-seem

quar aman chas et austors
because they-love dogs and goshawks
e corn e tabor e laire,
and horn and drum and lure
qu'es lor pretz tan frevolitz
so-that-is their worth so feeble
et an tan pauc de valors
and they-have so little of merit
e lor poders tan freizitz
and their powers so shrunk
que res mas bestia o peis
that anything but beast or fish
no lor es obedïens
not to-them is obedient
ni fai lor comandamens.
nor does their commands

Ges de·ls rics torneiadors,
At-all of-the rich tourneyers
si tot si guastan l'aver,
though wholly themselves they-waste the-wealth
no·m pot us a·l cor plazer,
not-to-me can one at-the heart to-please
tan los trop gualiadors;
so-much them I-find deceivers
rics hom que per aver traire
rich man who for wealth to-draw
sec torneiamens plevitz,
follows tourneys pledged

per penre sos vasvassors,
for to-take his vavasors
no l'es honors ni arditz;
not to-him-is honor nor boldness
mas els non estrenh correis,
but them not tightens (the)-belt
sol qu'ab els s'en an l'argens,
only that-with them itself-thence go the-silver
s'om puois s'en es mal dizens.
if-one then himself-of-it is ill speaking

Ric home vuolh qu'ab amors
Rich men I-wish that-with love
sapchan chavaliers aver
they-know knights to-have
e que·ls sapchan retener
and that-them they-know to-retain
ab befach et ab honors
with benefit and with honors
e qu'om los trop ses tort faire,
and that-one them find without wrong to-do
francs e cortes e chausitz
noble and courteous and discerning
e larcs e bos donadors,
and generous and good givers
qu'aissi fo pretz establitz
for-thus was worth established
qu'om guerreies ab torneis,
that-one should-war with tourneys

e quaresmas et avens
and Lents and Advents
fessen soudadiers manens.
they-should-make soldiers wealthy

N'Atempre, jois m'es cobitz,
Sir-Temperate joy to-me-is coveted
qu'ieu n'ai mais que s'era reis;
that-I of-it-have more than if-I-were king
que·l fels mesclatz ab aissens
for-the gall mingled with wormwood
m'es endevengutz pimens.
to-me-is become spiced-wine

Papiols, s'est tan arditz,
Papiol if-you-are so bold
pren mon chan e vai ab eis
take my song and go with it
a n'Oc e No, quar presens
to Sir-Yes and No for presents
li fatz de maintz dichs cozens.
to-him I-make of many words biting

Chazutz sui de mal en pena

34 · I AM FALLEN FROM ILL INTO PAIN

He is fallen from ill into pain, for he goes where his heart leads and will never be unloaded of that burden. A gay, smooth Lena drew him with a sidelong glance, and it is he who has kept the long Lent, though he says he has now reached the Thursday of the Supper; he will die if she does not favor him with a sweet kiss. No court is complete where nobody jests or laughs, and a court without gifts is only a park of barons. Nothing in her beauty deceives, her throat makes the night look like day, and he is pensive for her night and day in Normandy.

Chazutz sui de mal en pena,
Fallen I-am from ill into pain
quar vau lai o·l cors mi mena,
for I-go there where-the heart me leads
don ja mais
whence ever more
no·m deschargarai de·l fais;
not-me I-shall-unload of-the burden
quar mes m'a en tal chadena
for put me-has in such chain
don malha no·s deschadena,
whereof mesh not-itself unchains
quar m'atrais
for me-she-drew
ab un esguart de biais
with a glance of slant
una gaia, lisa Lena;
a gay smooth Lena
fach ai longa quarantena,
made I-have long Lent

mas oimais
but henceforth
sui a·l dijous de la Cena.
I-am at-the Thursday of the Supper

Tan es d'amorosa mena
So she-is of-amorous kind
que morrai, si no m'estrena
that I-shall-die if not me-she-favors
d'un doutz bais,
of-a sweet kiss
mas en trop d'orguolh m'eslais:
but into too-much of-pride myself-I-dart
de tota beutat terrena
of all beauty earthly
an pretz las tres de Torena
have worth the three of Turenne
fis, verais;
pure truthful
mas ilh n'a sobre lor mais
but she of-it-has above them more
tan quan fis aurs sobr' arena,
so-much as pure gold above sand
qu'ieu no vuolh aver Ravena
that-I not wish to-have Ravenna
ni Roais
nor Edessa
ses cujar qu'ela·m retena.
without to-think that-she-me keeps

Ja mais non er cortz complia
Ever more not will-be court complete
on hom no gap ni no ria,
where one not jests and not laughs
cortz ses dos
court without gifts
non es mas parcs de baros;
not is but park of barons
et agra·m mort ses falhia
and would-have-me killed without fail
l'enuois e la vilania
the-vexation and the churlishness
d'Argentos,
of-Argentan
ma·l gentils cors amoros
but-the gentle body loving
e la doussa chara pia
and the sweet face kindly
e la bona companhia
and the good company
e·l respos
and-the answer
de la Saissa·m defendia.
of the Saissa-me defended

Ren en beutat no gualia
Anything in beauty not deceives
ni·n fai nula fantaumia
nor-of-it makes any phantom
lo joios,
the joyous
joves, gens cors amoros,
young noble body loving
e genza, qui la deslia,
and it-grows-fairer whoever it unbinds
et on hom plus n'ostaria
and where one more of-it-would-remove
guarnizos,
garments
seria·n plus enveios,
he-would-be-of-it more desirous
que la noch fai parer dia
for the night makes to-seem day
la gola, e qui·n vezia
the throat and whoever-of-it saw
plus en jos,
more in below
totz lo mons en genzaria.
all the world of-it would-grow-fairer

Doncs be·s tanh qu'amors m'aucia
Therefore well-itself befits that-love me-slay
per la genzor qu'e·l mon sia
for the fairest who-in-the world be
en perdos,
in vain
que, quan remir sas faissos,
for when I-gaze-at her features
conosc que ja non er mia,
I-know that ever not she-will-be mine
que chausir pot, si·s volia,
who to-choose can if-herself she-wished
de·ls plus pros
of-the most worthy
chastelas o rics baros;
castellans or rich barons
qu'en lieis es la senhoria
for-in her is the lordship
de pretz e de cortesia,
of worth and of courtesy
de gens dos
of noble gifts
e de far que be l'estia.
and of to-do what well to-her-becomes

Domna, sai en Normandia
Lady here in Normandy
sui per vos la noch e·l dia
I-am for you the night and-the day
apensos,
pensive
que·l vostre gens cors joios
for-the your noble body joyous
mi sembla qu'ades mi ria.
to-me seems that-always to-me it-laughs

Ges de disnar no fora oimais matis

35 · DINNER WOULD BE NO EARLY MATTER

The razo tells how Bertran went to see Richard's sister Eleanor, wife of the duke of Saxony and mother of the emperor Otto, and how Richard seated him beside her. On campaign one winter Sunday past midday, nobody had eaten or drunk, and hunger pressed Bertran into this song. Dinner would be no early matter, he says, for a man with good lodging, meat, bread, and wine. He greets the ladies of the Limousin, praises a young body of high and royal lineage, and says the Roman crown would be honored by that head.

Bertrans de Born si era anatz vezer una seror de·l rei
Bertran of Born thus was gone to-see a sister of-the king
Richart, que fo maire de l'emperador Ot, la quals avia nom
Richard who was mother of the-emperor Otto the who had name
ma domna Eleina, que fo molher de·l duc de Sansonha. Bela
my lady Eleanor who was wife of-the duke of Saxony Fair
domna era e mout cortesa et ensenhada e fazia gran
lady she-was and much courteous and schooled and made great
honor en son acolhimen et en son gen parlar. E·n Richartz,
honor in her welcoming and in her noble speaking and-Sir Richard
qu'era adoncs coms de Peitau, si l'assis lonc sa seror, e
who-was then count of Poitou thus him-seated beside his sister and
si·lh comandet qu'ela·lh disses e·lh fezes plazer
thus-to-her commanded that-she-to-him should-say and-to-him should-do pleasure
e gran honor; et ela, per la gran volontat qu'ela avia de
and great honor and she through the great will which-she had of
pretz e d'onor, e per so qu'ela sabia qu'en Bertrans era tan
worth and of-honor and for that that-she knew that-Sir Bertran was so
fort prezatz hom e valens e qu'el la podia fort enanzar,
greatly prized man and worthy and that-he her could greatly to-advance

si·lh fetz tan d'onor qu'el s'en tenc fort per pagatz
thus-to-him did so of-honor that-he himself-thence held greatly as paid
et enamoret si fort de lieis, si qu'el la comenzet lauzar
and enamored himself greatly of her so that-he her began to-praise
e grazir. — En aquela sazo qu'el l'avia vista, el era ab lo
and to-honor In that season that-he her-had seen he was with the
comte Richart en una host e·l temps d'invern, et en aquela
count Richard in a host in-the season of-winter and in that
host avia gran desaise. E quan venc un dia d'una domenga,
host there-was great discomfort And when came one day of-a Sunday
era be mieis dia passatz, que non avian manjat ni begut.
it-was well mid day passed that not they-had eaten nor drunk
E la fams lo destrenhia mout, et adoncs fetz aquest
And the hunger him pressed much and then he-made this
sirventes que dis: «Ges de disnar no fora oimais matis.»
sirventes which says At-all of to-dine not it-would-be henceforth early

Ges de disnar no fora oimais matis,
At-all of to-dine not it-would-be henceforth early
qui agues pres bo hostau,
whoever had taken good lodging
e fos dedintz la charns e·l pas e·l vis,
and were within the meat and-the bread and-the wine
e·l fuocs fos clars com de fau;
and-the fire were clear as of beech
lo plus rics jorns es huoi de la setmana,
the most rich day is today of the week
e degra m'estar soau,
and I-ought to-me-to-be at-ease

qu'aitan, volgra, volgues mon pro na Lana
that-as-much I-should-wish might-wish my profit Lady Lana
com lo senher de Peitau.
as the lord of Poitou

Per saludar torn entre·ls Lemozis
For to-greet I-turn among-the Limousins
celas que an pretz chabau;
those who have worth chief
mos Bels Senher e mos bels Cembelis
my Fair Lord and my fair Cembelis
quieiran oimais qui las lau;
let-them-seek henceforth who them praises
qu'ieu ai trobat de·l mon la plus certana
for-I have found of-the world the most sure
e la genzor qu'om mentau;
and the fairest whom-one names
per que s'amors m'es tan quotidiana
for which her-love to-me-is so daily
qu'a las autras mi fai brau.
that-to the others me it-makes fierce

Gens, joves cors, francs e verais e fis,
Noble young body noble and true and pure
d'aut paratge e de reiau,
of-high lineage and of royal

per vos serai estranhs de mon päis
for you I-shall-be a-stranger from my land
e·m mudarai part Anjau;
and-myself I-shall-remove beyond Anjou
e, quar etz tan sobr' autras sobeirana,
and because you-are so above others sovereign
vostra valors n'es plus au;
your merit of-it-is more high
qu'onrada n'er la corona romana,
that-honored of-it-will-be the crown Roman
si·l vostre chaps s'i enclau.
if-the your head itself-in-it encloses

Ab doutz esguar que·m fetz et ab clar vis
With sweet glance which-to-me she-made and with clear face
mi fetz amors son esclau,
me made love its imprint
e mos senher m'ac pres de lieis assis
and my lord me-had near of her seated
sobr' un feutre emperiau,
upon a cushion imperial
e la paraula fo doussa et humana
and the word was sweet and gracious
e·lh dich cortes e soau,
and-the sayings courteous and gentle
e de solatz mi semblet Catalana
and of cheer to-me she-seemed Catalan
e d'acolhir de Fanjau.
and of-welcoming of Fanjeaux

A·l gen parlar que·m fetz et a·l bel ris,
At-the noble speaking which-to-me she-made and at-the fair laugh
quan vi las dens de cristau
when I-saw the teeth of crystal
e·l cors graile, delgat e fresc e lis,
and-the body slender delicate and fresh and smooth
trop ben estan en bliau,
very well standing in tunic
e la colors fo frescha e rosana:
and the color was fresh and rosy
retenc mon cor dintz sa clau;
she-kept my heart within her lock
mais aic de joi que, qui·m des Corrozana,
more I-had of joy than whoever-to-me gave Khorasan
quar a son grat m'en esjau.
for at her pleasure myself-thence I-rejoice

De totas es na Maier sobeirana
Of all is Lady Maier sovereign
de quan mars e terra clau.
of as-much-as sea and land encloses

Folheta, vos mi pregatz que ieu chan

36 · FOLHETA, YOU BEG ME TO SING

Folheta has asked for a song, and gets one. Bertran has neither lord nor neighbor he cares to chide in verse, and Folheta holds shame with profit dearer than honor with harm, which is an ill choice. Then the reckoning: the hoarse voice he shouts with, the black body that makes him look a Saracen, the poor words he tells his tales in, the smell of fir and resin and pine about him, like the worthless folk of Savoy, and his foul array. If he will only go away, Bertran will do whatever he asks.

Folheta, vos mi pregatz que ieu chan,
Folheta you me you-beg that I sing
pero non ai ni senhor ni vezi,
yet not I-have nor lord nor neighbor
d'aquest afar aia cor ni talan
of-this business I-may-have heart nor desire
ni vuolha ges qu'en chantan lo chasti,
nor I-may-wish at-all that-in singing him I-chide
mas vos vos tenetz a joia
but you yourself you-hold as joy
anta ab pro mais que honor ab dan
shame with profit more than honor with harm
et avetz mal chausit a·l mieu semblan.
and you-have ill chosen at-the my seeming

La raucha votz, don cridatz en chantan,
The hoarse voice whence you-cry in singing
e·l negre cors, don semblatz Sarazi,
and-the black body whence you-seem Saracen

e·lh paubre mot que dizetz en comtan
and-the poor words which you-say in telling
e quar flairatz sap e gema e pi
and because you-smell fir and resin and pine
com avols gens de Savoia
as worthless folk of Savoy
e quar etz lait guarnitz e mal estan,
and because you-are foully arrayed and ill standing
ab que·us n'anetz, farai vostre coman.
provided that-you thence-go I-shall-do your command

Folheta, ges autres vergiers

37 · FOLHETA, NO OTHER ORCHARD

March and February make no orchard leaf but Folheta, who has come down from the mountain too early, before the heat: Bertran has seen a tree in a hurry killed by the frost. Folheta always leaves his own country with the first, before the flower is in the meadow, and tells tales of the poverty the winter shut him in with. He is advised to take service with Archambaut, the last-born, since the other has given up prowess altogether; and Temperate is told he is too light, like a sparrowhawk that gives up, where Bertran holds on like a hound.

Folheta, ges autres vergiers
Folheta at-all other orchards
no fai folhar martz ni febriers
not makes to-leaf March nor February
mas vos, que vos etz trop cochat,
but you who you you-are too hasty
de montanha sai devalat,
from mountain here come-down
enanz que grans chautz s'abata,
before that great heat itself-fall
qu'ieu ai ja vist albre folhat
that-I have already seen tree leafed
que·s cocha, puois gels lo mata.
which-itself hastens then frost it kills

Mas totz temps eissetz volontiers
But all time you-come-out willingly
de vostra terr' ab los primiers,
from your land with the first

anz que sia la flors e·l prat,
before that be the flower in-the meadow
e fatz comte de paubretat,
and you-make account of poverty
com vos e vostr' asiata
how you and your dependent
a tengut l'inverns enserrat,
has held the-winter shut-in
qu'anc us no·n passet la lata.
that-ever one not-of-it passed the boundary

Folheta, siatz soudadiers
Folheta be-you soldier
N'Archambaut, que nasquet deriers,
of-Sir-Archambaut who was-born last
que l'autre si a tot laissat
for the-other thus has all left
de proeza et el guazanhat;
of prowess and he gained
e, puois lieu e gen barata,
and since easily and nobly he-trades
e·l vei adrech et alinhat,
and-him I-see upright and straight
lau qu'en proeza s'abata.
I-advise that-in prowess he-fall-to

N'Atempre, vos etz trop leugiers
Sir-Temperate you you-are too light
e fatz ho coma esparviers
and you-do it like sparrowhawk
que·s laissa, quan a randonat;
which-itself gives-up when it-has flown-at-random
mas ieu com sahus afichat:
but I as bound eager
des qu'en la rota m'abata,
since that-into the track me-I-fall
non auria mil ans chamjat,
not I-would-have thousand years changed
qu'ieu sivals tot jorn no·i glata.
that-I at-least all day not-there bay

N'Atempre, ges de Lieucata
Sir-Temperate at-all of Leucate
no sui, anz ho ai tot laissat
not I-am rather it I-have all left
et estau a Damiata.
and I-stand at Damietta

Mailoli, joglar malastruc

38 · MAILOLI, ILL-STARRED JONGLEUR

A flyting against the jongleur Mailoli, who has come asking for songs. He is worthless and looks good; he would do better as a hired champion than live off other men's leavings. His company is such that another man would find it tiresome; he is more foolish than a sheep, and a jackdaw sings clearer. Big and young, he looks as if he had courage, but where a hare is a lion he is a coward. He is hollower than an elder, a mite has more heart than he has, and he is quicker to a roasting sheep than to a stronghold.

Mailoli, joglar malastruc,
Mailoli jongleur ill-starred
puois acoindat m'a hom de vos
since acquainted me-has one of you
e mi venetz querre chanzos,
and me you-come to-seek songs
en talan ai qu'ie·us en valha.
in desire I-have that-I-to-you of-it be-worth
Quar etz avols e semblatz bos,
For you-are worthless and you-seem good
mielhs fora, fossetz champios
better it-would-be you-were champion
que viure d'autrui curalha.
than to-live of-another's offal

Aital solatz m'avetz faissuc
Such cheer me-you-have burdensome
qu'autr' om en seria enoios,
that-another man of-it would-be vexed

et etz plus nescis que montos,
and you-are more foolish than sheep
e chanta plus clar la gralha;
and sings more clearly the jackdaw
porc qu'om reguarda milhargos
pig which-one watches millet-fed
fai melhor escoutar que vos
makes better to-hear than you
o nafrat, quan hom lo talha.
or wounded when one it cuts

Qui·us apelava paoruc,
Whoever-you called fearful
semblaria que vers no fos;
it-would-seem that true not it-were
quar etz grans e joves e tos,
for you-are big and young and fresh
fatz semblan qu'aiatz coralha;
you-make seeming that-you-have courage
mas lai on lebres es leos
but there where hare is lion
vos etz volpilhs e nualhos,
you you-are craven and sluggish
flacs, ses tota defensalha.
slack without any defense

Dedintz etz plus chaus d'un säuc
Within you-are more hollow than-an elder
et a maior cor us soiros,
and has greater heart a mite
mas lo fetges e lo polmos
but the liver and the lung
es grans sotz la chabessalha.
is great beneath the pillow
Et etz de mati somelhos,
And you-are of morning drowsy
que, qui·us sona un mot o dos,
that whoever-you calls a word or two
fatz semblan que no·us en chalha.
you-make seeming that not-to-you of-it it-matters

Mal vos tenon per acertuc
Ill you they-hold as sure
d'armas en la host de·ls basclos,
of-arms in the host of-the Basques
que un non i a de·ls garzos
that one not there is of-the boys
que denan vos non assalha;
who before you not assail
si·s defendian ab melos,
if-themselves they-defended with melons
chascus entrer' i anz que vos,
each-one would-enter there before than you
s'aviatz elm e ventalha.
if-you-had helm and ventail

* * *

(lacuna)

Lai on sentetz raustir montos
There where you-smell to-roast sheep
vos fatz de l'entrar plus cochos
you you-make of the-entering more hasty
qu'a·l pal ni a la serralha;
than-at-the stake or at the stronghold
e non es tan grans lo ronhos
and not is so great the kidney
qu'en un sol morsel o en dos
that-in one single morsel or in two
no l'empassetz, qui·l vos talha.
not it-you-swallow whoever-it to-you carves

Raimons de Planel, quar es pros,
Raimon of Planel because he-is worthy
vuolh qu'auia·l sirventes de vos,
I-wish that-he-hear-the sirventes of you
e·l sos iescha·n ab trebalha;
and-the tune go-forth-of-it with trouble
quar sordeis chantatz que paos
for worse you-sing than peacocks
e gavanhatz los motz e·ls sos,
and you-mar the words and-the tunes
per qu'es fols qui los vos balha.
for which-is foolish who them to-you gives

Senher en coms, a blasmar

39 · LORD COUNT, YOU ARE TO BLAME

The count is blamed, and without fail, for not daring to go and speak with the lady when she wished it; by the custom of Catalonia Bertran is ashamed on his behalf. A true lover does not tarry when a message comes. When the count saw his own jongleur coming back from her he should not have halted for the gift of Normandy. So rich men are not made for loving: they have too much to think about. Bertran would rather laugh with his lady than govern Gascony. The song goes to Sir Adhemar.

Senher en coms, a blasmar
Lord Sir count to to-blame
vos fai senes falhia,
you it-makes without fail
quar no·i ausetz anar,
because not-there you-dared to-go
puois ela ho volia,
since she it wished
a la domna parlar;
to the lady to-speak
et a·l for de Catalonha
and at-the custom of Catalonia
a·l vostr' ops ieu n'ai vergonha
for-the your need I of-it-have shame
quar la·i fezetz fadiar.
because her-there you-made to-languish

E fis drutz no·s deu tarzar,
And pure lover not-himself must to-tarry
si messatge·lh venia,
if message-to-him came
mas que pens de l'anar
but that he-think of the-going
e que·s meta en la via;
and that-himself he-put on the way
com no sap son afar
how not he-knows his affair
de si dons ni sa besonha,
of his lady nor her need
be lieu a talan que jonha,
well easily she-has desire that he-join
per que no·s deu aturar.
for which not-himself he-must to-linger

E quan vitz vostre joglar,
And when you-saw your jongleur
que de ves lieis venia,
who from toward her came
ja no·us degratz restar,
ever not-you you-ought to-halt
qui·us dones Normandia;
whoever-you gave Normandy
s'acsetz bo cor d'anar,
if-you-had good heart of-to-go

entre Bera e Dordonha
between Bera and Dordogne
de reguart no·us deratz sonha,
of fear not-to-you you-would-give care
ni ja no·us degra membrar.
and ever not-to-you it-ought to-remember

Mas ara podetz proar,
But now you-can to-prove
s'es ver so qu'ieu dizia
if-it-is true that which-I said
que no fai ad amar
that not is-fit to to-love
rics hom per drudaria;
rich man through gallantry
tan an a consirar,
so-much they-have to to-ponder
per que·l jois d'amor los lonha;
for which-the joy of-love them removes
qu'ieu no vuolh aver Borgonha
that-I not wish to-have Burgundy
ses temer e ses celar.
without to-fear and without to-hide

Qu'ieu ja no vuolh esser bar
For-I ever not wish to-be baron
ni de gran manentia,
nor of great wealth

per que·m pogues reptar
for which-me might to-reproach
nuls hom de vilania;
any man of churlishness
mais am rire e gabar
more I-love to-laugh and to-jest
ab mi dons que m'en somonha,
with my lady who me-of-it summons
qu'ieu no volria Guasconha
that-I not would-wish Gascony
ni Bretanha chapdelar.
nor Brittany to-govern

Mon chan vir ves n'Azemar,
My song I-turn toward Sir-Adhemar
que en s'onor s'abria,
who in his-honor himself-shelters
cui nostre senher char
whom our lord curry
sa paucha Lombardia;
his little Lombardy
tan gen sap domneiar
so nobly he-knows to-woo
que no·s chamja ni s'embronha
that not-himself he-changes nor himself-lowers
per menassas, anz resonha
for threats rather he-daunts
Lemotg' e·l fai reserrar.
Limoges and-it makes to-shut-again

Si·l coms Jaufres no s'eslonha,
If-the count Geoffrey not himself-removes
Peitau aura e Guasconha,
Poitou he-will-have and Gascony
si tot no sap domneiar.
though wholly not he-knows to-woo

Bel m'es, quan vei chamjar lo senhoratge

40 · IT PLEASES ME TO SEE THE LORDSHIP CHANGE

The song of youth and age. It is fair to see lordship change and the old leave their houses to the young. A lady is old when she has no knight, when a worthless man serves her, when she needs paint, when jongleurs weary her, when she talks too much; young when she honors lineage, guards her body, and does not care to be gossiped about. A man is young when he pledges his goods and is well in want, when hostages cost him dear, when he burns chest and cask; old when he puts nothing in pledge and has corn and wine and bacon to spare.

Bel m'es, quan vei chamjar lo senhoratge
Fair to-me-is when I-see to-change the lordship
e·lh vielh laissan a·ls joves lor maisos,
and-the old leave to-the young their houses
e chascus pot giquir a son linhatge
and each-one can to-leave to his lineage
aitans d'enfans que l'us puosch' esser pros:
so-many of-children that the-one can to-be worthy
adoncs m'es vis que·l segles renovel
then to-me-is seen that-the age renews
mielhs que per flor ni per chantar d'auzel;
better than through flower or through singing of-bird
e qui domna ni senhor pot chamjar,
and whoever lady or lord can to-change
vielh per jove, be·s deu renovelar.
old for young well-himself he-must to-renew

Per vielha tenh domna, puois qu'a pelatge,
For old I-hold lady after that-she-has baldness
et es vielha, quan chavalier non a;
and she-is old when knight not she-has
vielha la tenh, si de dos drutz s'apatge
old her I-hold if of two lovers herself-she-content
et es vielha, si avols hom lo·lh fa;
and she-is old if worthless man it-to-her does
vielha la tenh, si ama dintz son chastel,
old her I-hold if she-loves within her castle
et es vielha, quan l'a ops de fachel;
and she-is old when to-her-is need of paint
vielha la tenh, puois l'enoian joglar,
old her I-hold after her-vex jongleurs
et es vielha, quan trop vuolha parlar.
and she-is old when too she-wishes to-talk

Joves es domna que sap honrar paratge
Young is lady who knows to-honor lineage
et es joves per bos fachs, quan los fa,
and she-is young through good deeds when them she-does
joves si te, quan a adrech coratge
young herself she-holds when she-has upright heart
e ves bo pretz avol mestier non a;
and toward good worth worthless trade not she-has
joves si te, quan guarda son cors bel,
young herself she-holds when she-guards her body fair
et es joves domna, quan be·s chapdel;
and she-is young lady when well-herself she-governs

joves si te, quan no·i chal divinar,
young herself she-holds when not-there it-matters to-divine
qu'ab bel joven si guart de mal estar.
that-with fair youth herself she-guard from ill standing

Joves es hom que lo sieu ben enguatge,
Young is man who the his goods pledges
et es joves, quan es be sofrachos;
and he-is young when he-is well needy
joves si te, quan pro·lh costan ostatge,
young himself he-holds when much-to-him cost hostages
et es joves, quan fai estragatz dos;
and he-is young when he-makes lavish gifts
joves si te, quan art l'archa e·l vaissel
young himself he-holds when he-burns the-chest and-the cask
e fai estorn e vouta e cembel;
and makes onslaught and rout and skirmish
joves si te, quan li platz domneiar,
young himself he-holds when to-him it-pleases to-woo
et es joves, quan be vuolha jogar.
and he-is young when well he-wishes to-play

Vielhs es rics hom, quan re no met en guatge
Old is rich man when anything not he-puts in pledge
e li sobra blatz e vis e bacos;
and to-him abounds corn and wine and bacon

per vielh lo tenh, quan liura uous e fromatge
for old him I-hold when he-serves eggs and cheese
a jorn charnal se e sos companhos;
on day of-flesh himself and his companions
per vielh, quan vest chapa sobre mantel,
for old when he-wears cape over mantle
e vielh, si a chaval qu'om sieu apel;
and old if he-has horse which-one his call
vielhs es, quan vol un jorn en patz estar,
old he-is when he-wishes one day in peace to-stay
e vielhs, si pot guandir ses baratar.
and old if he-can to-escape without to-bargain

Mo sirventesc port' e vielh e novel,
My little-sirventes carry both old and new
Arnautz joglars, a Richart, que·l chapdel,
Arnaut jongleur to Richard that-it he-govern
e ja tesaur vielh no vuolh' amassar,
and ever treasure old not let-him-wish to-heap
qu'ab tesaur jove pot pretz guazanhar.
for-with treasure young he-can worth to-gain

Be·m platz lo gais temps de pascor

41 · IT PLEASES ME WELL, THE GAY TIME OF SPRING

The most famous of the sirventes. He likes the spring that brings leaves and flowers, and the birds; but he likes still better the sight of tents and pavilions pitched on the meadows, and knights and horses ranged in the open country. He likes outriders driving folk and goods before them, castles besieged and outworks thrown down, and a lord first at the assault. He names maces, swords, and pierced shields, and the dead who carry lance-stumps and pennons in their sides; beside the cry of "At them," eating and drinking and sleeping have no savor.

Be·m platz lo gais temps de pascor,
Well-to-me pleases the gay time of springtide
que fai fuolhas e flors venir,
which makes leaves and flowers to-come
e platz mi, quan auch la baudor
and it-pleases to-me when I-hear the gladness
de·ls auzels, que fan retentir
of-the birds who make to-ring
lor chan per lo boschatge,
their song through the woodland
e platz mi, quan vei sobre·ls pratz
and it-pleases to-me when I-see upon-the meadows
tendas e pavilhos fermatz,
tents and pavilions pitched
et ai gran alegratge,
and I-have great gladness
quan vei per champanha rengatz
when I-see through open-country ranged
chavaliers e chavals armatz.
knights and horses armed

E platz mi, quan li corredor
And it-pleases to-me when the outriders
fan las gens e l'aver fugir,
make the folk and the-goods to-flee
e platz mi, quan vei apres lor
and it-pleases to-me when I-see after them
gran re d'armatz ensems venir,
great number of-armed together to-come
e platz mi en mon coratge,
and it-pleases to-me in my heart
quan vei fortz chastels assetjatz
when I-see strong castles besieged
e·ls barris rotz et esfondratz
and-the outworks broken and thrown-down
e vei l'ost e·l ribatge,
and I-see the-host and-the rampart
qu'es tot entorn claus de fossatz
which-is all around closed of ditches
ab lissas de fortz pals serratz.
with palisades of strong stakes bound

Et autresi·m platz de senhor,
And likewise-to-me it-pleases of lord
quan es primiers a l'envazir
when he-is first at the-assailing
en chaval, armatz, ses temor,
on horse armed without fear

qu'aissi fai los sieus enardir
for-thus he-makes the his to-embolden
ab valen vassalatge;
with worthy vassalage
e puois que l'estorns es mesclatz,
and after that the-onslaught is mingled
chascus deu esser acesmatz
each-one must to-be arrayed
e segre·l d'agradatge,
and to-follow-him with-good-will
que nuls hom non es re prezatz,
for any man not is anything prized
tro qu'a maintz colps pres e donatz.
until that-he-has many blows taken and given

Massas e brans, elms de color,
Maces and swords helms of color
escutz trauchar e desguarnir
shields to-pierce and to-strip
veirem a l'entrar de l'estor
we-shall-see at the-entering of the-onslaught
e maintz vassals ensems ferir,
and many vassals together to-strike
don anaran arratge
whence will-go astray
chaval de·ls mortz e de·ls nafratz;
horses of-the dead and of-the wounded
e quan er en l'estorn entratz,
and when he-will-be in the-onslaught entered

chascus hom de paratge
each-one man of lineage
no pens mas d'asclar chaps e bratz,
not let-him-think but of-cleaving heads and arms
que mais val mortz que vius sobratz.
for more is-worth dead than alive overcome

Ie·us dic que tan no m'a sabor
I-to-you say that so-much not to-me-has savor
manjar ni beure ni dormir
to-eat nor to-drink nor to-sleep
com a, quan auch cridar: «A lor!»
as it-has when I-hear to-cry At them
D'ambas las partz et auch ennir
From-both the sides and I-hear to-neigh
chavals vochs per l'ombratge,
horses empty through the-shade
et auch cridar; «Aidatz! Aidatz!»
and I-hear to-cry Help-you Help-you
E vei chazer per los fossatz
And I-see to-fall through the ditches
paucs e grans per l'erbatge,
small and great through the-grass
e vei los mortz que pe·ls costatz
and I-see the dead who through-the flanks
an los tronzos ab los cendatz.
have the stumps with the pennons

Baro, metetz en guatge
Barons put-you in pledge
chastels e vilas e ciutatz,
castles and towns and cities
enanz qu'usquecs no·us guerreiatz.
before that-each-one you make-war

Quan mi perpens ni m'albire

I · WHEN I PONDER AND CONSIDER

A penitential song, which the manuscripts give Bertran but Stimming doubts. When he considers what he is and where he comes from, he marvels that God has borne with his wrongs so long. A man who uses any wile against God strips himself of all good, and one must do the good as soon as say it, for death is always watching. What is a man, and what is he worth? Nothing; and if he is rich, why does he pretend? He thanks Him who deigned to die on the cross to kill our death.

Quan mi perpens ni m'albire
When me I-ponder and I-consider
qui soi ni de qual part venh,
who I-am or of what part I-come
meravilh me molt e·m senh,
I-marvel me much and-myself I-cross
com dieus volc esser sufrire
how God wished to-be sufferer
tan longamen de·ls mieus tortz;
so long of-the my wrongs
mas el, qu'es verais e fortz,
but he who-is true and strong
pos li platz qu'a lui me vire,
since to-him it-pleases that-to him me I-turn
denh aisi·l pecat aucire
let-him-deign thus-the sin to-slay
com mos mals talans m'es mortz.
as my ill desire to-me-is dead

Be·s vol de tot be devire
Well-himself he-wishes of all good to-divest
qui contra dieu pren nul genh,
who against God takes any wile
que dieus no vol qu'om l'ensenh.
for God not wishes that-one him-instruct
Cujavam passar ab rire
We-thought to-pass with laughing
per nostres nescis deportz,
through our foolish sports
fraire, per pauc loncs acortz
brother for little long delay
no nos fetz trop tart assire;
— us made too late to-sit
tan tost deu hom far com dire
so soon must one to-do as to-say
lo be, qu'ades velha mortz.
the good for-at-once watches death

Que es hom, quan m'o consire,
What is man when it-to-me ponder
ni que val: a re no·l tenh;
or what is-worth as anything not-it I-hold
e doncs rics, per que si fenh?
and then rich for what himself he-feigns
Es rics? Anz n'es trop a dire;
Is-he rich Rather of-it-is too-much to say

quar tant es frevols l'esfortz
for so-much is feeble the-strength
lo jorn qu'om passa los portz
the day that-one crosses the passes
on tuit van ses contradire;
where all go without to-gainsay
qui que·s fassa gais ni·s mire:
whoever that-himself make gay or-himself gaze
a totz es cominals mortz.
to all is common death

Lo senhor qui es complire
The lord who is fulfiller
de totz bes prec qu'ab nos renh;
of all goods I-pray that-with us he-reign
ai las de·l cor, com m'estrenh,
ah alas of-the heart how me-it-wrings
quan mi membran li consire
when to-me come-to-mind the thoughts
desleial e·l fals conortz:
disloyal and-the false comfort
mas ar se chamja ma sortz
but now itself changes my lot
en be, per que no m'azire;
into good for which not me-I-vex
tals n'es be leu escharnire,
such of-it-is well easily mocker
qu'ieu soi vius et el es mortz.
that-I am alive and he is dead

Pos dieus pres per nos martire,
Since God took for us martyrdom
ja nos no n'aiam desdenh,
ever we not of-it-let-us-have disdain
c'ab autretal entresenh
for-with just-such token
nos a träitz lo träire
us has betrayed the traitor
saludan; don desconortz
greeting whence dismay
no m'es qu'a·l deabl' estortz
not to-me-is that-from-the devil escaped
sui era, cui fui servire,
I-am now whom I-was serving
non a plus poder que·m tire,
not he-has more power that-me he-draw
per que no·m fai paor mortz.
for which not-me makes fear death

Folquetz, si ses contradire
Folquet if without to-gainsay
crezetz so que·us auzi dire,
you-believe that which-to-you I-heard to-say
no m'agra fach paor mortz.
not to-me-would-have made fear death

Mas a cel en soi grazire
But to him of-it I-am thankful
qui per nostra mort aucire
who for our death to-slay
denhet esser en crotz mortz.
deigned to-be on cross dead

Gen part nostre reis liuranda

II · NOBLY OUR KING DEALS OUT THE ALLOWANCE

Our king deals out his allowance so nobly that his English are all fat and garlanded while the French rust in their armor and endure hunger, thirst, rain, and wind. A king who claims great land and never brings his horse out of a walk is boasting; the honor he came for among the Bretons will come to nothing if the end is like the beginning. War wants blood spilled and fire kindled; and the Bretons are out of bounds and low in honor, since a count of Saint Thomas entered Broceliande and they ask for their Arthur so feebly.

