

INTRODUCTION

BY AMÉE SALOIS AND JORDAN SOUSA

Sometimes, the meaning of part of a work hinges on the interpretation of a single word or phrase. When a work is translated from its original language into modern English, meanings and nuances are occasionally lost or changed, even when put into the hands of the most skillful translator. Rubert Pickens' edition of Chretien de Troyes' The Story of the Grail (Li Contes Del Graal) or Perceval ensures that less is lost because it consists of a side-by-side translation in English and Chretien's French for every line of the text, thus making the work in its original language more accessible to contemporary readers who are not familiar with medieval French. In spirit of this accessibility, we have converted two passages of the work into a format that facilitates reading on e-reader devices.

What follows are two excerpts of Rupert T. Pickens' edition of Chrétien's *The Story of the Grail* (*Lit Contes Del Graal*). Because of the small size of the screen, very few e-reader versions of bilingual texts offer convenient displays of the text and its translation; the two languages usually sit on opposing pages, forcing the reader to flip back and forth between the two. Thus, we have sought to create a text with both languages on the same page. To our knowledge, no e-reader text of *Perceval* exists, much less one that contains an easily accessible dual translation. The enlarged letters at the top of each page and the illustrations were added for stylistic effect

The two passages were chosen because they exhibit, in different ways, values of the text as a whole. In the *Tale of the Fisher King*, we see *Perceval* as the youth who is consciously trying to behave as a proper knight should, but fails. When the youth sees the procession that carries the grail in the castle of the Fisher King, the author says that he

“watched them pass by / but did not dare ask / who was served from the grail/ for in his heart he always kept/ the wise gentleman's advice” (3209-3213). He is a young man who listens to the first piece of advice he hears and follows it at all times. By contrast, when Gawain faces the Bed of Marvels, he embodies all desirable, knightly qualities--chivalry, bravery persistence and honor—and acts confidently in showing them (that needs to be worded better). We believe it is the coexistence of these two contrasting characters that makes Perceval a fascinating tale; we placed the following two excerpts in the same eBook in order to emphasize this point.

THE TALE OF THE FISHER KING

Source of Illustration:

<http://0.tqn.com/d/atheism/1/0/u/d/PercivalGrailDove.jpg>

Source of text:

De Troyes, Chretien. *The Story of the Grail (Li Contes Del Graal) or Perceval*. Ed. Rubert T. Pickens. Trans. William W. Kibler. Vol. 62. New York and London: Garland, 1990. Print. A. Lines 2912-3565



2912 "Sire, qui nos a trez d'essil
Et ramenez an noz meisons,
N'est mervoille se duel faisons
Qant tu si tost lessier nos viax:
2916 Mout doit estre granz nostre diax,
Si est il tant que plus ne puet."
Et il lor dit: "Ne vos estuet
Pas or plorer plus longuement.
2920 Je revenrai, se Diex m'ament,*
Que doels a faire est nule rien.
Ne cuidiez vos que ce soit bien
Que je ma mere veoir vois

2912 "Sir, because you brought us
out of exile and returned us to our homes,
it is no wonder that we grieve
when you wish to leave us so soon:
2916 our sadness should be overwhelming,
and indeed it could not be greater."
And he said to them: "You must
not weep any longer.
2920 I shall return, with God's help,
so there is no point in weeping.
Don't you think it is well
that I go to see my mother

2924 Qui sole manoit an eel bois
Qui la Gaste Forest a non?
Je revandrai, voille ele ou non,
Que ja por rien nel lesserai.
2928 Et s'ele est vive, g'en ferai
Nonain velee an vostre eglise;
Et s'ele est morte, le servise
Ferez por s'ame chascun an,
2932 Que Dex el sain saint Abrahan
La mete avoec les pies ames.
Seignor moinne et vos, beles dames,
Ce ne vos doit grever de rien,

2924 who was living all alone in a woods
called the Waste Forest?
I shall come back, whether she wishes it
or not: nothing will prevent my return.
2928 If she's alive, I 'll make her
a veiled nun in your church;
and if she's dead, you'll sing
a Mass each year for her soul,
2932 that God place it with the faithful
in the bosom of holy Abraham.
Reverend monks and you, dear ladies,
have no cause for grief,

2936 **Q**ue je vos ferai mout grant bien
Por s'ame, se Dex me ramoinne."
Atantse partirent li moinne
Et les nonains et tuit li autre,
2940 Et cil s'an vet, lance sor fautre,
Toz armez si com il i vint.
Et tote jor sa voie tint
Qu'il n'ancontra rien terr'i'enne,
2944 Ne cresfi'en ne crest'i'enne
Qui li seust voie anseignier,
Et il ne fine de pri'er
Damedeu le souverain Pere

2936 for I'll offer generous gifts for the repose
of her soul, if God brings me back."
With that the monks and nuns
and all the others returned to the city,
2940 and he rode on, lance at the ready,
fully armed as the day he came.
He continued along his way all day
without meeting a living soul,
2944 neither man nor woman,
who could show him the way.
And he prayed unceasingly
to Almighty God, the heavenly Father,

2948 **Q**ue il li doint trover sa mere
Plainne de vie et de sante
Se il li vient a volente.
Et tant dura ceste proiere
2952 Que il vint sor une riviere
En Pavalee d'une angarde. L'eve roide et
parfonde esgarde,
Si ne s'ose metre dedanz,
2956 Et dist: "Ha! sire Dex puissanz,
Se ceste eve passer pooie,
De ma mere troveroie,
Mien escfant, se ele est vive."

2948 to permit him to find his mother
alive and healthy,
if it were His will.
And this prayer lasted so long
2952 that he reached a river
carving its way down a hillside.
He looked at the deep and rushing waters
and dared not attempt to cross.
2956 He said: "Ah! Almighty God,
if I could cross this river
I feel sure I'd find
my mother if she's still alive."

2960 **E**nsi s'an va selonc la rive
Tant que a une roche aproiche,
Et que l'eve a la roche toiche
Si qu'il ne pot avant aler.
2964 Atant vit par l'eve avaler
Une nef qui d'amont venoit,
Dcus homes an la nef avoit.
Il s'areste, si les atant,
2968 Et cuida qu'il alassent tant
Que il venissent jus qu'a lui.
Et il s'arestent am[b]edui
En mi l'eve; tot coi esturent,

2960 So he rode along the shore
until he neared a large boulder
sitting in the water
and blocking his path.
2964 Then he caught sight of a boat
coming downriver
with two men in it.
He stopped and waited,
2968 thinking they would eventually
come as far as where he was.
But they both stopped
in midstream and stayed perfectly still,

2972 **Q**ue mout bien aencre se furent.

Et cil qui devant fu peschoit

A la ligne, si aeschoit

Son amekon d'un poissonet

2976 Petit, graignor d'un veironet.

Cil qui ne set que fere puisse

Ne an quel leu passage truisse

Les salue et demande lor:

2980 "Anseigniez moi, fet il, seignor

S'an ceste eve a ne gue ne pont."

Et cil qui pesche li respont:

"Nenil, frere, en la moie foi,

2972 for they were anchored fast.

The man in front was fishing

with a line, baiting his hook

with a little fish,

2976 somewhat larger than a minnow.

The knight, not knowing what to do

or how to cross,

greeted them and stated:

2980 "Tell me, my lords, if there is

a ford or bridge across this river."

And the one who was fishing replied:

"Not at all, brother, upon my word;

2984 N'il n'i a nef, de ce me croi,
Plus grant de cesti ou nos somes
Qui ne porteroit pas cine homes.
Vint Hues amont ne aval
2988 N'i porroit an passer a cheval,
Qu'il n'i a bac ne pont ne guc.
—Dont m'anseigniez, fet il, por De,
Ou je porrai avoir ostel."
2992 Et cil respont: "De ce et d'e!
Avreiez vos mestier, ce cuit.
Je vos herbergerai enuit.
Montez vos an par cele frete

2984 nor is there a boat, I assure you,
larger than the one we're in,
which would not hold five men.
For twenty leagues upstream or down,
2988 there's no way to get a horse across,
for there's no ferry, bridge, or ford."
—"Then tell me, in God's name,
where I can find lodging."
2992 And he replied: "You'll need
that and more, I believe.
I'll give you lodging tonight.
Go up through that cleft

2996 Qui est an cele roche fete,
Et quant vos la amont vanroiz,
Devant vos an un val verroiz
Une meison, ou ge estois,
3000 Pres de riviere et pres de bois."
Maintenant cil s'an va amont
Tant que il vint an son le mont,
Et quant il fu an son le pui,
3004 Si garda mout loin devant lui
Et ne vit rien fors ciel et terre,
Et dist: "Que sui ge venuz querre?
La musardie et la bricoigne!

2996 cut into the rock,
and when you reach the top
you'll see in a valley before you
a house where I live,
3000 near the river and woods."
The young knight climbed
until he reached the top of the hill;
and when he was at the top
3004 he looked all around him
and saw only sky and earth,
and said: "What have I come for?
Deceit and trickery!

3008 **D**ex li doint hui male vergoigne

Celui qui 5a m'a anvoie,
Si m'a il or bien avoie,
Que il me dist que je verroie

3012 Meison quant ga. amont venroie!

"Peschierres, qui ce me de'i's,
Trop grant desleaute fe'fs
Se tu le me de'i's por mal."

3016 Lors vit devant lui an un val

Le chief d'une tor qui parut.
L'an ne trovast jus qu'a Barut
Si bele ne si bien asise:

3008 May God bring shame today

on him who sent me here.
He sent me on a wild goose chase
when he told me I'd see

3012 a house when I came up here!

"Fisherman, who told me this,
you did me great dishonor
if you said it out of malice."

3016 Then in a valley before him

he caught sight of the top of a tower.
From there to Beirut you could not find
a finer or better situated one.

3020 Quarree fu, de roche bise,
S'avoit deus torneles antor;
La sale fu devant la tor
Et les loiges devant la sale.
3024 Li vaslez cele part avale
Et dit que bien avoie l'a
Cil qui l'avoit anvoie la.
Si se loe del pescheor,
3028 Ne l'apele mais tricheor
Ne desloial ne mencoignier,
Des que il trove ou herbergier.
Ensi vers la porte s'an va,

3020 It was square in construction, of dark stone,
with two turrets flanking it.
The hall was in front of the keep,
and galleries before the hall.
3024 The youth headed down in that direction,
exclaiming that the man who had sent
him there had guided him well.
Thus he praised the fisherman
3028 and no longer called him deceitful,
disloyal, or lying,
now that he had found lodgings.
So he rode toward the gate,

3032 **D**evant la porte un pont trova
Torne'iz qui fu avalez.
Par sor le pont s'an est alez,
Et vaslet viennent contre lui
3036 Quatre, sel desarment li dui,
Et M tierz son cheval an moinne,
Si li done fuerre et avoinne,
Li carz li afuble un mantel
3040 D'escarlare fres et novel,
Puis I'an menerent jus qu'as loiges,
Et bien sachiez, jus qu'a Limoiges
Ne trovast an ne ne vei'st

3032 before which he found
a lowered drawbridge.
He crossed over the bridge
and four squires hastened toward him:
3036 two of them helped him remove his armor,
the third took charge of his horse
and gave it hay and oats,
while the fourth robed him
3040 in a fresh and new silken mantle.
Then they took him toward the galleries,
which I assure you were
more splendid than any that could be sought

3044 **S**i beles, qui les i que'i'st.

Li vaslez es loiges estut
Tant qu'au seignor venir l'estut

3048 Qui deus vaslez i anvea,
Et cil avoec ax s'an ala
An la sale qui fu quarree
Et autant longue come lee.

3052 En mi la sale, sor un lit,
Un bel prodome seoir vit
Qui estoit de chenes meslez.
Et ses chies fu anchapelez
D'un sabelin noir come more

3044 or seen from here to Limoges.
The youth waited in the galleries
until the lord of the castle sent
two squires there to summon him,

3048 and he accompanied them
into the great hall, which was square in shape,
as long as it was wide.

3052 In the middle of the hall he saw
a handsome nobleman seated upon a bed
made of burlled oak.

His head was covered
by a cap of sable, black as mulberry,

3056 **A** une porpre vox desore,
Et d'autel fu sa robe tote.
Apoiez fu desor son cote,
S'ot devant lui un feu mout grant
3060 De sesche busche cler ardant,
Et fu antre quatre colomes.
Bien po'i'st an quatre cenz homes
Asseoir anviron le feu,
3064 S'atist chascuns aeisie leu.
Les colomes mout forz estoient
Qui le cheminal sostenoient
D'arain espes et haut et le.

3056 with a purple peak,
and his robe was of the same material.
He was leaning on his elbow
3060 before a very large fire
of dry logs, flaming bright
between four columns.
Four hundred men could
easily sit around that fire,
3064 and each would have a comfortable spot.
A tall, thick, and broad
brass chimney was supported
on those strong columns.

