Egerton MS 2862 Transcription (LBM)

**fol. 1r**

<!– CMP text: fol. 1r-12r are largely illegible due to water damage. –>

.......................................... shippes blyue <!– CMP expl: Note: all dotted lines are editorial insertions for illegible text. –> <!– CMP expl: The Egerton manuscript is missing several initial leaves, and its version of *Richard Coer de Lyon* begins with what corresponds to line 1857 in Larkin and Brunner. –>

<!– CMP text: rest of fol. illegible. –>

**fol. 1v**

[With] hoked .................... [with] quarell

Mony fel out of ......................................

And brek.................................................

And ........................................................

The ffrensh.............................................

And cast ................................................

I woot ....................................................

<!– CMP text: rest of fol. illegible. –>

**fol. 2r**

................................... [with] his swerd

[Richard] ..............................................

þat ............................................... doute

[With]............................................oute

Por................................................ wan

<!– CMP text: rest of fol. illegible. –>

**fol. 2v**

And seide it shuld be pees ................

And ʒelde him ..................................

And bade he shuld ...........................

....... he had ven............................ foo

<!– CMP text: rest of fol. illegible. –>

**fol. 3r**

He ...... him a stroke v.................... <!– CMP text: The H in "he" is a decorative initial about four lines tall and eight characters wide. –>

<!– CMP text: rest of fol. illegible. –>

**fol. 3v**

......................................... afterward

His ..................................................

<!– CMP text: rest of fol. illegible. –>

**fol. 4r**

Ty....... com to þe Emper[our]

þat [Richard] was in lamasoure

A.. had his Burgeys to deeþ do

No ...der was ..auʒe him was wo

He ..............oon [with]oute faile

A..... his wyse counsaile

þa........ shuld .... to hym ......

T...................................................

H...................... to .......................

A..................................................

B.............................................ard

H..................................................

Th.................................................

A..................................................

A..................................................

.....................................................

.....................................................

.....................................................

.....................................................

.....................................................

........................................ so bryʒt

.....................................................

.................................... þe powere

................................ ʒour beheete

............................................. feete

.....................................................

.....................................................

.................................... þe Empire

.............................................. syre

............................................ faile

.....................................................

.....................................................

.....................................................

............................................... take

................................... muche .......

................................................. his

.....................................................

......................................... Richard

......................................... styward

.....................................................

.....................................................

<!– CMP text: rest of fol. illegible. –>

**fol. 4v**

Ten hundred stedes good an............

[Richard] let trappe in good a..........

On eu[er]yche an Engl..ss...............

And þe Steward ..............................

............. by þ....................................

To þe E............................................

<!– CMP text: rest of fol. illegible. –>

**fol. 5r**

...............de his clothes and his tresoure

....ow was þat foule Traytoure

........................... day gan dawe

.....ousa.. gryffons þey had s..awe

...........lk sendel and scelat..

W... þe Emp[er]o[ur]s Pauylon

................... world was noon suche

Ne neu[er] man sey neu[er] noon so ryche

Kyng [Richard] [with] grete worship

...... him go in to þe Shipp[e]

Suche at Surre were noon founde

Pauylons of so ..yche mounde

Coupes of gold grete and smale

þey hadden þere [with]oute tale

fflorens Basauntes [with]out lees

Sylke samite Sares.....

Mony coferes smale and grete

Were y fylde and ful y bete

Twoo steedes fonde kyng [Richard]

þat oon hyʒt fauell and þat other lyard

In ... þe world nas her pere

Dromedarye ne destrere

Stede rabyte ne camaile

þat ran so swith [with]out faile

ffor a þousand pound ytolde

........... ne shuld not ben ysolde

Alle þat his men men hadden forlore

Seuen dowble þey had þerfore

Tydynges to þe Emp[er]o[ur] was coom

........ his douʒter was y noom

............................ hygh steward

......... deliuered to kyng [Richard]

................. wost .......... wel y wys

.....................................................

.................................... cleped anoon

......................on hast ... [Richard] goon

................................................ kyng

............................................ gretyng

................................................. ʒelde

................................................. helde

**fol. 5v**

So þat he wolle for charyte <!– CMP text: The S in "So" is a decorative initial about four lines tall and five characters wide. –>

In pees hereafter let me be

þe messengeres [with] good entent

Dede her lordes co[m]maundement

King [Richard] seide tho

I g[ra]unte lordynges [þat] it be so

To sauʒtle [with] ʒo[ur] Emp[er]o[ur]

þat hath do me this dishono[ur]

When he robbed þe Pylg[ri]mes

That were toward þe Paynymes

þat he ʒelde my tresoure eu[er]y dell

As he wol be my speciell

And sey to ʒo[ur] Emp[er]oure

þat he amende þe dishono[ur]

That he did to his steward

In dispite of kyng Richard

And þat he com erly .........ow

And crye m[er]cy [with] muche sorowe

And homage by ʒere me sende or bere

Or by my croun y him swere

þat he shal haue no foot of londe

Neuer out of myn honde

þe messengeres by oon accord

ʒede and tolde þis her lord

þe Emp[er]oure was ful woo

þat he shuld þe dede doo

In his hert was muche sorow

To kyng [Richard] he com on morow

And cryed m[er]cy [with] reuly entent

And [Richard] forʒafe his maletalent

ffewte he dede and homage

Byfore al his Baronage

þat day þey were at accorde

And togeder weren set at oo borde

In solace and ... muche play

Were þey al [þat] ilke day

When it com to eve

þe Emp[er]oure gan take his leue

And went to his ostell

In hert lyked him not welle

**fol. 6r**

He hild him self for a coward

þat he dide homage to kyng Richard

And þouʒt how he him a wreke myʒte

Vp he stert anoon ryʒt

To a cite þat hight Bowent <!– CMP expl: "Bowent" is a corruption of "Buffavento," a castle in northern Cyprus. –>

þeder he went verament

There he founde mony a greet syre

þe Grettest of [þat] Empyre

To hem pleyned þe Emp[er][our]

Of þe shame and of þe dishono[ur]

þat him dide kyng Richard

þrowʒe help of his ow.. Steward

Vp stert P..... a bold Baroun

A nobleman of grete .........

The Stewardes ............ was

... whom he .............. fas

.....................................................

.....................................................

.....................................................

............................................ shent

.......................................... couthe

.......................................... nouthe

.....................................................

.....................................................

............................................ bolde

............................................ holde

<!– CMP text: rest of fol. illegible. –>

**fol. 6v**

[þat] him for þouʒt swythe soore

þat þe Emp[er]oure was so forloore

They dide him seche in al wyse

And founde him in þe citee of Pise <!– CMP expl: "Pise" is an error or an invented city on Cyprus for the sake of rhyme; historically the "emperor" Isaac Komnenos of Cyprus fled to Kantara. –>

But certeynly king [Richard]

Wold not loke to him ward

ffor he had broke his trewth

Of him ne had he no ...... rewth

Swith fast he dide hym bynde

Both his hondes .... behinde

And cast h... into ...............

And lad him forth .......... Surrey

And swore .. him ..... made sterre

Aʒen ... Saryʒens he ...............

.....................................................

Kyng [Richard] ...........................

.....................................................

þrouʒ counsale of ........................

He ................................................

And held þe .................................

Th.................................................

þe kynges D..................................

And ..............................................

<!– CMP text: rest of fol. illegible. –>

**fol. 7r**

The .xi. day þey sailed in tempest

þat nyʒt þey hadden no rest

........... þay weren in grete auenture

............ a Dromond .....................

......................... so heuy ..............

.....................................................

.....................................................

.......... [with] corne ....................

............... and ..............................

.....................................................

....................................................

.....................................................

.....................................................

.....................................................

þan stert .......................................

And .............................................

.....................................................

.....................................................

.....................................................

.....................................................

.....................................................

.....................................................

.....................................................

.....................................................

....................... ben so heuy frauʒt

............... saile [with] ........ nouʒt

ʒit seide Alayn ............. anoon <!– CMP expl: The historical Alan Trechemer was a well-known shipbuilder and sailor under Richard I. –>

I here speke but þe aloon

.....................................................

þat we ....... hem al here

And know ʒoure tonge þan

ffor we ne wyl trow oo man

.............................. latynere

............................. þu here

...................................... tempest

.....................................................

............................................ Aleyn

<!– CMP text: rest of fol. illegible. –>

**fol. 7v**

Th[e] saryʒyns sterten vp al prest

And seide felow go do þy best

ffor ʒo[ur] kyng and his Galeys

We ʒeue not two Boterflyes

þo Trenchemere gan rowe harde

Tyl he come to kyng [Richard]

And swore to him by seint Iohn

............. were Saryʒyns eu[er]ychon

...... spake oure kyng of grete renoun

þat hight [Richard] Cor ... L.....

Of ... tydyng ............... blythe

A..................................................

........................ Galey .................

And .............................................

.....................................................

.....................................................

.....................................................

His other ............................ he nouʒt

Th................................................

þe kyng .......................................

N...................................................

In helle .........................................

They .............................................

And song ......................................

þe Galey........................................

As ............... out of ......................

And as þe Dromond com [with] ....

A large ............... out behynd

.... galey ......................................

.....................................................

The Saryʒyns were armyd welle

............................................steele

And stoden ....... and ...................

A..... þe ........................Richard

...... [Richard] ...... his good ........

....................................................

............................................... woo

<!– CMP text: rest of fol. illegible. –>

**fol. 8r**

Out of þe topcastel an hye

þat [Richard] nas neu[er] his deþ so nye

þe story seith [þat] kyng Richard

Hent þere mony a stroke ful hard

þo com seuen Galeys behynd

To þe dromond fast seylyng

And stood aborde baroun and knyʒt

To help her lord forto fyʒt

Strong batayle began þer þan

Bytwene hem and ... he..en men

[With] s....es and [with] speres keene

And glowyng quare......................

Also þyk [with]............................

As haile do.. after ........................

But in þe beker ...........................

..to þe dromond ............ Richard

[illegible] he was ............... hast

............ he dressed ......................

............ his axe ............ rauʒt

............... soone ..............................

............................................. þe basyn

............................ to þe .............

........................... þe shippes brede

..................... smot of þe hede

.............................. smot he

............ and hed fley in to þe see

.... þe ........o[ur] ferde .. wax

................. kyng Richardes axe

................. seide as y telle

................. com fro helle

.............................. borde

...................................... flod

........................... were .........

................ king [Richard] ........

............................... wyttenes

... þe .....ee ..... Acrys

<!– CMP text: rest of fol. illegible. –>

**fol. 8v**

Of hokyd arowes and quarell

They fonde þ[er]yn moony barell

And ... whete gret plente

Gold and ........................

Of tresoure ne had he half .............

.................... was y found

But it drenched in the flood

............. vncharged was þe good

A.......... it wolde al cry....ante

ffor had þe d......... with ....... plente

Pass..d to Acrys ................g Richard

An h...........................................ward

..........................................................

..........................................................

..........................................................

[With]....................................mond

........................................................

.................................. he went ........

[With] ............................................

The ................................................

And ...................... toward ............

He .................................. of ..........

H..................................................we

...................................................draw

............................... of ..................ee..

..............................t to twoo pylers

.............. ship shuld ...............nne

................. þat were þ[er]ynne

................................... and more

...................................................

..................... suffred and .............

...................................... þe Ch....n

And when.....................................

..........ges.................. gan to .........

........... swore and seide in ............

........................................... nouʒt

................ge ................................

.......................mere .....................

......................... Galey ................

.....................................................

**fol. 9r**

Were þe maryn[ers] lef or loth

He dide hem saile and row booth

And seide who so feynteþ at nede

On euyl deth mot be be dede

þe Galeye ʒed also swyfte

As eny fowle [þat] fleeth in flyʒt

Kyng [Richard] [þat] was so good

[With] his axe .. þe Galey stood

When he com byfore þe cheyn

...... smot ....... [with] ............. mayn

And ..... þe cheyn ................. see

Both þe .......es fe.........................

Al þe maryn[er]s seide ..............

þat it was a noble dynt

And for ioye of ...............

.....he Drynkes þay ................

.....................................................

........... toward A..........................

......... [Richard] out of his ..........

.....................................................

...................ys ..............................

...................de ..............................

.....................................................

............... here into ......................

.....................................................

................ brent al of ...... G.........

................... [þat] .........................

........... þe walles [with] ..............

<!– CMP text: rest of fol. illegible. –>

**fol. 9v**

The king of Grece aʒeyn hym com

And by þe honde he him nom

And kyssed him [with] grete hono[ur]

So dide also þe Emperour

Alle þe kinges of Cristyante

þat hadden þ[er]e so longe y be

Seven ʒere þey had..n in dolo[ur]

They welcom him [with] grete hono[ur]

The Erchebisshop of Pise

Dide kyng [Richard] his s[er]uice

And sethen þey ʒede as ʒe shul here

Into þe Pauyloun ...........

He ..lde [Richard] a dounful tale

Of harde auentures grete and smale

And seide S[ir] to me ʒe here

This sege hath last .... seuenʒere

Hit .........................holde

Muche Penaunce we haue þoolede

ffor we ... had no Castelle

About .......the] Tou.. ne w..le

But a w........... and de...

Wee maad vs to for to kepe

[With] ............ for þe noonys

þ.......... w....ght of greet .....

And ........... Dyche was [illegible]

................ þe Soudan was glaad

.............. to vs [with] greet rout

............................... about

And with his ...........feraunt

.....................................................

........ was a ....... knyʒt Somtyme

He ...............................................

.....................................................

.................. son ...........................

.......... him ........ of worldes .......

............ff...unt by his name

.................. bataile se.................

...................... and .....................

Wel fa................. kn...............

................................................

**fol. 10r**

<!– CMP text: top of fol. torn, missing approx. four lines. –>

............................... by what cas

Moony a man to sorow allas

As we þe Saryʒyns dide to dede

Befel þ[er] a noble stede

Outrayde from a paynym

þe Cristen men folowed him

þe Saryʒyns sey [þat] we coom

And fledden aʒe............d soom

They slow moony a douʒty knyʒt

And turned aʒeyn [with] strong fyʒt

þere we lost or we wist

The best bodyes vnder crist

þe Erle feres of Ingelond <!– CMP expl: Likely a reference to the historical William I de Ferrers, third Earl of Derby, who accompanied Richard on the Third Crusade and died at Acre. –>

was noon so douʒty man of hond

And þe Emp[er]oure of Almayn <!– CMP expl: "Almayn" is Germany. The historical emperor Frederick I preceded Richard I and Philip II on the Third Crusade, but died before reaching the Holy Land. –>

S[ir] Iames þe Erl of Spayn <!– CMP expl: This "Erl of Spayn" is likely a fictional character. –>

.xi. þousand of oure men

þere were slawe [with]oute pite þen

þereof þe Saudan was ful glad

A morow .. new saute he mad

And let take al þe corses

Bothe of men and of horses

And cast in to þe water of oure welle

Vs to poyson and to quell

Ne dede þey neu[er] no worse dede

To cristen men for no nede

ffor þrowʒ þe poyson of þe breeth

ffourty þousand token her deeth

Sone after Newhere is tyde <!– CMP expl: "Newhere" is an error for "New Yere." –>

A nother cas vs gan betyde

A Ship com sailyng by þe see

........ged [with] wheete greet plente

With w.... fire and armo[ur] bryʒt

................... Saryʒyns in her fyʒt

.......................................faile

............... þat folk to assaile

**fol. 10v**

<!– CMP text: top of fol. is torn, missing approx. three lines. –>

And ouersay...................

þ[er]e were lore sixty scoore

The beste bodẏes þat eu[er] were boore

þat was þe begynnyng of oure care

þat vs haþ greuid swythe sare

On seynt Iones day verament <!– CMP expl: "seynt Iones day"=24 June. Other manuscripts instead have St. James's day, which is 25 July. –>

þe Saryʒyns out of Acrys went

Wel a myle vs besyde

And pyʒt Pauil..... rounde and wyde

And soiourne so a longe while

And al it was vs to begyle

Oure cristen men þat were wyʒt

Erl Baroun Squyer and knyʒt

Thei sey þe Saryʒyns hadden grete rychesse

And we þ[er]of had grete distresse

And þouʒt to wynne to oure p[ra]y

Al þat tresoure and þat nobley

ffyue þousand hem armed welle

Boþ in Iren and in stele

ffor to wende to batayleng

þe Sarysyns were ware of oure comyng

And fledde asyde swyth fast

And oure men com in hast

And gan p[re]ke [with] grete raundon

Ryʒt to her Pauyloun

þey founde þ[er]e bredde and ryche wynes

Gold and syluer and baudekynes

Vessell of siluer and of gold

Welmore þan þey take shold

Riche meetes þ[er]e graythed were

And þat abouʒt oure men ful dere

Som stod and som sat doun

And ete and droke good fowson

After meete þe Pauylons new

[With] her swerdes al to hew

And charged her horses [with] vytayle

As ...... men shulde samfaile <!– CMP expl: This line corresponds to line 2806 in Larkin and Brunner. –>

**fol. 11r**

He gedered þen his folk to geder <!– CMP expl: Here the scribe omits or did not possess intervening sections; this line corresponds to line 2969 in Larkin and Brunner. –>

Also þyk as haile in weder

þey assembled on a pleyn

By side acris vpon a Montayn

Sixti þousand so y fynde

ffotmen he dide knyʒtes behynde

And bade hem go byfore hastelyche

ffor to fulle þe c[ri]stemennes Dyche

þe Saryʒyns token hem to reede

To do cristen men to dede

After come Barouns [and] knyʒtes

An .C. þousand bold in fyʒtes

By order þey come in her man[er]s

Of red sendel was her Baners

W..h þre Gryffons peynted welle

And of A...re þe Bendelle

Sone after com hastelych

Baro[u]ns rydyng gentillych

Here Gomfano[u]ns and her pencell

Were wrouʒt of greene sendell

On eu[er]y baner was a dragon

þat fauʒt [with] a lyoun

þe furst was red [þat] oþ[er] grene

þo com ry.................. by dene

Six and fyʒty ...........d y fynd

þat were clo......... all in Ynde

Her Ban[er]s were peyn... so seith latyn

[With] þre bores hedes of golde fyn

And after ................................w

.... þousand al ........................we

þere among .............................yn

And his cosyn .........................yn

H.... b..........................................

............. Sary...... ..edes ...........

............e sha...................... large

......... ban[er] was ....... and targe

....................................................

................... þe ...........................

................................. knyches of hay

................................................. way

**fol. 11v**

And fillede þe diche ful vpryʒt

þat al þe oste wel entre myʒt

The Saryʒyns hadden entred nyʒe

But god of heuyn þ[er]to sye

þe crye aros þrouʒe þe oste

Suse seigno[ur]s as armes toste <!– CMP expl: "Suse seignours, as armes toste" is French, meaning 'Up, lords, to arms quickly.' –>

But we haue þe better socoure

We ben begyled by seynt sauo[ur]

þ[er] myʒt men see moony a wyʒtman

þat hastely to his armes ran

And dide hem al to þe diche

To defende hem ful hastelyche

þere mony a gentel heued

Quikly fro þe boody weuyd

And mony legges and mony ax...

And mony a stede þ[er]e drewe his .....

And mony gentyl mannes honde

Lay y smeten on þe sonde

And mony a k..y..t samfaile

Was slayn in þat ..tayle

Kyng [Richard] was seke thoo

Alle cristen men to muche woo

He ne myʒt a foot him stere

þauʒe his Pauylon w..... a........

þerfore þe kyng of ff...............

Among þe cristen ...................

þat no shuld for deth.. ...........

Passe þe c[ri]sten dyche [with]oute

þerfore þey held ........ [with]ynne

ffor þe saryʒyns .....................

Moony s.................................

And þo [þat] .........................

Hastely were ........................

ffor hem was ........................

þat while k... [Richard] so ........

................ y ʒow tel ...........

ffor he ................................

And st..................................

And .....................................

And ...... and ................... swete <!– CMP expl: This line corresponds to line 3046 in Larkin and Brunner. –>

**fol. 12r**

Than they let hem yn anoon <!– CMP text: The T in "Than" is a decorative initial about five lines tall and six characters wide. –> <!– CMP expl: Here the scribe omits or did not possess intervening sections; this line corresponds to line 3329 in Larkin and Brunner. –>

And they toke to ostage eu[er]ychoon

And into P[ri]son put hem þore

ʒonge and olde lasse and more

Ther most noon out of Acris Toun

Tyl paide [þat] was [þat] Raunsom

And þe hooly croys þ[er]with

Or they hadden pees and gryth

þ[er] was founden muche good

[þat] was ........... among c[ri]sten blood

C….k þ[er] were at ................yng

B... .....st had ........rd þe kyng

þe c[ri]sten p[ri]son[er]s in Acrys Toun

[Richard] ʒaue clothes greet fo........

