

Tristan Rossignol, Tristan Menestrel

Edited and Translated

by

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INTRODUCTION

Karen Fresco offers here new editions and translations of two additional texts that, like the *Folies Tristan*, recount Tristan's return for a conversation or a tryst with Iseut. In *Tristan Rossignol* ("Tristan the Nightingale") the hero imitates birdcalls—the parrot, the oriole, and especially the nightingale—to provide Iseut with the opportunity to join him outside the castle one night. Of particular interest is her assaulting the dwarf when he accuses her of perfidy and attempts to prevent her leaving; Mark awakens, but the queen's action, being open and obvious rather than furtive, persuades him that she is guiltless. This episode is part of *Le Donnei des Amants* (ll. 453–660), where a man recounts it to urge a lady to grant him her love. The manuscript that preserves it is Cod. Bodmer 82 (formerly Phillipps 3713), 20r_a–21r_b.

Tristan Menestrel ("Tristan the Minstrel") is drawn from Gerbert de Montreuil's Fourth Continuation of Chrétien de Troyes's *Perceval*, where it occupies lines 3309–4832. In this longer text, Tristan, after distinguishing himself in jousts against Arthur's greatest knights, assumes the role and disguise of a minstrel and travels to Mark's court, along with other knights. Seeing him, Iseut is initially uncertain that it is he; finally, she is convinced; and Tristan eventually elicits from Mark the promise that the latter will pardon him and will henceforth allow him access to every place in the kingdom except the queen's chamber. This text is extant in two manuscripts: Paris, B.N., fr. 12576 and Paris, B.N., nouv. acq. fr. 6614.

Tristan Rossignol

"Oï! Bele, poi vus sovent
E relment en memorie tent
Quel chose Ysoud fit pur Tristran
Quant ne l'aveit veü d'un an,
5 E il repeira de Bretaine
Sanz compaignun e sanz compaigne.*
Entur la nut, en un gardin,
A une funtaine suz un pin
Suz l'arbre Tristran [se] seeit
10 E aventure i atendeit.
Humain language de[g]uisa
Cum cil que l'aprist de peça:
Il cuntrefit le russinol,
La papingai, le oriol,
15 E les oiseals de la gaudine.
Ysoude escote, la reïne,
Ou gisout juste le rei Mark,
Mes el ne sout de quele part.
De cele voiz ne sout en fin
20 Si fu el parc ou el gardin,
Mes par cel chant ben entendi
Ke pres de luec ot sun ami.
De grant engin esteit Tristrans:
Apris l'aveit en tendres anz,
25 Chascun oisel sout contrefere
Ki en forest vent ou repeire.
Tristans feseit te[l] melodie
Od grant dousur ben loinz oïe.
N'est quer enteins de murdrisur
30 Ke de cel chant n'eüst tendrur.
Ore est Ysoud en grant anguise
E pru n'entent que fere pusse,
Kar leïnz sunt dis chevalers
Ki ne servent d'autres mesters
35 Fors de guaiter la bele Ysoud.
N'istrat pas fors quant ele volt.
Defors oït sun ami cher;
Cil sunt dedenz pur lui guaiter,
E li fel neims que mut plus doute
40 Ke trestuz ceus de l'autre rute.
Entre ses braz le rei la tent.
Tristran dehors e chante e gient

[20r_a]

[20r_b]

Tristan Rossignol

"Alas! Fair lady, you scarcely remember
and rarely call to mind
what Iseult did for Tristan
when she had not seen him for a year
and he returned from Britain
without any companion or entourage.
Towards nightfall, in a garden
with a fountain beneath a pine tree,
Tristan was sitting beneath the tree
awaiting adventure.

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He disguised his human language
with a skill that he had learned long ago:
he imitated the nightingale,
the parrot, the oriole
and the birds in the forest.

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Iseult, the queen, was listening
as she lay next to King Mark,
but she did not know where the birdsong was coming from.
She could not tell whether this voice
came from the park or the garden,
but she understood clearly from this song
that her lover was nearby.

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Tristan was very clever:
in his youth he had learned
to imitate each bird
that comes to or inhabits the forest.

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Tristan made such a melody
that its great sweetness could be heard far away.
There is no heart filled with murderous intent
that would not have been softened by this song.

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Now Iseult feels great anguish
and does not see clearly what she might do,
for inside the hall are ten knights
who have no other business
than to guard the lovely Iseult.

35

She will not go out when she wishes.
She hears her dear lover outside;
inside are the knights who guard her
and the treacherous dwarf whom she fears even more
than all of those in the other group.
The king holds her in his arms.
Outside Tristan sings and laments

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- Cum russinol que prent congé
En fin d'esté od grant pité.
45 Ysoud en ad dolur e ire,
Plure des oilz, del quer suspire,
E si ad dit mut belement,
Tut suspirant, sanz ovrir dent,
'Ja n'en ai jo fors une vie
50 Mes cele est dreit par mi partie:
L'autre part ai e Tristran l'une.
Nostre vie est dreit[e] commune,
Mes cele part ki est la fors
Ai plus chere que le men cors.
55 Poi preiserai ceste de ça
Si cele part perist de la.
J'ai si le cors, il ad le quer;
Perir nel lerra[i] a nul fuer.
La voi jo, quei que m'en avenge;
60 Ki que fole ou sage me tengé,
Reseive jo ou mort ou plaie.
Or seit tut en la Deu maneie!
Mut belement des braz le rei
Se deslaça tut en ccrei.
65 Tote nue fors sa chemise
Del lit le rei Ysoud s'est mise.
En un mantel forré de gris
Alec s'est, covert le vis,
E par les chevaliers trespassé
70 Dunt ad leïnz une grant masse,
Si les trova tuz endormiz,
Asquans en l'eire, asquanz en liz.
Cum aventure adunc esteit
Ke mut belement cele aveneit,
75 Kar il esteient custumer
Tut autrement la nuit veiller:
Quant cinc reposent en dormant,
Li autre cinc furent veillant,
Asquans as us [ou] a[s] fenestres
80 Pur despier defors les estres,
Dunt il furent mut curius.
Kar dure vie unt li gelus:
Ire, tençun o[n]t chescun jor;
La nuit, suspectiu e p[ajor].
85 Tres ben veium que li dolent
Turmenté sunt assez greffment.
Si tel dolur pur verité
Suffrissent cil pur l'amur Dé,
Gelus que unt lor quer frarin
90 Serreient dunc martir en fin!

[20v_a]

like a nightingale taking its leave
in piteous tones at summer's end.
Filled with grief and frustration,
Iseult weeps, sighs deeply,
and says very softly,
as she sighs, under her breath,
'I only have one life
but it is divided clean in two:
Tristan has one half and I the other.
Our life is held in common,
but the half that is outside there
I hold dearer than my own body.
I shall put little value on this half
if that half dies.
I have the body here, he has the heart;
I will not let it die whatever might befall.
I am going out there, whatever may happen to me,
whether people consider me foolish or wise,
whether I die or am wounded.
May everything now be in God's hands!' 50
Gently she slipped from the king's arms,
unnoticed.
Naked except for her shift 65
Yseut got out of the king's bed.
In a cloak lined in miniver
she left, her face covered,
and passed through the knights,
of whom there was a great throng,
finding all of them asleep,
some on the floor, others in beds.
This was a coincidence
that suited her extremely well,
for they were accustomed
to watch through the night quite differently: 75
while five were sleeping,
another five kept watch
at doors and at windows
to mount surveillance outside the private rooms,
about which they were extremely curious.
For jealous husbands have a hard life:
they endure anger and quarelling every day;
at night, suspicion and fear.
We see clearly that these wretches 85
suffer grievous torments.
In truth, if they endured this suffering
for the love of God,
jealous husbands with their base hearts
would end up being martyrs! 90

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- Ki me demande di c[el] non
 E si en volt oïr raisun
 Pur quei seit cil nomé gelus
 Ke pur sa femme est envius
 95 E si la garde estreitemt
 D'ome estrange e de parent,
 La dreite reisun si orrez
 Pur quei gelus est apellez.
 Gelus est nomé de gelee
 100 Ke l'ewe moille tent fermee.*
 Ben aparceit k'i met sa cure
 Qu'ele est gelee en sa nature.
 Tost pora sa nature entendre
 Ke alques velt de garde prendre:
 105 Gele[e] est freide e si est dure
 E mut estreit[e] a demesure.
 Ewe corante si ferm lie
 Ke ne se put remuer mie,
 Coure de li ne departir,
 110 Plus ke dame de chambre issir
 Ke gelus tent en sa baillie
 E garde en prend par Gelasie.
 Gelee terre mole e[n]dure
 Cum[e] cailloy eschet e dure,*
 115 E tant l'estreint par sun geler
 Ke buef ne la put reverser.
 Dure e freide est asprement
 E li geluz est ensement.
 Par sa feme est refreidiz:
 120 Surs est a granz e a petiz,
 A sa femme nomeement,
 Kar il la guaite estreitemt.
 Enteins que lui fait un regard,
 Le gelus tut [s]e deive e art.
 125 Ne put fere a sa feme ren,
 N'il ne suffre qu'autre i ait ben,
 Joie ne ben ne nul deduit.
 Estreit la garde e jor e nuit
 E mut espie sun afaire.
 130 Trop li est durs e de mal eire.
 Pur ço qu[e] il est durs e freiz
 E tent sa feme en grant destreiz--
 En fermine la garde e prent
 Cum[e] gellee l'ewe tent--
 135 Par tel reisun tut a estrus
 De gelle[e] est nomé gelus.
 Ma dame Ysoud fu ensement
 Guaite[e] mult esteitemt.

[20v_b]

- If anyone asks me about this term
and wishes to hear the reason
why a man is called jealous
who is envious of his wife
and keeps her strictly
from strange men and relatives,
you shall hear the true reason
why he is called jealous. 95
- The term jealous comes from ice,*
which keeps flowing water enclosed. 100
- If one bends one's attention to the matter, one sees clearly
that such water is essentially frozen.
One will be able to understand its nature
if one is a little observant:
ice is cold and hard 105
and excessively constricting.
It encloses flowing so firmly
that it cannot move at all,
nor run from it nor leave it
any more than a lady, 110
whom a jealous husband keeps in his dominion
and guards under Jealousy's sign, may leave her room.
- Ice hardens the soft earth
until it is like a dry, hard pebble,
and it compresses it so by freezing 115
that an ox could not plow it over.
Ice is extremely hard and cold
and so is the jealous husband.
He is made cold by his wife:
he is hard toward great and small,
toward his wife in particular,
for he watches her closely. 120
- Especially when she casts him a look,
the jealous husband loses his head and burns with desire.
He could do nothing to his wife 125
and cannot endure that another take his pleasure with her,
or experience joy, advantage or any delight with her.
He guards her closely day and night
and spies on her movements.
He is excessively hard and ill disposed toward her. 130
- Because he is hard and cold
and keeps his wife in harsh subjection--
he guards and constrains her in a fortress
as ice constricts water--
this is certainly why 135
the term jealous comes from ice.
In like manner my lady Iseult
was closely guarded.

- 140 Mes cele nuit quant fu leve[e],
Par mi les gueiturs est alee,
Belement vint ci que a l'us;
E quant la barre trait [en] sus,
Li anelez un poi sona
E li culvers neim s'eveilla.
- 145 Esgardé [a] de totes parz
Cum fel culvert de males ars:
A ço qu'Yseut l'us deferma
Le neims s'escrie 'E, la! E, la!'
La reïne s'en ist tut bel
- 150 E cil saut sus cum arundel
E s'afuble d'un mantelet.
Corant aprés Yseut se met,
Par cel braz destre le saka.
'Avoi, dame, fet il, 'esta!
- 155 A quel ure de chambre issez?
Mar i portastes unc les pez
Kar, par mun chef, ne poi ne grant
De leauté ne vei semblant!
Ysoud en ad al quer errur:
- 160 La palme leve par vigur
E tele buffe al neim dona
Ke quatre denz li eslocha,
E si [li] dit od murne chere,
'Soude[e] aiez de chamberere!'
- 165 Le naim trebuche sur un banc;
La gule aveit plein[e] de sanc.
[Gient] li crapouz e crie en halt
Il chet e leve e pus tressaut.
Tel noise e brai e cri leva
- 170 Ke li rei Mark s'en [es]veilla,
Si demande quel noisse i ait.
'Sire,' fait il, 'malement vait:
La reïne m'ad si tué
E de sun poin tut endenté
- 175 Ke ele issi tut a larun
Sanz compaignie ou compaignun.
Tantost cum jo la vi issir,
Si la voleie jo tenir:
Del poin me feri a tel ire
- 180 Ke quatre denz me sunt a dire.'
Li reis respunt e si li dit,
'Tais tei, wicard, que Deu t'aît!
Quant dame Ysoud est si hardie,
Ben sai n[i] ad ren de folie.
- 185 Tu as que fous vers li mespris.
Tristran n'est pas en cest païs;

[21r_a]

[21r_b]

- But that night when she got up,
 she picked her way among the guards,
 arriving easily at the door;
 when she raised the latch,
 the little chain made a sound
 and the vile dwarf awoke. 140
- Like the base scoundrel with his evil tricks that he was,
 he looked all around:
 at the sight of Iseult opening the door
 the dwarf shouted, 'Hey, you, over there!' 145
- The queen slipped out
 and the dwarf leapt up quick as a swallow,
 pulling on his cloak. 150
- He ran after Iseult
 and grabbed her right arm.
 'Ho, lady, he said, 'stop!
 What hour is this to be leaving your room? 155
- Alas that you ever set foot outside it,
 for, on my life, I do not see the
 slightest semblance of fidelity in your behavior!' 160
- Iseult was filled with anger:
 She raised her hand
 and struck the dwarf such a sharp blow
 that she knocked out four of his teeth,
 and she said disapprovingly,
 'There's a chambermaid's salary for you!' 165
- The dwarf stumbled against a bench;
 his face was covered with blood.
 The toad moaned and cried out;
 he fell down, got up and jumped about.
 He wailed and yelled and made such noise
 that King Mark woke up 170
- and asked about the commotion.
 'My lord,' he said, 'Things are going badly:
 the queen has attacked me
 and knocked all my teeth out with a punch
 and then sneaked out like a thief,
 unaccompanied. 175
- As soon as I saw her leave,
 I wanted to restrain her:
 she hit me with such fury
 that I lost four teeth.' 180
- The king answered,
 'Be silent, you rogue, God help you!
 If my lady Iseult is so bold,
 I can be sure she is not being foolish.
 It is you who behaved foolishly toward her. 185
- Tristan is not in this region;

- E ele en est mult plus ire[e]
 Quant tu a tort l'as chalenge[e].
 Lés la dame, s'ele ad mester,
 190 Par cel gardin esbaneier.
 Ceo peise moi ke plusurs feiz
 Trop l'avun tenu[e] en destreiz.'
 Ysoud surrist e vet avant,
 Le chef covert e enveisant,
 195 E vet tut dreit a sun ami.
 Tristran saut tost encunte li.
 Entrelacent mult ferm les braz
 Cum il fussent cosu de laz;
 Beissent estreit et entreacolent,
 200 Ovrent assez e poi parolent.
 Meinent lur joie e lur deduit
 Mut grant pece de cele nuit;
 Meinent lor joie e lur amurs
 Malgré le neim e les guaiturs.
 205 Ysoud mustra ben par cel fait,
 Ke deit essample estre treit,
 K'amie n'est fine ne pure
 Ke ne se met en aventure
 E en perilus hardement
 210 S'ele aime del tut lealment."*

she was all the more angered
since you accused her wrongly.

If the lady so wishes, let her
amuse herself in the garden.

190

I feel bad that we have
shut her away too often.'

Iseult smiled and went on,
her head covered, jubilant,
and she came straight to her lover.

195

Tristan leapt up to meet her.