3068 **D**evant le seignor sont ale

Cil qui li amoinent son hoste,
Si que chascuns li fu en costc.

3072 Qant li sires le vit venant,
Si le salua maintenant
Et dist: "Amis, ne vos soit grief

3076 Se ancontre vos ne me lief,
Que je n'an sui pas aesisiez.
—Por Deu, sire, or vos an teisiez,
Fet ilj qu'il ne me grieve point,
Se Dex joie et sante me doint."
Li prodom tant por lui se grieve

3068 The two squires who were escorting his guest
came before their lord,
flanking him on either side.

3072 When the lord saw him approaching
he greeted him at once
and said: "Friend, don't be offended
if I don't rise to greet you,
for it is not easy for me to do so."

3076 —"In God's name, sir," he replied,
"say no more, for I am not at all offended,
as God gives me health and happiness."
To do his guest honor, the gentleman

3080 **Q**ue tant com il puet se sozlieve,
Et dist: "Amis, ca vos traiez,
J a de moi ne vos esmaiez,
Si seez ci seuremant
3084 Lez moi, que je le vos comant."
Li vaslez s'est lez lui asis,
Et li prodom li dist: "Amis,
De quel part venistes vos hui?
3088 -Sire, fet il, hui matin mui
De Biaurepaire, ensi a non.
—Si m'a'ft Dex, fet li prodom,
Trop grant jornee avez hui faite.

3080 rose as much as he was able,
and said: "Friend, come over here
and don't be frightened of me;
sit down confidently
3084 at my side, for so I command you."
The youth sat down beside him
and the nobleman continued: "Friend,
where did you come from today?"
3088 -"Sir," he said, "this morning I left
Biaurepaire, so it is called."
—"So help me God," said the nobleman,
"you've ridden a great distance today.

3092 Vos meustes einz que la gaité

Eust hui main l'aube cornee.

—Einz estoit ja prime sonee,

Fet li vaslez, jel vos afi."

3096 Que que il parloient ensi,

Uns vaslez antre par la porte

De la meison, et si aporte

Une espee a son col pandue,

3100 Si l'a au riche [home] randue.

Et il l'a bien demie treite,

Si vit bien ou ele fu feite,

Car an l'espee fu escrit;

3092 You must have set off this morning
before the watchman sounded the dawn."

—"No," said the youth, "I assure you
that the hour of prime had already been sounded.'

3096 As they were conversing thus,
a squire entered by the door.

He was carrying a sword
hanging by straps from his neck;

3100 he handed it to the great lord,
who unsheathed it halfway
and saw clearly where it had been made,
for it was engraved upon the blade;

3104 **E**t avoec ce ancore vit
Qu'ele estoit de si bon acier
Que ja ne porroit depecier
Fors que par un tot seul peril
3108 Que nus ne savoit fors que cil
Qui l'avoit forgiee et tempree.
Li vaslez qui l'ot aportee
Dist: "Sire, la sore pucele,
3112 Vostre niece qui mout est bele,
Vos a anvoie cest present,
Einz ne ve'istes mes plus gent
Del lone ne del le que ele a.

3104 he also saw
that it was made of such good steel
that it could not be broken
except in a single peril
3108 known only to him
who had forged and tempered it.
The squire who had brought it
said: "Sir, the blond maiden,
3112 your niece who is so beautiful,
sent you this gift;
you've never beheld a finer sword,
for length and thickness, than this one here.

3116 **V**os la donroiz cui vos pleira,
Mes ma dame seroit mout liee
Se ele estoit bien anploie[e]
La ou ele sera donee,
3120 C'onques cil qui forja l'espee
N'an fist que trois, et si morra
Que ja mes forgier ne porra
Espee nule apres cesti,"
3124 Tantost li sire an revesti
Celui qui leanz ert estranges
De cele espee par les ranges
Qui valoient un grant tresor.

3116 You may bestow it upon whomever you choose,
but my lady would be most pleased
if it were given to someone
who would use it well,
3120 for the man who forged it
made only three, and he will die
before being able to make
another sword after this one."
3124 Immediately the lord invested the stranger
among them with the sword
by placing over his shoulders its straps,
a great treasure in themselves.

3128 **L**i ponz de l'espee fu d'or,
Del meïlor d'Arrabe ou de Grece;
Li fuerres d'orfrois de Venece:
Si richemant apareilliee
3132 L'a li sire au vaslet bailliee,
Et dist: "Biau[s] frere, ceste espee
Vos fu jugiee et destine[e],
Et je voel mout que vos l'aiez.
3136 Mes ceigniez la, si la traiez."
Cil Tan mercie, si la ceint
Einsi que pas ne s'an estraint,
Puis l'a trete del fuerre nue;

3128 The sword's pommel was of the finest
gold from Arabia or Greece;
its scabbard was of Venetian goldsmith's art.
In all its splendor
3132 the lord gave it to him
and said: "Fair brother, this sword
was ordained and destined for you,
and I am eager for you to have it.
3136 Put it on now and draw it."
He thanked him
and strapped it on loosely,
then drew it shining from its scabbard;

3140 **E**t quant il Tot un po tenue,
Si la remist el fuerre arriere.
Et sachiez que de grant meniere
Li sist au flanc et mialz el poing,
3144 Et sanbla bien que au besoing
S'an delist aidier come ber.
Derriers lui vit vallez ester
Antor le feu qui cler ardoit:
3148 Celui qui ses armes gardoit
I vit, et si li comanda
L'espee, et cil la li garda.
Puis se rasist lez le seignor

3140 after he had held it a moment
he replaced it in its scabbard.
I assure you it was magnificent
by his side and better in his grip,
3144 and it was obvious that in time of need
he would wield it bravely.
Behind him he saw squires
standing about the blazing fire:
3148 he caught sight of the one in charge
of his armor and handed him the sword to keep.
Then he sat back down beside the lord,

3152 Qui li portoit mout grant enor.

Et leanz avoit luminaire
Si grant con l'an le porroit faire
De chandoiles an un ostel.

3156 Que qu'H parloient d'un et d'el,
Uns vaslez d'une chambre vint
Qui une blanche lance tint
Anpoignee par le milieu,

3160 Si passa par entre le feu
Et ces qui el lit se seoient,
Et tuit cil de leanz veoient
La lance blanche et le fer blanc,

3152 who paid him every honor.

Within that hall the light
from the burning candles was as bright
as one could find in any castle.

3156 As they were speaking of one thing and another,
a squire came forth from a chamber
gripping a white lance
by the middle of its shaft;

3160 he passed between the fire
and those seated upon the bed,
and everyone in the hall saw
the white lance with its white point,

3164 S'issoit une gote de sane
Del fer de la lance an somet
Et jus qu'a la main au vaslet
Coloit cele gote vermoille.
3168 Li vaslez vit cele mervoille
Qui leanz ert la nuit venuz,
Si s'est de demander tenuz
Comant cele chose avenoit,
3172 Que del chasti li sovenoit
Celui qui chevalier le fist
Qui li anseigna et aprist
Que de trop parler se gardast;

3164 from whose tip there oozed
a drop a blood,
and this red drop flowed
down to the squire's hand.*
3168 The youth who had come there that night
observed this marvel,
but refrained from asking
how it came about,
3172 for he recalled the admonishment given
by the gentleman who had knighted him,
who taught and instructed him
not to talk too much;

3176 Si crient, se il le demandast,
Qu'an li tenist a vilenie:
Por ce si nel demanda mie.
Atant dui autre vaslet vindrent
3180 Qui chandeliers an lor mains tindrent
De fin or, ovrez a neel.
Li vaslet estoient mout bel
Qui les chandeliers aportoient.
3184 An chascun chandelier ardoient
Dis chandoiles a tot le mains.
Un graal antre ses deux mains
Une dameisele tenoit

3176 he was afraid that if he asked
they would consider him uncouth, so he did not ask.
Then two other squires entered
3180 holding in their hands candelabra
of pure gold, worked with enamel inlays.
The young men carrying the candelabra
were extremely handsome.
3184 In each of the candelabra there were
at least ten candles burning.
A maiden accompanying
the two young men was carrying

3188 Qui avoec les vaslez venoit,
Bele et gente et bien acesmee:
Quant ele fu leanz antree
A tot le graal qu'eletint,
3192 Une si granz clartcz i vint
Qu'ausi perdirent les chandoiles
Lor clarte come les estoiles
Quant li solauz lieve ou la lune.
3196 Apres celi an revint une
Qui tint un tailleor d'argent.
Le graal, qui aloit devant,
De fin or csmere estoit;

3188 a grail in her two hands;*
she was beautiful, noble, and richly attired.
After she had entered the hall
carrying the grail,
3192 the room was so brightly illuminated
that the candles lost
their brilliance like stars
when the sun rises, or the moon.*
3196 After her came another maiden,
carrying a silver carving platter.
The grail, which preceded,
was of fine pure gold;

3200 **P**ierres prec'ieuses avoit
El graal de maintes menieres,
Des plus riches et des plus chieres
Qui an mer ne an terre soient:
3204 Totes autres pierres passoient
Celes del graal sanz dotance.
Tot ausi passa con la lance:
Par dc devant le lit passerent
3208 Et d'une chanbre an autre entrerent.
Et li vaslez les vit passer
Et n'osa mie demander
Del graal, cui Tan an servoit,

3200 set in the grail were
precious stones of every kind,
the best and costliest
to be found in earth or sea:
3204 the grail's stones were finer
than any others in the world, beyond a doubt.
Like the lance bearer,
they passed before the bed
3208 and into another chamber.
The young knight watched them pass by
but did not dare ask
who was served from the grail,

3212 **Q**ue toz jorz en son cuer avoit
La parole au prodome sage.
Si criem que il n'i ait domagc,
Par ce que j'ai o'f retraire
3216 Qu'ausi bien se puetan trop taire
Con trop parler, a la foiee:
Ou bien Ten praingne ou mal Tan chiee,
Ne lor anquiert ne ne demande.
3220 Et li sire au vaslet comande
L'eve doner et napes traire.
Cil le font qui le doivent faire
Et qui a costume l'avoient.

3212 for in his heart he always kept
the wise gentleman's advice.
Yet I fear that this may lead to trouble,
for I have heard it said
3216 that at times it is just as wrong
to keep too silent as to talk too much.*
Whether for good or for ill
he did not ask or inquire anything of them.
3220 The lord of the castle ordered his squire
to bring water and prepare the tablecloths.
Those whose duty it was
did these things as they were accustomed.

3224 **L**i sire et li vaslez lavoient
Lor mains d'eve chaude tempree,
Et dui vaslet ont aportee
Une table lee d'ivoire:
3228 Ensi con tesmoigne l'estoire,
Ele estoit tote d'une piece.
Devant le seignor une piece,
Et devant le vaslet, la tindrent,
3232 Tant que dui autre vaslet vindrent
Qui aporterent deus eschaces.
Li fuz a deus mout bones graces
Don les eschaces fetes furent:

3224 The lord and his young guest washed
their hands in warm water,
and two squires carried in
a broad ivory table:
3228 as the source-book relates,
it was all of a single piece.
They held it a moment
before their lord and the youth,
3232 until two other squires came
bearing two trestles.
The wood of the supports
had two excellent qualities:

3236 **Q**ue les pieces toz jorz an durent,
Dont furent eles d'ebeneus,
D'un fust a coi ja ne bet nus
Que il porrisse ne qu'il arde;
3240 De ces deus choses n'a il garde.
Sor ces eschaces fu asise
La table, et la nape sus mise.
Mes que diroie de la nape?
3244 Legaz ne chardonax ne pape
Ne manja onques sor si blanche.
Li premiers mes fu d'une hanche
De cerf an gresse au poivre chaut.

3236 the trestles would last forever
since they were of ebony,
a wood no one need fear
would ever rot or burn,
3240 for ebony would do neither.
The table was placed upon these
supports, with the tablecloth over it.
What could I say about the cloth?
3244 That no pope, cardinal, or papal legate
ever ate off one so white.
The first course was a haunch
of venison cooked in its fat with hot pepper.

3248 **V**ins clers ne aspres ne lor faut

A cope d'or soef a boivre.

De la hanche de cerf au poivre

Uns vaslez devant ax trancha

3252 Qui a lui traite la hanche a

A tot Ic taillcor d'argent,

Et les morsiax lor met devant

Sor un gastel qui fu antiers.

3256 Et li graax andemantiers

Par devant ax retrespassa,

Et li vaslez ne demanda

Del graal, cui l'an an servoit.

3248 Claret and dry wines were not lacking,

easy to sip from golden goblets.

Before them a squire carved

the haunch of peppered venison

3253 which he had brought to his place

upon the silver carving platter,

and he set the pieces before them

on whole loaves of bread.

3256 Meanwhile the grail

passed again before them,

and the youth did not ask

who was served from the grail.