Met.. and drynke and harnes b....t

And ...... hem egre for to fyʒt

And toke hem in his p[ar]ty....

To venge god vponhis ...........

......... ..ychard went ….te ny...

........ Toward Iaffes [with] moony a kny.. <!– CMP expl: "Iaffes"=the fortified city of Jaffa, a coastal city west of Jerusalem. –>

[With] him he had a ful grete hooste <!– CMP text: The "a" is inserted above the line. –>

In the name of þe hooly gost

By adoun he went oncost

P......... [with] oute boost

þere Saladyn þe high Sowd...

Was logged [with] moony aman

[With] mony tentes and pa...lo..

fforto kepe Nazareth To...

þe wayes were ......... do..t..

þe kyng held þ[er]f... [with]oute

Al flom Iordan he gan rest

To slee þe Saryʒyns he w... ...est

A morow to fiʒt vpon þe playn

But þat wold not Saladayn

ffor he had in his memorye

þat ... shul not haue þe victory

...... [Richard] had in Acres noome

................ [þat] þeder coome

...................... most enemyse

.............. kn..ʒt.. of ................

**fol. 12v**

Off hethenesse gret lordynges <!– CMP text: The "ff" in "Off" is a decorative initial about five lines tall and six characters wide. –>

Prynces Dukes Erles and kinges

Ameralles and mony a Sowdan

Her names y ne telle can

þe P[ri]son[er]s þat lay y fetered fast

To the Sowdan þey souʒt fast

We bere on vs so feele cheynes

And his men don vs grete peynes

We mow neither sitte ne ligge

But ʒe vs out of p[ri]son bygge

And [with] som raunsom vs help[e] and borowe

Or we shul dye or þe þrydde morowe

þe Sowdan was ryʒt woo þ[er]fore

Kynges and Duk.. wel twoo score

Amerals and mony anoþ[er] lord

þey seide we rede to make accord

[With] king [Richard] [þat] is so stout

ffor to delyu[er]e oure children out

þat þey ne be neith... ....nged ne drawe

Of tresoure king [Richard] wold be fawe

þat oure children com hoom .....

Charge we Mules by oure ......

Of brande gold and of baudek...es

ffor ...... heires to make fynes

M... .... Inglisshmen louen ʒiftes

Of ....ld .xx. mennes lyftes

W.....ide on mules and ....abet

Ten erl.. cloþed in sanyt

To king [Richard] þa.. ..rou...

On knees of g[ra]ce þey h... besouʒ..

Ou.. Sowdan sent ʒow þis tresoure

And ..... be ʒ…e frende eu[er]more

ffor þe P[ri]soners þat ʒe .....me

A... let hem goo [with] lyfe and lyme

O.. of prisoun þu hem lete

þat hem noman slee ne bete

ffor alle þey ben douʒty vassail..

Kinges sones and Amerailes

þe best to Inde at þis tyme

........................................e

**fol. 13r**

And oure Ost most trusteth to <!– CMP text: The "A" in "And" is a decorative initial about five lines tall and six characters wide with a human face drawn in it. –>

Saladyn hem loueth also

Noon of hem lese he ne wold

ffor a ton ful of goolde

King [Richard] þouʒt [with] hert myld

þis gold to take god me shilde

Amonge ʒow p[ar]te it y ʒow charge

ffor y haue brouʒt in Ship and barge

More gold and siluer now [with] me

þan haþ ʒo[ur] lord suche þree

To his tresoure haue y non nede

But for my loue y ʒow beede

To meete [with] me þat ʒe dwelle

And after mete y wol ʒow telle

þrouʒe counsaile y shal ʒow answere

What word ʒe shul ʒo[ur] lord bere

They gr[a]unt him [with] good wille

King [Richard] cleped a Baroun him tylle

And in consaile toke him alloon

I shal þe telle what þu shalt doon

Pryuely go to þe P[ri]soun

To þe Saryʒyns of most renoun <!– CMP expl: This manuscript only includes the second instance of Richard's cannibalism, which he stages before the Saracen messengers seeking to ransom prisoners. For a good discussion of this element, which has attracted much attention, see Alan Ambrisco, "Cannibalism and Cultural Encounters in *Richard Coeur de Lion*," p. 499-522, andHeather Blurton, *Cannibalism in High Medieval English Literature*, p. 125-32. –>

þat ben bore of Riche kyn

Pryuely slee hem þ[er]ynne

But when þe hedes ben of smyte

Loke þat eu[er]y name be wryte

Vpon a scrowe of parchemyn

And bere þe hedes to þe kychon

And in a Caudron do hem cast

Bide þe Cook seeth hem fast

And loke þe heer be of strip[e]

And of her hed and of berd and lyp[e]

When y am set and shal ete

Loke it be not forʒete

Serue hem þ[er]with in þis man[er]e

Ley eu[er]y hed in a platere

And .....g it forth whoot in honde

....ward þe wysage þe teeth grennande

And loke þey be nothing rowe

And .... þe name aboue þe browe

**fol. 13v**

What he hight and of what kyn boore

And an hoot heed bryng me byfore

ffast þ[er]of ete y shalle

So y be paide wel [with]alle

As it were of a tender chike

To see how þe other like

þe baroun so seith þe gest

Dide anoon þe kynges beheest

At noon to meete þe wayte blew

þe messengers it not knew

[Richard]is lawe ne his custoom

ffrendes he seide ʒe ben welcom

To hem [Richard] compenable <!– CMP text: the scribe omitted the verb (likely "was") before "compenable." –>

þey were sette at þe þryd table

þ[er]on was spred a clooth of sylke

And a sanape white as mylke

Salt was sette but no breed

Water ne wyne white ne reed

The Saryʒyns were set and gan stare

Allas þey seide how shal we fare

King [Richard] was set on doyse

[With] Dukes Erles proude in prese

ffro kycchyn com þe furst cours

[With] Trompes pipes and Tabours

The Steward toke greet ʒeeme

To serue king [Richard] to queeme

Lest after mete him tyd harme

A Saryʒyns hed he brouʒt warme

He bare to [Richard] it was not cleued

þe name y wreton in his forheued

The messang[er]s were y s[er]uid so

Eu[er] an heed bytwene twoo

And in þe forhed wrete þe name

þerof þey hadden al grame

Who þey weren when þey seyen

þe Teers Ran doun of her eyʒen

And whenne þey þe letter radden

to be slaw soth þey dradden <!– CMP text: the scribe forgot to capitalize "to" at the beginning of the line. –>

[Richard] his eyʒen on hem he þrewe

How þey gon chaunge her hewe

**fol. 14r**

ffor her frendes þey syked soore <!– CMP text: The "ff" in "ffor" is a decorative initial about five lines tall and six characters wide. –>

þat þey hadden loore for eu[er]moore

Of her kynde blood þey were

þo þey myʒt wel forbere

ffor to pleye or for to laughe

þey nolde her mees neghe

Ne ete þ[er]of no mossell

King [Richard] behilde so well

þe knyʒt þat shulde [Richard] s[er]ue

[With] a sherp knyff þe heued gan kerue

King [Richard] ete [with] hert good

þe Saryʒyns wende he had be wood

Either sat stylle and poked other

Certes þis is þe deuylles brother

þat sleeþ oure men and þus hem eteth

King [Richard] no thing forʒeteth

King [Richard] aboute him gan loke ʒerne

[With] wroþ semblant and yʒen sterne

þe messeng[er]s þo he bad

ffor my loue beþ now glad

And loke þat ʒe be wel at ese

Why kerue ʒe not of ʒo[ur] mese

And eteth now as y doo

Tel me why ʒe loure soo

þey sat stille and soore quooke

þey durst neither speke ne loke

Into þe erthe þey wold haue croop[e]

To be slayn wel þey hope

Noon of hem answerd him no word

.... [Richard] bereth froo þe bord

þat messe þat was byfore him sette

And other meete ʒe him fette

Men brouʒt bred [with]oute bost

Veneson cranes and good rost

Pyment clarrey and drynkes rythed <!– CMP text: "rythed" is an error, most likely for "lythe," meaning 'pleasant, agreeable,' which is the reading found in some other manuscripts. See MED "lith(e)" https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED25806/track?counter=2&search\_id=4395384. –>

King [Richard] bade hem be blitheed

Mete ne drynke myʒt þey noon brouke

þey bit her lyppes and fast sowke

Was noon of hem [þat] ete lust

King [Richard] her þouʒt wel wist

**fol. 14v**

And seide frendes be ʒe not scoymes

This is þe man[er] of myn hous

To be s[er]uid first god woot

[With] a Saryʒyns hed al whoot

But ʒoure man[er] y ne knew

As y am c[ri]sten kyng and trew

ʒe shul þ[er]of be certeyn

In saf co[n]dit to wynde aʒeyn

ffor y ne wol for no thing

þat suche a loos of me shuld spryng

þat y were velayn of maners

ffor to mysdo messengers

Whan þey had ete and cloth was folde

King [Richard] gan hem beholde

On knees þey asked leue to goon

Of hem al was þ[er] noon

þat in message þeder coom

þat him had leu[er] be at hoom

[With] her frendes and her kyng <!– CMP text: "kyng" is likely an error for "kynde," a better rhyme with "Inde" in the next line. –>

þan al þe good þat is in Inde

Kyng [Richard] spake to þe eldest man

Goth hoom and biddeth ʒoure Soudan

His malencoly þat he abate

Sey him þat ʒe come to late

Slowliche was ʒo[ur] iorney gessed

Or ʒe com þe flessh was dressed

þat men shuld serue [with] me

þus at noon and my mayne

Sey him it shal not availe

þauʒe he for barre vs oure vitaile

fflessh and fyssh samon and kungo[ur]

We shul not dye for noon hungo[ur]

While þat we mow wynne in fiʒt

And slee þe Saryʒyns doun ryʒt

Wesshe þe flessh and sethe it [with] brede

With a saryʒyn y may wel fede

Eu[er]y day nyne or ten

Of my good c[ri]sten men

King [Richard] seide y ʒow waraunt

þ[er] is no flesshe so noresshaunt

**fol. 15r**

To myn Inglyssh c[ri]sten men <!– CMP text: The "T" in "To" is a decorative initial about four lines tall and ten characters wide. –>

Pertreche heroun plou[er] ne swan

Cow ne Ox ship ne swyn

As is þe flessh of a Saryʒyne

þe[r] he is fat and tendere

I and my men ben leene and sklendere

While any Saryʒyn quyk be

Lyuyng in al this Contree

ffor meete wil we nouʒt care

Wel fast aboute wil we fare

Eu[er]yday we shulle eete

Al þe Saryʒyns [þat] we may gete

Into Ingelond wille we not goon

Til þey ben ete eu[er]ychoon

The messeng[er]s aʒeyn hem t[ur]nyd

By fore her lord þey com and mornyd

þe Eldest tolde þe Sowdan

King [Richard] was a noble man

þ[er]of be war lord y the warne

In this worlde is noon so bold ne sterne

On knees we told him oure tale

But vs ne geyned no gale

Of þy golde wolle he noon

He seith he hath wel better woon

Of Riche tresoure þan hast þow

To vs he seide y ʒeue it ʒow

Tresoure and clooth gold and palle

Depart it among ʒow alle

To mete he bade vs abyde

We were set at bord besyde

þat stood [Richard]is table nyʒe

What þ[er]on com wel we syʒe

What messe byfore [Richard] com

Wel we behelde and good ʒeeme nam

A knyʒt brouʒt fro þe kechoun

An hed soden of a Saryʒyn

[With]out herre in a platere brode

His name was wreton in þe shoode

And fastened aboue his eyʒen

Me stant no drede for to seyʒen

**fol. 15v**

Whos hed it was men gan aske <!– CMP text: The "W" in "Whos" is a decorative initial about five lines tall and five characters wide. –>

þe Sowdans son of Damaske <!– CMP expl: "Damaske"=Damascus. –>

At þe borde as we sate in fere

We were s[er]uid in this manere

Eu[er] an hed bytwene twaye

ffor sorow þo we wende to deye

When we dede rede þe letter ryʒt

Whos sone he was and what he hight

The teers ron doun by oure berde

To be þere slayn we were a ferde

þ[er] com byfore my felow and me

þe kynges sones hed of Nauerne <!– CMP expl: Nauerne=the northern Iberian kingdom of Navarre. It is likely an error, and other manuscripts have "Nynyve," the ancient Assyrian city of Nineveh mentioned in the bible. –>

And his of Perce [þat] sat me by <!– CMP expl: Perce=Persia. –>

þe þryd was of Samary <!– CMP expl: "Samary" is Samaria, a name for a city and region in ancient Israel between Galilee and Judea. –>

þe fourth was of Egypt

þo eu[er]yche of vs [with] yʒen wept

þe fythe hed was of Aufryke

ffor sorow þo we gan syke

Oure hertes to brast almost asounder

Lord ʒit ʒe mow here of a wounder

By fore king [Richard] a knyʒt in hast

Carue of þe hed and he ete fast

With teeth he gnew þe flessh herde

And as a wood lyoun he ferde

[With] his eyʒen steep and grym

He spake and we behelde him

ffor drede þo we wende to st[er]ue

He bade vs [þat] we shuld kerue

Oure messe and ete as he dide

To Mahound we bade oure bede <!– CMP expl: "Mahound" is the prophet Muhammad. Medieval Christians frequently misrepresented Islam as idolatrous or polytheistic as an insult; here Saracen Muslims treat "Mahound" as a god. –>

ffro deth þat he be oure waraunt

ffor sorow we made sory semblaunt

Beeþ mery he seide yf it be ʒo[ur] wille

Dooth gladly and lyketh not ylle

ffor y know not ʒo[ur] gyse

In my court þis is þe s[er]uice

After mete we toke leue

He spake to vs wordes breue

ʒe shal gon hoome in save co[n]dyte

No man shal do ʒow no dispite

**fol. 16r**

He sent ʒow certayn answere <!– CMP text: The "H" in "He" is a decorative initial about five lines tall and six characters wide. –>

Or þat we myʒt come there

þe men of Richest kynne were slawe

He seith yf þat ʒe [with]drawe

And kepe vetailes fro his ost

He and his men maken boost

þat þey wille lete noon a lyue

In al this londe Childe ne wyue

But slee vp al [þat] he may fynde

Sethe þe fflesshe and [with] teeth grynde

Hunger ywys shal hem noon ayle

Into Ingelonde wille he not saile

Tille he haue made clene werk

Boþ of preest and of clerk

Saladyne g[ra]unted þo for ire <!– CMP text: There is an "ra" abbreviation mark in the left margin on this line, likely as a manicule or reading division. –>

Kinges p[ri]nces and moony a syre

Seiden allas [þat] we haue loore

Oure heires of oure boody bore

þat weren so wyʒtmen and so strong

Weleaway we leue to longe

Herde we neu[er] wonder suche

He is a deuel sekerlyche

Allas [þat] eu[er] þis worre was bygoon

Now king [Richard] hath Acrys woon

He hath ment ʒif he may for sooth

Wynne Est and West North and South

And ete oure children and vs

Lord Saladyn we rede þus

ssende to him and beseche him efte

ffor þese [þat] been on lyue lefte

Riche Iewelles for þe noones

And mony p[re]cious stoones

Charged in harnaise and in Cofer

ʒif so he wille þow him profer

ffor to lete Ih[es]u and Mary

ʒef him lond a grete p[ar]ty

þat he be in pees and lete werre

ffor þat he is come so ferre

þow wilt not [þat] he his trauaile lese

G[ra]unt him self to come and chese

**fol. 16v**

The londe þat him liketh best <!– CMP text: The "Th" in "The" is a decorative initial about five lines tall and seven characters wide. –>

And make him Sowdan highest

After þy self and Richest king

Conferme it to him and his ospryng

ʒif he be paide to do soo

Swith in pees he coom þe too

þawʒ he haue slawe þy folk and shent

þow shalt forʒeue þy male talent

As þy brother him loue and kysse

And he shal teche þe and wysse

In bataile to be ʒepe and wyse

And of þis world wynne þe pryse

Loueþ to geder and beth frendes

Eu[er] to ʒoure lyues endes

Saladyn by his seru[a]nt

Sent to king [Richard] þis p[re]sent

And bysouʒt him for his men

That he had in p[ri]soun þen

And ʒif he wille Ih[es]u forsake

And Mahon to his lord take <!– CMP expl: "Mahon" is the prophet Muhammad. Medieval Christians frequently misrepresented Islam as idolatrous or polytheistic as an insult; here Saracen Muslims treat "Mahon" as a god. –>

Of Surry he wol make him kyng

And of Egipte [þat] Riche þing

And make hym high Sowdan anoon

Of al Inde to preter Iohn <!– CMP expl: "preter Iohn" is the legendary Christian king and patriarch Prester John, whose kingdom was supposedly full of marvels. Medieval Christians first thought his kingdom was in India, and later in Ethiopia. They often hoped to find and ally with Prester John to defeat their Islamic opponents. –>

[Richard] answered þe Messengers <!– CMP text: There is an "ra" abbreviation mark in the left margin on this line, likely as a manicule or reading division. –>

ffye on ʒow vile losyngers

Goth and seith to Saladyn

That he to morow make fyn

ffor al his dogges in my ostage

Or þey shal dye in high rage

And y mot leue a fewe ʒere

Of al þe londes þat he nempneth here

I ne shal not leue him a foot

As god me sende my sowle boot

ffor lese y ne wold my lordes loue

ffor al þe londe vnder heuyn aboue

And but y haue þe roode to morowe

His folk shullen dye [with] muche sorowe

The messengers went to Saladyne

And tolde him þe begynnyng and þe fyne

**fol. 17r**

But ʒe to morow þe roode him sende <!– CMP text: The "B" in "But" is a decorative initial about five lines tall and six characters wide with a human face drawn in it. –>

Alle his hostages shullen be shent

þo was Saladyn in sorowe

And sent muche tresoure amorowe

ffyue and sixty þousand pound of golde

So muche for Acris ʒeue he woolde

þe Messengers þe tresoure brouʒt

And of þe Ostages h... besouʒt

And [Richard] axede þe rood anoon

þat god was on to deþ doon

...y him ...wered at þe froome

They wist not where it was bycome

þen seide [Richard] seþþe it is soo

þen y woot what y haue to doo

The sowdan is not so slyʒe

þat he shal so blere myn eyʒe

King [Richard] cleped knyʒtes anoon

And bade hem in hast to Acrys goon

And take þe Saryʒyns syxty þousandes

And knytte behinde hem her handes

And lede hem out of þe Citee

And smyte of her hedes [with]oute petee

And so y shal teche Saladyne

To byd me leue in Appolyne <!– CMP expl: "Appolyne" is the god Apollo. Medieval Christians frequently misrepresented Islam as idolatrous or polytheistic as an insult; here Saracen Muslims treat "Appolyne" as one of their gods. –>

þey brouʒt hem al without þe Toun

But þrytty þey helde at raunsom

And brouʒt hem to a place euyn

þen herd þey crye an Aungel of heuyn

þat cryed seigno[ur] touʒ touʒ <!– CMP expl: "seignour, touʒ touʒ" is French, meaning 'lord(s), kill, kill.' –>

Ne spare n.......ese hethen þeues

They were beheded hastelych

And cast hem in a foule dyche

[Richard] herde þe Angels voys

And þanked god and þe hooly croys

þus kyng [Richard] wan Acrys

God g[ra]unt vs alle heuen blys

His douʒty dedes who so wol lere

Hendely herkeneþ and ʒe mow here <!– CMP expl: This line corresponds to line 3758 in Larkin and Brunner. –>

Lytel byfore seynt Ioones tyde <!– CMP text: This line and the next are indented roughly seven characters in the manuscript, likely to leave space for a decorative initial or word that was never completed (in this case "A", marked faintly in the manuscript, making the first line "A lytel"). –> <!– CMP expl: Here the scribe omits or did not possess intervening sections; this line corresponds to line 4817 in Larkin and Brunner. –> <!– CMP expl: St. John's tide is 24 June. –>

When fowles to geder don chide

**fol. 17v**

The king dede turne his pas

Toward þe Citee of Cayphas <!– CMP expl: "Cayphas"=the city of Haifa. –>

Al vpon þe grete Maryn <!– CMP expl: "Maryn" is ME "marin(e)," meaning the sea-coast. See MED https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED26917/track?counter=1&search\_id=4395384. –>

Vpon þe Ryver of Chalyn <!– CMP expl: "Chalyn" is probably "Chaloyn," or the city of Ascalon. –>

Saladyne sone herde telle

And come after flyng and snell

[With] sixty þousand Sarysyns keene

And þouʒt to do oure oste teene

And ouertoke oure rereward

And it fley hastely to kyng [Richard]