The laced their arms tightly about each other
as though they were sewn together;
they kissed and embraced each other,
doing much but saying little.

200

They gave themselves over to joy and love-making
for much of the night;
they enjoyed rapture and love
in spite of the dwarf and the guards.

By her deed, which should be taken
as an example, Iseult showed
that a ladylove is not true
unless she puts herself boldly at risk
in a dangerous situation
if, that is, her love is absolutely true."

205

210

VARIANTS

2 relement [+1] 3 Quele c. f. p. t. y. [+1; *insert marks correct order*] 9 se lacking [-1] 10 aventures [+1] 11 Humaine l. desvisa [+1] 18 ele [+1] 27 te m. 34 Ki unc n. s. d'autre m. [+1] 48 overir [+1] 52 dreit [-1] 55 preisereie [+1] 57 Jo ai [+1] 62 Or fait t. 68 A. se e. 69 trespasssee 71 E s. l. t. t. e. [+1] 79 A. a. u. asquans ad f. [+1] 83 ot 84 por 85 q. lui d. 91 ço n. 93 nomee 96 de home [+1] 99 nomee 105 Gele 106 estreit 113 edure 124 t. de d. 126 Ne il, que a. [+2] 131 qu'il [-1] 134 Cum [-1] 136 gelle [-1] 138 Guaite [-1] 139 leve 142 t. s. [-1] 147 que y. le u. [+2] 148 l. est l. 151 a. de sun m [+1, *em Paris*] 161 E pus t. b. a le n. d. [+2] 163 li *lacking* [-1] 164 Soude 166 plein [-1] 167 Gust [*em. Paris*] 169 T. n. e c. e b. l. 170 s'en veilla [-1] 175 al barun 182 te aït [+1] 184 i *lacking* [-1] 187 Cele, ire [-1, *em. Paris*] 188 a t. l'ad chalengé 192 tenu 194 c. coverte e 196 e. lui 207 Kar a. [+1] 210 Si e. [+1]

NOTES

6. The *Donnei des Amants* presents a conversation between two lovers reported by the poet, who overhears it. This story is told by the lover as an illustrative anecdote or exemplum to convince his lady to be bold and grant him her love.

99. The Old French plays on the similarity in sound between *gelus*, jealous husband, and *gelee*, ice.

100. *Moille* appears to be an adjective modifying *ewe*. It is listed in neither of the standard Old French dictionaries: Tobler-Lammatsch and Godefroy. Paris suggests (p. 509) that it may be a form of *mole* 'soft' or a verbal adjective derived from *moillier* 'to wet' and suggests correcting to *mueble* 'moving, flowing.' Compare line 107.

114. Lacroix and Walter correct *eschet* to *eschie* 'difficult, hard.' See Tobler-Lammatsch III: 893–5 and Godefroy III: 388c.

210. In the *Donnei's* frame conversation, the lady answers the lover by mentioning the *Folie Tristan* episode: ““Tristan pur li fit grant atie Plus qu'or ne freit [nus] pur s'amie: Rere se fit dreit cum[e] fol. . .”” See *Donnei des Amants*, 661–81.

Tristan Menestrel

- Au mengier est assis li rois,
Artus, li prous et li cortois,
Et tuit li baron ensement
Au mengier sisent lieement;
5 Bien sont servi; quant ont digné,
Si se sont des tables levé.
Del vassal parlerent assez
Par cui Mordrés estoit lassez,
Si dient par adevinaus
10 Que che avoit fait Perchevaus.
Ensi parlant le jor passerent;
Le chevalier molt aloserent.
Atant a on vespres sonees,
Qui hautement furent chantees.
15 Li archevesques [de Cyriant],
Par le proiere et le comant
L'archevesque de Carlion,
Par debonaire entention
Bel et hautement les chanta.
20 Et ensamble od lui en rala
L'archevesques de Duveline
Qui fu venus en cel termine
Parler al riche roi Artu
De par un roi qui molt prous fu,
25 C'ert Guillaumes, qui estoit rois
D'une partie des Irois.
Tout le cuer par devers a destre
Garda li vesques de Wincestre
Qui apris ert de bone escole,
30 Et li evesques de Nicole
Devers senestre le gardoit,
Qui molt bons cler et biaus estoit.
Cil doi chantoiient molt tres bien,
Nes pooit on reprendre rien:
35 Bons chans avoient et haus sons.
Mis fu a chanter le respons
Li archevesques d'Evruich
Avec celui de Beruich
Quant les vespres furent finees,
40 Les gens en sont totes alees.
La nuit revinrent as matines,
Cinc rois i ot et sis roïnes;

[165v_b]

[165v_c]

Tristan the Minstrel

The king sat down for the meal,
Arthur, the valiant and refined,
and all the barons as well
sat down to table with alacrity.
They were served well; once they had dined,
they got up from the tables.
They spoke much of the vassal
by whom Mordred had been defeated,
and they speculated
that Perceval had done this.
Thus conversing, they passed the time.
They praised the knight highly.
Then the bells were rung for vespers
which were sung in grand style.
The archbishop of Cyriant,
by the prayer
of the archbishop of Caerleon
and moved by graciousness
sang the liturgy in a fine, strong voice;
together with him there went
the archbishop of Dublin,
who had come at this time
to speak to powerful King Arthur
on behalf of a valiant king.
This was William, who was king
of a part of the Irish.
On the right side of the choir
was the Bishop of Winchester,
who was well schooled,
and on the left stood
the Bishop of Lincoln,
who was a learned cleric and handsome besides.
These two churchmen sang excellently well,
no one could reproach them anything.
Their singing was magnificent.
The Archbishop of York
was asked to sing the response
with the Archbishop of Berwick.
When vespers were over,
everyone left.
That night they returned for matins,
among them five kings and six queens;

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- Et quant ce vint a la grant messe,
N'i ot duchoise ne contesse
45 Ne roïne qui dont n'i fust.
Se grant offrande n'i eüst,
Ce fust une merveille a dire.
Molt i ot grant presse et grant tire
A siuir la porcession.
- 50 L'archevesque de Carlion
Ne se valt revestir le jor,
Ainz fist revestir par honor
L'archevesque de Cyriant,
Qui le service ot fait avant.
- 55 Les vespres ot la nuit chantees
Et les matines honorees;
Et puis le grant messe chanta,
Qui assez longuement dura.
Et quant ele fu parfinee,
- 60 En la grande sale pavee
S'en alerent tout por mengier.
Keus l'eut si fait appareillier
Que maintenant l'iaue donerent.
Tot errannt li roi laverent
- 65 Car cinc estoient, coroné.
Grant piece a li mengiers duré
Qui molt fu biaus et honorables.
Aprés mengier ostent les tables.
Einsi comme li rois lavoit,
- 70 Uns escuiers a grant exploit
Entre laiens, si salua
Le roi, que on tost li mostra,
Molt sajement, a jenoillons.
Aprés comence ses raisons:
- 75 "Sire," ce dist li escuiers,
"A vous m'envoie uns chevaliers
Qui aventure vient ci querre
En ceste vostre cointe terre.
D'outre mer est venus de loing,
- 80 Et ce n'est por autre besoing
Fors por faire chevalerie
A ciaus de la vostre maisnie;
Si vous prie sanz atargier
Lui trametez un chevalier
- 85 A cui il ensaier s'en puist.
Autre chose ore ne li nuist.
Soz ce chastel, en mi ces prez
Sor son cheval l'atent armez.
Ses armes sont toutes dorees
- 90 Qu'en cest païs a aportees,

[166r_a]

and when it was time for high mass,
every duchess and countess
and queen was there. 45
 If there had not been a magnificent offering,
it would have been astounding.
 A great crowd
followed the procession.
 The Archbishop of Caerleon 50
did not want to officiate that day,
and instead, to honor him, had
the Archbishop of Cyriant don the robes,
he who had led the service the day before.
 He had sung vespers that evening 55
and celebrated matins,
and then he sang high mass,
which lasted a long time.
 When it was over,
everyone left to eat 60
in the great hall paved in stone.
 Kay had put everything in readiness
and water was passed around immediately.
 First the kings washed,
for there were five of them, all crowned. 65
 The meal lasted a long time
and it was splendid.
 Afterwards, the tables were removed.
 Just as the king was washing his hands,
a squire hurried 70
into the hall toward
the king, to whom he was directed,
greeting him politely on his knees.
 He then began to speak;
 "My lord," said the squire, 75
 "I am sent to you by a knight
who comes seeking adventure here
in your fair land.
 He has come from far away, beyond the sea,
and it is for no other purpose 80
than to accomplish deeds of prowess
by engaging knights of your household,
and so he asks you without delay
to send him a knight
against whom he may test his mettle. 85
 Nothing but this wish disturbs his happiness.
 Beneath the walls of the castle, in the meadow,
he awaits armed upon his horse.
 The arms that he has brought
into this country are all of gold, 90

- Et ses chevaus est uns fauviaus
 Qui assez est mieldres que biaus."
- Li rois sozrist de la novele;
 Gisflet, le fil Do, en apele.
- 95 Comanda lui que tost s'armast,
 Au chevalier joster alast.
 Et Gisflés, qui molt en fu liez,
 S'est vestus et appareilliez:
 Il n'i a gaires atendu.
- 100 Monte el cheval quant armez fu,
 Vint ens el pré qui pres estoit
 Ou li chevaliers l'atendoit.
 Et quant entreveü se sont,
 Autres menaces ne se font
- 105 Mais les escus painz a vernis
 Traient avant devant lor pis,
 Si baisserent les grosses lances,
 Que planees erent et blanches.
 Des esperons les chevaus brochent,
- 110 Qui par bien aler tant s'esforcent.
 Gisflés fier si le chevalier
 Que son escu li fait perchier
 Mais le hauberc si fort senti
 Que onques maille n'en rompi.
- 115 De le fort lance au paraler
 Fist plus de cent tronchons voler.
 Li chevaliers seurement
 Feri lui si tres durement,
 Con cil qui bien le sot requerre,
- 120 Que son escu au brac li serre
 Et le bras al cors ensement.
 Tout voiant le roi et sa gent
 L'a a la terre porté jus,
 Trestot voiant contes et dus,
- 125 Voiant rois et voiant roïnes,
 Et voiant dames et meschines,
 Qui n'en orent onques leeche.
 Et li chevaliers tost s'adreche
 Au cheval et si l'aresta
- 130 Et un sien vallet le bailla,
 Dont cinc molt biaus et bien montez
 Ot od lui iluec amenez.
 Par l'un d'aus a, ce m'est a vis,
 As dames le cheval tramis,
- 135 Et Gisflés s'en revait a pié,
 Qui molt en a le cuer irié.
 Mais si vallet qui se hasterent
 Son palefroi tost amenerent.

[166r_b]

and his horse is a sorrel
that is finer than he is handsome." 95
 The King smiled at this news;
he summoned Giflet, son of Do.
 He asked him to arm himself immediately
and go to joust with the knight. 100
 And Giflet, who was delighted by this,
equipped himself and made ready
without delay.
 Once he was armed, he mounted his horse
and came into the field nearby 105
 when the knight was waiting for him.
 And when they caught sight of each other,
they did not bother to challenge each other
but raised their painted, varnished
shields to their chests,
and lowered their stout lances,
all smooth and white.
 They spurred their horses,
that rushed forward as fast as they could. 110
 Giflet struck the knight,
piercing his shield,
but the hauberk was so strong
that not one link of mail was torn.
 In the end his strong lance 115
 flew into more than a hundred splinters.
 They knight confidently
struck him with such force,
attacking ably,
that he smashed his shield against Giflet's arm
driving his arm against his body. 120
 In full view of the king and his entourage
he knocked him to the ground,
in full view of counts and dukes,
of kings and queens, 125
 and of ladies and maidens,
who were not gladdened by this sight.
 And the knight went straight over
to Giflet's horse, stopped it
and gave it to one of his servants,
of whom he had brought along five, 130
 all handsome and well mounted.
 By one of these, I believe,
he sent the horse to the ladies
and Giflet went off on foot, 135
 very upset.
 But his servants hurried
and brought him his palfrey immediately.

- El pré encontre lui l'amainent
 140 Et du remonter molt se painent,
 Si l'en mainent en la cité,
 Molt honteus et desconforté.
 Ainçois qu'il se fust desarmeze,
 Est Lancelos du Lac montez
 145 Trestoz armez sur son cheval
 Por lui vengier de cel vassal,
 Car del roi le congié en ot.
 El pré en vait plus tost qu'il pot
 Ou le chevalier a trové,
 150 Qui par samblant l'a poi douté,
 Car si tost con le voit venir,
 Vers lui s'adreche par aîr.
 Et Lancelos vers lui s'adreche,
 Qui plains estoit de grant proece.
 155 Tost et radement s'entrevinrent:
 Des grosses lances que il tinrent
 Par mi les escus s'entrefierent
 Que molt legierement perchierent,
 Mais les haubers si bons troverent
 160 Que onques maille n'en fauserent.
 Les grosses lances pechoierent,
 Et si durement esclicherent
 Qu'ausi comme une escorce esmient.
 Au paraler ne se detrient,
 165 Si s'entrehurtent par esfors
 Et des visages et des cors,
 Que li oeil lor estincelerent
 Et dens et nez lor escreverent.
 Onques mesire Lancelot
 170 Tel ceingle ne tel poitral n'ot
 Ne si fort archon par derriere,
 Tel sele ne tele estriviere
 Qui ne froissast toz et rompist.
 Du bon cheval sor coi il sist
 175 Est Lancelos a terre jus
 Issi tres durement cheüs
 Que por un poi qu'il ne creva.
 En grant piece ne se leva.
 Quant li Breton on che veü,
 180 Molt en sont dolant et confu:
 En lor cuers molt se correcherent
 Et molt par s'en esmerveillerent
 Et dient, "Dols Dieus! Qui puet estre
 Cil chevaliers qui si est mestre
 185 Qui Lancelot a abatu?"
 Dolant en sont et irascu.
- [166r_c]

- They led it out to him in the meadow
and took great trouble to help him mount,
then guided him toward the city,
ashamed and disconsolate. 140
- Before Giflet had taken off his arms,
Lancelot of the Lake mounted
his horse, fully armed,
to take vengeance on the vassal, 145
for he had the King's permission to do so.
He went to the meadow as quickly as he could
where he found the knight,
who did not seem to fear him much, 150
for as soon as he saw him coming
he rushed at him.
And Lancelot charged him
filled with courage.
They clashed violently: 155
with the stout lances they held
they struck each other's shields,
piercing them slightly,
but they found their hauberks so sound
that not a link was broken. 160
- Their strong lances splintered,
flying into as many pieces
as a shattered piece of bark.
They did not separate but continued the engagement
and clashed together forcefully 165
with their bodies and their faces,
their eyes flashing,
the impact smashing their teeth and noses.
Sir Lancelot's
saddle girth and breast-strap 170
and his cantle, however sturdy,
his saddle and his stirrups
all broke and snapped.
Tumbling from the good horse on which he was sitting,
Lancelot fell 175
to the ground so hard
that he almost died.
He did not get up for a long time.
When the Britons saw this,
They were saddened and bewildered: 180
in their hearts they were angry
and marvelled about this defeat,
saying, "Dear God, who can this knight
be who is so able
that he has brought down Lancelot?" 185
They were sad and vexed about this