3260 **P**or le prodome se tenoit
Qui dolceman le chast'ia
De trop parler, et il i a
Toz jorz son cuer, si l'an sovient.
3264 Mes plus se test qu'il ne covient,
Qu'a chascun mes don l'an servoit,
Par devant lui trespasser voit
Le graal trestot descovert.
3268 Mes il ne set cui l'an an sert,
Et si le voldroit mout savoir,
Mes il le demandera voir,
Ce dit et pense, ainz qu'il s'an tort

3260 He held back because the nobleman
had so gently warned him
not to talk too much, and he
bore this warning constantly to heart.
3264 But he kept more silent than he should have,
because with each course that was served
he saw the grail pass by
before him completely uncovered.*
3268 But he did not learn who was served from it,
though he wanted to know,
and said to himself that he would be sure
to ask one of the court squires

3272 **A** un des vaslez de la cort,
Mes jus qu'au matin atandra
Que au seignor congie prandra
Et a tote l'autre mesniee.
3276 Ensi la chose est repitree,
S'antant a boivre et a mangier.
L'an n'apporte mie a dongier
Les mes et le vin a la table,
3280 Qui sont pleisant et delitable.
Li mangiers fu et biax et buens:
De toz les mes que rois ne cuens
Ne empereres doie avoir

3272 before he left there,
but he would wait until morning
as he was taking leave of the lord
and all the rest of his household.
3276 So the question was put off,
and he set his mind to drinking and eating.
The wine and food were delicious
and agreeable, and were served
3280 at table in generous portions.
The meal was fine and good:
with food fit for a king, count
or emperor was

3284 **F**u li prodom serviz le soir

Et le vaslez ansamble lui.

Après le mangier am[b]edui

Parlerent ansamble et vellierent.

3288 Et li vaslet aparellierent

Les liz et le fruit au colchier,

Que il en i ot de mout chier:

Dates, figes et noiz mugates,

3292 Et girofle et pomes grenates,

Et leituair[e] an la fin,

Et gengenbrat alixandrin,

Et pliris et arcoticum,

3284 the nobleman served that evening,

and the young knight with him.

After the meal the two

stayed a long while in conversation.

3288 As squires were preparing the beds,

baskets of all the finest fruits

were served them:

dates, figs and nutmeg,

3292 cloves and pomegranates,

and electuaries for dessert,

with Alexandrian gingerbread,

pliris and arcoticum

3296

Resontif et stomaticum.*

Après, si burent de maint boivre,
Pimant ou n'ot ne miel ne poivre,
Et bon more et cler sirop.

3300

De tot ce se mervoille trop
Li vaslez qui ne l'ot apris,
Et li prodom li dist: "Amis,
Tant est del colchier mes anuit.

3304

Je m'an irai, ne vos enuit,
Leanz an mes chanbres gesir;
Et quant vos vandra a pleisir,
Vos vos colcherez 5a dehors.

3296

resontif and stomaticum.*

Afterwards they drank many a drink,
sweet wine without honey or pepper,
good mulberry wine, and clear syrup.

3300

The youth was in wonder at all this,
for he had never experienced anything like it;
and the nobleman said to him: "Friend,
now it is time for bed tonight.

3304

Don't be offended if I leave you
to go into my own chambers to sleep;
and whenever you are ready
you may lie down out here.

3308 Je n'ai nul pooir de mon cors,
Si covandra que Fan m'an port."
Quatre sergent delivre et fort
Maintenant fors d'une chanbre issent,
3312 La coute as quatre cors seisisent
Qui el lit estandue estoit,
Sor coi li prodom se gisoit,
Si Fan portent la ou il durent.
3316 Avoec le vaslet remes furent
Autre vaslet qui le servirent,
Qui quan que mestier fu li firent.
Quant lui plot, si le deschaucierent

3308 I have no strength in my body
and will have to be carried."
Four strong and nimble servants
promptly came forth from a chamber,
3312 seized by its four corners the coverlet
that was spread over the bed
on which the nobleman was lying,
and carried it to where they were ordered.
3316 Other squires remained with
the youth to serve him,
and saw to his every need.
When he requested, they removed

3320 **E**t des vestirent et couchierent

An blans dras deli'ez de lin.

Et il dormi jus qu'au matin

Que l'aube del jor fu crevee

3324 Et la mesniee fu levee.

Mes il ne vit leanz nelui

Quant esgarda an viron lui,

Si l'estut par lui seul lever

3328 Que que il delist grever.

Des qu'il voit que fere l'estuet,

Il se lieve, que mialz ne puet,

Et chauce sans a'i'de atandre,

3320 his shoes and clothing and
bedded him down in fine white linen sheets.

And he slept until morning,

till dawn had broken

3324 and the household was awake.

But he saw no one there

when he looked around,

and so he had to get up alone,

3328 although it bothered him to do so.

Since he saw he had no choice,

he arose, for there was nothing else to do,

and pulled on his shoes without help;

3332 Et puis reva ses armes prendre,

Qu'au chief del dois les a trovees
Ou Tan li avoit aportees.

3336 Qant il ot bien arme ses manbres,
Si s'an vet vers les huis des chanbres
Que la nuit ot overz veuz;

Mes por neant s'est esmeuz,
Qu'il les trova mout bien fermez,

3340 S'apele et hurte et boute asez:
Nus ne li oevre ne dit mot.

Qant asez apele i ot,
Si s'an va a l'uis de la sale:

3332 then he went to don his armor,
which he found at the head of the dais,
where it had been left for him.

3336 After having armed himself fully,
he went toward the doors of chambers
he had seen open the night before;
but his steps were wasted,
for he found them tightly closed.

3340 He shouted and knocked for a long while:
no one opened to him or answered a word.
After having shouted a good deal,
he tried the door to the great hall:

3344 Overt le trueve, si avale

Trestoz les degrez contrevall,

Si trueve ansele son cheval

Et voit sa lance et son escu

3348 Qui au mur apoiez li fu.

Lors monte et vet par tot leanz,

Mes n'i trueve nul des sergenz,

N'escuier ne vaslet n'i voit,

3352 Si s'an vet a la porte droit

Et trueve le pont abessie

Qu'an li avoit ensi lessie

Por ce que riens nel retenist,

3344 finding it open,

he went down the steps,

where he discovered his horse saddled

and saw his lance and shield

3348 leaning against the wall for him.

He mounted and rode all about,

but he found none of the servants

and saw no squire or serving boy.

3352 So he went straight to the gate

and found the drawbridge lowered;

it had been left like that

so that nothing might prevent him

3356 **D**e quel ore que il venist,
Que il n'i passastsanz arest.
Et panse que an la forest
S'an soient li vaslet ale,
3360 Por le pont qu'il voit avale,
Cordes et pieges regarder.
N'a cure de plus arester,
Einz dist qu'apres ax s'en iroit
3364 Savoir se nus d'ax li diroit
De la lance, por qu'ele sainne,
Se il puetestre an nule painne,
Et del graal, ou l'an le porte.

3356 from crossing over it unimpeded
whenever he came there.
When he found the bridge lowered,
he thought perhaps the squires
3360 had gone into the forest
to check the traps and snares.
He made up his mind
to set off at once after them
3364 to see whether any of them would tell him
about why the lance bled
(if it were possible for him to know),
and where the grail was carried.

3368 Lors s'an ist fors par mi la porte,
Mes einz que il fust jus del pont,
Les piez de son cheval amont
Santi qu'il leverent an haut,
3372 Et li chevax fist un grant saut,
Que, s'il n'eust si bien sail li,
Am[b]edui fussent mal bailli
Li chevax et cil qui sus iere.
3376 Et li vaslez tornasa chiere
Por veoir que ce ot este,
Et voit qu'an ot le pont leve,
S'apele, et nus ne li respont.

3368 Then he rode off through the gate,
but before he had crossed the bridge
he felt it drawing up under
the front hooves of his horse;
3372 but the horse made a great leap,
and if he had not done so
both horse and rider
would have come to grief.
3376 The youth turned around
to see what had happened
and saw that the drawbridge had been raised;
he shouted out, but no one answered.

3380 "Di va, fet il, tu qui le pont

As leve, car parole a moi.

Ou es tu quant je ne te voi?

Trai toi avant, si te verrai,

3384 Et d'une chose t'anquerrai
Noveles que savoir voldroie."

Ensi de parler se foloie,

Que nus respondre ne li vialt.

3388 Et vers la forest s'aquialt,

Et antre an un santier et trueve

Qu'il i ot une trace nueve

De chevax qui ale estoient.

3380 "Say there," he said, "whoever raised
the bridge, speak to me!

Where are you that I can't see you?

Come forward where I can see you

3384 and ask you about something
I want to know."

But he made a fool of himself shouting like this,
for no one would reply.

3388 Then he headed for the forest
and found a path on which
he discovered fresh hoofprints
of horses recently passed by.

3392 "De \$a, fet il, cuit ge qu'il soient

Ale, cil que ge querant vois."

Lors s'eslesse par mi le bois

Tant con cele trace li dure,

3396 Tant que il vit par aventure

Une pucele soz un chesne

Qui pleure et crie et se desresne

Come chestive dolereuse:

3400 "Lasse, fet ele, maleureuse!

Con je fui de male ore nee!

L'eure que je fui engendree

Soit maldite et que je nasqui,

3392 "This makes me think," he said to himself,

"that those I'm seeking passed this way."

He rode swiftly through the forest

following the tracks as far as they went,

3396 until he saw by chance

a maiden beneath an oak tree

crying, weeping, and lamenting

like a woman in distress:

3400 "Wretched me!" she exclaimed,

"I was born in an evil hour!

Cursed be the hour I was begotten

and the day I was born,

3404 **Q**u'ainc mais de tant ne m'irasqui
De rien qui po'fst avenir!*
Je ne deusse pas tenir
Mon ami mort, se Deu pleust,
3408 Qu'assez miex exploitie eust
S'il fust vis et je fusse morte!
La morz qui si me desconforte,
Por coi prist s'ame ainz que la moie?
3412 Qant la rien que je plus amoie
Voi morte, vie que me valt?
Après lui certes ne me chalt
De ma vie ne de mon cors!

3404 for I've never before been made
so miserable by anything!
So help me God, I shouldn't have
to hold my dead lover in my arms;
3408 it would have been far better
if he were alive and I were dead!
Why did Death, which tortures me,
take his soul instead of mine?
3412 When I behold the one I most love
dead, what is life to me?
With him dead, indeed I have
no interest in my life or body.

3416 **M**orz, car en giete Tame hors,
Et soit chanberiere et compaigne
A la soe, se ele daigne!"
Ensi cele son duel menoit
3420 D'un chevalier qu'ele tenoit
Qui avoit tranchiee la teste.
Jus que devant li ne s'areste
Li vaslez quant il l'ot veie.
3424 Quant il vint pres, si la salue
Et ele lui, le chief bessie,
Ne por ce n'a son duel lessie.
Et li vaslez li a anquis:

3416 So come, Death, and take my soul,
and let it be a servant and companion
to his, if he'll deign to accept it."
Her grief was caused
3420 by a knight she held in her arms,
whose head had been cut off.
The youth, after catching sight of her,
rode right up to where she sat.
3424 As he came before her he greeted her
and she, with head still lowered and without
ceasing her lament, returned his salutation.
And the youth asked her:

3428 "Dameisele, qui a ocis
Cel chevalier qui sor vos gist?
—Biax sire, uns chevaliers l'ocist,
Fet la pucele, hui matin.*
3432 Mes mout me mervoil de grant fin
D'une chose que je esgart,
Que l'an porroit, se Dex me gart,
Chevalchier, ce tesmoingne l'an,
3436 Vint et cine Hues an cestsan*
Tot droit ensi con vos venez
C'uns ostex n'i seroit trovez
Qui fust boens ne leax ne sains,

3428 "My lady, who has slain
this knight lying in your lap?"
-"Fair sir," said the maiden,
"a knight killed him just this morning.
3432 But the sight of you
is truly surprising:
as God is my witness, they say
that one could ride
3436 for twenty-five leagues in the direction
from which you're coming
without finding a good,
honest, and proper lodging place,

3440 **E**t vostre chevax a si plains

Les flans et le poil aplaignie,

Qui l'eust lavé et paingnié

Et fet lit d'aveinne et de fain,

3444 N'eust il mialz le vandre plain

Ne n'eust mialz le poil asis.

De vos me'fsmes m'est avis

Que vos avez enuit este

3448 Bien aeisiez et repose.

—Par foi, fet il, bele, ge oi

Tant d'eise come ge plus poi,

Et s'il i pert, ce est a droit,

3440 yet your horse's belly
is so full and his coat so shining,
that he couldn't appear fuller
or his coat smoother

3444 had he been washed and combed
and given a bed of hay and oats.

And it appears to me
that you yourself have had

3448 a comfortable and restful night."

