



Die Königin von Frankreich | The Queen of France

Text Information

Author | von Schondoch

Language | Middle High German

Period | 15th Century

Genre | Narrative poetry

Source | Heidelberg, Universitätsbibliothek, Heid. Hs. 1012 (olim Ashburnham Place, Cod. 486), Die Königin von Frankreich: fol. 249r- 254v

Collection | Gender, Sex and Sensuality: Writings on Women, Men and Desire

URL | sourcebook.stanford.edu/text/queen_france/

Transcription, translation and introduction by Jana Koepcke.

Introduction to the Text

The Queen of France was composed in the late 14th century somewhere in the Alemannic region (what is today Southern Germany or Austria). Two of 24 surviving manuscripts name one "von Schondoch" as the author of *The Queen of France*. Aside from the name, nothing else is known about this person. *The Queen of France* is a prototypical melodramatic tale. There are similar texts in the medieval German tradition, but they are usually shorter. This verse narrative, composed in rhymed couplets, is also unique because of its wide transmission. The large number of textual witnesses and adaptations of the story, among them Elisabeth von Nassau-Saarbrücken's famous prose novel *Sibille* (after 1437), suggest that *The Queen of France* was very popular in late medieval Germany.

The Queen of France tells the story of a queen, a good and faithful wife, who is banished for alleged adultery by her husband, the king. Falsely accused by the king's marshal, whose advances she had turned down earlier, the pregnant queen is saved from death by the intercession of the king's nephew, the Duke of Austria. The queen is escorted away under the protection of a noble knight, who is assassinated by the villainous marshal. The queen, however, manages to elude the murderer, fleeing into the forest where she is sheltered by a virtuous, poor man. The story takes a turn for the better when the virtuous knight's faithful dog persistently pursues his master's murderer. The Duke of Austria sees to it that the dog and the marshal engage in a judicial ordeal whose outcome—the dog is victorious—exposes the marshal's guilt. Ashamed and shocked by his error of judgement, the king bitterly regrets his actions and searches unsuccessfully for the queen for three and a half years. At last, a female merchant's recognizing the queen's exquisite needlework leads to the discovery of the queen and her three-year-old son, and the king and queen are reconciled.

The Queen of France is interesting to modern readers because it is a medieval melodramatic tale that captures the reader's attention. Medieval honor emerges as a core concept at multiple points throughout the story: as a commodity that can be both acquired and lost, and as a matter of reputation and respect, which was the basis of the rule of elites. This translation also makes *The Queen of France* available to scholars who are working on topics such as popular tales, on the prototypes of modern melodrama, or on depictions of animals in literature.

Introduction to the Source

Heid. Hs. 1012, the version of *The Queen of France* that was used for this transcription and translation, was written around or before 1460 in the Moselle Franconian/Rhenish Franconian region (Siegen-Luxembourg/Kassel-Saarbrücken). *The Queen of France* is the final text of three in that manuscript. It is preceded by *The Duke of Brunswick*, a German rhymed couplet narrative; and by *Loher and Maller*, which is a German prose translation by Elisabeth von Nassau-Saarbrücken (or someone at her court) from a *chanson de geste*, an Old French heroic epic.

Heid. Hs. 1012 tells *The Queen of France* in a manner focused on the queen's steadfastness and virtue. By adding lines and by expanding on specific themes (e.g. a comparison between the queen and the Virgin Mary and the king's explicit joy at discovering that the queen has lived a virtuous and pious life without him), this version emphasizes the "good wife" theme more than other versions, and in some cases suggests parallels with religious stories of martyrs and saints.



About this Edition

This transcription and translation are based on the newly rediscovered Heidelberg, Universitätsbibliothek, Heid. Hs. 1012 (olim Ashburnham Place, Cod. 486), *Die Königin von Frankreich*: fol. 249r- 254v, dated 1463. This edition follows the manuscript in the following ways: u/v- spelling and i/j- spelling follow the manuscript; separate and compound spelling are not normalized but rather follow the manuscript; no punctuation has been added.

To give a visual impression of the original manuscript's structure this edition also recorded scribal corrections, deletions and additions, mostly indicated by the rubricator with red ink. Crossed out letters and words in the manuscript are crossed out in the edition as well. For the sake of the edition's readability and following standard practice, abbreviations and diacritical signs are expanded (these expansions are unmarked), and the descending s (ſ) is replaced with the round s. In three places where Heid. Hs. 1012 appears to be flawed, amendments (see critical notes) follow Jutta Strippel's 1978 edition of *The Queen of France*.