Gen part nostre reis liuranda,
Nobly deals-out our king allowance
per que son tuit gras
for which are all fat
siei Engles e nuou e ras
his English and new and shaven
e chascus porta guirlanda;
and each-one wears garland
e Frances son rozilhos
and French are rusty
de portar lor guarnizos
of to-wear their armor
e sofron fam e set e ploia e ven,
and they-suffer hunger and thirst and rain and wind
e·l reis conquier l'autrui e·l sieu defen.
and-the king conquers the-another's and-the his defends

Reis que gran terra demanda
King who great land claims
par que fassa gas,
it-seems that he-make boasts
quan chaval no trai de pas
when horse not he-draws from walk
ni chaussa de fer no randa;
and hose of iron not he-fills
e·l reis fetz que coratjos
and-the king did as courageous
quar venc sai entre·ls Bretos;
because he-came here among-the Bretons
mas cel' onors tornara a nïen,
but that honor will-turn to nothing
s'es tals la fis com fetz comenzamen.
if-is such the end as made beginning

Guerra vol qu'om sanc espanda
War wishes that-one blood spill
e qu'om fuoc n'abras
and that-one fire of-it-kindle
e que ja no sia las
and that ever not he-be weary
de donar n'i meta guanda;
of to-give nor-there put stay
qu'ieu sai fraires aitals dos:
that-I know brothers such two
l'us es reis, l'autr' es coms pros;
the-one is king the-other is count worthy

mas ges no ditz vertat aissel que men,
but at-all not says truth he who lies
ni tuit lauzat no son pro ni valen.
and all praised not are brave nor worthy

Breto son fors de guaranda
Bretons are outside of bounds
e son d'onor bas,
and are of-honor low
quar us coms de Saint Tomas
because a count of Saint Thomas
entret en Bresilianda;
entered into Broceliande
be paron de bo cor blos
well they-seem of good heart bare
e tornat de sus en jos,
and turned from above to below
quar lor Artus demandan frevolmen;
because their Arthur they-claim feebly
no·n dirai plus, quar negus no m'enten.
not-of-it I-shall-say more because any not me-understands

A·ls baros cui argens blanda,
To-the barons whom silver coaxes
sirventes, diras
sirventes you-shall-say
qu'enanz que passen lo pas,
that-before that they-pass the pass

veian, si er foudatz granda,
let-them-see if it-will-be folly great
si er sens o dans o pros:
if it-will-be sense or harm or gain
quar per senhor dormilhos
because for lord sleepy
no vuolh entrar en guerra ni en conten,
not I-wish to-enter into war nor into strife
quar grieu conquier hom be terra en dormen.
because hardly conquers one well land in sleeping

Sirventes, vai t'en cochos
Sirventes go yourself-thence hasty
a·l comte qu'a nom n'Ugos,
to-the count who-has name Sir-Hugh
quar el val tan e ve e sap e sen
because he is-worth so and sees and knows and feels
que ja no vol penre malvatz argen.
that ever not he-wishes to-take wicked silver

Guerr' e pantais vei et afan

III · WAR AND TURMOIL I SEE

War and turmoil for many a knavish baron; Bertran cares little for the grief and less for the harm, so he makes a new sirventes. War pleases him though love and his lady war on him all year: out of war come courts, wooing, cheer, and song, and war makes a churl courteous. Within a year the two kings will show which of them is the less base in taking and spending and giving. Then it will appear who can better endure the hardship and the din; whatever comes of it, the dead are as much to him as the prisoners.

Guerr' e pantais vei et afan
War and turmoil I-see and toil
a maint baro malvatz, truan;
to many-a baron wicked knavish
pauc m'es de·l dol e mens de·l dan,
little to-me-is of-the grief and less of-the harm
per que·m vuolh alegrar chantan,
for which-me I-wish to-gladden singing
quar ab joi vau et ab joi pes,
because with joy I-go and with joy I-think
e pensamens no m'empacha
and thought not me-binders
ni sabers no·m fai sofracha
and knowledge not-to-me makes lack
de far un novel sirventes.
of to-make a new sirventes

Guerra·m platz, si tot guerra·m fan
War-to-me pleases though wholly war-to-me make
amors e ma domna tot l'an,
love and my lady all the-year
quar de guerra vei traire enan
because of war I-see to-draw forward
cortz e domnei, solatz e chan;
courts and wooing cheer and song
guerra fai de vila cortes;
war makes of churl courteous
per que·m platz guerra be facha,
for which-to-me pleases war well made
e·m platz, quan la tregua es fracha
and-to-me it-pleases when the truce is broken
de·ls esterlis e de·ls tornes.
of-the sterlings and of-the tournois

Esterlis e tornes chamjan,
Sterlings and tournois exchanging
tolen e meten e donan
taking and spending and giving
veirem de·ls dos reis anz d'un an
we-shall-see of-the two kings before of-a year
lo mens cruoi segon mo semblan;
the less base according-to my seeming
per so·l senher coms, ducs, marques
for that-the lord count duke marquis
n'a be sa penhora tracha,
of-it-has well his pledge drawn

mas metre lo fan per guacha,
but to-put it they-make as watch
so·m dizon Guasco et Engles.
so-to-me say Gascon and English

Ara parra qui mielhs poiran
Now it-will-appear who better will-be-able
sofrir los maltrachs ni·l mazan;
to-endure the hardships and-the din
maint chaval bai e maint ferran,
many-a horse bay and many-a gray
maint escut, maint elm e maint bran
many-a shield many-a helm and many-a sword
e maint colp ferir demanes,
and many-a blow to-strike at-once
maint mur, mainta tor desfacha
many-a wall many-a tower unmade
veirem, mainta testa fracha,
we-shall-see many-a head broken
maint chastel forzat e conques.
many-a castle forced and conquered

Ges no crei, Frances ses deman
At-all not I-believe French without claim
tenhan lo deseret que fan
hold the disinheriting which they-make
a tort a maint baro prezan;
by wrong to many-a baron prized

per que meravelha·m do gran
for which marvel-me I-give great
de·l senhor de·ls Aragones,
of-the lord of-the Aragonese
quar a lor dan no·ls destacha,
because to their harm not-them he-unleashes
puois a los ades a pacha
since he-has them at-once at truce
desmandatz lo coms, ducs, marques.
dismissed the count duke marquis

Qui·s vuolha n'aia mals o bes
Whoever-himself wish of-it-have ills or goods
o empacha o desempacha
or hindrance or unhindrance
o bratz rotz o testa fracha,
or arm broken or head cracked
que tan m'es de·ls mortz com de·ls pres.
for so-much to-me-is of-the dead as of-the taken

Gai mi te una gaia res,
Gay me holds a gay thing
avinens, joves, be facha,
pleasing young well made
et ai ab lieis una pacha
and I-have with her a pact
com an Pisa ab Genoes.
as have Pisa with Genoese

Mout mi platz quan vei dolenta

IV · IT PLEASES ME MUCH TO SEE THEM DOLEFUL

A sirventes against the churl who has grown rich. It pleases the poet to see the wealthy churls undone twenty or thirty a day, stripped bare and begging their bread. Wealth makes a fool of the churl, so his hopper should be kept empty and he should be left out in wind and rain; the man who does not prune him confirms him in disloyalty. He deserves no pity, since he will not help even his nearest kin, and the song closes by cursing the whole breed.

Mout mi platz quan vei dolenta
Much to-me it-pleases when I-see doleful
la malvada gen manenta,
the wicked folk wealthy
qu'ab paratge muou contenta,
which-with lineage moves strife
e·m platz quan los vei desfar
and-to-me it-pleases when them I-see to-undo
de jorn en jorn, vint o trenta,
from day to day twenty or thirty
e·ls trop nutz, ses vestimenta,
and-them I-find naked without garment
e van lor pa achaptar,
and they-go their bread to-beg
e s'ieu men, m'amia·m menta.
and if-I lie my-mistress-to-me may-lie

Vilas a costum de troia,
Churl has custom of sow
que de gen viure s'enoia
who of nobly to-live himself-vexes
e, quan en gran ricor poia,
and when into great wealth he-climbs
l'avers lo fai foleiar;
the-wealth him makes to-play-the-fool
per que·lh deu hom la tremoia
for which-to-him must one the hopper
totas sazos tener voia
all seasons to-keep empty
e·lh deu de·l sieu despensar
and-to-him (one)-must of-the his to-spend
e far sofrir ven e ploia.
and to-make to-suffer wind and rain

Qui so vila be no serma
Whoever his churl well not prunes
en desleiautat lo ferma,
in disloyalty him confirms
per qu'es fols qui no l'amerma,
for which-is foolish who not him-lessens
quan lo ve sobrepoiar;
when him he-sees to-climb-above
quar vilas, puois si conferma
because churl after himself he-establishes
ni en fort luoc si referma,
and in strong place himself he-strengthens

de maleza non a par,
of wickedness not he-has peer
que tot quan consec aderma.
for all that he-attains he-lays-waste

Ja vila no deu hom planher,
Ever churl not must one to-pity
si·lh ve bratz o chamba franher
if-to-him he-sees arm or leg to-break
ni re de sos ops sofranher;
or anything of his needs to-fail
quar vilas — si dieus m'ampar! —
because churl if God me-protect
a cel que plus li pot tanher,
to him who most to-him can to-belong
per planher ni per complanher
through to-pity nor through to-lament
no vol de·l sieu aiudar,
not he-wishes of-the his to-help
per qu'om deu sos fachs refranher.
for which-one must his deeds to-check

Rassa vilana, tafura,
Breed churlish knavish
plena d'enjan e d'usura,
full of-deceit and of-usury
d'orguolh e de desmesura!
of-pride and of excess

Lor fachs no pot hom durar,
Their deeds not can one to-endure
quar dieu getan a no-cura
because God they-cast to no-care
e leiautat e drechura,
and loyalty and uprightness
Adam cujan contrafar;
Adam they-think to-counterfeit
dieus lor do mal' aventura!
God to-them may-give ill fortune

Quan vei lo temps renovelar

V · WHEN I SEE THE SEASON RENEW

The razo tells the whole story of John Lackland. It covers the bride he took from Hugh the Brown, the barons who made Arthur their lord, the surprise at Mirebeau, Arthur drowned and Savaric of Mauléon shut in the tower of Corp, Normandy lost and Poitou lost but for La Rochelle, and the king sitting in his chamber in England while Savaric fought on without help. The sirventes, which the manuscripts give to Bertran's son, tells John he should be ashamed if he remembered his forebears, and that he loves jousting, hunting, and repose while he is disinherited alive.

Quan lo reis Richartz fo mortz, el remas us sos fraire,
When the king Richard was dead there remained one his brother
que avia nom Johans ses Terra, per so qu'el non avia
who had name John without Land for that that-he not had
part de la terra. E fo fachs reis d'Englaterra et ac
share of the land And he-was made king of-England and had
lo reiesme e·l duchat de Quitania e·l comtat de
the kingdom and-the duchy of Aquitaine and-the county of
Peitau. E tan tost com fo fachs reis e senher de·l
Poitou And as soon as he-was made king and lord of-the
duchat e de·l comtat de Peitau, el s'en anet a·l
duchy and of-the county of Poitou he himself-thence went to-the
comte d'Engolesme, que avia una mout bela filha piucela,
count of-Angoulême who had a very fair daughter maiden
que avia be quinze ans, la qual avia facha jurar en
who had fully fifteen years the which had made to-swear Sir
Richartz a n'Ugo lo Bru, qu'era coms de la Marcha et
Richard to Sir-Hugh the Brown who-was count of the March and

era botz d'en Jaufre de Lizinha et era sos vassals; e·l
was nephew of-Sir Geoffrey of Lusignan and was his vassal and-the
coms d'Engolesme l'avia jurada la filha a molher e
count of-Angoulême to-him-had sworn the daughter as wife and
receubut per filh, qu'el non avia plus ni filh ni filha.
received as son for-he not had more neither son nor daughter
E dis a·l comte d'Engolesme qu'el volia sa filha per
And he-said to-the count of-Angoulême that-he wished his daughter as
molher, e fetz si la dar et esposet la ades e
wife and he-made thus her to-give and he-espoused her at-once and
montet a chaval et anet s'en ab sa molher en
mounted on horse and went himself-thence with his wife into
Normandia. E quan lo coms de la Marcha saup que·l
Normandy And when the count of the March learned that-the
reis l'avia touta sa molher, fo mout dolens et anet
king from-him-had taken his wife he-was very grieving and went
s'en reclamar a totz sos parens et a totz sos amics,
himself-thence to-complain to all his kinsmen and to all his friends
e tuit en foron mout irat e preiron conselh que ilh
and all of-it were very angered and took counsel that they
s'en anessen en Bretanha e tolguessen lo filh de·l
themselves-thence should-go into Brittany and should-take the son of-the
comte Jaufre, que avia nom Artus, e qu'en fezessen
count Geoffrey who had name Arthur and that-of-him they-should-make
lor senhor; que per razo ho podian far, qu'el era filhs
their lord for by right it they-could to-do for-he was son
de·l comte Jaufre, qu'era enanz natz que·l reis Johans.
of-the count Geoffrey who-was earlier born than-the king John
Et enaissi ho feiron e feiron d'Artus lor senhor e
And thus it they-did and they-made of-Arthur their lord and

jureron li fezeutat e meneron lo en Peitau e tolgron
they-swore to-him fealty and they-led him into Poitou and they-took
a·l rei Peitau trachs alquans chastels e borcs fortz
from-the king Poitou except some castles and towns strong
que avia en Peitau. Et el s'estava ab sa molher en
which he-had in Poitou And he himself-stayed with his wife in
Normandia, que noch ni jorn mais da lieis no·s partia
Normandy for night or day ever from her not-himself he-parted
ni manjan ni beven ni dormen ni velhan, e menava
neither eating nor drinking nor sleeping nor waking and he-led
la en chassa et en forest et en ribieira ab austors et
her to hunting and into forest and into riverside with goshawks and
ab falcos. Et aquist baro li tolian tota la terra.
with falcons And these barons from-him were-taking all the land
Be s'avenc qu'un jorn lor venc grans desaventura; que
Well it-befell that-one day to-them came great misadventure for
ilh avian sa maire assisa en un chastel, que a nom
they had his mother besieged in a castle which has name
Mirabel, et el per confort d'autrui si la socors a
Mirebeau and he through comfort of-another thus her succored at
no-saubuda e venc si celadamen qu'anc no·n saubron
unawares and he-came thus secretly that-ever not-of-it they-knew
novelas, tro qu'el fo jos e·l borc ab els. E trobet los
news until that-he was down in-the town with them And he-found them
dormen e pres los totz: Artus e sos baros e totz
sleeping and took them all Arthur and his barons and all
aquels que tenian ab el. E per jelosia de la molher,
those who held with him And through jealousy of the wife
quar no podia viure ses lieis, el abandonet Peitau e
because not he-could to-live without her he abandoned Poitou and

tornet s'en en Normandia e laisset los preisoniers
returned himself-thence into Normandy and left the prisoners
per sagramens e per ostatges e passet s'en en
on oaths and on hostages and passed himself-thence into
Englaterra e menet ab se Artus e·n Savaric de Mauleo
England and led with him Arthur and-Sir Savaric of Mauléon
e·l vescomte de Chastel Airaut. E fetz negar so
and-the viscount of Châtel Airault And he-made to-drown his
nebot Artus, e·n Savaric de Mauleo fetz metre en la
nephew Arthur and-Sir Savaric of Mauléon he-made to-put into the
tor Corp, lai on hom mais no manjava ni bevia, e·l
tower Corp there where one more not ate nor drank and-the
vescomte de Chastel Airaut autresi. E tan tost com lo
viscount of Châtel Airault likewise And as soon as the
reis de Franza saup que lo reis Johans ab sa molher
king of France learned that the king John with his wife
era passatz en Englaterra, el entret ab gran host en
was passed into England he entered with great host into
Normandia e tolc li tota la terra. E·lh baro de
Normandy and took from-him all the land And-the barons of
Peitau si reveleron e tolgron li tot Peitau trach La
Poitou thus rebelled and took from-him all Poitou except La
Rochela. E·n Savarics de Mauleo, com hom valens e
Rochelle and-Sir Savaric of Mauléon as man worthy and
savis e larcs, si s'enginhet si qu'el eschampet foras
wise and generous thus himself-contrived so that-he escaped outside
de la preiso e pres lo chastel on el estava pres. E·l
of the prison and took the castle where he was held And-the
reis Johans fetz patz ab el, qu'el lo laisset anar e det
king John made peace with him that-he him let to-go and gave

li en guarda tota la terra qu'el non avia perduda de
to-him in keeping all the land which-he not had lost of
Peitau e de Guasconha. E·n Savarics s'en venc e
Poitou and of Gascony and-Sir Savaric himself-thence came and
comenzet la guerra ab totz los enemics de·l rei Johan e
began the war with all the enemies of-the king John and
tolc lor tot Peitau e tota Guasconha. E·l reis si
took from-them all Poitou and all Gascony And-the king thus
sojornava en Englaterra en chambra ab sa molher ni no
sojourned in England in chamber with his wife and not
donava socors ni aiutori a·n Savaric de Mauleo d'aver ni
gave succor nor aid to-Sir Savaric of Mauléon of-wealth nor
de gen. Don Bertrans de Born lo joves, lo filhs d'en
of folk Wherefore Bertran of Born the young the son of-Sir
Bertran de Born que fetz aquels autres sirventes, per lo
Bertran of Born who made those other sirventes through the
besonh qu'era a·n Savaric e per lo reclam que tota
need which-was to-Sir Savaric and through the outcry which all
la gens de Quitania e de·l comtat de Peitau en fazian,
the folk of Aquitaine and of-the county of Poitou of-it made
si fetz aquest sirventes: «Quan vei lo temps renovelar.»
thus made this sirventes When I-see the season to-renew

Quan vei lo temps renovelar,
When I-see the season to-renew
e pareis la fuolha e la flors,
and appears the leaf and the flower

mi dona ardimen amors
to-me gives boldness love
e cor e saber de chantar;
and heart and skill of to-sing
e puois vei qu'als no m'en sofranh,
and since I-see that-anything-else not to-me-of-it fails
farai un sirventes cozen,
I-shall-make a sirventes biting
que trametrai lai per presen
which I-shall-send there as present
a·l rei Johan, que·s n'avergonh.
to-the king John that-he-himself of-it-be-ashamed

E deuria·s be vergonhar,
And he-ought-himself well to-be-ashamed
si·lh membres de sos ancessors,
if-to-him it-remembered of his forebears
quar laissa sai Peitau e Tors
because he-leaves here Poitou and Tours
a·l rei Felip ses demandar;
to-the king Philip without to-claim
per que tota Guiana planh
for which all Guyenne laments
lo rei Richart, que defenden
the king Richard who defending
en mes maint aur e maint argen,
in-it put much gold and much silver
mas d'aquest no·m par, n'aia sonh.
but of-this not-to-me it-seems of-it-be-have care

Mais ama·l bordir e·l chassar
More he-loves-the jousting and-the hunting
e bracs e lebriers et austors
and hounds and greyhounds and goshawks
e·l sojorn, per que·lh falh honors,
and-the repose for which-to-him fails honor
e·s laissa vius deseretar;
and-himself he-lets alive to-disinherit
mal sembla d'ardimen Galvanh,
ill he-resembles in-boldness Gawain
que sai lo viram plus soven;
whom here him we-saw more often
e puois autre conselh no pren,
and since other counsel not he-takes
lais sa terra a·l senhor de·l Gronh.
let-him-leave his land to-the lord of Logroño

Mielhs saup Lozovics desliurar
Better knew Louis to-deliver
Guilhelme e far ric socors
William and to-make rich succor
ad Aurenga, quan l'almassors
at Orange when the-almanzor
a Titbaut l'ac fach assetjar;
to Thibaut it-had made to-besiege
pretz et honor n'ac ab guazanh;
worth and honor of-it-he-had with gain

ieu ho dic per chastiamen
I it say for chastisement
a·l rei Johan, que pert sa gen,
to-the king John who loses his folk
que no lor socor pres ni lonh.
who not to-them succors near nor far

Baro, sai vir mon chastiar,
Barons here I-turn my chastising
a cui ieu blasme las folors
to whom I blame the follies
que avetz, e pren m'en dolors
which you-have and takes me-of-it grief
quar m'ave de vos a parlar;
because to-me-it-befalls of you to to-speak
que pretz avetz tombat e·l fanh
for worth you-have thrown in-the mire
et avetz apres un fol sen,
and you-have learned a foolish sense
que no doptatz chastiamen,
that not you-fear chastisement
mas qui·us ditz mal, aquel vos onh.
but whoever-to-you says ill that-one you anoints

Domna, cui desir e tenh char
Lady whom I-desire and hold dear
e dopt e blan part las melhors,
and dread and court beyond the best

tan es vera vostra lauzors
so is true your praise
qu'ieu no la sai dir ni comtar;
that-I not it I-know to-say nor to-tell
qu'aissi com aurs val mais d'estanh,
for-just as gold is-worth more than-tin
valetz mais part las melhors cen
you-are-worth more beyond the best hundred
et etz plus leials ves joven,
and you-are more loyal toward youth
no son a dieu cilh de Cadonh.
than are to God those of Cadouin

Savarics, reis cui cors sofranh
Savaric king to-whom heart fails
fara grieu bo envazimen,
will-make hardly good assault
e puois a cor flac, recrezen,
and since he-has heart slack recreant
ja mais nuls hom en el no ponh.
ever more any man in him not strives

PEIRE VIDAL

The Songs of Peire Vidal, with His Life and the Razos

La lauzet' e·l rossinhol

1 · THE LARK AND THE NIGHTINGALE

He loves the lark and the nightingale above every other bird, because they are first to sing for joy of the new season, and he sings when the other troubadours are silent. Since his lady's grace lets him call her lady in his verse, he pledges himself hers. It is folly to boast of a joy before it is asked for, and folly in a lady to set her heart on riches. When he looks at his ring, no city or castle refuses him.

La lauzet' e·l rossinhol
The lark and-the nightingale
am mais que nulh autr' auzel,
I-love more than any other bird
que pel jois del temps novel
for through-the joy of-the season new
comenson premier lor chan:
they-begin first their song
et eu ad aquel semblan,
and I in that manner
quan li autre trobador
when the other troubadours
estan mut, eu chan d'amor
stand mute I sing of-love
de ma domna Na Vierna.
of my lady Lady Vierna

E quar per sa merce·m col,
And since through her mercy-me she-cherishes
qu'en chantan domna l'apel,
that-in singing lady her-I-call

be·s tanh qu'ab leis mi capdel,
well-it is-fitting that-with her myself I-govern
qu'eu vos pliu ses tot enjan
that-I to-you pledge without any deceit
que seus serai derenan;
that hers I-will-be henceforth
quar m'a fait tanta d'onor,
for me-she-has done so-much of-honor
que·m rete per servidor
that-me she-keeps as servant
per totz temps mais Na Vierna.
for all time henceforth Lady Vierna

Las! qu'eras planh so que·m dol
Alas that-now I-lament that which-to-me grieves
plus que nafra de cairel
more than wound of arrow
no fera ni de coutel;
— would-do or of knife
per qu'es fols qui·s vai vanan
for which-is foolish who-himself goes boasting
son joi tro qu'om lo·i deman,
his joy until that-one it-of-him asks
e domna fai gran folor,
and lady does great folly
que s'enten en gran ricor —
who herself-directs toward great wealth
e Deus gart ne Na Vierna.
and God guard therefrom Lady Vierna

Ara·m va miels que no sol:
Now-me it-goes better than — it-is-wont
quant ieu remir mon anel,
when I gaze-at my ring
no vei ciutat ni castel
not I-see city nor castle
tug non fasson mon coman;
(that)-all not they-do my command
e li rei e l'amiran
and the kings and the-emirs
me tenon tug per senhor,
me they-hold all as lord
pel gaug e per la doussor
for-the joy and for the sweetness
quem ven de vas Na Vierna!
which-me comes from toward Lady Vierna

Atressi co·l perilhans

2 · THE MAN IN PERIL ON THE WATER

He is like the man tossed on the water who has no hope of life until luck or rescue brings him to harbor: such a turn has given him a song. The lady who wrongly forgets him has shown him no mercy, and he dares take no revenge. Her seeming conquered him at first sight, and too much praise is a lie. Drawn out of an evil lot, he finds snow like flowers and ice like a garden; her whiteness is like the snow on a mountain pass.

Atressi co·l perilhans
Just-as as-the imperiled-man
que sus en l'aiga balansa,
who up on the-water tosses
que non a conort de vida,
who not has comfort of life
tan sofre greu escarida,
so-much he-suffers grievous a-fate
que paors li tol membransa,
that fear from-him takes memory
e pois quan ven a bon port
and then when he-comes to good harbor
per astre o per socors:
by fortune or by rescue
tot aitals astres m'a sors,
wholly such a-fortune to-me-has arisen
per qu'eu ai assatz razo
for which-I have enough matter
de far novela chanso.
to make a-new song

Estat aurai malanans
Been I-shall-have distressed
e sufert greu malanansa,
and endured grievous wretchedness
tan que merces m'es falhida
so-much that mercy to-me-is failed
de leis qu'e son tort m'oblida;
from her who-in her wrong me-forgets
e no·n aus penre venjansa.
and not-of-it I-dare to-take vengeance
Pero eu trac peitz de mort,
Yet I bear worse than death
qu'anc no·m volc valer Amors;
for-ever not-me wished to-help Love
mas er s'en va la dolors,
but now itself-thence goes the sorrow
qu'en tal ai m'entensio,
for-in such I-have my-purpose
que·l plai qu'eu chant e·l sap bo.
that-to-her it-pleases that-I sing and-to-her it-tastes good

De la bela sui clamans,
Of the fair-one I-am complaining
que me mostra per semblansa
who to-me shows by seeming
que ma mortz l'es abelida:
that my death to-her-is pleasing
e quar melhs non es chauzida,
and because better not she-is chosen

ai faita mout gran erransa.
I-have made very great erring
Tornarai l'ir' en conort
I-shall-turn the-grief into comfort
e virarai m'en alhors,
and I-shall-turn myself-thence elsewhere
quar sens es e grans valors,
for sense it-is and great merit
qui de brau senhor felo
whoever from a-fierce lord cruel
se lonha ses mal resso.
himself withdraws without ill report

Aissi·m venquet sos semblans
Thus-me conquered her seeming
al prim qu'eu vi s'acoindansa,
at-the first that-I saw her-welcome
que lauzan l'ai enantida;
that praising her-I-have advanced
e trop lauzars es mentida
and too-much praising is a-lie
maintas vetz senes doptansa.
many times without doubt
Per qu'al repropchier m'acort
For which-to-the proverb I-agree
qu'ai auzit dels ancessors,
that-I-have heard from-the forefathers

qu'a temps vens'om vensedors
that-in time conquers-one conquerors
e per temps e per sazo
and by time and by season
vencut fan gran vensezo.
the-conquered do great conquering

Fis amics sui ben amans
A-true lover I-am well loving
et ai per dreg benenansa;
and I-have by right well-being
tan bon'aventura·m guida,
so-much a-good-fortune-me guides
que leis qu'a valor complida
that her who-has merit accomplished
m'a mes en bon'esperansa
to-me-has put in good-hope
e m'a trait de mala sort,
and to-me-has drawn from an-evil lot
si que·l neus mi sembla flors
so that-the snow to-me seems flowers
e·l glatz jardis e verdors,
and-the ice a-garden and greenery
et ai fag per dreit mon pro
and I-have done by right my profit
tan quez enrequitz en so.
so-much that enriched in-it I-am

Tant avetz bon pretz e fort,
So-much you-have good worth and strong
bona domna, que valors
good lady that merit
vos lauza mais que lauzors,
you praises more than praise
per qu'eu retrac ma chanso
for which-I recount my song
novela ab novel so.
new with a-new tune

Bona domna, neus de port
Good lady snow of a-pass
sembla la vostra blancors,
resembles the your whiteness
e par de roza·l colors;
and appears of a-rose-the color
qu'aissi·us fetz Deus de faisso
that-so-you made God of a-fashion
que natura·i pert razo.
that nature-in-it loses reason

Ges del joi que ai no·m rancur

3 · NOT OF THE JOY BUT OF THE GRIEF

He does not complain of the joy he has but of the grief, which makes him bear all his years without fault of his own. His lady is wild and hard, and the humbler he is the more dismay she gives him. She has put him from brightness into darkness, and since Love wills all his harm he does not wonder that it goes ill. He has no walled castle and his land is not worth two gloves, but no truer lover ever was.

Ges del joi que ai no·m rancur,
At-all of-the joy that I-have not-me I-complain
mas de la dolor sui clamans,
but of the grief I-am complaining
que·m fai traire trastotz mos ans
that-me makes to-endure all my years
ses colp' e ses tort, qu'eu no l'ai.
without fault and without wrong that-I not it-have
Mas era·m sui mes en assai,
But now-me I-am set in trial
com eu posca retrair' e dir
how I can to-retell and to-say
tal re, qu'Amors que·m fai languir
such a-thing that-Love which-me makes to-languish
no mi vol ab dreit capdelar.
not me wills with right to-govern

Tan m'a salvatge cor e dur
So-much to-me-she-has a-wild heart and hard
cela que·m bat de sos verjans,
she who-me beats with her branches

qu'on plus li sui humilians,
that-the more to-her I-am humbling-myself
adoncs me dona plus d'esglai.
then to-me she-gives more of-dismay
Mas eu com fols, quan ven en plai,
But I like a-fool when it-comes to pleading
venh denan leis e no m'azir
I-come before her and not I-am-angered
de parlar; e pois me consir,
of speaking and then myself I-reflect
que trop me volh sobrecochar.
that too-much myself I-wish to-over-hurry

De clartat m'a mes en escur
From brightness to-me-she-has put into darkness
cela per cui vauc dezirans;
she for whom I-go desiring
e pos Amors vol totz mos dans,
and since Love wills all my harms
no·m meravilh si mal m'en vai.
not-me I-marvel if ill to-me-of-it goes
Mas be·us dic que tan sofrirai,
But well-to-you I-say that so-much I-shall-suffer
tro posca en loc avenir,
until I-can in a-place to-arrive
qu'ab mos olhs son bel cors remir,
that-with my eyes her fair body I-behold
e s'i aura trop al meu par.
and there-in there-will-be too-much to-the my seeming

Non ai castel serrat de mur
Not I-have a-castle closed with wall
ni ma terra no val dos gans,
and my land not is-worth two gloves
mas anc no fo plus fis amans
but ever not was a-more true lover
de mi, ni es ni er jamai.
than I nor is nor will-be ever
Per qu'eu, bona domna, serai
For which-I good lady I-shall-be
vostres, e si·m voletz sofrir
yours and if-me you-wish to-suffer
qu'eu vos am, no·us quier alre dir,
that-I you love not-you I-ask anything-else to-say
qu'Amors m'a fag sobreparlar.
for-Love to-me-has made to-overspeak

Ai! quan poirai cridar: segur!
Ah when I-shall-be-able to-cry safe
Ni quoras serai benanans,
Or when I-shall-be happy
quant Amors volra mos enans?
when Love will-wish my advancement
Qu'autre conselh de mi no sai.
For-other counsel of me not I-know
Qu'Amors me pot gitar d'esmai
For-Love me can to-cast from-dismay
que m'a fag e fara languir,
which to-me-has made and will-make to-languish

s'ab merce no·m vol recolhir
if-with mercy not-me she-wills to-receive
e l'ira de mon cor gitar.
and the-grief from my heart to-cast

Bels amics cars, ven s'en vas vos estius

4 · SUMMER GOES TOWARD YOU

A song sent to a friend as summer travels toward him: it sends flowers at Christmas, February has turned to Eastertide, winter flees. Praise of the friend tastes to him as the fresh season does to birds in the nest. Where such honored pleas fall among the jealous, courtly people suffer, for good worth cannot lodge among the worthless. His own lady gives him no succor and he will die pensive. He would return to Vierna, if his Chastened One would give him leave.

Bels amics cars, ven s'en vas vos estius,
Fair friend dear comes itself-thence toward you the-summer
qu'entorn Nadal vos tramet de sas flors,
that-about Christmas to-you sends of its flowers
e veg febrier, qu'es ja tornatz Pascors
and I-see February which-is already turned Eastertide
e fug iverns que no·us es agradius.
and flees winter which not-to-you is pleasing
Doncs pos li temps son al vostre voler,
So since the seasons are at-the your will
ben es caitius e ben vol dechazer
well he-is wretched and well he-wishes to-fall
cel que no·us sap honrar e car tener.
he who not-you knows to-honor and dear to-hold

Mas mi platz tan vostre rics senhorius,
But to-me pleases so-much your rich lordship
que quant aug dir de vos bonas lauzors,
that when I-hear to-say of you good praises

aissi m'es gaugz e deleitz e sabors,
so to-me-is joy and delight and savor
com an l'auzel, quan s'alegron pels nius
as have the-birds when themselves-they-rejoice in-the nests
del cortes temps que vezon aparer:
of-the courtly season that they-see to-appear
e volh vos tan, bels amics cars, vezer,
and I-wish you so-much fair friend dear to-see
qu'a penas posc sai mos olhs retener.
that-with difficulty I-can here my eyes to-hold-back

E quar si mes entre·ls gilos aurius
And because themselves put among-the jealous haughty
tans honratz plaitz ni tan rica valors,
so-many honored pleas and so rich a-merit
a nos cortes es trebalhs e dolors.
to us courtly it-is toil and grief
Mas d'una ren no·s fassa nulhs esquius:
But of-one thing not-himself let-make any-man shy
qu'entr'avols gens no pot bos pretz caber,
that-among-worthless folk not can good worth to-lodge
car als avols deu tostemps mal saber
for to-the worthless must always ill to-taste
so que·l pro fan, per'quom no·s deu temer.
that which-the worthy do for-which-one not-himself must to-fear

Del vostre dan, amics, sui mout caitius,
Of-the your harm friend I-am very wretched
e quar no·m fai ma domna nulh socors
and because not-to-me does my lady any succor
e destrenh mi tan fort la su'amors,
and constrains me so hard the her-love
qu'eu cug morir consiros e pensius.
that-I think to-die anxious and pensive
Mala l'amei, pos no·m deu escazer
In-an-evil-hour her-I-loved since not-to-me it-must to-befall
e pos no·m posc de mon dan estener;
and since not-me I-can from my harm to-refrain
ar sui eu cel qu'en mi non ai poder.
now am I he that-in myself not I-have power

E si'n paresc a las autras esquius,
And if-of-it I-seem to the others shy
tan volh sos bes e tan volh sas honors,
so-much I-wish her goods and so-much I-wish her honors
don no·m deu ges nozer sa grans ricors.
whence not-to-me must at-all to-hurt her great wealth
Qu'anc pos m'ac tot, no fui vas leis antius,
That-ever since me-she-had wholly not I-was toward her proud
enans l'am mais de bon cor e de ver,
rather her-I-love more from good heart and in truth
que de re mais gaug entier non esper;
for of anything else joy entire not I-hope
grans peccatz es, si·m torn'en nonchaler.
a-great sin it-is if-me she-turn-into disregard

La grans valors e·l pretz nominatius
The great merit and-the worth renowned
e·l dous plazers qu'en leis amar es sors,
and-the sweet pleasure that-in her to-love is arisen
fo guerrejatz per malastrucs trachors,
was warred-on by ill-starred traitors
mas pois remas lo mals crims e·l fals brius.
but then ceased the evil slander and-the false report
Per que devetz nom de serors aver,
For which you-must a-name of sisters to-have
qu'ambas ensems vos fai Deus mais valer
that-both together you makes God more to-be-worth
mal grat d'aicels que·m fan mon cor doler.
in-ill will of-those who-me make my heart to-grieve

Na Vierna, tornar e remaner
Lady Vierna to-return and to-remain
volgra ves vos, si m'en dones lezer
I-would-wish toward you if to-me-of-it gave leave
mos Castiatz, mas trop se fai temer.
My Chastened-One but too-much himself he-makes to-fear

Mout es bona terr' Espanha

5 · SPAIN IS A GOOD LAND

Spain is a good land and its kings sweet, noble, and of courtly company, and King Alfonso keeps him nobly among them. But he has done the spider's work and the Breton's waiting: truth is anguish to tell and lying profits nothing, and he finds failure on every side in her goodwill. He served long for nothing, and came old and poor and shamefaced among the rich. Since his lady estranges him he will be late to see Orgon or the royal castle of Aubagne.