Kyng [Richard] þo wist in hast

þat his folk weren agast

Of ffauel of Cipre he sat felowe

Also swyfte as eny swalowe

In þis world at grete nede

Was neu[er] founde a better stede

þe kynges ban[er] was vnfolde

Mony Saryʒyns gon it byholde

As sone as þey þe ban[er] myʒten see

The Saryʒyns bygan for to flee

Oure c[ri]sten folk after gon ryde

And þey turned at þat tyde

And flong on hem [with] grete randon

Als al þe world shuld go doun

Kyng [Richard] byfore smot

[With] his axe þe bitter bote

He hem to hew and to kerue

Mony an hethen hounde þ[er]e sterue

þe kyng cry... [with] voys of mound

Sleeþ doun þe hethen hound

þus [Richard] to his folk gan calle

His ..en com about him alle

Neuer was man in erthe ryʒt

þat better [with] him gon fyʒt

But moony cristen y tel seker

Were slawe in þat byker

A Carte þat was Huberdes Gautir[e] <!– CMP expl: The historical Hubert Gautier, or Hubert Walter, was the Bishop of Salisbury and a royal advisor who accompanied Richard on the Third Crusade. –>

Was y sett in a myre

Saladyn sone þ[er]e come

And her harneyse hem bynome

**fol. 18r**

The carter lost his arme a plyʒt

þ[er]e was y slawe mony a knyʒt

ffor [þat] harnaise kept fourty

And þerof weren slaw þrytty

[Richard] hyʒed þeder [with] þat

And almost he com to late

In his honde an axe ful good

Mony of hem he lett blood

On eu[er]y side he leide on

Grete strokes ful good woon

þ[er] was noon armo[ur] verament

[þat] myʒt [with]stonde his dynt

Will[a]m Longespayn in þat tyde <!– CMP expl: "Will[a]m Longespayn"=William Longespée. This historical third Earl of Salisbury did not participate in the Third Crusade. The author is perhaps confusing him with William Longespée II, an English knight who fought in the Battle of Mansura in the Seventh Crusade. –>

Leide on harde on eu[er]y a syde

Doun he feld al þat he smoot

[With] his fauchon þat bitter boot

ffor þat bataile was doutouse

And to oure folk perelouse

þe heete of þe day was so stronge

And þe Pouder fleygh hem among

And stopped þe cristen hond

[þat] þey fel ded on þe sonde

Mo sterue for hete at short prossesse

þan for dynt of spere or swerdes

[Richard] was almost a taynt

And in þat strong pouder draynt

Doun on knees he gan falle

And of Ihesu help doth calle

ffor loue of his moder mary

As we findeþ in story

He sawe com ryde seynt george þe knyʒt <!– CMP expl: St. George was the patron saint of crusaders before being associated with England, and chronicles report a vision of him in the sky aiding the crusaders during the First Crusade. George also appears in the *chansons de geste*, notably the *Chanson d'Antioche*. –>

Vpon a stede good and lyʒt

In armo[ur] whyte as þe floure

[With] a croys of red coloure

Alle þat he smot in þat stounde

Hors and man he fel to grounde

And þe wynd gan waxe lythe

þe c[ri]sten gan her strokes kythe

þo king [Richard] sawe [þat] syʒt

In his hert he was full liʒt

**fol. 18v**

And egrely [with]outyn faile

He gan þe Saryʒyns to assaile

Sir Braundys þe good lumbart <!– CMP expl: "Sir Braundys" is the historical Bertram III de Verdun, who accompanied Richard on the Third Crusade and died at Jaffa.–>

Robert Dereh... an king [Richard] <!– CMP text: "an": The scribe omitted the "d" on the end of "and." –> <!– CMP expl: "Robert Dereh..." is an error for Robert of Turnham or Thornham (d. 1211), an English soldier and administrator who became close with Richard on the Third Crusade. –>

þere þese þre knyʒtes roode

[þat] day was þe way wel broode

And al [þat] gu[n] aʒen hem dryue

Sone þey were brouʒt of lyue

They were so hard at þe spore

[þat] muche of her folk þey lore

King [Richard] nathelees

Went into þe Cite of Cayphas <!– CMP expl: "Cayphas"=the city of Haifa. –>

Of þis victory he was blythe

And þanked god an hundred sithe

And al þey made grete solas

ffor þe wynnyng of Caifas

One amorow he dide crye <!– CMP text: This line and the next are indented roughly seven characters in the manuscript, likely to leave space for a decorative initial that was never completed (here the missing letter is "S," making the first word "Sone"). –>

Among his Ost þey shuld hye

Toward þe Citee of Palastyn <!– CMP expl: "Palaystyn" is perhaps the city of Caesarea. –>

Riʒt forth by þe Maryn <!– CMP expl: "Maryn" is ME "marin(e)," meaning the sea-coast. See MED https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED26917/track?counter=1&search\_id=4395384. –>

Her Pauylouns þey gan þere telde

And til it was nyʒt þere hem helde

ffor to abide her vitaile

That com by water samfaile

That was þe worst dwellyng

That eu[er] dwelled [Richard] þe kyng

þat while þe Sowdan Saladyn

Sent after mony a Saryʒyn

To bete doun þe Castell

Citeis Tounes and Terell

ffirst þey bete a doun þe Castell

þat was y cleped Myrabell <!– CMP expl: "Myrabell"=Mirabel, a castle east of Arsur. –>

And after þe Castell Salafyme <!– CMP expl: "Salafyme" is an unidentified location. –>

That was made of ston and lyme

Of Sesary þey felde þe walle <!– CMP expl: "Sesary" is perhaps Caesarea. –>

And þe Toure of assure [with]alle <!– CMP expl: "assure" is Arsur, a coastal city. –>

Iaffis Castell þey bete adoun <!– CMP expl: "Iaffis Castell"=the fortified city of Jaffa, a coastal city west of Jerusalem. –>

And þe good Castell Soron <!– CMP expl: "Soron" is an error for "Toron." *Toron des Chevaliers* [Castle of the Knights] was a Templar castle on the road to Jerusalem from Jaffa. –>

Castel pilgrime þey feld þere <!– CMP expl: "Castel pilgrime"=Pilgrim's Castle, a Templar fortress between Caesarea and Arsur. –>

And þe good Castel laʒare <!– CMP expl: "Castel laʒare" is an error for La Fere, the Castle of Figs, southwest of Hebron. –>

**fol. 19r**

And þe good Castel of seynt George Dirrayn <!– CMP expl: "Castel of seynt George Dirrayn" is perhaps a confused reference to Saint Jorge Labane, a lordship east of Acre. –>

Thei feld al doun and made al playn

þe walles þey felde of Ierusalem

And þe walles of Bethelem

Maiden Castel þey lete stonde <!– CMP expl: "Maiden Castel"=an unidentified location, perhaps derived from Geoffrey of Monmouth's *Historia Regum Britanniae*, or from the crusader translation of Qaşr al-Banāt at al-Raqqah into Latin as *Castellum Puellarum*. –>

And þe Castel of Herkys londe <!– CMP expl: "Herkys"=an unidentified location, perhaps an error for ME "Aukes," meaning 'perverse, strange, marvelous.' See MED "auk(e)" https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED3025/track?counter=1&search\_id=4395384. –>

By þat cost no mo þey lete

þat þey nere felde and doun bete

And þus þey dede [with]out let

ffor [Richard] shuld haue no reset

And when þey had þus do

Kyng [Richard] þey sent vnto

And seide þey wold on þe morow

Mete him [with] muche sorow

And [with] launces aʒen him ryde

ʒif he durst him abyde

Vnder þe forest of assoure <!– CMP expl: "assoure"=Arsur, a coastal city. –>

þey wolde assay his valoure

[Richard] made it nouʒt towʒe

But for [þat] tydyng fast he lowʒe

He dide crye in to al his ost

In þe name of the hooly gost

And bade þey shulde [with] grete vigo[ur]

þat nyʒt ha[r]baro[ur] in Arso[ur]

And dyʒt hem al redy þan

Amorow to fyʒt [with] þe Sowdan

On seynt Mary euen þe Natiuite <!– CMP expl: 8 September. –>

þe bataile þere shulde bee

Mony was þe hethen man

That [with] Saladyn com þan

Of Inde and of Perce and of babyloyn <!– CMP expl: "Perce"=Persia. –> <!– CMP expl: "babyloyn"=Old Cairo in Egypt, not the city in ancient Mesopotamia. Although Saladin's historical Ayyubid dynasty was based in Egypt, Babylon was a common name used by Western Europeans to refer to the later Mamluk Sultanate, a primary opponent in crusading conflicts from the thirteenth to the fifteenth centuries. In general, Western European Christians associated Babylon with the birthplace of the Antichrist. –>

Of Arabe and of Sessoyne <!– CMP expl: "Sessoyne" may be a reference to Kesoun (Keysun), a town in Edessa. –>

Of Aufryke and libie

And al þe lond of Alismarye <!– CMP expl: **"**Alismarye" is a likely error for "Alisandrye," or Alexandria. **–>**

Of grete Grece and of Tyre

And of mony anothe Empire <!– CMP text: "anothe" is an error for "an othe[r]." –>

Of moo londes þan y can of telle

Or eny man but it be lord of heuen and helle

That nyʒt was [Richard] in Arsoure

In þe forest of lessoure

**fol. 19v**

[With] him weren of Ingelonde

Knyʒtes good y vnderstonde

ffrensshe folk and his Templeres

His Gascoyns and his ospiteleres

Of P[ro]uese faire companye <!– CMP text: "P[ro]uese" is an error for "Prouense," or Provence in France. –>

Of Poyle and of lumbardye <!– CMP expl: "Poyle" is the region Apulia in southern Italy. –>

Of Gene Cecile and Tuskan <!– CMP expl: "Gene" is Genoa in northern Italy; "Cecile" is Sicily. –>

þere was mony a douʒty man

Of Ostryche and of Almayn <!– CMP expl: "Ostryche" here is Austria, and "Almayn" is Germany. –>

þat wel couth fight on þe playn

Of cristen knyʒtes [þat] were hende

Noon feirer to the worldes ende

And ʒe shul here as it is wrete

How þe bataile was y smyte

Saladyn com by oon montayn

And ou[er]spred hulle and playn

Sixty þousand seith þe stoory

Com in þe first company

[With] longe speres on high steedes

Of gold and assure were her wedes

ffifty þousand com afterward

Of Saryʒyns stout and hard

[With] mony Pynsell of Siclatyn

Of grene sendel and of Broun

þere com an hundred þousand

[With] Saladyn y vnderstond

They come stylly and noʒt rennyng

Her armo[ur] ferd as lyʒt brennyng

Ten þousand Turkes com at þe last

[With] bowe turkeis and arblast

þre þousand tab[ur]ers and ʒit wel moo

At oones þey smote to geder þo

þat al þe Erthe hem donyde vnder <!– CMP expl: **"**donyde" is from ME "dinen," 'to make a loud and confused noise' or 'to be filled with din, resound with din.'See MED https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED11707/track?counter=1&search\_id=4395384. **–>**

þere men myʒt here grete wonder

Now speke we of [Richard] þe kyng

How he coom to batalyng

He was armed in splyntes of stele

And sate vppon his stede fauele

Wel him louyd baroun and knyʒt

ffor he couthe wel ordeyn his fyʒt

**fol. 20r**

The first bataile to þe Templers

He ʒaf and to the Hospitelers

And bade hem go in goddes name

þe fend to shenship and to shame

Iakys denyse and Iohn denyse <!– CMP expl:"Iakysdenyse" may be the historical James of Avesnes, who died at the battle of Arsuf (Arsur) during the Third Crusade; "Iohn denyse" may be an error for Jean de Nesle, who fought in the Fourth Crusade, or an invented knight. **–>**

Byfore hem went in þat prese

In al þe world þ[er] nere

Better knyʒtes þan þey were

ffurth þey preked y vnderstonde

[With] good knyʒtes .xx. þousande

And þe Saryʒyns þat þey mette

[With] grete launces þey hem grette

Many a Saryʒyn had þere his fyn

And his sowle wente to Appolyn <!– CMP expl: "Appolyn" is the god Apollo. Medieval Christians frequently misrepresented Islam as idolatrous or polytheistic as an insult; here Saracen Muslims treat "Appolyn" as one of their gods. –>

And þo þat wenten to deþ of oure

Went to c[ri]ste oure sauyoure

Iakys denys was a good knyʒt

To sle þe Saryʒyns he dide his myʒt

He pryked to fore his folk to rathe

[With] his twoo sones and [þat] was scathe

Ten þousand turkeis com [with] boost

Bytwene s[ir] Iakes and his ost

þ[er] myʒt noon help com him too

ffor no thing þat þey myʒt do

Nor he ne myʒt him [with]drawe

ffor þe folk of hethen lawe

Hit was grete pite by Ih[es]u c[ri]st

þat king [Richard] þerof ne wyst

ffor he was ʒit al behinde

And ordeyned þrytty þousande

þo shul þe Duk of Burgoyn <!– CMP expl: The historical Hugh III, Duke of Burgundy, accompanied Philip II on the Third Crusade and was left in charge of the French forces upon Philip's departure. Hugh died at Acre in 1192. –>

Lede and þe Duk of Coloyn <!– CMP expl: "Duk of Coloyn" is perhaps a reference to the Archbishop of Cologne, who did not go on the Third Crusade, or simply a convenient rhyme. Other manuscripts have "Boloyne," most likely the northern French county of Boulogne, instead. –>

þey gan pryke her destreres

Aʒen þe hethen payneneres <!– CMP text: "payneneres" is an possible error for ME "pautener," meaning 'rascal, scoundrel, villain.' See MED "pautener(e)" https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED32665/track?counter=2&search\_id=4395384. –>

But Iakes and his soones twoo

Almost were slawe thoo

But he leide on a ryʒt

And stered him as a douʒty knyʒt

He and his soones slowe twenty and ten

Of þe vile hethen men

**fol. 20v**

Nyne sythes his hors was felde

And eu[er] he keuerd him vnder his shelde

He had no help of no templere

Ne of noon Hospitelere

Neu[er]þeles douʒtly he fauʒt

And slowe al þat he ou[er]rauʒt

þey leide on him [with] axe and swerde

And eu[er] he cryed m[er]cy Ihesu lorde

I shal dye for thy loue

Receyue my soule in heuen aboue <!– CMP expl: The view expressed here by "Iakys denyse" was a common lay understanding of crusading in which those killed were martyrs for the faith who won immediate entrance into heaven. This lay ideology was found in many forms of crusading literature. Officially the church did not endorse such a view, claiming that crusading could only remove the penance for confessed sins, not grant immediate salvation. –>

þe Saryʒyns laide on him [with] mace

And al to hew him in [þat] place

Him and his sones both

þerfore [Richard] was ful wrooth

When kyng [Richard] wist þis

þat slayn was Iakis Denys <!– CMP expl:"IakisDenys" may be the historical James of Avesnes, who died at the battle of Arsuf (Arsur) during the Third Crusade. **–>**

Allas he seide [þat] þis is wrong

Behynde we dwelle al to long

He smot fauel [with] spores of gold

Sew him who so sew wold

A launce in his honde he helde

And Merall he smote on þe shelde <!– CMP text: "And" is probably an error for "A." –> <!– CMP expl: "Merall"="amiral," present-day English "admiral," meaning in Middle English 'a prince or lord under a Sultan,' or 'any heather ruler or commander.' See "Ameraile" six lines below. –>

þe spere carf þrouʒ his hert

I vnderstond it gan him smert

And [with] þe launce a kyng he slowʒe

His honde swith aʒen he drowʒe

And five Dukes [with]oute faile

And so he dede also an Ameraile

[With] þat ilke launce silue

King [Richard] slow knyʒtes twelue

þe þrettenþ to þe hert he carf

þe launce brake þe saryʒyn starf

His good axe on his arson hyng

Anoon it toke [Richard] oure kyng

He smot som on þe shulder boon

And carue him to þe Arson anoon

And of som he pared so þe croun

þat helme and hed fel a doun

Non Armo[ur] [þat] euer made honde

Ne myʒt [Richard]is ax [with]stond

**fol. 21r**

Off my tale be not a wondered <!– CMP text: The "ff" in "Off" is a decorative initial about five lines tall and seven characters wide. –>

þe gesst telleth he slowʒ an hundred

Wherof is made þis Inglissh sawe

Or he rested him any þrawe

Him folowed mony an Inglessh knyʒt

þat manly halp him for to fyʒt

þey leiden on as þey were wood

þe valeys ron al on bloode

The Saryʒyns in her pauylo[u]ns

Sey hem fyʒt as lyouns

And þat [Richard] dide [with] hem fare

As þe Grehound doth [with] þe hare

Vppon her stedes quykly þey lepen

And toke [with] hem al her wepon

Mony a man þere slowe other

Mony a Saryʒyn lost his brother

Mony of þe hethen houndes

[With] her tethe gnew þe groundes

By þe blod vpon þe gras

Men myʒt se where [Richard] was

Brayn and blood he sheed ynowʒe

Mony stedes her guttes drowʒe

þere was mony an empty sadel

He slowʒ þe son and þe ffader

He þouʒt to reskew Iakes Denys <!– CMP expl:"IakesDenys" may be the historical James of Avesnes, who died at the battle of Arsuf (Arsur) during the Third Crusade. **–>**

But or he com he was slawe ywys

ffor he and his soones anoon

Were to hew flesshe and boon

[Richard] led him to his Pauyloun

In despite of her god mahoun <!– CMP expl: "mahoun" is the prophet Muhammad. Medieval Christians frequently misrepresented Islam as idolatrous or polytheistic as an insult; here Saracen Muslims treat "mahoun" as a god. –>

þo fauʒt [Richard] on eu[er]ysyde

þe Saryʒyns durst no lenger byde

Sixti þousand and seven skoore

At oones [Richard] drof hem by fore

Vp to an hygh cleue

þey fled as dere [þat] were dreue

And for dout of kyng [Richard]

Of þe clyff þey felle dounward

And alto brast hors and man

þat neu[er]oon come to lyf þan

**fol. 21v**

That saw þe Sowdan Saladyn <!– CMP text: The "Th" in "That" is a decorative initial about five lines tall and eight characters wide. –>

He was agast his lyf to tyn

He lefte his pauylon and his tent

And fled a way verament

King [Richard] saw him flewande

He rood after fast flyngande

To sle þe sowdan he had þouʒt

But for he myʒt ou[er]take him nouʒt

Of a footman a bow he took

And drow an arow vp to þe hook

And sent it to þe Sawdan anoon

[þat] it fleye þrouʒe his polboon

And þus þe Sawdan [with] dolo[ur]

ffley fro þe bataile of Arsour[e] <!– CMP expl: "Arsour[e]"=Arsur, a coastal city. –>

Sixti þousand þere were slawe

Saryʒyns of þe hethen lawe

Of þe c[ri]sten but fyve scoore

Blessed be ih[es]u crist þerfore

King [Richard] Toke her pauylons

Of Sendel and of Seclatons

þat were shape as castelles

Of gold were þe penselles

Mony was þe noble gest

þer on was shewde moony wylde best

Tygris dragons lyons lybard

And al þis wan kyng [Richard]

Bounde Cofers and grete males

þey founde þ[er]e [with]oute tales

Of tresoure þey hed ful grete woon

þey wist not þer[with] what to doon

Bakon Carkays and Venyson <!– CMP expl:"Carkays" is from ME "carcais," modern 'carcass,' the body of an animal for meat.' See MED https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED6766/track?counter=1&search\_id=4395384. While some Muslims did consume pork and wine in the Middle Ages, in Christian romances it is a common, often deliberate misrepresentation of the religion.  **–>**

þe Inglissh had so grete fouson

þat þey ne wist erly ne late

Whoom þey myʒt her goddes betake

King [Richard] went [with] grete hono[ur]

Into þe Citee of Arsoure

And rested him þere al [þat] nyʒt

And þanked Ihesu ful of myʒt

Amorow when þe kyng Aroos

His dedes were worthy and his loos

**fol. 22r**

But natheles he cleped his Gaut[er] <!– CMP text: The "B" in "But" is a decorative initial about five lines tall and ten characters wide. –> <!– CMP expl: "Gaut[er]" the Hostpitaller is likely a reference to Garnier de Nablus, a master of the Hospitallers from 1190-92 who historically fought at the battle of Arsuf (Arsur) with Richard. –>

þat was þe maister Ospitaler

And bade him take [with] him his knyʒtes

Stout in armes and bolde in fyʒtes

Aʒen to þe felde tee

þer þe bataile had ẏ bee

And ladden Iakes þe Barun <!– CMP expl:"Iakes" may be the historical James of Avesnes, who died at the battle of Arsuf (Arsur) during the Third Crusade. **–>**

Into Arsoure þe toun <!– CMP expl: "Arsoure"=Arsur, a coastal city. –>

And bury him þ[er]e in erthe

ffor he was a man muche worth

Al was do [with]oute chest

Hastely þe kynges hest

Thus king [Richard] wan arsoure

God sende his sowle muche hono[ur] <!– CMP expl: This line corresponds to line 5186 in Larkin and line 5188 in Brunner. –>