Further Reading

Jefferis, Sibylle. "Die Neuaufgefundene Heidelberger Handschrift von Schondochs 'Königin von Frankreich und der Ungetreue Marschall': Ihre Einordnung in die Übrige Handschriftenüberlieferung." *New Texts, Methodologies, and Interpretations in Medieval German Literature* (Kalamazoo Papers 1992-1995), Kümmerle, 1999, pp. 209–27.

- *Transmission history.*

Jefferis, Sibylle. "Schondochs Märe 'Die Königin von Frankreich und der Ungetreue Marschall' im Vergleich mit dem 'Sibillenroman' von Elisabeth von Nassau-Saarbrücken." *Text Analyses and Interpretations: In Memory of Joachim Bumke* (Kalamazoo Papers 2012-2013), Kümmerle, 2013, pp. 105-24.

Jefferis, Sibylle. "The 'Cronica von der Königin von Frankreich': The Prose Adaptation of Schondoch's Novella." *Nu lôn' ich iu der gâbe: Festschrift for Francis G. Gentry*, Kümmerle, 2003, pp. 159–72.

- *Adaptations of the story.*

Strippel, Jutta. *Schondochs 'Königin von Frankreich': Untersuchungen zur Handschriftlichen Überlieferung und Kritischer Text*. Kümmerle, 1978.

- *Transmission history and historical-critical text edition.*

Werner, Wilfried. *Cimelia Heidelbergensia: 30 Illustrierte Handschriften der Universitätsbibliothek Heidelberg*. Reichert, 1975.

- *Manuscript version and its features.*



Die Königin von Frankreich | The Queen of France

Des konings boich von franckrich geit hijr ain
DYE schrijfft bedudet so waz geschach
Daz man yn hoger eren sach
Von franckrich eynnen koninck guet
Der waz vor wandel wail behuit
Der selbe herre hat grois huiß ere
Er hat eyn mynnenchliches wijff
Naich wnschen waz gestalt ir lijff
Zuchtich vnde bescheyden
Daz sij nyeman mochte verleyden
Wer sij myt augen ain gesach
Dat er yr jn hoger eren jach
Den moyst man fortien ouer all
Alles daz er geboyt
Da von die koningynnen qwam // yn noit
Want dye koningynnen
Dye bat er vmb dye mynne
Want hey ir dick heymlichen waz
Myt eren sij doch vor yeme genaß
Daz sij durch falsche bede
Nye ouell dayt gedede
Want sij versagede yeme dogen // clich
Zu yeme so sprach dye mynnenchlich
War vmb mudes du myr dez
Du weyß doch woil wez durch // weß
Willen du daz laissen salt
Myn herre der ist dijr also holt
Er hat gesat yn dyne hant
Burge stede vnde wijde lant
Durch daz du syn geweldich bist
Durch got layß mich ain argelist
Belyuen vnd bede mich nit me
Daz myr gee ain myne ere
DEr marschalck vngetruwe sprach
Myr ist vmmer nuwee

The Story of the King of France is being told here
This text tells what happened
when a fine king of France
rose to high esteem.
He was flawless.
5 The household honor of this very lord was great.
He had a lovely wife.
She was so beautiful,
virtuous, and modest
that no one could despise her;
10 whoever had seen her with his own eyes,
held her in the highest esteem.
Everyone had to fear him everywhere,
And everything that he ordered
Because of him, the queen faced great hardship
15 because he begged her
for her love,
as he often met with her in private.
She overcame him with her honor,
for such a treacherous plea
20 would never make her commit such an evil deed,
and she refused him as she should.
The lovely lady said to him:
"How can you imagine such a thing of me?
You know full well
25 on whose account you must desist:
on account of my lord, who holds you in such high esteem.
He has placed in your hands
castles, cities, and wide lands,
and put you in charge of them.
30 For the sake of Our Lord, spare me your malicious tricks
and do not ask me again
for anything that compromises my honor."
The faithless marshal said:
"The torment and suffering of my heart