Mout es bona terr' Espanha,
Very is good a-land Spain
e·l rei qui senhor en so,
and-the kings who lords in-it are
dous e car e franc e bo
sweet and dear and noble and good
e de corteza companha;
and of courtly company
e s'i a d'autres baros,
and if-there are of-other barons
mout avinens e mout pros,
very gracious and very worthy
de sen e de conoissensa
of sense and of understanding
e de faitz e de parvensa.
and of deeds and of bearing

Per que·m platz qu'entr'els remanha
For which-to-me it-pleases that-among-them I-remain
en l'emperial regio,
in the-imperial realm
quar ses tota contenso
for without any contention
me rete gent e·m gazanha
me keeps nobly and-me wins
reis emperaires N'Anfos,
king emperor Sir-Alfonso
per cui Jovens es joios,
by whom Youth is joyful
quez el mon non a valensa,
that in-the world not there-is an-excellence
que sa valors no la vensa.
that his merit not it surpasses

Fag ai l'obra de l'aranha
Made I-have the-work of the-spider
e la musa del Breto;
and the waiting of-the Breton
per qu'eu mezeis no sai co
for which-I myself not I-know how
m'en rancur e m'en complanha,
myself-of-it I-complain and myself-of-it I-lament
que·l ver dir m'es angoissos
for-the truth to-say to-me-is anguishing
e·l mentirs no m'es nuls pros:
and-the lying not to-me-is any profit

daus totas partz trob falhensa
on all sides I-find failure
en la sua benvolensa.
in the her goodwill

Mout m'a tengut en greu lanha,
Much to-me-she-has held in grievous affliction
quar l'ai servid' en perdo;
for her-I-have served in vain
e servir ses gazardo
and to-serve without reward
crei que captals en sofranha;
I-believe that capital in-it fails
que velhs, paubres, sofraitos,
for old poor destitute
venc entre·ls rics, vergonhos:
I-came among-the rich shamefaced
per c'om deu cercar garensa,
for which-one must to-seek a-safeguard
ans que torn' en decazensa.
before that he-turn into decay

E pos ma domna m'estranha
And since my lady me-estranges
de so que no·lh platz que·m do
from that which not-to-her it-pleases that-to-me she-give
s'amor, tart veirai Orgo
her-love late I-shall-see Orgon
ni·l reial castel d'Albanha.
or-the royal castle of-Aubagne
E ja tant pauc orgolhos
And ever so little proud
amic ni tant amoros
a-friend nor so loving
non auran mais part Durensa
not they-will-have henceforth beyond Durance
en la terra de Proensa.
in the land of Provence

Car' amiga douss' e franca

6 · DEAR BELOVED, SWEET AND NOBLE

His heart abandons itself wholly to her and stops at no other; he desires her love more than Lombardy or France. She is the tree and branch where the fruit of joy ripens, and her love heals him. True beauty fashions her vermilion and white, to wear a crown on the imperial bench. Lady Guilhalmona is neither false nor felon, and no woman under heaven is so gracious. He scorns a rich old woman who will not give, and whoever leaves Sir Diego should be buried alive in a cesspit.

Car' amiga douss' e franca,
Dear beloved sweet and noble
covinens, e bel' e bona,
comely and fair and good
mos cors a vos s'abandona,
my heart to you itself-abandons
si qu'ab autra no s'estanca.
so that-with another not itself-halts
Per que·us port amor certana
For which-to-you I-bear a-love sure
ses orgolh e ses ufana,
without pride and without vaunting
e mais dezir vostr'amansa
and more I-desire your-loving
que Lombardia ni Fransa.
than Lombardy or France

Quar vos etz arbres e branca
For you are a-tree and a-branch
on fruitz de gaug s'assazona:
where fruit of joy itself-ripens
pero qui a vos s'adona
therefore whoever to you himself-gives
no tem folzer ni lavanca.
not fears thunderbolt nor avalanche
Quar vostr' amors segurana
For your love secure
garis e·m reven e·m sana,
heals and-me revives and-me makes-whole
e·m tol enoi e pezansa
and-me takes-away vexation and heaviness
ab gaug de fin' alegransa.
with joy of true gladness

Ab color vermelh' e blanca
With a-color vermilion and white
fina beutatz vos faissona
true beauty you fashions
ad ops de portar corona
for the-purpose of to-bear a-crown
sus en l'emperial banca.
up on the-imperial bench
E quar etz douss' et humana,
And because you-are sweet and kind

teno·us tuit per sobeirana
they-hold-you all as a-sovereign
de joi e de benestansa
of joy and of well-being
e de valor e d'onransa.
and of merit and of-honor

Ges no·s dol de pe ni d'anca
At-all not-herself aches of foot nor of-haunch
la bela Na Guilhalmona,
the fair Lady Guilhalmona
ni es falsa ni felona
nor she-is false nor felon
ni no porta soc ni sanca.
and not she-wears clog nor patten
Anc tan gentils ciutadana
Ever so noble a-townswoman
no nasquet ni tan doussana,
not was-born nor so sweet
neis la filha Na Constansa,
not-even the daughter (of-)Lady Constance
per cui Jovens saut' e dansa.
for whom Youth leaps and dances

Qu'om no·m poiria ab planca
That-one not-me could with a-plank
gitar del linh de Narbona:
to-cast from-the line of Narbonne

quar en tan quan revirona
for in so-much as goes-round
cels, non a saura ni danca
heaven not there-is a-blonde nor a-dark-one
tant avinen crestiana
so gracious a-Christian
ni juzeva ni pagana,
nor a-Jewess nor a-pagan
que denans totas s'enansa
that before all itself-advances
vostra covinens semblansa.
your comely seeming

Velha rica tenh per manca,
An-old-woman rich I-hold as maimed
quant a poder e no dona
when she-has power and not gives
et acolh mal e peitz sona;
and receives ill and worse speaks
pretz la meins que s'era ranca.
I-prize her less than if-she-were lame
Mas de gentil Castellana
But of a-noble Castilian
ben fait' ab color de grana
well made with a-color of scarlet
am mais la bon'esperansa
I-love more the good-hope
que pel froncida ni ransa.
than a-skin wrinkled or rancid

Qui d'En Diego s'arranca,
Whoever from-Sir Diego himself-tears-away
non a mestier mas que·s pona
not has need but that-himself he-punish
o qu'om tot viu lo rebona
or that-one wholly living him bury
en privada pozaranca,
in a-privy cesspit
a lei de checa vilana
in the-manner of a-bitch churl-woman
recrezen, cor de putana,
recreant a-heart of a-whore
sitot al taulat se lansa,
although at-the quintain herself she-hurls
ni·s ponha d'emplir sa pansa.
and-herself strives of-to-fill her paunch

S'eu fos en cort on hom tengues dreitura

7 · IF I WERE IN A COURT OF JUSTICE

If there were a court where justice was kept, he would bring suit against his lady, who keeps him neither pledge nor covenant and does not fear sin. It would have gone better with him had she been harsh at the start; instead she lures him with fair seemings. In other affairs she is courteous, but her love hurts worse than toothache. He will win her late, for no lady counsels herself worse toward her friend. The song goes to the queen of Aragon.

S'eu fos en cort on hom tengues dreitura,
If-I were in a-court where one held justice
de ma domna, sitot s'es bon' e bela,
of my lady although she-is good and fair
me clamera, qu'a tan gran tort mi mena
me I-would-complain that-with so great wrong me she-leads
que no m'aten plevi ni covinensa.
that not to-me-she-keeps pledge nor covenant
E donc per que·m promet so que no·m dona,
And so for what-to-me she-promises that which not-to-me she-gives
no tem peccat ni sap ques es vergonha.
not she-fears sin nor knows what is shame

E valgra·m mais que·m fos al prim esquiva,
And it-would-be-worth-to-me more that-to-me she-were at-the first harsh
qu'ela·m tengues en aitan greu rancura;
that-she-me held in so-much grievous rancor
mas ilh o fai si com cel que cembela,
but she it does just as he who lures

qu'ab bels semblans m'a mes en mortal pena,
who-with fair seemings to-me-has put in mortal pain
don ja ses leis no cre aver garensa,
whence ever without her not I-believe to-have healing
qu'anc mala fos tan bela ni tan bona.
that-ever in-an-evil-hour she-was so fair nor so good

D'autres afars es cortez' e chauzida,
Of-other affairs she-is courteous and discerning
mas mal o fai, car a mon dan s'abriva,
but ill it she-does for to my harm herself-hastens
que peitz me fai, e ges no s'en melhura,
for worse to-me she-does and at-all not herself-of-it she-mends
que mals de dens, quan dol en la maissela;
than an-ache of teeth when it-aches in the jaw
que·l cor me bat e·m fier, que no·s refrena,
that-the heart me beats and-me strikes so-that not-itself it-restrains
s'amors ab leis et ab tota Proensa.
her-love with her and with all Provence

E car no vei mon Rainier de Marselha,
And because not I-see my Rainier of Marseille
sitot me viu, mos viures no m'es vida;
although me I-live my living not to-me-is life
e·l malautes que soven recaliva
and-the sick-man who often relapses
garis mout greu, ans mor, si sos mals dura.
heals very hardly rather he-dies if his ill lasts

Doncs sui eu mortz, s'enaissi·m renovela
So am I dead if-thus-me renews
aquest dezirs que·m tol soven l'alena.
this desire that-me takes often the-breath

A mon semblan mout l'aurai tart conquista,
To my seeming very her-I-shall-have late conquered
car nulha domna peitz no s'aconselha
for any lady worse not herself-counsels
vas son amic, et on plus l'ai servida
toward her friend and the more her-I-have served
de mon poder, eu la trob plus ombriva.
with my power I her find more forbidding
Doncs car tan l'am, mout sui plus folatura
So because so-much her-I-love very I-am more a-folly
que fols pastres qu'a bel poi caramela.
than a-foolish shepherd who-on a-fair hill pipes

Mas vencutz es cui Amors apodera;
But conquered is he-whom Love overmasters
apoderatz fui quan ma domn' aic vista,
overmastered I-was when my lady I-had seen
car nulh'autra ab leis no s'aparelha
for any-other with her not herself-matches
de pretz entier ab proeza complida.
of worth entire with prowess accomplished

Per qu'eu sui seus e serai tan quan viva,
For which-I am hers and I-shall-be as long-as I-live
e si no·m val, er tortz e desmezura.
and if not-to-me she-avails it-will-be wrong and excess

Chansos, vai t'en a la valen regina
Song go yourself-thence to the worthy queen
en Arago, quar mais regina vera
in Aragon for more a-queen true
no sai el mon, e si n'ai mainta quista,
not I-know in-the world and yet of-them-I-have many sought
e no trob plus ses tort e ses querelha.
and not I-find more without wrong and without quarrel
Mas ilh es franc' e leials e grazida
But she is noble and loyal and pleasing
per tota gent et a Deu agradiva.
to all folk and to God agreeable

E car lo reis sobr'autres reis s'enansa,
And because the king above-other kings himself-advances
ad aital rei coven aitals regina.
to such a-king befits such a-queen

Bels Castiatz, vostre pretz senhoreja
Fair Chastened-One your worth reigns
sobre totz pretz, qu'ab melhors faitz s'enansa.
above all worth that-with better deeds itself-advances

Mon Gazanhat sal Deus e Na Vierna,
My Won-One save God and Lady Vierna
car hom tan gen no dona ni guerreja.
for a-man so nobly not gives nor wars

En una terra estranha

8 · IN A STRANGE LAND

In a strange land he found an intimate love and well-taught people: God save the ladies of Beuil, in whom is every worth and beauty. For their sake he loves a snowy mountain better than a broad plain. His own lady rejects him, and it can be no honor to her that he is ill-used. A court is not honored when no worthy man stays in it. A love that gilds and smooths with words a man of churlish heart lasts no longer than a spider's web.

En una terra estranha
In a land strange
trobei amor privada
I-found a-love intimate
e gen ben ensenhada,
and folk well taught
cui ja Deus no sofranha!
whom ever God not fail
Aitan quant eu dezir ni volh,
As-much as I desire and wish
sal Deus las domnas de Biolh,
save God the ladies of Beuil
quar en lor es pretz e valors
for in them is worth and merit
e gaugz e solatz et amors,
and joy and cheer and love
totas beutatz e totz plazers,
all beauties and all pleasures
totz bos sens e totz bels sabers,
all good sense and all fair knowledge

e Deus pauzet las prop de se,
and God set them near to himself
quar vi en elas tan de be.
because he-saw in them so-much of good

Per que am mais montanha
For which I-love more a-mountain
ab neu et ab gelada
with snow and with frost
qu'ampla terra ni lada
than-a-broad land or wide
ni ribeira ni planha.
or a-riverside or a-plain
E non o dic ges per orgolh,
And not it I-say at-all through pride
mas quar ma domna·m dezacolh,
but because my lady-me rejects
qu'avenhat m'es que·m n'an alhors,
so-that-fitting to-me-is that-me thence-I-go elsewhere
e non cre que·l sia honors
and not I-believe that-to-her is an-honor
mos maltraitz ni mos dechazers:
my ill-usage nor my falling
mas fai aitan de sos volers,
but she-does so-much of her wishes
e pot o far, que ja per re
and she-can it to-do that ever for anything
no·lh volrai mal, com que·m malme.
not-to-her I-shall-wish ill however that-me she-mistreat

Be·us dic que pauc gazanha
Well-to-you I-say that little gains
qui destrui sa mainada,
whoever destroys his household
que cortz non es honrada,
for a-court not is honored
des qu'om pros no·i remanha.
from-when that-a-man worthy not-in-it remains
Quar mi part de s'amor, m'en dolh,
For me I-part from her-love myself-of-it I-grieve
quar tan valens no cre·s despolh,
for so worthy not I-believe-herself she-strip
que bel' es sobre las gensors
for fair she-is above the fairest
plus que roza sobr' autras flors;
more than a-rose above other flowers
et si·l plagues lo remaners,
and if-to-her pleased the remaining
de sai fora·l gratz e·l lezers:
of here would-be-the thanks and-the leisure
mas eu parli no sai de que,
but I speak not I-know of what
qu'on mais la prec, peitz s'en capte.
for-the more her I-entreat worse herself-of-it she-behaves

Et ai ben dreg que·m planha,
And I-have well right that-me I-complain
si sui perdutz en bada,
if I-am lost in vain

qu'Amors no·us a tocada,
for-Love not-you has touched
mas mi ten en tal lanha,
but me holds in such affliction
de que ploron soven mei olh,
of which weep often my eyes
si que la car' e·l peitz m'en molh.
so that the face and-the breast to-me-of-it I-wet
Gran mestier m'en agra socors
Great need to-me-of-it would-be succor
d'amics o de mantenedors,
of-friends or of upholders
quar anc no fon sauput mos vers,
for ever not was known my verse
si·m ten amezurat temers:
so-me holds measured a-fearing
tan vos am de cor e de fe,
so-much you I-love with heart and with faith
que nulh amic de vos non cre.
that any friend of you not I-believe

Quar plus qu'obra d'aranha
For more than-the-work of-a-spider
non pot aver durada
not can to-have a-lasting
Amors, pos es proada,
Love once it-is proved

qu'ab ditz daur' et aplanha
which-with words gilds and smooths
tal qu'a·l cor de vilan escolh:
such who-has-the heart of churlish sort
per qu'eu fatz d'Aurenja Nantolh,
for which-I make of-Orange Nanteuil
que·ls plus cortes vei neis pejors
for-the most courtly I-see even worse
ves domnas e ves amadors.
toward ladies and toward lovers
Per que val mais bos absteners
For which is-worth more good abstaining
que fols parlars; mas bels parers
than foolish speaking but a-fair showing
volh far als pros, quan s'esdeve,
I-wish to-make to-the worthy when it-befalls
mas del ver tenc l'air' e l'ale.
but of-the truth I-hold the-air and the-breath

Domna, Deus qu'es leials e vers
Lady God who-is loyal and true
vos a dat pretz, honor e be
you has given worth honor and good
pro mais que no·n retenc ab se.
much more than of-it he-kept with himself
Que mainta gens ditz de vos be,
For many folk say of you good
que lui renega e mescre.
who him deny and misbelieve

Mos cors s'alegr' e s'esjau

9 · FANJEAUX

His heart gladdens for the mild season and for the castle of Fanjeaux, which seems paradise to him: love, joy, and true courting are shut up in it. Any enemy, however fierce, who speaks well of the ladies becomes his good friend. His archer of Laurac has wounded him from beyond Gaillac and set the bolt in his heart, and no blow ever pleased him more. Lady She-Wolf's sweet smiles hold him; he commends Montréal to God and turns back to Barral.

Mos cors s'alegr' e s'esjau
My heart itself-gladdens and itself-rejoices
per lo gentil temps suau
for the gentle season mild
e pel castel de Fanjau
and for-the castle of Fanjeaux
que·m ressembla paradis;
which-to-me resembles paradise
qu'amors e jois s'i enclau
for-love and joy themselves-in-it enclose
e tot quant a pretz s'abau
and all that to worth belongs
e domneis verais e fis.
and courting true and fine

Non ai enemic tan brau,
Not I-have an-enemy so fierce
si las domnas mi mentau
if the ladies to-me he-names
ni m'en ditz honor e lau,
nor to-me-of-them says honor and praise
qu'eu no·l sia bos amis.
that-I not-to-him am a-good friend
Et quar mest lor non estau,
And because among them not I-dwell
ni en autra terra vau,
nor into another land I-go
planh e sospir e languis.
I-lament and I-sigh and I-languish

Mos bels arquiers de Laurac,
My fair archer of Laurac
de cui m'abelis e·m pac,
by whom to-me-it-pleases and-me I-am-content
m'a nafrat de part Galhac
to-me-has wounded from beyond Gaillac
e son cairel el cor mis;
and his bolt in-the heart put
et anc mais colps tan no·m plac,
and ever more a-blow so not-to-me pleased
qu'eu sojorne a Saissac
so-that-I sojourn at Saissac
ab fraires et ab cozis.
with brothers and with cousins

Per totz temps lais Albeges
For all time I-leave the-Albigeois
e remanh en Carcasses,
and I-remain in the-Carcassès
que·l cavalier son cortes
for-the knights are courtly
e las domnas del païs.
and the ladies of-the country
Mas Na Loba a·m si conques,
But Lady She-Wolf has-me so conquered
que, si m'ajut Deus ni fes,
that if to-me-help God and faith
al cor m'estan sei dous ris.
in-the heart to-me-stand her sweet smiles

A Deu coman Monrial
To God I-commend Montréal
e·l palaitz emperial,
and-the palace imperial
qu'eu m'en torn sai a'N Barral,
for-I myself-thence turn here to-Sir Barral
a cui bos pretz es aclis;
to whom good worth is inclined
e cobrar m'an Proensal,
and to-regain me-they-will the-Provençals
quar nulha gens tan no val,
for any folk so-much not is-worth
per que serai lor vezis.
for which I-shall-be their neighbor

Tant ai longamen cercat

10 · LONG HAVE I SOUGHT

He has sought long for what he did not need and found it exactly so: a fool doing folly thinks he is doing sense. She gives him a dearth of joy; she betrayed him with fair company and stole his heart. He cries mercy daily and mercy does not answer. She belies the sweet glance and fair eyes that showed him so courteous a seeming, as a heretic leads a man into error with a fair face. Until he has crossed the Rhone his heart will not be content.

Tant ai longamen cercat
So-much I-have long sought
so qu'obs no m'avia,
that which-need not to-me-was
qu'enaissi o ai trobat
that-thus it I-have found
com eu o queria.
as I it sought
Perdut ai e mescabat
Lost I-have and squandered
so qu'aver solia,
that which-to-have I-used
et re non ai gazanhat
and anything not I-have gained
don mos amics ria.
whereof my friend laughs
E fols, quan fai foudat, cuja far sen
And a-fool when he-does folly thinks to-do sense
e no conois tro, l'en vai malamen;
and not he-knows until to-him-it goes badly

que·m sui lonhatz de plazer e d'onransa
for-me I-am parted from pleasure and from-honor
e chauzimens ab leis re no m'enansa,
and clemency with her in-anything not me-advances
que·l cors e·l cor de mi e la valor
for-the body and-the heart of me and the merit
a e no·m val ni eu no·m vir alhor.
she-has and not-to-me avails and I not-myself turn elsewhere

De joi don a gran viutat
Of joy whereof she-has great plenty
mi fai carestia,
to-me she-makes a-dearth
mala vi sa gran beutat,
in-an-evil-hour I-saw her great beauty
et sa cortezia.
and her courtesy
Traït m'a e galiat,
Betrayed me-she-has and beguiled
ab bela paria
with fair company
m'a si tot mon cor emblat,
to-me-she-has so wholly my heart stolen
que ja no·l creiria.
that ever not-it I-would-believe
Leis ami plus que mi, per que·m repren
Her I-love more than myself for which-me she-blames
et enquier me mon dan ad escien;
and seeks me my harm with knowledge

qu'ab leis no trob amistat ni pitansa
for-with her not I-find friendship nor pity
ni chauzimen ni negun' acordansa;
nor clemency nor any accord
eu clam merce e merces no·m socor;
I cry mercy and mercy not-me succors
merce claman cug morir de dolor.
mercy crying I-think to-die of grief

Tant clam ab humilitat
So-much I-cry with humility
merce cascun dia,
mercy each day
merces faria peccat,
mercy would-commit a-sin
si no m'en valia.
if not to-me-of-it it-availed
Mout ai chauzimen cridat
Much I-have clemency called-for
ves que pauc m'embria,
toward which little it-profits-me
pos ab leis non ai trobat,
since with her not I-have found
eu cre que mortz sia.
I believe that dead I-am
Ma domn' a mort merce e chauzimen,
My lady has slain mercy and clemency
son dous esgart e sos bels olhs desmen,
her sweet glance and her fair eyes give-the-lie

ab que·m mostret tan corteza semblansa,
with which-me she-showed so courteous a-seeming
qu'eu cugei plus aver que·l reis de Fransa.
that-I thought more to-have than-the king of France
D'aisso sembla heretg' e traïdor,
In-this she-resembles a-heretic and a-traitor
qu'ab bel semblan met home en error.
who-with a-fair seeming puts a-man into error

A! bel senher Castiat,
Ah fair lord Chastened-One
com mor de feunia,
how I-die of rage
qu'ab bel semblan m'a nafrat
for-with a-fair seeming me-has wounded
ma mal' enemia.
my evil enemy
E ges aitan de bontat
And at-all so-much of goodness
no·m demostraria,
not-to-me she-would-show
que·m fes amor de conhat,
that-to-me she-might-do love of a-brother-in-law
qu'ab tan ja viuria;
that-with so-much already I-should-live
qu'om sofraitos, que d'amor a talen,
for-a-man needy who of-love has desire
so que s'en pot aver, aco s'en pren;
that which himself-of-it he-can to-have that himself-of-it he-takes

et eu estauc en atrestal balansa.
and I stand in just-such a-balance
Mas en bon' esmenda n'ai esperansa,
But in a-good amends of-it-I-have hope
que·m socorra de las penas d'amor,
that-to-me she-succors from the pains of-love
que valer deu domn' a son servidor.
for to-help must a-lady to her servant

Ar tem que dic gran foudat
Now I-fear that I-say great folly
per ma leujaria:
through my lightness
mas deu m'esser perdonat,
but it-must to-me-to-be pardoned
que no sai que·m dia.
for not I-know what-to-me I-say
E vec me apoderat
And behold me overmastered
del tot a sa guia;
of-the whole at her guidance
fassa ne sa voluntat,
let-her-do of-it her will
qu'ela si·s faria.
which-she indeed-so would-do
Bona domna, si·us platz, a vos mi ren,
Good lady if-to-you it-pleases to you myself I-yield
e si no·us platz, si m'o fatz eissamen;
and if not-to-you it-pleases yet to-me-it do likewise

que be conosc que per negun' esmansa
for well I-know that by any reckoning
no·us ai forsa: mout trai greu malanansa
not-you I-have force much endures grievous wretchedness
caitius que chai en ira de senhor
a-wretch who falls into the-anger of a-lord
e non troba sostenh ni valedor.
and not finds support nor helper

Tro qu'aja Rozer passat
Until that-I-have the-Rhone crossed
lai vas Lombardia,
there toward Lombardy
non aurai mon cor pagat,
not I-shall-have my heart contented
com qu'eu sai m'estia.
however that-I here remain
Tant ai de Proens' estat
So-long I-have from Provence stayed
qu'eu tem que m'aucia
that-I fear that me-she-slays
ma domn', et aura m'onrat,
my lady and she-will-have me-honored
si tost o fazia.
if soon it she-did
Qu'aver dei ben vergonh' et espaven,
For-to-have I-must well shame and dread
car ai estat de leis tan longamen.
because I-have stayed from her so long

Si tals peccatz no fos dezesperansa,
If such a-sin not were despair
dezesperatz me for'eu ses duptansa,
despairing me would-be-I without doubt
e ren m'a leis a lei de bauzador,
and I-yield me-to her in the-manner of a-deceiver
et ilh fassa·n so que·lh torn ad honor.
and let-her do-of-it that which-to-her turn to honor

Olhs de merce, boca de chauzimen,
Eyes of mercy mouth of clemency
nulhs hom no·us ve que no·l fassatz jauzen,
any man not-you sees whom not-him you-make joyful
per qu'eu ai mes en vos ferm' esperansa
for which-I have put in you a-firm hope
e tot mon cor e tota ma fiansa,
and all my heart and all my trust
e fatz de vos ma domn' e mon senhor
and I-make of you my lady and my lord
e·us ren mon cor de bon cor e d'amor.
and-to-you I-yield my heart with good heart and with-love

Na Vierna, be·m vai de vostr' amor,
Lady Vierna well-to-me goes of your love
ab sol que vis Castiat, mon senhor.
with only that I-might-see Chastened-One my lord

Baros de mon dan covit

11 · BARONS, I INVITE YOU TO MY HARM

He invites the barons and the false slanderers to do their worst, for the lady he has chosen holds natural worth and he is wholly hers. Song and cheer have failed, and courting is welcomed only where the lady and the lover are false. His heart gladdens because Barral will take him back, and a thousand greetings come daily out of Catalonia and Lombardy. The king all but dies of envy. Nowhere does he go without being cried: this is Sir Peire Vidal.

Baros de mon dan covit,
Barons of my harm I-invite
fals lauzengiers desleials,
false slanderers disloyal
qu'en tal domna ai chauzit,
for-in such a-lady I-have chosen
on es fis pretz naturals.
where is fine worth natural
Et eu am la de fin cor, ses bauzia,
And I love her with a-true heart without deceit
e sui totz seus, quora qu'ilh sia mia,
and I-am wholly hers whenever that-she is mine
quar sa beutatz e sa valors pareis,
for her beauty and her merit appears
qu'en leis amar fora honratz us reis,
that-in her to-love would-be honored a king
per qu'eu sui rics sol que·m denh dire d'oc.
for which-I am rich only that-me she-deign to-say of-yes

Que res tan no m'abelit
For anything so-much not to-me-pleased
com sos adreitz cors leials,
as her upright body loyal
on son tug bon aip complit
where are all good qualities complete
e tug ben senes totz mals.
and all goods without all ills
Pos tot i es quan tanh a drudaria,
Since all in-it is that belongs to loving
ben sui astrucs, sol que mos cors lai sia;
well I-am fortunate only that my heart there is
e si merces, per que totz bos aips creis,
and if mercy through which every good quality grows
mi val ab leis, be·us posc dir ses tot neis,
to-me avails with her well-to-you I-can to-say without any doubt
qu'anc ab amor tant ajudar no·m poc.
that-ever with love so-much to-help not-me it-could

Chant e solatz vei falhit,
Song and cheer I-see failed
cortz e dos e bels hostals,
courts and gifts and fair lodgings
e domnei no vei grazit,
and courting not I-see welcomed
si·lh domn' e·l drutz non es fals.
if-the lady and-the lover not is false
Aquel n'a mais que plus soven galia.
That-one of-it-has more who most often deceives

Non dirai plus, mas com si volha sia.
Not I-shall-say more but as itself it-wishes let-it-be
Mas peza me quar ades non esteis
But it-weighs to-me because at-once not was-quenched
lo premiers fals que comenset anceis:
the first false-one who began before
e fora dreitz, qu'avol eissemple moc.
and it-would-be right that-a-worthless example he-set

Mon cor sent alegrezit,
My heart I-feel gladdened
quar me cobrara·N Barrals.
because me will-regain-Sir Barral
Ben aja cel que·m noirit
Well may-have he who-me nourished
e Deus! quar eu sui aitals;
and God because I am such
que mil salutz me venon cascun dia
that a-thousand greetings me come each day
de Catalonha e de Lombardia,
from Catalonia and from Lombardy
quar a totz jorns poja mos pretz e creis.
because at all days climbs my worth and grows
Quar per un pauc no mor d'enveja·l reis,
Because for a little — dies of-envy-the king
quar ab domnas fauc mon trep e mon joc.
because with ladies I-make my sport and my game

Ben es proat et auzit
Well it-is proved and heard
com eu sui pros e cabals,
how I am worthy and excellent
e pos Deus m'a enriquit,
and since God me-has enriched
no·s tanh qu'eu sia venals.
not-itself befits that-I am venal
Cen domnas sai que cascuna·m volria
A-hundred ladies I-know that each-one-me would-wish
tener ab se, si aver me podia.
to-hold with her if to-have me she-could
Mas eu sui cel qu'anc no·m gabei ni·m feis
But I am he that-ever not-myself I-boasted nor-myself I-feigned
ni volgui trop parlar de mi mezeis,
nor I-wished too-much to-speak of me myself
mas domnas bais e cavaliers desroc.
but ladies I-kiss and knights I-unhorse

Maint bon tornei ai partit
Many a-good tourney I-have parted
pels colps qu'eu fier tan mortals,
by-the blows that-I strike so mortal
qu'en loc no vau qu'om no crit:
that-in any-place not I-go that-one not cries
«So es En Peire Vidals,
This is Sir Peire Vidal

cel qui mante domnei e drudaria
he who upholds courting and loving
e fa que pros per amor de s'amia,
and acts as (a)-worthy(-man) for love of his-beloved
et ama mais batalhas e torneis
and loves more battles and tourneys
que monges patz, e sembla·l malaveis
than a-monk peace and it-seems-to-him a-sickness
trop sojornar et estar en un loc.»
too-much to-sojourn and to-stay in one place

Plus que no pot ses aiga viure·l peis,
More than — can without water to-live-the fish
no pot esser ses lauzengier domneis,
not can to-be without a-slanderer courting
per qu'amador compron trop car lor joc.
wherefore lovers buy too dear their game

Una chanso ai faita mortalmen

12 · A SONG MADE MORTALLY

He has made a song mortally and does not know how, for he held neither heart nor thought by night or day; then a great well-being of love took him and he began this song for the lady he so remembers. She speaks and smiles and promises, and no lady ever lied so gracefully. No man loved so foolishly, not even the squire who died at the table. He asks her to remember the rich man who let Lazarus die, and the reward that followed.

Una chanso ai faita mortalmen
A song I-have made mortally
si qu'eu no sai dire com ni consi,
so that-I not know to-say how nor in-what-way
qu'anc noit ni jorn, de ser ni de mati,
for-ever night nor day of evening nor of morning
non tenc mon cor ni nulh mon pensamen;
not I-held my heart nor any my thought
mas com era, l'autrier, mout en balansa,
but as I-was the-other-day much in the-balance
pres me d'amor aitan grans benanansa,
took me of-love so great well-being
que comensei a chanso far desse
that I-began to a-song to-make at-once
de ma domna de cui tan mi sove.
of my lady of whom so-much to-me it-comes-to-mind

Doncs per que·m te mi dons en tal turmen?
Then for what-me holds my lady in such torment
Qu'anc nulha res mais tan no m'abeli,
For-ever any thing more so-much not to-me-pleased
ni anc mon cor des l'ora que la vi
nor ever my heart since the-hour that her I-saw
non poc partir ni m'amor ni mon sen.
not it-could to-part nor my-love nor my sense
E si·m fai mal, ilh fai mout gran erransa;
And if-to-me she-does ill she does very great erring
mas si·m fezes amistat e pitansa,
but if-to-me she-might-do friendship and pity
no pogra far el mon major merce,
not she-could to-do in-the world a-greater mercy
pois a·n razo, car s'amors me soste.
since she-has-of-it reason for her-love me sustains

Mas ges no·m par qu'ilh n'aja bon talen,
But at-all not-to-me it-seems that-she of-it-has good will
e non per tan qu'ab me parla e·m ri,
and not for so-much that-with me she-speaks and-to-me smiles
e promet me, mais anc mais no menti
and promises me but ever before not lied
nulha domna tant azaut ni tan gen.
any lady so gracefully nor so nobly
Pero·l bels ditz me torn' en alegransa,
Yet-the fair words me turn into gladness

et si·m disses vertat, ab tota Fransa
and if-to-me she-might-say truth with all France
non estera tan suau ni tan be;
not I-would-stand so easy nor so well
mas non a cor ni voluntat en re.
but not she-has heart nor will in anything

Anc non amet nulhs hom tan folamen,
Ever not loved any man so foolishly
neis l'escudiers qu'a la taula mori.
not-even the-squire who-at the table died
Atressi·m mor, mas plus d'a pas m'auci
So-likewise-I die but more at a-walking-pace me-she-slays
leis que o sap far tan cortezamen.
she who it knows to-do so courteously
Car ges no·m fier de coutel ni de lansa,
For at-all not-me she-strikes with a-knife nor with a-lance
mas ab bels ditz et ab plazen semblansa:
but with fair words and with a-pleasing seeming
veus las armas ab que·m combat ancse,
behold the arms with which-me she-fights always
depos la vi et enquer si m'o te,
since her I-saw and still so to-me-it she-holds

pos sa beutat que·l det enteiramen
since her beauty which-to-her gave entirely
Nostre Senher, qu'anc re no li·n parti,
Our Lord that-ever anything not to-her-of-it he-parted

e gaug entier e sen verai e fi:
and joy entire and sense true and fine
tot so m'ave, car s'amor no·m consen.
all this to-me-befalls because her-love not-to-me consents
Pero de mar tra hom senes duptansa
Yet from the-sea draws one without doubt
aigua doussa, per qu'eu ai esperansa,
water sweet for which-I have hope
que sens e genhs e, car no m'en recre,
that sense and skill and because not myself-of-it I-give-up
m'en traira joi, qu'en als no m'en refre.
me-thence will-draw joy for-in other-things not myself-of-it I-restrain

Sivals, domna, si·us membres del manen
At-least lady if-to-you it-might-come-to-mind of-the rich-man
que laisset Lazer morir denan si,
who let Lazarus to-die before himself
quals fo·l meritz que apres lo·n segui,
which was-the reward that afterward him-of-it followed
pois de ben leu preiratz esgardamen
then of well easily you-would-take regard
co·m traissessetz de ma greu malanansa,
how-me you-might-draw from my grievous wretchedness
qu'estiers no posc ges aver benanansa,
for-otherwise not I-can at-all to-have well-being
ni ja no·us aj' eu, domna, ni Deus me,
and ever not-you may-have I lady nor God me
s'ab tot lo mon ses vos avia be.
if-with all the world without you I-had good

Quant hom honratz torna en gran paubreira

13 · WHEN AN HONORED MAN TURNS POOR

An honored man fallen into poverty does not know how to beg and hides his distress, so it is a greater mercy to give to a shamefaced poor man than to those who ask boldly. He was rich until his lady turned him into distress, and her war is so overmastering that he dares not answer it: if he flees, her image stands before his eyes. He was wrong to call her a liar. The envoi goes to the good king beyond Cervera.