- Et li chevaliers sanz targier
 Par les resnes prent le destrier,
 As dames la sus le renvoie,
 190 Qui n'en ont ne solas ne joie.
 Et des escuiers Lancelot
 Cort chascuns al plus tost qu'il pot
 Por enseler son palefroi
 Et li amainnent en secroi,
 195 Et il monte et vint a le vile.
 La joste virent tel troi mile;
 N'i a celui qui n'en pesast
 Et molt ne s'en esmerveillast.
- Armez se fu et bel et bien
- 200 Yvains, fius le roi Urien.
 Es pres s'en vint sanz atargier
 Por Lancelot del Lac vengier;
 Mius velt morir que il n'abat
 L'orgueil celui et ne le plat.
- 205 El pré en vint et celui trove
 Qui cointement encor se prove,
 Car tot ausi tres freschement
 Come il fist hui premierement
 S'adrece a lui quant il le voit.
- 210 Mesire Yvains, qui tels estoit
 Que il n'i avoit riens a dire,
 Li recort sore par grant ire.
 Tost s'entreviennent li vassal,
 Que tost coroient li cheval.
- 215 Par tel air s'entreferirent
 Que des escus les ais fendirent,
 Car chascuns son pooir i mist.
 Mesire Yvains en pieces mist
 Sa lance, qui fu roide et fors,
- 220 Et cil fier lui par tel esfors
 Que par mi son escu doré
 Li a le blanc hauberc falsé
 Qui molt ert boins et biaus estoit.
 De soz la boutine tot droit
- 225 L'a ens el ventre en poi navré.
 A cel cop l'eüst mort jecté
 Que mais sa bouche ne parlast
 Se sa lance ne pechoiast.
 Mais si l'empaint qu'envers tot plat,
- 230 Gambes levees, jus l'abat.
 Outre s'en passe et prent son tor,
 Le cheval prent par grant vigor,
 Tantost as dames le renvoie.
 Et sachiez qu'as Bretons anoie!
- [166v_a]

- And without delay the knight
seized Lancelot's warhorse by its reins
and sent it, too, to the ladies in attendance,
who derived no comfort or joy from this gift. 190
- Each of Lancelot's squires
ran as fast as he could
to saddle their lord's palfrey
and they led it to him discretely;
he mounted it and rode to the town. 195
- Nearby three thousand looked on;
everyone was pained
and astonished by his defeat.
- Yvain, son of King Urien
had armed himself completely. 200
- Without delay he came to the meadow
to avenge Lancelot of the Lake;
he would rather die than fail to topple
and crush the arrogance of the challenger.
- He came to the meadow and found the knight 205
who proved his worth yet again with flair,
for with energy as fresh
as he had shown during the first combat,
he charged Yvain when he caught sight of him.
- Sir Yvain, who 210
was not in a mood to say anything,
also charged, filled with anger.
- The knights came together quickly
for their horses were fleet.
- They struck each other so violently 215
that they split their shields' wooden planks,
for each put all his strength into the fight.
- Sir Yvain shattered
his stout lance
- and the knight struck him with such force 220
that his blow went through his golden shield,
rending his bright hauberk
that was so strong and splendid.
- Just beneath the navel
he wounded Yvain slightly in the stomach. 225
- He would have killed him with this blow,
silencing his mouth forever,
if his lance had not shattered.
- But he struck him so squarely that
he knocked Yvain down, flat on his back, feet up. 230
- He rode on past, turned,
grabbed Yvain's horse,
and sent it to the ladies.
- You may be sure that this irritated the Britons!

- 235 E mesire Yvains s'est dreciez,
Toz honteus, et si est blechiez;
Et si vallet li ramenerent
Son palefroi, sel remonterent,
Si l'en mainent a son hostel [166v_b]
240 Molt irié, mais n'en puet faire el.
Quant cheüs fu mesire Yvains,
Dont s'arma mesire Gauvains
Molt tost, et quant il fu armez,
Sor le Gringalet est montez,
245 Si vint es prez, molt aatis
Et desirrancs, je vous plevis,
De ses compaignons a vengier.
Quant veü a le chevalier
Et il lui, si s'appareillierent
250 De joster, et avant sachierent
Par les enarmes les escus,
Et les lances as fers agus
Ont baissies, si esperonnent.
Grans cops et crueus s'entredonent
255 Par mi les escus reluisans
Dusqu'es haubers fors et tenans.
Les lances froissent dusqu'es poinz,
Ce lor fu mestiers et besoinz.
Lors s'entrehurtent durement
260 De cors et de vis ensement
Et des bons destriers autresi,
Qui fort estoient et hardi.
Si ingalment s'entrehurterent
Que tot quatre a terre verserent.
265 Tout estordi en mi l'erboi
Une grant pieche jurent coi;
Puis resonnt sus en piez sali,
Et furent trait li brant forbi,
Si s'entrevienent essaier.
270 Les espees bel manoier
Savoint molt, dont ile se donent
Si grans cops que trestot s'estonent.
Des elmes reluisans et cler
Ont detrenchiez les chapeliers
275 Et les escus destrenchiez toz
Et par deseure et par desous.
Molt s'entrehurtent et empaignent;
D'aus empirier pas ne se faignent,
Sovent se vont saisir as bras.
280 Mais li chevaliers ert plus las [166v_c]
Qui tant avoit devant josté,
Son cors traveillié et pené

- Sir Yvain got up
humiliated, wounded,
and his servants brought him
his palfrey, then helped him to mount
and led him, furious,
to his lodgings: there was nothing else he could do. 235
- Since Sir Yvain had fallen,
Sir Gawain armed himself
quickly, and once armed,
he mounted Gringalet
and went to the meadow, eager 240
and anxious, I can promise you,
to avenge his comrades.
- When he saw the knight
and the knight saw him, they prepared
to joust, raising their shields 245
by the straps
and lowering their iron-tipped
lances; then they spurred forward.
- They gave each other heavy, cruel blows
upon their gleaming shields, 250
cutting through to their stout hauberks.
Their lances shattered right up to their handles:
it was unavoidable.
- They then came together hard
with their bodies, faces, 255
and fine chargers,
strong and fearless.
- They met with equal force
so that the shock knocked horses and riders to the ground.
- They lay quite still for a long time, 260
stunned, in the grass;
then the knights got to their feet,
drew their burnished swords,
and came at each other to test their mettle.
- They knew how to handle their swords
beautifully and gave each other 265
such heavy blows that they staggered.
- They cut through their shining helmets
to the arming caps
and they cut their shields to pieces, 270
both the upper and lower parts.
- Again and again they clashed;
they did not shrink from wounding each other,
grabbing each other repeatedly by the arms.
- But the other knight was more tired 275
because he had jostled so much before,
subjecting his body to more suffering and pain.

- Plus que n'ot mesire Gauvains.
 Et de che sui je toz certains
 285 Qu'il ausi molt menres estoit,
 Et quant mesire Gauvains voit
 Que cil ert molt menres de lui
 Et se ne li pot tolir hui
 Un tot sol pas de son estage,
 290 Por un poi que d'ire n'esrage;
 Et de che li a molt pesé
 Que il avoit hui tant josté
 Et encor li samble ausi fiers
 Et ausi fres comme a premiers.
 295 Vers le palais a regardé,
 Dames i voit a grant plenté:
 Tel honte en a, toz en tresue.
 Et lors li cort et s'esvertue;
 A che que il le sent lassé
 300 L'a molt laidi et refusé,
 Molt l'a pressé, molt le demaine.
 Ja le mesist en grosse alaine
 Quant uns menestreus vint al roi
 Qui li a dit tot sanz desroi,
 305 Et oiant les barons a dit,
 "Sire, se Damedeus m'aït,
 Je connois bien cel chevalier,
 Hui mais ne le poi enterchier.
 Tristrans est apelez, sanz faille,
 310 Niez est roi Marc de Cornuaille
 C'est cil qui le serpent ocist
 Et Morbot, qui tant de mal fist,
 Par coi conquist la bele Yseut,
 Por cui amour sovent se deut.
 315 Au roi son oncle l'amena
 Mais par pechié puis l'aama
 Par un chier boire qui il but.
 Et quant li rois ot aperchut
 L'amour d'aus dous, celui chacha,
 320 De sa terre le congea.
 Par ses armes le reconnois.
 Quant vit que ses oncles li rois
 Li ot sa terre devee,
 Ot il ceste oeuvre devisee:
 325 Qu'il porteroit armes dorees
 Dusqu'a tant qu'il aroit trovees
 En estrange terre aventures
 Si tres pesmes et si tres dures,
 Que chevalier de vostre cort,
 330 Dont li renons si tres loins cort,

[167r_a]

than had Sir Gawain.

I am quite certain 285

that he was also much shorter,

and when Sir Gawain saw

that the knight was shorter than he

and that he still could not make

him cede as much as a single pace,

he was infuriated;

it upset him greatly

that the knight had jousted so much that day

and yet still seemed as fierce

and fresh as he had been at first.

He looked toward the court 295

and saw many ladies:

he felt such shame that he broke out in a sweat.

He ran toward the knight with new energy;

to tire him out

he attacked him harshly,

pressed him hard, rained blows on him.

He had just made him start to pant

when a minstrel came to the king

and said to him calmly,

in full hearing of the barons,

300

"My lord, God help me,

I know that knight;

Up until now I could not recognize him.

His name is Tristan, without a doubt,

he is the nephew of King Mark of Cornwall.

305

He is the one who killed the dragon

and Morholt, who did so much evil,

and thus won beautiful Yseult,

for love of whom he suffers so often.

He brought her to his uncle

310

but then, in sin, he fell in love with her

because of a costly potion that he drank.

And when the king noticed

their love for each other, he drove Tristan away,

banishing him from his land.

315

I recognize him by his arms.

When he saw that his uncle, the king,

had forbidden him his kingdom,

he devised the following plan:

he would bear golden arms

320

and wander in a foreign land

until he found adventures

terrible and harsh,

specifically, until he struck down in a joust

325

a knight of your court,

330

- Eüst abatu au joster.
 Je le connois bien sanz douter.
 Fait fu ce que vous ai conté
 A Lancien, le grant chité,
 335 Devant Yseut la prous, la bele,
 Et devant Brengien la pucele."
 Quant li rois Artus che oï,
 Molt durement s'en esjoi.
 "Oez, seignor," dist il, "oez!
 340 C'est Tristrans, qui tant est loez,
 Que veoir poez la aval
 Conbatre a loi d'ome vassal.
 Bien le m'a chi Deus amené;
 Certes molt m'a hui honoré.
 345 La bataille vois departir:
 Ne le porroie plus soffrir."
 Lors vait au champ sanz plus targier,
 Od lui en vont maint chevalier,
 Ses a a force departis.
 350 Puis a Tristran son non requis
 Et il en a le voir jehi,
 Et li rois l'a molt conjoï.
 Et quant mesire Gauvains sot
 Que c'est Tristrans, grant joie en ot.
 355 A son hostel l'en a mené,
 Ilueques se sont desarmé.
 Dous bliaus, l'un de halepin,
 Et l'autres d'un chier baudequin
 Doi chamberlenc lor aporterent
 360 Dont il gentilment se parerent.
 Puis chaignent çaintures de soie
 A membres d'or fin qui rougoie.
 Fremaus presentent a chascun;
 Mesire Gauvains en prist un
 365 Si l'a tantost a son col mis,
 Mais Tristrans n'a pas le sien pris.
 Fremail, ce dist, ne meteroit
 Ne en son doit anel n'aroit
 Dusqu'al terme qu'il avoit mis
 370 A tele a en alcun païs.
 Son col qui durement blanchoie
 A fait fermer un las de soie.
 Puis lor aportent dous mantiaus
 Forrez d'ermine bons et biaus
 375 D'autel drap con li bliaut furent.
 Atant li escuier corurent
 Por les palefrois amener,
 Et li chevalier vont monter.

[167r_b]

whose fame is proclaimed far and wide.
I recognize him without a doubt.
What I have told you happened
at the great city of Lancien,
before the lovely, wise Iseult
and the maid Brangaene." 335
When King Arthur heard this,
he was overjoyed.
"Listen, my lords," he said, "listen!
The knight whom you see down there
fighting so bravely
is Tristan, who is so highly praised.
God has surely sent him here to me;
He has clearly honored me today.
I shall stop the combat:
I could not permit it to go on any longer." 340
Then he went straight to the field,
accompanied by many knights,
and he separated the combatants against their will.
He asked the knight his name
and Tristan confessed it; 350
the king welcomed him warmly.
When Sir Gawain found out
that the knight was Tristan, he was joyful.
He led him to his lodgings,
there they took off their armor.
Two servants brought them
two tunics, one of silk from Aleppo,
the other a costly silk from Bagdad;
with these they dressed themselves elegantly. 360
They put on silken belts
fastened with rings of gleaming gold.
The servants presented clasps to each of them;
Sir Gawain took one
and pinned it by his neck, 365
but Tristan did not take his.
He said that he would not wear a clasp
nor have a ring on his finger
until the time had lapsed that he had promised
a certain lady who was in a certain land. 370
He used a silken cord to close
his tunic at the neck, covering his white skin.
Then they brought them two cloaks
lined with fine ermine
and cut in the same cloths as the tunics. 375
Thereupon the squires ran
to bring the palfreys,
and the knights mounted.

- 380 Tenant s'entrevont par les mains
 Tristrans et mesire Gauvains.
 Ensi sont a la cort venu
 Ou molt bel furent recheü.
 De Tristran fist li rois grant joie,
 De remanoir forment li proie.
- 385 Molt ont Tristran tout conjoï,
 Meïsmes cil qu'il abati;
 Mais teus puceles ot laiens
 Et tels dames, si con je pens,
 Qui amaisent autant ou plus
- 390 Qu'il fust par la goule pendus
 Ne qu'il se fust embatus la
 Por lor amis qu'il trebucha
 Devant eles si laidement
 Et voiant tant de bone gent.
- 395 Molt fu, ce sachiez vous, Tristrans
 De toz deduis entremetans
 Et de toz jeus endoctrinez,
 D'eschés, de tables et de dez.
 Il set de riviere et de bois
- 400 Plus que vilains ne que cortois,
 Et quant entrejecter voloit,
 Trestoz les autres en passoit;
 Et quant ce vint a l'escremir,
 Nus ne se puet a lui tenir;
- 405 Et quant ce venoit au luitier,
 N'avoit en la cort chevalier
 Que a la terre n'abatist
 Et tout coi sos lui ne tenist.
 Ensaiez en fu des plus prous
- 410 Et il les abatoit trestous.
 Quant mesire Gauvains ce voit
 Que il ensi les maistroit,
 Une fois li volt ensaier
 A lui sa force por luitier.
- 415 En son hostel priveement
 En une chambre lonc de gent
 S'en entrerent, et por luitier
 Molt les veissiez esforchier
 Et estraindre et muer colors.
- 420 Molt lor veissiez faire tors,
 Car andoi erent fort et roit.
 Mais Tristrans mius luitier savoit:
 A une fois si le sosprist
 A un tor del jenoul qu'il fist
- 425 Que de desoz lui l'abat jus.
 Sor le ventre li est cheüs

[167r_c]

- Tristan and Sir Gawain
rode along, hand in hand. 380
 In this manner they came to the court
where they were graciously received.
 The king welcomed Tristan joyfully
and entreated him to stay.
- Everyone treated Tristan with courtesy, 385
even those whom he had beaten;
 but there were maidens there,
and ladies, I believe,
who would have preferred
that he be hung by the neck 390
or driven out
 on account of their friends, whom he had knocked to the ground
so odiously right in front of them
and in full view of so many worthy people.
- Tristan, you should know, was 395
skillful in all social pastimes
and expert in all games,
chess, cards and dice.
- He knew more about hunting along a river or in the woods
than any man, peasant or noble, 400
 and when he wished to perform sleights of hand,
he surpassed all others;
 and when it came to swordsmanship,
no one could match him; 405
 and when it came to wrestling,
there was no knight at the court
whom he did not knock down
and pin immobile beneath him.
- He was tested by the most valiant knights
and defeated them all. 410
 When Sir Gawain saw
 that he was showing his mastery over them in this way,
 he wanted to test
 his strength against him once in wrestling.
- Privately, in his lodgings 415
they entered a room far from people,
 and as they wrestled
 you should have seen them struggle
 and strain and flush with their efforts.
- You would have seen them accomplish many moves, 420
for both were strong and resilient.
 But Tristan was the better wrestler:
 he took Gawain unawares
 with a manoeuvre of his knee
 and brought him to the ground beneath him. 425
 Tristan fell onto Gawain's stomach

- Si que por poi ne le greva
 Mais vistement se releva.
 Par grant amour a fait un ris,
 430 Sor son fremail en mi son pis
 Li a apoie sa main,
 Puis li a dit, "Sire Gauvain,
 De mon luitier que vous est vis?
 Ore en avez auques apris!
 435 Abatu m'avez orendroit
 Mais tout che est sor vostre droit."
 Gauvains se lieve, si sozrist,
 Par grant amour a Tristan dist,
 "Sor mon ventre abatu vous ai;
 440 Jamais ne m'i assaierai.
 Por poi que crevé ne m'avez:
 Trop plus de moi luitier savez."
 Atant se sont d'iluec torné,
 Assez en ont ris et gabé.
 445 Molt fu Tristrans amez de tous,
 Et mesire Gauvains, li prous,
 En qui ot tant proece et sens,
 Tot par tot as tornoiemens
 Le menoit por aventurer,
 450 Que sanz lui ne volt plus errer.
 Et Tristrans, qui tant prous estoit,
 Toz les autres d'armes passoit;
 Nus ne s'i prent, ce est del mains,
 Fors sanz plus mesire Gauvains,
 455 Tant que d'Iseut li a membré.
 De li veoir a volenté
 Et pense qu'il engien querra
 Qu'a peu de terme le verra.
 Puis a par molt grant amistié
 460 A mon seignor Gauvain proié
 Qu'il priast son oncle le roi
 Qu'il le laissast aler od soi
 Et dusqu'a doze chevaliers.
 Mesire Gauvains volentiers
 465 Li otroia molt bonement
 Et vint al roi isnelement,
 La requeste Tristran li dist.
 Li rois pas ne li escondist
 Ainz li otroie; nequedent
 470 Li a priié molt dolcement
 Que il demorast a sa cort.
 Mais amors, qui si le tient cort,
 Li fait si son cuer esmovoir
 Que por mil mars de fin avoir

[167v_a]

so hard that he almost hurt him badly
but quickly got back up.