-"By my faith," he said,

"I was as comfortable as I could possibly be,
and if it shows, it's only right,

3452 **Q**ue qui cneroit orandroit
Ci ou nos somes hautemant,
L'an l'orroit ja mout cleremant
La ou ge ai enuit geu.
3456 N'avez mie trop bien seu
Cest pais ne reverchie tot,
Que j'oi ostel, sanz nu| redot,
Le mellor que je eüsse onques.
3460 —Ha! sire, geustes vos donques
Chies le riche Roi Pescheor?
—Pucele, par le Sauveor,
Ne sai s'il est peschierre ou rois,

3452 for if you were to shout out
loudly from here where we are,
it could be clearly heard there
where I slept last night.
3456 You must not know this country well
or have been all through it,
for without a doubt I had
the best lodgings I've ever enjoyed."
3460 -"Ah, my lord! Did you sleep then
in the castle of the noble Fisher King?"
—"Maiden, by our Lord and Savior,
I don't know if he is a fisherman or a kin

3464 **M**es mout est riches et cortois.

Rien plus dire ne vos an sai,
Fors tant que deus homes trovai
Hersoir mout tart an une nef
3468 Qui aloient najant soef:

Li uns des deus homes najoit,
L'autres a l'amegon peschoit,
Et cil sa meison m'anseigna
3472 Hersoir et si me herberja."

Et la pucele dist: "Biau[s] sire,
Rois est il, bien le vos os dire,
Mes il fu an une bataille

3464 but he is most noble and courteous.

I can tell you no more,
except that late last night
I came upon two men sitting in a boat
3468 rowing slowly along.

One of the men was rowing
while the other was fishing with a hook,
and this latter indicated his house to me
3472 last night and gave me lodging."

And the maiden said: "Fair sir, I can
assure you that he is a king, but he was
wounded and maimed

3476 **N**avrez et mahaaigniez sans faille,
Si que puis aidier ne se pot,
Qu'il fu navrez d'un javelot
Par mi les hanches am[b]edos,
3480 S'an est ancor si angoissos
Qu'il ne puet sor cheval monter.
Mes quant il se vialt deporter
Ou d'aucun deduit antremetre,
3484 Si se fet an une nef metre
Et vet peschant a l'amecon:
Por ce li Rois Peschierre a non.
Et por ce ensi se deduit

3476 in the course of a battle
so that he can no longer manage alone,
for he was struck by a javelin
through both thighs,*
3480 and is still in so much pain
that he cannot ride a horse.
Whenever he wants to relax
or go out to divert himself,
3484 he has himself put in a boat
and goes fishing with a hook:
this is why he's called the Fisher King.
And he relaxes in this way

3488 Qu'il ne porroit autre deduit

Por rien sofrir ne andurer:

Ne puet chacier ne riverer,

Mes il a ses rivereors,

3492 Ses archiers et ses veneors

Qui vont an ses forez berser;

Por ce li plect a converser

An ce[st] repere ci elues,

3496 Que an tot le mont a son oes

Ne puet trover meillor repere,*

Et si a fet tel meison fere

Com il covient a riche roi.

3488 because he cannot tolerate the pain

of any other diversion:

he cannot hunt for game or fish,

but he has his hunters,

3492 his archers, and his gamesmen

who hunt his forests for him.

That is why he likes to stay

in this hidden retreat,

3496 for there's no retreat in the world

more suited to his needs,

and he has had a mansion built

that is worthy of a noble king."

3500 —**D**ameisele, fet il, par foi,
Voirs est ce que dire vos oi,
Qu'hersoir de ce grant mervoille oi
Maintenant que devant lui ving.
3504 An sus de lui un po me ting,
Et il me dist que je venisse
Lez lui seoir, si nel tenisse
A orguel qu'il ne se levoit
3508 Ancontre moi, car il n'avoit
L'aaisement ne le pooir,
Et je m'alai lez lui seoir."

"Certes mout grant enor vos fist

3500 -"My lady," he said, "by my faith,
what you say is true,
for I was in awe last night
as soon as I was brought before him.
3504 I kept a little distance from him,
and he told me to come
be seated beside him and not to consider
him too proud for not rising
3508 to greet me, since he didn't have
the means or strength.
And I went to sit beside him."
—"Indeed he did you great honor

3512 Quant il delez lui vos asist.
Et quant vos delez lui se'fstes,
Or me dites se vos ve'fstes
La lance don la pointe saine,
3516 Et si n'i a ne sane ne vainne.
—Se ge la vi? Oïl, par foi.
—Et demandastes vos por coi
Ele sainoit? —N'an parlai onques.
3520 —Si m'a7t Dex, or sachiez donques
Que mout avez exploitie mail
Et ve'ïstes vos le graal?
— Oïl bien. —Et qui le tenoit?

3512 to have you sit beside him.
And as you were sitting beside him,
tell me whether you saw
the lance with the tip that bleeds,
3516 though it has neither blood nor veins."
—"Yes, upon my word, I *did* see it!"
—"And did you ask why
it bled?" —"I never spoke a word."
3520 "So help me God, then know
that you have done ill.
And did you see the grail?"
—"Quite clearly." —"Who carried it?"

3524 —U ne pucele. —Et don venoit?

—D'une chanbre. —Et ou en ala?

-En une autre chambre en entra.

—Aloit devant le graal nus?

3528 —Oïl. -Qui? -Dui vaslet sanz plus

—Et que tenoient an lor mains?

—Chandeliers de chandoiles plains.

—Et apres le graal, qui vint?

3532 -Une autre pucele. —Et que tint?

—Un petit tailleor d'argent.

—Demandastes vos a la gent

Quel part il aloient ensi?

3524 —"A maiden." —"Where did she come from?"

—"From a chamber." —"And where did she go?"

—"She entered another chamber."

-"Did anyone precede the grail?"

3528 —"Yes." —"Who?" —"Only two squires."

—"And what were they holding in their hands?"

—"Candelabra full of candles."

—"And who came after the grail?"

3532 -"Another maiden." —"What was she holding?"

—"A small silver carving platter."

—"Did you ask the people

where they were going in this manner?"

3536 —**O**nques de ma boche n'issi.
—Si m'a'i't Dex, de tant valt pis!
Comant avez vos non, amis?"
Et cil qui son non ne savoit
3540 Devine et dit que il avoit
Percevox li Galois a non,
Ne ne set s'il dit voir ou non,
(vies il di[s]jt voir, et si nel sot.
3544 Et quant la dameisele l'ot,
Si s'est ancontre lui dreciee
Et dist come correciee:
"Tes nons est changeiez, biax amis.

3536 —"No question came from my mouth."
—"So help me God, now it's even worse!
What is your name, friend?"
And the youth, who did not know his name,
3540 guessed and said he was called
Perceval the Welshman,
but he did not know if that were true or not,
but he spoke the truth without knowing it.
3544 And when the damsel heard him,
she stood up before him
and said as in anger:
"Your name is changed, fair friend!"

3548 —Comant? —Percevox li cheitis.

Ha! Percevox maleureus!
Com ies or mesaventureus
Qant tu tot ce n'as demande,
3552 Que mout eusses amande
Le boen roi qui est maheigniez,
Que toz eust regaaigniez
Ses manbres et terre tenist,
3556 Et si granz biens en avenist!
Mes or saches que grant enui
En avandra toi et autrui.
Por le pechie, ce saches tu,

3548 —"What is it?" —"Perceval the wretched!
Ah, unlucky Perceval,
how unfortunate you were
when you failed to ask all this,
3552 because you would have brought great succor
to the good king who is maimed:
he would have totally regained use
of his limbs and ruled his lands,
3556 and much good would have come of it!
But know now that much suffering
will come to you and others.
It befell you, understand,

3560 **D**e ta mere t'est avenu,
Qu'ele est morte de duel de toi.
Je te conuis mialz que tu moi,
Que tu ne scz qui ge me sui.
3564 Ensanble od toi norric fui
Chies ta mere mout lonc terminer

3560 **B**ecause you sinned against your mother,
who has died of grief on your account.
I know you better than you do me,
because you do not know who I am.
3564 I was raised with you
for many years in your mother's house;

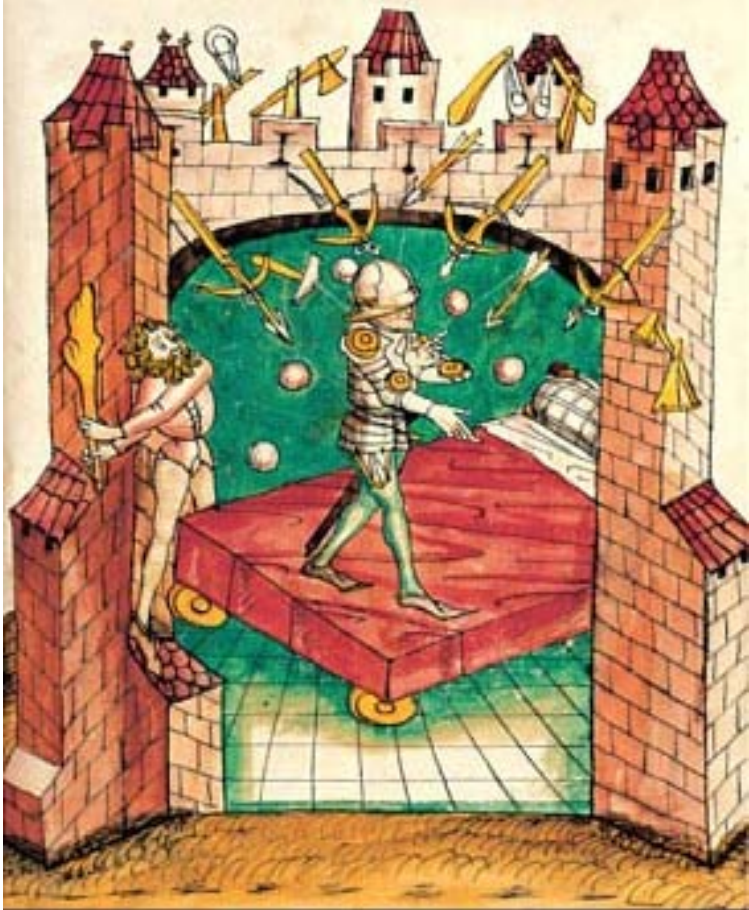
THE BED OF MARVELS

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Mes se croire me voleiez,

Hui mes herbergier vanreiez

A tel ostel corn est li miens,

7420 Que ne seroit pas vostre biens

De demorer a cest rivaige,

Que c'est une terre sauvaige

Tote plainne de granz mervoilles.

7424 —Amis, quant tu le me consoilles,

A ton consoil me voel tenir,

Que que ii man dole avenir."

Au los au notonier le fet,

But if you'll heed my advice, you'll

come to my house this day

and accept such lodgings as I can provide.

7420 It would not be to your advantage

To linger upon this shore,

for this is a wild land

full of great wonders."

7424 —"Friend, since you so advise me,

I wish to heed your counsel,

whatever it might bring to me."

He followed the mariner's advice and,

7428 Et son cheval apres lui tret,
S'antre an la nef, et si s'an vent.
A l'autre rive venu sont.
Pres de l'eve fu li ostex
7432 Au notonier, et Si fu tex
Que descendre i pc:4st uns cuens,
Si fu mout aeisiez et buens.
Li notoniers son oste an meinne
7436 Et son prison, et s'an demcinne
Si grant joie corn il plus puet.
Dc quan que a prodome cstuet
Fu mes sire Gauvains serviz:

7428 leading his horse after him,
he boarded the punt and they set off
and reached the other shore.
The mariner's house was near
7432 the water, and was so good
and comfortable that a count
would be well received there.
The mariner escorted his guest
7436 and his prisoner and was
as happy as he could possibly be.
My lord Gawain was served
with everything befitting a gentleman:

7440 **P**lovicrs et feisanz et perdriz

Et veneison ot au soper,
Et li yin furent fort et cler,
Blanc ct vermoil, novel et viez.

7444 De son prisonier fu mout liez
Li notoniers et de son oste.
Tant ont mangie que an lor oste
La table, et relevent lor mains.

7448 La nuit ot mes sire Gauvains
Ostel et oste a sa devise,
Qu'il prist mout an gre le servise
Au notonier et mout li plot.

7440 plover and pheasant and partridge
and venison he had for supper;
and the wines were strong and clear,
both white and red, young and vintage.

7444 The mariner was very happy
with both his prisoner and his guest.
After they had eaten, the table was removed
and they washed their hands again.

7448 That night my lord Gawain had
host and lodgings to his liking,
for he was very pleased and delighted
with the mariner's hospitality.

7452 **L'**andemain si test corn il pot

Veoir que li jorz aparut,
Si se leva si corn il dut,
Qu'a costume l'avoit ensi,

7456 Et li notoniers autresi
Se leva por amor de lui;
Et furent apoie andui
As fenestres d'une tornele.

7460 La contree, qui mout fu bele,
Esgarda mes sire Gauvains:
Vit les forez et vit les plains
Et le chastel sor la faloise.