Ro þe bataile þe Sowdan <!– CMP text: This line and the next are indented roughly seven characters in the manuscript, likely to leave space for a decorative initial that was never completed (in this case "F", marked faintly in the manuscript and making the first word "Fro"). –> <!– CMP expl: Here the scribe omits or did not possess the intervening section; this line corresponds to line 5381 in Larkin and line 5383 in Brunner. –>

To Babyloyn he fled þan <!– CMP expl: "Babyloyn"=Old Cairo in Egypt. –>

Therfore [Richard] [with]out distaunce

Sent after þe kyng of ff[ra]unce

He soiourned in Acris Citee

þat tyme as y telle it þee

He com to [Richard] [with]out faile

And he him asked consaile

ʒif he wolde [with]oute Essoyn

Wende [with] him to Babyloyn

ffor had he [þat] Citee woon

þanne had we wel oure game bygonne

The Sawdan ful of couetis

þeder he is fled for soth ẏ wẏs

As [Richard] and Philip þeder gon wynde

þe Sowdan sent faire and hende

His Barouns he sent after [þat] tyme

And assembled moony a boold paynyme

Sixty þousand were tolde

Of gylde spores in þe folde

[With]out footmen and pedaile

þat þere was come vnto bataile

As he seide þat was þe aspye

þat tolde þe folk on both p[ar]tye

Twenty hundred þousand of hethen men

To bataile had þe Sowdan þan

**fol. 22v**

Now lysteneth both ʒong and olde

ffor his loue þat Iudas solde

Thoo men þat louen trowth and ryght

Eu[er] he sendeth hem strength and myʒt

þat was þere ful wel y seene

Of cristen ost [with]outyn weene

Ne were no mo y vnderstonde

In alle but .viij. score þousande

Kyng [Richard] Sixty þousand ladde

And for Philip and his me were so rad <!– CMP text: "me" is an error for "men," caused by omission of the "n." –>

An hundred þousand had hee

By þat oo side of þe Citee

To kepe yn þe Saryʒyns stout

þat noon of hem myʒt passe out[e]

ffor [Richard] on þat other side lay

And to bataile Redy eu[er]y day

[With] magnelles and with spryngall

[With] many an arowe and mony quarell

þ[er] was no saryʒẏn so stout

þat ou[er] þe walle durst loke out

þe Citee was so strong [with]ynne

þat noman myʒt to hem wynne

þe stronge gynnes for the noones

Brake þe walles of harde stoones

Her gates and her barbyken

Be þu seker þe hethenmen

Made acountryng harde and strong <!– CMP text: "acountryng" is "a countring," meaning 'a clash of armed forces, a battle.' See MED https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED10018/track?counter=2&search\_id=4395384. –>

þat many men died þer among

ffor had kyng Philip trew be

At þe Sege of þat Citee

þ[er] had neu[er] ascaped man

Hethen king ne Sowdan

þat þey ne had be slawe doun Ryʒt

ffor king [Richard] ageyn þe nyʒt

Whenne þe sonne was gon to rest

With his oste he wolde be prest

He ʒaue a countryng smert

Myʒt him no paynym ou[er] stert

He slow hem doun grete plente

And wilde fire cast in to þe Citee <!– CMP text: "The saryʒyns" is a catchword at the bottom right of the page. –>

**fol. 23r**

The saryʒyns defended hem fast <!– CMP text: The "Th" in "The" is a decorative initial about five lines tall and fifteen characters wide with a human face drawn in it. –>

[With] bowe Turkeis and Arblast

Harde fyʒt was hem bytwene

As þey seide þat myʒt it seene

Arowes quarelles as þyk gan fle

As mootes in þe soon þat men myʒt se

And wilde fire þe folk to brenne

Then conceile toke þe hethen men

To fyʒt [with] him in the feld

þe Cite wolde þey nouʒt ʒelde

Of [Richard] myʒt þey nouʒt spede

To take trews at no neede

ffor nothing [Richard] seide þan

Tylle they had slawe þe Sowdan

And brend al þat were in þe Citee

þe Messengers þan turned aʒee

To þat other side of þat toun

And cried trews [with] gret raunsom

To Philip king of ff[ra]unce

And he hem g[ra]unted [with] meschaunce

ffor a porcioun of golde

And elles had þe Toun be ʒolde

And alle þe Saryʒyns y slawe

And þan had [Richard] be fawe

And al his men to [Richard] fylle

ffor þat other side was stylle

[Richard] wende þat Philip fouʒt

But he and his men dide nouʒt

But made hem mery eu[er]y nyʒt

They were traytours in [þat] fyʒt

He bowed no crownes to crake

But tresoure [with] tresoun to take

King Philip to [Richard] gan sende

þat he myʒt him no lenger defende

ffor hunger he and his men also

Must breke þe Sege and goo

Sory was king [Richard] þan

And seide traitoure fals man

ffor couetyse of tresoure

He doth him self grete dishono[ur]

**fol. 23v**

That he shuld þe Saryʒyns respite ʒeue

Hit is harme þat suche men lyue

To breke þe Sege and to withdrawe

þen were þe Saryʒyns wonder fawe

Muche ioye was hem amonge

Mynstrelles trumpede and made mery songe

The nexte day after þen <!– CMP text: There is an "ra" abbreviation mark in the left margin on this line, likely as a manicule or reading division. –>

Messengeres com from þe sowdan

And gret Richard in þis manere

And seid s[ir] ʒif þy wille were

My lord by me to þe sent

ʒif þu wilt g[ra]unt in p[re]sent

Thow art strong of fflessh and boones

And he is douʒty for the noones

þu dost him grete harme and teene

And distroyest his Citees bydene

Al þat þu worrest it is wrong

þu sleest his men and etist among

Thow claymest herytage in his londe

He doth þe wel to vnderstonde

þat þow ne hast þerto no ryʒt

þow seist þy god is ful of myʒt

Wilt þow g[ra]unt with spere and shilde

þy selue to p[ro]ue in þe feelde

Wheþ[er] be of more powere

Ihesu crist or Iubitere

He sent þe to sey þis

ʒif þu wilt haue an hors of his

In al þe londes [þat] þu hast goon

Suche a stede sey þu neu[er] noon

ffauel of Cipre ne bayard þy steede

Be noʒt half worth so muche at neede

If þu wilt þis ilke daye

It shal be brouʒt þe to assaye

[Richard] seide þu seist well

Suche an hors by seynt Mighell

I wolde haue to ryde vppon

ffor myn were byn and alforgon

And y shal for my lordes loue

þat vs alle sittethe aboue

**fol. 24r**

And his own hors be good

[With] a spere y shal shede his blood

Yf he woll g[ra]unte and holde

In þe man[er] as þu hast tolde

Bid him sende þat hors to me

And y wil assaye what he be

ʒif he be trusty samfaile

And kepe noon other into bataile

The messengers anoon hoom went

And tolde þe Sowdan [with] good entent

[þat] [Richard] wolde him in þe felde mete

þe [Richard]Sowdan also skeete <!– CMP text: The scribe mistakenly copied the abbreviation "Ric" for "Richard" here again, an error of contamination from the preceding line; the correct reading is likely "riche." –>

A messengere he sent on high

After a clerk of negremancy

He couth co[n]iure as y þe telle

By þe deuelles crafte in helle

Twoo stronge deuelles out of þe ayre

In likenes of twoo steedes faire

Lyche þey were of hew and here

As þey seide þat were þere

Neu[er] was seyn noon suche

þat oon was a mare y lyche

That other a colt a noble stede

Where þat þey were in euery dede

þer was neu[er] knyʒt so bold

[þat] when þe mere neʒye wolde

Shuld it hold aʒens his wille

þat he ne wolde renne here stille

And knele adoun and sowke his dame

þe while þe Sowdan [with] shame

Shuld king Richard quelle

Al þus þe Angel gan him telle

That com to him about mydnyʒt

And seide a wake goddes knyʒt

My lorde þe doth to vnderstonde

þat þe shal come an hors to honde

ffaire it is of body pyʒt

To betraye þe yf þe Sowdan myʒt

On him to ryde haue þu no drede

He shal þe help at thy nede

**fol. 24v**

Puruey a tree booth greet and strong <!– CMP text: The "P" in "Puruey" is a decorative initial about three lines tall and ten characters wide. –>

þat it be fourty foot long

And trusse it ouerþwart his maane

Al þat he meteþ shal haue shame

Take a brydel þe Aungel seide

And make it fast aboute his heued

And put þe brydel in his mouth

þu maist him turne north and south

He shal þe s[er]ue at thy wille

When þe Sowdan rydeþ þe tille

Haue a speres hed of steele

He hath noon armo[ur] wrouʒt so weele

þat he ne wyl persh be þow bold <!– CMP expl: "persh" is from ME "percen," meaning 'to pass through, penetrate.' See MED https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED32913/track?counter=1&search\_id=4395384. –>

When þe Aungel had him so told

Anoon to heuen aʒen he went

Amorow þe hors was to him sent

King Richard þ[er]of was blythe

A sadel he dyʒt for him swythe

þe arsons were of ireyn towʒe

ffor þey shulde be strong y nowʒe

And with a cheyne he gyrde him fast

A brydel on his hed he cast

As þe Aungel him had tauʒt

Two good hookes forʒat he nouʒt

In his arson he sette byfore

[With] waxe he dide his eres þore

And seide by þe Apposteles twelue

þauʒ þu be þe deuyl him selue

þu shalt s[er]ue at þis nede

By him þat on þe roode gan blede

And suffryd grymly woundes fyve

And sethen roos fro deth to lyve

And gan þe fendes pouste felle

And brouʒt mankynd out of helle

And sethe styed into heuyn

Now god for his names sevyn

þat ilke god in p[er]sones þree

In his name y hoote the

That þu serue me at my wylle

He shoke his heued and stood ful stylle

**fol. 25r**

Kyng [Richard] made mery al nyʒt <!– CMP text: The "K" in "King" is a decorative initial about five lines tall and seven characters wide. –>

Amorow when it was day lyʒt

Sixti saudans þere were stout

þat of þe Citee comen out

And batailed hem on a ryuere

[With] bryʒt helmes and armo[ur] clere

þat day was tolde [with]out lesyng

Of Sawdans and of hethen king

An hundred and ʒit moo

þe lest of hem boouʒt [with] hem thoo <!– CMP text: "boouʒt" is an error for "brouʒt." –>

Twenti þousand and ten

Aʒens oon of oure men

Were a deseen at þe lest <!– CMP text: "deseen" is an error for ME "dosein," meaning 'dozen.' See MED "dosein(e)" https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED12413/track?counter=1&search\_id=4395384. –>

Te oste ferde as a forest <!– CMP text: "Te" is an error for ME "þe" or "the." –>

Of Saryʒyns was so gret an host

Welle a ten myle of þe cost

They made shiltrynges bataile to abyde

Messengeres bytwene gan ryde

To king Philip and king [Richard]

ʒif þey wolde holde forward

þat þey hadden sette þe day afoore

The Saryʒyns redy were

Twenty .C. þousand þ[er] ben

King [Richard] houyd and gan hem sen

Al was keuered felde and playnes

[With] Barouns knyʒtes and swaynes

They trumped loude and mad sown

þe cristen men made hem boun

King [Richard] nothing him dred

As Armes to his folk he gred <!– CMP expl: "As Armes" is French, meaning 'To arms.' –>

And seide felowes for þe rood

Loke ʒe be of comfort good

ffor yf we get þe pris to day

Of hethenes al the noblay

ffor eu[er]more we haue woon

He þat made moone and soon

He be oure help and ʒeue vs myʒt

Aʒeyn þe Saryʒyns to holde fyʒt

[With] swerd and axe made of steele

And but y this day mete hem wele

**fol. 25v**

Eu[er] fro hennes forward

Hold me for a coward

But eu[er]y c[ri]sten man and page

þis day haue to his wage

þrouʒ goddes helpe and þrouʒ myn

An heed of a Saryʒyn

Suche werkes among hem shal y make

Of þat y may ou[er]take

And fro þis tyme tyl domesday

They shul speke of king [Richard]is pay

þe cristen men were armed wele

Bothe in yren and in steele

þe king of ff[ra]unce [with]out faile

Was þoo redy for to assaile

Aboute þe Saryʒyns þey gan ryde

Shiltron þey dyʒt batailes to abyde

þey forstopped hem þe lande wayes

þey myʒt not flee in to þe contreys

Ne socoure noon to hem coom

Til þey were slayn or noome

But þe ffrensshmen þat y of tolde

þer was noon of hem so bolde

To touche þe Saryʒyns shiltrom

Til king [Richard] was y coom

Now hath [Richard] with his oste

Beclosed hem by a nother coste <!– CMP text: There is an "ra" abbreviation mark in the left margin on this line, likely as a manicule or reading division. –>

Bytwene hem and þe Citee

þat no Saryʒyn ne myʒt flee

þat on held assaut ful harde

þre ostes held Richard

To the Citee þat noon myʒt out

Were he neu[er] so strong ne stout

And twoo hostes [with] him he hadde

Bryng him his hors anoon he bade

þat þe Sawdan had him sent

He seide with his owne present

I shal him mete longe or nyʒt

To hors þo he was dyʒt

Him lakked no thing þat he ne hadde

His men brouʒt him al [þat] he hem badde

**fol. 26r**

A square tree of fourty feet

Byfore his sadel anoon he hete

ffast þat men shulde it brase

þat it failed at noo case

A quayntise of þe kinges own

Vppon þe hors was y thrown

Vppon þe Arson an axe of steele

And by [þat] otherside a masuele <!– CMP expl: a "masuele" is a mace or club; see MED "masuel" https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED27038/track?counter=1&search\_id=4395384. –>

Him self was wryed [with] þe best

Plates of stele men on him kest

An helme he hadde of ryche entaile

Trusty and trew was his ventaile

On his crest a culuer white <!– CMP expl: a "culuer" is a dove; see MED https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED9124/track?counter=1&search\_id=4395384. –>

þat signified þe hooly spiryte

Vpon a cros þe culuer stoode

Of gold g[ra]ue ryche and goode

And vnder þe croys mary and Iohn

As he was on þe rood don

In þe signe for whom he fouʒt

His good spere forʒate he nouʒt

On þat shafte wolde he haue

Goddes high name y g[ra]ue

Now herkeneþ how þey ben swore <!– CMP text: There is an "ra" abbreviation mark in the left margin on this line, likely as a manicule or reading division. –>

Or þey goo to bataile byfore

ʒif þat so were [þat] [Richard] myʒt

Slee þe Saudan in feld [with] fyʒt

He and his ost shulde goon

At her wille eu[er]ychoon

Into þe Citee of Babyloyn <!– CMP expl: "Babyloyn"=Old Cairo in Egypt. –>

And al þe kyngdome of Massydoyn <!– CMP expl: "Massydoyn"=Macedonia, the ancient Greek kingdom associated with Alexander the Great. In the time of the Third Crusade it was ruled by the Byzantine Empire. Here it is a geographical error, perhaps introduced for the sake of rhyme, or to make Saladin's empire sound more impressive. –>

He shulde haue vnder honde

And yf þe Soudan of þat londe

Myʒt slee [Richard] in þe felde

With swerd axe or shilde

þat cristen men shulde goo

Out of þe londe for eu[er]moo

And Saryʒyns to do what þei wolde

Q[uo]d [Richard] in my tyme y holde

þ[er]to my gloue as trew knyʒt

þey ben Armed and redy dyʒt

**fol. 26v**

Kyng [Richard] in to sadel lepe

Who þat wille take kepe

To se [þat] fight it was feire

þe stedes ron [with] grete ire

As harde as þey myʒt dure

After her feet sprong þe fure

Taburres bete and Trumpes blew

þ[er] myʒt men see in a þrowe

How king [Richard] þe nobel man

Encountred [with] þe high Sowdan

[þat] pris was hold of al Damasse <!– CMP expl: "Damasse"=Damascus. –>

His trust vppon his steede was

þerfore as þe book vs tellethes <!– CMP text: "tellethes" is a variation of "telles," from ME "tellen"; see MED https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED44693/track?counter=1&search\_id=4395384. –>

His crouper hynge al ful of belles

And paytrell and his arson

Thre myle men myʒt here þe soun

His mare neyed when þe belles rang

With grete pryde withoute lesyng

A fauchon on his honde he bare

ffor he þouʒt he wolde þare

Haue slawe [Richard] [with] tresoun

When his hors kneled adoun

As a ffoeole [þat] shuld souke <!– CMP expl: "ffoeole" is ME "fole," meaning 'foal, young animal'; see MED https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED16543/track?counter=1&search\_id=4395384 –>

He was to fore war of þe pouke <!– CMP expl: a "pouke" is a devil or evil spirit; see MED "pouk(e)" https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED34214/track?counter=1&search\_id=4395384. –>

His eres were stopped fast

þ[er]fore [Richard] was nouʒt agast

He stooke þe fende and fast he geth

And ʒaue þe Sowdan dynt of deth

And on his helme verament

Was paynted a serpent

[With] þat spire [þat] [Richard] helde <!– CMP text: "spire" is an error for "spere," modern 'spear.' –>

He bare him þrouʒ vnder þe shelde

þere myʒt him noon armoure last

Brydel and paytrelle alto brast

His girþes and his styropes also

His mare to ground fel þoo

Maugrey his berde he dide him stoupe <!– CMP expl: "Maugrey" is from ME "maugre," here meaning 'in spite of (him)'; see MED https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED27102/track?counter=3&search\_id=4395384. –>

Bakwarde ouer his hors croupe

His feet toward þe firmament

Anoon [Richard] his spere out hent

**fol. 27r**

And lafte him vpon þe grene

And smot þe fende [with] spores kene

In þe name of þe hooly gost

He went in to þe hethen ost

Anoon as he was come

He to brake her shiltron

And al þat eu[er] byfore him stoode

Hors and man to grounde ʒede

Twenty foot on eu[er]y side

Whom þat he ou[er]toke [þat] tyde

Of her lyfes was waraunt noon

þrouʒe out þe Ost he gan goon

As byn swarme aboute an hyve

þe cristen men gan after dryue

When þe frenshmen þe sooth wisten

þat þe maistry hadde þe cristen

They were bold and good hert toke

Swerdes and speres fast þey shooke

þey slowe þe Saryʒyns dounryʒt

Of Ingelonde moony adouʒty knyʒt

þey went wele þat ilke day

And of Salesbury þe Longespay <!– CMP expl: "Longespay"=William Longespée. This historical third Earl of Salisbury did not participate in the Third Crusade. The author is perhaps confusing him with William Longespée II, an English knight who fought in the Battle of Mansura in the Seventh Crusade. –>

To grounde he felde [with] his honde

Alle þat he byfore him founde

And next king [Richard] eu[er] was

ffouk doly and of Multon Thom[a]s <!– CMP expl: These two historical Lincolnshire knights, Fulk D'Oilly and Thomas Moulton, are not recorded as participating in the Third Crusade. Scholars suggest that they were added by a redactor who sought to glorify his patron's ancestors and family; see John Finlayson, "Legendary Ancestors and the Expansion of Romance in *Richard, Coer de Lyon*," p. 300-5. In other manuscripts Fulk and Thomas have lengthy adventures on their own and with Richard, but this is the only surviving mention of them in this manuscript. –>

Where þat eny of hem coom

þey spared neyther lord ne groom

þat þey ne smote al adoun

The saryʒyns [þat] weren in þe toun

Gonne to wepe [with] her eyʒen

ffor grete sorow [þat] þey seyʒen

And ful loude mercy þey cryed

And sette vp þe ʒates wyde

And at her wille þey yn coom

þe c[ri]sten hadde þe Citee noom

Hastely anoon [with]alle

þey sette her ban[er] on þe walle

þe kinges ban[er] of Ingelonde

This Saladyne gan vnderstonde

**fol. 27v**

That þe Cite ʒolde was

He gan to crye allas allas

þe p[ri]se of hethenes is ydoon

He gan to flee aʒen ful soon

And fayn he was þat he so myʒt

And king [Richard] þe noble knyʒt

When he saw þe Sowdan fle

Abyde Coward þen seide he

I shal preue [þat] þu art fals

And al þy cursed goddes als

[Richard] after highed faste

þe Sowdan was ful soore agast

A wood byfore him he seye

þederward fast fled hee

[Richard] went þe wood nere

He douted him of encombrere

He myʒt not in for his tree

Sone he turned his horse aʒee

And mette [with] an hethen kyng

His axe he toke out of þe ryng

And cleue his hed in to þe brest

þat his lyf no lenger lest

Sex he slowʒ of hethen kynges

To tel þe sothe in al þinges

In þat bataile y vnderstonde

Moo þan sixty þousande

The empte sadell aboute ʒede

Vp to þe ancles vas þe blood <!– CMP text: "vas" is an error for "was." –> <!– CMP expl: According to the exaggerated but popular account of the anonymous chronicle *Gesta Francorum*,the slaughter of the inhabitants of Jerusalem at the end of the First Crusade was said to be so great that the crusaders were wading up to their ankles in blood. –>