Quant hom honratz torna en gran paubreira,
When a-man honored turns into great poverty
qu'a estat rics e de gran benanansa,
who-has been rich and of great well-being
de vergonha non sap re consi queira,
of shame not he-knows anything how he-asks
ans ama mais cobrir sa malanansa;
rather he-loves more to-cover his wretchedness
per qu'es majer merces e plus francs dos,
for which-is a-greater mercy and a-more noble gift
quant hom fai ben a paubre vergonhos,
when one does good to a-poor-man shamefaced
qu'a mains d'autres qu'an en querre fiansa.
than-to many of-others who-have in asking confidence

Qu'eu era rics e de bona maneira
For-I was rich and of good estate
tro ma domna m'a tornat en erransa,
until my lady to-me-has turned into distress

que m'es mala e salvatja guerreira;
who to-me-is an-evil and savage warrior
e fai peccat, car aissi·m dezenansa.
and does a-sin because thus-me she-abases
Qu'en mi no troba nulhas occaizos;
For-in me not she-finds any occasions
mas car li sui fizels et amoros,
but because to-her I-am faithful and loving
e d'aquest tort no·m vol far perdonansa.
and of-this wrong not-to-me she-wills to-make pardon

E sa guerra es mi tan sobranseira,
And her war is to-me so overmastering
que, si·m fai mal, no·n aus penre venjansa;
that if-to-me she-does ill not-of-it I-dare to-take vengeance
que s'eu li fug ni camje ma carreira,
for if-I from-her flee or I-change my road
denan mos olhs vei sa bela semblansa.
before my eyes I-see her fair seeming
Per qu'eu no sui del fugir poderos
For which-I not am of-the fleeing capable
ni del tornar: per que m'en fora bos
nor of-the returning for which to-me-of-it would-be good
plaitz o acortz qu'ela i agues honransa.
a-pleading or an-accord that-she in-it might-have honor

Ab leis no·m val forsa ni genhs qu'eu queira
With her not-to-me avails force nor skill that-I seek
plus qu'a l'enclaus quez a de mort duptansa,
more than-to the-besieged who has of death dread
qui bast dedinz e trauc' e fai arqueira
who builds within and pierces and makes a-loophole
encontra l'ost e pren del trair' esmansa.
against the-host and takes of-the shooting an-aim
Mas l'autr' arquiers defors es plus ginhos,
But the-other archer outside is more crafty
que·l fier premiers per aquel loc rescos:
who-him strikes first through that place hidden
e ma domna·m ten en aital balansa.
and my lady-me holds in such a-balance

Ilh es tan doussa, franc' e plazenteira
She is so sweet noble and pleasing
ab cortes ditz et ab bela semblansa,
with courtly words and with a-fair seeming
per qu'eu non ai poder que m'en sofeira.
for which-I not have power that myself-of-it I-restrain
Plus que l'auzels qu'es noiritz lai per Fransa,
More than the-bird which-is reared there through France
quant hom l'apel' et el respon coitos
when one it-calls and it answers eager
e sap qu'es mortz, paus mon cor voluntos
and knows that-it-is dead I-lay my heart willing
als mils cairels qu'ab sos bels olhs mi lansa.
to-the thousand bolts that-with her fair eyes me she-hurls

Tort ai car anc l'apelei mensongeira,
Wrong I-have because ever her-I-called a-liar
mas drutz cochatz non a sen ni membransa,
but a-lover pressed not has sense nor memory
qu'a pauc no mor, car tan m'es vertadeira,
for-at little — he-dies because so to-me-she-is truthful
que lonhat m'a de la paubr' esperansa,
that parted me-has from the poor hope
don eu era a las oras joios;
whence I was at the times joyful
mas era·n sui d'amor e de joi blos,
but now-of-it I-am of-love and of joy stripped
s'ab gaug entier no m'en fai acordansa.
if-with joy entire not to-me-of-it she-makes an-accord

Chanso, vai t'en al bon rei part Cerveira,
Song go yourself-thence to-the good king beyond Cervera
que de bon pretz non a el mon egansa,
who of good worth not has in-the world an-equal
sol plus francs fos ves mi dons de Cabreira,
if-only more noble he-were toward my lady of Cabrera
que d'autra re no fai desmezuransa.
who of-other thing not does immoderation
E totz rics hom, quan destrui sos baros,
And every rich man when he-destroys his barons
n'es meins amatz e prezatz dels plus pros,
is-of-it less loved and prized by-the most worthy
et eu o dic, car li port fin' amansa.
and I it say because to-him I-bear true affection

Na Vierna, eu no·m clam ges de vos;
Lady Vierna I not-myself complain at-all of you
mas ben m'agr' ops plus adreitz gazardos
but well to-me-would-be need a-more fitting reward
del lonc aten on avi' esperansa.
of-the long waiting wherein I-had hope

Fraire, be volh que mantenham los pros
Brother well I-wish that we-uphold the worthy
e confondam los malvatz enoios,
and we-confound the wicked vexing
quar no s'en te mos Rainiers en balansa.
for not himself-of-it holds my Rainier in the-balance

Bels Castiatz, vostre pretz poderos
Fair Chastened-One your worth mighty
estai sus aut, quan tuit autre van jos,
stands up high when all others go down
qu'ab melh valer se melhur' e s'enansa.
which-with better worthiness itself betters and itself-advances

E quar no vei Mon Gazanhat ni vos,
And because not I-see My Won-One nor you
no posc estar alegres ni joios,
not I-can to-be glad nor joyful
mas sobresfors m'en tol ma benanansa.
but an-over-effort to-me-of-it takes my well-being

Drogoman senher, s'agues bon destrier

14 · LORD DRAGOMAN, IF I HAD A GOOD CHARGER

If he had a good charger his enemies would be in a foolish plight: they fear him as quails fear a sparrowhawk. When he has donned his double hauberk and girt on the sword Sir Guy gave him, the earth trembles where he goes. In daring he is Roland and Oliver, in courting Berart of Mondidier. If he had a proper courser the king could sleep quietly beyond Balaguer. Were his enemies' bodies of iron and steel, a peacock's feather would not save them.

Drogoman senher, s'agues bon destrier,
Dragoman lord if-I-had a-good charger
en fol plag foran intrat mei guerrier:
into a-foolish plight would-be entered my enemies
c'aqui mezeis cant hom lor me mentau
for-there itself when one to-them me names
mi temon plus que caillas esparvier,
me they-fear more than quails a-sparrowhawk
e non preson lor vida un denier,
and not they-prize their life a penny
tan mi sabon fer e salvatg' e brau.
so-much me they-know fierce and savage and rough

Cant ai vestit mon fort ausberc doblier
When I-have donned my strong hauberk double
e cent lo bran que·m det en Gui l'autrier,
and girt the sword that-to-me gave Sir Guy the-other-day
la terra crola per aqui on vau;
the earth trembles through there where I-go

e non ai enemic tant sobrancier
and not I-have an-enemy so overbearing
que tost no·m lais las vias e·l sentier,
that soon not-to-me he-leaves the ways and-the path
tan me dopton can senton mon esclau.
so-much me they-dread when they-sense my footfall

D'ardimen vail Rollan et Olivier,
In-daring I-am-worth Roland and Oliver
e de domnei Berart de Mondesdier;
and in courting Berart of Mondidier
car soi tan pros, per aco n'ai bon lau,
because I-am so worthy for that of-it-I-have good praise
que sovendet m'en venon messatgier
that often to-me-thence come messengers
ab anel d'aur, ab cordo blanc e nier,
with a-ring of-gold with a-cord white and black
ab tals salutz don totz mos cors s'esjau.
with such greetings whence all my heart itself-rejoices

En totas res semble ben cavalier;
In all things I-seem well a-knight
si·m soi, e sai d'amor tot son mestier
so-I am and I-know of-love all its craft
e tot aisso c'a drudari' abau,
and all that which-to loving belongs

c'anc en cambra non vitz tan plazentier
for-ever in a-chamber not you-saw so pleasing
ni ab armas tan mal ni tan sobrier;
nor with arms so grim nor so overbearing
don m'ama e·m tem tals que no·m ve ni m'au.
whence me-loves and-me fears such-a-one who not-me sees nor me-hears

E s'eu agues caval adreit corsier,
And if-I had a-horse a-proper courser
suau s'estes lo reis part Balaguier
easily would-remain the king beyond Balaguer
e dormis se planamen e suau;
and would-sleep himself quietly and easy
qu'eu·l tengra en patz Proens' e Monpeslier,
for-I-for-him would-hold in peace Provence and Montpellier
que raubador ni malvatz rocinier
so-that a-robber nor a-wicked hack-rider
no·l rauberan mais Autaves ni Crau.
not-to-him would-rob more Autaves nor Crau

E si·l reis torn' a Tolosa, e·l gravier,
And if-the king returns to Toulouse and-the gravel-bank
e n'eis lo coms e siei caitiu dardier,
and thence-goes-out the count and his wretched dart-men
que tot jorn cridon: «Aspa! et Orsau!»
who all day cry Aspe and Ossau
D'aitan me van qu'eu n'aurai·l colp premier,
Of-so-much me I-boast that-I of-it-shall-have-the blow first

e i ferrai tan qu'els n'intraran doblier,
and there I-shall-strike so-much that-they of-it-will-enter doubled
et eu ab lor, qui la porta no·m clau.
and I with them if-anyone the gate not-to-me closes

E s'eu consec gelos ni lauzengier
And if-I overtake a-jealous-man or a-slanderer
c'ab fals conselh gaston l'autrui sobrier
who-with false counsel waste the-other's superiority
e baisson joi a presen et a frau,
and lower joy in the-open and in secret
per ver sabran cal son li colp qu'eu fier:
in truth they-will-know what are the blows that-I strike
que s'avian cors de fer et d'acier
that if-they-had bodies of iron and of-steel
no lur valra una pluma de pau.
not to-them will-avail a feather of a-peacock

Na Vierna, merce de Monpeslier,
Lady Vierna mercy of Montpellier
en Rainiers, ar amaretz cavalier,
Sir Rainier now you-will-love a-knight
don jois m'es mais cregutz per vos, Deu lau.
whence joy to-me-is more increased through you God I-praise

Son ben apoderatz

15 · WELL OVERMASTERED

He is overmastered by love, for he turns most willingly where he takes most shame: joy dearly bought is greater than joy that is cheap. He grieves more for the cords he lost than for what befell him, and the marks still show on his sides — yet it is a favor, since it pleases his lady. He reproves his Chastened One, who shames and robs lovers and in whose court he was robbed for a penny. Two tornadas close it, one to Vierna and one on the Chastened One, burned by Rome.

Son ben apoderatz
I-am well overmastered
per amor e vencutz,
by love and conquered
car aital via tenc
for such a-road I-hold
que lai on ieu plus prenc
that there where I most take
d'anta ni d'encombrier
of-shame and of-hindrance
torni plus volentier;
I-turn more willingly
per qu'ieu sai qu'es vertatz
for which-I know that-it-is truth
ques es majer assatz
that is greater by-much
gaugz, quant es car compratz,
joy when it-is dear bought
c'aicel don es viutatz.
than-that whereof is cheapness

Enquer sui plus iratz
Still I-am more grieved
dels cordons qu'ai perdutz
for-the cords that-I-have lost
que d'aisso que m'avenc;
than of-that which to-me-befell
e pero ges no·m fenc,
and yet at-all not-me I-feign
ans sui plus vertadier
rather I-am more truthful
que no m'agra mestier,
than — to-me-would-be needful
qu'enquer par als costatz
for-still it-shows on-the sides
com ieu fui laig menatz;
how I was foully handled
pero m'es tot deintatz,
yet to-me-is all a-delight
pois c'a ma dona platz.
since that-to my lady it-pleases

Donc pueis Mos Castiatz
Then since My Chastened-One
aunis ni rauba drutz,
shames nor robs lovers
no·lh pes s'ieu l'en reprenc:
not-to-him let-it-weigh if-I him-of-it reprove

car qui fa qui blastenc
for one does another blames
auzit de repropchier;
heard as a-proverb
e car per pauc denier
and because for a-little penny
fui en sa cort raubatz,
I-was in his court robbed
lo blasmes li es restatz;
the blame to-him is remained
e fora plus onratz
and I-would-be more honored
s'eu fos d'el revenjatz.
if-I were of-him avenged

Cel n'es plus enganatz
He is-of-it more deceived
qui li es d'amor tengutz:
who to-him is by-love bound
qu'al senher de Berenc
for-to-the lord of Berenc
sai ben com l'esdevenc;
I-know well how to-him-it-befell
e pueis lo Pognautier,
and then the Penautier
car guerrejet premier,
because he-warred first
fo per el desrocatz;
was by him unhorsed

e ja totz temps guidatz
and ever all times protected
fo sos amics privatz
was his friend private
si com l'escaravatz.
just as the-beetle

Per so n'es sos comtatz
For this is-of-it his county
enrechitz e cregutz;
enriched and increased
mas meins val d'un arenc
but less is-worth than-a herring
so que per fors' a renc.
he who by force has a-realm
Qu'el pres monge claustrier,
For-he took a-monk cloistered
a cui tolc lo mostier;
from whom he-seized the minster
pero si n'a raubatz
yet if of-them-he-has robbed
Sant Felitz e Mornatz,
Saint Felix and Mornas
mas Tripol, so sapchatz,
but Tripoli this you-should-know
fo gent d'el conquistatz.
was nobly by-him conquered

E·l portals e·l fossatz
And-the gate and-the ditch
de Fonchau fo fondutz;
of Fonchau was thrown-down
e pueissas m'en sovenc
and thereafter to-me-of-it came-to-mind
— que de plus no m'estenc —
that of more not myself-I-extend
ques a en Forcalquier
that he-has in Forcalquier
enemic e guerrier,
an-enemy and a-warrior
si que Mos Gazanhatz
so that My Won-One
ten Opida en patz;
holds Oppède in peace
e si es perdonatz,
and if he-is pardoned
si n'er tortz e pecatz.
so of-it-will-be wrong and sin

Domna, vostra beutatz
Lady your beauty
e·l fins pretz mentaugutz
and-the fine worth renowned
mi fai semblar sebenc
to-me makes to-seem mean
tot autre joi c'anc venc
all other joy that-ever came
de vos; qu'en alegrier
from you for-in gladness
estauc ab cor entier,
I-stand with a-heart entire
don n'ai major solatz.
whence of-it-I-have a-greater cheer
Ai! Don', humilitatz
Ah Lady humility
e pretz e pietatz
and worth and pity
vos met' entre mos bratz.
you may-they-put between my arms

Na Vierna, pojatz;
Lady Vierna rise
vilas mal enseignatz
a-churl ill taught
es qui nos a loignatz
is he-who us has parted
de nostras amistatz.
from our friendships

Per que Mos Castiatz
For which My Chastened-One
s'es per Roma crematz,
himself-has by Rome burned
si·l fai mas es pecatz,
if-to-him she-does more it-is a-sin
pos totz no·i esta ratz.
since wholly not-in-it he-stands confirmed

Be·m pac d'ivern e d'estiu

16 · WINTER AND SUMMER PLEASE ME

Winter and summer, cold and heat please him alike; he loves snow as much as flowers and a worthy dead man more than a worthless living one. His lady holds Montesquieu against false feigners; her words taste of honey, and churlish wooers fear her more than a griffin. He tells over eye, brow, nose, mouth, jaw, and white breast, and calls her a dove without gall. Our Lord seeks succor against the Turks. The verse goes to Montolieu, and the last tornada to the king, Provence, and Sancho.

Be·m pac d'ivern e d'estiu
Well-me I-am-content of-winter and of-summer
e de fretz e de calors,
and of cold and of heats
et am neus aitan com flors
and I-love snow as-much as flowers
e pro mort mais qu'avol viu:
and a-worthy dead-man more than-a-worthless living
qu'enaissi·m ten esforsiu
for-thus-me holds vigorous
e gai Jovens et Amors.
and gay Youth and Love
E quar am domna novela,
And because I-love a-lady new
sobravinen e plus bela,
most-gracious and more fair
paro·m rozas entre gel
appear-to-me roses among ice
e clars temps ab trebol cel.
and clear weather with a-troubled sky

Ma domn' a pretz soloriu
My lady has a-worth solitary
denan mil combatedors,
before a-thousand assailants
e contra·ls fals fenhedors
and against-the false feigners
ten establit Montesquiu:
she-holds established Montesquieu
per qu'al seu ric senhoriu
for which-at-the her rich lordship
lauzengiers no pot far cors,
a-slanderer not can to-make a-raid
que sens e pretz la capdela,
for sense and worth her guides
e quan respon ni apela,
and when she-answers or calls
sei dig an sabor de mel,
her words have a-savor of honey
don sembla Sant Gabriel.
whence she-resembles Saint Gabriel

E fai·s plus temer de griu
And she-makes-herself more to-be-feared than-a griffin
a vilas domnejadors,
by churlish wooers
et als fis conoissedors
and to-the true knowers
a solatz tant agradiu,
she-has a-cheer so pleasing

qu'al partir quecs jur' e pliu
that-at-the parting each swears and pledges
que domn' es de las melhors:
that a-lady she-is of the best
per que·m trahin' e·m cembela
for which-me she-draws and-me lures
e·m tra·l cor de sotz l'aissela,
and-me draws-the heart from under the-armpit
e a·m leial e fizel
and has-me loyal and faithful
e just plus que Deus Abel.
and just more than God Abel

Del ric pretz nominatiu
Of-the rich worth renowned
creis tan sa fina valors
grows so-much her fine merit
que no pot sofrir lauzors
that not can to-bear praise
la gran forsa del ver briu.
the great force of-the true vigor
Sei enemic son caitiu
Her enemies are wretched
e sei amic ric e sors.
and her friends rich and risen
Olh, front, nas, boch' e maissela,
Eye brow nose mouth and jaw
blanc peitz ab dura mamela,
a-white chest with a-firm breast

del talh dels filhs d'Israel
of-the cut of-the sons of-Israel
et es colomba ses fel.
and she-is a-dove without gall

Lo cor tenh morn e pensiu,
The heart I-hold gloomy and pensive
aitan quant estauc alhors;
so-much as I-stand elsewhere
pois creis m'en gaugz e doussors,
then grows to-me-of-it joy and sweetness
quan del seu gen cors m'aiziu.
when of-the her noble body myself-I-approach
Qu'aissi com de recaliu
For-just as of a-fever
ar m'en ve fregz, ar calors;
now to-me-of-it comes cold now heat
e quar es gai' et isnela
and because she-is gay and swift
e de totz mals aibs piucela,
and of all ill qualities a-maiden
l'am mais per Sant Raphael,
her-I-love more by Saint Raphael
que Jacobs no fetz Rachel.
than Jacob — did Rachel

Vers, vai t'en ves Montoliu
Verse go yourself-thence toward Montolieu
e di m'a las tres serors,
and say for-me-to the three sisters
que tan mi platz lor amors,
that so-much to-me pleases their love
qu'ins en mon cor las escriu;
that-within in my heart them I-write
ves totas tres m'umiliu
toward all three myself-I-humble
e·n fatz domnas e senhors.
and-of-them I-make ladies and lords
E plagra·m mais de Castela
And it-would-please-to-me more of Castile
una pauca jovensela,
a little young-girl
que d'aur cargat mil camel
than of-gold laden a-thousand camels
ab l'emperi Manuel.
with the-empire Manuel

Qu'en Fransa et en Beriu
For-in France and in Berry
et a Peiteu et a Tors
and at Poitou and at Tours
quer Nostre Senher socors
seeks Our Lord succor
pels Turcs que·l tenon faidiu,
for-the Turks who-him hold banished

car tout l'an los vaus e·l riu
because taken from-him-they-have the vales and-the river
on anavo·lh pechadors;
where went-to-him sinners
e totz hom que no·s revella
and every man who not-himself rouses
contr'aquesta gen fradella
against-this folk base
mal me sembla Daniel
ill to-me resembles Daniel
que·l dragon destruis a bel.
who-the dragon destroyed of Bel

Per Sant Jacme qu'om apela
By Saint James whom-one calls
l'apostol de Compostela,
the-apostle of Compostela
en Luzi' a tal Miquel
in Lucia there-is such a-Michael
que·m val mais que cel del cel.
that-to-me is-worth more than that of-the heaven

Francs reis, Proensa·us apella,
Noble king Provence-you calls
qu'en Sancho la·us desclavella,
for-Sir Sancho her-to-you unlatches

qu'el en trai la cer' e·l mel
for-he of-it draws the wax and-the honey
e sai tramet vos lo fel.
and here he-sends you the gall

Mout m'es bon e bel

17 · THE LEAF ON THE BOUGH

It pleases him to see the leaf and the fresh flower again and hear the birds. He is a lover, but the ill-usage he has borne has changed his sense a little. In his heart he carries leaf and flower that keep him green all the year. Now she holds him hers, the fairest under God. He would be gayer than a bird for one new kiss, for no lover ever changed more grudgingly, and now he renews himself like a flower on a bough.

Mout m'es bon e bel,
Much to-me-is good and fair
quan vei de novel
when I-see of new
la folh' el ramel
the leaf on-the bough
e la fresca flor,
and the fresh flower
e chanton l'auzel
and sing the-birds
sobre la verdor,
over the greenery
e·l fin amador
and-the true lovers
son gai per amor.
are gay for love
Amaires e drutz sui eu,
A-wooer and a-lover am I

mas tan son li maltrag greu
but so are the ill-usages grievous
qu'eu n'ai sofertz lonjamen,
that-I of-them-have endured long
qu'un pauc n'ai camjat mon sen.
that-a little of-it-I-have changed my sense

Pero de bon sen
Yet with good sense
am de bon talen
I-love with good will
amor e joven
love and youth
e tot quan m'es bel;
and all that to-me-is fair
qu'ab joi lonjamen
for-with joy long
viu e renovel,
I-live and I-renew
co·l fruitz el ramel,
as-the fruit on-the bough
quan chanton l'auzel:
when sing the-birds
qu'en mon cor ai folh' e flor,
for-in my heart I-have leaf and flower

que·m ten tot l'an en verdor
which-me holds all the-year in greenery
et en gaug entier, per qu'eu
and in joy entire for which-I
no sen re que·m sia greu.
not feel anything that-to-me is grievous

Quora que·lh fos greu,
Whenever that-to-her it-were grievous
ara·m te per seu
now-me she-holds as hers
la genser sotz Deu
the fairest under God
e del melhor sen;
and of-the best sense
car conois que eu
for she-knows that I
l'am de bon talen,
her-I-love with good will
si qu'en mon joven
so that-in my youth
e pois lonjamen
and then long
servirai lo seu cors bel,
I-shall-serve the her body fair
gai et adreg e novel,
gay and upright and fresh

a lei de fin amador,
in the-manner of a-true lover
qu'a tot son cor en amor.
who-has all his heart in love

Ben aurai d'amor
Well I-shall-have of-love
folh' e fruit e flor
leaf and fruit and flower
e ram e verdor,
and branch and greenery
s'anc res m'en fo greu,
if-ever anything to-me-of-it was grievous
que per amador
for as a-lover
mi ten com lo seu,
me she-holds as the her-own
e prec la per Deu
and I-entreat her by God
qu'ilh esgart com eu
that-she looks how I
l'aurai estat de bon sen,
to-her-I-shall-have been of good sense
qu'anc non camjei mon talen,
that-ever not I-changed my will
ni non am flor ni ramel,
and not I-love flower nor bough
mas per leis ni chan d'auzel.
but for her nor the-song of-a-bird

Plus gais que l'auzel
More gay than the-bird
serai, si l'es bel
I-shall-be if to-her-it-is fair
qu'un dous bais novel
that-a sweet kiss new
me do per amor,
me she-gives for love
qu'anc d'autre ramel
for-ever of-another bough
no volc colhir flor
not she-wished to-gather flower
ni fruit ni verdor;
nor fruit nor greenery
ni anc amador
nor ever a-lover
no vitz qui·s camjes plus greu;
not you-saw who-himself changed more grudgingly
e pos ela·m te per seu,
and since she-me holds as hers
servirai l'en mon joven,
I-shall-serve her-in my youth
pois velhs, s'eu viu lonjamen.
then old if-I live long

Mes ai lonjamen
Put I-have long
mon cor e mon sen
my heart and my sense
en far son talen
in doing her will
plus qu'en chan d'auzel.
more than-in the-song of-a-bird
Per leis am joven
For her I-love youth
e tot quan l'es bel:
and all that to-her-is fair
qu'aissi·m renovel,
for-so-me I-renew
co·l fruitz el ramel.
as-the fruit on-the bough
Quan posc re far per s'amor,
When I-can anything to-do for her-love
eu non desir autra flor,
I not desire another flower
mas qu'a leis plassa per Deu,
but that-to her it-please by God
qu'ensems siam ilh et eu.
that-together we-are she and I

Quar sos hom sui eu,
For her man am I
no·l deu esser greu
not-to-her must to-be grievous
si fai ben al seu,
if she-does good to-the her-own
que mout lonjamen
for very long
ai estat per Deu
I-have been by God
del tot al seu sen.
of-the whole at-the her sense
E si per talen
And if through will
pert tot mon joven,
I-lose all my youth
pauc mi valran chan d'auzel.
little to-me will-avail the-song of-a-bird
Mas s'a ma domna fos bel,
But if-to my lady it-were fair
tener me pogr' en verdor
to-hold me she-could in greenery
com son leial amador.
as her loyal lover

Sobr' autr' amador
Above another lover
m'anet be d'amor,
to-me-went well of-love

quan l'emblei la flor,
when to-her-I-stole the flower
qu'anc plus non aic eu:
for-ever more not had I
so·m ten en verdor,
this-me holds in greenery
quan tot l'als m'es greu.
when all the-rest to-me-is grievous
E s'alberga·l seu
And if-she-lodges-the her-own
per amor de Deu,
for love of God
tener me pot lonjamen
to-hold me she-can long
en valor et en bon sen
in merit and in good sense
gai e cortes e novel,
gay and courtly and fresh
com bela flor en ramel.
as a-fair flower on a-bough

Na Vierna, lonjamen
Lady Vierna long
vos ai estat de bon sen:
you I-have been of good sense
mas era mi renovel,
but now myself I-renew
com bela flors en ramel.
as a-fair flower on a-bough

Plus que·l paubres que jatz el ric ostal

18 · THE POOR MAN IN THE RICH LODGING

Like a poor man lying in a rich lodging who never complains for fear of vexing his lord, he dares not lament his mortal grief. Like a man gaping at a window-glass that seems fair against the light, he forgets himself when he looks at her. Love beats him with rods he gathered, for once in her royal keep he stole a kiss. He blames the four kings of Spain for warring on one another instead of on the unbelievers.

Plus que·l paubres que jatz el ric ostal,
More than-the poor-man who lies in-the rich lodging
que noca·s planh, sitot s'a gran dolor,
who never-himself complains although himself-has great grief
tan tem que torn ad enoi al senhor,
so-much he-fears that it-turn to vexation to-the lord
no m'aus planher de ma dolor mortal.
not I-dare to-lament of my grief mortal
Be·m dei doler, pos cela·m fai orgolh,
Well-myself I-must to-grieve since she-me shows pride
que nulha re tan no dezir ni volh:
whom any thing so-much not I-desire nor wish
sivals d'aitan no·lh aus clamar merce,
at-least of-so-much not-to-her I-dare to-cry mercy
tal paor ai qu'ades s'enoi de me.
such fear I-have that-at-once herself-she-vex of me

Aissi com cel qui bada·l veirial,
Just as he who gapes-at-the window-glass
que·l sembla bels contra la resplandor,
which-to-him seems fair against the brightness

quant eu l'esgar, n'ai al cor tal doussor
when I her-behold of-it-I-have in-the heart such sweetness
qu'eu m'en oblit per leis qu'eu vei aital.
that-I myself-of-it forget for her whom-I see such
Be·m bat Amors ab las vergas qu'eu colh,
Well-me beats Love with the rods that-I gather
car una vetz, en son reial capdolh,
for one time in her royal keep
l'emblei un bais don al cor mi sove:
to-her-I-stole a kiss whence in-the heart to-me it-comes-to-mind
ai! com mal viu, qui so qu'ama no ve!
ah how ill lives-he who that which-he-loves not sees

Si m'ajut Deus, peccat fai criminal
So to-me-help God a-sin she-does criminal
ma bela domna, car ilh no·m socor:
my fair lady because she not-me succors
qu'ilh sap qu'en leis ai mon cor e m'amor
for-she knows that-in her I-have my heart and my-love
tan qu'eu non pens de nulh autre jornal.
so-much that-I not think of any other day-work
Doncs per que·m sona tan gen ni m'acolh,
Then for what-to-me she-speaks so nobly or me-receives
pos pro no·m te de so don plus mi dolh?
since profit not-to-me she-holds of that whereof most myself I-grieve
E cuja·m doncs aissi lonhar de se?
And thinks-me then thus to-part from herself
Ans sofrirai so qu'ai sofert ancse.
Rather I-shall-suffer that which-I-have suffered always

Que sofrir tanh a senhor natural
For to-suffer befits to a-lord natural
los tortz e·ls dreitz e·l sen e la folor;
the wrongs and-the rights and-the sense and the folly
quar greu pot hom de guerr' aver honor,
for hardly can a-man of war to-have honor
pos qu'es ses grat faiditz de son logal.
since that-he-is without thanks banished from his place
Be sui faiditz, si de s'amor me tolh;
Well I-am banished if from her-love me I-take-away
no m'en tolrai, ans l'am mais que no solh
not myself-of-it I-shall-take-away rather her-I-love more than — I-used
e tenra·m vil, si d'amar mi recre:
and she-will-hold-me cheap if of-loving myself I-give-up
non o deu far, car per amor m'ave.
not it she-must to-do for through love to-me-it-befalls

Qu'aissi m'a tot ma domna en son cabal,
For-so me-has wholly my lady in her capital
que si·m fai mal, ja no·m n'aura pejor;
that if-to-me she-does ill ever not-to-me of-it-she-will-have worse
que·l seus plazers m'a tan doussa sabor,
for-the her pleasure to-me-has so sweet a-savor
que ges del meu no·m remembra ni·m cal.
that at-all of-the mine not-to-me it-remembers nor-to-me matters
Non es nulhs jorns s'amors el cor no·m brolh,
Not is any day that-her-love in-the heart not-to-me sprouts

per qu'ai tal joi, quan la vezon mei olh
for which-I-have such joy when her see my eyes
e quan mos cors pensa de son gran be,
and when my heart thinks of her great good
qu'el mon no volh ni dezir autra re.
that-in-the world not I-wish nor desire another thing

Sabetz per que·lh port amor tan coral?
Do-you-know for what-to-her I-bear love so heartfelt
Car anc no vi tan bela ni gensor
Because ever not I-saw so fair nor fairer
ni tan bona, don tenh qu'ai gran ricor,
nor so good whence I-hold that-I-have great wealth
car sui amics de domna que tan val.
because I-am a-friend of a-lady who so-much is-worth
E si ja vei qu'ensems ab mi·s despolh,
And if ever I-see that-together with me-herself she-strip
melhs m'estara qu'al senhor d'Eissidolh,
better to-me-it-will-be than-to-the lord of-Excideuil
que mante pretz, quant autre s'en recre,
who upholds worth when another himself-of-it gives-up
e no sai plus, mas aitan n'a Jaufre.
and not I-know more but so-much of-it-has Jaufre

Als quatre reis d'Espanh' estai mout mal,
To-the four kings of-Spain it-stands very ill
quar no volon aver patz entre lor;
because not they-wish to-have peace among them

car autramen son ilh de gran valor,
for otherwise are they of great merit
adreg e franc e cortes e leial,
upright and noble and courtly and loyal
sol que de tan gensesson lor escolh,
if-only that of so-much they-might-better their choice
que viresson lor guerr' en autre folh,
that they-might-turn their war into another leaf
contra la gen que nostra lei no cre,
against the folk that our law not believes
tro qu'Espanha fos tota d'una fe.
until that-Spain were wholly of-one faith

Bels Castiatz, senher, per vos mi dolh,
Fair Chastened-One lord for you myself I-grieve
car no·us vei lai e car mi dons no·m ve
because not-you I-see there and because my lady not-me sees
Na Vierna, cui am de bona fe.
Lady Vierna whom I-love with good faith

Eu dic lo ver aissi com dir lo solh:
I say the truth just as to-say it I-use
qui ben comens' e poissas s'en recre,
whoever well begins and afterward himself-of-it gives-up
melhs li fora que non comenses re.
better to-him it-would-be that not he-should-begin anything

Ab l'alen tir vas me l'aire

19 · THE AIR OUT OF PROVENCE

He draws in with his breath the air coming from Provence, and everything from there pleases him: when he hears it well spoken of he listens smiling and asks a hundred words for one. No dwelling is sweeter than the stretch from the Rhone to Vence, enclosed by the sea and the Durance, and there among that noble people he has left his heart, with the lady who makes the sorrowful laugh. Whatever he knows how to say or do he has of her.

Ab l'alen tir vas me l'aire
With the-breath I-draw toward me the-air
qu'eu sen venir de Proensa:
that-I feel to-come from Provence
tot quant es de lai m'agensa,
all that-much is from there to-me-pleases
si que, quan n'aug ben retraire,
so that when of-it-I-hear well to-tell
eu m'o escout en rizen
I to-me-it listen-to in laughing
e·n deman per un mot cen:
and-of-it I-ask for one word a-hundred
tan m'es bel quan n'aug ben dire.
so-much to-me-is fair when of-it-I-hear well to-say

Qu'om no sap tan dous repaire
That-one not knows so sweet a-dwelling
com de Rozer tro qu'a Vensa,
as from Rhone until that-at Vence

si com clau mars e Durensa,
just as encloses sea and Durance
ni on tan fis jois s'esclaire.
nor where so true joy itself-brightens
Per qu'entre la franca gen
For which-among the noble folk
ai laissat mon cor jauzen
I-have left my heart rejoicing
ab leis que fa·ls iratz rire.
with her who makes-the sorrowful to-laugh

Qu'om no pot lo jorn mal traire
That-one not can the day ill to-suffer
qu'aja de leis sovinensa,
who-has of her remembrance
qu'en leis nais jois e comensa.
for-in her is-born joy and begins
E qui qu'en sia lauzaire,
And whoever that-of-her is a-praiser
de ben qu'en diga no·i men;
of good that-of-her he-says not-in-it he-lies
que·l melher es ses conten
for-the best she-is without dispute
e·l genser qu'el mon se mire.
and-the fairest that-in-the world itself beholds

E s'eu sai ren dir ni faire,
And if-I know anything to-say or to-do
ilh n'aja·l grat, que sciensa
she of-it-may-have-the thanks for knowledge
m'a donat e conoissensa,
to-me-she-has given and understanding
per qu'eu sui gais e chantaire.
for which-I am gay and a-singer
E tot quan fauc d'avinen
And all that I-do of-pleasing
ai del seu bel cors plazen,
I-have from-the her fair body pleasant
neis quan de bon cor consire.
even when with good heart I-muse

Ajostar e lassar

20 · TO JOIN AND TO LACE

He knows how to join and lace words and tune so well that none comes near him in the dear rich composing; yet the lady he belongs to kills him as if he had done her treason. She made him cross the sea; he served her freely and had no reward but a little cord — that, and the morning he stole a kiss from her mouth and chin. Love that conquered Solomon, David, and Samson holds him in prison. The song goes to Folco.