7452 In the morning, as soon as
he could see the day breaking,
my lord Gawain arose as he should
and as was his custom,

7456 and the mariner too
got up for friendship's sake.
The two of them were leaning out
the windows of a turret.

7460 My lord Gawain was gazing at
the countryside, which was most beautiful:
he beheld the forests and the plains
and the castle on the cliff.

7464 "Ostes, fet ii, s'il ne vos poise,

Demander vos voel et anquerre
Qui est sires de ceste terre
Et de cest chaste! ci alues."

7468 Et Ii ostes Ii respont lues:

"Sire, ne sai. —Vos ne savez?
C'est mervoille, quo dit m'avez
Que del chastel estes sergenz

7472 Et s'an avez rantes mout granz,

Ne ne savez qui an est sire!
—Por voir, fet ii, le vos puis dire
Que je nel sal ne no soi onques.

7464 "My dear host," he said, "if you don't object,

I'd like to ask you and inquire
who is lord of this land
and of that castle up there?"

7468 And his host replied without delay:

"Sir, I don't know." —"You don't know?
That's a surprise, because you told me
you are in the service of the castle"

7472 and are well paid for it,
yet you don't know who's lord of it!"

—"I can truthfully tell you," he said,
that I don't know now and never have."

7476 — **B**iax ostes, or me dites donques

Qui desfant le chastel et garde.

—Sire, il i a mout bone garde:

Cinc cenz quo ars quo arbalestes

7480 Qui toz jorz sont de trere prestes.

Se nus i voloit rien forfaire,

Ja ne fineroient de traire,

Ne ja ne seroient lassees,

7484 Par tel engin sont compassees.

Mes tant vos dirai del covine,

Que ill a une reIne,

Mout haute dame et riche et sage,

7476 —"Fair host, then tell me now
who defends and guards the castle."

—"Sir, it is well guarded

by five hundred longbows and crossbows,

7480 which are always drawn and ready.

They are so ingeniously set up that if

anyone were to attack

they'd keep shooting indefinitely

7484 and never wear out.

I'll tell you this much about the situation:

there is a queen, a very noble,

rich, and wise lady,

7488 Et si est de mout haut parage.

La reThe a tot son tresor,
Que ele a mout d'argent et d'or,
San vint an cest pals menoir

7492 Et si a fet si fort menoir
Con vos poez veoir ici.

Et si amena avoec
Une dame qu'ele tant aime

7496 Que reïne et fille la claimme,
Et cele i a une autre fille
Qui son linage pas n'aille
Ne nule honte ne li fait,

7488 and of the highest lineage.

The queen, with all
her treasures of gold and silver,
came to dwell in this land,

7492 and she had this strong manor you
see before you built.

And she brought with her
a lady she loves so much

7496 that she calls her queen and daughter;
and this latter herself has a daughter,
who is in no way a shame or
disgrace to her lineage,

7500 **Q**ue ge ne cult que soz ciel ait
Plus bele no mialz afeitiee.
Et la sale est mout bien gaitiee
Par art et par anchantemant
7504 Que vos savroiz prochenemant
Se vos plest que ge le vos die:
Uns sages clers d'astrenomie
Que la reïne i amena,
7508 An cest grant pales qui est ca
A fet unes si granz mervoilles
C'onques n'olstes les paroilles,
Que chevaliers n'i puet antrer

7500 and I don't think there's a more beautiful
or gifted princess under heaven.
The hall is very well protected
by magic and enchantment,
7504 as you'll soon learn
it pleases you to be told.
A learned astronomer,
whom the queen brought with her,
7508 created such a great marvel
in that palace on the hill,
that you've not heard the equal of it:
no knight can enter there,

7512 Qui i puisse mie arester
Une liuee vis ne sains
Qui de covoitise soit plains
Ne qui ait an ui nul mal vice
7516 De losange no d'avarice.
Coarz ne traltHes n'i dure
Ne foimantic ne parjure:
Cil i muerent si a delivre,
7520 Qu'il n'i pueent durer nc vivre.
Mes ii i a vaslez asez
De maintes terres amassez
Qui por armes servent leanz,

7512 or stop for any time at all,
or stay alive within it
if he is filled with covetousness
or has within him any stain
7516 of pride or avarice.
Cowards and traitors cannot endure,
nor can perjurers or oath-breakers:
these all die so quickly
7520 that they cannot live there even a moment.
Yet there are many squires within,
who have come from many lands
to serve here and win their arms;

7524 **B**ien en i a jus qu'a cinc cenx,

Les uns barbez, les autres non:
Cent qui n'ont barbe ne grenon
Et cent autres cui barbcs poignent
Et cent qui reent et reongnent

7528 Lor barbes chascunc scmaine,
S'en i a cent plus blans que laine
Et cent qui sont mesle de chenes;

7532 Et s'i a dames anciennes
Qui n'ont ne mariz ne seignors,
Einz sont de terres et d'enors
Desheritees a grant tort

7524 there are easily as many as five hundred,
some with beards, others not:
a hundred without beard or moustache, another
hundred with growing beards,
7528 and a hundred who shave and trim
their beards every week.

There are a hundred with hair whiter than lamb's wool,
and a hundred who are turning gray;
7532 and there are elderly ladies
without husbands or lords,
who have been very wrongly
disinherited from lands and possessions

7536 Puis que lor man i furent mort,
Et dameiseles orfelines,
Qui sont avoec les deus re'ines,
Qui a mout grant enor les tient.
7540 Tex genz el pales vont et vient,
S'atendent une grant folio
Qui ne porroit avenir mie,
Qu'il atendent que leanz veigne
7544 Uns chevaliers qui les mainteigne,
Qui rande as dames or enors
Et as puceles doint seignors
Et des vaslez chevaliers face.

7536 after the deaths of their husbands;
and there are orphaned damsels
abiding with the two queens,
who treat them with very great respect.
7540 Such are the people who frequent the castle,
and all are awaiting a crazy thing
that could never come to pass:
they are awaiting a knight
7544 who'll come there to protect them,
to restore their inheritances to the ladies,
to give husbands to the maidens,
and to make the squires knights.

7548 **M**es ainz iert mers tote de glace

Que l'an un tel chevalier truisse

Qui el pales remanoir puisse,

Qu'il le covandroit a devise

7552 Saige et large, sanz coveitise,

Bel et franc, hardi et leal,

Sanz vilenie et sanz nul mai.

S'uns tex en i pooit venir,

7556 Cil porroit le pales tenir

Et randroit as dames lor terres

Et feroit pes dc maintes guerres,

Les puceles marleroit

7548 But the sea will turn to ice

before they find a knight

who can stay within the palace,

for he must be perfectly

7552 wise and generous, lacking all covetousness,

fair and noble, bold and loyal,

with no trace of wickedness or evil.

If such a knight were to come there,

7556 he could hold the palace

and return their lands to the ladies

and bring many wars to their ends.

He could marry off the maidens,

7560 Et les vaslez adoberoit,
Et osteroit sanz nul relais
Les anchantemanz del palais."
Mon seignor Gauvain ccs noveles*
7564 Plorent et mout li furent beles.
"Ostes, let ii, alons aval,
Et mes armes et mon cheval
Me fetes sanz demore ran dre,
7568 Car ge ne voel ci plus atandre,
Einz man irai. —Sire, quel part?
Car sejournez, se Dex vos gart,
Hui et demain et plus ancore.

7560 confer knighthood on the squires,
and rid the palace swiftly
of its magic spells."
This news pleased and delighted
7564 my lord Gawain immensely.
"My dear host," he said, "let's ride down there.
Have my horse and arms
brought to me at once,
7568 for I don't want to tarry here any longer.
I'm eager to be off." —"Sir, which way?
As God is your protection, stay with me today,
tomorrow, and a few days more."

7572 —Ostes, cc ne sera pas ore
(Que bencoiz soit vostre ostcx),
Einz man irai, si m'aït Dex,
Veoir les dames la amont
7576 Et les mervoilles qui la sont.
—Teisiez, sire! Certes folie,
Se Deu plcst, nc feroiz vos mie,
Mes creez moi, se remenez.
7580 —Teisicz, ostes! Vos me tenez
Por recreant et por coart.
J a puis Dex n'ait an m'ame part
Que ge nul consoil an cresrai.

7572 —"Dear host, I cannot stay at this time,
but may your house be blessed!
Instead I'll go, with God's aid,
to see the ladies up there
7576 and behold the marvels of the palace."
—"Silence, my lord! Please God,
you mustn't do anything so rash!
Take my advice and stay here."
7580 —"Enough, dear host. You must think
I am weak and cowardly!
May God forsake my soul
if I accept such advice!"

7584 —**P**ar foi, sire, et ge m'an terai,

Que ce seroit poinne gastee

Quant II alers tant vos agreee:

Vos i iroiz, dont mout m'enuie,

7588 S'estuet que ge vos i conduie,

Qu'autres conduiz, ce sachiez bien,

Ne vos i valdroit nuie rien.

Ivies un don voel de vos avoir.

7592 -Ostes, quel don? Jel voel savoir.

—Einz le m'avroiz acreante.

—Biax ostes, vostre volante

Ferai, mes que honte n'i ale."

7584 —"Upon my word, sir, I'll say no more,

for it would be wasted effort.

Since you're so intent upon going,

you'll go, though it upsets me;

7588 and it is I who must escort you,

for I assure you that no other escort

would be of any avail to you.

But I wish to ask a boon of you."

7592 -"What boon, fair host? I'd like to know."

—"First you must grant it."

—"Fair host, I'll do your will

as long as it doesn't bring me dishonor."

7596 Lors comande que Tan li traie

Fors de l'estabie son destrier

Tot atorne por chevauchier,

Et ses armes a demandees,

7600 Et eles li sont aportees.

Il s'arme et monte, si s'an torne,

Et li notoniers se ratorne

De monter sor son palefroï

7604 Qui conduire le vialt a foi

La ou il va contre son gre.

Tant vont que au pie del degre

Qui estoit devant le palais,

7596 Then he ordered them to bring him

his horse from the stable,

all saddled and ready to ride,

and he called for his arms,

7600 which were brought to him.

He armed, mounted, and set off,

and the mariner in turn

mounted upon his palfrey,

7604 for he intended to give him a loyal escort

to where he didn't care to go.

They rode to the foot of the stairs

that were before the palace,

7608 **T** ruevent sor un trossel de glais

Un eschacier tot seul seant

Qui avoit eschace d'argent:

A neel estoit bien doree

761 2 Et fu de leus an leus bandee

D'or et de pierres prec'feuses.

N'avoit mie les mains oiseuses

Li eschaciers, car il tenoit

7616 Un quanivet et s'antandoit

A doler un baston de fresne.

Li eschaciers de rien n'aresne

Ces qui par devant lui s'an vont,

7608 where they found a peg-legged man
sitting alone upon a pile of fresh-cut grass;

his artificial leg was of silver,

finely inlaid with gold

7612 and striped with alternating bands
of gold and precious stones.

The hands of the peg-legged man

were not idle, for he was holding

7616 a knife with which he was busily
whittling a piece of ash.

The man did not address

those who passed before him,

7620 Ne cil nul mot dlt ne li ont.

Et li notoniers a lui tire
Mon seignor Gauvain et dit: "Sire,
De cest eschacier que vos sanble?"

7624 —S'eschace n'est mie de tranble,
Fet mes sire Gauvains, par foi,
Que mout m'est be! ce que ge voi.
—Enon Deu, fet li notoniers,

7628 Il est riches, li eschaciers,
De mout granz rantes et de beles.
Vos o'i'ssiez ja tex noveies
Qui vos enuiassent mout fort,

7620 nor did they say a word to him.
The mariner drew my lord Gawain
to him and asked: "Sir,
what do you make of this peg-legged man?"

7624 —"His artificial leg is not aspen wood,
I'd swear," said my lord Gawain,
"for what I see is quite beautiful."
--"In the name of God," said the mariner,

7628 "the peg-legged man is wealthy,
with large and handsome properties!
You would already have heard some news
that would have been most distressing

7632 **S**e ne fust ce que ge vos port
 Conpaignie et si vos condui."
 Ensi s'an passent anbedui
 Tant qu'il sont el pales venu
7636 Dont l'an tree mout haute fu
 Et les portes riches et beies,
 Que tuit li gon et les verveles
 Furent d'or fin, tesmoing l'estoire
7640 L'une des portes fu d'ivoire,
 Bien antailliee par desus,
 L'autre porte fu d'ebenus,
 Autresi par desus ovree,

7632 were not accompanying you
 and serving as your escort."
 So the two of them passed by him
 and came to the great hall,
7636 with its very high entryway.
 Its gate was splendid and beautiful,
 for the hinges and catches were
 of pure gold, so the source tells.
7640 One of the doors was ivory,
 with beautifully carved panels;
 the other door was ebony,
 likewise with carved panels;

7656 Car a chascun des antreiaz

Ot une campane pandue;
De sor le lit ot estandue
Une grant coste de samit.