Tristan laughed out of friendship,
putting his hand
upon the clasp on Gawain's chest
and saying, "Sir Gawain,
what do you think of my wrestling?
Now you have learned a little about it!

430

You have brought me down
but this is on your authority."

Gawain got up, smiled,
and said in great friendship for Tristan,
"I brought you down onto my stomach;
I will not test my skill in this way again.

435

You almost killed me:
you know much more than I about wrestling."

Then they left,
laughing and teasing each other about their match.

Tristan was well liked by everyone
and Sir Gawain, the brave,

445

in whom there was such courage and intelligence,
took him everywhere
to tournaments, for he did not want
to travel in search of adventure anymore without him.

450

And Tristan, who was so brave,
outdid all others in feats of arms;
no one compared to him, to say the least,
except only Sir Gawain,

and so matters continued until Tristan bethought himself of Iseult. 455

He wanted to see her

and thought that he would devise a plan
so that he would see her soon.

Then, counting on his great friendship,

he asked Sir Gawain

460

to request his uncle the king's permission
to go with him
accompanied by a dozen knights.

Sir Gawain willingly

and gladly agreed

465

and he went quickly to the king
and communicated Tristan's request.

The King did not refuse it;
on the contrary, he granted it.

But he begged Tristan

470

to stay at his court.

But love, who held him in close subjection
moved his heart
so that not for a thousand marks

- 475 Ne laira que ne voie Yseut,
 Por cui amour sovent se deut,
 Neporquant molt li abelist.
 Les chevaliers que il eslist
 Vous nomerai assez briement:
- 480 Gauvain eslit premierement,
 Keu le senaschal e Yvain
 Et Sagremor et Agravain;
 Avec fu Lancelos du Lac,
 Cliges et Erech li fius Lac,
- 485 Carados et Bliobleris,
 Gorbains Cadrus et Meraugis.
 La nuit quant vint aprés souper,
 Chevalier et baron et per
 S'en vont a lor hosteus jesir.
- 490 Tristrans, qui fu en grant desir
 Que il veüst Iseut s'amie,
 Quant vit le jor, ne targa mie.
 Il fait ses compagnons lever
 Et lor affaire bestorner.
- 495 Chascuns ot roube maltaillie
 Que Tristrans ot appareillie
 De vair et de vert et de pers,
 Et Tristrans, qui molt fu apers,
 Ot roube d'escarlate nueve;
- 500 De douz pars li sorcos li cuevre
 Plus de plainne palme les bras;
 N'ot mie escharseté de dras
 As roubes faire que il ont.
 Chascuns ot un chapel roont,
- 505 Lé et mal fait, ce est la voire;
 Ridees hueses, coiffes noire
 Orent, qui bien font le quaillier,
 Et s'orent fait appareillier
 Lor palefrois en tel maniere
- 510 Que sele et frain et estriviere
 Sont tot viez, nis li esperon,
 Et si ot chascuns chaperon
 Grant qu'il li va tot au travers.
 Chascuns ot estrument divers,
- 515 Cor ou fretel ou calemel,
 Et li autres pipe a forrel;
 L'uns harpe, l'autres chifonie,
 Flagol, saltere ou almonie;
 L'uns tabor, flehute sanz faille,
- 520 L'autre estive de Cornuaille;
 Et Tristrans porte une viele,
 Que nus mieus de lui ne viele.

[167v_b]

- would he give up seeing Iseult,
for love of whom he suffered so often,
even though the king's invitation pleased him deeply.
I shall briefly name
the knights who were chosen:
Gawain first of all,
Kay, the Seneschal and Yvain
and Sagremor and Agravain;
Lancelot of the Lake went along
Cligés and Eric, son of Lac,
Carados and Blioberis,
Gorvain Cadrus and Meraugis.
That night after supper,
knights, barons and peers
retired to their lodgings to sleep.
Tristan, filled with desire
to see his love, Iseult,
did not delay when he saw the day dawn.
He had his companions roused
and their attire transformed.
Each one got a badly cut set of clothes
that Tristan had had made up
in miniver and cloth of green and blue,
while Tristan himself, who was quite clever,
had a new outfit of scarlet;
on both sides the surcoat covered
his arms by more than a palm's width;
cloth was used freely
to make these outfits.
Each of them got a round hat,
ugly and ill made, to tell the truth;
they got baggy leggings, black headgear
that made them look like quail hunters,
nd their palfreys
were fitted out
with saddles, bridles and stirrup-leathers
that were all old, even the spurs,
and each one also got a great
hood that covered him completely.
Each knight was given a different instrument,
a horn or pipes or a shawm,
or cornemuse;
one got a harp, another a hurdy-gurdy,
a reed pipe, psaltery or armonie,*
one got a tabor or a flute,
another hornpipes;
and Tristan carried a fiddle,
for no one fiddled better than he.
- 475
480
485
490
495
500
505
510
515
520

- Tout si faitement atorné
 En sont droit vers le cort alé.
 525 Al roi en vont le congé prendre
 Et as barons, sanz plus atendre.
 Li chevalier qui sont entour
 Rient quant voient lor atour.
 Li rois monte, si les convoie.
 530 Tristrans, qui bien savoit la voie,
 Fist le roi Artu retorner,
 Car n'ot cure de sejorner
 Ains oirre chascun jor a tire
 La ou ses cuers tot adés tire.
 535 Tant vont un chemin ancien
 Qu'il sont venu a Lancien
 Une cité molt haute et fort.
 Li rois Mars a tot son esfort
 En est venus a la roïne
 540 Yseut, qui tant est prous et fine.
 Tot li baron qui del roi tinrent
 Par amour et par force i vinrent
 Por un tournoi qu'il avoit pris
 Encontre un roi de molt grant pris,
 545 Qui molt fu orgueilleus et fiers:
 C'est li Rois des Cent Chevaliers.
 A Lancien ot molt grant gent
 Qui molt s'acesment cointement
 Et font lor escus enarmer,
 550 Haubers et cauces atorner.
 Cotes a armer et banières
 Avoient de maintes manieres.
 Par la vile font lor atour.
 Li rois Mars sist devant sa tour
 555 Et la roïne sist a destre.
 Li tournois dut al tierc jor estre,
 Si regarda molt la roïne
 L'affaire, l'estre et le covine
 Des chevaliers, mais pas n'i voit
 560 Ce dont ses cuers est en covoit:
 C'est de Tristran, le sien ami.
 Bien a passé an et demi
 Que ne le vit, molt l'en pesa.
 Le chief baisse, a Tristran pensa;
 565 En cel pensé molt se conforte.
 Atant Tristrans entre en la porte
 Et si compaignon doi et doi;
 Li uns tint l'autre par le doi,
 Ensi s'en vont par mi la vile.
 570 Tristrans, qui molt savoit de gille,

[167v_c]

- Thus outfitted
they rode straight to the court.
Without delay they went to take their leave of the king
and the barons. 525
the knights who were gathered
about the king laughed when they saw their attire.
The king mounted his horse and accompanied them.
Tristan, knowing the way, 530
made Arthur turn back
for he did not care for delay
and wished to press forward each day without stopping
toward the place that always drew him.
They took an old path 535
and came to Lancien,
a city of strong, high walls.
With all his barons, King Mark
had come to Queen Iseult,
who was so brave and excellent. 540
all the barons who held fiefs from the king
came out of friendship or necessity
to attend a tounament that he had called
against a king of great renown,
very proud and fierce: 545
he was the King of the Hundred Knights.
At Lancien there was a great crowd of people
who were equipping themselves elegantly,
having new straps attached to their shields
and their hauberks and greaves made ready. 550
They had tunics and banners
of great diversity.
Throughout the city they were at their preparations.
King Mark sat before his citadel
with the queen at his right. 555
The tournament was to take place in three days
and the queen closely observed
the appearance and conduct
of the knights but she did not see
the one whom her heart desired, 560
Tristan, her love.
A full year and a half had passed
since she had seen him and this grieved her.
She lowered her head and thought about Tristan;
she found comfort in these thoughts.
Just then Tristan entered the city gates
with his companions, riding two by two;
holding each other by the finger,
they came through the town.
Tristan, who was wily, 570

- Car amors li ensaigne bien,
 Chevalche par mi Lancien,
 Sa viele a son col pendue.
 Sa coiffe ert en dous lius rompue
 575 Si que li chavel defors perent
 Et li pendant de sa coiffe erent
 L'uns devant et l'autres derriere.
 L'un oeil ot clos; en tel maniere
 Par mi la vile maine esfroi
 580 Tant que il vint devant le roi.
 Tristrans, qui bien savoit son roi
 De parler, vint devant le roi;
 Au perron devant lui descent
 Et si compaignon ensement.
 585 "Sire rois," fait il, "Dieus vous salt!"
 La roïne tote tressalt
 Quant de Tristran oï le vois,
 Car oï l'avoit maintes fois;
 Si s'esmerveille se c'est il
 590 Mais ele dist bien que nenil,
 Que Tristrans a dous oeus sanz faille.
 Dist Tristrans, "Rois de Cornuaille,
 Retien nous et done du tien,
 Car nous te servirons molt bien."
 595 Li rois respont, "De quel mestier?"
 "Sire," dist Tristrans, "de gaitier
 Vous et vo tour, se mestiers est.
 Appareillié somes et prest
 De faire che que nous savons."
 600 Lors commande a ses compaignons
 Qu'il mecent hors lor estrumens,
 Et cil font ses commandemens.
 Puis qu'il l'ot dit, molt le font tempre;
 Chascuns son estrument atempre.
 605 Sonent et acordent si bien
 Que nus n'i set a dire rien,
 Tant est dolce la melodie,
 Car n'i a chevalier ne die
 C'ainc mais n'oïrent si dols son.
 610 "Seignor," dist li rois, "ma maison
 Gaiterez, que je vous detien."
 Dinas apele et dist, "Cha vien.
 Maine moi ces gaites amont."
 Li rois mande gens et semont;
 615 De par tout il i sont venu.
 Maint bon chevalier esleü
 Ot avec lui a icel jor,
 Qui n'estoient mie a sejour

[168r_a]

[168r_b]

for love taught him well,
rode through Lancien,
his fiddle hanging from his neck.
His coiffe was torn in two places
so that his hair showed through
and its flaps hung down,
one in front and the other behind.
He kept one eye closed; thus
he led his company through the town
until he came before the king.

575

Tristan, who knew how to put his case
effectively, came before the king,
dismounting by the stone block
as did his companions.

580

"My lord" he said, "God save you!"

585

The queen started
when she heard Tristan's voice
for she had heard it many times before,
and she was astonished that this was he
but she told herself that it could not be
because Tristan had two eyes, of this she was sure.

590

Tristan said, "King of Cornwall,
hire us, pay us,
for we will serve you well."

The King asked, "What would you do?"

595

"My Lord", said Tristan, "we would guard
you and your citadel if necessary.

We are ready
to do what we know how to do."

Then he bade his companions
bring out their instruments
and they did so.

600

After he said this, they acted quickly;

each one tuned his instrument.

They played so harmoniously
that no one spoke,
so sweet was the melody they played,
and not a knight but said
that he had never heard such a sweet air.

605

"My lords," said the king, "you shall
guard my household, for I agree to hire you."

610

He summoned Dinas and said, "Come here.

Take these watchmen upstairs."

The king summoned his people;
they came from far and wide.

615

That day the king had with him
many excellent knights,
who were not taking their ease

- Ains font atorner lor harnois.
 620 Molt desirent que li tournois
 Assamblast por als esprover.
 Li rois Mars fist Tristran trover
 Et ses compaignons tos lor coust.
 Tout droit aprés le mi aoust
 625 Fu li tournois criez et pris.
 Mains chevaliers de riche pris
 I vint por acroistre son los.
 Entre la cité et le bos
 Fu la plaigne plaine et ingaus.
 630 Dalez la forest fu li gaus
 Ou il ot une bele lande,
 N'ot si bele dusqu'en Yrlande,
 Tout ensi comme il m'est a viere.
 Par mi coroit une riviere
 635 Qui molt estoit clere et bruians.
 Dalez la riviere corans
 Fist son tref tendre toz premiers
 Li frans Rois des Cent Chevaliers,
 Qui molt estoit de grant renon.
 640 Por che avoit ensi a non
 Que sans cent chevaliers n'est onques.
 Mais plus en ot assez adonques,
 Car devers la soie partie
 Estoit venus par aatie
 645 Claudas qui fu de la Deserte,
 Qui ainc ne s'esmaia por perte;
 Taillars et Clars et Godroés
 I sont logié dalez un guez;
 Dorchin li prous et Gogulor
 650 Guirrés li rous et Esclador
 [Bridoines] et Tydoriaus,
 Glador Eslis et Estorgaus
 Et molt d'autre chevalerie.
 Tout contreval la praeirie
 655 Avoit maint riche tref tendu.
 Trestot le jor ont entendu
 A faire lor haubers froier.
 En paine sont cil escuier
 D'atorner penonciaus et mances
 660 Et banieres et conoissances,
 Et cil garçon chevaus conroient.
 Par la cité tres bien s'aroient
 Li chevalier por tournoier,
 Et s'il ne vous doit anuier,
 665 Dire vous vueil une partie
 Des barons qui par aatie
- [168r_c]