Vngemach vnd hertzen leyt
Auch hain ich ain vnderscheit
Gedynet von kindez yogen
Nu laissent mich uwer dogen
Geneyssen vnd horent mich
Vill zarte frauwe mynnenclich
Do sprach die zarte mynnenclich
Jch nemen is uff die true myn
Erlaysse mich deser bede
Ee dan daz ich dich erwede
Brenge jn leyt vnd vngemach
Der marschalg gedohte
O avee und owach
Leget sij is mynem herren vor
So weyß ich wail daz ich verlore
Lijff ere vnde alle myn guet
Da myt der marschalk von ir schiet
Vnde ginck gedencken euen
Wie er dye fraue brecht vmb ir // leuen
Der koningk eyns seden plach
Wanne er schinen sach den // dach
So stunt er uff von hoger art
Dar lijße von der frauen zart
Vff daz er sij slayffen lyeß
Als yn syne dogent daz hyeß
Want sij waz der iare nyt alt
So fore er iagen jn den walt
Bijssen vnde beyssen
Der koningk hat auch geheissen
Daz man besluyss keyn durre
Want der marschalk were dar vor
Also wail getruwet er dem bousewicht
Er enwist von syner falscheit nyt
Der koningk auch erzogen hat
Eyn getwerg ane al missedait
Es lach vnde slyeff jn dem saille
Dez nam der feyge marschalk war
Vnde laicht is der frauen jn die arm

35 are renewed daily.
What's more, I have loved you ceaselessly
since I was young.
Now let me enjoy a secret affair with you
and grant me my pleas,
40 dearest, beloved lady."
The lovely and sweet one replied:
"On my honor, I swear,
spare me this request
or I promise
45 to inflict on you pain and trouble."
The marshal thought:
"Oh, woe is me! Alas!
If she passes this on to my lord,
I know for certain that I will lose
50 my life, my honorable position at court, and all my possessions."
With this the marshal took leave of her,
and he left thinking about
how to take the lady's life.
The king was in the habit of
55 getting up in a noble manner,
at daybreak,
and leaving the sweet lady
sleeping there,
as his good manners demanded of him,
60 for she was young.
He went hunting in the woods,
with hunting dogs and with falcons.
The king had also ordered
that no door be locked
65 because the marshal oversaw that.
That is how much he trusted the villain;
he knew nothing of his treachery.
The king had also raised
a blameless dwarf,
70 who rested and slept in the great hall.
The cowardly marshal took him,
put him into the lady's arms,



Vnde decket es sere warm
Vnde kerde es zu yrrer bruste
Daz sij is werlich nyt enwiste
Vnde macht er sich dannen balde
Zu deme selbn walde
Jn snellicher lijst
Da er synen herren wiste
Do er den koning ain sach
Vsser faltschem munde er sprach
Layssent uwer jagen hi belyuen
Jr sullent anders bedryuen
Daz uch nu me zu hertzen gait
Vnde kummerlichen mach werden rait
Der koning sprach waz mach dat // syn
Der marschalk sprach de koningynne
Sij pleget falscher mynne
Jr sullent nu werden jnne
Koment mit mir drade
Jr fyndent sij ain faltscher dade
Der koning sere erschrackt
Jagen er nit langer enplach
Jn zorne fore er weder heym
Er fant die zarte wandels kein
Dan noch slayffen ain dem bette
Vnde sach wo sij hatte
Daz getwerch ain alle schult
Daz nam er mit vngedolt
Alda myt synen henden
Vnde sluyche is weder dye wende
Vmb schult da id nye vmb warff
Byß id von synen henden starff
Dye frauwe erwacht vnd sprach
Here waz ist uwer vngemach
Daz yr sijt zornes also voll
Er sprach du bose schande
Du weist doch waill
Sych wye schenlich du hij lijgest

covered him up
and turned him to her breast,
75 and she did not notice what was happening.
Then he quickly departed
for the woods,
full speed,
where he knew his lord was hunting.
80 As soon as he spied the king,
he spoke deceitful words:
"Stop your hunting right now.
You should chase something else,
that lies closer to your heart
85 and that can only with great difficulty be turned from wrong to right."
The king said: "What might that be?"
The marshal replied: "The queen,
she is an adulteress,
and you have to see it for yourself.
90 Come with me quickly,
you will catch her in the act of infidelity."
The king was very shocked
and he stopped the hunt.
Furious, he rode home.
95 He found the dearest one as before,
still sleeping in her bed,
and saw that she had by her side
the blameless dwarf.
He lifted the dwarf up swiftly and angrily
100 with his hands
and slammed him against the wall—
All for a crime that the dwarf never committed—
until the king had killed the dwarf.
The lady awoke and asked:
105 "Sire, what troubles you,
that you are so full of anger?"
He replied: "You worthless disgrace,
you know why!
Look at how shamefully you lie here