Aboute þey ʒede [with] grete p[ri]de

The man [þat] wolde myʒt ryde

þe bataile lasted tyl it was nyʒt

And when þey hadden slawe dounryʒt

þe Saryʒyns þat þey myʒt ou[er]take

Grete ioy þe cristen gan make

þey kneled and þanked god of heuyn

And worshipt him [with] mylde steuyn

And tyl þe Citee þey gon goon

Of gold and syluer þey hadden good woon

þey founde y nouʒe withoute faile

Mete and drynke and other vitaile

**fol. 28r**

Kyng and Erll baro[u]ns and knyʒt <!– CMP text: The "K" in "Kyng" is a decorative initial about five lines tall and eight characters wide. –>

Toke her rest þ[er]ynne [þat] nyʒt

Ẏng [Richard] amorow ros <!– CMP text: This line and the next two are indented roughly seven characters in the manuscript, likely to leave space for a decorative initial or word that was never completed (in this case "K", making the first word "Kyng"). –>

To here masse anon he gos

Saryʒyns to him come

And p[ra]yed him of cristendome

þere were c[ri]stened y vnderstonde <!– CMP expl: The fantasy of mass, forced conversion of Muslims to Christianity is a literary phenomenon that has little correspondence to historical reality, though it did also feature in many crusading "recovery treatises." Generally speaking, in this period there were relatively few converts from Islam to Christianity, and often Christian rulers did not want their Muslim subjects to be converted due to the potential of lost revenue. See Lee Manion, *Narrating the Crusades*, p. 57-63. –>

Moo þan twenty þousand

Chirches þey made of c[ri]sten lawe

And her Mahoun adoun gan drawe <!– CMP expl: "Mahoun" is the prophet Muhammad; medieval Christians frequently misrepresented Islam as idolatrous or polytheistic as an insult; here "Mahoun" is an idol. –>

And þo þat wold not c[ri]stened be

[Richard] let slee [with]oute pitee

þ[er]e þey soiourned a fourtenyʒt

And after vppon a day hem dyʒt

Toward Ier[usa]l[e]m gan þey ryde

Than spake Philip a word of p[ri]de

King [Richard] he seide lysteneth to me

Ierusalem [þat] ryche Citee

þauʒe þow it wynne it shal be myn

By god q[uo]d [Richard] and by seynt Austyn <!– CMP expl: "Austyn"=St. Augustine. –>

And as god do my sowle boote

Of my wynnyng nouʒt oo foote

Thow shalt nouʒt haue of my londe

I do þe wel to vnderstonde

ʒif þow wilt haue þe dignite

Gete it þy self [with] þy meyne

And fonde yf þu haue grace

Of Saladyn to gete purchace

ffor by seynt Thom[a]s of Inde <!– CMP expl: "seynt Thom[a]s" is the apostle who doubted Jesus's resurrection. –>

Of my purchase þu art behinde

Myn offryng q[uo]d [Richard] lo it here

I wyl com þe Citee noon nere

þat was in signifiaunce

Ih[es]u c[ri]ste to honouraunce

ffor wrath syked þe kyng of ff[ra]unce

His leche seide [with]out distaunce

þat he myʒt not hool be

But he turned hoom aʒee

The king his consaile vnderstood

And seide it was trew and good

**fol. 28v**

His shippes he dyʒt both more and lasse

And went hoom at Alhalowynmasse <!– CMP expl: "Alhalowynmasse"=the festival of All Saints, held on 1 November. In reality Philip left the Third Crusade after the siege of Acre. –>

King [Richard] on him gan crẏe

And seide he dede grete vilonye

To wende hoom for eny Sekenesse

Out of þe lond of hethenesse

Tyl y done were goddes s[er]uice

ffor lyf or deeth in any wyse

King Philip wolde him nouʒt here

He dep[ar]ted in wrooth in this manere

And after [þat] p[ar]tyng for sothe

Eu[er] sethen þey were wrooth

To Iaffys went [Richard] [with] his Oste <!– CMP text: There is an "ra" abbreviation mark in the left margin on this line, likely as a manicule or reading division. –> <!– CMP expl: "Iaffys"=the fortified city of Jaffa. –>

In the name of þe hooly gost

His Pauylouns feire and fyn

There he tilde in a gardyn

Other lordes bygon to sprede

Her pauylons in a feire mede

King [Richard] [with] his men alle

Of þat Citee gan make þe walle

þer it was neu[er] so brod ne longe

Of þe Saryʒyns made so stronge

þeder myʒt come by the See

Of eche good grete plente

He sette to kepe it good knyʒtes

Stout in armes and stout in fyʒtes

Men myʒt renne al aboute

ffyue myle [with]out doute

There dwelled [Richard] [with] grete hono[ur]

Tyl Iaffis were made strong for sto[ur]

To Turry he went fro þenne <!– CMP expl: "Turry" is an uncertain location. Historically Richard and the crusader army proceeded to the village of Beit Nuba near Jerusalem. There, upon the advice of the military orders and local Christians, Richard decided to turn back to the coast, as the army was unable to attack Jerusalem without being harassed or hold the city if captured. Several contingents of crusaders did leave the campaign at this point--something indicated in the poem below--so this episode may reflect a version of those historical negotiations. Other manuscripts of the poem have Richard's forces proceeding directly to Ascalon. –>

ffoure myle fro Ierusalem

þo hadden c[ri]sten men grete blis

ffor þey wende ful well y wys

Whenne þey had wonne Ier[usa]l[e]m Citee

þey shuld haue gon homward aʒen in her io[ur]ne

And so þey hadden [with]out faile

Ne had be Caunterys counsaile <!– CMP expl: "Caunterys" is an error for "Gauter," mentioned previously. The reference is to Garnier de Nablus, a master of the Hospitallers from 1190-92. –>

Caunter neu[er]þeles þe ospitalere

þ[er]e was he goddes councelere

**fol. 29r**

[Richard] he seide ʒif þu wynne

Iherusalem [with] thy gynne

ffolk shal seke þat stede anoon

þat god was on to deth doon

And þenke þat þey haue doon al her viage <!– CMP expl: "viage" in ME can mean 'journey' 'pilgrimage,' or 'martial expedition,' but in crusading contexts took on the more specific meaning of a crusade campaign or expedition. See MED https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED51084/track?counter=1&search\_id=4395384 and Lee Manion, *Narrating the Crusades*, p. 117 and p. 142-3. –>

And also al her pilgrymage

High and lowe Squyer and groome

Hastely wille wende hoome

Turne he seide to Chaloyne <!– CMP expl: "Chaloyne"=the coastal city of Ascalon, south of Jaffa. –>

þe wey lith toward Babyloyn <!– CMP expl: "Babyloyn"=Old Cairo in Egypt. –>

And draw ʒow forth to paynym

Wel shul ʒe be sette ʒo[ur] tyme

And Saladyn þe high Sowdan

ʒe shul him slee or quyk tan

To his counsaile king [Richard] lyst

þauʒe it were not [with] þe best

But mony Erl and Baroun booth

ffor þat counsaile weren ful wrooth

And wenten hoom to her countre

And lete king [Richard] þ[er]e stylle be

The king anoon to Chaloyn went

And fonde þe walles alto shent

Muche and faire was [þat] Citee

þe king þ[er]of had grete pitee

And besouʒt þe lordes alle

Aboute þe Citee to make a walle

And seide he wold make haluendele

Aʒen hem alle of þat walle

þe lordes g[ra]unted him anoon

Alle his askinges eu[er]ychoon

Saue þe Duke of Ostryche <!– CMP expl: Leopold V, duke of Austria (1167-94) was present at the siege of Acre, where he was insulted by Richard, who cast down his banners. The Duke returned to Austria soon after, so he was not present at the historical rebuilding of the walls of Ascalon. During his return from the Third Crusade Richard was captured and imprisoned by Leopold, who eventually passed him to the Emperor Henry VI for ransom, creating a scandal in the Catholic world for the violation of crusaders' legal protections. Here the poem turns that event into a commentary on crusader cooperation across different estates. –>

Eu[er] he þouʒt [Richard] to be Swyche <!– CMP text: "Swyche" is from "swike," meaning 'treacherous, deceitful'; see MED https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED44216/track?counter=1&search\_id=4395384. –>

King [Richard] bygan to trauayle

Aboute þe walles [with]out faile

So dede bothe oon and other

ffader and eyme son and brother

And maden morter and leiden stoon

By her myʒt eu[er]ychoon

Eu[er]y king and Empere <!– CMP text: "Empere" is an error for "Emperour" or "Emperere." –>

Stones þey bare or mortere

**fol. 29v**

Saue þe duke ful of pryde <!– CMP text: The "S" in "Saue" is a small decorative initial about two lines tall and five characters wide. –>

He nolde hem help in [þat] tyde

Vppon a day [Richard] him mette

And [with] feire wordes he him grette

And bade þe Duke for his curtasye

Make þe walle in his p[ar]tye

And he answered in his manere

My fader was neither mason ne carpentere

And þauʒe ʒoure walles alto shake

I shal hem neu[er] help to make

Tho king [Richard] pykked erro[ur] <!– CMP expl: "pykked" is from ME "piken," here meaning 'become'; see MED https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED33334/track?counter=2&search\_id=4395384. "erro[ur]" means 'anger, rage'; see MED https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED14382/track?counter=1&search\_id=4395384, so here Richard 'becomes angry.' –>

ffor wrooth he chaunged his colo[ur]

Vppon þe brest þe duke he smot

[With] his foot god it woot

Vpon a ston he ou[er] þrewe

It was wel don by seynt Andrewe <!– CMP expl: Andrew the apostle, brother of Peter. –>

ffye he seide þu fowle coward

In helle be þu honged hard

Go þu quykly out of this ost

Cursed be þu of þe hooly gost

By the sydes of Iesus

ffynde y the among vs

Ouer þese dayes three

My self y shal þy bane be

Traitoure we trauaylen day and nyʒt

In werre wakyng and in fyʒt

And þu lyest as a foule gloton

And rest þe in þy pauyloun

And drynkest wyn good and strong

And slepest al nyʒt so long

I shal breke þy banere

And cast it into þe Ryuere

Hoom went þe Duk ful wrooth

To lese his lyf he was ful loth

Of þat dispite he was vnblythe

And his harnaise he trussed swythe

And swor by god in t[ri]nyte

ʒif he myʒt his tyme see

He shulde him so of [Richard] wreeke

þat al þe world þerof shuld speke

**fol. 30r**

He hilde him alto wel forward <!– CMP text: The "H" in "He" is a small decorative initial about two lines tall and three characters wide. –>

I honged be he [with] cordes hard <!– CMP text: "I honged"="Ihonged," from ME "hongen," 'to suspend, hang'; see MED https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED21130/track?counter=1&search\_id=4395384. –>

Throwʒ tresoun and trechorye

And þrouʒ þe warnyng of Aspye <!– CMP text: "Aspye" is an error for "a spye." –>

King [Richard] he dide muche shame

þat turned al Ingelonde to g[ra]me

A litel long[er] had he most

Haue lyuyd for þe c[ur]sed gost

Ou[er] Duk kyng and Emp[er]o[ur]

He had ben lord and gouerno[ur]

Al c[ri]stendome and paynyme

Shulde haue be hoolden of hym

The Duk of Ostryche highed him fast <!– CMP expl: "Duk of Ostryche"= Leopold V, duke of Austria. –>

And a wey [with] his folk in hast

With him went þe Duk of Burgoyn <!– CMP expl: The historical Hugh III, Duke of Burgundy, accompanied Philip II on the Third Crusade and was left in charge of the French forces upon Philip's departure. Hugh died at Acre in 1192. –>

And þe folk of f[ra]unce and þe Erle of Boloyn <!– CMP expl: "Boloyn" is perhaps a reference to the northern French county of Boulogne. –>

Kyng [Richard] let breke his baner

And cast it in to þe Ryuer

And c[ri]ed on him [with] wordes steepe

How coward screwe a slepe <!– CMP expl: "screwe" is from ME "shreue," meaning 'villain, rascal' or even 'devil'; see MED https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED40106/track?counter=1&search\_id=4395384. "a slepe" seems to mean 'go sleep.' –>

Ne com no more in no wyse

Neu[er] efte in goddes s[er]uise

The Duk a wey preked fast

ffor wrath almost his hert to brast

þe king belefte [with] his Inglyssh <!– CMP expl: On the multi-regional, non-nationalistic composition of Richard's crusading army in relation to contemporary crusade discourse, see Lee Manion, *Narrating the Crusades*, p. 34-45. –>

Tuskaynes lumbardes Gascoynes ywys

Scottes yressh and Brytayns <!– CMP expl: "Brytayns"=people from Brittany in NW France. –>

Caleweys Geneweys and me[n] of spayn <!– CMP text: "Caleways" is an error, perhaps for "Cornwaile," or a duplication of "Geneweys"=Genoese. Other manuscripts have "Baskes"=Basques or "Walis"=Welsh. –>

And maden þe walle day and nyʒt

Til þey were strong aplyʒt

When þe king [with] grete peyn

Hadde made þe walles of Chaloyn <!– CMP expl: "Chaloyn"=the coastal city of Ascalon. –>

Him com a þouʒt as y arst mende

To Babyloyn for to wende <!– CMP expl: "Babyloyn"=Old Cairo in Egypt. –>

Al his host [with] him he tas

And went forth a wel good pas

þe fythe nyʒt in þe name of marye

He lay in þe toun of Seboly <!– CMP expl: "Seboly" is uncertain; perhaps an error for "Famelye," a possible reference to the town of Famiya in northwestern Syria. –>

Amorowe he dide him Arme welle

Both in Iren and in Stele

**fol. 30v**

By þe Ryuer forth he went

To Abathie a Castel gent <!– CMP expl: "Abathie" is an unknown location; some other manuscripts have "Albary." –>

þat was a Castel of Saryʒyns

fful of store and ryche wynes

Bothe of fat flesshe and of leenes

Wheete ootes peson and beenes

The king it wan and soiourned þere

þre dayes al playnere

And set spies by eu[er]y weyes

ffor to asspye þe countreys

ff Castel Daron king [Richard] herde <!– CMP text: This line and the next are indented roughly seven characters in the manuscript, likely to leave space for a decorative initial or word that was never completed (in this case "O", written faintly in the blank space, making the first word "Off"). –> <!– CMP expl: "Daron"=Darum, a castle and stronghold for the military orders in Gaza. It was captured by Saladin in 1187 and recaptured by Richard in 1191. –>

Al to geder how it ferde

Alle it was ful of Saryʒyns

[þat] weren goddes verey enemys

[Richard] went þederward in hast

To make þe Saryʒyns al agast

So longe þey went in hur way

þey come þeder by seynt Iones day <!– CMP expl: "seynt Iones day"=24 June. Other manuscripts have St. James's day, which is 25 July. –>

They beseged þe Castel Daron

Both to wynne þe Castel and Toun

þe Castel was made of suche stoon

þat it ne Douted of Sautes noon

Aboute þe Castel was a diche

þey sawe neu[er] noon it lyche

The Saryʒyns cryden in her langage

Cristen houndes of euyl rage

But ʒif ʒe wende sone hoome

ʒe shul haue ʒo[ur] dome

King [Richard] herd hem so crye

And swore by god and seynt Marye

þe Saryʒyns shulde be honged alle

Or suche a chaunce shuld befalle

The c[ri]sten assailed þey gan defende

And many a quarell þey gan yn sende

Al þat day and al þat nyʒt

þey and þe c[ri]sten held fyʒt

King [Richard] saw he myʒt not spede

Anon he toke another rede

He dide al þe Inglelyssh

To repe russhes in marys

**fol. 31r**

To ful þe diche of Daron <!– CMP text: The "T" in "To" is a small decorative initial one line tall and about five characters wide. –> <!– CMP expl: "Daron"=Darum, a castle and stronghold for the military orders in Gaza. –>

To wyn þe Castell and þe Ton

Two grete engynnes for þe nones

[Richard] set vp for to cast stoones

By þe water þey were brouʒt anoon

That Griffon was þat oon <!– CMP expl: "That Griffon" is an error or abbreviation for "Mate-griffon" (see below), a portable siege engine. Richard's historical "Mate-griffon," meaning 'harm to the Greeks,' was a wooden castle built in Messina, Sicily. –>

þat was arered vppon an hille

To breke þe Toun and þe Castell

þat other engyn was Robenet <!– CMP expl: "Robenet" is the name for a portable siege engine, a trebuchet or mangonel, used to hurl stones. –>

On another hille it was set

[Richard] bent a Mangenell

And let cast to þe Castell

þe king dide þe Rysshes fast

Bynd and into þe dyche cast

And al playn þe dyche made

þe Saryʒyns þ[er]of hadden no drade

Wilde fire þ[er]on þey cast

þe Risshes were afire as fast

And brent anoon to þe ground

Sone [with]yn a litel stound

And of oure folk mony hundred

Thereof þey were al woundred

The engynnes þrew alwey

And brak þe walles nyʒt and day

Robynet and MatGryffon

Al þat þey hit þey brake adoun

Sone [with]ynne a litel stound

The vtmast walle was broke to ground

And þey fullyde þe grete Dyche

With stoones and erthe hastelyche

Tho myʒt þe c[ri]sten ryʒt welle

Entre ryʒt to Daron Castell

Erl of leisestre s[ir] Robert <!– CMP expl: The historical Robert de Beaumont, fourth Earl of Leicester, accompanied Richard on the Third Crusade. –>

þe best body of Mydlerd <!– CMP expl: "Mydlerd" is ME "middel-erd," meaning the earth as it exists between heaven and hell; see MED https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED27655/track?counter=5&search\_id=4395384. –>

He was þe first [with]oute faile

That Castel Doron gan assaile <!– CMP text: "Doron" is an error for "Daron," the castle Darum. –>

Vp he lyfte his banere

And yn he smot [with] his destrere

The Saryʒyns [with] messauntere

ffled in to þe hygh Toure

**fol. 31v**

That was swith strong and sterke

And y made of Saryʒyns werk

ffor fele of hem lefte [with]oute

And fauʒt fast for grete doute

And þen þe Erl s[ir] Robert <!– CMP expl: The historical Robert de Beaumont, fourth Earl of Leicester, accompanied Richard on the Third Crusade. –>

þey ʒeue mony a strook ful hard

Mony an hed þere was cleuyd

And mony fro þe body weued

Sheldes fele were cloue atwoo

And mony stedes steked also

Syr Robert of Doreh[a]m [with] his ffauchon <!– CMP expl: "Robert of Doreh[a]m" is an error for Robert of Turnham or Thornham (d. 1211), an English soldier and administrator who became close with Richard on the Third Crusade. –>

Crakes þere mony a croun

Longespay and þe Erl of Rychemond <!– CMP expl: "Longespay"=William Longespée. This historical third Earl of Salisbury did not participate in the Third Crusade. The author is perhaps confusing him with William Longespée II, an English knight who fought in the Battle of Mansura in the Seventh Crusade. –> <!– CMP expl: "Erl of Rychemond": the historical earl of Richmond at the time of the Third Crusade, Ranulf de Blondeville, did not participate in it. –>

þey wold spare non hethen hound

Al [þat] eu[er] her swerdes rauʒt

They cleuyd at þe first drauʒt

Ther dyed mony a c[ri]sten man

And of þe paynymes suche ten

The cristen cryed help vs god sone

And þe Saryʒyns help vs Mahoun <!– CMP expl: "Mahoun" is the prophet Muhammad; medieval Christians frequently misrepresented Islam as idolatrous or polytheistic as an insult; here Saracen Muslims treat "Mahoun" as a god. –>

Among hem com kyng Richard <!– CMP text: There is an "ra" abbreviation mark in the left margin on this line, likely as a manicule or reading division. –>

To fiʒt wil nothing spard

Moony oon in a lytel stound

[With] his axe he brouʒt to ground

Al on foot he gan fyʒt

The Saryʒyns had of hym a syʒt

How large was his payment

Noon durst of hem byde his dynt

Anon þey went [with]oute fable

And slowʒ her horses in her stable

The best destreres and stedes

þat myʒt bere any knyʒt at nedes

[With] floure flessh and lardere <!– CMP text: "[With]" is likely an error for "whete," perhaps in its variant spelling "wit(e)." See MED https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED52507/track?counter=1&search\_id=4395384. –>

Al to geder þey sette a fire

ʒit was hem leuer so do

þan her vitailes shuld help her foo

By þe breth [Richard] it aspyed

And slow hem doun on eu[er]y syde

Al þat he myʒt ou[er]take

Noon amendes most þey make

**fol. 32r**

He gan assoile þe high Toure <!– CMP text: The "H" in "He" is a decorative initial about five lines tall and eight characters wide. –> <!– CMP text: "assoile" is an error for "assaile." –>