- but, on the contrary, were preparing their equipment.
 They were anxious for the tournament 620
 to be joined so that they could prove themselves.
- King Mark had Tristan make songs
 and paid all his companions' expenses.
 Right after mid-August
 the tournament was announced. 625
- Many a famous knight
 came to enhance his reputation.
 Between the city and the wood
 there was a level plain.
- By the forest there was a stretch
 of less densely wooded countryside,
 none prettier as far as Ireland,
 in my opinion. 630
- A river ran through it,
 limpid and bubbling. 635
- The noble King of the Hundred Knights
 was the first to have his tent raised
 next to this rushing river;
 he was of great renown.
- He was so named 640
 because he always had a hundred knights with him.
- However, he had many more
 who came eagerly
 to join his side:
- Claudas of the Land Laid Waste,
 whom loss never discouraged;
 Taillars and Clars and Godro_s
 pitched tents next to a ford;
 the brave Dorchin and Gogulor,
 Guirrés the Red and Escladar 645
 and Bridoines and Tydoiaus,
 Glador Eslis and Estorgaus
 and many other knights.
- All over the meadow
 many magnificent tents were raised. 650
- All day long the knights saw
 to having their hauberks burnished.
 The squires were busy
 making ready pennons and sleeves
 and banners and emblems, 655
- and boys were preparing the horses.
 Throughout the city
 knights were getting ready for the tournament,
 and if you do not mind,
 I would like to tell you 660
- some of the barons who 665

- Sont devers le roi Marc venu.
 Il i vient Ydres, li fius Nu,
 Claradus et li rois Bridas,
 670 Disnadarés et Moadas;
 Et s'i vint Jacob d'Estragueil,
 Et Joliés de Tintagueil;
 Bruns sanz pitié et Brunamort,
 Qui maint bon chevalier a mort
 675 El Gué del Gaut par son olrage:
 Cil rendoit al roi maint ostage;
 Et s'i vint li rois Elygos,
 Meliadus et Gosengos,
 Dinas et li quens Beduiers.
 680 Chascuns amena chevaliers
 Tant comme il pot devers le roi.
 Chascuns ot armes et conroi,
 Covertures et fres escu
 Con cil qui avoient vescu
 685 De tel mestier molt longuement.
 As vespres du tournoiemment
 S'en issirent li bacheler
 Qui ne se volrent pas celer.
 La veüst on tant penonchel
 690 Et tant escu a lionchel!
 Et cil defors les armes prisen
 Qui molt hardiement emprisen
 Le tournoi contre chiaus dedens.
 Au comenchiere entre douz rens
 695 Jostent maint chevalier novel.
 Premiers point le cheval isnel
 Maudamadas de Galoee;
 Entre douz rens, lance levee,
 S'est eslaissiez por lui mostrer.
 700 De l'autre part a l'encontrer
 Est venus poignant Gogulor.
 Grans cops sor les escus a or
 Se donent des lances planees
 Si qu'elles sont enastelees
 705 Et li escu fraignent et fendent.
 Sor les estriers si fort s'estendent
 Que les coroies en romprient:
 D'ire et d'orgueil andoi sozpirent.
 Si fort se sont entrencuntré
 710 Que des jenols en ont porté
 Le cuir et des bras et des coutes.
 Dont sont comenchiees les jostes
 En cent lius contreval la pree.
 Toute jor dusque a l'avespree

[168v_a]

were eager to come to King Mark's summons.
 Ydres, son of Nu, had come,
 Claradus and King Bridas,
 Disnadarés and Moadas; 670
 Jacob of Estrigueil had come, too,
 and Joliés of Tintagueil;
 Bruns without Pity and Brunamort,
 who had killed many a fine knight
 at the Ford of the Wood through his extreme bravery: 675
 he had given King Mark many hostages;
 King Elygos had come as well,
 Meliadus and Gosengos,
 Dinas and Count Bedevier.
 Each of these brought along 680
 as many knights as he could for the king's side.
 Each had weapons and equipment,
 trappings and a new shield
 as befit those who had lived
 from this craft for a long time. 685
 At the vespers of the tournament*
 the young knights came out,
 they certainly did not want to hide.
 What a multitude of pennants
 and shields emblazoned with lion cubs! 690
 Those in the camp outside the city walls took up their arms
 and boldly began
 the tournament against those inside the walls.
 At the outset many newly dubbed knights
 jousted between the two ranks. 695
 Maudamadas of Galoei is the first
 to spur his fleet horse forward;
 between the two ranks, his lance raised,
 he hurtles forth to show his mettle.
 From the other side, Gogulor 700
 spurs forward to meet him.
 They give each other heavy blows
 upon their golden shields with their smooth lances
 which shatter
 and the shields are crushed. 705
 They strain against their stirrups so hard
 that the leathers snap:
 both are panting, transported by fierce pride.
 So violently do they clash together
 that they skin their knees, 710
 arms and elbows.
 Then jousts began generally
 in a hundred places across the meadow.
 All day long until evening

- 715 Fu li tornois devant la porte.
 Qui gaaing i fait, si l'emporte;
 Maint cheval i ot affolé.
 Molt furent cil dedens foulé
 Et sormené, ce m'est a viere,
 720 Que ens es guez de le riviere
 Les mainent ferant laidement.
 Si vous di bien certainement
 Que se tost ne venist la nuis
 Au roi March fust grans li anuis,
 725 Mais li vespres les departi.
 De dous pars se sont aati
 Que demain quant messe ert chantee,
 Ara chascuns la teste armee
 Por recomencier le tornoi.
 730 Au roi Marc torne a grant anoi
 De che qu'il les ont mis ariere
 Par mi les gues de le riviere.
 La nuit le mostra ses barons.
 "Seignor," dist il, "demain arons
 735 Le tornoi: pensons de bien faire.
 Or se pporront li prou refaire;
 A ces vespres nous ont laidis."
 Molt josta bien li Lais Hardis,
 Guirrés li rous, et Tydoriaus
 740 Gaaigna dous chevaus molt biaus.
 Molt en parolent conte et per.
 Atant s'asieent al souper; [168v_b]
 Bien sont servi, molt orent mes.
 745 Tristrans, qui toz tans est en es
 Que il peüst Yseut veoir,
 En mi la sale va seoir.
 Ses compagnons fait arengier;
 Molt ont a boivre et a mengier,
 Car li rois les fait bien servir.
 750 Mais bien le volra deservir
 Tristrans, se il puet, al tornoi.
 Mais ce li torne a grant anoi
 De che qu'Iseus ne l'aperchut.
 755 Durement s'en tint a dechut,
 Si dist, s'il puet, engien querra
 Coment a li parler porra.
 Sovent le regarde d'un oeil.
 En sa main a pris un flagueil,
 Molt dolcement en flajola
 760 Et par dedens le flaguel a
 Noté le Lai de Chievrefueil,
 El puis a mis jus le flagueil.

- the tournament raged before the city gates. 715
 Whoever took any booty made off with it;
 many a horse was wounded.
 Those on the inside were
 in a bad way, in my view,
 for the other side drove them 720
 with harsh blows into the river fords.
 I assure you that
 if night had not come soon
 King Mark would have been quite vexed,
 but nightfall separated the combatants. 725
 Knights from both sides called challenges to each other
 for the next day, after mass was sung,
 each would arm himself
 to begin the tournament again.
 King Mark was quite vexed 730
 that the other side had backed his knights
 into the river fords.
 That night he remonstrated with his barons.
 "My lords," he said, "tomorrow we will
 have the tournament: let us try to do well. 735
 Worthy knights will be able to redeem themselves:
 they brought us no honor during these vespers."
 The Ugly Hero had fought well
 as had Guirr_s the Red, and Tydoriaus
 had taken two fine horses. 740
 Counts and peers discussed this at length.
 Then they sat down to dine;
 they were well served with many dishes.
 Tristan, consumed by his desire
 to see Iseult, 745
 went to sit in the middle of the hall.
 He had his companions sit in proper order;
 They had food and drink in abundance,
 for the king saw that they were well served.
 Tristan would have liked to serve him in turn, 750
 if he could, in the tournament.
 But he was quite vexed
 that Iseult did not notice him.
 He felt sorely disappointed
 and said to himself that, if he could, he would find a plan 755
 to speak to her.
 He looked at her often with one eye.
 He took up a reed pipe
 and played it sweetly,
 drawing from the pipe
 the Lay of the Honeysuckle's air, 760
 then put the reed pipe down.

- Li rois et li baron l'oïrent,
A merveille s'en esjoïrent.
765 Yseus l'ot, molt fu esmarie.
"Ha!" fait ele, "Sainte Marie,
Je quit c'est Tristrans, mes amis,
Qui en tel point s'est chaiens mis
Por moi, je le quit bien savoir.
770 Non est! Je ne di mie voir.
Tristrans a dous oeus en sa teste
Et cist a perdu le senestre.
Ce n'est il pas, je le quit bien,
Que Tristran n'est mais de moi rien:
775 Menti a vers moi et mespris
De che qu'il a autrui apris
Le lai que moi et lui feïsmes.
Ou je quit c'est Tristans meïsmes,
Car onques ne menti vers moi.
780 C'est il: a mes dous oeus le voi,
Bien m'i acort que ce est il.
Je ne le doi pas tenir vil:
En tel abit est por moi mis.
Il ovre con loiaus amis:
[168v_c]
785 Mainte paine a por moi eüe!"
Ensi est Yseus parcheüe
Par le lai que Tristrans nota.
Maintenant les tables osta
Dinas, qui estoit seneschaus.
790 La nuit conroient lor chevaus
Cil garçon et donent avaine;
Cil escuier sont en grant paine
De lor haubers encoroier
Toute nuit dusque a l'esclairier,
795 Que li chevalier sont levé,
Qui as prestres orent rové
Que matin chantassent lor messes
Que matin rendront lor pramesses
Cha defors qu'il orent pramises.
800 Atant sonent li saint as glises
Et li baron vont al mostier
Por escouter le Dieu mestier.
Aprés la messe sont armé
Li prinche, qui sont renomé.
805 La veüst on tante baniere,
Qui sont de diverse maniere,
Tant elme, tant escu a or,
Et tant destrier bauchant et sor,
Et tant bon chevalier de pris
810 Qui sont montés, les adols pris,

- The king and the barons heard it,
they were delighted by it.
Iseult heard it, she was disconcerted. 765
"Ah!" she said to herself, "by Saint Mary,
I think that this is Tristan, my love,
who has come in here looking this way
because of me, of this I think I am sure.
No, it is not! What I am saying is not true. 770
Tristan has two eyes
and this man has lost his left one.
This is not he, I am sure,
for Tristan is not mine anymore:
he has lied to me and wronged me 775
in teaching someone else
the lay that he and I composed together.
But now I believe that this is Tristan himself,
for he has never lied to me.
It is he: I see him with my two eyes, 780
I am convinced that this is he.
I must not look down on him:
he has put on this attire for my sake.
He is acting out of true love;
he has suffered much on my account." 785
In this way Iseult was alerted
by the lay that Tristan played.
Dinas, the seneschal,
had the tables removed immediately.
That night the stable boys 790
saw to the horses and gave them oats;
The squires were busy
repairing the hauberks in their care
all night long until dawn,
when the knights got up, 795
who had asked the priests
to sing the mass early
so that early in the morning they could carry out the promises
that they had made to the other side.
The churchbells rang 800
and the barons went to the church
to listen to God's service.
After mass the barons,
many of high repute, were armed.
What a multitude of banners 805
of all sorts,
helmets, shields decorated with gold,
so many horses trammed and chestnut
and so many distinguished knights
who had mounted, taken up their arms, 810

- Et ont lacies les ventailles.
 Atant s'en issent les batailles,
 Bien armees et bien garnies;
 Molt sont beles les compaignies.
 815 Et cil defors se ratornerent;
 Quant armé furent, puis monterent,
 Des loges issent et des tentes;
 Ne fisent pas longues atentes.
 Par banieres et par compaignies
 820 S'asamblent en mi les chamaignes.
 Li uns vers les autres le pas
 Et viennent sor les chavaus cras,
 Les ensaignes amont levees.
 As bras ont pendu les espees,
 825 Et les lances sont en lor poins,
 Et les escus a lor pis joins. [169r_a]
 Abouchié sont d'ambesdous pars,
 Joint et serré, ne mie espars.
 Lors crient, "As hiaumes! As hiaumes!"
 830 "Vien cha, Huet!" "Vien cha, Aliaumes!"
 "Vien cha, Garin!" "Vien cha, Fouchier!"
 "Cha, mon elme je vueil lachier!"
 Einsi en douz cens lius croient
 835 Et cil lor hiaumes lor lachoient.
 Quant ont lachié, les chevaus brochent,
 Qui par bien aler tost s'aprochent.
 Et quant ce vint a l'assambler,
 Qui donc veüst terre trambler,
 Brisier lances, froissier escus,
 840 Par mi outre aloit fers et fus,
 Ces elmes froissier et porfendre,
 Et chevaliers et par terre estendre,
 Les uns navrez, les autres pris,
 Et les pluisors crier merchis!
 845 Lances enastelent et froissent
 Et cil escu fendent et croissent;
 Cheval et chevalier trebuchent;
 Lor ensaignes crient et huchent.
 Qui joster vaut, ne me merveil
 850 Se tost i trova son pareil;
 Ne se vont mie trop loinz querre.
 Hardiemment se vont requerre,
 Fierent d'espees, de tronchons;
 Sor ces elmes ot tels tenchons
 855 Et tel noise et tel chapleïs
 Que tous li bos et li larris
 Et toute la lande en resone.
 Toute jor desi après none*

and laced up their ventails.
 Then the knights rode off in groups,
 well armed, well equipped;
 the companies were a splendid sight.
 Those on the outside also got ready; 815
 once they were armed, they mounted their horses,
 streaming forth from their pavillions and tents;
 they did not delay.
 They gathered on the field,
 massing around banners in groups. 820
 Slowly each side came toward the other,
 mounted on their solid horses,
 standards lifted high.
 Their swords hung at their sides,
 their lances were in their fists, 825
 and their shields steadied against their chests.
 They rode forward from both sides,
 not scattered but in tight groups.
 Then they shouted, "Helmets on! Helmets on!"
 "Come here, Huet!" "Come here, Aliaumes!" 830
 "Come here, Garin!" "Come here, Fouchier!"
 "Over here, I want you to lace my helmet on!"
 The shout went up from two hundred places
 and the squires laced on their helmets for them.
 Once this was done, the knights spurred their horses forward, 835
 bringing the two sides closer to each other.
 When the ranks charged,
 how the earth shook,
 as lances splintered, shields crumpled,
 pierced by iron tips and shafts; 840
 helmets were shattered,
 knights knocked to the ground,
 some wounded, others captured,
 many begging for mercy as they surrendered!
 Lances split and shivered 845
 and shields were smashed;
 horses with their riders stumbled;
 knights called out their rallying cries.
 Whoever wished to joust
 soon found his match, this does not surprise me; 850
 they did not go far to search each other out.
 They attacked each other boldly,
 striking with their swords, or what was left them;
 upon these helmets there was such
 a rain of sword blows 855
 that the woods and hills
 and the whole countryside resounded from it.
 All that day until after nones*

- Ont tenu le chaple et l'estor.
 860 Par le tournoi a fait maint tor
 Brandoines, qui molt fu vassaus;
 Vers ciaus dedens fu ses assaus
 Molt greveus, et li Gogulor.
 Si vous di bien que Eschanor
 865 I fist tant que on em parla
 En bien et de cha et de la.
 Glador Eslis i fist merveilles,
 Qui ot unes armes vermeilles
 A trois lunetes totes blanches;
 870 Tieus estoient ses connoissances.
 Chiaus dedens ont si malmenez
 Que il les ont ferant menez
 Dusques es pres devant la porte.
 Gosengos, qui un escu porte
 875 Tout blanc et blanches covertures,
 Se met en maintes aventures
 Por chiaus dedens qu'il velt secorre.
 En la grant presse laisse corre:
 Gogulor du cheval abat.
 880 Aprés lui el tournoi s'embat
 Claradus, et li rois Bridas,
 Dysnadarés et Moadas;
 Et li rois Mars od sa compaigne
 S'areste ens en mi la champaigne.
 885 La recomence la mellee:
 Doné i ot mainte colee
 D'espee, de tronchon, de mache;
 Dusque al vespre dure la chace.
 Tous fust li rois Mars desconfis,
 890 De che sui je seürs et fis.
 Mais un poi vueil chi arester
 Du tournoi, si vous vueil conter
 D'Yseut, qui Tristran ravisa
 Par le lai que il flajola.
 895 En sa chambre l'en a mené;
 La ont le deduit demené
 Si comme amis fait a amie.
 Du baisier, car je n'i fui mie,
 Le sorplus ne vous dirai pas.
 900 En la sale faite a compas
 Se sist Gauvains dalez Brengien
 Et si compaignon, qui ont bien
 Oï noveles du tournoi.
 Mais molt lor torne a grant anoi
 905 Quant li rois Mars n'est secorus.
 Gauvains est a Tristran venus:

[169r_b]

- they continued the swordplay and the combat.
 During the tournament, Bradoines,
 who was very brave, made many charges; 860
 his assault was damaging to those
 on the inside, as was that of Gogulor.
 And I assure you that Escanor
 fought so well that knights 865
 on both sides spoke well of him.
 Glador Eslis acquitted himself splendidly;
 he had red arms
 with three small white moons;
 these were his distinguishing marks. 870
 These knights pressed them unrelentingly,
 driving them with their blows
 right to the field in front of the city gate.
 Gosengos, bearing a white shield
 and white trappings, 875
 took many risks
 for those on the inside, whom he wished to rescue.
 In the thick of the fighting he charged:
 he toppled Gogulor from his horse.
 Following Gosengos, Claradus 880
 plunged into the tournament, along with King Bridas,
 Dynadarés and Moadas;
 and King Mark stopped in the middle
 of the field of combat with his company.
 There the mêlée began again: 885
 many a blow was given
 with sword, sword stump and mace;
 the contest lasted until nightfall.
 King Mark was completely beaten,
 of this I am sure. 890
 But I would like to stop speaking of
 the tournament here for a bit and tell you
 about Iseult, who noticed Tristan
 thanks to the lay that he played on his pipes.
 She led him to her room; 895
 there they took such pleasure
 as a lover does with his lady.
 I shall not tell you what more
 they did besides kiss, for I was not there.
 In the elegantly appointed hall 900
 Gawain sat next to Brangaene,
 along with his companions, who had
 heard news of the tournament.
 They were quite distressed
 that King Mark had not been rescued. 905
 Gawain went to Tristan:

- “Sire,” fait il, “sanz lonc termine
 Prions ma dame la roïne
 Qu’ele nous face armes prester
 910 Et chevaus et harnois doner,
 S’irons la fors le roi aidier.”
 “Ore avez dit a sozhaidier,”
 Dist Yseus, “car vous les arez.”
 Dont a ses escrins desfremez,
 915 S’en a trait cotes a armer,
 Si les a fait bien atorner
 D’armes qui molt estoient beles.
 La roïne et ses damoiseles
 Les ont armés et bien et bel.
 920 Chascuns ot bon cheval isnel
 Et escu fres et et lanche nueve.
 Tristrans a ses compagnons rivevé
 Quil montent et il sont monté.
 Tristrans, qui molt ot de bonté,
 925 Baisa Iseut au departir.
 Lors font les esperons sentir
 As chevaus, si s’en sont torné
 Tot doze, molt bien atorné,
 Tant que il vinrent a la porte;
 930 Et si vous di que chascuns porte
 Au col pendu son estrument.
 Lors viennent al tournoiemment
 Et quant il i furent venu,
 Je vous di qu’Idiers, li fius Nu,
 935 Fu abatus, et Tydoriaus,
 Glador Eslis et Estorjaus.
 La fist bien Jacob d’Estrigueil,
 Et Joliés de Tintagueil,
 Bruns sanz pitié et Brunamort,
 940 Qui maint bon chevalier a mort.
 Et neporquant tot fuissent pris
 Quant Tristrans, qui fu de grant pris,
 Vingt poignant, ne vaut plus atendre,
 Que cheval ot et rade et tendre.
 945 Lanche baissie al penoncel,
 Sor l’escu d’or al lioncel
 Fiert Escanor de le Montaigne,
 Jus l’abat del cheval d’Espagne;
 Puis fier Derquin que jus l’envoie
 950 Tot estendu en mi la voie,
 Puis trebuche Glador Eslis
 Et puis le frere Brandelis.
 Ains que sa lance fust brisie
 A fait mainte juste prisie.
- [169r_c]
- [169v_a]

"My lord," he said, "let us immediately
ask my lady the queen
to lend us arms,
to give us horses and harnesses,
and we will go out there to help the king." 910

"You have spoken fittingly,"
said Iseult, "and you shall have them."
Then she opened up her coffers
and drew out tunics, 915
and she had the knights equipped
with arms that were splendid.
The queen and her maidens
armed them magnificently.
Each knight received a fleet horse 920
and a brand new shield and lance.
Tristan told his companions
to mount and they did so.
Filled with good will, Tristan
kissed Iseult when he left. 925

Then they all touched spurs to
their horses, and all twelve
left, well equipped,
riding until they reached the city gate;
and I tell you that each of them 930
was wearing an instrument hanging from his neck.

Then they arrived at the tournament
and when they got there,
I tell you that Ydres, son of Nu,
had been struck down, along with Tydoriaus, 935
Glador Eslis and Estorjaus.

Jacob of Estrigueil was fighting well,
as was Joliés of Tintagueil,
Bruns without Pity and Brunamort,
who has killed many a fine knight. 940

Nonetheless all of them would have been captured
when Tristan, who was of great repute,
came spurring forth without delay
on his spirited young horse.

He lowered his lance with its pennant
and struck Escanor of the Mountain 945
upon his golden shield emblazoned with a lion cub,
toppling him from his Spanish horse;
next he struck Dorchin, whom he knocked
down flat on the ground,

then he unhorsed Glador Eslis
and the brother of Brandelis. 950

Before his lance was broken
he made many splendid attacks.

- 955 Mesire Gauvains, d'autre part,
I fiert et la presse depart.
Keus li seneschaus esperonne,
En la grant presse s'abandone.
Meraugis et mesire Yvains
960 Le fisent bien, et Agravains.
Tant vous di je bien vraiment
Que le pris du tournoient
Ont li home le roi Artu.
Par gant forche, par grant vertu
965 Ont si reüsez ciaus defors
Qu'arriere se trait li plus fors,
Si se merveillent durement
Qui chil sont qui si malement
Les ont arriere reüssez.
970 Les estrumens ont avisez
Qu'il avoient as cols pendus.
Chascuns en est molt esperdus,
Si le tienent en grant vielté
Quant ensi sont desbareté
975 Par menestreus, ce lor est vis.
Atant lor est Tristrans guenchis.
Mesire Gauvains et li autre
Lor revienent, lance sor fautre,
Par tel force, par tel air,
980 Qu'a cel poindre fisent chaïr
Plus de vingt, qui tot furent pris.
La ot Tristrans de touz le pris
Qui molt hardiemment s'i prove,
Qu'en la greignor presse qu'il trouve
985 Se fiert adez et laisse corre
Por les siens aidier et secorre,
Et si compaignon vont aprés,
Qui molt se tienent de lui pres.
Chiaus defors ont si mis arriere
990 Que enz es guez de le riviere
Les ont ens a force embatus.
La fu Gogulor abatus,
Taillars li prous et Godroués.
Tot droit a l'issue des guez
995 Lor recort seure li rois Mars,
Qui ne fust si liez por cent mars
Comme est de le desconfiture
De ciaus defors, car a droiture
Les mainnent dusque a lor harnas.
1000 "Sire," ce li a dit Dinas,
"Ce m'est a vis, ce sont vos gaites
Qui tels envaies ont faites,

[169v_b]

- Sir Gawain, on his side,
struck blows and dispersed the throng of combatants. 955
 Kay the Seneschal spurred forward,
offering battle in the thickest part of the fray.
 Meraugis and Sir Yvain
fought well, as did Agravain. 960
 I tell you truly
that Arthur's men
won the honor of the tournament.
 By dint of great strength and courage
they drove back King Mark's opponents 965
so that even the strongest of these withdrew,
and they wondered, astonished,
who these knights were
who had repelled them so formidably.
 They noticed the instruments
hanging from their necks. 970
 Each of them was bewildered
and they considered it a humiliation
to be routed in this fashion
by minstrels, as they believed. 975
 Just then Tristan slipped away from them.
 Sir Gawain and the others
rode at them again, lances on their rests,
with such energy and such violence
that their charge unhorsed 980
more than twenty of them, all of whom were taken prisoner.
 Tristan had everyone's esteem there
for he showed his mettle boldly,
and when he found himself in the thick of the fray,
he immediately laid about him and attacked 985
in order to help his side,
and his companions followed him,
staying close to him.
 They drove back the knights from the inside
until they forced them to plunge 990
into the river fords.
 That is where Gogulor was struck down,
along with Taillars the brave and Godroués.
 Right at the exit of the fords
 King Mark attacked them again; 995
a hundred marks would not have made him as happy
as did the rout
of the other side, for his people
led them off directly as prisoners, including their equipment.
 "My lord," Dinas said to him, 1000
 "I believe that it is your watchmen
who made these attacks,

- Car as cols ont les estrumens.
 Par aus est li tournoiemens
 1005 Sostenus de la vostre part."
 Tristrans la grant presse depart;
 Fiert et boute, empaint et abat.
 Gauvains si tres bel se combat
 Que deduis est de lui veoir;
 1010 Trop set bien ses cops asseoir.
 Ciaus defors ont tot sanz gabois
 Par force mené jusqu'al bois.
 Tout sont mis a desconfiture
 Quant Perchevaus par aventure
 1015 Vint par le forest chevalchant
 Desor un noir roncin bauchant,
 Maigre, pelu, redois et las.
 De son elme ot rompu les las,
 Qui fu quassez et depechiez.
 1020 Ses escus fu par lius perchiez
 Dont la bocle, si con moi samble,
 Fu faite d'une viez sozchangle.
 Ses haubers fu par lius desroux;
 Il fu entortilliez et rous,
 1025 Que piech'a qu'il ne fu rollez.
 Ses espius fu toz desplanez;
 D'un tronchon fu a tot l'escorce,
 Mais li fers fu de bone forge
 Dont la pointe estoit amouree.
 1030 Et se fu toute deschiree
 Sa cote a armer de cendal,
 Qu'il vient de querre le Graal:
 Erré en ot par mainte terre
 Mais il ne savoit tant enquerre
 1035 Qu'il en poist oïr novele.
 Les estrivieres de la sele
 Sont de cordeles renoees.
 Erré ot par maintes contrees
 En tel maniere, a grant meschief,
 1040 Que ses chevaus tenoit le chief
 Molt bas et le col estendu.
 Et Perchevaus a entendu
 A son cheval faire esforcier,
 Mais qui le devroit escorchier
 1045 N'iroit se le petit pas non.
 Mius li venist sor un anon
 Estre montez, par Saint Sevestre!
 Neporquant suet il molt bons estre;
 Mais cil au dit mie ne ment:
 1050 C'on a veü mainte jument

[169v_c]

- for they have instruments hanging around their necks.
 It is they who are bringing support
 to your side in the tournament. 1005
- "Tristan cleaved the thick of the fray;
 he struck and thrusted, jostled and toppled his opponents.
 Gawain fought so splendidly
 that it was a pleasure to watch him;
 he directed his blows expertly. 1010
- King Mark's party drove the other side back
 to the woods and there was no jesting.
 They were being routed
 when by chance Perceval
 came riding through the forest 1015
 on a black nag with white feet,
 that was bony, shaggy, weak and exhausted.
 He had broken the laces of his helmet,
 which was dented and full of holes.
 His shield was pierced in several places
 and its boss, it seems to me, 1020
 was made of an old saddle-girth
 His hauberk was torn in spots;
 it was tangled and rusty
 for it was a long time since it had been burnished. 1025
- His lance was rough;
 part of it still had the tree bark on it,
 but the lance tip was of well forged iron
 and sharp.
 His tunic of silk 1030
 was badly torn,
 for he had been searching for the Grail:
 he had wandered through many lands doing so
 but however hard he searched,
 he could not find any news about it. 1035
- His stirrup leathers
 were made of thongs knotted together.
 He had wandered through many lands
 in this manner, suffering many misfortunes,
 and his horse held its head 1040
 low, its neck extended.
 Perceval tried
 to force his horse forward,
 but even if it were flayed
 it would refuse to do more than plod. 1045
- It would have been better had
 he been mounted on an ass, by Saint Silvester!
 Nonetheless, his horse used to be a good one;
 the proverb never lies:
 we have seen that many a mare 1050

- Enviellir par male peuture.
 "Hé, Dieus! tante pesme aventure,"
 Dist Perchevaus, "ai encontre!
 Erré ai par mainte contree.
- 1055 Las! onques n'oi fors paine et mal
 En ceste queste du Graal,
 Tant anui, tante mesestance!
 Por la lance qui ainc n'estance
 Ai je soffert mains grans travaus!
- 1060 Biaus sire Dieus," fait Perchevaus,
 "Tant a que je n'oi bien ne aise.
- Par ces forés a grant malaise
 Ai tels soisante nuis jeü
 Ou j'ai poi a mengier eü
 1065 Et mes chevaus est acorés
 De faim. Dieus, or me secorez
 Qu'en tel liu puisse venir
 Ou alcuns biens me puist venir,
 Car j'en aroie grant mestier."
- 1070 Tant a erré le grant sentier
 Par la forest tout dementant,
 Son cheval a esforcié tant
 Et tant se paine de haster
 Que il ot al tournoi crier
- 1075 Les ensaignes diversement.
 Merveille soi molt durement
 Quant les ensaignes ot huchier.
 Tant se paine de l'aprochier [170r_a]
 Qu'a grant travail et a grant paine
- 1080 Son cheval le petit pas maine,
 Qu'il ne puet trot ne galos.
 Tant a erré qu'il ist del bos,
 Voit le tournoi et les mellees
 Des gens qui sont entremelées.
- 1085 Chiaus defors voit a grant destreche;
 Cele part son cheval adreche
 Mais tant ne set esperonner
 Que le puist fors du pas mener.
 Keus l'aperchoit plus tost que nus;
- 1090 Contre lui est poignant venus.
 Quant si mal atorné le voit,
 Paier li velt ce qu'il li doit,
 Ce est ramprosne et felonnie,
 Se li a dit Keus par envie,
- 1095 "Sire, ou est la vostre compaigne?
 Tres quant passastes vous le raigne?
 Vous venez droit de Lombardie:

- has grown old from poor feeding.
 "Ah, God!" said Perceval, "I have met
 so many terrible adventures!"
 I have wandered through many lands.
 Alas! I have experienced only suffering
 and misfortune during the quest for the Grail,
 and so much pain, so many afflictions!
 For the lance that bleeds ceaselessly
 I have endured so much travail!
 "Lord God," said Perceval,
 "There has been so much suffering that I have
 had no moment of contentment.
- In these forests I have spent
 sixty nights in great discomfort
 with little to eat
 and with my horse dying
 of hunger. God, rescue me
 by letting me find a place
 where something good can befall me,
 for I have great need of this."
- He went along the main path
 through the forest, lamenting as he went,
 urging his horse forward,
 trying hard to hasten his pace,
 until he heard the rallying cries
 of the tournament.
- He was astonished
 to hear battle-cries called out.
 He did his best to come closer
 but for all the effort his horse made
 it only managed to plod;
 it could not trot or gallop.
- Eventually he came out of the woods
 and saw the mêlées of the tournament
 that brought together crowds of participants.
- He observed that the outsiders' side was in difficulty
 and directed his horse in their direction
 but could not spur it
 to a faster pace.
- Kay noticed him before anyone else;
 he came galloping up to him.
- When he saw him so shabbily equipped,
 he paid him the wages he owed him,
 insult and cruelty, that is,
 and Kay said to him, hatefully,
 "My lord, where is your suite?
 How long have you been passing through the realm?
 You have come straight from Lombardy:
- 1055
- 1060
- 1065
- 1070
- 1075
- 1080
- 1085
- 1090
- 1095