Vnde mich mit falscheit ouergist
Myt dyner faltscher mynne
Herre behaldent uwer synne
Sprach dye edel fraue zart
Got weyß woil daz ich nye schuldich enwart
Ayn dyessen lesterlichen sachen
So wye es sich auch hait gemacht
Daz muß uch got geuen zu erkennen
Vnd mich von dießer vnschult nemen
Er sprach swich vnd rede nyt
Ich hain ain dyeßer geschiecht
Also lesterlichen funden
Daz du zu dyesen stunden
Daz leuen moys verloren hain
Als balde ich es gefugen kan
Do fugede es got daz da bij lach
Eyn furste der hies hertzoch lupolt
Als es got fugen wulde
Der erhorde daz gebroche
Vnd er waz von dez konings geslecht
Er waz dez koningx suster kint
Als men noch beschreiben fynt
Er waz von oysterich genant
Er lyeff da er den fursten fant
Er sprach herre was zornent ir
durch got daz sult yr sagen mir.
Do sprach der edel koning rijch
O neue layß erbarmen dich
Myn hertzeleyt is also groß
Sijch wie dye schande ain eren blois
So lesterlichen geworffen hait
Daz ir nummer mach werden rait
Do sprach der hirtzoch lu // polt
So werdent mir nummer holt
Myn fraue nye kein schult gewan
Yemant mach sij verraden hain
Want ich nye faltscheit an ir sach
Der koning myt zorne sprach

110 and how you drown me in deceit
with your adultery!"
"Sire, be reasonable,"
said the noble and tender lady,
"God knows, I am not guilty
115 of such immoral actions.
Whatever might have happened,
God will unveil the truth to you
and take me from this blame."
He replied: "Silence! Do not speak!"
120 I find this matter
so degrading
that you have at this hour
lost your life,
as soon as I can bring it about!"
125 Now as God designed, there lived nearby
a prince, named Duke Leopold.
As God had intended,
he heard of the crime.
He belonged to the royal family,
130 he was the king's sister's child,
as it is written in the books,
and he was from Austria.
He hurried to the lord.
He asked: "Sire, why are you so angry?"
135 In God's name, tell me."
There the noble and highborn king replied:
"Oh nephew, take pity on me!
My heart's suffering is very great.
Just look at how this disgrace
140 has so degradingly attacked my honor
that it can never be made right again."
Then Duke Leopold said:
"Even though you may never grant me your favor again:
my lady is blameless.
145 Someone must have betrayed her;
I have never seen deceit in her."
The king replied with anger:



Sij moyß verbyrnen uff eyner hort
Neyn sprach der herre erent die frucht
Dye sij yn yrrem lijff dreyt
Dodent ir sij es wirt uch leyt
Want ir anders kein erben hait
Burge stede vnde wijde lant
Dye yr billich sullont erffen
Willent yr sij verderffen
Neyn werder herre dont so wail
Daz ich uch vmmer danck sal
Geuent ir frijst laist sij genesen
Vff daz ich uwer dyner moge wesen
Also ich bin gewesten
Nye kein schult wart so grois // nye
Da enwer eyn deill genaden ain
Nu layst sij herre genyessen myn
Vnde ere dy maria die koningynne
Dye reyne mait die got gebar
Vnde nement uwer dogent war
Durch ere aller reyner wijff
Want sij jn yrrem lijff
Dreyt eyne swere burde
Jch weyß dat sij nye enwurde
Schuldich ain deser dait
So wye es sich gefuget hait
Do sprach der koning zu hant
Du weyß wail wie ich sij lijgen fant also lesterlich
Eyn deill wil ich doch eren dich
Nym fure sij von den augen myn
Biß sij geberet daz kindelin
So moyß sij doch verlesen den lijff
Daz geschanten bose wijff
Der hirtzoch von oesterich
Nam dye fraue mynnenclich
Dem koning von den augen sin
Er suechte also wijden hyen
Eynen hoichgeborn man

"Let her be burned at the stake!"
"No", said the Duke, "honor the child
150 she carries in her womb.
If you kill her it will cause you grief
because you have no other heir.
Castles, cities, and wide lands
which you will pass on by right,
155 do you want to ruin all that?
No, noble Sire, act in such a way
that I will be obliged to you forever:
let her live until she gives birth,
and I will continue to serve you,
160 as I have in the past.
No guilt is so great
that it does not deserve a portion of mercy.
Now let her be for my sake, Sire,
and honor the Queen Mary,
165 the pure maiden, who gave birth to God,
and show your virtue
on behalf of the purest woman,
because the queen carries in her body
a heavy burden.
170 I know that she is not
guilty of this misdeed,
however it transpired."
Then the king said quickly:
"You know very well how I found her lying there, so immorally.
175 Yet I will honor you in part:
Take her, lead her out of my sight
until she gives birth to the child.
After that she must lose her life,
this immoral, wicked wife."
180 The Duke of Austria
took the lovely lady
out of the king's sight.
He searched near and far
for a highborn man