Ajostar e lassar
To-join and to-lace
sai tan gen motz e so,
I-know so nobly words and tune
que del car ric trobar
that of-the dear rich composing
no·m ven hom al talo,
not-to-me comes a-man at-the heel
quan n'ai bona razo.
when of-it-I-have good matter
Mas auci m'enaissi
But she-slays me-thus
la bela de cui so,
the fair-one of whom I-am
com s'eu fes mespreizo
as if-I did a-misdeed
vas leis o tracio.
toward her or a-treason

Quan la vi si·m feri
When her I-saw so-me struck
mon coratge gloto,
my heart greedy
qu'ades ponh el seu pro,
that-at-once it-strives for-the her profit
e no·m fai si mal no.
and not-to-me does but ill not
Mal mi vol e no sai per que,
Ill me she-wishes and not I-know for what
mas sol quar am leis mais que me.
except only because I-love her more than myself

Assatz par que lonhar
Enough it-seems that to-part
me volc de sa regio,
me she-wished from her region
quan passar me fetz mar,
when to-cross me she-made the-sea
per qu'eu la·n occaizo.
for which-I her-of-it blame
Mas non ai sospeisso,
But not I-have an-expectation
que·l servi ab cor fi
for-her I-served with a-heart true
tan quan poc a bando,
so-much as I-could at will
e non aic gazardo,
and not I-had a-reward

mas sol d'un pauc cordo.
but only of-a small cord
Si aigui qu'un mati
Indeed I-had-it that-on-a morning
intrei dins sa maizo
I-entered within her house
e·lh baizei a lairo
and-to-her I-kissed by stealth
la boca e·l mento.
the mouth and-the chin
So n'ai agut e no mas re,
This of-it-I-have had and not more anything
e sui tot mortz, s'ilh plus rete.
and I-am wholly dead if-she more withholds

Sospirar e plorar
To-sigh and to-weep
mi fai mainta sazo,
me she-makes many a-season
qu'alegrar e chantar
whereas-to-be-glad and to-sing
volgra mais si·l fos bo;
I-would-wish more if-to-her it-were good
mas cor a de drago
but a-heart she-has of a-dragon
qu'a me di mal e ri
who-to me says ill and smiles
als autres deviro,
to-the others round-about

e·m fai olh de leo:
and-to-me makes an-eye of a-lion
per aital sospeisso
through such an-expectation
fetz de mi pelegri,
she-made of me a-pilgrim
qu'anc romeus d'orazo
that-ever a-palmer of-prayer
mais tan forsatz no fo.
before so forced not was
E qui·l ver en despo,
And whoever-the truth of-it sets-out
totz hom deu percassar son be,
every man must to-pursue his good
ans que mals senhers lo malme.
before that an-ill lord him mistreat

Abrazar e cremar
To-kindle and to-burn
me fai com focs carbo.
me she-makes as fire a-coal
Quan l'esgar tan vei clar
When her-I-behold so I-see clear
sos olhs e sa faisso,
her eyes and her face
que no sai garizo,
that not I-know a-healing

si·m cambi ni·m desvi
if-me I-change nor-me I-turn-aside
d'amar leis — Ai baro!
from-loving her Ah barons
Co·m ten en sa preizo
How-me she-holds in her prison
Amors, que Salamo,
Love who Solomon
e Davi atressi
and David likewise
venquet e·l fort Samso
conquered and-the strong Samson
e·ls tenc en son grilho,
and-them held in his fetter
qu'anc non ac rezemso
that-ever not he-had a-ransom
tro qu'a la mort, e pos mi te,
until that-at the death and since me she-holds
ad estar m'er a sa merce.
to remain to-me-will-be at her mercy

Esperar e muzar
To-hope and to-wait-in-vain
me fai coma Breto,
me she-makes like a-Breton
qu'anc l'amar ni l'onrar
for-ever the-loving nor the-honoring
no·l mis en contenso.
not-to-her I-put into contention

Ans, si Deus mi perdo,
Rather if God me pardon
m'en parti de tal qui
me-thence I-parted from such-a-one who
m'agra dat tan ric do,
to-me-would-have given so rich a-gift
que·l bos reis d'Arago
that-the good king of-Aragon
for' onratz; e doncs co
would-be honored and so how
me faidi? Qu'e·us afi,
me I-banish For-to-you I-affirm
quan n'aug dir bon resso,
when of-it-I-hear to-say a-good report
gaugz entiers me somo
joy entire me summons
qu'en deja far chanso.
that-of-it I-must to-make a-song
E doncs pos tan l'am e la cre,
And so since so-much her-I-love and her I-believe
ja no dei trobar mala fe.
ever not I-must to-find an-evil faith

Pos pauzar ni finar
Since to-rest nor to-cease
no posc nulha sazo,
not I-can in-any season

retornar et anar
to-return and to-go
m'en volh ad espero
myself-thence I-wish at a-spur
entr' Arle e Tolo
between Arles and Toulon
a tapi, quar aqui
in secret for there
am mais un pauc cambo,
I-love more a little field
qu'aver sai Lodaro
than-to-have here Lodaro
ni aver lo Toro
or to-have the Toro
ni Beli: mas faiti
or Beli but banished
fals lauzengier gloto
false slanderers greedy
m'an moguda tenso
to-me-have moved a-strife
e lonhat del peiro,
and parted from-the block
e·N Drogomans no m'au ni·m ve,
and-Sir Dragoman not me-hears nor-me sees
quar mon Car Amic part de se.
because my Dear Friend he-parts from himself

A mon amic Folco
To my friend Folco
tramet lai ma chanso
I-send there my song
que la chant en bon loc per me,
that it be-sing in a-good place for me
al tenen on joi vai e ve.
at-the holding where joy goes and comes

Mal astre Deus li do,
An-ill star God to-him give
qui·l comte d'Avinho
who-the count of-Avignon
mesclet tan malamen ab me,
mingled so evilly with me
per que Na Vierna no·m ve.
for which Lady Vierna not-me sees

Emperador avem de tal maneira

21 · THE EMPEROR WE HAVE

A tenso in three stanzas. Lancia speaks the first two, which the page carries under his name: the emperor they mock, never named in the poem, has neither sense nor knowledge nor memory, no drunker man ever sat in a chair, and he lacks nothing but throwing stones. Lancia wishes him a sword, a steel dart, awls, and an old scarlet hat in place of honor. In the third Peire Vidal answers that poverty and folly press the marquis, who is like a blind man pissing in the street and, once free, is now a serf.

Lancia

Emperador avem de tal maneira,
An-emperor we-have of such a-kind

que non a sen ni saber, ni membransa:
that not he-has sense nor knowledge nor memory

plus ebriacs no s'assec en cadeira
more drunken not himself-seated in a-chair

ni plus volpilhs no port' escut ni lansa,
and more cowardly not carries shield nor lance

ni plus avols non causset esperos
and more worthless not shod spurs

ni plus malvatz no fetz vers ni chansos:
and more wicked not made verses nor songs

res non es meins, mas que peiras non lansa.
anything not is lacking except that stones not he-throws

Espaza volh que sus pel cap lo feira
A-sword I-want that above on-the head him it-strike
e dartz d'acier volh que·l pertus la pansa
and a-dart of-steel I-want that-him it-pierce the belly
e brocas volh que·l tragan de lumeira;
and awls I-want that-him they-draw from light
pois li darem del vi, en loc d'onransa
then to-him we-shall-give of-the wine in place of-honor
un velh capel d'escarlat ses cordos
an old hat of-scarlet without ribbons
e sa lansa sera us loncs bastos;
and his lance will-be a long staff
pois pogr' anar segurs d'aqui en Fransa.
then he-might to-go safe from-here into France

Peire Vidal

Lanza Marques, paubreza e nesceira
Lanza Marquis poverty and folly
vos cochan fort, dolors e malanansa,
you press hard sorrows and misery
et etz com l'orbs que piss' en la carreira,
and you-are like the-blind-man who pisses in the street
quant a perdut la vergonh' e membransa;
when he-has lost the shame and memory
plus sovens vens castels e domejos
more often you-conquer castles and keeps
no fai velha gallinas ni capos,
not does an-old-woman hens nor capons
e s'anc fos francs, ar es sers ses duptansa.
and if-ever you-were free now you-are a-serf without doubt

Si·m laissava de chantar

22 · IF I LEFT OFF SINGING

If he left off singing for toil or business, people would say his sense and gallantry are not what they were; but youth, worth, and chivalry never pleased him more. Could he accomplish what his over-strenuous will has begun, Alexander would be nothing beside him, and the Sepulcher would not stand long under a servile lordship. A man should not delay to speak well and do better while life lasts, for the world is only wind. He turns the song to his lady.

Si·m laissava de chantar
If-me I-left of to-sing
per trebalh ni per afar,
for toil or for business
ben leu dirian las gens
well easily would-say the folk
que non es aitals mos sens
that not is such my sense
ni ma galhardia,
nor my gallantry
com esser solia.
as to-be it-was-wont
Mas be·us posc en ver jurar,
But well-to-you I-can in truth to-swear
qu'anc mais tan no·m plac jovens
that-ever before so-much not-to-me pleased youth
ni pretz ni cavalaria
nor worth nor chivalry
ni domneis ni drudaria.
nor courting nor loving

E s'eu podi' acabar
And if-I could to-accomplish
so que m'a fait comensar
that which to-me-has made to-begin
mos sobresforcius talens,
my over-strenuous will
Alixandres fo niens
Alexander was nothing
contra qu'eu seria:
against what-I would-be
e s'a Deu plazia,
and if-to God it-pleased
que m'en denhes ajudar,
that to-me-of-it he-deigned to-help
ja·l seus verais monumens
ever-the his true sepulcher
lonjamen non estaria
long not would-stand
sotz mal serva senhoria.
under an-evil servile lordship

Hom no·s deuria tarzar
A-man not-himself ought to-delay
de ben dir e de melhs far
of good to-say and of better to-do
tan quan vida l'es prezens:
so-long as life to-him-is present
que·l segles non es mas vens,
for-the world not is but wind

e qui plus s'i fia
and whoever most himself-in-it trusts
fai major folia:
does a-greater folly
qu'a la mort pot hom proar
for-at the death can a-man to-prove
com pauc val aurs als manens:
how little is-worth gold to-the wealthy
per qu'es fols qui no·s castia
for which-is a-fool who not-himself chastens
e non renh' ab cortezia.
and not lives with courtesy

Mas tant ai de que pensar
But so-much I-have of what to-think
qu'eu no posc ben desliurar
that-I not can well to-deliver
totz mos honratz pensamens.
all my honored thoughts
Pero bos comensamens
Yet a-good beginning
mostra bona via,
shows a-good road
qui no s'en cambia.
to-whoever not himself-of-it changes

Mas eu per sobresforsar
But I through over-striving
cug dels felos mescrezens
think of-the felon misbelievers
en breu recobrar Suria
in a-short-time to-recover Syria
e Damasc e Tabaria.
and Damascus and Tiberias

Qu'eu non aus desesperar
For-I not dare to-despair
a lei d'un rei flac avar,
in the-manner of-a king slack miserly
cui sobra aurs et argens,
whom overflow gold and silver
e cuja, quar es manens,
and he-thinks because he-is wealthy
qu'autre Deus no sia
that-another God not is
mas sa manentia,
but his wealth
qu'avers lo fai renegar;
for-riches him makes to-deny
mas quan venra·l jutjamens,
but when will-come-the judgment
car comprara sa feunia
dearly he-will-buy his felony
e l'enjan e la bauzia.
and the-deceit and the treachery

Ar m'er mon chant a virar
Now to-me-will-be my song to to-turn
vas ma domna cui tenc car
toward my lady whom I-hold dear
plus que mos olhs ni mas dens:
more than my eyes or my teeth
ni no posc esser jauzens,
and not I-can to-be joyful
si leis non avia.
if her not I-had
Aissi·m lass' e·m lia
So-me she-binds and-me ties
ab prometre ses donar
with promising without giving
qu'autre gaugz no m'es plazens,
that-another joy not to-me-is pleasing
ni ges de lieis no·m poiria
and at-all from her not-me I-could
partir, neis si m'aucizia.
to-part not-even if she-slew-me

Tant es doussa per amar
So-much she-is sweet for to-love
e bela per remirar
and fair for to-behold
e cortez' e conoissens,
and courteous and knowing

si qu'a·ls pros et a·ls valens
so that-to-the brave and to-the worthy
de bela paria;
of a-fair company
que si ver dizia,
that if truth I-said
al mon non auria par.
in-the world not she-would-have an-equal
Mas fraitz m'a tals mils covens,
But broken to-me-she-has such a-thousand covenants
que, s'un sol m'en atendia,
that if-a single to-me-of-them she-kept
estort e garit m'auria.
rescued and healed me-she-would-have

Na Vierna, com que sia,
Lady Vierna however that it-is
eu sui vostres tota via.
I am yours all the-while

Ges pel temps fer e brau

23 · NEITHER FOR THE FIERCE SEASON

Neither storms nor winds change his purpose: he would rather see snow high on the mountain than flowers over the plain. Her breeding makes those who know speak well of her, and his heart and sense tell him to stay with her and complain to no other. Whoever sees or hears her cannot be sorrowful; courtly cheer takes away toil. He mocks a covetous man whose worth is a spider's thread, and sends the verse to the king who is losing Provence for Spain.

Ges pel temps fer e brau
At-all for-the season fierce and rough
qu'adutz tempiers e vens,
which-brings storms and winds
don torba·ls elemens
whence it-troubles-the elements
e fa·l cel brun e blau,
and makes-the sky dark and blue
no·s camja mos talens,
not-itself changes my will
ans es mos pensamens
rather is my thought
en joi et en chantar,
in joy and in singing
e·m volh mais alegrar,
and-me I-wish more to-rejoice
quan vei la neu sus en l'auta montanha,
when I-see the snow up on the-high mountain
que quan las flors s'espandon per la planha.
than when the flowers themselves-spread over the plain

Domna, de vos mi lau,
Lady of you me I-praise
quar etz douss' e plazens
because you-are sweet and pleasing
e la plus avinens
and the most gracious
que negus hom mentau:
that any man names
que·l vostr' ensenhamens
for-the your breeding
vos fai als conoissens
you makes to-the knowing
ben dir e tener car
well to-speak and dear to-hold
et a mi tant amar,
and to me so-much to-love
que·l cors e·l sens me ditz qu'ab vos remanha,
that-the heart and-the sense to-me tells that-with you I-remain
e si·m faitz mal, qu'ad autra no m'en planha.
and if-to-me you-do ill that-to another not myself-of-it I-complain

De lai on venh ni vau,
From there where I-come and I-go
sui vostres bendizens
I-am your well-speaker
e sers obediens,
and a-serf obedient
com cel qu'ab vos estau,
as he who-with you I-dwell

per far vostres talens;
for to-do your wills
e ja·l francs chauzimens
and ever-the noble clemency
no·m deuria tarzar
not-to-me ought to-delay
so que·m fai esperar:
that which-to-me makes to-hope
que pos Artus an cobrat en Bretanha,
for since Arthur they-have recovered in Brittany
non es razos que mais jois mi sofranha.
not is reason that henceforth joy to-me should-fail

Car qui vos ve ni·us au
For whoever you sees nor-you hears
no pot esser dolens
not can to-be sorrowful
per negus marrimens.
through any sorrows
Ai! domna, tan suau
Ah lady so softly
m'apodera e·m vens
me-overmasters and-me conquers
vostra cara rizens
your face laughing
que quan vos aug parlar
that when you I-hear to-speak
no posc mos olhs virar.
not I-can my eyes to-turn

Tan m'abelis vostra bela companha
So-much to-me-pleases your fair company
que d'autra m'es salvatja et estranha.
that of-another to-me-it-is savage and strange

Amors e jois m'enclau
Love and joy me-enclose
et amezura·m sens,
and measures-me sense
e beutatz e jovens
and beauty and youth
m'alegra e m'esjau,
me-gladdens and me-rejoices
e·l francs cors gais e gens
and-the noble body gay and seemly
m'es de totz mals garens.
to-me-is from all ills a-protector
Bel ris ab dous esgar
A-fair smile with a-sweet glance
me fan rir' e jogar,
me make to-laugh and to-play
cortes solatz me reten e·m gazanha
courtly cheer me retains and-me wins
e gaugz entiers me tol trebalh e lanha.
and joy entire me takes-away toil and lament

De lai on creisso·l fau
From there where grow-the beeches
mi ven us jauzimens,
to-me comes a rejoicing
don sui gais e jauzens,
whence I-am gay and joyful
qu'onra·l nom de Peitau,
which-honors-the name of Poitou
e ja·l fals recrezens,
and ever-the false recreant
cobes mal despendens,
covetous ill spending
no pot re conquistar
not can anything to-conquer
per soven penchenar.
by often to-comb-himself
Sitot si penh ni·s mira ni s'aplanha,
Although himself he-combs and-himself he-looks and himself-he-smooths
totz sos afars no val una castanha.
all his business not is-worth a chestnut

Que·l cor a flac e cau
For-the heart he-has slack and hollow
e val meins que niens;
and is-worth less than nothing
que per mil sagramens
so-that for a-thousand oaths
no·l creiri' om d'un clau.
not-him would-believe one of-a nail

E dolon m'en las dens,
And ache to-me-of-it the teeth
quan parli d'aitals gens
when I-speak of-such folk
— per qu'eu m'o lais estar —
for which-I to-myself-it let to-stand
d'En Saüc, filh d'Albar,
of-Sir Sauc son of-Albar
on malvestatz se sojorna e·s banha,
where baseness itself sojourns and-itself bathes
e sos pretz es aitals com fils d'aranha.
and his worth is such as a-thread of-a-spider

Al rei valent e car
To-the king worthy and dear
volh en mon vers mandar
I-wish in my verse to-send
que, si sai pert Proensa, pauc gazanha
that if here he-loses Provence little he-gains
pel bel sojorn que pren lai en Espanha.
by-the fair sojourn that he-takes there in Spain

Fraire, rir' e jogar
Brother to-laugh and to-play
solh per vos e chantar,
I-was-wont for you and to-sing

mas er es dreitz qu'en sospir e que·m planha,
but now it-is right that-of-it I-sigh and that-me I-complain
quar vostr' amors m'es salvatj' et estranha.
because your love to-me-is savage and strange

Bels Sembelis, per vos am mais Serdanha.
Fair Sable for you I-love more Cerdanya

Anc no mori per amor ni per al

24 · NEVER DID I DIE FOR LOVE

He never died for love, yet his life may as well be death, since he sees what he most desires and gets only grief. Both will soon be old, and the loss of her youth is a hundred times his. She may kill her natural man lightly, but will be mocked for it. He will keep asking, like a tiresome palmer, for crystal is born of cold snow. He turns the song to the crusade; he and God both complain of the count of Poitiers, God over his cross and he over his silver.

Anc no mori per amor ni per al,
Ever not I-died for love nor for anything-else
mas ma vida pot be valer morir,
but my life can well to-be-worth to-die
quan vei la ren qu'eu plus am e dezir
when I-see the thing that-I most love and desire
e re no·m fai mas quan dolor e mal.
and anything not-to-me does but only grief and ill
No·m val be mortz, et ancar m'es plus greu,
Not-to-me avails well death and still to-me-is more grievous
qu'en breu serem ja velh et ilh et eu:
that-in a-short-time we-shall-be already old both she and I
e s'aissi pert lo meu e·l seu joven,
and if-thus is-lost the mine and-the hers youth
mal m'es del meu, e del seu per un cen.
ill to-me-is of-the mine and of-the hers by one hundred

Bona domna, vostr' ome natural
Good lady your man natural
podetz, si·us platz, leugierament aucir:
you-can if-to-you it-pleases lightly to-slay
mas a la gen vo·n faretz escarnir
but to the folk you-of-it will-make to-be-mocked
e pois auretz en peccat criminal.
and then you-will-have of-it a-sin criminal
Vostr' om sui be, que ges no·m tenh per meu,
Your man I-am well for at-all not-me I-hold for mine
mas be laiss' om a mal senhor son feu;
but well leaves a-man to an-evil lord his fief
e pois val pauc rics hom, quan pert sa gen,
and then is-worth little a-rich man when he-loses his folk
qu'a Daire·l rei de Persa fo parven.
which-to Darius-the king of Persia was manifest

Estiers mon grat am tot sol per cabal
Against my will I-love wholly alone in full
leis que no·m denha vezer ni auzir.
her who not-me deigns to-see nor to-hear
Que farai doncs, pos no m'en posc partir,
What shall-I-do then since not myself-of-it I-can to-part
ni chauzimens ni merces no m'en val?
and clemency or mercy not to-me-of-it avails
Tenrai m'a l'us de l'enoios romeu,
I-shall-hold me-to the-custom of the-tiresome palmer

que quier e quier, car de la freida neu
who asks and asks for from the cold snow
nais lo cristals, don hom trai foc arden:
is-born the crystal whence one draws fire burning
e per esfortz venson li bon sufren.
and by efforts conquer the good suffering-ones

Anc mais no vi plag tan descomunal,
Ever more not I-saw a-plea so unnatural
que quant eu cre nulha ren far ni dir,
for when I think any thing to-do nor to-say
qu'a leis deja plazer ni abelir,
that-to her must to-please nor to-be-pleasing
ja pois no pens de nulh autre jornal.
ever then not I-think of any other day-work
E tot quan fatz par a leis vil e leu,
And all that I-do seems to her cheap and slight
qu'anc per merce ni per amor de Deu
for-ever for mercy nor for love of God
no posc trobar ab leis nulh chauzimen;
not I-can to-find with her any pity
tort a de mi e peccat ses conten.
wrong she-has toward me and sin without dispute

Aissi m'en sui gitatz a no m'en cal,
Thus myself-of-it I-am cast to not to-me-of-it it-matters
com lo volpilhs que s'oblid' a fugir,
as the coward who himself-forgets to to-flee

que no s'auza tornar ni·s pot gandir,
who not himself-dares to-turn nor-himself can to-shield
quan l'encausson sei enemic mortal.
when him-chase his enemies mortal
No·i sai conort, mas aquel del juzeu,
Not-in-it I-know a-comfort but that of-the Jew
que si·m fai mal, fai lo ad eis lo seu;
for if-to-me he-does ill he-does it to himself the his
aissi com cel qu'a orbas se defen,
just as he who-at blind himself defends
ai tot perdut, la fors' e l'ardimen.
I-have all lost the strength and the-daring

Doncs que farai? sufrirai per aital,
Then what shall-I-do I-shall-suffer in such-a-way
co·l pres destreitz, cui aven a sufrir
as-the prisoner constrained to-whom it-befalls to to-suffer
que li fai mal, mas ben saupra grazir
whoever to-him does ill but well I-should-know to-thank
qui·m fezes ben en loc d'amic leial.
whoever-me did good in the-place of-a-friend loyal
Quar s'eu volgues, domna, per autrui feu
For if-I wished lady by another's fief
honrat plazer agra conquist en breu.
an-honored pleasure I-would-have won in a-short-time
Mas res ses vos no·m pot esser plazen
But anything without you not-to-me can to-be pleasing
ni de ren al gaug entier non aten.
and of anything else joy entire not I-await

Lai vir mon chant, al rei celestial,
There I-turn my song to-the king celestial
cui devem tug onrar et obezir,
whom we-must all to-honor and to-obey
et es be dreitz que l'anem lai servir
and it-is well right that him-we-go there to-serve
on conquerrem la vid' esperital;
where we-shall-win the life spiritual
que·l Sarrazi desleial, canineu,
for-the Saracens disloyal Canaanite
l'an tout son regn' e destruita sa pleu,
him-have taken his kingdom and destroyed his people
que sazit an la crotz e·l monumen:
who seized have the cross and-the sepulcher
don devem tug aver gran espaven.
whereof we-must all to-have great dread

Coms de Peiteus, de vos mi clam a Deu
Count of Poitiers of you me I-complain to God
e Deus a me per aquel eis coven,
and God to me by that same covenant
el de sa crotz et eu de mon argen.
he of his cross and I of my silver

Coms de Peiteus, bels senher, vos et eu
Count of Poitiers fair lord you and I
avem lo pretz de tota l'autra gen,
we-have the worth of all the-other folk
vos de ben far et eu de dir lo gen.
you of well to-do and I of to-say it nobly

Nuls hom no·s pot d'amor gandir

25 · NO MAN CAN SHIELD HIMSELF FROM LOVE

Once a man has put himself in Love's lordship he must follow its will, whether it pleases him or not. He knew little of fencing, for he never guarded himself until he was taken, like the bird that flies to the whistle. Love struck him from the left side beyond the sea. Pity in a rich court clears the most blamed, and humility with wealth gives savor to every joy. Her beauty has passed through his eyes and taken away his sense.

Nuls hom no·s pot d'amor gandir,
Any man not-himself can from-love to-shield
pos el seu senhoriu s'es mes:
once in-the its lordship himself-he-has put
o tot li plass' o tot li pes,
either all to-him may-please or all to-him may-weigh
sos talens l'aven a seguir.
its wills to-him-it-befalls to to-follow
E sapchatz qu'om enamoratz
And know-you that-a-man enamored
no pot segr' autras voluntatz,
not can to-follow other wills
mas lai on vol Amors lai cor
but there where wills Love there he-runs
e no·i garda sen ni folor.
and not-in-it he-heeds sense nor folly

Adonc saup eu pauc d'escrimir,
Then knew I little of-fencing
qu'anc no·m gardei tro qu'eu fui pres
for-ever not-myself I-guarded until that-I was taken
co·l fols auzels, quant au lo bres,
as-the foolish bird when it-hears the whistle
que·s vai coitozamen aucir.
which-itself goes hastily to-slay
Et eu coitos mis m'en tal latz,
And I hasty put myself-in such a-snare
don era·m tenh per enganatz;
whence now-me I-hold for deceived
qu'en poder sui de tal senhor,
that-in the-power I-am of such a-lord
que no·m vol far be ni honor.
that not-to-me he-wills to-do good nor honor

A re no degr' om melhs fugir
From anything not ought one better to-flee
com mal senhoriu, qui pogues.
than-from an-evil lordship whoever could
Mas fugir no li posc eu ges,
But to-flee not from-it can I at-all
qu'outra la mar m'anet ferir
for-beyond the sea me-went to-strike
Amors daus lo senestre latz
Love from the left side
tal colp per qu'eu sui sai tornatz;
such a-blow for which-I am here returned

don morrai d'ir' e de dolor,
whence I-shall-die of-grief and of sorrow
si gaugz entiers no m'en socor.
if joy entire not to-me-of-it succors

Et ab gaug me pogra garir
And with joy me could to-heal
d'ira ma domna, s'ilh volgues;
from-grief my lady if-she wished
e per ma fe, s'a leis plagues,
and by my faith if-to her it-pleased
no·lh degra ma mortz abelir,
not-to-her ought my death to-please
que totz sui seus hom domenjatz.
for wholly I-am her man liege
E non o dic eu, so sapchatz
And not it say I this you-should-know
per so que·m fassa mortz paor,
for that which-to-me makes death fear
mas quar ilh pert son amador.
but because she loses her lover

Be degra ma domna chauzir
Well ought my lady to-mark
com sui tornatz en sas merces;
how I-am turned into her mercies

quar per razo val bona fes
for by reason is-worth good faith
lai on falh poders de servir.
there where fails a-power of to-serve
Qu'en las ricas cortz pietatz
For-in the rich courts pity
dezencolpa·ls plus encolpatz;
unblames-the most blamed
per qu'umilitatz ab ricor
for which-humility with wealth
don' a totz autres jois sabor.
gives to all other joys a-savor

D'autre mal me saubr' eu garir,
Of-another ill me would-know I to-heal
mas d'aquest me trenchet lo fres,
but of-this me cut the rein
quan ma bela domna·m promes
when my fair lady-me promised
so don m'ac en cor a mentir.
that whereof to-me-she-had in the-heart to to-lie
E servirs mal gazardonatz
And a-serving ill rewarded
aicel que·l pren es grans peccatz,
that-one who-it takes is a-great sin
que per mal gazardonador
for through an-ill rewarder
son paubre maint bo servidor.
are poor many a-good servant

Domna, mas no m'en posc sofrir,
Lady but not myself-of-it I-can to-refrain
Deus e chauzimens mi valgues,
God and clemency to-me might-avail
que·m vengues de vos qualsques bes,
that-to-me might-come from you some goods
que non ai poder qu'als dezir.
for not I-have power that-anything-else I-desire
Si·m destrenh vostra grans beutatz,
So-me constrains your great beauty
qu'envazitz m'a·ls olhs e passatz,
which-invaded to-me-has-the eyes and passed
si qu'el test n'ai la resplandor,
so that-in-the skull of-it-I-have the brightness
que·m tol lo sen e la vigor.
which-me takes-away the sense and the vigor

Senher coms de Peiteus, be·m platz,
Lord count of Poitiers well-to-me it-pleases
car etz en l'aussor grat montatz,
because you-are into the-highest favor mounted
que gens vos vei cobrar l'onor
that nobly you I-see to-recover the-honor
que perderon vostr' ancessor.
that lost your forefathers

Sitot s'es mals Mos Castiatz,
Although himself-he-is evil My Chastened-One
dolors m'en pren e pietatz
grief to-me-of-it takes and pity
quar es velhs e pren deshonor
because he-is old and takes dishonor
e·m tol Na Vierna e s'amor.
and-me takes-away Lady Vierna and her-love

Tan mi platz jois e solatz

26 · JOY AND CHEER PLEASE ME

Joy and the company of honored men please him so much that he makes a swift song for the king; if asked why he sings so often, it is because it vexes the wicked and gladdens the merry. Were he loved, they would hear refined little songs. He asks Pity to plead for him: a stolen kiss given or granted would pay him better than any man born. With small leaded dice baseness has cheated us, and a close-fisted young rich man is worth less than a buried one.

Tan mi platz jois e solatz
So-much to-me pleases joy and cheer
d'omes onratz, per qu'eu fatz
of-men honored for which-I make
tal chanso viatz,
such a-song swiftly
bos reis, que prec qu'aprendatz.
good king that I-pray that-you-learn
E si·m demandatz:
And if-me you-ask
tan soven per que chantatz?
so often for what do-you-sing
Car es enoitz als malvatz
Because it-is a-vexation to-the wicked
e gaugz a nos envezatz.
and a-joy to us merry

E sapchatz, s'eu fos amatz,
And know-you if-I were loved
que n'auziratz esmeratz
that of-them-you-would-hear refined
chantarets prezatz.
little-songs prized
Qu'era que sui malmenatz,
For-now that I-am ill-used
fatz meravilhatz
I-make marvelous
motz ab us sonetz dauratz,
words with certain tunes gilded
e no m'en val amistatz
and not to-me-of-it avails friendship
ni no chan mas de percatz.
and not I-sing but of gain

Cors delgatz, gen faissonatz,
Body slender nobly fashioned
merce n'ajatz. Pietatz,
mercy of-it-have Pity
vos la·n conselhatz,
you her-of-it counsel
que destreitz sui e cochatz.
for constrained I-am and pressed
Ai! domn', esgardatz
Ah lady look-at
mon cor e no m'auciatz.
my heart and not me-slay

Qu'enjans e tortz e peccatz
For-a-deceit and a-wrong and a-sin
er, s'eu mor dezesperatz.
it-will-be if-I die despairing

Melhs pagatz fora qu'om natz,
Better paid I-would-be than-a-man born
si·l bais emblatz mi fos datz
if-the kiss stolen to-me were given
o neis autreiatz.
or even granted
E no volh que m'enqueiratz
And not I-wish that me-you-ask
on es totz mos gratz,
where is all my delight
que ben leu mal me feiratz.
for well easily ill me you-would-strike
Quar soven fai cobeitatz
Because often makes covetousness
falhir los plus ensenhatz.
to-fail the most taught

Pos beutatz fa·ls plus senatz
Since beauty makes-the most sensible
outracujatz, ben es fatz
overweening well he-is foolish
qui no·s te celatz.
whoever not-himself holds hidden

Mas eu sui si encantatz,
But I am so enchanted
s'ab mi dons parlatz,
if-with my lady you-speak
que no·m posc moure del latz:
that not-me I-can to-move from-the side
o eu sui gilos proatz
either I am a-jealous-man proved
o del tot enamoratz.
or of-the whole enamored

Ab us datz menutz plombatz
With certain dice small leaded
nos a trichatz malvestatz,
us has cheated baseness
don escarsetatz
whence meanness
nais. En Rainiers, no·us gicatz,
is-born Sir Rainier not-yourself give-up
que ades no fassatz
that always not you-do
que pros aitan quan vivatz.
what-is worthy so-much as you-live
Que rics hom joves serratz
For a-rich man young close-fisted
val meins que mortz soterratz.
is-worth less than a-dead-man buried

Na Viern', en patz
Lady Vierna in peace
volgra fos Mos Castiatz,
I-would-wish were My Chastened-One
qu'en Proensa sui tornatz
for-in Provence I-am returned
morir com lebres en jatz.
to-die as a-hare in a-lair

Be m'agrada la covinens sazos

27 · THE COMELY SEASON

The comely season pleases him, the courtly summer, the birds cheeping, and the little flowers among the bushes — and a thousand times more the fair cheer he will enjoy where he has laid his heart. Love holds him rejoicing, gallant, and strenuous. Every line of the third stanza begins fair*, the fourth turns a blessing into a curse on slanderers and jealous men, the fifth opens each line with* lady*, and the last is built on joy.*

Be m'agrada la covinens sazos
Well to-me-pleases the comely season

e m'agrada lo cortes temps d'estiu
and to-me-pleases the courtly time of-summer

e m'agradon l'auzel, quan chanton piu,
and to-me-please the-birds when they-sing cheep

e m'agradon floretas per boissos
and to-me-please little-flowers among bushes

e m'agrada tot so qu'als adregz platz
and to-me-pleases all that which-to-the upright pleases

e m'agrada mil tans lo bels solatz:
and to-me-pleases a-thousand times the fair cheer

don per mon grat jauzirai lai breumen,
whence by my will I-shall-rejoice there shortly

on de bon grat paus mon cor e mon sen.
where with good will I-lay my heart and my sense

Amors mi te jauzent e deleitos,
Love me holds rejoicing and delighting
Amors mi ten en son dous recaliu,
Love me holds in its sweet fever
Amors mi te galhart et esforsiu,
Love me holds gallant and strenuous
per amor sui pensius e consiros;
through love I-am pensive and anxious
per amor sui tan fort enamoratz,
through love I-am so hard enamored
que d'amor son totas mas volontatz,
that of-love are all my wills
per amor am cortezi' e joven,
through love I-love courtesy and youth
quar d'amor son mei fag e mei parven.
for of-love are my deeds and my showings

Bel m'es, bela domna, quan pens de vos,
Fair to-me-is fair lady when I-think of you
e bel quar sui en vostre senhoriu,
and fair because I-am in your lordship
bel m'es quan n'aug bon pretz nominatiu,
fair to-me-is when of-it-I-hear a-good worth renowned
e bel quan vei vostras belas faissos.
and fair when I-see your fair features
Bel m'es quan gart vostras finas beutatz
Fair to-me-is when I-look-at your fine beauties
e bel quar sui tan vostr' endomenjatz,
and fair because I-am so your liegeman

bel m'es quar ai en vos mon pensamen
fair to-me-is because I-have in you my thought
e bel quar am vos sola solamen.
and fair because I-love you alone only

Deus vos sal, domna, quar etz bel' e pros,
God you save lady because you-are fair and worthy
mas ja no sal cels que son mal mescliu,
but ever not may-be-save those who are ill mingling
e Deus sal me, quar vas vos m' umiliu,
and God save me because toward you myself I-humble
mas ges no sal lauzengiers ni gilos.
but at-all not may-be-save slanderers nor jealous-men
Deus sal los pros e·ls adregz e·ls prezatz,
God save the worthy and-the upright and-the prized
mas ja no sal los enoios malvatz,
but ever not may-be-save the vexing wicked
Deus sal totz drutz, quant amon finamen,
God save all lovers when they-love truly
mas ja no sal cel qu'ad enoi s'empren.
but ever not may-be-save him who-to vexation himself-gives

Domna, tan sui de vos vezer coitos,
Lady so-much I-am of you to-see eager
domna, que d'als non ai mon cor pensiu,
lady that of-other-things not I-have my heart pensive
domna, quar vos mi podetz far caitiu,
lady because you me can to-make wretched

domn', e si·us platz, plus ric que·l reis N'Anfos.
lady and if-to-you it-pleases more rich than-the king Sir-Alfonso
Bona domna, tan fort m'apoderatz,
Good lady so hard me-you-overmaster
domna, que d'als non es ma volontatz;
lady that of-other-things not is my will
domna, si·us platz, ajatz n'esgardamen,
lady if-to-you it-pleases have of-it-regard
domna, de tan que n'ajatz chauzimen.
lady of so-much that of-it-you-have clemency

Fis gaugz entiers plazens et amoros,
True joy entire pleasing and loving
ab vos es gaugz per que totz bes reviu,
with you is joy through which every good revives
e non a gaug el mon tant agradiu,
and not there-is a-joy in-the world so pleasing
que·l vostre gaugz fa lo segle joyos.
for-the your joy makes the world joyful
Ab vos nais gaugz e creis devas totz latz,
With you is-born joy and it-grows toward all sides
per qu'eu n'ai gaug e Mos Bels Castiatz,
for which-I of-it-have joy and My Fair Chastened-One
e·m fai gran gaug, que cel mentau soven
and-to-me makes great joy that he mentions often
lo gaug de vos e·l bel captenemen.
the joy of you and-the fair bearing

Pos tornatz sui en Proensa

28 · SINCE I AM RETURNED TO PROVENCE

He is back in Provence and it pleases his lady, so he must make a gay song out of gratitude, for a man wins gifts and honor from a good lord by serving him. He took penance without a sin and pardon without a wrong; he has goodwill out of anger, joy out of weeping, boldness out of fear. He draws clear fire from cold snow. His lady wills that a conquered man conquer her, and long waiting has won him the stolen kiss.