With wyʒtmen of grete valoure

The Saryʒyns in þe Toure an high

Sey her endyng day was nye

Wilde fire sone on hast <!– CMP text: This line is added to the end of the previous one, perhaps because the scribe mistakenly skipped it. –>

Amonge þe Inglesshmen þey cast

About fley þe fire smert

Mony c[ri]sten men it hert

þey myʒt no lenger fire drawe

Anoon þey gan hem [with]drawe

A Mile fro Daron castell <!– CMP expl: "Daron"=Darum, a castle and stronghold for the military orders in Gaza. –>

þey shote moony a fire barell

And sone after alytel space

þrouʒ þe myʒt of goddes grace

The Castel worth a fire alle

ffro þe Toure to þe otmast walle

The hous brent and þe hurdesse <!– CMP expl: "hurdesse" is from ME "hurdis," meaning 'a wooden framework, a hurdle used for defense in sieges'; see MED https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED21518/track?counter=1&search\_id=4395384. –>

Gret smoke þere aroos ywys

Tho þat were in þe Toure

Were in so gret doloure

In smoke þey were almost dreynt

And in þat strong heete ateynt

Than þey cryed at oo worde

Mercy [Richard] lyue lord

Lat vs passe out of þis Toure

And þu shalt haue grete tresoure

[With] lyf and lyme let vs goo

A þounsand pound we ʒeue þe too

Th...e seide [Richard] by Ih[e]su c[ri]st

By his deþ and by his vpryst

ʒe shul neu[er] come adoun

Or y be payde of my Raunsom

And afterward be at my wylle

Wheder y wyl ʒow saue or spylle

Or ʒe shul ryʒt þer.. sterue

Lord we wylle he seide þe s[er]ue

Al þy wille [with] vs þu do

With þat we mowe com þe too

To honge vs to b...ne to drawe or to sle

At þy wille lord ...al it be

Kyng [Richard] g[ra]unte.. anoon þan

And bade mony a c[ri]sten man <!– CMP text: This line is added to the end of the previous one, perhaps because the scribe mistakenly skipped it. –>

**fol. 32v**

Lete þe Saryʒyns to borowe <!– CMP text: The "L" in "Lete" is a small decorative initial about three lines tall and six characters wide. –>

Tyl þe soon aryse to morowe

It was doon amorow y fynde

King [Richard] let hem fast bynde

On a playn vnder þe walle

King [Richard] let hem behded alle <!– CMP text: "behded" is an error for "beheded." –>

He þat payde a þousand pound

He myʒt passe hool and sound

And al þo [þat] so wold ʒeue

Tyl a certeyn day þey myʒt lyue

And he [þat] wolde pay no raunsom

His hed anoon was smete adoun

þus king [Richard] wan Daron <!– CMP expl: "Daron"=Darum, a castle and stronghold for the military orders in Gaza. –>

God ʒeue vs al his benyson

Erkeneth lordynges at þis tyme <!– CMP text: This line and the next are indented roughly five characters in the manuscript, likely to leave space for a decorative initial or word that was never completed (in this case "H", written faintly in the blank space, making the first word "Herkeneth.") –>

Now cometh þe best of þis ryme

After þe wynnyng of Daro[u]n

Richard went to anoþ[er] toun[e]

To Gatres [with] grete meyne <!– CMP expl: "Gatres" may be Gaza or Gazara/Gezer. –>

To besege þat Citee

Herkeneth now how he it wan

ʒe shul here of a ..... man

A stout werro[ur] and a ...ynte

þat neu[er] ʒit was holde feynte

He [þat] was lord of Ga....

He had be a man of .....

And felle to ........... his foo

But at that tyme ...... not so

ffor he was dep.........

þat he myʒt not him .... welde

But ʒit he dide a g..... queyntyse

Herkeneth now in what wyse

Amydde þe Toun he made a stage

þ[er]on a marbul ymage

And crowned him stoutly as a kyng

And his folke olde and ʒyng

þat þey shulde neu[er] be a..nowe

To cristen men hye ne lowe

That þey had no lord of ...gnite

But þe ymage in þe C...e

**fol. 33r**

Kyng [Richard] þe werryo[ur] kene <!– CMP text: The "K" in "Kyng" is a small decorative initial about three lines tall and five characters wide. –>

Bygan þe assaut al bydene

Spryngalles and magnelles he bent <!– CMP expl: "Spryngalles" are catapult siege engines; see MED "springald" https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED42427/track?counter=1&search\_id=4395384. –>

And stones to þe Cite sent

þe Saryʒyns cryden fast

And wolde let him ynne in hast

ʒif it were þe kinges wẏlle

þat he wold not þe peple spylle

[Richard] hem g[ra]unted [with]oute lees

ffor to entre al in pees

[Richard] axed at þe first word

Of þat Citee who was lord

And þey answere [with]oute lesyng

þat þey ne had lord ne kyng

But an ymage of Marbul fyne

And Mahoun and Appolyne <!– CMP expl: "Mahoun" is the prophet Muhammad, and "Appolyne" is a version of Apollo. Medieval Christians frequently misrepresented Islam as idolatrous or polytheistic as an insult; here Saracen Muslims treat "Mahoun" and "Appolyne" as their gods. –>

King [Richard] stood so seith þe booke

And on þe ymage fast gan looke

Anoon he seide [with]oute faile

Of ʒoure lord y haue m[er]uayle

How houge he is and how sterne

And to þe men he seide ʒerne

ʒif y may [with] help of my god

þat bouʒt vs al [with] his blood

[With] a shaft smyte asonder

þat ʒe al may se [þat] wonder

Wyl ʒe þen leue on my lord

ʒha þey seide at oo word

þan king [Richard] dight him a shafte

Off strong tree and kynd crafte

And for it shulde be strong and last

He let bynde þ[er]to wel fast

Enlonges foure ʒerdes of steel and yre

And þan [Richard] þat grete syre

Let set þ[er]on a coronal kene <!– CMP expl: Here a "coronal" is the head of a spear or lance; see MED https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED9788/track?counter=1&search\_id=4395384. –>

When it was redy on to seene

ffauel of Cipre fourth was fet

And in þe Sadel he him set

And rood his cors ryʒt to þe stage

And in þis wyse he smot þe ẏmage

**fol. 33v**

That þe hed fley fro þe body asounder

And slowe fyue Saryʒyns þat stoden þ[er]vnder

Alle þe Sarysyns saide þanne

He was an Angel and no man

And al bycom c[ri]sten þore

ʒonge and olde lasse and more

And hastely [with]oute dwellyng

Her lord þey brouʒt to the kyng

And tolde him her compasment

King [Richard] lowʒ [with] good entent

And ʒaue him þe Cite to wold

And of him þey shuld it hold

To Chalon [Richard] went aʒeyn <!– CMP text: There is an "ra" abbreviation mark in the left margin on this line, likely as a manicule or reading division. –> <!– CMP expl: "Chalon"=the coastal city of Ascalon. –>

ffurth by þe Maryn sothe to sayen <!– CMP expl: "Maryn" is ME "marin(e)," meaning the sea-coast. See MED https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED26917/track?counter=1&search\_id=4395384. –>

þere he soiourne a fourtenyʒt

[With] ful mony a douʒty knyʒt

And pyʒt his pauyloun faire and welle

To be sege a stronge castelle

þat was a lytel beside him

Thre myle from castel Pylgym <!– CMP text: "Pylgym" is an error for "Pylgrym."–> <!– CMP expl: "castel Pylgrym"=Pilgrim's Castle, a Templar castle between Caesarea and Arsur. –>

With þykke walles on eu[er]y syde

Hit was hote Lucepryde <!– CMP expl: "Lucepryde" is an unidentified location. –>

The Saryʒyns sawe [þat] he was com

ffor grete drede þey wende to be noom

In hert þey were ful sore a dradde

And al nyʒt awey þey fledde

The ʒates þey shitte swyth ʒerne <!– CMP text: "shitte" ('shut') is possibly an error for "unshitte," meaning 'to open.' See MED "shitten" https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED40004/track?counter=2&search\_id=4395384. –>

And fled awey by a posterne

ffor al þis wyde myddelerd <!– CMP expl: "myddelerd" is ME "middel-erd," meaning the earth as it exists between heaven and hell; see MED https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED27655/track?counter=5&search\_id=4395384. –>

Ne durst þey abyde king [Richard]

That noble castel verament

[Richard] wanne [with]oute dynt

ffro þennes he went to Gebylyn <!– CMP text: The scibe wrote and then crossed out "I" before "Gebylyn," perhaps confusing it with Ibelin, the fortified town. –> <!– CMP expl: "Gebylyn" is Bayt Jibrin, a village west of Hebron. –>

Hospitaleres hadden wo[n]ode þ[er]yn <!– CMP expl: "wo[n]ode" is from ME "wonen," meaning 'to live, dwell;' see MED https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED53401/track?counter=1&search\_id=4395384. –>

And þe Tempeleres in feere

And had kept it moony a ʒere

Whan Raudewyn was slaw þe strong <!– CMP text: "Raudewyn" is an error for "Baudewyn," a possible reference to the historical Baldwin IV, king of Jerusalem, who died in 1185. –>

Saladyn it held [with] wronge

In þat Cite was seynt Anne boore <!– CMP expl: Saint Anne, mother of the Virgin Mary; she was not usually associated with Bayt Jibrin. –>

That oure lady was of ycoore <!– CMP expl: "ycoore" is from ME "chesen," meaning 'to choose,' because she was chosen to be Mary's mother. See MED https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED7483/track?counter=1&search\_id=4395384. –>

**fol. 34r**

Tho pyʒt þe king his Pauyloun

And with force he toke the Toun

And slowe þe Saryʒyns al in same

That wold nouʒt leue in goddes name

Ther come first wykked tydyng

To Cor de lyon [Richard] oure kyng

Of Ingelond his brother Ihon

That was þe fendes flessh and boon

þrouʒ help of his Barouns some

The Chaunceler he had ẏnome <!– CMP expl: William Longchamp (d. 1197), Richard's chancellor, was not seized by John but fled from England in 1191. –>

And wold [with] maistry of hond

Be crouned kyng of Ingelond

At Estertyde þen afterward

þen answered kyng [Richard]

What deuyl he seide how goth this

Telleþ Iohn of me no more prys

He weneth [þat] y lyue not longe

Therfore he wolde do me wrong

And yf he wende y were alyue

He wold not aʒeyn me stryue

I shal me so of him a wreke

That al þe world þ[er]of shal speke

ʒyf Iohn him crown at Estertyde

Where wold he me þenne abyde

þ[er] is no king of c[ri]styante

Certes þat shal his waraunt be

I may it not leue for no nede

[þat] Iohn my brother wolde do me [þat] dede

ʒis s[ir] seide þe messengere

He wol so do by seynt Richere <!– CMP expl: Richard of Chichester (1197-1253) was a bishop of Chicester and later a saint. –>

Kyng [Richard] al þis tydyng

Held it for a lesyng

And fro Gabylyn he went <!– CMP expl: "Gabylyn" is Bayt Jibrin, a village west of Hebron. –>

To bytayn a Castel gent <!– CMP expl: "bytayn" is an error for Bethany, modern Al-Eizariya, on the southeastern slope of the Mount of Olives near Jerusalem; the city is associated with the raising of Lazarus from the dead. –>

And þere he slow mony an heþen man

And þat noble Citee wan

Tho com þ[er] messengeres <!– CMP text: There is an "ra" abbreviation mark in the left margin on this line, likely as a manicule or reading division. –>

Both stout men and fers

And tolde [þat] Iohn wolde bere

Crowne at Ester y ʒow swere

**fol. 34v**

Loth was [Richard] to [with]drawe his honde <!– CMP text: The "L" in "Loth" is a decorative initial about five lines tall and five characters wide. –>

Tyl [þat] he had wonne þe hooly londe

And slawe þe Sowdan [with] dynt of swerde

And avenged Ih[es]u oure lord

But he beþouʒt him after þen

þat he wolde leue þ[er]e al his men

And with p[ri]ue meyne

Into Ingelond wold aʒee

And sesse þe werre anoon

Bytwene him and his brother Ihon

And come aʒeyn in his hyghynge

And fulfylle his begynnynge

S he þouʒt þus in in his hert <!– CMP text: This line and the next are indented roughly six characters in the manuscript, likely to leave space for a decorative initial or word that was never completed (in this case "A", written faintly in the blank space, making the first word "As.") –>

A stout Saryʒyn can yn stert

He auʒt [Richard] grete raunson

ffor þe wynnyng of Castel Daron <!– CMP expl: "Daron"=Darum, a castle and stronghold for the military orders in Gaza. –>

He spake to [Richard] appertelyche

Among his men pore and ryche

Sir kyng þu shalt me quyte skere

And al thyn other Ostagere

And þrouʒ my queyntyse and my gynne

I shal þe do grete tresoure to wynne

More þan an hundred þousand pound

Of florans þat ben red and round

Of kyng Saladaynes tresoure <!– CMP expl: This episode's portrayal of an attack on a caravan of Saladin's is based on Richard's historical interception of a large supply caravan from Egypt on 21 June 1192. –>

And muche more of other stoore

þ[er]to y leye in hostage my lyf

And my children and my wyf

But y do þe wynne þat p[ra]y

On euyl deth do me day

King [Richard] seid þu myster man

As þu leuyst in Turmegan <!– CMP expl: "Turmegan" is a version of "Termagaunt," an invented deity that Saracen Muslims in European romances supposedly worship (along with "Mahoun" and "Appolyn"). It is an intentional Christian insult of Islam as polytheistic paganism. –>

Tel me now what folk is þis

I wene it is but feyntẏs

þat leden tresoure [with]out faile

Syr þer ben .v. hundred Camaile

And fyve hundred þ[er] ben also

Asses and Mules and ʒit moo

þat ledyn Tresoure to Saladyn

Tryed seluer and gold fyn

**fol. 35r**

Of whete and of spycerye

Clothes of Sylk [þat] ben ful trye

[Richard] seide so god me deme

Is þ[er] muche folk [þat] treso[ur] to ʒeeme

ʒe s[ir] he seide þer byfore

Knyʒtes rydyng sexty score

And after com suche ten

Of swyth strong hethen men

I herde hem speke in her rownyng

They were agast of þe Inglyssh kyng

[Richard] seide [þat] shal he fynde

þauʒe þ[er] were sixty þousand

I wolde hem mete eu[er]ychon

þauʒe y were but my self allon

[With]out help of eny man

I wolde hem slee or quyk tan

Seye þu me anoon ryʒt

Where shal y fynde hem to nyʒt

Here by southe Miles ten

þere mast þu fynde þe hethen men

þere wyl þey rest and abyde

Tyl more folk com ryde

As armes he cryed anoon þen <!– CMP expl: "As armes" is French, meaning 'To arms.' –>

His Barouns hem Armed anoon þen

Byfore went his templeres

His Gascoignes and his ospitaleres

His Ost was grayde on highyng

And went forthe [with] þe king

Al þat nyʒt [þat] faire couay

They ryde forth on hur way

þan seide þe spye to þe kyng

Sir make here þy dwellyng

They ben logged in þe Toun

I wol go aspye her renoun

Anoon y wyl to hem go

And brew hem a drynke of woo

And sey hem [þat] kyng [Richard]

Is at Iaffes to Ingelondward <!– CMP expl: "Iaffes"=the fortified city of Jaffa, a coastal city west of Jerusalem. –>

They wyl me leue [with] þe best

And þenne wyl þey go to rest

**fol. 35v**

And þenne s[ir] þu maiste wende

And take hem al slepynge

ffy adebles seide þe kyng

God ʒeue þe euyl endyng

I am no trayto[ur] take good kepe

To slee men while þey ben a sleepe

But now ryʒt here y wyl abyde

Tyl þe Saryʒyns com ryde

By cleere day in þe felde

þu shalt see cleue helm and shild

Be þey Erles Baro[u]ns or kynges

Here þey shul haue her endynges

The Saryʒyn þe kyng answerd

Thy pere is not in myddelerd <!– CMP expl: "myddelerd" is ME "middel-erd," meaning the earth as it exists between heaven and hell; see MED https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED27655/track?counter=5&search\_id=4395384. –>

Ne noon of so muche renoun

Wel may þu hoote Cor de Lyoun

Therfore y wyl it not forhele

Ther ben Saryʒyns two so feele

As þu hast folk in þis Contree

Certeẏnly y tel it the

[Richard] seide y haue no care

þ[er]fore is myn hert nouʒt sare

ffor oon of my c[ri]sten men

Is worth of Saryʒyns .ixe. or ten

The moo þ[er] ben þe more shul we sloon

And awreke Ih[es]u of his foon

fforth went þe spie þen

And spied of þe hethen men

He aspyed her compassyng

And tolde it [Richard] oure kyng

He cryed As armes þere <!– CMP expl: "As armes" is French, meaning 'To arms.' –>

Cor delyon it is tyme to fere

Anoon leped kyng Rychard

Vpon his steede [þat] hight bayard

His barouns and his templeres

Lept vpon her destreres

And rod to þe hethen ost

In þe name of þe hooly gost

Tho Saryʒyns [with] her noblay

To þe Sowdan toke þe way

**fol. 36r**

Kyng [Richard] smot hem among <!– CMP text: The "K" in "Kyng" is a decorative initial about four lines tall and five characters wide. –>

þer aros a nobel songe

To Tyrmegaunt and to Mahoun <!– CMP expl: "Tyrmegaunt" is a version of "Termagaunt," an invented deity that Saracen Muslims in European romances supposedly worship, along with "Mahoun" and "Appolyn" (or, in the following line, "Platon" or Pluto). It is an intentional Christian insult of Islam as polytheistic paganism. –>

þey cryed help and to Platon

[Richard] bygan a kyng to bere

þrouʒ his hert [with] his spere

And so he s[er]uyd an Ameraile

And fyve Dukes [with]out faile

Afterwarde his axe he drowʒe

Mony an hethen hound he slowʒe

So[m]me he cleuyd into þe Sadel

Hit bywept þe childe in þe Cradell

A kyng he clef into þe Arson

þat him hilp not his god Mahoun

An Erl he smot on þe yren hood

At his gyrdel his axe [with]stood

Mony was þe Saryʒyn

þat he sent to helle pyne

So wyʒtly þey gan hem spede

þere stroyed þey mony a stede

The Templeres and þe Ostpytalers

Wonne þere mony feire destreres

So longe þey fauʒt so seith þe stoory

[þat] [Richard] wanne þe victory

þrouʒ help of his c[ri]sten knyʒtes

Stout in armes and bold in fyʒtes

But also fele he slowe alloon

As þey dide eu[er]ychon

But mony scaped [with] dethes wound

þat ne leued no stounde

They þouʒt þey wold neu[er] mete

Kyng [Richard] by wey ne strete

Now mow ʒe here of þe wynnyng <!– CMP text: There is an "ra" abbreviation mark in the left margin on this line, likely as a manicule or reading division. –>

That þ[er] wan [Richard] oure kyng

Hors of prys and grete Camayle

ffyve hundred and ten samfaile

Six hundred horses and grete corso[ur]s

Charged al [with] ryche tresoures

That weren in Cofers bound ferly

[With] fyne syluer and gold ful trye

**fol. 36v**

Mules he had þree hundred and moo

That Coupes and peces bare thoo

And fiftene hundred asses

[With] him Oyle more and lasse

And also fele [with] wheete rede

þere dide king [Richard] a nobel dede

When he al þis tresoure wan

He went hoom to his men þan

And to Bytany þe nobel Citee <!– CMP expl: "Bytany" is an error for Bethany, modern Al-Eizariya, on the southeastern slope of the Mount of Olives near Jerusalem; the city is associated with the raising of Lazarus from the dead. –>

[With] [þat] tresoure and his meyne

He ʒaue þe ryche he ʒaue þe pore

Of his purchas ryʒt good stoore

He ʒaue hem destreres and coursoures

And p[ar]ted among hem his tresoures

So [Richard] p[ar]tyd his purchas

Of al cristen men louyd he was

Sone þ[er]after a lytel stound

Ther com messengers of mechemounde <!– CMP text: "mechemounde" is written as one word in the manuscript and is an error for "muche mounde," meaning 'potency, efficacy, excellence, richness'. See MED "mound(e)" https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED28798/track?counter=3&search\_id=4395384. –>

þe Bisshop of Chester was þere oon <!– CMP expl: Historically it is unlikely that the Bishop of Chester, at the time a supporter of John, came to warn Richard; one chronicle reports that the prior of Hereford was a messenger to Richard. –>

