



Das St. Pauler Neidhartspiel | The Neidhart Play of Sankt Paul

Proclamator

Horent frawen vnde man
Ez kument her vf disen plan
Jetzo an diser vart
Ain herczogin vnd her Nithart
Mit in vil schöner frawen
Von den ir abentûr sünd schawen
Wie der vest ritter her Nithart
Mit der herczogin verwetet hât
Wer vinde daz erst blûmelin
der sol derer ander bûl jarlang sin

Loquatur ducissa

Got grûz dich edler nithart
Von wann kumbst her an diser vart
Oder wie stât din gemût
Gen dez liechten mayen blût
Wez wellen wir nu beginnen
Da von wir frâud gewinen
Wann min gemût stât also
daz ich wil mit dir wesen fro
Gen dez liechten mayen schin
Ich vn die klâren megentin

Respondeat nithardus

Genâd liebiu frawe min
Waz ir gebietent, daz sol sin
Vnd wil mich dez verpflichten
daz ich wil furbas dichten
daz best daz ich mak
bediu nacht vnd tak
Durch alle schön frawen gût
Wil ich wesen hoch gemût
Sûchen mit richem schal
Wil ich blûmen vnd vial
Vnd vind ich dann daz blûmelin
So müssent ir min bûl sin

Proclaimer

Listen, ladies and gentlemen!
Now, on this occasion,
a duchess and Lord Neidhart
will enter the stage
5 together with many beautiful ladies.
You shall see their adventures,
how the brave knight Lord Neidhart
made a wager with the duchess
that whoever finds the first flower
10 should be the other one's lover for a year!

The duchess should speak:

Greetings, noble Neidhart!
Where are you coming from
or how are your spirits inclined towards
15 this bright blossoming of May?
What shall we do now
to attain joy?
For my spirits are directed toward
being joyful with you
20 In this bright splendor of May,
I and the lovely maidens.

Neidhart should respond:

My merciful dear lady,
it shall be as you request.
And I pledge that
25 I will henceforth compose
the best that I can,
both night and day.
On behalf of all good and beautiful ladies,
I will be in high spirits.
30 With resounding song,
I will search for flowers and violets,
and if I then find that little flower
then you must be my mistress.



Vadat nithardus et ponat

florem sub pilleo et redeat

Ach edliu frawe minneclich
An hohen frauden bin ich rich
Wan ich an disen stundn
hān an viol blūmen fundn
die sūllent ir gān schawn
Ir und die edeln junkfrawen

Levato pileo a ducissa

Ach waufen ūmmer wāffen
Dar vmb sol man dich straufen
daz du nimmer liegest
Vnd kain frawen me betriegest
Du vaiger swacher man
Ez mūs dir an daz leben gān

Respondeat nithardus parum percussus

Ach edliu frawe hochgebon
Lānd ab gen mir den iweren zorn
Vnd lānd mich han iwer huld
Ez ist geschehen ān all min schuld
Ain gebur mircz hāt ze laid getān
Er mūs ain bain ze pfand hie lān

Nithardus ad rusticos

Sagt an ir dorf knappen
Iw tōrpel vnd ir mūstrappen
Waz hānd ir an mir gerochen
daz ir den viol hānt abgebrochen
Vnd mir mit iwerem vngelimpf
Zer stōrent hānt den minen schimpf
Ze pfant mūs ir diu bain hie lān
Und vf den stelczen hain gān.

Neidhart should go and put his cap

35 over the flower and then return:

Oh noble and lovely lady,
I am rich with joys
because just at this moment
I have found a violet.

40 You should go and look at it,
you and the noble maidens.

After the duchess lifts the hat:

Oh help, oh save me!
You should be punished for this,
45 so that you will never again lie
or betray any woman ever again.
You cowardly man,
this will cost you your life!

Neidhart responds, unabashed:

Oh noble highborn lady,
50 let go of your anger towards me,
and let me have your favor.
What happened is not my fault:
a peasant has done it to harm me –
as payment he shall lose a leg!

Neidhart says to the peasants:

55 Speak, you village lads,
you idiots and you porridge-heads,
what did you smell on me
that you plucked the violet
and destroyed my game
60 with your prank?
In payment you shall lose a leg
and go home on crutches.