Pos tornatz sui en Proensa
Since returned I-am into Provence
et a ma domna sap bo,
and to my lady it-seems good
ben dei far gaia chanso,
well I-must to-make a-gay song
sivals per reconoissensa:
at-least for gratitude
qu'ab servir et ab honrar
for-with serving and with honoring
conquier hom de bon senhor
wins one from a-good lord
don e benfait et honor,
a-gift and a-benefit and honor
qui be·l sap tener en car:
whoever well-him knows to-hold in dear
per qu'eu m'en dei esforsar.
for which-I myself-of-it must to-strive

Ses peccat pris penedensa
Without a-sin I-took penance
e ses tort fait quis perdo,
and without a-wrong done I-sought pardon
e trais de nien gen do
and I-drew from nothing a-noble gift
et ai d'ira benvolensa
and I-have of-anger goodwill
e gaug entier de plorar
and joy entire of weeping
e d'amar doussa sabor,
and of-bitter a-sweet savor
e sui arditz per paor
and I-am bold through fear
e sai perden gazanhar
and I-know losing to-gain
e, quan sui vencutz, sobrar.
and when I-am conquered to-overcome

E quar anc no fis falhensa,
And because ever not I-did a-failing
sui en bona sospeisso
I-am in a-good expectation
que·l maltraitz me torn en pro,
that-the ill-usage me turn into profit
pos lo bes tan gen comensa.
since the good so nobly begins

E poiran s'en conortar
And they-will-be-able themselves-of-it to-comfort
en mi tuit l'autr' amador,
in me all the-other lovers
qu'ab sobresforsiu labor
for-with an-over-strenuous labor
trac de neu freida foc clar
I-draw from snow cold fire clear
et aigua doussa de mar.
and water sweet from the-sea

Estiers non agra garensa,
Otherwise not I-would-have a-healing
mas quar sap que vencutz so,
but because she-knows that conquered I-am
sec ma domn' aital razo
follows my lady such a-reasoning
que vol que vencutz la vensa;
that she-wills that a-conquered-man her conquer
qu'aissi deu apoderar
for-so must to-overmaster
franc' umilitatz ricor,
noble humility wealth
e quar no trob valedor
and because not I-find a-helper
qu'ab leis me posc' aiudar,
who-with her me may to-help
mas precs e merce clamar.
but prayers and mercy to-cry

E pos en sa mantenensa
And since into her keeping
aissi del tot m'abando,
thus of-the whole myself-I-abandon
ja no·m deu dire de no;
ever not-to-me she-must to-say of no
que ses tota retenensa
for without all reserve
sui seus per vendr' e per dar.
I-am hers for to-sell and for to-give
E totz hom fai gran folor
And every man does great folly
que ditz qu'eu me vir alhor;
who says that-I myself turn elsewhere
mais am ab leis mescabar
more I-love with her to-lose
qu'ab autra joi conquistar.
than-with another joy to-conquer

E cel que long' atendensa
And he who a-long awaiting
blasma, fai gran falhizo;
blames does a-great failing
qu'er an Artus li Breto,
for-now have Arthur the Bretons
on avian lor plevensa.
wherein they-had their pledge

Et eu per lonc esperar
And I through long hoping
ai conquist ab gran doussor
have won with great sweetness
lo bais que forsa d'amor
the kiss that the-force of-love
me fetz a mi dons emblar,
me made from my lady to-steal
qu'eras lo·m denh' autreiar.
which-now it-to-me she-deigns to-grant

Bels Rainiers, per ma crezensa,
Fair Rainier by my belief
no·us sai par ni companho,
not-to-you I-know an-equal nor a-fellow
quar tuit li valen baro
for all the worthy barons
valon sotz vostra valensa.
are-worth beneath your merit

E pos Deus vos fetz ses par
And since God you made without an-equal
e·us det mi per servidor,
and-to-you gave me for a-servant

servirai vos de lauzor
I-shall-serve you with praise
e d'als, quant o poirai far,
and with-other-things when it I-shall-be-able to-do
Bels Rainiers, car etz ses par.
Fair Rainier because you-are without an-equal

Ges car estius es bels e gens

29 · THOUGH THE SUMMER IS FAIR

Though summer is fair he is not joyful, for a sorrow comes from where his heart used to be gay: she who used to honor him now neglects him. He never broke a covenant with her but by returning too slowly. No griffin ever had so evil or so burning a will as she; when he sees her he dares not say what would please her. He has spoken five hundred graceful praises of the rivers and the folk, and only for her sake. A haughty man will hardly be wealthy.

Ges car estius es bels e gens
At-all because the-summer is fair and noble
no sui jauzens, qu'us marrimens
not I-am joyful for-a sorrow
mi ven de lai,
to-me comes from there
don soli' aver mon cor gai:
whence I-used to-have my heart gay
per que pretz pauc abril ni mai,
for which I-prize little April or May
car cela·m torn' en non caler,
because she-me turns into non caring
qui·m sol honrar e car tener.
who-me was-wont to-honor and dear to-hold
E s'eu pert mas bonas chansos,
And if-I lose my good songs

los bels ditz ni·ls avinens sos
the fair words or-the gracious tunes
qu'eu solia per amor far,
that-I used for love to-make
no sai de que·m dej' alegrar.
not I-know of what-to-me I-should to-rejoice

Anc natz ni vius nolh frais covens
Ever born or living not-to-her I-broke a-covenant
ni mandamens, mas quar trop lens
nor a-command save that too slowly
tornei en sai,
I-returned to here
on seus bels cors sojorn' e jai;
where her fair body sojourns and lies
don tem que lauzengier savai,
whence I-fear that slanderers base
qui fan drutz e domnas doler
who make lovers and ladies to-grieve
e joi baissar e descazer,
and joy to-lower and to-fall
no mi fosson contrarios.
— to-me were adverse
Mas car sui de celar ginhos,
But because I-am of concealing crafty
degr' esser melhs mos pretz, so·m par;
it-ought to-be better my worth so-to-me it-seems
mas occaizo mi vol trobar.
but an-occasion me she-wills to-find

Anc non ac Grius tan mals talens
Ever not had a-Griffin so evil wills
ni tan cozens segon parvens,
nor so burning according-to appearance
com cilh qu'eu sai:
as she whom-I know
per qu'eu n'ai dolor et esmai
for which-I of-it-have grief and dismay
tal que per pauc los olhs no·m trai,
such that for a-little the eyes to-me it-draws
quan la vei, e·m fai si temer,
when her I-see and-to-me she-makes so to-fear
que neis parlar no·lh aus plazer.
that even to-speak not-to-her I-dare a-pleasure
Doncs pos que mos plaitz no·lh es bos,
Then since that my plea not-to-her is good
remanha com s'anc res no·s fos,
let-it-remain as if-ever anything not-itself were
qu'eu no la posc de ren forsar
for-I not her can of anything to-force
mas quan de bendir e d'amar.
save only of well-speaking and of-loving

Pero dels rius e de las gens
Yet of-the rivers and of the folk
ai dig cinc cens laus avinens
I-have said five hundred praises gracious
per leis que·m fai
for her who-to-me does
al peitz que pot, per qu'eu dirai
at-the worst that she-can for which-I shall-say
no re mas be, qu'eu no poirai.
not anything but good for-I not I-shall-be-able
E s'eu li pogues mal voler,
And if-I to-her could ill to-wish
si Deus m'ampar, de mon poder
so God me-protect with my power
li for'eu mals et orgolhos;
to-her would-be-I evil and proud
mas no·n posc esser poderos,
but not-of-it I-can to-be capable
qu'ab un ris et ab un esgar
for-with a smile and with a glance
me fai mi mezeis oblidar.
me she-makes my self to-forget

Mout m'es esquius lo parlamens,
Very to-me-is forbidding the speaking
que·m nafr' e·m vens, si que mos sens
which-me wounds and-me conquers so that my sense
fug e desvai;
flees and goes-astray

ni jamai chanso no farai,
and ever-more a-song not I-shall-make
que dreg ni razo noca n'ai.
for right nor reason never of-it-I-have
E pos cor no·n ai ni voler,
And since a-heart not-of-it I-have nor will
com posc chantar ni joi aver?
how can-I to-sing nor joy to-have
Que de leis non ai bels respos,
For from her not I-have fair answers
ans quan cug dir ditz amoros,
rather when I-think to-say words loving
ilh fug, que no·m vol escoutar:
she flees for not-me she-wills to-listen-to
gardatz com m'en dei esforsar!
see how myself-of-it I-must to-strive

Mas hom antius er greu manens,
But a-man haughty will-be hardly wealthy
que chauzimens e mandamens
for clemency and command
ab cor verai
with a-heart true
fan fin drut jauzen quan s'eschai.
make a-true lover joyful when it-befalls
E qui pren so qu'Amors l'atrai,
And whoever takes that which-Love to-him-draws
sitot s'es pauc, ab melhs qu'esper,
although itself-it-is little with better that-be-hopes

no·i pot falhir qu'a son plazer
not-in-it can to-fail that-at his pleasure
no l'en venga rics gazardos:
not to-him-of-it come a-rich reward
per qu'eu lau las honors e·ls dos
for which-I praise the honors and-the gifts
e·l col, e·ls mas, que·m fetz baizar
and-the neck and-the hands that-to-me she-made to-kiss
cilh que sap perdas restaurar.
she who knows losses to-restore

Na Vierna, mout m'es amar,
Lady Vierna very to-me-is bitter
car soven no·us posc remirar.
because often not-you I-can to-behold

Senher N'Agout, no·us sai lauzar,
Lord Sir-Agout not-you I-know to-praise
mas de vos dauri mon chantar.
but of you I-gild my singing

Tart mi veiran mei amic en Tolzan

30 · LATE WILL MY FRIENDS SEE ME

His friends in the Toulousain will see him late, for he has stayed with Sir Barral, his Fair Rainier. He weeps with his eyes for Lady She-Wolf and sighs with his heart at her gracious body and laughing face. The best women wish her ill out of envy, and she has one short answer for them all. To Lady Raimbauda he boasts that he will take a garden at Beuil and forget the plain for the mountain.

Tart mi veiran mei amic en Tolzan
Late me will-see my friends in the-Toulousain
e tart veirai lo Pog e Monreial,
and late I-shall-see the Puy and Montréal
quar remazutz sui del tot a'N Barral,
because remained I-am of-the whole with-Sir Barral
mon Bel Rainier, que trop fin e certan.
my Fair Rainier whom I-find true and sure
A! Na Loba, domna, car no·us remir,
Ah Lady She-Wolf lady because not-you I-behold
dels olhs vos plor e del cor vos sospir,
with-the eyes you I-weep and with-the heart you I-sigh
quan mi membra vostre cors avinens
when to-me it-comes-to-mind your body gracious
e·l dous parlars e la cara rizens.
and-the sweet speaking and the face laughing

E car avetz tan ric pretz sobeiran,
And because you-have so rich a-worth sovereign
per enveja·us volon las melhors mal;
through envy-you wish the best ill

ma bela domna douss', a vos qu'en cal?
my fair lady sweet to you what-of-it matters
Qu'a totas podetz dir: tast' e milan.
For-to all you-can to-say taste and kite
Car melhs sabetz honrar et acolhir,
Because better you-know to-honor and to-welcome
per so·us vol hom mais vezer et auzir,
for this-you wishes one more to-see and to-hear
pos de beutat vest se vostre jovens
since with beauty clothes itself your youth
e·l dous parlars e·l galhardi' e·l sens.
and-the sweet speaking and-the gallantry and-the sense

Na Raïmbauda, domna, d'aisso·m van,
Lady Raimbauda lady of-this-me I-boast
qu'eu penrai ort a Biolh e cazal;
that-I shall-take a-garden at Beuil and a-farmstead
e si·us pagatz d'amor emperial,
and if-you you-content with-a-love imperial
per la montanh' oblidarai lo plan.
for the mountain I-shall-forget the plain
A! bela domna, cui am e dezir,
Ah fair lady whom I-love and desire
qu'eu no poirai jamais ses vos sufrir;
that-I not shall-be-able ever without you to-endure
e prenda·us en merces e chauzimens,
and let-take-you of-it mercy and clemency
pos en vos es mos cors e mos talens.
since in you is my heart and my will

Domna, ben aic l'alberc Saint Julian,
Lady well I-had the-lodging of-Saint Julian
quan fui ab vos dins vostre ric ostal;
when I-was with you within your rich house
qu'anc Deus no fetz tant avinen jornal,
for-ever God not made so gracious a-day-work
com aicel jorn que·us formet de sa man.
as that day when-you he-formed with his hand
Meravilh me co·us saup tan gen bastir,
I-marvel me how-you he-knew so nobly to-build
mas aitals armas fetz per mi aucir.
but such arms he-made for me to-slay
Mas conort n'ai qu'etz trop ric' e valens;
But a-comfort of-it-I-have that-you-are too rich and worthy
si m'aucizetz, honratz sui e jauzens.
if me-you-slay honored I-am and joyful

Amors, pres sui de la bera

31 · NEAR THE BIER

Love has brought him near the bier: he thought it had won him the fairest and gayest lady in the world, and now it will not let him have her. Had he known, he would never have loved. She is proud and gay toward him and cares nothing for the ill he draws from it. He would speak vile things of her, lies though they are, for a heart full of hatred makes the mouth fail. She was once noble and nobly taught; now she is harsh, and he parts from her to seek his better.

Amors, pres sui de la bera,
Love near I-am to the bier
quar m'etz tan de mala guiza;
because to-me-you-are so of an-evil sort
qu'eu cugei m'acsetz conquiza
for-I thought to-me-you-had conquered
la gensor e la plus gaia
the fairest and the most gay
del mon, mas no·us platz qu'eu l'aia.
of-the world but not-to-you it-pleases that-I her-have
Per qu'eu morrai dezesperatz,
For which-I shall-die despairing
Amors, et er tortz e peccatz,
Love and it-will-be a-wrong and a-sin
si d'aquest vostre benvolen
if of-this your well-wisher
non avetz calque chauzimen.
not you-have some clemency

Ja, s'eu saupes, non amera,
Ever if-I had-known not I-would-have-loved
que m'en prezes d'aital guiza,
that to-me-of-it it-should-take of-such a-sort
qu'er a ma voluntat priza
that-now has my will taken
cilh qu'es orgolhoz' e gaia
she who-is proud and gay
vas mi, e de mal qu'en traia
toward me and of ill that-of-it I-draw
no·lh cal, ans m'a mes en tal latz,
not-to-her it-matters rather to-me-she-has put in such a-snare
que jois ni deportz ni solatz
that joy nor sport nor cheer
d'autra no·m don' esbaudimen,
of-another not-to-me gives gladdening
ni de leis nulh joi non aten.
and from her any joy not I-await

Per qu'eu ab bon grat m'estera,
For which-I with good will myself-would-remain
fe que·us dei, ans de ma guiza,
by-the-faith that-to-you I-owe rather of my sort
qu'enquer non l'agra enquiza:
that-still not her-I-would-have entreated
e pero non es tan gaia,
and yet not she-is so gay
qu'eu de leis mal non retraia,
that-I of her ill not report

e dir n'ai enois e viltatz,
and to-say of-it-I-have vexations and vilenesses
sitot s'es mensonj' e foudatz,
although itself-it-is a-lie and folly
quar cors qu'es ples d'aziramen
for a-heart which-is full of-hatred
fai ben falhir boca soven.
makes well to-fail the-mouth often

Qu'eu vi ja l'ora qu'ilh era
For-I saw once the-hour that-she was
franca e de bona guiza
noble and of a-good sort
e sa boca gent apriza
and her mouth nobly taught
en parlar paraula gaia,
in speaking a-word gay
vas bon pretz fina e veraia,
toward good worth fine and true
sos cors adregz e gen formatz,
her body upright and nobly formed
d'ensenhamens e de beutatz,
of-breeding and of beauty
que anc nulhs hom no vi tan gen
so-that ever any man not saw so nobly
ni ab tan bel captenemen.
nor with so fair a-bearing

Mas ar m'es esquiv' e fera
But now to-me-she-is forbidding and fierce
tornad' e de brava guiza,
turned and of a-harsh sort
per que l'esperansa·s briza,
for which the-hope-itself shatters
don fo ma volontatz gaia.
whence was my will gay
Pos no·lh platz bes m'en eschaia,
Since not-to-her it-pleases a-good to-me-of-it should-fall
peitz trac de mort, tan viu iratz.
worse I-draw than-of death so I-live grieved
Ar sai e conosc qu'es vertatz,
Now I-know and I-recognize that-it-is truth
que diable son sei paren,
that devils are her kin
qu'als seus dona pejor turmen.
who-to her-own gives a-worse torment

Tostemps, si·m legues, blasmera
Always if-to-me it-were-lawful I-would-blame
leis que non es d'avol guiza;
her who not is of-a-worthless sort
mainta mensonj' ai assiza
many a-lie I-have set-down
en blasmar la domna gaia.
in blaming the lady gay
Per qu'es razos qu'eu m'estraia.
For which-it-is reason that-I myself-withdraw

Mout mi part de s'amor forsatz;
Much me I-part from her-love forced
e pos conosc que tan li platz,
and since I-know that so-much to-her it-pleases
sivals partrai m'en bonamen
at-least I-shall-part myself-thence in-good-part
et irai mon melhs enqueren.
and I-shall-go my better seeking

A per pauc de chantar no·m lais

32 · FOR LITTLE I DO NOT LEAVE OFF SINGING

He all but leaves off singing, for he sees youth, merit, and worth dead, and baseness so far in the ascendant that hardly a country is not caught by the head in its snare. At Rome the pope and the false doctors have thrown Holy Church into confusion, and that is why the heretics have risen. The king of France has abandoned the Sepulcher and buys and sells like a burgess. He blames the kings of Spain for sending horses to the Moors, and takes his joy from a lady of the Carcassès.

A per pauc de chantar no·m lais,
Ah for a-little of to-sing me I-leave
quar vei mort joven e valor
because I-see dead youth and merit
e pretz, que non trob'on s'apais,
and worth which not finds-where itself-it-feeds
qu'usquecs l'empenh e·l gita por;
for-each-one it-pushes and-it casts out
e vei tan renhar malvestat
and I-see so-much to-reign baseness
que·l segle a vencut e sobrat,
that-the world it-has conquered and overcome
si qu'apenas trop nulh paes
so that-hardly I-find any country
que·l cap non aj'en son latz pres.
that-the head not it-has-in its snare taken

Qu'a Rom' an vout en tal pantais
For-at Rome they-have turned into such a-confusion
l'apostolis e·lh fals doctor
the-pope and-the false doctors
Sancta Gleiza, don Deus s'irais;
Holy Church whereof God himself-angers
que tan son fol e peccador,
who so-much are foolish and sinful
per que l'eretge son levat.
for which the-heretics are risen
E quar ilh commenso·l peccat,
And because they begin-the sin
greu es qui als far en pogues;
hard it-is who otherwise to-do of-it might
mas ja no volh esser plages.
but ever not I-wish to-be a-pleader

E mou de Fransa totz l'esglais,
And it-moves from France all the-dread
d'els qui solon esser melhor,
of-those who are-wont to-be the-best
que·l reis non es fis ni verais
for-the king not is true nor faithful
vas pretz ni vas Nostre Senhor.
toward worth nor toward Our Lord

Que·l Sepulcre a dezamparat
Who-the Sepulcher has abandoned
e compr'e vent e fai mercat
and he-buys-and sells and makes a-market
atressi com sers o borges:
just as a-serf or a-burgess
per que son aunit sei Frances.
for which are shamed his French

Totz lo mons es en tal biais
All the world is in such a-slant
qu'ier lo vim mal et oi pejor;
that-yesterday it we-saw ill and today worse
et anc pos lo guitz de Deu frais,
and ever since the guidance of God he-broke
non auzim pois l'Emperador
not we-heard then the-Emperor
creisser de pretz ni de barnat.
to-grow in worth nor in baronage
Mas pero s'oimais laiss' en fat
But yet if-henceforth he-leaves in folly
Richart, pos en sa preizon es,
Richard since in his prison he-is
lor esquern en faran Engles.
their scorn of-it will-make the-English

Dels reis d'Espanha·m tenh a fais,
Of-the kings of-Spain-me I-hold as a-burden
quar tan volon guerra mest lor,
because so-much they-wish war among them
e quar destriers ferrans ni bais
and because chargers iron-gray and bay
trameton als Mors per paor:
they-send to-the Moors through fear
que lor orgolh lor an doblat,
so-that their pride to-them they-have doubled
don ilh son vencut e sobrat;
whence they are conquered and overcome
e fora melhs, s'a lor plagues,
and it-would-be better if-to them it-pleased
qu'entr'els fos patz e leis e fes.
that-among-them were peace and law and faith

Mas ja no·s cug hom qu'eu m'abais
But ever not-himself let-think a-man that-I myself-lower
pels rics, si·s tornon sordejor;
for-the rich if-themselves they-turn worse
qu'us fis jois me capdela e·m nais
for-a true joy me guides and-me is-born
que·m te jauzent en gran doussor;
which-me holds rejoicing in great sweetness
e·m sojorn' en fin' amistat
and-me refreshes in a-true friendship
de leis qui plus mi ven en grat:
of her who most me comes into favor

e si voletz saber quals es
and if you-wish to-know which she-is
demandatz la en Carcasses.
ask-for her in the-Carcassès

Et anc no galiet ni trais
And ever not she-deceived nor betrayed
son amic ni·s pauzet color,
her friend nor-herself she-laid-on a-color
ni·l cal, quar cela qu'en leis nais
nor-to-her it-is-needful for that which-in her is-born
es fresca com roz' en pascor.
is fresh as a-rose in Eastertide
Bel'es sobre tota beutat
Fair-she-is above all beauty
et a sen ab joven mesclat:
and has sense with youth mingled
per que·s n'agrado·l plus cortes
for which-themselves of-it-delight-the most courtly
e'n dizon laus ab honratz bes.
and-of-it say praise with honored goods

De chantar m'era laissatz

33 · I HAD LEFT OFF SINGING

He had left off singing for grief at the death of the count his lord, but since it pleases the good king he makes a song for Guilhem and Blascol Romieu to carry into Aragon. He has been betrayed like a good servant and rewarded as one who serves a felon. With true joy he is crowned above every emperor for love of a comtor's daughter, and a little cord from Lady Raimbauda is worth more to him than Poitiers, Tours, and Angers are to King Richard. Though they call him a wolf and the shepherds chase him, the She-Wolf says he is hers.

De chantar m'era laissatz
From to-sing myself-I-was left-off
per ira e per dolor
through grief and through sorrow
qu'ai del comte, mon senhor;
that-I-have of-the count my lord
mas pos vei qu'al bon rei platz,
but since I-see that-to-the good king it-pleases
farai tost una chanso,
I-shall-make soon a song
que porten en Arago
which carry into Aragon
Guilhems e'N Blascols Romeus,
Guilhem and-Sir Blascol Romieu
si·l sos lor par bos e leus.
if-the tune to-them seems good and easy

E s'eu chan com hom forsatz,
And if-I sing as a-man forced
pos mon senhor n'a sabor,
since my lord of-it-has a-savor
no tengatz per sordejor
not you-hold as worse
mon chan, que·l cors m'es viratz
my song for-the heart to-me-is turned
de leis on anc non aic pro,
from her wherein ever not I-had profit
que·m gita de sospeisso;
who-me casts from expectation
e·l partirs es mi tan greus
and-the parting is to-me so grievous
que res non o sap mas Deus.
that anyone not it knows but God

Traïtz sui et enganatz
Betrayed I-am and deceived
a lei de bon servidor,
in the-manner of a-good servant
quar hom mi ten a folor
because one me holds as a-folly
so don degr'esser honratz;
that whereof I-ought-to-be honored
e n'aten tal gazardo,
and of-it-I-await such a-reward
com cel que ser a felo;
as he who serves to a-felon

mas s'eu derenan sui seus,
but if-I henceforth am hers
a meins me tenh que juzeus.
at less me I-hold than a-Jew

A tal domna·m sui donatz
To such a-lady-me I-am given
que viu de joi e d'amor
who lives of joy and of-love
e de pretz e de valor,
and of worth and of merit
on s'afina si beutatz,
where itself-refines so beauty
com l'aurs en l'arden carbo;
as the-gold in the-burning coal
e quar mos precs li sap bo,
and because my prayers to-her seem good
be·m par que·l segles es meus
well-to-me it-seems that-the world is mine
e que·l reis ten de mi feus.
and that-the king holds of me fiefs

De fin joi sui coronatz
With true joy I-am crowned
sobre tot emperador,
above every emperor

quar de filha de comtor
because with a-daughter of a-comtor
me sui tant enamoratz,
me I-am so enamored
et ai mais d'un pauc cordo
and I-have more of-a small cord
que Na Raïmbauda·m do,
that Lady Raimbauda-me gives
que·l reis Richartz ab Peiteus
than-the king Richard with Poitiers
ni ab Tors ni ab Angeus.
or with Tours or with Angers

E sitot lop m'appellatz,
And although a-wolf me-you-call
no m'o tenh a dezonor,
not to-me-it I-hold as a-dishonor
ni si·m cridan li pastor
nor if-me cry the shepherds
ni si sui per lor cassatz;
or if I-am by them chased
et am mais bosc e boisso
and I-love more wood and thicket
no fauc palaitz ni maizo,
than I-do a-palace or a-house
et ab joi li er mos treus
and with joy to-her will-be my tent
entre gel e vent e neus.
between ice and wind and snow

La Loba ditz que seus so,
The She-Wolf says that hers I-am
et a·n be dreg e razo,
and she-has-of-it well right and reason
que, per ma fe, melhs sui seus
for by my faith better I-am hers
que no sui d'autrui ni meus.
than — I-am of-another or mine

Bels Sembelis, Saut et So
Fair Sable Saut and Usson
am per vos et Alio;
I-love for you and Alion
e quar la vista·m fo breus,
and because the sight-to-me was brief
en sui sai marritz e greus.
of-it I-am here sad and heavy

Estat ai gran sazo

34 · LONG HAVE I BEEN SORROWFUL

He has been sorrowful a long season, but now he is more delighted than a bird or a fish, since his lady has sent him word to hold himself as a lover. He cannot be joyful until he returns to the sweet prison her beauty put him in; when he looks at her loving eyes he does not know where he is. His heart is felon toward the one who cast him off for a blond count: she is well named a She-Wolf. He has lost a false love and gained a better.

Estat ai gran sazo
Been I-have a-great season
marritz e consiros,
sorrowful and anxious
mas ar sui delechos
but now I-am delighted
plus qu'auzel ni peisso,
more than-a-bird or a-fish
pos ma domn'a·m trames
since my lady-has-me sent
messatge, que·m tengues
a-message that-me I-should-hold
a guiza d'amador.
in the-manner of-a-lover
A! tan doussa sabor
Ah so sweet a-savor
m'a, quar denha voler
to-me-she-has because she-deigns to-wish
qu'eu torn en bon esper.
that-I turn into good hope

Que, si Deus mi perdo,
For if God me pardon
no posc esser joios,
not I-can to-be joyful
tro que m'en torn coitos
until that myself-thence I-turn eager
en la doussa preizo
into the sweet prison
on sa beutatz me mes,
where her beauty me put
qu'es de semblan cortes
which-is of a-seeming courtly
e de gaug ab doussor:
and of joy with sweetness
per qu'eu no volh ricor
for which-I not wish wealth
de terra ni d'aver
of land nor of-goods
tan com far son plazer.
so-much as to-do her pleasure

Que tan m'es bel e bo,
For so-much to-me-is fair and good
quan remir sas faissos
when I-behold her features
e·ls bels olhs amoros,
and-the fair eyes loving
qu'eu no sai on me so;
that-I not know where me I-am

si m'a lassat e pres
so me-she-has bound and taken
e vencut e conques
and conquered and won
que mos olhs ni m'amor
that my eyes nor my-love
no posc virar alhor,
not I-can to-turn elsewhere
ans quan la posc vezer,
rather when her I-can to-see
del tot mi alezer.
of-the whole me I-delight

Domna, per Deu del tro,
Lady by God of-the throne
pos aissi·m rent a vos,
since so-me I-yield to you
humils e volontos,
humble and willing
vostr'amistat me do
your-friendship to-me may-give
chauzimens e merces
clemency and mercy
e precs e bona fes;
and prayers and good faith
e faretz vostr'onor:
and you-will-do your-honor

que mout ai gran paor
for very I-have great fear
que·l talans m'apoder,
that-the desire me-overmaster
a cui no·m posc tener.
against which not-me I-can to-hold

Que·l cor ai tan felo
For-the heart I-have so felon
vas leis qu'anc mala fos;
toward her that-ever in-an-evil-hour she-was
quar per un comte ros
because for a count blond
m'a gitat a bando.
me-she-has cast to abandonment
Be·m par que Loba es;
Well-to-me it-seems that a-She-Wolf she-is
quar ab comte s'empres
because with a-count herself-she-took
e·s part d'emperador,
and-herself parts from-an-emperor
qui a fag sa lauzor
who has made her praise
per tot lo mon saber:
through all the world to-be-known
mas qui men no ditz ver.
but whoever lies not says truth

Deus sal l'onrat marques
God save the-honored marquis
e sa bela seror,
and his fair sister
qu'ab sa leial amor
who-with her loyal love
me saup gen conquerer
me knew nobly to-conquer
e plus gen retener.
and more nobly to-keep

Filha de rei, be·m pres,
A-daughter of a-king well-to-me it-befell
quar perdei fals' amor,
because I-lost a-false love
qu'eu·n gazanhei melhor
that-I-of-it gained a-better
e qui melhs sap valer
and who better knows to-be-worth
e far e dir plazer.
and to-do and to-say a-pleasure

Tant an ben dig del marques

35 · SO MUCH HAVE THEY SAID OF THE MARQUIS

Vagrant boastful jongleurs have said so much good of the marquis, and all of it true, that he does not know what to add. Had the Aragonese king not taken his gladness he would have had entire joy with the ladies of the Carcassès. The Lombards have conquered him since one of them called him dear sir. Her eye and thick black brow are the bow and her nose the bow-stock; against such a glance no shield is a warrant.

Tant an ben dig del marques
So-much they-have well said of-the marquis
joglar truant e garbier,
jongleurs vagrant and boastful
(que tuit en son vertadier)
that all of-it are truthful
qu'eu no sai que m'en disses:
that-I not know what to-me-of-it I-should-say
pero sua es valensa,
yet his is the-worthiness
on bos pretz nais e comensa,
where good worth is-born and begins
e·i renovela valor
and-there renews merit
en fai dir vera lauzor.
in-it he-makes to-say a-true praise

E si·l reis Aragones
And if-the king Aragonese
no m'agues tout alegrier,
not to-me-had taken gladness
eu agra fin gaug entier
I would-have a-true joy entire
ab domnas de Carcasses,
with ladies of the-Carcassès
don m'abelis e m'agensa
whence to-me-pleases and to-me-suits
lor faitz e lor captenensa,
their deeds and their bearing
e·l cavalier e·l comtor
and-the knights and-the comtors
e·l baron e·l vavassor.
and-the barons and-the vavasors

Per so m'an Lombart conques,
For this me-they-have the-Lombards conquered
pos m'appellet «car messier»
since me-called dear sir
tals qu'anc no vist nulh arquier
such-a-one that-ever not you-saw any archer
tan dreg ni tan prim traisses;
so straight nor so fine to-shoot
e·m fier al cor ses falhensa
and-me strikes at-the heart without fail
ab un cairel de plazensa,
with a bolt of pleasure

fabregat el foc d'amor,
forged in-the fire of-love
temprat de doussa sabor.
tempered with a-sweet savor

E l'olh e·l cil negre espes
And the-eye and-the brow black thick
e·l nas qu'es en loc d'arbrier,
and-the nose which-is in the-place of-a-bow-stock
ve·us l'arc de qu'aitals colps fier
behold-you the-bow of which-such blows it-strikes
ab un esgart demanes,
with a glance immediate
don escut no·lh fai garensa:
whence a-shield not-to-him makes a-warrant
e pos a leis platz que·m vensa,
and since to her it-pleases that-me she-conquer
no m'o tenh a dezonor,
not to-me-it I-hold as a-dishonor
si·ls fortz venson li forsor.
if-the strong are-conquered-by the stronger

Tant es sos bels cors cortes
So-much is her fair body courtly
e·l dig gai e plazentier
and-the speech gay and pleasing
qu'el mon non a cavalier
that-in-the world not there-is a-knight
que vezer no la volgues;
who to-see not her would-wish
que fag e dig e parvensa
for deed and word and appearance
a de Monbel e d'Argensa
she-has of Monbel and of-Argensa
e de Monrozier color
and of Monrozier a-color
e sa cambra es de Valflor.
and her chamber is of Valflor

Mil tans es doblatz sos bes
A-thousand times is doubled her good
qu'el comte de l'escaquier,
than-in-the reckoning of the-chessboard
qu'al seu fin pretz vertadier
so-that-to-the her fine worth truthful
no sofranh neguna res;
not fails any thing
pos m'autrejet ses bistensa,
since she-granted-me without delay
m'a tengut lai en Proensa,
me-she-has held there in Provence

qu'ar sai son en mais d'onor
that-now here I-am in more of-honor
e deu so·m penr' al melhor.
and she-must this-to-me to-take at-the best

E si mos Fraires saubes
And if my Brother knew
que·m rete per soudadier,
that-me she-keeps as a-mercenary
no·l tengran bojas d'acier
not-him would-hold irons of-steel
que vezer no la volgues.
that to-see not her he-would-wish
E trobera ses falhensa
And he-would-find without fail
dous frug d'onrada semensa
a-sweet fruit of-an-honored seed
e cort de valen senhor
and a-court of a-worthy lord
ab un avinen trachor.
with a gracious traitor

Per ces dei una chanso

36 · A SONG AS TRIBUTE

He owes a song as tribute to the courtly king of Aragon; otherwise he would not sing this year, for the vexation a lady did him. If he was ever gay through Love he abandons her now, and would be no lover at all were it not for one hard heart. Never was a lady so fair or of so courtly a seeming: when one word leaves her mouth he is so greedy that he thinks he will die unless he hears two. For her succor he renders thanks in song, and calls himself her man.

Per ces dei una chanso
As tribute I-owe a song
al cortes rei d'Arago,
to-the courtly king of-Aragon
qu'estiers non chanter' ongan
for-otherwise not I-would-sing this-year
per l'enoi e per l'enjan
for the-vexation and for the-deceit
que·m fetz cilh cui Deus abais;
that-to-me did she whom God abase
e s'anc fui per Amor gais,
and if-ever I-was through Love gay
er la gurpisc e la lais,
now her I-abandon and her I-leave
e mais no for' amoros,
and henceforth not I-would-be loving
durs cors, si per vos no fos.
hard heart if for you not it-were

E ja Deus noca·m perdo,
And ever God not-at-all-me pardon
s'anc tan bela domna fo
if-ever so fair a-lady there-was
ni d'aitan cortes semblan,
or of-so courtly a-seeming
ni anc hom tan gen parlan
nor ever a-man so nobly speaking
no vi ni o fara mais:
not I-saw nor it will-do henceforth
que quant us motz l'eis del cais
for when a word to-her-goes-out of-the mouth
et eu l'aug, sui tan licais,
and I it-hear I-am so greedy
qu'en cre morir talentos,
that-of-it I-think to-die longing
s'al meins no l'en aug dir dos.
if-at-the least not to-her-of-it I-hear to-say two

E quar en aital sazo
And because in such a-season
me fetz socors bel e bo,
me she-did succor fair and good
vos en ren merce chantan:
you of-it I-render thanks singing
qu'estiers non pogra l'afan
for-otherwise not I-could the-toil
sofrir ni·l plor ni·l pantais,
to-bear nor-the weeping nor-the anguish

quant ela s'amor m'estrais,
when she her-love from-me-tore
si no fos us cortes jais
if not there-were a courtly gladness
que·m ve, domna, de ves vos,
which-to-me comes lady from toward you
per qu'eu m'en viu deleitos.
for which-I myself-of-it live delighting

E per aquesta razo
And for this reason
conosc be que vostr'om so,
I-know well that your-man I-am
e volh estar derenan
and I-wish to-stand henceforth
del tot a vostre coman.
of-the whole at your command
E metrai me tot en fais
And I-shall-put me wholly in a-burden
de dir e de far que·us plais,
of to-say and of to-do what-to-you pleases
com vostre rics pretz verais
so-that your rich worth true
an s'enan totas sazos
may itself-advance all seasons
entre·ls drutz galhartz e bos.
among-the lovers gallant and good

Bon' aventura don Dieus als Pisans

37 · GOOD FORTUNE TO THE PISANS

He wishes the Pisans good fortune for lowering the pride of the Genoese, and will always wish honor to Pisa. He finds the Germans unmannerly, their speech like the barking of dogs, and would rather be among the Lombards, near his gay white smooth lady, than be lord of Frisia. If Richard will believe him he will soon recover Palermo and Reggio, which his ransom won. He reminds the Lombards how Apulia was conquered, and closes on Lady Alazais.