7660 A chascun des quepouz del lit
Ot un escarbocle ferme
Qui randoient si grant clarte
Con quatre cierges bien espris.

7664 Li liz fu sor gocez asis
Qui mout rechignoient lor joes,
Et li gocet sor quatre roes
Si isneles et si movanz

7656 for from each place the stringers crossed
there hung a little bell;
over the bed was spread
a large samite embroidery.

7660 To each of the bedposts
was affixed a carbuncle,
which cast as much light
as four brightly burning candles.

7664 The bed's legs were carved figures
of little dogs with grimacing jowls,
and the dogs were set on four wheels
which rolled so smoothly

7668 **Q**u'a un seul doi par tot leanz
De !'un chief jus qu'a l'autre alast
Li liz, qui un po le botast.
Tex fu li liz, qui voir an conte,
7672 C'onques ne por roi ne por conte
Ne fu tex fez ne n'iert ja mes,
Et fu toz coverz li pales
De paiiles; voel que [!an me croie
7676 Qu'il n'i a nule rien de croie:
De marbre furent les meisieres,
Au chief desus avoit verrieres
Si clere[s], qui garde i pre'fst,

7668 that you could push the bed
with one finger and roll it
all the way across the room.
To tell the truth, the bed was so unusual
7672 that one like it had never been made
for count or king, nor ever will one be.
The hall was all hung with silk,
and I want you to believe me
7676 when I say the walls were not of soft plaster:
the walls were marble,
with glass windows above
so clear that if you were attentive

7680 **Q**ue par mi ie voirre ve'i'st
Toz ces qui el pales antrassent
Et par mi la porte passassent,
Li voirres fu painz a colors,
7684 Des plus riches et des mellors
Qu'an sache deviser ne fere,
Mes ne voel or mie retrere
Ne deviser totes les choses.
7688 El pales ot fenestres closes
Bien quatre cenz et cent overtes.
Mes sire Gauvains tot a certes
Le pales regardant ala

7680 you could see through the glass
everyone entering the hall
and passing through the door.
The glass was stained
7684 with the most costly and finest colors
one could conceive of or create.
But I do not wish to describe
or tell about everything.
7688 The hall had some four hundred
closed windows, and a hundred open.
My lord Gawain carefully
inspected the hall

7692 **E**t sus et jus et ca et la.

Qant ii ot par tot esgarde,
S'a le notonier apele
Et dit: "Biax ostes, ge ne voi

7696 Ceanz nule chose por coi
Li pales face a redoter
Que l'an n'i doie bien antrer.

Or dites qu'i antandeiez
7700 Qant si fort me desfandeiez
Que ge n'i venisse veoir.
An cest lit me voel ge seoir
Et reposer un seul petit,

7692 from top to bottom and to every side.
When he had seen it all,
he called to the mariner
and said: "Fair host, I don't see
7696 anything here that would
make one fear
to enter this hall.

Now tell me what you meant
7700 when you warned me so insistently
not to come see it.
I wish to sit and rest
a little upon this bed,

7704 C'onques ne vi si riche lit.
-Ha! biau[s] sire, Dex vos an gart
Que vos n'aprochiez cele part,
Car se vos i aprocheiez,
7708 De la poior mort morreiez
Don nus chevaliers morist onques
-Ostes, et que ferai ge donques?
—Quoi, sire? Ce vos dirai gie
771 2 Qant ge vos voi ancoragie
De vostre vie retenir:
Qant vos deustes ca venir,
Vos demandai an mon ostei

7704 for I've never seen such a splendid one."
—"Ah, fair sir! May God keep you
from going near that place!
If you do approach it,
7708 you'll die the most horrible death
ever any knight experienced."
—"Fair host, then what should I do?"
-"What, sir? I'll tell you,
771 2 since I see you're eager
to stay alive.
When you decided to come to this place,
I asked you for a boon before we left

7716 Un don, mes ne seustes quel;

Or vos voel ge le don requerre,
Que vos railliez an vostre terre,
Si conteroiz a voz amis

7720 Et as genz de vostre paTs
C'un tel pales veu avez
Que nul si riche ne savez,
Ne vos ne autres ne le set.

7724 —Done dirai ge que Dex me het
Et que ge sui honiz ansanble?
Neporquant, ostes, il me sanble
Que vos le dites por mon bien.

7716 my house, but you didn't know what it was
Now I wish to collect the boon:
you are to return to your land
and tell your friends

7720 and the people of your country
that you've seen a hall
more splendid than any you know,
more splendid than anyone knows!"

7724 -"Shall I then say that I've lost
God's favor and have been dishonored too?
Nevertheless, fair host, it seems
you say it for my good.

7728 **M**es ge nc leiroie por rien
Que ge el lit ne m'ase'i'sse
Et les puceles ne veïsse
Que her soir apoiees vi
7732 Par les fenestres qui sont ci."
Cil qui por mialz fo'i'r recule
Li respont: "Vos n'an verroiz nule
Des puceles don vos parlez,
7736 Mes tot ensi vos an ralez
Con vos estes venuz ceanz,
Que del veoir est il neanz
A oes vostre oes por nule rien,

7728 But nothing will prevent me
from sitting upon the bed
and beholding the maidens
I saw last evening leaning
/7732 out over those windowledges."
Like a man pulling back to deliver a harder
the mariner replied: "You'll not see a one
of those maidens you've mentioned!
7736 But go back out
just as you came in,
for it is no good at all
for you to see them;

7740 Se vos voient orandroit bien
Par mi les fenestres verrines
Les puceles et les re'fnes Et les dames, se
Dex me gart,
7744 Qui sont es chanbres d'autre part.
—Par foi, fet mes sire Gauvains,
El lit me serrai ge au mains,
Se ge les puceles ne voi,
7748 Que ge ne pans mie ne croi
Que tex liz fez estre delist
Se por ce non qu'an i geust,
Ou gentix horn ou haute dame;

7740 yet, so help me God,
the damsels, the queens,
and the ladies who are in those rooms
can see you even now
/744 through these glass windows."
—"By my faith," said my lord Gawain,
"at least I'll sit upon the bed
if I cannot see the maidens,
/748 because I do not think or believe
that such a bed was made
except for a worthy man
or noble lady to lie upon;

7752 Et ge m'irai seoir, par m'ame,
Que que il m'an doie avenir."
Cil voit qu'il nel puet retenir,
Si lesse la parole ester,
7756 Mes il ne puet mie arester
El pales tant que il le voie
El lit seoir, einz tient sa voie
Et dit: "Sire, de vostre mort
7760 M'enuie mout et poise fort,
Que onques chevaliers ne sist
An ce[l] lit que il n'i morist,
Que c'est li Liz de la Mervoille

7752 so by my soul I'll sit upon it,
whatever may be the outcome!"
When the mariner saw he was unable
to stop him, he said no more;
7756 but he could not bear to remain in the hall
long enough to watch him
sit upon the bed, so he went his way
saying: "My lord, I'm very upset
7760 and saddened you must die,
for no knight has ever sat
upon this bed who didn't die,
because it is the Bed of Marvels,

7764 **O**u nus ne dort ne ne somoille
Ne n'i repose ne n'i siet
Que ja mes sains ne vis an liet:
De vos est i! mout granz domaiges
7768 Qant i leiroiz la vie an gaiges
Sanz rachat et sanz reancon.
Qant par amor ne par tancon
Ne vos an puis mener de ci,
7772 Dex ait de vostre ame merci,
Que mes cuers ne porroit sofrir
Que ge vos ve'fsse morir."
Atant fors del pales s'an ist.

7764 whereon no one sleeps or dozes
or rests or sits
and then arises alive and well:
it is a great pity
7768 that you will offer your life in pledge
without hope of ransom or relief.
Since neither affection nor argument
can persuade you to leave this place,
7772 may God have mercy on your soul,
for my heart could never bear it were
I to see you die."
With that he quit the great hall.

7776 **E**t mes sire Gauvains s'asist

El lit si armez com il fu,
Qu'il ot a son col son escu
An l'aseoir que il a fet;

7780 Et les cordes gietent un bret
Et totes les quanpanes sonent
Si que tot le pales estonent,
Et totes les fenestres oevrcnt

7784 Et les mervoilles se descoevrent
Et li anchantemant aperent,
Que par les fenestres volerent
Quarrel et saietes leanz,

7776 And my lord Gawain sat
upon the bed in his full armor,
with his shield strapped over his shoulders,
As he sat down

7780 the stringers screeched
and all the bells rang,
filling the whole hall with noise.

7784 All the windows flew open,
and the wonders were revealed
and the enchantments appeared,
for bolts and arrows flew
in through the windows,

7788 *S*'an ferirent plus de cine cenz

Mon seignor Gauvain an l'escu,
Mes il ne sot qui l'ot feru.

Li anchantemanz tex estoit

7792 Que nus horn veoir nel pooit
De quel part li quarrel venoient
Ne les archiers qui les treoient.

Et ce poez vos bien antandre

7796 Que grant escrois ot au destandre
Des arbalestes et des ars,
N'i volsist estre por mil mars
Mes sire Gauvains a cele ore.

7788 and more than five hundred
struck my lord Gawain's shield;
he did not know what had hit him!

7792 The enchantment was such
that no one could see
from which direction the arrows came,
nor the archers who shot them.

7796 And you can well imagine
the great racket made by the stretching
of so many crossbows and longbows.
At this moment my lord Gawain would have given
a thousand marks not to have been there.

7800 **M**es les fenestres sanz demore
Reclostrent, que nus nes bota,
Et mes sire Gauvains osta
Les quarriax qui feru estoient
7804 An son escu, et si l'avoient
An plusors leus navre el cors
Si que li sans an sailloit fors,
Encois qu'il les eust toz trez,
7808 Li refu sorz uns autres plez,
Qu'uns vilains a un pel feru
An un huis, et li huis ovri
Et uns lyons mout famellos

7800 But in short order the windows
reclosed without anyone touching them,
and my lord Gawain pulled out
the arrows that were stuck
7804 in his shield, and which had
wounded his body in several places
and caused the blood to gush forth.
Before he had pulled them all out,
7808 he was subjected to another trial:
a peasant struck a door
with a club, and the door opened
and a very ravenous,

781 2 **E**t forz et fiers et mervellos

Par l'uis fors d'une chanbre saut

Et mon seignor Gauvain assaut

Par grant fierte et par grant ire,

7816 Que tot ausi con par mi cire

Totes ses ongles li anbat

An son escu, et si l'abat

Si qu'a genolz venir le fet.

7820 Mes il saut sus tantost et tret

Fors del fuerre la bone espee

Et fiert si qu'il li a colpee

La teste et am[b]edeus les piez.

781 2 strong, fierce, and wondrous lion
leapt from a room through the door
and attacked my lord Gawain
with great viciousness and ire;

7816 it ground its claws full length
into my lord Gawain's shield
as if it were wax,
and drove him to his knees.

7820 But he jumped up at once and drew
the good sword from his scabbard
and struck such a blow that he
cut off its head and both forepaws.

7824 Lors fu mes sire Gauvains liez,
Que li pie remestrent pandu
Par les ongles an son escu
Si que li uns parut dedanz
7828 Et li autres defors pendanz.
Qant ii ot le lyon ocis,
Si se rest sor le lit assis,
Et ses ostes o liee chiere
7832 Vint tantost el pales arriere,
Si le trova el lit seant
Et dist: "Sire, ge vos creant
Que vos n'avez mes nule dote.

7824 My lord Gawain was delighted
to see both its paws hanging
on his shield by the claws-
he could see the paws on one side
7828 and the claws sticking through on the other.
After killing the lion,
he sat back down upon the bed,
and his host returned
7832 to the hall with a beaming face,
found him sitting on the bed,
and said: "Sir, I assure you
you have nothing more to fear.