- Der laster noch schande nye ge // wan
Der mit gantzer herscher craft
Erworffen hat rijtterschafft
Gantz mit allen synen synen // worden
Stede ain allen orden
Dem beuall er dye fraue guet
Er sprach nu haue sij jn diner hude
Vnde fure sij hyn yn myn lant
Biß yr got die gnade hait bekant
Daz sij geberet eyn kindelyn
So saltu nyt langer syn
Daz kint saltu brengen mir
Dye muder laiß hinder dijr
Der rijtter nam die fraue zart
Dye eme da beuolen wart
Er furte sij durch eynen wilden dan
Daz gefrisch der marschalk der bose man
Der wapende sich
Zu hant alda vnde reyt heymlichen na
Vnd ermordet den rijtter stolz
Dye fraue floich in daz holz
Er furte den rijtter von dem wege
Vff daz nyeman ensege
Waz mordez da geschege
In der rechter strayssen stege
Wye gerne er ayn der stede
Dye koningynnen auch ermordt het
Do hatte sij sych verborgen
Do reit er heym mit sorgen
Do er dye fraue nit enfant
Do gedaicht er alle zu hant
Ayff sij erweder qweme
Daz er yr den lijff neme
Der morder der bosewicht
Dye fraue ginge jn leydes plijcht
Jndem walde da sij waz
Wurtzelen lauff vnde graß
- 185 who was free from error and vice
and who had with heroic acts
gained knighthood
by being constant in word
and deed everywhere.
- 190 Into this man's protection he gave the honorable lady.
He told him: "Now protect her
and escort her into my land.
When God is merciful to her
and she bears a child,
- 195 then do not hesitate:
bring the child to me,
leave the mother behind."
The knight took the sweet lady
who had been consigned to his care.
- 200 He escorted her through a wild evergreen forest.
The marshal, the wicked man, discovered this.
He armed himself
quickly and rode after them secretly
and murdered the proud knight.
- 205 The lady fled into the woods.
He dragged the knight's corpse off the path,
so that no one would discover
that a murder had been committed
on the rightful road and path.
- 210 Although he wished
he had also murdered the queen right there and then,
she had hidden herself.
He rode home worried
because he could not find the lady.
- 215 He quickly decided that,
if she returned,
he would take her life,
the murderer, the villain.
The lady wandered in anguish
- 220 through the woods where she found herself.
Roots, leaves and grass,



Daz aß sij yn dem walde
Daz mynnencliche bilde
Sij ginge also lange jn dem dan
Biß sij zu eynem koler qwam
Dye mynnencliche geslachte
Sij fraget yn waz er machte
Er sprach fraue ich birnen kolen
Sij sprach ist dijr da mit wolle
Js macht dijr swartz dinen lijff
Sprach daz mynnencliche wijff
Do sprach der koler sunder haß
Wulde got so hette ichs baß
Nu moyß ich durch hungers noit
Dys doin biß ain mynen doit
Do sprach dye zarte koningynne
Wiltu mich layssen bij dir syn
Waz du ain fays daz helffen ich dir
Dez saltu geleuben mir
Do sprach der vil getrue man
Jch enkan uch leyder nit gedoin
Also yr wail wert weren
Vil frauwe zarte gehere
Do sprach auer dye koningyn // nen
Lyuer frunt nu do so wail
Dez ich dir vmmer dancken sal
Ich hain bij mir noch funff gulden
Dye nym jn den budel dyn
Vnde gang jn sneller ylen
Dez weges seben milen
Jn dye stat zu parijß
Vnde gilt mir sijde gruyn gell vnd // wijß
Swartz farbe vnde blae
Vnde auch von roder farbn
255Vnde brenge vns na dyner wijße
Waz mir bedorffen zu der spyse
Ffraget dich vmmant war du wilt
Biß der reden nyt zu milde
Daz du myn nyt gewuges

that is what she ate in the woods,
this image of loveliness.
She walked for a long time in the evergreen forest,
225 until she came across a collier.
The lovely noblewoman
asked him what he was doing.
He replied: "Milady, I am burning charcoal."
She asked: "Does this work suit you?"
230 "It makes your body all black",
said the lovely woman.
The collier replied kindly:
"If God had wished it things would have been better for me.
Now I am driven by hunger
235 to keep doing this until I die."
The sweet queen said:
"Will you permit me to stay here with you?
I will help you with whatever you undertake.
You can believe what I say."
240 The most trustworthy man said:
"Alas, I cannot do for you
what you are certainly worthy of,
very lovely highborn lady."
The queen responded:
245 "Dear friend, now do a good deed,
for which I will be forever grateful to you.
I still have five gold coins with me.
Put them into your purse
and go as quickly as you can
250 seven miles down the road
into the city of Paris.
Buy silk for me – green, yellow and white,
black and blue,
and also some red colors.
255 And bring us, as you see fit,
what we need for food.
If anyone asks you what you are doing,
do not be too generous with your words,
so that you do not mention me