Bon' aventura don Dieus als Pisans,
Good fortune may-give God to-the Pisans
car son ardit e d'armas ben apres,
because they-are bold and in-arms well trained
et an baissat l'orgoill dels Genoes,
and they-have lowered the-pride of-the Genoese
que·ls fan estar aunitz e soteirans:
so-that-them they-make to-stand shamed and underlings
per qu'eu volrai totz temps l'onor de Pisa,
for which-I shall-wish all times the-honor of Pisa
car an baissatz los perfieitz orgoillos;
because they-have lowered the perfected proud
que sol l'enois dels vilans borboillos
for only the-vexation of-the churls quarrelsome
mi trenca·l cor e·l me fraing e·l me brisa.
me cuts-the heart and-it me breaks and-it me shatters

Alamans trob deschauzitz e vilans;
Germans I-find unmannerly and churlish
e quand negus si feing esser cortes,
and when any-one himself feigns to-be courtly
ira mortals cozens et enois es;
an-anger mortal burning and a-vexation it-is
e lor parlars sembla lairar de cans;
and their speaking resembles the-barking of dogs
per qu'ieu non vuoill esser seigner de Frisa,
for which-I not wish to-be a-lord of Frisia
c'auzis tot jor lo glat dels enoios:
that-I-should-hear all day the yelp of-the tiresome
anz vuoill estar entre·ls Lombartz joios,
rather I-wish to-stand among-the Lombards joyful
pres de midonz, qu'es gaia, blanc' e lisa.
near to my-lady who-is gay white and smooth

E pois mieus es Monferratz e Milans,
And since mine is Montferrat and Milan
a mon dan git Alamans e Tyes;
to my harm I-cast Germans and Teutons
e si·m creira Richartz, reis dels Engles,
and if-me will-believe Richard king of-the English
en breu d'ora tornara per sas mans
in short of-hour will-return by his hands
lo regisme de Palerm' e de Riza,
the kingdom of Palermo and of Reggio
car lo conquis la soa rezensos.
because it was-conquered-by the his ransom

De mi dic ben: si pel marques non fos,
Of myself I-say well if for-the marquis not it-were
non pretz cinc marcs una rota camisa.
not I-prize five marks a torn shirt

Era m'alberc Dieus e sains Julians
Now me-may-lodge God and Saint Julian
e la doussa terra de Canaves;
and the sweet land of Canavese
qu'en Proensa non tornarai eu ges,
for-in Provence not shall-return I at-all
pois sai m'acuoill Montferratz e Milans;
since here me-receives Montferrat and Milan
e s'aver puosc cella qu'ai tant enquisa,
and if-to-have I-can her whom-I-have so-much sought
de lai s'estei lo valens reis N'Anfos,
of there let-him-stay the worthy king Sir-Alfonso
qu'ieu farai sai mos vers e mas chansos
for-I shall-make here my verses and my songs
per la gensor qu'anc fos d'amor enquisa.
for the fairest that-ever was of-love sought

E pois Milans es autz e sobeirans,
And since Milan is high and sovereign
ben volgra patz de lor e dels Paves,
well I-would-wish peace of them and of-the Pavians

e que estes Lombardi' en defes
and that might-stand Lombardy in defense
de crois ribautz e de mals escarans.
from vile ruffians and from evil brigands
Lombartz, membre·us com Poilla fo conquisa,
Lombards let-it-come-to-mind-to-you how Apulia was conquered
de las dompnas e dels valens baros,
of the ladies and of-the worthy barons
com los mes hom en poder de garsos:
how them put one into the-power of grooms
e de vos fan entr'els pejor devisa.
and of you they-make among-them a-worse plan

E N'Alazais tan vos ai ades quisa,
And Lady-Alazais so-much you I-have continually sought
qu'ar l'uns en ten l'autre per enoios;
that-now the-one of-it holds the-other as tiresome
eu remandrai tant quant er faitz lo dos,
I shall-remain so-long as will-be made the gift
quar genser etz qu'anc fos d'amor enquisa.
because fairer you-are than-ever was of-love sought

Ben viu a gran dolor

38 · HE LIVES IN GREAT GRIEF

Whoever loses his good lord lives in great grief, and he has lost the best death could kill. He went to Hungary to King Aimeric, where he found shelter and whose praise he can carry through the world. Felony will not avail at the last sigh, as it did not avail Lord Henry, who shamed the good Richard. A king who listens to serfs loses joy: Alexander died by the serfs he enriched. He wants no wealth but joy and love.

Ben viu a gran dolor
Truly lives in great grief
qui pert son bon senhor,
whoever loses his good lord
qu'eu perdei lo melhor
for-I lost the best
qu'anc mortz pogues aucir.
that-ever death could to-slay
E quar non posc morir
And because not I-can to-die
ni es dreitz qu'om s'aucia,
nor is-it right that-a-man himself-slay
per ma vida gandir
for my life to-save
m'en anei en Ongria
myself-thence I-went into Hungary
al bon rei N'Aimeric,
to-the good king Sir-Aimeric
on trobei bon abric,
where I-found a-good shelter

et aura·m ses cor tric
and he-will-have-me without a-heart deceitful
servidor et amic.
a-servant and a-friend

Et aura·i gran honor,
And he-will-have-in-it great honor
si m'a per servidor,
if me-he-has as a-servant
qu'eu posc far sa lauzor
for-I can to-make his praise
per tot lo mon auzir
through all the world to-be-heard
e son pretz enantir
and his worth to-advance
mais d'autr'om qu'el mon sia.
more than-of-another-man that-in-the world is
E quar me saup chauzir
And because me he-knew to-choose
ni m'ac bela paria,
and me-had a-fair company
meins en pretz maint croi ric
less of-it I-prize many a-vile rich-man
manent ab cor mendic:
wealthy with a-heart beggarly
e diran qu'eu o dic
and they-will-say that-I it say
del filh de Lodoic.
of-the son of Louis

Pauc pretz emperador
Little I-prize an-emperor
escas ni raubador
niggardly or a-robber
ni rei galiador
or a-king a-deceiver
qui vol Deu escarnir
who wills God to-mock
ni sos baros aunir
and his barons to-shame
per falsa maïstria.
through a-false mastery
Mas al derrier sospir
But at-the last sigh
ja no·l valra feunia
ever not-to-him will-avail felony
plus que fetz don Enric,
more than it-did Lord Henry
quan camjava nessic
when he-changed foolishly
e·l bon Richart aunic
and-the good Richard he-shamed
e Deu que n'envazic.
and God whom of-it-he-assailed

Reis non ama valor
A-king not loves merit
qui vol creire trachor
who wills to-believe a-traitor
ni ser lauzenjador
or serfs slanderers
escoutar ni auzir;
to-listen-to or to-hear
quar ser fan joi delir
because serfs make joy to-perish
e baisson cortezia
and lower courtesy
e ponhon en trahir
and strive at betraying
lor senhor cascun dia:
their lord each day
qu'Alexandres moric
for-Alexander died
per sos sers qu'enriquic,
through his serfs whom-he-enriched
el reis Daire feric
and-the king Darius struck
de mort cel que·l noiric.
with death him who-him nourished

Per qu'eu no volh ricor
For which-I not wish wealth
mas de joi e d'amor,
but of joy and of-love

quar ben tenh a folor
because well I-hold as a-folly
qui trop vol requerir
whoever too-much wills to-seek
so don no pot jauzir.
that whereof not he-can to-enjoy
Qu'eu no volh manentia
For-I not wish riches
don tota gens m'azir
whence all folk me-hates
ni·m diga vilania;
and-to-me says a-villainy
mas am leis que·m trahic
but I-love her who-me betrayed
cel'ora qu'eu la vic,
that-hour that-I her saw
e pos tan m'abelic,
and since so-much to-me-she-pleased
mos cors no s'en partic.
my heart not itself-thence parted

Que roza de Pascor
For a-rose of Eastertide
sembla de sa color
she-resembles in her color
e lis de sa blancor;
and a-lily in her whiteness

e quan la volc bastir
and when her he-wished to-fashion
Deus, mes i son albir,
God put in-it his thought
qu'en ren als no l'avia.
so-that-in anything else not it-he-had
En leis volc revenir
In her wished to-revive
Amors e drudaria;
Love and loving
qu'us esgartz me feric,
for-a glance me struck
don anc pois no·m garic;
whence ever afterward not-me she-healed
mas garra·m, quan que tric,
but she-will-heal-me however that it-delay
o jove o antic.
either young or old

Chansos, vai t'en part Vic
Song go yourself-thence beyond Vic
al gran de bon espic
to-the grain of good ear
e di li que no·s tric
and say to-him that not-himself he-delay
de far tot lo mon ric.
of to-make all the world rich

Alaman, trop vos dic
Germans too-much to-you I-say
vilan, felon, enic,
churlish felonious wicked
qu'anc de vos no·s jauzic
that-ever of you not-himself rejoiced
qui·us amet ni·us servic.
whoever-you loved or-you served

Quant hom es en autrui poder

39 · WHEN A MAN IS IN ANOTHER'S POWER

A man in another's power cannot do all he wills but must give up his own will for another's favor; having put himself in Love's power, he takes its ills with its goods. Whoever would please the world must often bear what displeases him — and then, when his time comes, not be slack against the man who wronged him. He holds to the Genoese custom of being loving to friends and proud to enemies. Looking at her, he thinks he sees God.

Quant hom es en autrui poder,
When a-man is in another's power
no pot totz sos talans complir,
not he-can all his desires to-fulfill
ans l'aven soven a giquir
rather to-him-it-befalls often to to-give-up
per l'autrui grat lo seu voler.
for the-other's favor the his will
Doncs pos en poder me sui mes
So since in the-power me I-have put
d'Amor, segrai los mals e·ls bes
of-Love I-shall-follow the ills and-the goods
e·ls tortz e·ls dreitz e·ls dans e·ls pros,
and-the wrongs and-the rights and-the harms and-the profits
qu'aissi m'o comanda razos.
for-so to-me-it commands reason

Car qui al segle vol plazer,
For whoever to-the world wills to-please
maintas vetz l'aven a sofrir
many times to-him-it-befalls to to-bear
so que·lh desplatz ab gen cobrir,
that which-to-him displeases with nobly to-cover
ab semblansa de noncaler;
with a-seeming of not-caring
e pois quan ve que sos locs es,
and then when he-sees that his place it-is
contra cel qui l'aura mespres
against him who him-will-have wronged
no sia flacs ni noalhos,
not let-him-be slack nor sluggish
qu'en gran dreit notz pauc' occaizos.
for-in a-great right harms a-small occasion

Tant ai de sen e de saber
So-much I-have of sense and of knowledge
que de tot sai mon melhs chauzir,
that of everything I-know my best to-choose
e sai conoisser e grazir
and I-know to-recognize and to-thank
qui·m sap honrar ni car tener.
whoever-me knows to-honor and dear to-hold
E tenc m'a l'us dels Genoes,
And I-hold me-to the-custom of-the Genoese

qu'ab bel semblan gai e cortes
who-with a-fair seeming gay and courtly
son a lor amics amoros
are to their friends loving
et als enemics orgolhos.
and to-the enemies proud

Pretz e valor volh mantener
Worth and merit I-wish to-uphold
e bonas domnas obezir
and good ladies to-obey
et a corteza gen servir.
and to courtly folk to-serve
E non ai gran cura d'aver.
And not I-have great care of-goods
Mas pero, s'eu poder agues,
But yet if-I power had
non es coms ni ducs ni marques,
not is-there a-count nor a-duke nor a-marquis
a cui tan plagues messios
to whom so-much would-please spending
ni meins se pac d'avols baros.
nor less himself would-be-content of-worthless barons

Car qui pot e no vol valer,
For whoever can and not wills to-be-worth
com no s'esforsa de morir?
how not himself-be-strives of to-die

Deus, quar la mortz no·l denh' aucir,
God because the death not-him deigns to-slay
per far enoi e desplazer!
for to-make vexation and displeasure
Et es trop lag d'onrat pages,
And it-is too foul of-an-honored peasant
quam recolh las rendas e·ls ces:
when he-gathers the rents and-the dues
cors poiritz ab cor vermenos,
a-body rotted with a-heart wormy
viu ses grat de Deu e de nos.
he-lives without thanks of God and of us

Bona dompna, Deu cug vezer,
Good lady God I-think to-see
quam lo vostre gen cors remir:
when the your noble body I-behold
e quar tan vos am ni·us dezir,
and because so-much you I-love and-you I-desire
grans bes m'en deuri' escazer.
great goods to-me-of-it ought to-befall
Qu'aissi m'a vostr'amors conques
For-so me-has your-love conquered
e vencut e lassat e pres,
and vanquished and bound and taken
qu'ab tot lo segle, que meus fos,
that-with all the world that mine were
me tenria paubres ses vos.
me I-would-hold poor without you

Domna, quan vos vi remaner
Lady when you I-saw to-remain
e m'avenc de vos a partir,
and to-me-it-befell from you to to-part
tan m'angoisseron li sospir
so-much me-anguished the sighs
qu'ab pauc no m'avenc a cazer.
that-with little — to-me-it-befell to to-fall
Ai bela, doussa, franca res!
Ah fair sweet noble thing
Valha·m ab vos Deus e Merces!
May-avail-to-me with you God and Mercy
Retenetz mi e mas chansos,
Retain me and my songs
sitot pez'al cortes gelos.
although it-weighs-on-the courtly jealous-man

Domna, per vos am Narbones
Lady for you I-love the-Narbonnais
e Molinatz e Savartes
and Molinat and Savartès
e Castell'e·l bon rei N'Anfos,
and Castile-and-the good king Sir-Alfonso
de cui sui cavaliers per vos.
of whom I-am a-knight for you

Emperaire dels Genoes
Emperor of-the Genoese
remanh et ai tal feu conques,
I-remain and I-have such a-fief conquered
qu'es avinens e bels e bos,
which-is gracious and fair and good
e sui amics dels borboillos.
and I-am a-friend of-the quarrelsome

Deus en sia grazitz

40 · GOD BE THANKED FOR IT

God be thanked, the noble king is healed, so the poet recovers gay songs after giving them up in grief. A good tree comes of a good root. He turns loving toward chosen ladies, so much that the husbands fear him more than sharp iron. Youth is ill handled and worth betrayed by the barons' fault: grooms are wealthy and the courtly mocked. A slack counterfeit king destroys a good kingdom. Aragon, Castile, and Leon are with him.

Deus en sia grazitz,
God of-it may-be thanked
que·l francs reis es garitz
that-the noble king is healed
e sas e deleitos;
and whole and delighting
per qu'eu cobre chansos
for which-I recover songs
gaias e de gais sos,
gay and of gay tunes
de que m'era gequitz
of which myself-I-was given-up
corrossos e marritz;
grieving and sorrowful
mas la soa salutz
but the his health
nos a totz ereubutz,
us has all raised-again

e tornat en joven
and turned into youth
mon cor e mon talen.
my heart and my will

Quar de bona razitz
For from a-good root
es bos arbres eissitz,
is a-good tree sprung
e·l fruitz es cars e bos
and-the fruit is dear and good
e dous e saboros;
and sweet and savory
et eu torn amoros
and I turn loving
vas domnas e chauzitz
toward ladies and chosen
tan qu'enoj'als maritz,
so-much that-it-vexes-the husbands
per cui sui plus temsutz
by whom I-am more feared
que focs ni fers agutz;
than fire or iron sharp
quar don me volh m'en pren,
for whence me I-wish myself-thence I-take
qu'us no las mi defen.
so-that-anyone not them to-me forbids

Be·m tanh qu'eu si' arditz,
Well-to-me it-befits that-I am bold
que tals domna m'es guitz
for such a-lady to-me-is a-guide
qu'es la genser qu'anc fos;
who-is the fairest that-ever was
qu'ab sas belas faissos
so-that-with her fair features
sei bel olh amoros
her fair eyes loving
an mains cors envazitz.
have many hearts invaded
Per que mos esperitz
For which my spirit
es ab leis remazutz:
is with her remained
don mi sen revengutz
whence me I-feel recovered
de tot lo marrimen
from all the sorrow
qu'ai agut lonjamen.
that-I-have had long

Jovens es mal balhitz
Youth is ill handled
e pretz d'onor trahitz
and worth of-honor betrayed
per colpa dels baros:
through the-fault of-the barons

quar vezem los garsos
because we-see the grooms
manens et orgolhos
wealthy and proud
e·ls cortes escarnitz.
and-the courtly mocked
E domnas trichairitz,
And ladies deceiving
qu'an lor maritz perdutz,
who-have their husbands lost
renhan contra lor drutz
they-behave toward their lovers
trop deschauzidamen
too discourteously
ab doble falhimen.
with a-double failing

Ai! bels cors gen bastitz.
Ah fair body nobly built
De totz bos aibs complitz,
Of all good qualities complete
domn', aissi·m rent a vos,
lady so-me I-yield to you
humils e voluntos
humble and willing
e destreitz e coitos,
and constrained and eager

si com cel qu'es feritz
just as he who-is struck
d'amor al cor, que·m ditz,
by-love at-the heart which-to-me says
que·m rend' a vos vencutz;
that-me I-yield to you conquered
doncs si no·m faitz ajutz,
so if not-to-me you-make aid
mort auretz chauzimen
slain you-will-have clemency
e mi, don no·us er gen.
and me whence not-to-you it-will-be noble

Per flac rei apostitz
Through a-slack king counterfeit
es bos regnes delitz,
is a-good kingdom destroyed
quan planh sas messios
when he-laments his spendings
e plora·ls autruis dos
and bewails-the others' gifts
e fug solatz dels pros;
and flees the-cheer of-the worthy
e reis, pos viu aunitz,
and a-king since he-lives shamed
val meins que sebelitz.
is-worth less than buried

Mas eu sui car tengutz
But I am dear held
dels melhors e crezutz
by-the best and believed
per la corteza gen,
by the courtly folk
quar contr'Amor no men.
because against-Love not I-lie

Per so·m sui gen garnitz
For this-me I-am nobly armed
contra·ls flacs acrupitz,
against-the slack crouching
qu'ab mi n'es Aragos
for-with me of-it-is Aragon
e Castel' e Leos,
and Castile and Leon
e·l valens reis N'Anfos
and-the worthy king Sir-Alfonso
te·ls castels establitz,
holds-the castles established
on pretz es gen servitz
where worth is nobly served
et honratz e volgutz;
and honored and wanted
per qu'eu dels abatutz,
for which-I of-the beaten-down

flacs avars, cor de ven,
slack misers a-heart of wind
ai pauc de pensamen.
I-have little of thought

Qu'aissi com es arditz
For-just as is bold
leos plus que cabritz
a-lion more than a-kid
et ors que bous cornutz
and a-bear than an-ox horned
e lops que bocs barbutz,
and a-wolf than a-goat bearded
ai eu mais d'ardimen,
have I more of-daring
que tuit li recrezen.
than all the craven

Per melhs sofrir lo maltrait e l'afan

41 · TO BEAR THE ILL-USAGE BETTER

He will make a song easy to learn, of courtly words and a gracious tune, to bear love's ill-usage better; he makes the effort because he has the heart and will, though he sighs continually, since he cannot see her and her land lies far off. Love has written her beauty inside his heart. He dares not tell her his heart, though she can see his will. Were she to stretch out her fair arm he would come humbly. The song goes to the marquis of Montferrat.

Per melhs sofrir lo maltrait e l'afan
For better to-bear the ill-usage and the-toil
que·m don' Amors, don eu no·m posc defendre,
that-to-me gives Love from-which I not-me can to-defend
farai chanso tal qu'er leus per aprendre,
I-shall-make a-song such that-will-be easy for to-learn
de motz cortes et ab avinen chan.
of words courtly and with a-gracious song
E fatz esfors, quar n'ai cor ni talan
And I-make an-effort because of-it-I-have heart and will
de far chanso, qu'ades planh e sospire,
of to-make a-song for-continually I-lament and I-sigh
quar no vei leis, don mos cors no s'azire,
because not I-see her from-whom my heart — itself-angers
quar tan m'es lonh la terr' e·l dous païs
because so-much to-me-is far the land and-the sweet country
on es cela vas cui eu sui aclis:
where is she toward whom I am inclined
per qu'ai perdut joi e solatz e rire.
for which-I-have lost joy and cheer and laughter

A leis m'autrei ab ferm cor ses enjan,
To her myself-I-grant with a-firm heart without deceit
quar totz sui seus per donar e per vendre;
because wholly I-am hers for to-give and for to-sell
e volh trop mais en bon esper atendre
and I-wish far more in good hope to-await
leis cui soplei, don jois me vai tarzan,
her whom I-entreat whence joy me goes delaying
que d'autr'aver bel fait e bon semblan;
than of-another-to-have a-fair deed and a-good seeming
qu'ins en mon cor m'a fait Amors escrire
for-within in my heart to-me-has made Love to-write
sa gran beutat, don res non es a dire,
her great beauty whereof anything not is to be-lacking
e son gen cors be fait e ben assis;
and her seemly body well made and well set
per qu'eu li sui hom francs, fizels e fis,
for which-I to-her am a-man noble faithful and true
e per s'amor a las autras servire.
and for her-love to the others to-serve

Deus, quan veirai lo jorn e·l mes e l'an,
God when shall-I-see the day and-the month and the-year
qu'ela·m volha del mal gazardo rendre!
that-she-me wishes of-the ill a-reward to-render
Qu'eu non l'aus dir, melhs m'auzaria pendre,
For-I not it-dare to-say better myself-I-would-dare to-hang
mon coratge, quant eu li sui denan.
my heart when I to-her am before

Mas assatz pot conoisser mon talan,
But enough she-can to-know my will
qu'ilh es la res qu'eu el mon plus dezire.
for-she is the thing that-I in-the world most I-desire
E per s'amor sofri tan greu martire
And for her-love I-suffer so grievous a-martyrdom
que la dolors m'a ja del tot conquis
that the grief me-has already of-the whole conquered
e·l deziriers que m'aura tost aucis:
and-the desire which me-will-have soon slain
et a·n gran tort, mas eu non lo·i aus dire.
and she-has-of-it great wrong but I not it-to-her dare to-say

E si merces ab leis me valgues tan
And if mercy with her to-me availed so-much
qu'ela·m volgues lo seu bel bras estendre,
that-she-me wished the her fair arm to-stretch
ja per tirar no·m feira escoissendre
ever for drawing not-me it-would-make to-tear-away
de tost venir humilmen mercejan
of soon to-come humbly begging-mercy
vas leis que m'a trastot en son coman,
toward her who me-has wholly in her command
que·m pot donar joi o del tot aucire,
who-me can to-give joy or of-the whole to-slay
que non ai ges poder qu'alhors me vire;
for not I-have at-all power that-elsewhere me I-turn
e si·l plagues que pres de si m'aizis,
and if-to-her it-pleased that near to herself me-she-lodged

be·m tenc per seu, mas melhs m'agra conquis,
well-me I-hold as hers but better me-she-would-have conquered
e feira·m ric e de gran joi jauzire.
and she-would-make-me rich and of great joy a-rejoicer

Al pro marques, quar pretz e valor gran
To-the worthy marquis because worth and merit great
manten e sap gen donar e despendre,
he-upholds and knows nobly to-give and to-spend
e sos rics pretz fai los autres deissendre,
and his rich worth makes the others to-descend
vas Montferrat, chansoneta, te man:
toward Montferrat little-song you I-send
que·l seu ric fait son dels autres trian
so-that-the his rich deeds are of-the others distinguishing
e per melhor lo pot om ben eslire,
and for the-best him can one well to-choose
qu'el es la flors de totz, a cui que tire,
for-he is the flower of all to whom that it-vexes
e de totz bes comensansa e fis.
and of all goods a-beginning and an-end
E s'aissi fos com eu volh ni devis,
And if-so it-were as I wish and devise
corona d'aur li vir' el cap assire.
a-crown of-gold to-him I-would-turn on-the head to-set

Baros, Jezus, qu'en crotz fo mes

42 · BARONS, JESUS WHO WAS PUT ON THE CROSS

A crusade song. Jesus, put on the cross to save Christian people, commands all alike to go and recover the Holy Land; those who will not obey will hear harsh reproaches at the last judgment. Paradise is offered freely to those who go with the marquis. Traitors are as men who drink poison with milk. Catalans and Aragonese have an honored lord, but he lets his serfs grow too wealthy. A shamed king is worth less than a peasant.

Baros, Jezus, qu'en crotz fo mes
Barons Jesus who-on a-cross was put
per salvar crestiana gen,
for to-save Christian folk
nos mand'a totz comunalmen
us commands-to all in-common
qu'anem cobrar lo sant paes,
that-we-go to-recover the holy land
on venc per nostr' amor morir.
where he-came for our love to-die
E si no·l volem obezir,
And if not-him we-wish to-obey
lai on feniran tuit li plag,
there where will-end all the pleas
n'auzirem maint esquiu retrag.
we-shall-hear-of-it many a-harsh reproach

Que·l sant paradis que·ns promes,
For-the holy paradise that-to-us he-promised
on non a pena ni tormen,
where not there-is a-pain nor a-torment
vol ara liurar francamen
he-wills now to-deliver freely
a cels qu'iran ab lo marques
to those who-will-go with the marquis
outra la mar per Deu servir;
beyond the sea for God to-serve
e cels que no·l volran seguir,
and those who not-him will-wish to-follow
no·i aura negun, brun ni bag,
not-in-it there-will-be any brown nor bay
que no·n posc' aver gran esglag.
who not-of-it can to-have a-great terror

Ar vejatz del segle quals es,
Now see-you of-the world what it-is
que qui·l sec plus al peitz s'empren;
that whoever-it follows most to-the worst himself-gives
pero no i a mas un bon sen:
yet not in-it there-is but one good sense
qu'om lais los mals e prenda·ls bes.
that-one leave the ills and take-the goods
Que pos la mortz vol assalhir,
For since the death wills to-assail
negus no·i pot ni sap gandir,
any-one not-in-it can nor knows to-escape

que pos tuit morrem atrazag,
for since all we-shall-die assuredly
ben es fols qui viu mal e lag.
well is-he a-fool who lives ill and foully

Tot lo segle vei sobrepres
All the world I-see overtaken
d'engan e de galiamen;
by-deceit and by beguiling
e son ja tan li mescrezen
and are already so-many the misbelieving
qu'apenas renha dreitz ni fes,
that-hardly reigns right or faith
que chascus ponha en traïr
for each-one strives at betraying
son amic per si enrequir.
his friend for himself to-enrich
Pero·lh trachor son aissi trag
Yet-the traitors are so drawn
com cel qui beu toissec ab lag.
as he who drinks poison with milk

Catalan et Aragones
Catalans and Aragonese
an senhor honrat e valen
have a-lord honored and worthy
e franc e larc e conoissen,
and noble and generous and knowing

humil et ardit e cortes.
humble and bold and courtly
Mas trop laissa enmanentir
But too-much he-lets to-grow-wealthy
sos sers, cui Deus bais et azir;
his serfs whom God abase and hate
qu'a totz jorns estan en agag
who-at all days stand in ambush
per far en cort dan et empag.
for to-make in court harm and hindrance

Reis aunitz val meins que pages,
A-king shamed is-worth less than a-peasant
quan viu a lei de recrezen
when he-lives in the-manner of a-recreant
e plora·ls bes qu'autre despen
and weeps-the goods that-another spends
e pert so que·l pair' a conques.
and loses that which-the father has conquered
Aitals reis fari' ad aucir
Such a-king would-be-fit to to-slay
et en lag loc a sebelir,
and in a-foul place to to-bury
qui·s defen a lei de contrag
who-himself defends in the-manner of a-cripple
e no pren ni dona gamag.
and not takes nor gives a-blow

Domnas velhas non am eu ges,
Ladies old not love I at-all
quan vivon descauzidamen
when they-live discourteously
contr' Amor e contra joven;
against Love and against youth
quar fin paratg' an si mal mes,
because true nobility they-have so ill put
greu es de comtar e de dir
hard it-is of to-recount and of to-say
e greu d'escoutar e d'auzir;
and hard of-to-listen-to and of-to-hear
quar fin domnei an aissi trag
because true courting they-have so drawn
qu'entre lor non trobon escag.
that-among them not they-find a-remnant

Domna, si·m tenetz en defes
Lady so-me you-hold in an-enclosure
que d'al re non ai pensamen
that of-other thing not I-have a-thought
mas de far vostre mandamen.
but of to-do your commandment
E s'en grat servir vos pogues
And if-in favor to-serve you I-could
entre·l despolhar e·l vestir,
between-the undressing and-the dressing
ja mais mals no·m pogr' avenir;
ever more an-ill not-to-me could to-befall

quar vostre dig e vostre plag
because your words and your talk
m'an sabor de roza de mag.
to-me-have a-savor of a-rose of May

Reis de Leon, senes mentir
King of Leon without to-lie
devetz honrat pretz recolhir,
you-must an-honored worth to-gather
com cel qui semen' en garag
as he who sows in a-fallow
temprat d'amor ab dous complag.
tempered by-love with a-sweet plea

Neus ni gels ni ploja ni fanh

43 · NEITHER SNOW NOR ICE

Snow, ice, rain, and mire take away none of his sport, for dark weather looks bright since a young lady has conquered him. Like a goshawk taken in the snare, fierce until it is tamed and then manageable and worth more than another, a young lady must be nobly tamed. Gold is melted with a little fire. A lover should be wise and measured, for love does not accord with grief. He closes among the Genoese, whose great and small he has conquered.

Neus ni gels ni ploja ni fanh
Snow nor ice nor rain nor mire
no·m tolon deport ni solatz,
not-to-me take-away sport nor cheer
que·l temps escurs mi par clartatz
for-the weather dark to-me seems brightness
pel novel gaug en que·m refranh;
through-the new joy in which-me I-comfort
quar joves domna m'a conques,
because a-young lady me-has conquered
e s'eu leis conquerre pogues,
and if-I her to-conquer could
quan la remir, tant bela·m par
when her I-behold so fair-to-me she-seems
que de gaug cugera volar.
that of joy I-should-think to-fly

Mas l'austors qu'es pres en l'aranh,
But the-goshawk which-is caught in the-snare
qu'es fers tro qu'es adomesjatz,
which-is fierce until that-it-is tamed
pois torna maniers e privatz,
then turns manageable and familiar
si·s qui be·l tenha ni l'aplanh,
if-there-is who well-it holds and it-strokes
pois val mais d'autre quant a pres;
then it-is-worth more than-another when it-has taken
tot atretals uzatges es,
wholly just-such a-usage it-is
qui jove domna vol amar,
whoever a-young lady wills to-love
que gen la deu adomesjar.
that nobly her he-must to-tame

Ab pauc de foc fon l'aur e franh
With little of fire melts the-gold and breaks
l'obriers entro qu'es esmeratz,
the-workman until that-it-is refined
don l'obr' es plus plazens assatz:
whence the-work is more pleasing much
per que del lonc maltrag no·m planh.
for which of-the long ill-usage not-me I-lament
Et si·l focs d'amor s'esprezes
And if-the fire of-love itself-might-kindle
en leis si com en mi s'espres,
in her just as in me itself-kindled

de ben o mal pogra chantar;
of good or ill I-could to-sing
mas hom no·s deu dezesperar.
but a-man not-himself must to-despair

A drut de bona domna tanh
To a-lover of a-good lady it-befits
que sia savis e membratz
that he-be wise and mindful
e cortes et amezuratz
and courtly and measured
e que no si trabalh ni·s lanh.
and that not himself he-trouble nor-himself he-lament
Qu'amors ab ira no·s fai ges;
For-love with grief not-itself accords at-all
Amors es mezur' e merces,
Love is measure and mercy
e drutz que a bon cor d'amar
and a-lover who has a-good heart of-loving
deu ab gaug l'ira refrenar.
must with joy the-grief to-restrain

Ab bona domna m'acompanh,
With a-good lady myself-I-keep-company
e platz me jovens e beutatz
and pleases to-me youth and beauty
e plai me cors gen faissonatz;
and pleases to-me a-body nobly fashioned

mas no mi platz bars que·m reganh
but not to-me pleases a-baron who-to-me snarls
ni que trop li dur sos arnes;
nor that too-much to-him lasts his gear
qu'eu en conosc tals dos o tres
for-I of-them know such two or three
qu'om pogues per vilas comtar,
whom-one could as churls to-count
ab sol que saubesson arar.
with only that they-knew to-plow

Las aventuras de Galvanh
The adventures of Gawain
ai eu e mai d'autras assatz;
have I and more of-others aplenty
e quan sui en caval armatz,
and when I-am on a-horse armed
tot quan consec pesseg e franh.
all that-much I-overtake I-shatter and I-break
Cen cavaliers ai totz sols pres
A-hundred knights I-have wholly alone taken
e d'autres cent ai tout l'arnes;
and of-others a-hundred I-have taken-away the-gear
cen domnas ai faitas plorar
a-hundred ladies I-have made to-weep
e autras cen rire e jogar.
and others a-hundred to-laugh and to-play

A l'uzatge·m tenh de l'Estranh,
To the-usage-me I-hold of the-Stranger
que quan no·m sen aventuratz,
that when not-me I-feel fortunate
eu m'esfortz tan deves totz latz
I myself-strain so-much toward all sides
qu'eu pren e conquier e gazanh.
that-I take and conquer and gain
E si mos afars m'avengues
And if my affairs to-me-befell
d'aisso de que·m sui entremes,
of-this of which-me I-am undertaken
a mon emperi ses duptar
to my empire without to-doubt
feira tot lo mon soplejar.
I-would-make all the world to-bow

Ar ai conquist sojorn e banh
Now I-have won a-sojourn and a-bath
e Mauta, on sui albergatz
and Malta where I-am lodged
ab lo comt' Enric, de que·m platz,
with the count Henry of which-to-me it-pleases
que negus bos aibs no·l sofranh.
that any good quality not-to-him fails

Larcs es et arditz e cortes
Generous he-is and bold and courtly
et estela dels Genoes
and a-star of-the Genoese
e fai per terra e per mar
and he-makes by land and by sea
totz sos enemics tremolar.
all his enemies to-tremble

Ab lo comt' Arman m'acompanh
With the count Arman myself-I-keep-company
quar es francs e gent ensenhatz,
because he-is noble and nobly taught
tot enaissi com si fos natz
wholly just as if he-were born
a Tolosa part Caramanh.
at Toulouse beyond Caraman
Ardimen a d'Aragones
Daring he-has of-an-Aragonese
e gai solatz de Vianes
and a-gay cheer of a-Viennese
e sembla mi de domnejar
and he-resembles me in courting
e·l rei de Leon per donar.
and-the king of Leon in giving

Eu sui senher dels Genoes,
I am lord of-the Genoese
que·ls grans e·ls paucs ai totz conques:
for-the great and-the small I-have all conquered
li gran mi fan tot mon afar
the great me do all my business
e·l pauc m'onron e·m tenon car.
and-the small me-honor and-me hold dear

Non es savis ni gaire ben apres

44 · HE IS NOT WISE WHO BLAMES LOVE

He who complains of Love and speaks ill of it is neither wise nor well taught, for Love gives joy to the sorrowful, turns the ill-starred courtly, and pardons those who fail. Blessed be the time, the day, the year, the month, and that gay nobly-bred body, desired by the best, which struck him at the heart with one sweet glance. Never did it go so well with a lover as on the day his song was heard and she was pleased by it.

Non es savis ni gaire ben apres
Not is wise nor very well taught
cel que·s blasma d'Amor ni mal en ditz:
he who-himself complains of-Love nor ill of-it says
qu'Amors sap gen donar gaug als marritz
for-Love knows nobly to-give joy to-the sorrowful
e fai tornar lo malastruc cortes
and makes to-turn the ill-starred courtly
e chascun fai de falhiment gardar,
and each-one makes of failing to-beware
qui gen la sap car tener e celar;
whoever nobly her knows dear to-hold and to-conceal
et als falhitz don' avinen perdo
and to-the failed gives a-gracious pardon
e·l fin aman son per lei car e bo.
and-the true lovers are through her dear and good

Ben aja·l temps e·l jorn e l'an e·l mes
Well may-fare-the time and-the day and the-year and-the month
cel dous cors gais, plazentiers, gen noiritz,
that sweet body gay pleasing nobly bred
per los melhors deziratz e grazitz,
by the best desired and welcomed
de lei qu'es tan complida de totz bes
of her who-is so complete of all goods
que·m saup ferir al cor d'un dous esgar
who-me knew to-strike at-the heart with-a sweet glance
don ja no·m volh departir ni sebrar;
from-which ever not-me I-wish to-depart nor to-sever
quar ges non es dona, ni er, ni fo
because at-all not is a-lady nor will-be nor was
de tan bons aibs ab tan gentil faisso.
of so good qualities with so noble a-fashion

Anc mais a nul aman tan ben non pres
Ever more to any lover so well not it-went
ni tan non fo de fin joi enrequitz,
and so-much not he-was with true joy enriched
com eu cel jorn que mos chans fo auzitz
as I that day when my song was heard
per vos, domna, e·us plac que retraisses
by you lady and-to-you it-pleased that I-should-recount
vostra lauzor e·l pretz complit e car;
your praise and-the worth complete and dear

e s'ieu sai ren d'avinen dir ni far
and if-I know anything of-gracious to-say and to-do
vostra beutatz e l'onors m'ochaiso
your beauty and the-honor me-give-occasion
qu'eu tenc engual d'un complit guiardo.
which-I hold equal to-a complete reward

Tant m'avetz dat pois que m'agues conques
So-much to-me-you-have given since that me-you-had conquered
que autre don per me no·us er queritz;
that another gift by me not-to-you will-be sought
mas vostre cors que lo meillor chauzitz
but your heart which the best chooses
sap que conven gardar en totas res;
knows what it-behooves to-keep in all things
pero cel qui ses querre vol donar
yet he who without to-ask wills to-give
ben fai lo don mais mil tans a prezar,
well makes the gift more a-thousand times to to-be-prized
qu'eu ai ben vist ses querre far ric do
for-I have well seen without to-ask to-make a-rich gift
e dons queritz mermar lo miels del pro.
and a-gift sought to-lessen the best of-the profit

Mon ferm voler, domn', ai tant en vos mes
My firm will lady I-have so-much in you put
que ja non er delognatz ni partitz,
that ever not it-will-be estranged nor parted

e quar d'amor soi eu si conqueritz
and because of-love am I so conquered
ben dei rendre d'esta preison merces;
well I-must to-render for-this prison thanks
ben fo astrucs qui primiers saup amar,
well was fortunate who first knew to-love
c'om qu'es cortes en sap meils esquivar
for-a-man who-is courtly of-it knows better to-shun
enueg, villania e falhizo,
vexation villainy and failing
per qu'eu estauc en bona sospeisso.
for which-I stand in a-good expectation

Senher Guilhem Malaspina, Deus gar
Lord Guilhem Malaspina God may-guard
vostra valor e·l pretz complit e car
your merit and-the worth complete and dear
qu'en vos trob'om joi e solatz e do
for-in you finds-one joy and cheer and a-gift
per qu'eu vos volh prezentar ma chanso.
for which-I you I-wish to-present my song

Pos ubert ai mon ric tezaur

45 · SINCE I HAVE OPENED MY RICH TREASURE

Anglade could not establish this piece to his satisfaction and printed it for its historical interest. Having opened his treasure, the poet draws out a tune for the marquis of Sardinia, and says his "dear son" Count Henry has destroyed all his enemies. He counts the castles his lady holds — Vertfeuil, Montlaur, Montgaillard, Beaujeu, Good Rest, the Rich House, Shun-beggars — then curses the Moor who sold Ceva, wishing him hard bones, an evil knife, and a bull's tail.