7836 Ostez vostre armeure tote,
Que ies mervoilles del pales
Sont remeses a toz jorz mes
Par vos qui estes ci venuz.
7840 Et des jeunes et des chenuz
Seroiz serviz et enorez
Ceanz, don Dex soit aorez!"
Atant vindrent vaslet a flotes
7844 An cors trop bien vestu de cotes,
Si se metent tuit a genolz
Et d't'ent: "Biax chiers sire dolz,
Noz servises vos presantomes

7836 Remove all your armor,
because the marvels of the great hall
have been forever stilled
by your coming here.
7840 You'll be served and honored
by young and old
herein, may God be praised!"
At that floods of squires came up,
7844 all very handsomely clad in tunics;
they all fell to their knees,
saying: "Fair dear sweet sir,
we offer you our services;

7848 **C**om a celui que nos avomes
Mout atandu et desirre,
Que trop vos avez demore
A oes nostre oes, ce m'est avis."
7852 Maintenant li uns d'ax i'a pris,
Si le comance a desarmer,
Et li autre vont establir
Son cheval qui defors estoit.
7856 Et que que il se desarmoit,
Une pucele antre leanz
Qui mout ert bele et avenanz,
Sor son chief un cercelet d'or,

7848 you are the one we have
long been awaiting and hoping for,
though you have been a very long time
coming to us, I feel."
7852 Immediately one of them came forward
and began to remove his armor,
and others went to stable
his horse, which was still outside.
7856 And as he was being disarmed,
a very beautiful and attractive
maiden, who had a golden band
upon her head, and whose hair

7852 **M**aintenant li uns d'ax i'a pris,
Si le comance a desarmer,
Et li autre vont establir
Son cheval qui defors estoit.
7856 Et que que il se desarmoit,
Une pucele antre leanz
Qui mout ert bele et avenanz,
Sor son chief un cercelet d'or,
7860 Don li chevoi estoient sor
Autant come li ors ou plus;
La face ot blanche, et par desus
L'ot anluminee Nature

7852 Immediately one of them came forward
and began to remove his armor,
and others went to stable
his horse, which was still outside.
7856 And as he was being disarmed,
a very beautiful and attractive
maiden, who had a golden band
upon her head, and whose hair
7860 was as blond as gold,
or more so, entered the room;
her face was white, and Nature
had highlighted it

7864 **D**'une color vermoille et pure.

La pucele fu mout adroite,
Bele et bien fete, longue et droite,
Et apres li vindrent puceles

7868 Autres assez gentes et beles.
Et uns toz seus vaslez i vln
Qui une robe a son col tint
Et cote et mantel et sorcot.

7872 Pane d'ermine el mantel ot
Et sabelin noir come more,
Et la couverture desorc
Fu d'une escarlate vermoille.

7864 with a pure and rosy tint.
The maiden was very graceful,
beautiful and well-formed, tall and erect;
and she was followed by other

7868 very noble and beautiful maidens.
And there came a single young squire,
who had a robe over his shoulders,
a cloak, mantle, and surcoat.

7872 The mantle was lined in ermine
and sable black as mulberries,
and the outside
was of splendid red material.

7876 **M**es sire Gauvains se mervoille

Des puceles qu'il voit venir,
Ne ne se puet mie tenir
Qu'ancontre eles ne saille an piez,

7880 Et dlt: "Puceles, bien vaigniez!"

Et la premiere li ancline
Et dit; "Ma dame la re'i'ne,
Biax sire chiers, saluz vos mande,

7884 Et a totes ces genz comande

Que por lor droit seignor vos teignent
Et que totes servir vos veignent.
Je vos promet le mien servise

7876 My lord Gawain marvelled

at the maidens he saw approaching
and could not stop himself
from leaping to his feet to greet them,

7880 saying: "Welcome, fair maidens!"

And the one who came first bowed to him
and said: "Fair dear sir,
my lady the queen sends you greetings

7884 and has ordered all her people

to consider you their rightful lord
and to come serve you one and all.
I offer you my service

7888 **T**ote premiere sanz faintise,
Et ces puceles qui ci viennent
Totes por lor seignor vos tienent,
Que mout desirre vos avoient.
7892 Or sont liees quant eles voient
Le mellor de toz les prodomes.
Sire, or n'i a plus que nos somes
De vos servir aparelliees,"
7896 A cest mot sont agenoilliees
Trestoes, et si li anclinent
Come celes qui se destinent
A lui servir et enorer,

7888 before all others without deceit,
and these maidens coming here
all consider you their lord,
for they have long hoped for your coming.
7892 Now they are happy when they behold
the best of all gentlemen.
Sir, there is nothing more to say, for we are
all prepared to serve you."
7896 With these words they all knelt
down and bowed to him,
for they had all sworn themselves
to his service and glory.

7900 **E**t il les fet sanz demorer

Relever et puis asseoir,
Que mout li pleisent a veoir,
Auqucs por ce que beles sont
7904 Et plus por ce que ele[s] font
De lui lor prince et lor seignor,
Joie a, c'onques mes n'ot greignor,
De Tenor que Dex li a fete.

7908 Lors s'est la pucele avant trete,
Et dit: "Ma dame vos anvoie
Por vestir, ainz qu'ele vos voie,
Ceste robe, que ele cuide,

7900 He had them rise
at once and take seats,
for they were very delightful to behold,
not only because they were beautiful
7904 but more especially because they had made
of him their prince and their lord.
He was happy, and had never been happier,
for the honor God had bestowed upon him.
7908 Then the maiden came forward
and said: "My lady sends you
this robe to put on before she
sees you, because she believes,

7912 **C**ome cele qui n'est pas vuide

De corteisie ne de san,
Que grant travail et grant ahan
Et grant enui eu avez.

7916 Mes vestez la, si Fassaiez
S'ele est bone a vostre mesure,
Qu'apres le chaut, de la froidure
Se gardent cil qui saige sont,

7920 Que Tan an sancmesle et anfont.*
Por ce ma dame la re'fne
Vos anvoie robe d'ermine
Que froidure mal ne vos face,

7912 being filled as she is
with courtesy and wisdom,
that you have undergone
great sufferings and tribulations.

7916 So put it on, and see
if it is a good size for you,
because it is prudent to dress warmly
against the cold after hot exercise,

7920 lest one become numb and chilled.
Thus my lady the queen
sends you an ermine robe
so that the cold won't harm you,

7924 **Q**u'ausi con l'eve devient glace
Betist li sans et prant ansanble,
Après le chaut, quant li horn tranble."

7928 Et mes sire Gauvains respont
Come li plus cortois del mont:
"Ma dame la re'i'ne saut
Cil Sire an cui nul[s] bien[s] ne faut,
Et vos come la bien parlant

7932 Et la cortoise et l'avenant!
Mont est, ce cuit, la dame sage
Qant si cortois sont si message;
Ele set bien que a mestier

7924 for blood congeals in the veins
when a man shivers after hot exercise,
just as water turns to ice."
And my lord Gawain replied,
7928 like the most courteous man in the world:
"May the all-perfect Lord
save my lady the queen,
and you, too, for your kind words,

7932 your courtesy, and your charm.
I believe the lady who has
such a courteous messenger must be wise indeed;
she is well aware of what a knight

7936 **E**t que covient a chevalier
Quant ele, la soe merci,
Robe a vestir m'anvoie ci:
Merc'i'ez l'an mout de par moi.
7940 —Si ferai ge, gel vos otroi,
Fet la pucele, volantiers,
Et vos porroiz andemantiers
Vestir et esgarder les estres
7944 De cest pais par ces fenestres,
Et porroiz, se vos plest, monter
An cele tor por esgarder
Forez et plainnes et rivieres

7936 needs and requires
when she—and I thank her for it—
sends me a robe to wear.
Please thank her sincerely for me."
7940 —"I assure you I shall gladly
do so," said the maiden.
"And while you are waiting, you may
dress and gaze out over
7944 the countryside through these windows;
and, if you like, you can climb
up into this tower to see
the forests, plains, and rivers

7948 **T**ant que ge revanrai arrieres."

Atant la pucele s'an torne.

Et mes sire Gauvains s'atorne

De la robe qui mout fu riche,

7952 Et son col d'un fermail afiche

Qui pandoit a la chevecaille;

Puis a talant que veoir aille

Les estres qui an la torsont.

7956 Antre lul et son oste i vont,

Si s'an montent par une viz

Ancoste le pales vostiz

Tant qu'il vindrent an son la tor,

7948 until I have returned."

With that the maiden departed.

My lord Gawain dressed himself

in the robe, which was very costly,

7952 and fastened the neck with a clasp

that was hanging at the collar.

Then he wished to go see the view

from the tower.

7956 Accompanied by the mariner,

he climbed a spiral staircase

along the wall of the vaulted hall

until they reached the top of the tower

7960 **E**t voient le pa'i's antor
Plus bel que Tan ne porroit dire.
Mes sire Gauvains tot remire
La riviere et les terres plainnes
7964 Et les forez de bestes plainnes,
S'an a son oste regarde,
Et si II dist: "Ostes, par De,
Ci me plect mout a converser
7968 Por aler chacier et berser
An ces forez ci devant nos.
—Sire, de ce vos poez vos,
Fet li notoniers, mout bien tere,

7960 and could see the surrounding countryside,
more beautiful than words can describe.
My lord Gawain gazed at all
the rivers and flatlands,
7964 and the forests full of wild game;
then he looked at the mariner
and said: "Dear host, so heip me God,
I'd love to stay here
7968 to go hunting and shooting
in these nearby forests."
—"My lord, you'd do well to speak
no more of this," said the mariner,

7972 **Q**ue j'ai oi sovant retrere
Que cil cui Dex tant ameroit
Que Pan ceanz ie clamerolt
Mestre et seignor et avoe,
7976 Qu'il estestabli et voe
Que il ja mes de ces meisons
N'istroit, ou fust torz ou reison[sj.
Por ce ne vos covient parier
7980 Ne de chacier ne de berser,
Que ceanz avez le sejour,
Ja mes n'an istroiz a nul jor.
—Ostes, fet il teisiez vos an!

7972 for I've often heard it told
that it was vowed and determined
that whoever God would love so dearly
that the people of this castle would proclaim him
7976 their master and lord and protector,
would never again leave this manor,
whether for right or for wrong.
Therefore you must not speak
7980 of hunting or shooting;
here is where you'll stay:
you'll never leave this castle again."
—"Dear host," he said, "speak no more of this!

7984 **J**a me gitereiez del san
Se plus dire le vos ooie!
Si m'aTt Dex, ge ne porroie
Jus qu'a set jorz vivre ceanz,
7988 Ne plus que jus qu'a set vinz anz,
Por ce que ge ne m'an ississe
Totes les foiz que ge volsisse."
Atant s'an est jus avalez,
7992 Si s'an rest el pales antrez
Mout correciez et mout pansis,
Si se rest sor le lit assis
A chiere mout dolante et morne,

7984 "You'll drive me out of my mind
if I hear you say that again!
So help me God, i couldn't live here
for as many as seven days,
7988 any more than for seven score years,
if I didn't have the possibility
of leaving whenever I wanted."
At that he came down
7992 and went back into the great hall
very angry and upset;
he sat back down upon the bed
with a sorrowful and downcast face,

7996 **T**ant que la pucele retourne
Qui devant este i avoit.
Qant mes sire Gauvains la volt,
Si s'est ancontre li dreciez
8000 Si com il estoit correciez,
Si l'a maintenant saliJee;
Et cele vit qu'il ot miiee
La parole et la contenance,
8004 Si parut bien a sa sanblance
Qu'il est iriez d'aucune chose;
Mes sanblant fere ne l'an ose,
Einz dit: "Sire, quant vos pleira,

7996 until the maiden returned
who had been there before.
When my lord Gawain saw her,
he stood up to meet her
8000 though he was still ill-tempered,
and greeted her at once;
she noticed that his words
and countenance were much altered,
8004 and it certainly appeared from his face
that, something had annoyed him;
but she did not dare let on she knew,
and said: "Sir, whenever you please

8008 **M**a dame veoir vos vanra.

Et li mangiers est atornez,
Si mangeroiz, se vos volez,
Ou ga aval ou la amont."

8012 Et mes sire Gauvains respont:
"Bele, ge n'ai de mangier cure.
Li miens cors ait male aventure
Quant mangerai, ne n'avrei joie
8016 Devant qu'autre[s] noveles oie
Don ge me puisse resjo'i'r,
Que grant mestier ai de l'o'i'r."
La pucele mout esmaiee

8008 my lady will come to see you.
The dinner is prepared
and you can eat, if you wish,
either down here or up there."

8012 My lord Gawain replied:
"My beauty, I don't wish to eat.
May I be cursed
if I eat or have any pleasure
8016 before I've heard other news—
which I really need to hear
to cheer me up."
Much abashed, the maiden

8020 **S'**an est maintenant repeirie[e],
Et la re'me a soi l'apele,
Si li demande: "Quel novele?
Bele niece, fet ia re'me,
8024 De quel estre et de quel covine
Avez le chevalier trove
Que Dex nos a ceanz done?
—Ha! dame, re'me enoree,
8028 De duel sui morte et acoree
Del franc seignor, del debonaire
Dont an ne puet parole traire
Qui ne soit de corroz ou d'ire!

8020 returned at once to the queen,
who motioned to her
and asked: "What news,
sweet granddaughter?"* said the queen.
8024 "In what state, in what mood
did you find the good lord
whom God has given us?"
-"Ah, my lady, honored queen,
8028 my heart is mortally wounded
because the only words one can elicit
from the noble and highborn knight
are words of wrath and anger.

8032 **E**t le por coi ne vos sal dire,

Qu'il net m'a dit ne ge nel sai,
Ne demander ne li osai.

Mes bien vos puis dire de lui

8036 Que ia premiere foiz gehui

Le trovai si bien afeitie,

Si bien parlantetsi haitie

Qu'an ne se poïst saoler

8040 De ses paroles escoter

Ne de veoir sa bele chiere.