Vnde mich jn groissen kummer fuges
Der koler dede daz sij hin hies
Syner truwen er nit enlyeß
Er dede daz jn dye fraue bat
Vnde ging zu parijß jn die stat
Er galt yr waz sij wulde
Er galt ir nalden vnde scheren
Der mynnenclichen heren
Vnde auch spyse dye doehte
Dye sij essen moechte
Dye zarte ayn alle weder satz
Machte von sijden richen schatz
Vnde sante den weder jn die stat
Den koler sij es verkeuffen bat
Also lyeff er uß vnde jn
Biß dye zarte koningynnen
Eynen schonen son gebar
Dye zarte frauwe verdhalff // jare
Jn dem wilden walde waz
Biß sij von goitz genaden genaß
Do lach der ritter dort ermordt
Vill verre jn dem walde doit
Verholen jn dem wilden danne
Erzoichen hatte der werde man
Gar lijfflich eynen schonen hunt
Der lecket yn da er waz wont
Biß yn der hunger dannen dreiff
Langer er da nyt enbeleyff
Er lyeff weder zu hoyffe
Da manich apt vnd busschoff
Vnde hoge fursten sayssen
Vnde druncken vnde ayssen
Der hunt gingk in den sall
Vnde sach den feygen marschalk // wail
Vor der taeffelen hyn vnde her
Der hunt vmb fing hin freischlich
Jn dye fueß vnd die beyen
Der hont zandert freislich vnd // greyn

260 and put me in great danger."
The collier did as he was told by her.
His honesty permitted no less.
He did what the lady asked
and went to Paris, into the city.
265 He bought her what she wanted
He bought needles and scissors
for the lovely noblewoman,
as well as food that he thought
she would like to eat.
270 Without further ado, the lovely one
created precious treasures out of silk,
which she sent back to the city,
where she asked the collier to sell them.
And so he ran in and out of the city,
275 until the lovely queen
gave birth to a handsome son.
For three and a half years the sweet lady
lived in the wild woods.
In the meantime, until the queen had, by the grace of God, been
delivered of her child
280 The murdered knight lay there,
faraway, dead in the woods,
hidden in the wild evergreen forest.
Now this noble man had personally raised
a beautiful dog.
285 This dog licked the body's wounds
until hunger drove it away.
Not able to stay any longer,
it ran back to court
290 where many abbots and bishops
and great princes were gathered,
drinking and feasting.
The dog went into the great hall
and saw the cowardly marshal walking
to and fro in front of the tables.
295 The dog attacked him viciously,
biting his feet and legs.
The dog bit and barked furiously,



Biß der vngetruwe man
Den syn jn sych gewan
300Vnde daichte ain dye oueldait
Dye er mit dem rijtter begangen hat
Der hont forte do den doit
Zu hant greiff er eyn broit
Vnde floich dannen balde
Da hyn zu dem walde
Da syn herre ermordet lach
Dat hirde er naicht vnd dach
Dit dreiff er so manich maille
Er dede dem marschalk groisse quale
Er beyß yeme manche wunde dieff
Vnde dan weder zum walde lyeff
Her uff warde der von oesterich
Yeme doichte harde wunderlich
Daz der hont beyß den eynen
Vnde suß anders neren keynen
Alß nu der hunt auer quam
Vnd yn beyß vnd eyn broit nam
Do wart yeme zu flyen ja
Der hirtzoch reynt yeme allet na
Do furt yn der hunt gerecht
Ayn dye wilde geschiecht
Da syn herre ermordet lach
Der herre von oesterich sere ersch // rack
Er bekant yn wail vur daz
Daz er syn getruwee diner waz
Yeme lyeffen ouer syne augen
Diß begunde der hunt schauen
Vnde ergoyß vil der heysser treen
Jch gedencken vnde wenen
Sprach der hirtzoch sicherlich
Nu sal es erfinden sych
Ain deme vngetruwen man
Du hais dimen herren vntrue gedain
Da mit reynt er von dannen
Jn eyn dorff als yeme woil gezam