And þe Abbot of seynt Alboon

And brouʒt him letters speciele

I seled [with] þe Barouns seele

They told him [þat] his broþ[er] Ion

Wolde do him crown vppon

At Ester by comyn dome

But ʒe þe senner wold come hoom

ffor the kyng of ff[ra]unce [with] envye

Was aryse in Normandye

þan seide [Richard] by goddes payne

þe Deuyl hath now to muche mayne

Al her bost and her derray

þey shul forsake some day

þ[er]e he soio[ur]ned tyl halowynmasse <!– CMP expl: "halowynmasse"=the festival of All Saints, held on 1 November. –>

þan he gan to Iaffis passe <!– CMP expl: "Iaffis"=the fortified city of Jaffa, a coastal city west of Jerusalem. –>

ffor seven ʒere and for more

He dide þe Castel wel store

ffyftene þousand y fynde in boke

He lafte þat Castel for to looke

ffor to kepe wel [þat] londe

Out of þe Saryʒyns honde

**fol. 37r**

Tyl he aʒeyn com myʒt

ffrom Inglond as he had tyʒt

And þen he went to Acres ward

þat douʒty body king [Richard]

ff Saladyn now speke we <!– CMP text: This line and the next are indented roughly six characters in the manuscript, likely to leave space for a decorative initial or word that was never completed (in this case "O", written faintly in the blank space, making the first word "Off.") –>

What dool he made and what pyte

When he herd of [þat] cas

þat his treso[ur] robbed was

Wroth he was and al abobbyd

ffor his tresoure was so robbyd

And for his men were so slawe

He bete his goddes and cursed his lawe <!– CMP expl: It is a convention of *chansons de geste* and romances that Saracen leaders often turn on their gods or idols when faced with defeat by Christian forces; it is another way of reinforcing the Christian insult of Islam as polytheistic paganism expressed in the references to "Mahoun" or "Termagaunt." –>

And swore he wolde a wreke be

ʒif he myʒt eu[er] his tyme see

So þat tyme a spye com yn

And told þis to Saladyn

A lord he seith be blyth of mood

ffor y þe bryng tything good

To þyn hert a blythe present

Kyng [Richard] is to Acres went

ffor ou[er] he wol to Ingelonde

Him is come suche sond

That Iohn his brother y ʒow swere

Wyl elles his croun bere

Iaffys he hath stored ryʒt <!– CMP expl: "Iaffys"=the fortified city of Jaffa, a coastal city west of Jerusalem. –>

[With] mony a baroun and gentyl knyʒt

.Xv. þousand y wote ful welle

To kepe þe Toun and þe Castell

ʒif þat ʒe may so wel spede

Tyl þat he com fro his lede

Now let see lord [with]oute faile

ffro his body kytte þe taile

Ofte was Saladyne wel and woo

But neu[er] so wel as he was þoo

þe spye he ʒaue an hundred beysaundes

þat brouʒt him þese new tydynges

And also a feire destrere

And a robe ffurryd [with] blaundynnere <!– CMP expl: "blaundynnere" is uncertain in ME; it must be a kind of fur, perhaps ermine. See MED "blaun-ner" https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED5132/track?counter=7&search\_id=4395384. –>

Tho wolde he no lenger abyde

He sent about on eu[er]y sẏde

**fol. 37v**

Vppon her lond and vppon her lẏf <!– CMP text: The "V" in "Vppon" is a small decorative initial about two lines tall and three characters wide. –>

Vpon her children and vpon her wyf

þat þey come to him blyue

And help him of lyf to dryue

Kyng [Richard] [with] his grete tayle

To him com mony a meraile

Mony a Duke and mony a kyng

And mony an hethen lordyng

Of Egypt and of Arabye

Of Capadocy and of Barberye <!– CMP expl: "Capadocy" is probably Cappadocia, an area in Anatolia in Asia Minor. "Barberye" refers to the north coast of Africa, controlled by Muslim powers. –>

Of Europe and of Ascaloyn <!– CMP expl: "Ascaloyn"=the coastal city of Ascalon, south of Jaffa. –>

Of Samarye and of Sesoyn <!– CMP expl: "Samarye" is Samaria, a name for a city and region in ancient Israel between Galilee and Judea. "Sesoyn" may be a reference to Kesoun (Keysun), a town in Edessa. –>

Of grete grece and of Tyre

And of mony another Empyre

Of alle heþen londes y fynde

ffro þe grekessh see vnto Inde <!– CMP expl: The "grekessh see" is the Mediterranea sea, especially the eastern part, which in romances often marks a division between Christian and Muslim spheres. –>

Charles þe kyng nor Alysaunder <!– CMP expl: "Charles"=Charlemagne; "Alysaunder"=Alexander the Great. –>

Of whom is made muche sclaunder <!– CMP expl: "sclaunder" in ME can mean 'falsehood, disgrace,' but here more likely means 'fame, reputation'; see MED "sclaundre" https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED38864/track?counter=1&search\_id=4395384. –>

Hadde neuer half þe ost

As in þe contrey lay in cost

Ten myle þey were in brede

And more y wene so god me spede

þat was an ost of grete strength

And fourty myle it was of length

þat al þe erth donyd hem vnder <!– CMP expl: **"**donyd" is from ME "dinen," 'to make a loud and confused noise' or 'to be filled with din, resound with din.' See MED https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED11707/track?counter=1&search\_id=4395384. **–>**

þere myʒt men see grete wonder

To Iaffes Citee þey com skeete <!– CMP expl: "Iaffes Citee"=the fortified city of Jaffa, a coastal city west of Jerusalem. –>

The cristenmen þe ʒates sheete

þere was in a lytel þarawe <!– CMP text: "þarawe" is an error for "þrawe," from ME "throu," meaning 'a relatively short period of time;' see MED https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED45565/track?counter=1&search\_id=4395384. –>

On either half muche folk slawe

So strong and hard was þat bataile

þat it ferde [with]oute faile

As it hadde be heuyn lyʒt

So clere it was of swerdes bryʒt

And euer þe c[ri]sten men wel fouʒt

To slee þe Saryʒyns ne spared þey nouʒt

They ferde as of þe ground þey sprong

So fele þey were olde and ʒong

þat no slauʒter of swerde keene

þer myʒt noʒt be y seene

**fol. 38r**

The c[ri]sten flow to þe Castell

And kept þe gates swith well

þe Sarysyns þe Citee noome

To her wille and her doome

þo bygan þe Saryʒyne

þe Castel wal to vndermyne

The crysten men for þe noones

Alle to frusshed hem [with] stoones

þe Saryʒyns ʒede aboute þe walle

And sheet yn ou[er]alle

Mony a brennyng quarelle

þey sheet in to þe Castelle

And oure to hem sheet as swythe

And mony of hem þey made vnblythe

þe Saryʒyns souʒt where þey myʒt best

Greue cristen men mest

Atte þe last a gate þey found

Nouʒt hard yshet in [þat] stound

But þere þey founde a strong metyng

Of axes and of swerdes keruyng

To wed þey lafte a þousand men

Of þe c[ri]sten were slawe but ten

Were þe Saryʒyns neu[er] so stout

At þe gate men droue hem out

þat day for no nede

The Saryʒyns myʒt noþing spede

Anyʒt by the moone clere

þe cristen sente a messengere

To kyng [Richard] to Acrys Cite

And bade him for goddes pite

That he shulde to hem come

Or elles þey were al y nome

þey tolde him al þe harde cas

Of þe hethen ost how it was

But ʒe come to hem anoon

þey ben forlore eu[er]ychoon

[Richard] answerd a noon ryʒt

Wel y know þe Sowdans fyʒt

He wyl make a lytel derray <!– CMP expl: "derray" is from ME "derai(e)," here meaning 'attack, injury;' see MED https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED11189/track?counter=1&search\_id=4395384. –>

And anoon flee a way

**fol. 38v**

I nyl for him to hem wende

But sone y wyl hem socoure sende

He cleped to him his Neuewe

A ryche Duk of grete vertu

He hight s[ir] Henry of Champayn <!– CMP expl: Henry II, Count of Champagne, was the nephew of Richard I of England and Philip II of France. He fought in the Third Crusade, was on Richard's side, and became King of Jerusalem after the death of Conrad of Montferrat. –>

And him wende to Iaffys playn <!– CMP expl: "Iaffys"=the fortified city of Jaffa, a coastal city west of Jerusalem. –>

And take [with] þe he seide þyn oste

And abate þe Sowdannes boste

As armes he dyde crye <!– CMP expl: "As armes" is French, meaning 'To arms.' –>

Among his ost [þat] þey shulde hye

[With] s[ir] Henry for to wende

And Iaffys help and to defende

Aʒen þe Sowdan Saladyne

A wreke ʒow of þe Saryʒyne

Amorow went [with] s[ir] Herry <!– CMP expl: "Herry" is Henry of Champagne, mentioned above. –>

Mony a baron and knyʒt hardy

Gascoynes spaynardes and lumbardes

At þe com[m]aundement of kyng Richardes

They went furth by the Maryn <!– CMP expl: "Maryn" is ME "marin(e)," meaning the sea-coast. See MED https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED26917/track?counter=1&search\_id=4395384. –>

Tyl þey come at Palestyn

Of Saledynes ost þey sey

Al þe Contrey was be wray

Of her comyng þe Sowdan herde

Swith to hem ward he ferde

When þe Duk Herry þis wist

He turned aʒeyn by ih[es]u criste

þat he ne had no taryyng

Tyl he come to [Richard] oure kyng

And seide he sawe neu[er] ne herde

In al þe wyde Myddelerde <!– CMP expl: "Myddelerde" is ME "middel-erd," meaning the earth as it exists between heaven and hell; see MED https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED27655/track?counter=5&search\_id=4395384. –>

Nouʒt haluendele þe peple of men

þat Saladyn had by doun and den

No tonge he seide may hem tel

I wene þey com out of hel

Then answerd king [Richard]

ffye a deuelles þu foule Coward

I shal neu[er] for þy loue

Trist to frensshma[n] by god aboue

þo cristen men þat in Iaffys beth

Mow wite þe her deethe <!– CMP text: "ffor þy defaut" is a catchword at the bottom right of the page. –>

**fol. 39r**

ffor thy defaute y am a dra..

þat my good barouns ben harbestad <!– CMP text: "harbestad" is an error for "hard bistad," meaning 'hard pressed' or 'in trouble;' see MED "bistad" https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED4883/track?counter=1&search\_id=4396636. –>

Now for þe loue of seynt Marye

Take me quykly my Galye

Now to ship oon and other

ffader and son Em and brother

Al [þat] eu[er] loue me

Now to ship for charyte

Al þat wepyn bere myʒt

To ship went anoon ryʒt

And hyed hem to Iaffes Warde <!– CMP expl: "Iaffes"=the fortified city of Jaffa, a coastal city west of Jerusalem. –>

[With] þe Douʒty kyng [Richard]

Herkeneth to my tale sothe <!– CMP text: The "H" in "Herkeneth" is a small decorative initial one line tall and about four characters wide. This is the only instance in the manuscript of one falling in the middle of a page and could serve to mark a new section. –>

þauʒ y swere ʒow noon othe

I wyl ʒow rede romaunse noon <!– CMP expl: The following catalogue of heroes mixes mythic, historical, and romance figures to celebrate and elevate Richard. For a discussion of the genre implications of this list for ME romance, see Yin Liu, "Middle English Romance as Prototype Genre," p. 340-4. –>

Of Pertenep ne of yponedon <!– CMP expl: "Pertenep"=Partenope of Blois, hero of a twelfth-century French romance that was later translated into ME; "yponedon"=Ipomadon, the hero of a twelfth-century Anglo-Norman romance that also survives in three separate ME versions. –>

Ne Alysaunder ne of Charlemayn <!– CMP expl: "Alysaunder"=Alexander the Great; "Charlemayn"=Charlemagne. –>

Ne of Arthor ne of Gawayn <!– CMP expl: "Arthor"=King Arthur; "Gawayn"=Gawain, Arthur's nephew and in some traditions his greatest knight. –>

Ne of launcelet de lake <!– CMP expl: "launcelet"=Launcelot, in some traditions Arthur's greatest knight and lover of his wife, Guinevere. –>

Ne of Beues ne Gy ne sydrake <!– CMP expl: "Beues"=Bevis of Hampton, the hero of one of the most popular ME romances; "Gy"=Guy of Warwick, the hero of another highly popular ME romance; "sydrake" may be a reference to the invented philosopher Sydrac, who is the subject of an anonymous work written in French in the late thirteenth century in which Sydrac answers the questions of the ancient Bablyonian king Boctus or Bokkus on various topics. There are anonymous late fifteenth-century English versions known as *Sidrak and Bokkus*. Some other manuscripts have "Vrrake" here instead, which has not been identified. –>

Ne of Ely ne of Octauyan <!– CMP expl: "Ely"=unknown, perhaps an error. Some other manuscripts have "Vrre" here instead, who does feature in Thomas Malory's later *Le Morte Darthur*,but not in a surviving ME romance. "Octauyan"=Octavian, the hero of a fourteenth-century ME romance based on an earlier French version; in the story, Octavian is both the historical Roman emperor Augustus and one of his fictional twin sons. –>

Ne of Ettor þe strong man <!– CMP expl: "Ettor"=Hector of Troy. –>

Ne of Iasyn ne of Ercules <!– CMP expl: "Iasyn"=Jason, leader of the Argonauts in Greek myth; "Ercules"=Hercules, the Greek hero. –>

Ne of Enneas ne of Achilles <!– CMP expl: "Enneas"=Aeneas, the hero of Virgil's epic; "Achilles"=the mightiest Greek warrior at Troy in Homer's *Iliad*. –>

I trowe neuer p[ar]mafay <!– CMP expl: "p[ar]mafay" is French, meaning 'by my faith' or 'certainly.' –>

In þe tyme of her day

Dede noon of hem so douʒty dede

[With] stronge batayle ne [with] steede

As dide king [Richard] [with]oute faile

At Iaffes in þat batayle

[With] his axe and [with] his swerd

His sowle assoyle oure swete lord

Hit was byfore þe Mydnyʒt

Moone and sterre gon shyne bryʒt

[Richard] was to Iaffys com

[With] his Galeys alle and soom

And herken toward þe Castel

He ne herde pipe ne flogell <!– CMP expl: "flogell" is from ME "flagel," a 'flageolet' or wind instrument; see MED https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED16137/track?counter=1. –>

They drowe hem nere to þe londe

ʒif þey myʒt vnderstonde

**fol. 39v**

But þey ne myʒt nowʒwhere aspẏe

No noyse ne noon mynstralsye

What quyk man in þe Castel ware

þo was king [Richard] ful of care

Allas he seid þat ẏ was bore

My good Barons y haue for lore

fful hard þan wept king [Richard]

And wrong his hond and tare his berd

A Ihesu now þy socoure

To longe haue y made soio[ur]

Now slayn is Robert of Laycester <!– CMP expl: The historical Robert de Beaumont, fourth Earl of Leicester, accompanied Richard on the Third Crusade. –>

That was my curtaise maister

Eu[er]y here of him was worth a knyʒt

And Robert Doreh[a]m [þat] was so wyʒt <!– CMP expl: "Robert Doreh[a]m" is an error for Robert of Turnham or Thornham (d. 1211), an English soldier and administrator who became close with Richard on the Third Crusade. –>

And s[ir] Brandis and s[ir] Pypard <!– CMP expl: "Brandis" is probably a reference to the historical Bertram III de Verdun, who accompanied Richard on the Third Crusade and died at Jaffa. "Pypard" is likely the historical Gilbert Pipard, who was sheriff of Gloucester and Hereford before receiving grants of land in Ireland; Pipard died on the Third Crusade at Brindisi. –>

In bataile þey were wys and hard

And mony of my good Barouns

The best of alle Regiouns

They be slawe and toterye <!– CMP expl: "toterye" is from ME "toteren," meaning 'to destroy, tear to shreds'; see MED https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED46502/track?counter=1&search\_id=4396652. –>

How may y leue longe þerfore

Had y com betyme heder

I myʒt haue sauyd al to geder

Certes y shal neu[er] be blyth man

Tyl y be wroke of þe Sowdan

Thus waylede kyng [Richard] aye

Tyl it was aʒen þe daye

A wayte wente to þe Torelle <!– CMP expl: "wayte" is from ME "wait(e)," meaning a 'watcher, lookout, sentinel.' –>

And pyped a mot [with] a flogell <!– CMP expl: a "mot" is 'a blast on a horn'; "flogell" is from ME "flagel," a 'flageolet' or wind instrument; see MED https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED16137/track?counter=1. –>

He ne piped but a sẏthe <!– CMP expl: "sẏthe" is from ME "sith," here meaning '(one) time'; see MED https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED40555/track?counter=1&search\_id=4396652. –>

Mony an hert he made blythe

He loked a doun and sawe Galeys

And alle king [Richard]is Naueẏs

Shippes Galeys ful wel he knewe

A mery noote þan he blewe

And piped seigno[ur]s or sus or sus <!– CMP expl: "seigno[ur]s or sus or sus" is French, meaning 'lords, up now, come now.' –>

King [Richard] is amonges vs

When þe c[ri]sten men herd þis

In hert þey were glad y wys

Erl Baroun squyer and knyʒt

To þe walles ronne anoon rẏʒt

**fol. 40r**

And saw king [Richard] her lord <!– CMP text: The "A" in "And" is a decorative initial about five lines tall and ten characters wide. –>

þey welcomed him [with] myld word

And seide welcom lord in goddes name

Al oure care is t[ur]nyd to game

King had neu[er] in hert ywys

Haluendel so muche blys

As armes he cryed þere <!– CMP expl: "As armes" is French, meaning 'To arms.' –>

Aʒen þe Saryʒyns he wolde fare

We ne haue lyʒf but oon

Selle we it dere flessh and boon

ffor to chalange oure herytage

Slee we þe Saryʒyns in euyl rage

Who so dredeth him for manace

Mot he se neuer god in þe face

Take me myn axe in myn honde

That was made in Ingelonde

No more her armes y ne dout

Then it were a pylche clout <!– CMP expl: "pylche clout"='a ragged pilch' (a fur garment); see MED "pilch(e)" https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED33346/track?counter=1&search\_id=4396652 and "clout" https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED8158/track?counter=1&search\_id=4396652. –>

The soth today men shul ysee

Throuʒ goddes help in t[ri]nite

Al þ[er]first alond he lept

Of a dosen he made an hepe

He gan to crye [with] voẏs clere

Where is þe heþen Pautenere <!– CMP expl: "Pautenere" means 'rascal, scoundrel, villain'; see MED "pautener(e)" https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED32665/track?counter=1&search\_id=4396652. –>

That haþ þe Cite of Iaffis nome <!– CMP expl: "Iaffis"=the fortified city of Jaffa, a coastal city west of Jerusalem. –>

[With] my Pollax y am com

To waraunt wel [þat] y haue do

Wasseile he seide y drynke ʒow too <!– CMP expl: "Wasseile" is from ME "wassail," an Old English drinking toast and greeting; it literally means 'be hale' or 'be well.' See MED https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED51850/track?counter=1&search\_id=4396652. –>

He leide on seker aplyʒt

And slowʒ þe Saryʒyns dounryʒt

þe Saryʒyns fled and were al mate <!– CMP expl: "mate" is from ME "mat," literally meaning 'checkmate' (as in chess), but here meaning 'defeated'; see MED https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED27041/track?counter=2&search\_id=4396652. –>

Wel fast out at þe ʒate

In hert þey were sore arowe

þat þe ʒate þouʒt hem to narow

And ronne to þe walles of þe to[u]n

By eu[er]y side þey fel ado[u]n

And euercryde on his manere <!– CMP text: "euercryde" is mistakenly written as one word in the manuscript. –>

As ʒe shul now y here

Malkun sterra[n] nararbrus <!– CMP text: There is an "ra" abbreviation mark in the left margin on this line, likely as a manicule or reading division. –> <!– CMP expl: "Malkun..." This is not Arabic; here the poet invents a nonsense "Saracen" language, perhaps to suggest some kind of authenticity to the narrative. –>

Loyr fer noner to memorus

**fol. 40v**

This is to sey in Inglyssh

þe Inglissh deuyl comen is

And but yf we flee out of weye

In euyl deeth we shul deye

þey fled out of þe Toun anoon

þ[er]yn belefte neuer oon

Saue foure hundred or fyue

But þey were brouʒt of lyue

þey ledde vp her destreres

And at þe gate set porteres

Tho king [Richard] lep on ffauel <!– CMP text: There is an "ra" abbreviation mark in the left margin on this line, likely as a manicule or reading division. –>