Or est si tost d'autre meniere,

Qu'il voldroit estre morz, ce cuit,

8032 Nor can I tell you the reason why,
for he didn't tell me and I don't know
and I didn't dare ask him.

8036 But I can well assure you
that the first time I saw him
today I found him so polite,
so talkative, so happy,

8040 that I couldn't hear enough
of his words or see enough
of his handsome face.

But all of a sudden he is so changed
that I think he'd rather be dead,

8044 **Q**u'il n'ot rien qui ne li enuit.
—Niece, or ne vos an esmaiez,
Que il sera tost rapaiez
Maintenant que il me verra:
8048 Ja si grant ire el cuer n'avra
Que tost ne Tan ale fors mise
Et grant joie an leu d'ire mise."
Lors s'est la re'ine esmeie,
8052 Si s'an est el pales venue,
Et l'autre re'ine avoec li
Cui li alers mout abeli,
Et menerent bien apres eles

8044 for everything he hears annoys him."
—"Don't worry, grand-daughter,
for he'll calm down completely
as soon as he sees me:
8048 no matter how great the anger in his heart,
I'll swiftly banish it
and put great joy in its place."
Then the queen stirred
8052 and came into the great hall,
along with the other queen
who was delighted to accompany her,
and after them trailed

8056 **B**ien cent cinquante dameiseles

Et autretant vaslez au mains.
Tantost con mes sire Gauvains
Voit la re'i'ne qui venoit

8060 Et I'autre par la main tenoit,
Et ses cuers li dit et devine
Que ce estoit cele reïne
Dont ii avoit oï parler,

8064 Mes asez le pot deviner
A ce qu'il vTt les treces blanches
Qui li pandoient sor les hanches;
Et fu d'un diapre vestue

8056 a good hundred and fifty damsels
and at least as many squires.
As soon as my lord Gawain
saw the queen coming

8060 hand in hand with the other queen,
his heart guessed and told him
that this was the queen
about whom he had heard tell.

8064 This was not hard to guess
from seeing the white tresses
that hung down over her hips;
and she was clad in a white silk gown

8068 **B**lanc a flor d'or, d'uevre menue.

Qant mes sire Gauvains l'esgarde,
D'aler contre li ne se tarde,
Si la salue et ele lui,

8072 Etsi li dist: "Sire, ge sui
Dame apres vos de cest pales:
La seignorie vos an les,
Que mout I'avez bien desservie.

8076 Mes estes vos de la mesnie
Le roi Artu? —Dame, o'il voir.
—Et estes vos, gel voel savoir,
Des chevaliers de l'eschargaite

8068 with golden flowers, delicately woven.

As soon as my lord Gawain saw her
he was not slow to approach her;
he greeted her and she him,

8072 saying: "Sir, after you
I am lady of this palace.
I yield you its lordship,
for you have well deserved it.

8076 But are you from the household
of King Arthur?" —"My lady, I am indeed."

"And are you, I'd like to know,
a knight of the king's watch,

8080 Qui ont mainte proesce faite?

—Dame, nenil. —Bien vos an croi.

Et estes vos, dites le moi,

De ces de la Table Reonde

8084 Qui sont les plus prisie del monde?

-Dame, fet il, ge n'oseroie

Dire que des plus prisiez soie,

Ne me faz mie des meillors

8088 Ne ne cult estre des peiors."

Et ele li respont: "Biau[s] sire,

Grant cortiesie vos oi dire

Qui ne vos ametez ie pris

8080 who have done so many deeds of prowess?"

"I am not, my lady." - "As you say.

Then tell me, are you ,

a Knight of the Round Table,

8084 one of the most worthy in the world?"

- "My lady," he answered, "I wouldn't dare

say that I 'm one of the most worthy.

I don't count myself among the best,

8088 nor do I think I'm one of the worst."

And she replied: "Fair sir,

these are most courteous words I hear,

when you don't accord yourself the praise

8092 **D**el mialz ne del blasme le pis.
(vies or me dites del roi Lot,
De sa fame quanz filz il ot.
—Dame, quatre. —Or les me nomez.
8096 —Dame, Gauvains est li ainz nez
Et li seconz est Agravains,
Li Orguilleus as dures mains;
Gaerïez et Gaeres*
8100 Ont non li altre dui apres."
Et la re'i'ne li redit:
"Sire, se Damedex m'a'ft,
Ensi ont il non, ce me sanble.

8092 due the best, nor the blame due the worst.
But tell me now about King Lot:
how many sons did he have by his wife?"
8096 "Four, my lady." —"Tell me their names."
—"My lady, Gawain is the eldest;
the second is Agravain,
the Proud Knight with tough hands;
Gaheris and Gareth
8100 are the names of the last two."
And again the queen spoke:
"Sir, as God is my support,
it seems to me those are their names.

8104 Car pleust Deu que tuit ansamble

Fussent or ci avoeques nos!

Or me dites, conuissiez vos

Le roi Un'en? —Dame, o'il.

8108 -Eta ii alacortnul fii?

—Dame, o'il, deus de grant renon.

Li uns mes sire Yveins a non,

Li cortois, li bien afeitiez:

8112 Tot le jor an sui plus heitiez

Quant au matin veoir ie puis,

Tant sage et tant cortois le truis.

Et li autres ra non Yvains

8104 Would to God they were all
here with us now!

Tell me now, do you know

King Urien?" —"Yes, my lady."

8108 -"Does he have a son at court?"

"Yes, my lady, two very renowned sons.

One is called my lord Yvain,

the courteous and well-mannered:

8112 I find him so wise and courteous

that it makes me happier all day long

when I can see him in the morning.

And the other is also called Yvain,

8116 Qui n'est pas ses freres germains;

Por ce l'apele l'an Avoutre
Que cil toz les chevaliers outre
Qui meslee prenent alui.

8120 Cil sont a la cort am[b]edui
Mout preu, mout sage et mout cortois.

—Biax sire, fet ele, li rois
Artus, comant se contient ore?

81 24 —Mialz qu'il ne fist onques ancore,
Plus sains, plus legiers et plus forz.

—Par foi, sire, ce n'est pas torz,
Qu'il est anfes, li rois Artus:

8116 but he's not his full brother,
so they call him the Bastard,
and he defeats all knights
who oppose him in battle.

81 20 At court they are both
very noble, very wise, and very courteous."

—"Fair sir," said she, "and how
goes it with King Arthur now?"

8124 —"Better than he ever was before:
he's healthier, happier, and stronger."

—"Upon my word," she said, "that's not surprising,
for he's still a child, King Arthur.

8128 **S**'il a cent anz, il n'a pas plus,
Ne plus n'an puet il pas avoir.
Mes ancor voel de vos savoir
Que vos me dites seulesant
8132 De l'estre et del contenemant
La re'i'ne, s'il ne vos poise.
—Dame, voir, ele est tant cortoise
Et tant est bele et tant est sage
8136 Que Dex ne fist loi ne lengage
Ou Tan trovast si sage dame:
Des que Dex la premiere fame
Ot de la coste Adan formee,

8128 If he's a hundred, he's no more;
he couldn't be a day over that.
But there is still more I'd like to learn
from you: please tell me
8132 about the bearing and comportment
of the queen, if it's not too much trouble."
—"Indeed, my lady, she is so courteous
and so beautiful and so full of wisdom
8136 that God has not created any other place
where one could find so wise a lady.
No lady has been so renowned
since God formed the first

8140 Ne fu dame si renomee,
Et ele le doit mout bien estre.
Tot ausi con li sages mestre
Les petiz anfanz andoctrine,
8144 Ausi ma dame !a re'i'ne
Tot le monde anseigne et aprant,
Que de li toz li biens descent
Et de li vient et de li muet.
8148 De ma dame partir ne puet
Nus qui desconselliez s'an aut,
Qu'ele set bien que chascuns vaut
Et que an doit a chascun fere

8140 woman from Adam's rib;
and she is very rightly so acclaimed.
Just as the wise master
instructs the little children,
8144 so my lady the queen
teaches and instructs everyone,
for every good thing has
its source and origin in her.
8148 It is impossible for anyone
to depart unhappy from my lady,
for she knows each person's worth exactly,
and what must be done

81 52 **P**or ce qu'ele li doie plerc;

Nus horn bien ne enor ne fait
A cui ma dame apris ne l'ait,
Ne ja nus n'iert si desheitiez*

81 56 Qui de ma dame parte iriez.
—Nel feroiz vos, sire, de moi.
— Dame, fet il, bien vos an croi,

8160 Que envois que ge vos ve'fsse
Ne me chaloit que ge feïsse,
Tant estoie maz et dolanz.
Or sui si liez et si joianz
Que je ne porroie plus estre.

8152 in order for her to please him;
no man behaves well or honorably
without having learned it from my lady,
and no man, however miserable,
8156 leaves my lady's presence sad."
"Nor will you leave my presence sad, sir."
—"My lady," he said, "I can well believe you,
because before I saw you
8160 I didn't care what I did,
I was so sad and downcast.
But now I am as happy and joyful
as I could possibly be."

8164 —**S**ire, par Deu qui me fist nestre,
Fet la re'fne as blanches treces,
Ancor dobleront voz leeces
Et crestra vostre joie ades,
8168 Ne ce ne vos faudra ja mes.
Et quant vos estes bauz et iiez,
Li mangiers est aparelliez,
Si mangeroiz quant vos pleira
8172 An quel que leu que vos serra:
Se vos piest, ceisus mangeroiz,
Et s'il vos plest, vos an vanroiz
Es chanbres la desoz mangier.

8164 -"Sir, by the God who gave me life,"
said the queen with the white tresses,
"your happiness will double
and your joy constantly increase,
8168 and never again will they desert you.
And now that you are gay and happy,
dinner has been prepared;
you may eat whenever you are ready
8172 and wherever you please:
you may eat up here if you wish,
or, if you prefer, you may come
down to eat in the chambers below."

8176 —**D**ame, je ne quier ja changier

Por nule chanbre cest pales,
Que l'an m'a dit que onques mes
Chevaliers n'i manja ne sist.

8180 -Non, sire, qui vis an rissist
Ne qui vis i demorast mie
Une liuee ne demie.

—Dame, done i mangerai gié,

8184 Se vos m'an donez le congie.

—Gel vos doing, sire, volantiers,
Et vos seroiz toz li premiers
Chevaliers qui mangie i a.

8176 -"My lady, I would not like
to trade this hall for any chambers,
for I have been told that
no knight ever sat or ate here."

8180 --"No, my lord, none who ever
emerged alive or stayed alive
for even half a moment."

8184 -"My lady, then I shall eat here
if you give me your permission."

-"Sir, I give it gladly,
and you will be the first
knight ever to eat here."

8188 " **A**tant la reine s'an va,
Si li lesse de ses puceles
Bien cent cinquante des plus beles
Qui el pales lez lui mangierent,
8192 Sel servirent et losangiercncnt
De quan que il vint a talant.
Vaslet servirent plus de cent
Au mangier, don li un estoient
8196 Tuit blanc, et li autre mesloient*
De chenes et li autre non;
Li altre barbe ne grenon
N'avoient, et de cez li dui

8188 At that the queen departed,
leaving a good hundred and fifty
of her most beautiful maidens with him
who dined beside him in the great hall,
8192 serving him and providing him
with whatever he desired.
More than a hundred squires served
at dinner, some of whom were
8196 all white-headed, others were
graying, and others not;
others had neither beard
nor moustache, and two of these

8200 **A**genolz furent devant lui,

Si servirent li uns del taillier
Et li autres del vin baillier.

Mes sire Gauvains coste a coste

8204 Fist delez lui mangier son oste,
Et li mangiers ne fu pas corz,
Qu'il dura plus que uns des jorz
Antor Natevite ne dure,

8208 Qu'il fu nuiz serree et obscure,
Et mout i ot ars gros tortiz
Einz que li mangiers fust feniz.
Sor le mangier ot mout paroles

8200 latter knelt together before him,
one carving his meat for him
and the other pouring his wine.

8204 My lord Gawain had the mariner
sit beside him to eat;
and the dinner was not short:
it lasted longer than one of
the days around Christmas,*

8208 For dark night had fallen
and many large torches were lit
before the meal was finished.
During dinner there was much

8212 **E**t mout ot dances et caroies.

Après mangier, einz qu'il colchassent,
De joie faire tuit se lassent
Por lor seignor qu'il ont mout chier.

8216 Et quant il volt aler colchier,
SI jut el Lit de la Mervoille.
Un orellier desoz s'oroille

Une des puceles li mist
8220 Qui aeise dormir le fist.

8212 conversation, and afterwards,
before going to bed, many rounds were danced; they all
wearièd themselves making merry
over their dearly beloved lord.

8216 And when he was ready for bed,
he lay down upon the Bed of Marvels.
A damsel placed
a pillow under his ear

8220 which helped him sleep comfortably.