- Molt par avez la char hardie
 Qui tué avez la lymache.*
- 1100 Fu che de pichois ou de mache
 K'avez mort la beste cornue?
 Molt seront lié de vo venue
 Li baron et li bacheler.
 Quant il orront de vous parler,
- 1105 Molt lor plaira vo compagnie!
 Estes vous por chevalerie
 Faire venus a cest tornoi?
 Sire Audegier, foi que Dieus doi,*
 Vos chevaus a fait sa jornee.
- 1110 Li mastin ont sa mort juree:
 Faire en volront lor quaresmel;
 Il n'a fors les os et le pel.
 Vos hiaumes a esté rompus:
 Les gelines ont dedens pus
- 1115 Plus de douz ans, al mien quidier.
 Li malfé vous ont fait vuidier
 Vo païs, ne fait eslongier?
 Mais vous volez Forré vengier,*
 Ou le Morhot, si con je quit.*
- 1120 Vengier le porrez ainz la nuit [170r_b]
 Molt bien, se en vous ne demeure."
 Perchevaus l'esgarde ens en l'eure,
 Vit l'estrument a son col pendre.
 Dist Perchevaus, "Se entreprendre
- 1125 Devoie contre menestrel,
 Doner vous iroie un cop tel
 Sor vostre escu qu'il i parroit
 Si que escus ne vous tenroit,
 Ne rien qui peüst avenir,
- 1130 Que je ne feisse venir
 De vous les talons contremont.
 Mais par cel Dieu qui fist le mont,
 Por mil mars, ce sachiez de voir,
 Ne volroie je mie avoir
- 1135 Mis main dedesus jogleor,
 Moi est vis, par le Salveor:
 J'en seroie trop avilliez."
 Et Keus dist, "Vous vous traveilliez
 En vain, par Saint Jame l'apostre,
- 1140 Vo cheval arai malgré vostre;
 Mais ce n'ert pas por chevalchier:
 Ains le volrai faire escorchier,
 Si en avront la char li chien
 Et je le cuir; si vous di bien

- You are bold indeed
for you have killed a snail.
Did you kill the horned beast
with a javelin or a mace? 1100
- The barons and young knights
will be quite happy about your arrival;
when they hear about you,
they will be pleased that you are here! 1105
- Did you come to accomplish
deeds of valor at this tournament?
Sir Audegier, my faith,
your horse has seen its time.
- The dogs have sworn its death:
they will make their Lenten meal of it;
it is only skin and bones. 1110
- Your helmet is bashed in:
hens have been laying eggs in it
for more than two years, I imagine. 1115
- Did demons make you quit
your country, leaving it far behind?
- Your project is doomed to failure;
you might as well set out to take vengeance on the Morholt,
in my view.
- You could take your vengeance on him 1120
before nightfall, unless you harbor some reluctance."
- Perceval looked at him at once
and saw the instrument hanging from his neck.
- He said, "If I were to
fight a minstrel, 1125
I would give you such a blow
that your shield
would not protect you,
and nothing could prevent me
from making you fall down
head over heels.
- But, by God who made the world,
be assured that I would not
put my hand on a minstrel,
not for a thousand marks: 1130
- I would debase myself to do so,
in my opinion, by the Savior."
- And Kay said, "You are going to a lot of trouble
in vain, for by Saint James the apostle,
I shall get your horse in spite of you; 1140
but it won't be for riding:
I'll have it skinned.
- The dogs will get the meat
and I the hide, to make a bag

- 1145 Que j'en ferai faire un bahut.
 Car il est bien drois c'on vous hut
 Quant vous errez si faitement."
 Perchevaus respont dolcement,
 "Sire," fait il, "se je avoie
- 1150 Vo cheval, le mien vous donroie
 Car molt ameroie cel change."
 "Par foi, or me sers tu de blange,"
 Fait Keus, "tu le comparris ja!"
 Atant un petit s'eslonga,
- 1155 La lance baisse et prend son tor.
 Perchevaus, qui en maint estor
 Avoit esté, molt peu le doute;
 Et neporquant a molt grant honte:
 Avis li est et si li samble
- 1160 C'uns menestreus a lui asamble
 Malgré sien, et si le manache.
 Perchevaus ne set que il face:
 Dolans sera se le malmet.
 De sa lance l'arestuel met
- 1165 Devant et le fer par derriere
 Et si l'atent en tel maniere
 Qu'en tant ne quant soi ne remuet.
 Mesire Keus quanque il puet
 Point le cheval qui tost randone;
- 1170 Percheval si tres grant cop done
 Sor son escu qui fu destains
 Que sa lance desi as mains
 A froissie par grant aïr.
 A por un poi ne fist chaïr
- 1175 Cheval et chevalier ensamble,
 Car de foiblece trestoz tramble
 Et deploie toz li chevaus.
 Mais sachiez bien que Perchevaus
 Feri si Ké en mi le pis
- 1180 De sa lance, qu'il a guerpis
 Les estriers et chiet tos envers.
 Et Perchevaus a lués aers
 Par les regnes le bon destrier,
 Sus saut, onques n'i quist estrier,
- 1185 Puis dist a Ké, "Vassal, prenez
 Mon cheval et si aprenez
 Coment il vous saroit porter.
 Molt mieus vous venist deporter
 A vostre estrument et deduire
- 1190 Que chevalier gabet et nuire."
 A itant Perchevaus le laisse,
 Encontre chiaus dedens s'eslaisse,

[170r_c]

- out of it, I assure you. 1145
 It is only right that you be mocked
 since you travel about looking as you do."
 Perceval responded mildly,
 "My lord, if I had
 your house, I would give you mine 1150
 for I would like such an exchange."
 "By my faith, now you are making fun of me
 and you are going to pay for it!"
 Kay drew off a little way,
 lowered his lance and came forward. 1155
 Perceval, who had been in many
 jousts, was not afraid of him;
 but he was ashamed:
 he was convinced
 that a minstrel was attacking him 1160
 and challenging him willy-nilly.
 Perceval did not know what to do:
 he would regret it if he harmed this individual.
 He put the butt of his lance foremost
 and the lance-tip behind 1165
 and waited for him in this way
 not moving at all.
 Sir Kay spurred his horse
 hard and it dashed forward;
 he gave Perceval such a blow 1170
 on his dull shield
 that his lance shattered
 with a great shock right down to his hands.
 He almost toppled
 both knight and horse, 1175
 for the horse trembled, it was so weak,
 and steadied itself by spreading its legs.
 But Perceval struck Kay such a blow
 with his lance
 in the middle of his chest that he lost 1180
 his stirrups and fell flat on the ground.
 And Perceval immediately seized
 the fine horse by its reins,
 jumped on it, without using the stirrups,
 then said to Kay, "Vassal, take 1185
 my horse and learn
 how to conduct yourself.
 It would be much better for you
 to amuse yourself with your instrument
 than insult a knight." 1190
 Then Perceval left him,
 riding full tilt against those from the inside

- Qui chiaus dehors vont encauchant.
 Perchevaus point le sor bauchant,
 1195 Qui molt tredurement le porte.
 De la lance qui toute est torte
 A feru si grant cop Gorrain
 Qu'il l'abat, et puis Agrevain,
 Cliget et le prou Lancelot.
 1200 Quatre chevaus a en sen lot
 Gaaigniez, qu'il a presentez
 A chiaus que il vit desmontez
 Qui lor chevaus orent perdus.
 Cil defors, qui tout esperdu
 1205 Avoient par devant esté,
 Voient le tournoi arresté
 Par le bien fait de Percheval.
 Chascuns radrece son cheval;
 Por Percheval ont cuer repris.
 1210 Le tournoiemont ont empris
 Vers chiaus dedens molt fierement.
 Et Perchevaus isnelement
 Se refiert es Cornualois.
 Tant fait Perchevaus li Galois
 1215 Que parmi les gues les rentassent,
 Mais molt a malaise les passent.
 Perchevaus durement s'esforce;
 Sa lance ou encor tint l'escorce
 Ne vaut changier ne remuer.
 1220 Tristrans commencha a muer
 De fin air quant il l'ot dire.
 Espris de maltalent et d'ire
 Va le chevalier demandant
 Par cui sont mené si tendant:
 1225 Vers lui se volra esprover.
 Mais tempre le porra trover,
 Car Perchevaus adez s'adreche
 La ou voit la greignor destreche.
 Dusqu'a le porte les remainne.
 1230 La a Tristrans soffert grant paine
 Et mesire Gauvains, li dols,
 Devers les siens les passe tous.
 Tristrans a guenchi le cheval,
 Sor destre choisi Percheval,
 1235 Qui sor le destrier Ké se sist.
 Tot maintenant qu'il le choisit,
 Bien le connoist, molt li anuie.
 Sor les estriers si fort s'apuie
 Que les coroies en estent:
 1240 Contre lui va, plus n'i atent.

[170v_a]

- who were pursuing the outsiders.
 He spurred the trammelled chesnut,
 which carried him violently forward. 1195
 With his crooked lance
 he struck Gorvain a heavy blow
 that knocked him down, and then Agravain,
 Cligés and the brave Lancelot.
 He thus captured four horses, 1200
 which he offered
 to those whom he noticed were on foot
 because they had lost theirs.
 Those on the outside, who had been
 in despair before, 1205
 saw the course of the tournament stopped
 by Perceval's exploits.
 Each of them directed his horse toward the fray;
 they took heart again because of Perceval.
 They engaged those from the inside 1210
 in combat with great boldness.
 Perceval for his part,
 charged straight at the knights of Cornwall.
 Through Perceval the Welshman's efforts
 the outsiders backed them into the river fords, 1215
 which they crossed with difficulty.
 Perceval did his utmost;
 he did not want to exchange
 his lance, to which pieces of bark still clung.
 When Tristan heard about all this, 1220
 he became furious.
 Filled with anger,
 he sought out the knight
 by whom the other side had been so promptly taken in hand:
 he wished to measure himself against him. 1225
 He was to find him quickly,
 for Perceval always went
 where he saw the greatest distress.
 He drove them back to the city gate.
 There Tristan endured great suffering 1230
 and Sir Gawain, the affable,
 surpassed all the knights on his side.
 Tristan turned his horse aside
 and saw Perceval on the right,
 astride Kay's horse. 1235
 As soon as he caught sight of him,
 he recognized him as the knight he was seeking and was vexed.
 He leaned so hard on his stirrups
 that he stretched the leathers:
 without further ado, he rode toward him. 1240

- Quant Perchevaus le voit venir
 Et la lance et l'escu tenir
 Tant cointement et si tres bel,
 Et voit qu'il a mis en chantel
 1245 L'escu si acesmeement,
 Et la lance tout ensement
 Li voit si tres bel manier;
 Mais molt li prent a anuier
 De che que la viele voit
 1250 Que Tristrans a son col avoit,
 Si quide qu'il soit menestreus
 Qui embatus se soit entr'eus
 Por faire gaber et por rire.
 Tristrans qui durement s'aïre
 1255 De che qu'il sont si resorti,
 Mais molt durement s'aati
 Qu'a celui as viez garnemens
 Par cui toz li tournoiemens
 Est sostenus a ciaus defors
 1260 Volra assembler cors a cors
 Atant point quanque puet destendre,
 Que cheval ot et rade et tendre,
 Et Perchevaus vers lui s'eslaisse.
 Chascuns d'aus dous sa lance baisse.
 1265 Molt hardiment s'abandonnent:
 Sor les escus teus cops se donent
 Qui les froissent et esquartelent;
 Les lances toutes en astelent.
 Mais au venir que font ensamble
 1270 Se hurtent si, si con moi samble,
 De cors, de pis et de chevaus.
 Et sachiez bien que Perchevaus
 Abat Tristran si laidement
 Que tot cil du tournoiement
 1275 Virent contremont les talons,
 Et tant comme il fu grans et lons
 Li fait mesurer la champaigne.
 Et si durement le mehaigne
 Qu'a poi qu'il n'a le cuer crevé.
 1280 Tant par l'a durement grevé
 Que il ne se puet redrecier,
 Et por lui faire fiancier
 Prison, s'arreste Perchevaus.
 Atant brocherent les chevaus
 1285 Lancelos et mesire Yvains,
 Saigremors et li prous Gauvains,
 Si ont Percheval assali.
 Perchevaus pas nes en fali

[170v_b]

[170v_c]

- Perceval saw him come,
grasping his lance and shield
with easy elegance,
holding his shield to one side
in good form
and handling his lance
in fine style as well;
however, he was nonplussed
to see the fiddle
that Tristan had hanging from his neck, 1245
and he thought that he was a minstrel
who had rushed in among the knights
to make people laugh and jest.
Tristan was angry
that his side had been driven back 1250
and he swore to himself
that he would fight body to body
against this knight with shabby equipment
who had managed to change the course
of the tournament in the favor of the outsiders. 1255
Then spurring forward at full speed,
for he had a young and spirited horse,
Perceval hurtled toward him.
Both lowered their lances.
They engaged each other boldly: 1260
they gave each other heavy blows
that made their shields fly into pieces;
they splintered their lances.
Bodies, chests and horses
came crashing together 1265
when they met, it seems to me.
Perceval knocked Tristan down
in humiliating fashion,
for those at the tournament
saw his heels fly up 1270
as he fell down flat
full length on the ground.
Perceval wounded him so badly
that his heart almost broke.
He had hurt him so seriously 1275
that Tristan could not get up,
and Perceval stopped
to accept his surrender.
Thereupon Lancelot and Sir Yvain,
Sagremor and the brave Gawain
spurred their horses forward 1280
and attacked Perceval.
He rose to the challenge,

- 1290 Ains trait l'espee, si lor vient
 Que par vive force convient
 Tout le plus cointe traire en sus.
 Et Perchevaus lor recort sus:
 Molt sovent les coite a l'espee;
 Lor armeure a decolpee,
 1295 Elmes quasse et escus porfent.
 Perchevaus si bien se deffent
 Qu'il ne puent sor lui conquerre,
 Ce m'est a vis, plain pié de terre.
 Et mesire Gauvains l'esgarde
 1300 Lors se remembre et se prend garde
 Que ce est cil tout vraiment
 Qui fu al grant tournoiemt:
 "Son hardement bien i mostra;
 Tout le tournoiemt outra,
 1305 Et tant me fist travail et paine
 Qu'il ne fu jors de la semaine
 Que ne me dolsist de ses cops
 Li chiés et le bras et li cols
 Et li cors et trestot li membre.
 1310 Quant je l'esgart, tres bien me membre
 Que nus autres, ce n'est pas faille,
 Ne porroit pas tant de bataille
 Soffrir, ne ce ne porroit estre.
 Ainz ne me volt rien de son estre
 1315 Dire, nis solement son non.
 Mais je ne sai par quel raison
 Est atornez si laidement.
 Il vint molt acesmeement
 Armez quant fu au grant tournoi,
 1320 Et chi si laidement le voi.
 Ce n'est il pas! Si est por voir:
 Si cop le me font bien savoir
 Mieus que ne font si garnement,
 Et si sai bien certainement
 1325 Que li cuers n'est es biaus adols."
 Atant Gauvains, li biaus, li dols,
 A Percheval a raison mis:
 "Sire," fait il, "vos bons amis
 Volroie estre, par Saint Davi.
 1330 Onques mais chevalier ne vi
 De qui tant volsisse estre acointes.
 Il m'est a vis que trop plus cointes
 Fustes quant je vous vi aillors;
 Garnemens aviiez meilleurs
 1335 Et plus biaus que vous n'avez chi.
 Mais, s'il vous plaist, par vo merchi,