until the treacherous man
came to his senses
300 and remembered the crime
that he had committed against the knight.
Now fearing death,
the dog quickly snatched a loaf of bread
and fled away
305 back to the forest immediately,
where its master lay murdered.
It guarded the corpse, night and day.
It repeated these actions over and over,
inflicting great pain on the marshal,
310 giving him many deep bite wounds
before running back to the forest.
The Duke of Austria observed this.
He wondered greatly
why the dog attacked only one man
315 and ignored everyone else.
So once, when the dog returned,
bit the marshal, snatched a loaf of bread,
and was about to flee again,
the duke followed it back.
320 The dog led him truly
to the place where the crime had occurred,
and where its master lay murdered.
The lord of Austria was stunned.
He recognized immediately
325 that this was his loyal follower.
His tears flowed freely.
The dog began to notice this
and shed many bitter tears.
„I think and believe”,
330 said the Duke with certainty,
“that now it will be shown,
oh you treacherous man,
that you betrayed your lord.”
With this he rode away
335 to a village, as was fitting,



Vnd geschuff dem rijtter zart
Daz er heymlich begrauen wart
Vnde reyt do heym gerecht
Vnde saget do von nymman nicht
Er sprach nu wil ich woil syen
Waz von dem hunde sal geschien
Der marschalk eyns morgens froe
Daz man slusse die porte zu
So wanne der hunt qweme
Vnde auer eyn broit neme
Daz man yeme ane dede den doit
Vill hart man yeme daz geboit
Dar na quam ouer der hunt
Vnde sleich zur seluer stont
Durch die lude er do dranck
Vnde verbarch sich vnder eyn banck
Biß der marschalk saß ouer disch
Man braicht yeme fleisch vnd fisch
Der hunt enwaz nit trege
Da er fant syne wege
Er sleych vnder deme dische // dar
Vnde nam dez feygen marschalk war
Er zoich jn faste vnde beyß bijß
Dem marschalk wart so heyß
Von grynen vnde zorne
Daz der koning hogeborn
Sprach mit luder stymmen
Vnde mit zornes grymme
Balde dodent mir den hunt
Der mir hait gemacht wunt
Den marschalk vor den augen myn
Dez moyß er lijden dez dodes pin
Der hunt balde dannen ging
Eyn broyt er uff dem f dische fing
Vnde floich als er vur dede
Dye porte man beslossen hatte
Vff daz man yn doden sulde
Der hunt zu hirtzoch lupolt lyeff
Want dem jn synem hertzen dieff

and arranged that the chivalrous confidant
be secretly buried.
He rode directly back to court
and told no one of all this.
340 He said: "Now, let's see
what happens with the dog."
Early one morning the marshal commanded
that the gates be closed
so that when the dog came
345 to snatch a loaf of bread again
it could be killed.
His orders were followed ruthlessly.
Then the dog returned
and sneaked in as before.
350 It pushed through the crowd
and hid itself under a bench
until the marshal was seated above it at the table
and was served meat and fish.
The dog was not sluggish.
355 When it had spotted a path,
it sneaked along under the table
until it detected the cowardly marshal.
It grabbed and bit him hard.
The marshal turned hot and
360 screamed so with pain and anger
That the highborn king
spoke loudly,
in a terrible and angry voice:
"Someone, kill that dog for me at once!
365 It has injured
the marshal before my eyes.
For that it must suffer the pain of death!"
The dog ran away instantly,
snatching a loaf of bread
370 and fleeing as usual,
but the gates were closed
so that it could be killed.
So the dog ran to Duke Leopold,
because the faultless knight



Lach der rijtter wandels bloyß
Dem spranck der hunt jn synen schoiß
Der koning bij yeme sas
Der syner muder bruder waz
Do sprach der hirtzoch dogentlich
O lyuer herre erhorent mich
Jch beden fruntlich vor desen hunt
Erleubet mir zu deser stunt
Daz ich hude syne wart do
Vnde uwer genade keret dar zu
Also lyefflich er yn bat
Von dem dysche er do trat
Vnde viell dem koning zu fuyß
Er sprach ich dich eren muyß
Wye wail es ist wunderlich
Do sprach der herre von oysterich
Nu horent ir lyeben herren zu
Aiff got nu eyn wunder doyt
Jn kamps wisen steyt nu der hont
Er duet uch vnd den fursten kunt
Dat eme syn herre ermordet ist
Er byedet uch ain argelist
Daz yr yeme helffent stempen
Er wilt den morder kempen
Der schuldich ist ain dieser dait
Der marschalk synen herren ermordt // hait
Den rijtter der hie von uch foir
Vnd uch jn gantzen truwen swoir
Vnde vren notz vnd ere
Nu hauent der fursten lere
Wie man gestedige eynen kamp
Der marschalk sich jn sorgen ramp
Vnd sprach zu dem von oysterich
War vmb erschemet ir mich
Ich hain uch leydes nit getain
Wez wilt ir mich genießen lain
Dez mordes ir mich zijgent hije
Dez enwart ich schuldich nye