Wel y armed in yren and stel

And rod him out at ʒe gate <!– CMP text: "ʒe" is an error for "þe." –>

The king of Egypt he met þ[er]ate

[With] sixty þousand saryʒyns fers

[With] armes bryʒt and brood baners

King [Richard] on þe helme him hit

Doun to the ground he him slitte

Anoþ[er] he smot on þe yrene hood

At his brest þe dynt [with]stood

His templeres and his barons

ffauʒt as egre lyouns

And slouʒe þe Saryʒyns swythe

As gras falleth by fore þe sythe

þe Saryʒyns saw no better woon

But fledde a wey eu[er]ychoon

To Saladynes grete ost

[þat] fourtymyle lay in cost <!– CMP text: "fourtymyle" is mistakenly written as one word in the manuscript. –>

Sixty þousand p[ar]mafay <!– CMP expl: "p[ar]mafay" is French, meaning 'by my faith' or 'certainly.' –>

þe Sowdan lost [þat] ylke day

ffor her armoure ferde as wax

Aʒen king [Richard]is axe

Mony a Saryʒyn and high lordyng

ʒolde hem to [Richard] oure kyng

[Richard] put hem in ostage þoo

þere were a þousand p[ri]son[er]s and moo

þe chase lasted swythe long

Tyl it com to Euynsong <!– CMP expl: "Euynsong" is vespers, the sixth canonical hour, taking place at sunset; see MED "eve(n)-song" https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED14709/track?counter=1&search\_id=4396652. –>

[Richard] rood after þoo it was nyʒt

And mony a saryʒyn to deth he dyʒt

**fol. 41r**

That noman it may accompte

How feele of hem it wold amount

King [Richard] left without þe toun

And pyʒt þere his pauyloun

And þat nyʒt [with] good hert

He comforted his Barouns smert

But ʒe shul here of þe morowe

þat was a day of muche sorowe

It was þe grettest bataile y vnderstonde

þat eu[er] was in eny londe

And þo [þat] wille þis bataile lere

Hende herkeneþ and ʒe shul here

S king [Richard] sat at Sopere <!– CMP text: This line and the next two are indented roughly seven characters in the manuscript, likely to leave space for a decorative initial that was never completed (in this case "A", marked faintly in the manuscript and making the first word "As"). –>

And gladed his barons [with] good chere

And conforted hem [with] good wyn

Two messengers com fro Saladyn

And stodyn him byfore

[With] longe berdes and white hoore

Of .ij. Mules þey were lyʒt

In clooth of sylk þey were dyʒt

Eche helde other by the honde

And seide s[ir] king vnderstonde

Oure lord Saladyn þe highe kyng

Haþ þe sent þis askyng

ʒif þu were so hardy knyʒt

þat þu durst abyde him in fiʒt

To morow when it day were

Of blisse þu sholdest be al bare

ffor þy lyf and þy barons

I wol not ʒeue twoo scalons <!– CMP expl: "scalons"=scallions; the idiomatic phrase "not ʒeue twoo scalons" means 'care not a bit.' See MED "scaloun" https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED38726/track?counter=1&search\_id=4396652. –>

He wil take þe [with] strenþ of honde

ffor he hath folk of mony a londe

Egregyens and of Turky <!– CMP expl: "Egregyens" is uncertain. It may be "Egiens," a possible reference to "Aegeans," or people of the eastern Mediterranean region; see MED https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED13083/track?counter=1&search\_id=4396652. Or it may be from ME "Gregeis," meaning 'Greeks'; see MED https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED19328/track?counter=1&search\_id=4396652. The untrustworthiness of the Byzantine Greeks was a commonplace in crusade discourse. –>

Moriens and of Arabie <!– CMP expl: "Moriens" means 'Moors,' inhabitants of North Africa; see MED "Morian" https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED28649/track?counter=1&search\_id=4396652. –>

Baselles [and] Embociens <!– CMP expl: "Baselles" and "Embociens" are both unidentified and perhaps invented. –>

fful egre knyʒtes of defens

Egipciens [and] of Capadocy <!– CMP expl: "Capadocy" is probably Cappadocia, an area in Anatolia in Asia Minor.

Of ynde Maior and of Surry <!– CMP expl: "ynde Maior"=greater India, a broad and variable term sometimes including part of China and northern India, and other times southern India. It is often used in contrast to India Minor, a region in southern Arabia and Africa.This distinction may be behind the repetition of "ynde" in the following line. –>

Of ynde and of Ascoloyn <!– CMP expl: "Ascoloyn"=the coastal city of Ascalon, south of Jaffa, and is likely an error. Other manuscripts have "Asclamoyne," an unknown location. –>

Of Samarye and of Babyloyn <!– CMP text: This line is added to the end of the previous one, perhaps because the scribe mistakenly skipped it. –> <!– CMP expl: "Samarye" is Samaria, a name for a city and region in ancient Israel between Galilee and Judea. –> <!– CMP expl: "Babyloyn"=Old Cairo in Egypt. –>

Of eu[er]y twenty þousand samfaile

**fol. 41v**

And fyve þousand of Ameraile

þe grounde vnneþ may hem bere

þe folk þat comeþ þe to dere

By oure red do ryʒt welle

And turne aʒeyn to Iaffes castell <!– CMP expl: "Iaffes"=the fortified city of Jaffa, a coastal city west of Jerusalem. –>

In saue warde þu myʒt þere be

Tyl þu haue sende after more meyne

And yf þu see þu maist not stonde

Turne aʒen to þyn owne londe

In ire [Richard] toke a lof

And in his hondes it al to roof

And seide to þe Sareʒynes

God ʒeue ʒow euyl fynes

And Saladyn ʒoure lordes <!– CMP text: Here "lordes" and in the next line "cordes" are likely errors for "lord" and "cord." –>

þe Deuyl him hong [with] cordes

ffor ʒoure counsaile and ʒo[ur] tydyng

God ʒeue ʒow euyl endyng

Goþ and seith saladyn

In dispite of Appolyn <!– CMP expl: "Appolyn" is the god Apollo. Medieval Christians frequently misrepresented Islam as idolatrous or polytheistic as an insult; here Saracen Muslims treat "Appolyn" as one of their gods. –>

I wyl abyde him betyme

þauʒe he com to morowe or p[ri]me

And þauʒe y were my self alloone

I wolde abide hem eu[er]ychone

And ʒif þe Dogges wyl com to me

My pollax her bane shal bee

And seith him þat y defye

Al his cursed companye

Goth now and seith him þus

þe curs he haue of swete ih[es]us

þe Messengers went to Saladyn

And tolde þe begynnyng and þe fyn

Saladyn Meruailed þanne

And seide he was no worldly man

He is a deuyl or a seynt

His myʒt fonde y neu[er] feynt

Anoon he made his ordenyng

ffor to take [Richard] oure king

þerof [Richard] toke no kepe

But al þe nyʒt he lay aslepe

Tyl aʒen þe dawyng

þan hard he a shille c[ri]yng <!– CMP text: This line is added to the end of the previous one, perhaps because the scribe mistakenly skipped it. –>

**fol. 42r**

Throuʒ goddes g[ra]ce an angel of heuyn

Seide to him [with] mylde steuyn

Aryse and lepe on fauelle

And turne aʒeyn to Iaffys Castelle <!– CMP expl: "Iaffys"=the fortified city of Jaffa, a coastal city west of Jerusalem. –>

þu hast y slept longe y nowʒ

Thow shalt it fynde harde and towʒ

Or þu come to þat Citee

þow shalt be wraþed and þy meyne

After þe bataile do by myn hees

[With] þe Sowdan and make pees

Take trews and let þy baronage

To þe fflom do her pilg[ri]mage

To Naʒareth and bedlem <!– CMP expl: "bedlem" is the city of Bethlehem. –>

To Caluery and to Ier[usa]l[e]m

And let hem go hom after þen

And com þu after [with] þy shipmen

ffor þu hast enemys y vnderstonde

Here and in þyn own londe

Vp seide þe Aungel and wel þu spede

þow haddest neu[er] so muche nede

[Richard] aros as he wolde wede

And spronge vpon fauel his stede

And seide lordynges or sus or sus <!– CMP expl: "or sus or sus" is French, meaning 'up now, come now.' –>

þus haþ vs werned swete Ihesus

As armes he cryed þare <!– CMP expl: "As armes" is French, meaning 'To arms.' –>

Aʒeyn þe Saryʒyns for to fare

But Saladyn and his men

Were com bytwene Iaffys and hem

þeder he was by nyʒt come

King [Richard] to haue y nome

þat was to [Richard] grete peyn

He myʒt noʒt his ost ordeyn

Byfore he preked on fauel

His swerde he dide bite wonder wel

þ[er]with he slouʒ [with]oute doute

þre kinges of þe Saryʒyns route

His hors was stef him self was good

Hors ne man him nouʒt [with]stood

ffor to hewe þe heþen cors

Al to grounde he made no fors

**fol. 42v**

He [þat] had seye his countenaunce <!– CMP text: The "H" in "He" is a small decorative initial about two lines tall and four characters wide. –>

Wold him haue had in membraunce

þey gan fro him also fast dryue

As been doon fro þe hyue

Whom [þat] he hit [with] his swerde

Neu[er] after spake he word

The Inglyssh and þe yryssh gon after ryde

To fiʒt þey were ful fers þat tyde

Vppon þe Saryʒyns fast þey donge

[With] axes and [with] swerdes stronge

þey smete harde [with] her myʒt

And slowʒe þe Saryʒyns do[u]nryʒt

But þ[er]of was ful lytel kepe

So mony of hem þ[er] were on hepe

þat no slauʒter [with]oute faile

Ne myʒt be seene in þat bataile

A Myre þ[er] was [with]oute Iaffys <!– CMP expl: "Iaffys"=the fortified city of Jaffa, a coastal city west of Jerusalem. –>

A Myle longe [with]oute lees

Maugrey hem alle kyng [Richard] þe sire <!– CMP expl: "Maugrey" is from ME "maugre," here meaning 'in spite of (them)'; see MED https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED27102/track?counter=3&search\_id=4395384. –>

Sixty þousand drof in to þat Mire

þere myʒt men see þe heethen men

Lye and bathe hem on þe feen

And þo [þat] wolde com vp

Drank of kyng [Richard]is cup

What y draynt and what y slawe

þe Saryʒyns lost of þe hethen lawe

An hundred þousand in a stounde

In þe frensh as it is found

Tho kyng [Richard] went ageyn

To help his men [with] al his mayn

Now he was þere and now here

To gouerne him [with] his powere

þ[er] was neu[er] man [þat] herde telle

That oo man so mony gan quelle

But in þe most p[er]il of [þat] bataile <!– CMP text: There is an "ra" abbreviation mark in the left margin on this line, likely as a manicule or reading division. –>

Kyng [Richard] saw [with]oute faile

His Neuew s[ir] Herry of Champayn <!– CMP expl: Henry II, Count of Champagne, was the nephew of Richard I of England and Philip II of France. He fought in the Third Crusade, was on Richard's side, and became King of Jerusalem after the death of Conrad of Montferrat. –>

ffel of his hors in þe playn

The Saryʒyns had him vnderhond

To sle him fast gan þey found

**fol. 43r**

Hit had y be his day last

Ne had [Richard] com in hast

[Richard] cryde [with] hygh voys

Help god and þe hooly croys

My Neuew to day from shame shilde

ffro deeth of þese dogg[es] wilde

Lordynges seid [Richard] leith oon

þat of þese dogges scape noon

And y my self wille p[re]ue to smyte

ʒif my pollax wyl ouʒt byte

þo myʒt men see him [with] mayn

Shede þe Saryʒyns blood and brayn

Vpon þat place [þat] grene was

Moony a soule went to Sathanas

By þe denyng of þe more <!– CMP expl: **"**denyng" is likely from ME "dinen," 'to make a loud and confused noise' or 'to be filled with din, resound with din.' See MED https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED11707/track?counter=1&search\_id=4395384. "Denyng" may be an error for "dymmyng," 'making darker'; see MED https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED11693/track?counter=1&search\_id=4395384.  **–>**

Men myʒt here where [Richard] woore

þe Templeres com to socoure

And bygan an harde stoure

They leide oon as þey were wood

þe valeys ranne al in blood

Longespayn was a douʒty knyʒt <!– CMP expl: "Longespay"=William Longespée. This historical third Earl of Salisbury did not participate in the Third Crusade. The author is perhaps confusing him with William Longespée II, an English knight who fought in the Battle of Mansura in the Seventh Crusade. –>

As he were wood he gan to fyʒt

þe king of Marrok met him in þe felde <!– CMP expl: **"**Marrok" is an unknown location. **–>**

[With] a spere he smot him in þe shelde

þat he tumbled samfaile

Topsaile ou[er] his hors taile

[þat] on his hed he lyʒt

He brake his nek y ʒow plyʒt

þe Erl of Leycestre s[ir] Robert <!– CMP expl: The historical Robert de Beaumont, fourth Earl of Leicester, accompanied Richard on the Third Crusade. –>

þe Erl of Rychemond and king [Richard] <!– CMP expl: "Erl of Rychemond": the historical earl of Richmond at the time of the Third Crusade, Ranulf de Blondeville, did not participate in it. –>

þere þese þre knyʒtes rood

þat day was þe wey ful brood

þat foure waynes myʒt mete

So mony left þere þe sweete

On either half was moony a boody

Islawe þat was ful hardy

Atte last [with] grete payn

He wan þe Erl of Champayn <!– CMP expl: Henry II, Count of Champagne, was the nephew of Richard I of England and Philip II of France. He fought in the Third Crusade, was on Richard's side, and became King of Jerusalem after the death of Conrad of Montferrat. –>

And brouʒt him on his steede

[þat] was swythe good at nede

**fol. 43v**

And bade [þat] he shuld ryde

Ryʒt by his owne syde

[With] þat conne a messenger reke <!– CMP text: "conne" is likely a scribal error for "come." –>

[With] king [Richard] forto speke

And seide s[ir] pur charyte

Turne aʒen to Iaffys Citee <!– CMP expl: "Iaffys"=the fortified city of Jaffa, a coastal city west of Jerusalem. –>

Ihelyd is both hill and playn

Kyng Alysaunder ne Charlemayn <!– CMP expl: "Alysaunder"=Alexander the Great; "Charlemayn"=Charlemagne.–>

Hadde neuer half þe Route

As is þe cite now aboute

ʒe mow into þe Cite ryde

In the feld what so betyde

And ʒow warne [with]oute faile

Muche is paired of ʒo[ur] bataile

þe Patryark taken is <!– CMP expl: "Patryark" is perhaps a reference to the bishop of Jerusalem; see MED "patriark(e)" https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED32636/track?counter=1&search\_id=4396652. –>

And Iohn the Nelel y slayn ywys <!– CMP text: "Nelel" is a scribal error for "Neel." –> <!– CMP expl:"Iohn the Nelel" may be a reference to Jean de Nesle, who fought in the Fourth Crusade. **–>**

Will[a]m of Araso[u]n and s[ir] Gerard <!– CMP expl: Both of these knights are unknown and may be fictional. –>

And Bertram Braundes þe good lumbard <!– CMP expl: "Bertram Braundes" is the historical Bertram III de Verdun, who accompanied Richard on the Third Crusade and died at Jaffa.–>

þese ben slaw and wel moo

King [Richard] beþouʒt him þoo

And gan to crye turniʒ arere

Eu[er]yman [with] his Banere

But of þe Saryʒyns moony oon

To him þey flowe eu[er]ychoon

And slouʒe ffauel vnder him

þan was [Richard] woo and grym

His axe fro þe Arson he drowʒe

þe Saryʒyns þ[er][with] he slowʒe

þat hadden steked vnder him his steede

þerfore þey lefte her hed to mede

Afoot he was on he leyde

Mony hundred of his hond dyed

Al þat his axe take myʒt

Anoon he slowʒ a doun ryʒt

What byfore and what behynde

A þousand Saryʒyns y fynde

He slowʒ þoo he was on foot

Com þ[er] neuer oon to boote

Saladynes twoo soones com rẏde <!– CMP text: There is an "ra" abbreviation mark in the left margin on this line, likely as a manicule or reading division. –>

And .x. þousand Saryʒyns by her syde

**fol. 44r**

And gon crye to kyng [Richard]

Aʒelde þe Trayto[ur] foule coward

Or we shul þe slee in þis place

ʒe lye seide [Richard] by goddes g[ra]ce

[With] þat oon [Richard] met þoo

With his axe he smot him soo

[þat] half his boody fel adoun

And half he left in þe Erson

Of þe q[uo]d [Richard] y am seker

His brother com to þat byco[ur]

Vppon a steede [with] grete randon

And þouʒt to bere Richard adoun

And ʒaue him a wounde þrouʒe þe Arme

þat dide Richard muche harme

ffor on his speres hed was venym

And [Richard] stoutly smot to him

þat hors and man fel to ground

Lye þ[er]e q[uo]d [Richard] þu hethen hound

þow shalt neu[er] tel Saladyn

[þat] þu dedest me my lyf to tyne

Than fyve Dukes of hethenesse

Com [with] her ost more and lasse

And byset [Richard] our[e] kyng

And þouʒt him to deeth bryng

But [Richard] in a lytel þrawe

þo fyve Dukes he had y slawe

And mony hundred after þen

Of swythe strong hethenmen

At þe last þauʒe it were late

[Richard] wanne to Iaffys gate <!– CMP expl: "Iaffys"=the fortified city of Jaffa, a coastal city west of Jerusalem. –>

þo were þe cristenmen ful seker

þat þey shulde wynne þe byker

The Erl of leycestre s[ir] Robert <!– CMP expl: The historical Robert de Beaumont, fourth Earl of Leicester, accompanied Richard on the Third Crusade. –>

Brouʒt him his stede lyarde

King [Richard] in þe Sadel lepe

þoo fled þe Saryʒyns as it were shepe

[Richard] Rood after tyl it was nyʒt

And slowʒ al þat he ou[er]take myʒt

þere were slayn in playn and den

Ten hundred þousand hethen men

**fol. 44v**

þen myʒt [Richard] [with]out lees

Go to þe ʒates of Iaffes <!– CMP expl: "Iaffes"=the fortified city of Jaffa, a coastal city west of Jerusalem. –>

And þankede þe kyng of Glorye

And Marye of þat victorye

ffor sethe þe world was first bygon

A fairer batel was neu[er] ywoon

A Morow he sent Sabouyle <!– CMP expl: "Sabouyle" is perhaps a reference to Robert de Sabloel or Robert IV de Sablé, a commander in Richard's fleet and his treasurer, later a grand master of the Templars, who died in 1193. –>

And s[ir] Robert þe Wateruyle <!– CMP expl: An unknown knight, perhaps fictional. –>

Hubert [and] Robert Doreh[a]m <!– CMP expl: "Hubert" is probably the historical Hubert Gautier, or Hubert Walter, who was the Bishop of Salisbury and a royal advisor who accompanied Richard on the Third Crusade. Of this list, only Hubert is reported to have gone as an emissary to Saladin. "Robert Doreh[a]m" is an error for Robert of Turnham or Thornham (d. 1211), an English soldier and administrator who became close with Richard on the Third Crusade. –>

To Saladyn þe hye Sowdan

That him self and fyue of his men

Wolde fyʒt aʒen fyue hundred and ten

In wyde feld þey wold fyʒt

And gouerne goddes ryʒt

And ʒif he it wan to haue þe londe

Eu[er] in to c[ri]sten monnes honde

And ʒif þe Sarysyns myʒt hem slee

þe londe shuld euer hur owne bee

And yf he wyl nouʒt here ʒoure sawes

Seiþ þat .iij. ʒere and þree dawes

I aske trewes of [þat] Sowdan

To go to my lond and com aʒayn

The Messengers forth gan wynde

And tolde þe Sowdan word and ende

But þe Sowdan wold nouʒt assent þ[er]to

ffyue þousand aʒen him shuld goo

Or amorow ʒif he wolde com

þe trews shuld be y nome

þ[us] tolde þe messengeres

To kyng [Richard] [þat] was so fers

The nexte day he made forward

Trews to take [with] king [Richard]

þat þrouʒ þe lond to þe flom

ffro Acres al [þat] wolde coom

Alle þo þre ʒere

Cristenmen fer and nere

Myʒt go to Ier[usa]l[e]m

To þe Sepulcre and bedlem <!– CMP expl: "bedlem" is the city of Bethlehem. –>

To Olyuete and to Naʒareth well <!– CMP text: There is an "ra" abbreviation mark in the left margin on this line, likely as a manicule or reading division. –> <!– CMP expl: "Olyuete" is the Mount of Olives, site of Jesus's ascension into heaven. –>

To Iaffys and to Maiden Castel <!– CMP text: The text ends here; there may have been a folio lost that contained the conclusion, perhaps extending between 10 and 60 lines. –> <!– CMP expl: This line corresponds to line 7182 in Larkin and line 7200 in Brunner. –> <!– CMP expl: Maiden Castel=an unidentified location, perhaps derived from Geoffrey of Monmouth's *Historia Regum Britanniae*, or from the crusader translation of Qaşr al-Banāt at al-Raqqah into Latin as *Castellum Puellarum*. –>