[171r_a]

drew his sword and came at them
with such energy 1290
that even the most skilled of them had to draw back.
Now it was Perceval's turn to attack:
he pressed them with the blows of his sword;
he hacked at their armor,
smashing their helmets and piercing their shields. 1295
Perceval defended himself with such skill
that they could not make him give up
so much as a foot of land, I don't think.
Sir Gawain observed him intently
and then he realized 1300
that this was in fact the knight
who had been at the great tournament
"He displayed his mettle well there;
he surpassed everyone at the tournament
and tired me out and hurt me so badly 1305
that my head, arms and neck,
all my limbs and my whole body
ached from his blows
every day that week!
When I see him now, I realize clearly 1310
that no other knight, in truth,
could endure combat
so long, it could not be.
But he did not want to tell me
anything about who he was, not even his name. 1315
I don't know why
he is so shabbily equipped.
When he came to the great tournament,
he was properly armed
and yet I see him so wretchedly outfitted here. 1320
This is not he! Yes, it is, truly:
his blows identify him
better than his equipment,
and I know with certainty
that a man's heart is not in his armor." 1325
Thereupon Gawain, the fair, the affable,
addressed Perceval:
"My lord, I would like to be
your friend, by Saint David.
Never before have I seen a knight 1330
whom I wanted so much to know.
I believe that you were far
better equipped when I saw you elsewhere;
you had finer, more handsome
armor than you have here. 1335
Please, if you would permit me,

- Et il ne vous devoit grever,
 Proier vous volroie et rover
 Que me deüssiez vostre non."
- 1340 Quant Perchevaus ot la raison
 Et la vois de Gauvain oï,
 Molt durement s'en esbahi,
 Car au parler Gauvain li samble.
 Mais de corrous et d'ire tramble
- 1345 De ce qu'au col voit l'estrument,
 Si se merveille durement,
 Se che est il, por quel affaire
 Il se voloit menestreus faire.
 Se ce est il, bien le sara
- 1350 Que son non li demandera.
 Bien le sara ja au parler,
 C'onques son non ne volt celer
 A nului qui le demandast
 Por nule rien que il doutast.
- 1355 Lors li a dit, "S'il vous plaist, sire,
 Vostre non vous estuet ainz dire
 Et puis vous redirai le mien."
 Gauvains respont, "Ce me plaist bien.
 Molt volentiers le vous dirai,
- 1360 Que ja mon non ne celerai
 Por tant qu'il me soit demandez.
 Gauvains sui par nonappelez.
 Or revolroie bien savoir
 Le vostre non, sachiez de voir,
- 1365 Car molt me resamblez vassaus."
 "Certes," ce respont Perchevaus,
 "Je sai bien, toz en sui certains,
 Que onques mesire Gauvains
 Ne fu menestreus en sa vie.
- 1370 Mais puis que vous avez envie
 De mon non savoir et apprendre,
 Je le vous dirai sanz atendre
 Qu'en covent le vous ai a dire.
 J'ai a non Percheval, biaus sire."
- 1375 "Percheval?" "Voire, sanz doutance:
 Cil qui ala querre la lance
 Et le Graal, que j'ai veü
 Dous fois, mais n'ai mie seü
 La verité ne assomee.
- 1380 Mais j'ai resaldee une espee
 Qui en dous pieces ert brisiee
 Qui molt estoit bone et prisiee;
 Mais une osque i a a ssauder.
 De quanques je vols demander

[171r_b]

- and if you do not mind,
 I would like to ask you
 to tell me your name." 1340
- When Perceval heard these words
 and Gawain's voice,
 he was astonished,
 for from his speech it seemed to him this was Gawain,
 But he trembled with anger
 at the sight of the instrument hanging from his neck 1345
 and wondered,
 if it was indeed Gawain, why
 he wanted to pretend to be a minstrel.
 If it was he, he would find out
 by asking him his name. 1350
- He would know it right away from what he said,
 for Gawain refused to hide his name
 from anyone who might ask,
 whatever consequences he might fear. 1355
- Then he said to him, "If you please, my lord,
 you must tell me your name first
 and then I will tell you mine." 1360
- Gawain answered, "This pleases me well.
 I will tell it to you gladly,
 for I shall never hide my name
 if someone asks me what it is.
 I am called Gawain.
 Now I would like to know
 your name, in truth,
 for you seem very brave to me." 1365
- Perceval answered, "Of course
 I know full well, I am entirely sure,
 that Sir Gawain
 was never in his life a minstrel.
 But since you wish
 to learn my name, 1370
 I shall tell it to you right away,
 for I promised you to do so.
 Fair lord, my name is Perceval."
 "Perceval?" "Yes, certainly:
 the knight who went in quest of the lance
 and the Grail, which I have seen
 twice without finding out or grasping
 the truth of it. 1375
- I have soldered together a sword,
 fine and highly prized,
 that had been broken in two;
 but there remains one breach to solder.
 Nothing will be told me 1380

- 1385 Ne me dist rien ne ne dira
 Devant che que l'osque sera
 Rasaldee et remise a point;
 Devant che n'en sara nus point.
 Ce me conta li rois meïsmes,
 1390 Qu'encore n'estoie pas dignes
 Des secrez savoir du Graal."
 Quant Gauvains entent Percheval,
 Bien le ravise a sa parole.
 Son elme osta, puis si l'acole
 1395 Et li a dit, "Biaus gentius sire,
 Li rois mes oncles vous desire
 Plus a veoir que nis un home."
 Perchevaus respont, "C'est la some:
 Jamais jor n'irai en Bretaigne
 1400 Devant que l'aventure ataigne
 Du Graal, por nis une paine,
 Se aventure ne m'i maine.
 Mais or me dites errament
 Por coi portez tel estrument."
 1405 Lors li a fait Gauvains savoir
 De chief en chief trestot le voir
 Comment Tristrans les amena
 Devant le roi et demena
 Tout ensement comme une gaite.
 1410 Dist Perchevaus, "Fols est qui gaite
 Gens qui s'entraiment loialment,
 Car on voit tout apertement
 Qu'il emprendent trop fol usage.
 Fol en devienten li plus sage,
 1415 Mais ce fait faire jalousie."
 Perchevaus, qui par cortoisie
 Oste son elme, Gauvain baise;
 Molt est li uns de l'autre a aise.
 Quant Tristrans Percheval entent,
 1420 De la joie qu'il a s'estent;
 Ne sent angoisse ne dolor.
 Li rois Mars vint la et li lor,
 Que li tournois fu demorez.
 Molt fu Percheval honorez
 1425 Du roi Marc; quant l'a conneü,
 Molt belement l'a recheü;
 Molt en fait grant joie et grant feste.
 Mesire Gauvains ne s'arreste
 Ains a lués fait monter Tristran,
 1430 Qui d'amors sueffre grant ahan.
 Gauvains, qui fu prous et vassaus,
 Mesire Yvains et Perchevaus

[171r_c]

about whatever I wish to ask
until this breach
is soldered and repaired;
until this is done, no one will know anything about it.
The king himself told me this,
for I was not yet worthy
to know the secrets regarding the Grail." 1385
When Gawain heard Perceval,
he recognized him clearly from what he said.
He took off his helmet, embraced him
and said, " Fair and noble lord,
the king, my uncle, desires to see
you more than any other man." 1390
Perceval answered, "My decision is final:
I shall never go to Britain
until I accomplish the adventure
of the Grail, even were I to suffer,
unless the adventure led me there. 1395
Now tell me right away why
you are carrying that instrument."
Then Gawain told him
the truth, from the beginning,
about how Tristan had brought them
before the king,
pretending that they were watchmen. 1405
Perceval said, "Someone who spies on
true lovers is a fool;
it is clear
that such people behave very foolishly.
Even the wisest become fools,
but jealousy drives them to it." 1410
Perceval graciously removed his
helmet and embraced Gawain;
They were pleased to have found each other's company.
When Tristan heard Perceval,
he was calmed by the joy that he felt; 1420
he suffered no further anguish or sadness.
King Mark came and all the knights,
for the tournament had ceased.
Perceval was honored by
the king; when he found out who he was,
the king received him in grand style;
he welcomed him joyfully. 1425
Sir Gawain did not delay
but straightaway advanced the interests of Tristan,
who was suffering from love. 1430
Gawain, brave and valiant,
Sir Yvain and Perceval

- Ont ensamble au roi Marc proiié
Un don, il lour a otroié.
- 1435 Quant mon seignor Gauvain connut
Et Yvain, tint soi a dechut
Que il plus honorez nes a.
Mesire Gauvains devisa
Le don qui lor estoit donez:
- 1440 "Sire," fait il, "vous pardonez
Tristran vo corrous et vostre ire."
Quant li rois Mars l'ot, si sozpire,
Qui Tristran son neveu cremoit
Por sa feme que il amoit
- 1445 Ensi comme on li ot conté;
Altrement n'en set verité.
Son mautalent li pardona,
Son avoir li abandona
Et sa volenté sanz querine,
- 1450 Fors que la chambre la roïne;
Mais ce li velt il deveer
S'il n'i quide le roi trover.
Tristrans l'otroie bonement,
Puis conte al roi molt dolcement
- 1455 Coment vinrent par coverture
A lui quant sorent l'aventure
Qu'il avoit empris le tournoi,
"Que molt haisse vostre anoi."
"Biaus niez," dist li rois, "desormais
- 1460 Serez od moi en bone pais."
Atant entrent en la chité.
La nuit furent tot rachaté
Li prisonier d'ambesdous pars.
Cele nuit a fait li rois Mars
- 1465 Molt grant feste de Percheval.
L'endemain armes et cheval
Li fait baillier gentes et beles.
Maintenant font metre lor seles
Li chevalier le roi Artu.
- 1470 N'i ont mie molt atendu,
Dont sont monté sor lor chevaus;
Atant s'en vont, et Perchevaus
Se met avec aus a le voie.
Tristrans grant piece les convoie
- 1475 Tant qu'il vinrent a un mostier,
La ou departent li sentier
Et li chemin et les estrees
Qui vont par diverses contrees.
Quant il vinrent a la chapele,
- 1480 Perchevaus les barons apele,

[171v_a]

- together asked King Mark
for a boon, which he granted them.
Once he recognized my lord Gawain
and Yvain, the King thought he had been fooled
into failing to show them greater honor. 1435
- Sir Gawain explained
the boon that he had agreed to give them:
“Sire,” he said, “pardon
Tristan, and put aside your anger.” 1440
- When King Mark heard this, he sighed,
for he feared his nephew Tristan
because of his wife, whom Tristan loved,
as people had told him; 1445
- beyond this, he did not know the truth of the affair.
He pardoned him, set aside his hatred,
and granted him free run of his lands
and whatever he wished, without ill will,
except access to the queen’s bedroom; 1450
- he wished to forbid him this place
unless he thought the King would be there.
Tristan agreed to this condition with alacrity,
then he told the King in a friendly manner
how they had come to him 1455
- in disguise when they found out
that he had undertaken the tounament,
“For,” as he said, “I disliked the thought of your distress.”
“Fair nephew,” said the King, “henceforth
you and I will be at peace.” 1460
- Then they went into the city.
That night the prisoners of both sides
were all ransomed.
- King Mark fêted Perceval
in grand style that night. 1465
- The next day he had splendid arms
and a fine horse were given to him.
- King Arthur’s knights
had their horses saddled immediately.
- They did not delay
but mounted. 1470
- and rode off, and Perceval
left with them.
- Tristan accompanied them for a long stretch
until they came to a chapel
at the point where paths
and roads part
to go to various regions. 1475
- When they came to the chapel,
Perceval called to the barons, 1480

- "Seignor," dist il, "ne quier mentir:
 Chi m'estuet de vous departir
 Que le Graal me convient querre,
 Et vous irez en vostre terre,
 1485 Et Deus a joie vous i maint!
 Por Dieu lassus qui el ciel maint,
 Saluez moi le roi Artu.
 Que Deus honor, force et vertu
 Et toute joie li envoit."
- 1490 Mesire Gauvains ot et voit
 Que Perchevaus aler s'en velt
 Le Graal querre: or le conseilt
 Li vrais Dieus, qui bien le puet faire!
 "Et je al Pui de Montesclaire
 1495 Irai," fait mesire Gauvains. [171v_b]
 Et quant l'oï mesire Yvains,
 A por un poi de doel ne font;
 Tot li baron grant doel en font
 Et chascuns d'als pleure et sozpire.
- 1500 "Que porra ore li rois dire,"
 Fait Lancelos, "quant la venrons
 Et les noveles li dirons
 Et de vous et de Percheval?"
 Atant s'en torne tout un val
- 1505 Perchevaus, qui les a lessiez;
 Au departir les a baisiez.
 Et mesire Gauvains s'en part,
 Un grant chemin de l'autre part
 S'est mis grant aleüre a voie.
- 1510 Ançois mais que son oncle voie,
 Avra molt paines et travaus;
 Mestier li avra Perchevaus.
 Ensi Gauvains et Perchevaus
 En vont armé sor lor chevaus.
- 1515 Li autre vont en lor contree,
 Chascuns son chemin et s'estree,
 Tristre et dolent et amati
 Quant de Gauvain sont departi
 Et de Percheval ensement.
- 1520 Einsi font lor dolousement,
 Et Tristrans est dolans remez
 Qui durement les ot amez.
 Mais Brengien le conforta
 Et Iseus, que il tant ama.

"My lords, I must tell you the truth:
 I must leave you here,
 for I must search for the Grail
 while you return to your land,
 and may God conduct you there joyfully!"

1485

For the name of God in heaven,
 greet King Arthur for me.

May God give him honor,
 strength, prowess and joy!"

Sir Gawain heard and saw
 that Perceval wished to leave

1490

to seek the Grail: now may he be counseled
 by the true God, who can surely do this!

"As for me, I shall go to
 Mount Montesclaire," said Sir Gawain.

1495

When Sir Yvain heard this,
 he was profoundly saddened.

A great lamentation went up from all the barons
 and each of them wept and sighed.

"What will the king say

1500

when we come to him
 and tell him this news

about you and Perceval?" said Lancelot.

Then Perceval turned away

1505

and left them,

but first he embraced them.

Sir Gawain also left,

taking the main road in the other direction
 at a brisk pace.

Before he saw his uncle again

1510

he would endure much suffering and difficulty;

Perceval would need him.

Thus Gawain and Perceval

went off armed upon their horses.

The other knights returned to their land,

1515

each making his own way,

sad, grieving and disconsolate

because they had been separated from

Gawain and Perceval as well.

Thus they expressed their grief,

1520

leaving Tristan behind, saddened

because he held them in affection.

But he was comforted by Brangaene

and by Iseult, whom he loved deeply.

NOTES

518. The armonie was a stringed instrument played with a bow; it could produce more than one note at a time.

686. The "vespers" were a preliminary engagement, often including young knights, *bachelors*, held the day before the tournament proper.

858. Nones: 3 p.m.

1097-99. Lombards were reputed to be cowards. Carvings and marginal drawings in manuscripts that represent a combat between a knight and a snail could allude to the tradition of the cowardly Lombard. The expression *tuer la limace*, literally 'killing a snail,' referred to a ridiculous deed. (See Weston's line notes to the Bédier edition and Oswald's line notes to Williams' edition.)

1108. Audegier is the hero of a parodic epic poem. He is as cowardly as his father, who was brought up in Lombardy. (See Weston's note to this line.)

1118. *Vengier Forré* was an expression used to refer to a futile or fanciful undertaking. (See Weston's and Oswald's notes to this line.)

1119. The Morholt was a giant knight defeated by Tristan. (See Béroul's text and the Berne and Oxford versions of the *Folie Tristan*.)

1300. The Great Tournament before the Chastel Orguellous in the *Second Continuation* of Chrétien's *Conte du Graal*. Perceval participates incognito and wins the honor of the tournament.