Pos ubert ai mon ric tezaur,
Since opened I-have my rich treasure
trairai n'un gai sonet novel,
I-shall-draw of-it-a gay little-tune new
que trametrai part Mongibel
which I-shall-send beyond Mongibello
al pro marques de Sardenha,
to-the worthy marquis of Sardinia
qu'ab joi viu et ab sen renha:
who-with joy lives and with sense behaves
gen sap donar e retener
nobly he-knows to-give and to-keep
e creis s'onor e son poder.
and he-increases his-honor and his power
E mos cars filhs, lo coms Enrics,
And my dear son the count Henry

a destruitz totz sos enemics
has destroyed all his enemies
et als seus es tan ferms abrics
and to-the his-men he-is so firm a-shelter
que qui·s vol ven e qui·s vol vai
that whoever-himself wills comes and whoever-himself wills goes
ab meins de duptansa e d'esmai.
with less of dread and of-dismay

No volh sobras d'argen ni d'aur,
Not I-wish an-excess of-silver nor of-gold
tant ai lo cor gai et isnel.
so-much I-have the heart gay and swift
E quan trob tornei ni cembel,
And when I-find a-tourney or a-skirmish
voluntiers desplec m'encenha
willingly I-unfurl my-ensign
e jonh e fatz d'asta lenha.
and I-joust and I-make of-a-shaft kindling
E quan trob negun que m'esper,
And when I-find any-one who me-awaits
viu o mort l'aven a cazer;
alive or dead to-him-it-befalls to to-fall
qu'ab armas sui un pauc enics
for-with arms I-am a little fierce
e non crei conselh ni castics,
and not I-believe counsel nor chidings
ni no m'azaut de loncs prezics.
and not myself-I-delight of long sermons

Aissi·m viu et aissi m'estai
Thus-me I-live and thus to-me-it-stands
et am domna tal com eu sai.
and I-love a-lady such as I know

Per seu tenh Vertfolh e Montlaur
As hers I-hold Vertfeuil and Montlaur
e servo·lh plus de cen castel
and serve-her more than a-hundred castles
e tres ciutatz ses tot revel;
and three cities without any revolt
et a cor que pretz mantenha,
and she-has a-heart that worth she-upholds
car ab cortezia renha,
for with courtesy she-behaves
que s'om honratz la vai vezer,
so-that if-a-man honored her goes to-see
tan li fai e·l ditz de plazer,
so-much to-him she-does and-to-him says of pleasure
qu'al partir s'en vai sos amics.
that-at-the parting himself-thence goes her friend
Et anc no·l plac engans ni trics,
And ever not-to-her pleased deceits nor tricks
ni lauzengiers ni gelos brics,
nor slanderers nor jealous fools
ans lor fai dir: «Estatz vos lai,
rather to-them she-makes to-say Stand you there
que re non avetz a far sai.»
for anything not you-have to to-do here

Color fresc' a ab cabelh saur
A-color fresh she-has with hair golden
et anc non obret de pinsel,
and ever not she-worked with a-brush
mas Mongalhart e Daurabel
but Montgaillard and Daurabel
li platz qu'a sos obs retenha.
to-her it-pleases that-to her uses she-keeps
Beljoc no ven ni empenha,
Beaujeu not she-sells nor pledges
e mi fai Montamat tener
and me she-makes Montamat to-hold
e Bon Repaus per melhs jazer,
and Good Rest for better to-lie
e per m'amor platz l'Ostals Rics
and for my-love pleases the-House Rich
et es seus Esquiva-mendics,
and is hers Shun-beggars
et al marques non es destrics,
and to-the marquis not it-is a-hindrance
si·m dona Segur e Clavai
if-to-me he-gives Ségur and Clavai
et a leis Cardon' e Monjai.
and to her Cardona and Monjai

De Fois volh Laroqu' e Lavaur
Of Foix I-wish Laroque and Lavaur
e·l bel palaitz e·l bel pradel
and-the fair palace and-the fair meadow
e·l vergier on chanton l'auzel
and-the orchard where sing the-birds
e Ben-aic e Melhs-m'en-venha.
and Well-I-had and Better-may-it-come-to-me
E si la comtessa·m denha,
And if the countess-me deigns
seguramen posc remaner,
securely I-can to-remain
car complit seran mei voler;
for fulfilled will-be my wishes
qu'eu no volh esser Lodoics
for-I not wish to-be Louis
ni Manuels ni Frederics
nor Manuel nor Frederick
ni de Narbona n'Aimerics:
nor of Narbonne Sir-Aimeric
car qui a so que plus li plai,
for whoever has that which most to-him pleases
de tot lo mon a·l melhs e·l mai.
of all the world he-has-the best and-the most

E Lans' aguda tenga·l Maur
And a-Lance sharp may-hold-the Moor
ab dur os et ab negra pel,
with hard bone and with a-black skin

e negra noit e mal coutel
and a-black night and an-evil knife
e crebacor e compenha,
and heartbreak and filth
e renhas ab que s'estrenha.
and reins with which he-strangles-himself
Mal mati conques e mal ser,
An-evil morning he-won and an-evil evening
quan det Ceva per pauc d'aver.
when he-gave Ceva for little of-goods
Seus es Velais e Mons Antics,
His are Velay and Mount Ancient
malas meissos e voutz espics
evil harvests and bent ears
e cava dens e pois lombrics,
and a-hollow tooth and then worms
e cordolor e fastic fai
and heart-ache and loathing he-makes
e mala mortz de vida·l trai
and an-evil death from life-him draws

liatz a la coa d'un taur
bound to the tail of-a bull
degr' esser frustatz pel mazel
he-ought to-be flogged through-the shambles
d'Ast on vesti l'orre capel
of-Asti where he-put-on the-foul cap
de tracion on s'emprenha
of treason wherein himself-impregnates
l'eretje fals que no·s senha;
the-heretic false who not-himself crosses
car hom peitz no pot dechazer
for a-man worse not can to-fall
ni degeitz no pot meins valer.
and an-outcast not can less to-be-worth
Que·l marques cui es Salonics
So-that-the marquis to-whom is Salonica
li ditz: «Per que morir no·t gics?»
to-him says For what to-die not-yourself you-let
Et es assatz plus rics que pics,
And he-is much more rich than a-woodpecker
e non pretz tot quant el retrai,
and not I-prize all that he recounts
sa boca plena d'orre crai.
his mouth full of-foul cawing

Al rei Peire, de cui es Vics,
To-the king Peire of whom is Vich
e Barsalon' e Mon-Judics,
and Barcelona and Montjuïc

man que meta totz sos afics
I-send that he-put all his efforts
en destruire·ls pagas de lai,
in to-destroy-the pagans of there
qu'eu destruirai totz cels de sai.
for-I shall-destroy all those of here

Amiga, tan vos sui amics,
Beloved so-much to-you I-am a-friend
qu'ad autras en paresc enics
that-to others of-it I-seem hateful
e volh esser en vos Fenics,
and I-wish to-be in you a-Phoenix
qu'autra jamais non amarai
for-another ever not I-shall-love
et en vos m'amor fenirai.
and in you my-love I-shall-end

Peire Vidal, pos far m'ave tenso

46 · A DEBATE WITH BLACATZ

A tenso in four stanzas, alternating between Blacatz and Peire Vidal, whose names Anglade prints over each stanza. Blacatz asks why a man of such skill in composing has so venal a sense in his affairs, and says an old man who still waits has less good of it than if he had never been born. Peire Vidal answers that a man who gives up is churlish. Blacatz would rather enjoy than wait; Peire Vidal would serve long for a noble gift.

Blacatz

Peire Vidal, pos far m'ave tenso,
Peire Vidal since to-make to-me-it-befalls a-debate
no·us sia greu, si·us deman per cabal
not-to-you let-it-be grievous if-to-you I-ask in full
per qual razon avetz sen tan venal
for what reason you-have a-sense so venal
en maints afars que no·us tornon a pro,
in many affairs that not-to-you turn to profit
et en trobar avetz saber e sen;
and in composing you-have knowledge and sense
e qui ja velhs en aital loc aten
and whoever already old in such a-place waits
et en joven n'es atressi passatz,
and in youth of-it-be-is likewise passed
meins n'a de be que si ja no fos natz.
less of-it-be-has of good than if ever not he-were born

Peire Vidal

Blacatz, no tenh ges vostre sen per bo,
Blacatz not I-hold at-all your sense for good
quar anc partits plait tan descomunal,
because ever you-put a-plea so unnatural
qu'eu ai bo sen e fin e natural
for-I have a-good sense and fine and natural
en tot afar, per que par be qui so,
in every affair for which it-seems well who I-am
et ai m'amor meza e mon joven
and I-have my-love placed and my youth
en la melhor et en la plus valen;
in the best and in the most worthy
no volh perdre los guizardos ni·ls gratz,
not I-wish to-lose the rewards nor-the thanks
car qui·s recre es vilas e malvatz.
for whoever-himself gives-up is churlish and wicked

Blacatz

Peire Vidal, ja la vostra razo
Peire Vidal ever the your reasoning
no volh aver a mi dons que tan val,
not I-wish to-have toward my lady who so-much is-worth
que·lh volh servir a totz jorns per engal,
for-to-her I-wish to-serve at all days for equal
e d'ela·m platz, que·m fassa guizardo,
and of-her-to-me it-pleases that-to-me she-make a-reward

et a vos lais lo lonc atendemen
and to you I-leave the long awaiting
senes jauzir, qu'eu volh lo jauzimen,
without to-enjoy for-I wish the enjoying
quar loncs atendres sens joi, so sapchatz,
because a-long awaiting without joy this you-should-know
es jois perdutz, qu'anc us no fo cobratz.
is a-joy lost that-ever one not was recovered

Peire Vidal

Blacatz, no sui eu ges d'aital faisso,
Blacatz not am I at-all of-such a-fashion
com vos autres, a cui d'amor no cal;
as you others to whom of-love not it-matters
gran jornada volh far per bon ostal
a-great day-journey I-wish to-make for a-good lodging
e lonc servir per recebre gen do.
and a-long serving for to-receive a-noble gift
Non es fis drutz cel que·s camja soven,
Not is a-true lover he who-himself changes often
ni bona domna cela que·l consen;
nor a-good lady she who-it allows
non es amors, ans es engans proatz,
not is-it love rather is-it a-deceit proved
s'oi enqueretz e deman o laissatz.
if-today you-ask and tomorrow it you-leave

En Pelizier, cauzetz de tres lairos

47 · BLACATZ AND PELIZIER: THE THREE THIEVES

A tenso of two stanzas that Anglade prints outside the series as only probably Peire Vidal's, and whose second stanza a manuscript rubric introduces — Lo Peliziers respondet a En Blacatz en aquesta cobla — *which the page carries as the speaker's name. Blacatz asks which of three thieves was worst punished: one lost a foot and a hand for two capons, the second was hanged for two pence, the third blinded for a lance and a monk's cope. Pelizier answers that they gained.*

Blacatz

En Pelizier, cauzetz de tres lairos,
Sir Pelizier choose among three thieves
loquals pres peitz per emblars menudiers:
which-one fared worse for petty thefts
que l'us perdet lo pe per dos capos
that the-one lost the foot for two capons
e·l poing destre, e puois fo senestriers;
and-the hand right and then he-was left-handed
e·l segonz fo pendutz per dos diniers,
and-the second was hanged for two pence
mas aqui ac un pauc trop de venjansa;
but there there-was a little too-much of vengeance
e·l terz fo orbs, quar emblet una lanza
and-the third was blinded because he-stole a lance
e la chapa del monge dels mostiers.
and the cope of-the monk of-the cloisters

Lo Peliziers

Senher Blacatz, aisso lor es grans pros
Lord Blacatz this to-them is a-great gain
que vos cuidatz lor sia destorbiers;
that you think to-them are hindrances
qu'eu vi Durban, quant er' aitals com nos,
for-I saw Durban when he-was such as we
anar a pe, mas ar a dos destriers;
to-go on foot but now he-has two chargers
e·l pendutz es eissitz de consiriers,
and-the hanged-man is gone-out of cares
que no sent frech, ni fam, ni malanansa;
for not he-feels cold nor hunger nor sickness
et en l'orb trob aitan de melhoransa,
and in the-blind-man I-find so-much of betterment
que jamais sols non ira volontiers.
that ever alone not he-will-go willingly

Pos vezem que l'iverns s'irais

48 · SINCE WE SEE THAT THE WINTER ANGERS

The last piece, which Anglade prints outside the series as attributable to Peire Vidal with some likelihood. Since winter has come and no more turns or lays are heard from the birds, he will not leave off making a verse. He long desired a lady who softly betrayed him, and he was easy to deceive. He is grieved by her praise, glad of her blaming, and pleased by all her harms. Pride always abases itself. He renounces the whole thing.

Pos vezem que l'iverns s'irais
Since we-see that the-winter itself-angers
e part se del tems amoros,
and parts itself from-the season loving
que non aug ges voutas ni lais
so-that not I-hear at-all turns nor lays
dels auzels per vergers folhos,
of-the birds through orchards leafy
per lo freit del brun temporal
for the cold of-the dark weather
non laissarai un vers a far,
not I-shall-omit a verse to to-make
e dirai alques mon talan.
and I-shall-say somewhat my desire

Lonc desirier e greu pantais
A-long desiring and a-grievous anguish
n'ai agut al cor cobeitos
of-it-I-have had in-the heart covetous
ves cela qui suau me trais;
toward her who softly me betrayed
mas anc ves li non fui greignos,
but ever toward her not I-was grumbling
anz la portava el cor leial;
rather her I-bore in-the heart loyal
molt fui leugiers a enganar,
much I-was light to to-deceive
mas peccat n'aia de l'aman.
but a-sin of-it-may-she-have of the-lover

No gens per autr' orgolh no·m lais
Not at-all through another's pride not-me I-leave
de s'amor, don tan sui coitos,
of her-love whereof so-much I-am eager
e conosc ben com ben mi pais
and I-know well how well me she-feeds
e fui galiatz ad estros.
and I-was beguiled at once
Las! remasutz sui del cabal,
Alas remained I-am of-the capital
qu'anc per autra non volc ponhar
for-ever for another not she-wished to-strive
per me ni per mon Drogoman.
for me nor for my Dragoman

Totz meschavatz, car a gran fais
Wholly ill-fated because at a-great burden
me teng, dona, quan pens de vos,
me I-hold lady when I-think of you
et quant n'aug parlar, m'es esglais,
and when of-it-I-hear to-speak to-me-it-is a-terror
et ja jorn no·n serai gaujos,
and ever a-day not-of-it I-shall-be joyful
qu'eu sui iratz de vostre lau
for-I am grieved by your praise
et ai joi de vostre blasmar
and I-have joy of your blaming
e plason me tuit vostre dan.
and please to-me all your harms

Non posc mudar que no·n biais
Not I-can to-help that not-of-it I-swerve
ves aquel joi tant orgolhos,
toward that joy so proud
qu'anc non vi orgolh non abais;
for-ever not I-saw a-pride not it-abase
quan plus en poja, melhs cai jos;
when more of-it it-climbs the-more it-falls down
et es fols qui ve e qui au,
and he-is a-fool who sees and who hears
e si non sab son melhs triar;
and yet not knows his best to-choose
e n'a el siecle d'aquels tan!
and there-are-of-them in-the world of-those so-many

Hui mais s'en fenhan drutz e lais,
Today henceforth themselves-of-it let-feign lovers and laymen
cel qui non estan enoios,
those who not are tiresome
qu'a totz l'esfenis e lo lais
for-to all it-I-renounce and it I-leave
per so que no·n soi poderos.
for this that not-of-it I-am capable
Pos poder no·i sai ben ni mal,
Since a-power not-in-it I-know good nor ill
ben es dreitz qu'om lo desampar;
well it-is right that-one it abandon
et ai ne perdut mon afan.
and I-have of-it lost my toil

Vida

THE LIFE OF PEIRE VIDAL

The thirteenth-century life. Peire Vidal was of Toulouse, a furrier's son; he sang better than any man in the world and was one of the maddest who ever lived, believing whatever pleased him was true. A knight of Saint-Gilles had his tongue cut for giving out that he was his wife's lover. Overseas he married a Greek woman he was told was the emperor of Constantinople's niece, spent all he earned on ships, bore imperial arms, and courted every lady he saw, believing each died for him.

Peire Vidals si fo de Toloza, filz d'un pelissier. E cantava
Peire Vidal thus was from Toulouse son of-a furrier And he-sang
mielhs d'home del mon, e fo bos trobaire; e fo
better than-a-man of-the world and he-was a-good troubadour and he-was
dels plus fols homes que mai fossen, qu'el crezia que tot
of-the most foolish men that ever were for-he believed that all
fos vers so que a lui plazia ni q'el volia. E plus leu
was true that which to him pleased and that-he wished And more easily
li avenia trobars que a nulh home del mon e fo
to-him came composing than to any man of-the world and he-was
aquel que pus rics sons fetz, e majors folias d'armas e
the-one who most rich tunes made and greater follies of-arms and
d'amors. E dis grans mals d'autrui; e fo vers que
of-love And he-said great ills of-others and it-was true that
us cavaliers de San Gili li fetz talhar la lengua, per so
a knight of Saint Gilles to-him made to-cut the tongue for that
qu'el dava ad entendre qu'el era drutz de sa molher; e
that-he gave to understand that-he was lover of his wife and
N'Uc del Bauz si·l fetz garir e metgar. E cant el fo
Sir-Uc of-the Baux thus-him made to-heal and to-doctor And when he was

garitz, el s'en anet outra mar, e de lai menet una
healed he himself-thence went beyond sea and from there he-brought a
grega queil fon donada per moiller en Cipri. Eil
Greek-woman who-to-him was given as wife in Cyprus And-to-him
fon donat a entendre qu'ela era netsa de l'emperador de
was given to understand that-she was niece of the-emperor of
Constantinople, e qu'el per lieis devia aver l'emperi per
Constantinople and that-he through her ought to-have the-empire by
razon. Don el mes tot can poc guazanhar a far navili,
right Wherefore he put all that he-could to-earn to make ships
qu'el crezia anar conquistar l'emperi; e portava armas
for-he believed to-go to-conquer the-empire and he-bore arms
emperials, e·s fazia apelar emperaire e sa molher
imperial and-himself he-made to-call emperor and his wife
emperairitz. Et entendia en totas las bonas donas que
empress And he-courted among all the good ladies that
vezia, e totas las pregava d'amor; e totas li dizian de
he-saw and all them he-entreated of-love and all to-him said to
far e dir so qu'el volgues: don el se crezia drutz de
do and say that that-he might-wish wherefore he himself believed lover of
totas e que cascuna moris per el; e totas l'enganavan. E
all and that each-one was-dying for him and all him-deceived And
totas vets menava rics destriers e portava ricas armas, e
all times he-led rich chargers and he-bore rich arms and
cadieira e campolieit emperial: e crezia esser lo melher
a-chair and a-camp-bed imperial and he-believed to-be the best
cavaliers del mon per armas, e·l plus amatz per donas.
knight of-the world in arms and-the most loved by ladies

Razo

THE STOLEN KISS

The first razo, which explains three songs. Peire Vidal loved Lady Alazais, wife of Barral of Marseille; Barral loved him for his rich composing and his fair follies, and the two called each other Rainier. Finding the lady asleep, he knelt and kissed her mouth; she cried out and he fled to Genoa and went overseas with King Richard. Barral at last won her pardon, and when he returned she granted him as a gift the kiss he had stolen.

Peire Vidals, si com ieu vos ai dit, s'entendia en totas
Peire Vidal just as I to-you I-have said himself-set on all
las bonas donas, e crezia que totas li volguesson
the good ladies and he-believed that all to-him might-wish
ben per amor. E si s'entendia en ma dona N' Alazais
well for love And thus himself-he-set on my lady Lady Alazais
de Roca Martina, qu'era molher d'En Barral, lo senhor de
of Roca Martina who-was the-wife of-Sir Barral the lord of
Marselha, lo quals volia meils a Peire Vidal qu'a home
Marseille the which wished better to Peire Vidal than-to a-man
del mon, per lo ric trobar e per las belas folias que
of-the world for the rich composing and for the fair follies that
dizia e fazia; e clamavan se abdui Raynier. E Peire
he-said and he-did and they-called themselves both Rainier And Peire
Vidals si era privatz de cort e de cambra d'En Barral
Vidal thus was familiar of court and of chamber of-Sir Barral
plus que om del mon. En Barrals si sabia be que
more than a-man of-the world Sir Barral thus knew well that
Peire Vidals se entendia en sa molher, e tenia lo·i
Peire Vidal himself set on his wife and he-held it-to-him

a solatz, e tug aquilh que o sabion; e si s'alegrava
as a-sport and all those who it knew and thus himself-he-rejoiced
de las folias qu'el fazia ni dizia; e la dona o prendia en
at the follies that-he did and said and the lady it took as
solatz, aissi com fazian totas las autras donas en cui Peire
a-sport just as did all the other ladies on whom Peire
Vidals s'entendia; e cascuna li dizia plazer eill
Vidal himself-set and each-one to-him said a-pleasure and-to-him
prometia tot so que·ill plagues e qu'el demandava: et
promised all that which-to-him might-please and which-he asked and
el era si savis que tot o crezia. E quan Peire Vidals se
he was so wise that all it he-believed And when Peire Vidal himself
corrossava ab ela, En Barrals fazia ades la patz, e·l
angered with her Sir Barral made at-once the peace and-him
fazia prometre tot so que demandava. E quan venc un
made to-promise all that which he-asked And when came a
dia, Peire Vidals saup qu'En Barrals se era levatz e que
day Peire Vidal knew that-Sir Barral himself had risen and that
la domna era tota sola en sa cambra; e venc s'en
the lady was wholly alone in her chamber and he-came himself-thence
al leit de ma dona N'Alazais, et atroba la dormen, et
to-the bed of my lady Lady-Alazais and he-finds her sleeping and
aginoilla se davan ella e baiza li la boca. Et ella
he-kneels himself before her and he-kisses to-her the mouth And she
sentit lo baizar e crezet que fos En Barrals sos maritz,
felt the kiss and believed that it-were Sir Barral her husband
e rizen ella se levet; e garda, e vi qu'era lo
and laughing she herself rose and she-looks and she-saw that-it-was the
fols de Peire Vidal, e comenset a cridar et a far gran
fool of Peire Vidal and she-began to to-cry and to to-make a-great

rumor. E vengron las donzelas de lains, quant ho auziron,
uproar And there-came the damsels of within when it they-heard
e demanderon: «qu'es aisso?» E Peire Vidals s'en
and they-asked what-is this And Peire Vidal himself-thence
issit fugen. E la domna mandet per En Barral, e
went-out fleeing And the lady sent for Sir Barral and
fetz li gran reclam de Peire Vidal que l'avia baizada;
she-made to-him a-great complaint of Peire Vidal who her-had kissed
e ploran l'en preguet qu' el en degues penre venjansa.
and weeping him-of-it she-begged that he of-it should to-take vengeance
Et En Barrals, aissi com valens hom et adregz, si pres
And Sir Barral just as a-worthy man and upright thus took
lo fag a solatz, e comenset a rire et a reprendre sa
the deed as a-sport and he-began to to-laugh and to to-reprove his
molher, car ela avia faita rumor d'aisso que·l fols avia
wife because she had made an-uproar of-this that-the fool had
fait. Mas el no la 'n poc castiar qu'ela no mezes gran
done But he not her of-it could to-chide that-she not might-put a-great
rumor per lo fait, e sercan et enqueren lo mal de Peire
uproar for the deed and searching and seeking the harm of Peire
Vidal; e grans menassas fazia de lui. Peire Vidals per
Vidal and great threats she-made of him Peire Vidal through
paor d'aquest fait montet en una nau et anet s'en a
fear of-this deed mounted in a ship and went himself-thence to
Genova; e lai estet tro que passet outra mar ab lo rei
Genoa and there he-stayed until that he-passed beyond sea with the king
Richart, que·ill fo mes en paor que ma dona N'Azalais
Richard for-to-him it-was put in fear that my lady Lady-Azalais
li volia far tolre la persona. Lai estet longa
to-him wished to-make to-take-away the person There he-stayed a-long

sazo, e lai fetz maintas bonas cansos recordan lo baizar
season and there he-made many good songs recalling the kiss
qu' el avia emblat; e dis en una canso que dis: «Ajostar
that he had stolen and he-said in a song that said To-join
e lassar...», que de leis non avia agut negun guizardo,
and to-lace that of her not he-had had any reward

mas un petit cordo
but a little cord
si aigui, qu'un mati
indeed I-had-it that-on-a morning
intrei dins sa maiso
I-entered within her house
eil baisei a lairo
and-to-her I-kissed by stealth
la boca e·l mento.
the mouth and-the chin

Et en un autre loc dis:
And in an other place he-said

Pus onratz fora c'om natz
More honored I-would-be than-a-man born
si·l bais emblatz mi fos datz
if-the kiss stolen to-me were given
e gent aquitatz.
and nobly acquitted

Et en autra chanso, laquals comensa: «Plus que·l paubres
And in another song the-which begins More than-the poor-man
que jatz en ric ostal», el dis:
who lies in a-rich lodging he says

Be·m bat Amors ab las vergas qu'ieu cuelh
Well-me beats Love with the rods that-I gather
quar una vetz en son reial capduelh
for one time in her royal keep
l'emblei un bais don tan fort me sove.
to-her-I-stole a kiss whence so strongly to-me it-remembers
Ai tan mal trai qui so qu'ama no ve!
Ah so ill suffers-he who that which-he-loves not sees

Aissi estet longa sazo outra mar, que non auzava tornar en
Thus he-stayed a-long season beyond sea for not he-dared to-return into
Proensa. E Barrals, que li volia aitan de be com avetz
Provence And Barral who to-him wished so-much of good as you-have
auzit, si preguet tan sa molher, qu' ela li perdonet lo fait
heard thus begged so-much his wife that she to-him pardoned the deed

del baisar e lo·i autrejet en do. En Barrals si mandet
of-the kiss and it-to-him granted as a-gift Sir Barral thus sent
a Peire Vidal grassia e bona voluntat de sa molher, e que
to Peire Vidal grace and good will of his wife and that
vengues. Et el venc ab gran alegrier a Marselha, e fo fort
he-should-come And he came with great gladness to Marseille and was very
be aculhitz per En Barral e per madona N'Alazais, et autrejet
well received by Sir Barral and by my-lady Lady-Alazais and she-granted
li lo baizar en do qu'el li avia emblat; don Peire Vidals
to-him the kiss as a-gift that-he to-her had stolen whence Peire Vidal
fetz aquesta chanso que ditz: «Pos tornatz soi en Proensa.»
made this song that says Since returned I-am into Provence

Razo

THE WOLFSKIN

The second razo. On the death of the count of Toulouse, Peire Vidal put on black, cut the tails and ears of all his horses, and went about like a madman until King Alfonso of Aragon came into Provence with eleven barons and begged him to make a song. For the She-Wolf of Penautier he had himself called a wolf; at Cabaret he put on a wolfskin, and the shepherds' dogs mauled him so badly that he was carried for dead to her house, where he was healed.

P. Vidals, per la mort del bon comte Raimon de Tolosa,
P Vidal for the death of-the good count Raimon of Toulouse
si se marri molt e det se gran tristessa; e vestit
thus himself grieved much and gave himself great sadness and he-clothed
se de negre, e talhet las coas e las aurelhas a totz los
himself in black and he-cut the tails and the ears to all the
sieus cavals; et a si et a totz los sieus servidors fetz
his horses and to himself and to all the his servants he-made
raire los cabelhs de la testa; mas las barbas ni las onglas
to-shave the hairs of the head but the beards or the nails
non se feiron taillar. Molt anet longa sazo a lei
not themselves they-made to-cut Much he-went a-long season in the-manner
de fol home e de dolen. Et avenc se que en aquela
of a-mad man and of a-sorrowing-one And it-befell itself that in that
sazo qu'el anava enaissi dolens, que·l reis N'Anfos d'Arago
season that-he went thus sorrowing that-the king Sir-Alfonso of-Aragon
venc en Proensa; e vengro ab lui Blascols Romieus,
came into Provence and there-came with him Blascol Romieu
En Garsias Romieus, En Martis del Canet, En Miquels
Sir Garsias Romieu Sir Martin of-the Canet Sir Miquel

de Luzia, En Sans d'Antilon, En Guillems d'Alcalla, En
of Luzia Sir Sans of-Antilon Sir Guillem of-Alcalla Sir
Albertz de Castelvieil, En Raimons Gausserans de Pinos, En
Albert of Castelvieil Sir Raimon Gausseran of Pinos Sir
Guillems Raimons de Moncada, En Arnautz de Castelbon,
Guillem Raimon of Moncada Sir Arnaut of Castelbon
En Raimons de Cerveira; e troberon Peire Vidal enaissi
Sir Raimon of Cervera and they-found Peire Vidal thus
trist, dolen et enaissi apareillat a lei de fol. E lo
sad sorrowing and thus arrayed in the-manner of a-fool And the
reis lo comenset a pregar e tug li autre sei baro, e
king him began to to-entreat and all the other his barons and
Blascols Romieus e·N Guillems d'Alcalla, qu' eron sei amic
Blascol Romieu and-Sir Guillem of-Alcalla who were his friends
especial, qu'el degues laissar aquel dol, e que degues
special that-he should to-leave that mourning and that he-should
cantar e se alegrar, e que feses una chanso que·ill
to-sing and himself to-gladden and that he-make a song that-to-him
portesson en Arago. Tan lo preguet lo reis e·ill
they-might-carry into Aragon So-much him entreated the king and-the
siei baro qu'el dis que se alegraria e laissaria lo
his barons that-he said that himself he-would-gladden and he-would-leave the
dol, e faria chanso e tot so que·il plagues.
mourning and he-would-make a-song and all that which-to-him might-please
Et el si amava la Loba de Puegnautier, e ma dona
And he thus loved the She-Wolf of Penautier and my lady
Estefania de Son que era de Sardanha; et aras de novel
Estefania of Son who was of Cerdanya and now of new
era s'enamoratz de Na Raymbauda de Biolh, molher d'En
he-was himself-enamored of Lady Raimbauda of Beuil the-wife of-Sir

Guillem Rostanh qu'era senher de Biolh. Biolhs si es en
Guillem Rostanh who-was lord of Beuil Beuil thus is in
Proensa, en la montanha que part Lombardia e Proensa.
Provence in the mountain that parts Lombardy and Provence
La Loba si era de Carcasses. En P. Vidals si se fazia
The She-Wolf thus was of the-Carcassès Sir P Vidal thus himself made
apelar lops per ela, e portava armas de lop. Et en la
to-call a-wolf for her and he-bore arms of a-wolf And in the
montanha de Cabaret el se fetz cassar als pastors ab
mountain of Cabaret he himself made to-hunt by-the shepherds with
cas et ab mastis et ab lebriers, si com om fai lop; e
dogs and with mastiffs and with greyhounds just as one does a-wolf and
vesti una pel de lop per donar a entendre als pastors et
he-put-on a skin of a-wolf for to-give to understand to-the shepherds and
als cans qu'el fos lops. E li pastor ab lor cas lo cassero
to-the dogs that-he were a-wolf And the shepherds with their dogs him hunted
e·l baratero si malamen, qu'el en fo portatz per mort a
and-him mauled so evilly that-he of-it was carried for dead to
l'alberc de la Loba de Puegnautier. Et cant ela saup que
the-lodging of the She-Wolf of Penautier And when she knew that
aquest era Peire Vidals, ela comenset a far gran alegreza
this-one was Peire Vidal she began to to-make great gladness
de la folia que Peire Vidals avia faita, et a rire molt, e·l
of the folly that Peire Vidal had done and to to-laugh much and-the
maritz de leis atressi: e receubron lo ab gran alegreza.
husband of her likewise and they-received him with great gladness
E·l maritz de ela lo fetz penre e fetz lo metre en
And-the husband of her him made to-take and made him to-put in

luec rescos, al miels qu'el poc ni saup; e fetz mandar
a-place hidden at-the best that-he could and knew and he-made to-send
pel metge, e fetz lo metgar entro que fo garitz.
for-the physician and he-made him to-doctor until that he-was healed
Et aissi com vos ai comensat a dire de Peire Vidal
And just as to-you I-have begun to to-tell of Peire Vidal
qu'el avia promes al rei et a sos baros de far chansos,
that-he had promised to-the king and to his barons of to-make songs
can fon garitz, lo reis fetz far armas e vestirs a
when he-was healed the king made to-make arms and garments for
se et a lui; e vestit se En Peire Vidals, et agenset
himself and for him and clothed himself Sir Peire Vidal and adorned
se fort; e fetz adoncs aquesta canso que ditz:
himself greatly and he-made then this song that says

De chantar m'era laissatz
From to-sing to-me-it-was left-off
per ira e per dolor.
through grief and through sorrow

As aquest vos dic ieu breumen

MATFRE ERMENGAUT ON THE CUT TONGUE

Matfre Ermengaut's first passage on Peire Vidal, which Anglade cites as Breviari d'Amor*, vv. 28157–172. He says briefly that Peire Vidal had no sense in his life, and that he would not give a lead-piece in his warranty, since his tongue was cut for a proved falsehood. He then quotes the stanza the Monk of Montaudon made where he blamed sixteen troubadours: that Peire Vidal is the last, that his members are not whole, and that a furrier's son would have needed a silver tongue.*

As aquest vos dic ieu breumen
Of this-one to-you say I briefly
que a sa vida non ac sen,
that in his life not he-had sense
per que [ges] ieu non daria
for which at-all I not would-give
un plom en sa garentia,
a lead-piece in his warranty
quar per falsedat proada
because for a-falsehood proved
li fo la lengua mermada,
to-him was the tongue lessened
per que dis aquesta razo
for which said this saying
lo bos Morgues de Montaudo
the good Monk of Montaudon
en un dechat qu'el compilet
in a poem that-he compiled
on .xvi. trobadors blasmet:
where sixteen troubadours he-blamed

«Peires Vidals es li deriers
Peire Vidal is the last
que non a sos membres entiers,
who not has his members entire
es agra lh'obs lengua d'argen
and he-would-have to-him-need a-tongue of-silver
al vila qu'ero pelhissiers,
to-the churl who-were furriers
quez anc, pus se fetz cavaliers,
who ever since himself he-made a-knight
non ac pueis membransa ni sen.»
not had afterward memory nor sense

En Peire Vidal, si d'amor

MATFRE ERMENGAUT ON THE PENANCE

Matfre Ermengaut's second passage, which Anglade cites as vv. 28340–358, reads the wolf hunt as a penance. If Peire Vidal ever spoke ill of love through his folly, he did not carry the sin into the other world, for he did a great and hard penance before his death: for love he had himself hunted in the land of Cabaret like a wolf, and would take no help until the dogs had dragged him and left him half dead.

En Peire Vidal, si d'amor
Sir Peire Vidal if of-love
nulh temps dis mal per sa folor,
any time he-said ill through his folly
non portet, segon qu'ai trobat,
not he-bore according to-what-I-have found
en l'autre segle lo peccat,
into the-other world the sin
ans se n'en feys davant sa mort
rather himself of-it he-made before his death
penedensa granda e fort,
a-penance great and hard
quar per amors cassar se fetz
for through love to-hunt himself he-made
en la terra de Cabaretz
in the land of Cabaret
coma lob ab cas als pastors,
like a-wolf with dogs by-the shepherds

e no volc aver nulh socors
and not he-wished to-have any succor
tro que·lh ca l'agron tirassat
until that-the dogs him-had dragged
tan que mieg mort l'agron laissat.
so-much that half dead him-they-had left
Aissi·l recomta sa vida
Thus-it recounts his life
qu'ieu o sai que l'ai legida.
that-I it know for it-I-have read