375 lay close to the Duke's heart.
The dog leapt into his lap.
The king sat beside him,
Duke Leopold's mother's brother.
The virtuous Duke said:
380 "Oh, dear Sire, hear me now!
I speak as an advocate for this dog.
Give me permission now
to plead the dog's case today
and see that justice is done."
385 He asked him so agreeably:
he stepped in front of the king's table
and knelt there at his feet.
The king said: "I must respect you,
even though this case is truly strange."
390 Then the lord of Austria replied:
"Now listen, dear Sire,
to the marvel that God is displaying here.
This dog stands ready to fight a trial by combat.
It is showing you and the princes
395 that its master has been murdered.
It is presenting its claim to you, free of falsity,
that you second its motion to fight.
The dog wants to fight a trial by combat with the murderer,
who is guilty of this deed.
400 The marshal murdered its master,
the knight, who rode away from here from you
after pledging complete allegiance to you,
and the marshal betrayed your fealty and honor.
Now uphold royal protocol
405 for carrying out such a trial by combat."
Tormented by fear, the marshal
replied to the Austrian duke:
"Why do you shame me?
I have never done you any wrong,
410 for which I would deserve this.
You are accusing me of murder,
of which I have never been guilty."



Der hirtzoch begunde zu sagen
Herre enlaist uch nyt bedragen
Ayff ir eyn rechter richter sijt
So rijchtet schiere dez ist zijt
Dye fursten wissent alle wail
Wie man mit hunden kempen sall
Der koning eyn alden rijtter ain sach
Durch recht gerich er zu yme // sprach
Sage ain so wie du dich verstais
Want du so vill gesehen hais
Daz ich myn recht er fulle
Daz nyemant geschie keyn gewalt
Du bist der jare wail so alt
Wanttu gesehen hais so vill
Jd enwirt nit der kinder spill
Hye sullent kempen hunde vnd lude
Js gilt hyn hals vnde hude
Der rijtter sprach ich weis wail
Wye man mit hunden kempen sal
Auer sprichet yemant baß
Dem sullent ir folgen ane haß
Man sal eynnen bengel nemen
Den sal men dem marschalk geuen
Armen dick vnd elen lanck
Daz ist myn rait vnd myn gedanck
Keyn ander gewere er nit endarff
Von keynerley wapen scharff
Jntgain dem selben hunde
Dye zende jn syme munde
Da mit der hunt sich weren sal
Vnde er sich wail behelffen sal
Do fraget man vmb die slecht vnd auch die
crumme
Do dochte man rijtter vnd knecht
Daz ordel sin slecht vnd recht
Dat ordel wart do gesacht
Vnde eyn kreyß gemacht
Alzu der selber zijt

of which I have never been guilty."
The Duke started saying:
"Sire, if you are a just judge,
415 do not let yourself be deceived.
Dispense justice now, it is time.
The princes all know well
how to fight a trial by combat with dogs."
The king spied an old knight
420 and as a just judge he said to him:
"So that I can fulfill my legal duty
tell me how you believe this should be done,
because you have seen so much,
so that it is a fair fight.
425 You are so old
that you have seen a lot.
It will not be child's play.
Here dogs and humans will fight a trial by combat,
risking their necks."
430 The knight said: "I know very well
how to fight a trial by combat with dogs.
But if someone else knows better,
you should follow him.
A cudgel should be selected
435 and given to the marshal,
as thick and as long as an arm.
That is my advice and my sentiment.
He is not allowed any other defense –
no sharp weapon of any kind –
440 against this dog.
The teeth in its mouth,
with these the dog shall defend itself
and protect itself well."
All were asked if this was just or unjust.
445 Everyone, both knights and followers,
found the decision to be just and reasonable.
Then the decision was announced,
and a circle was set up
all at the same time.



Der marschalk jn groisser nijt
Jn den creitz er do tratt
Der hirtzoch die lude batt
Armen vnde rijchen ain alle spot
Daz sij yeme hulffen beden got
Daz er dem hunde hulffe dede
Dar na daz er hette recht
Do wart gekempt so faste
Eyn icklicher hat ouerlaste
Von dem anderen genuych
Der morder uff den hunt sluch
Daz er zu der erden boych
Syn crafft den hont nit bedrouh
Er spranck mit eyn sprung snel
Dem morder ain dye kell
Den munt er zu samen slo sloyß
Myt bijssen gaff er yeme manchen // stoiß
Daz yeme dat bloit uff die fueß viel
Der morder uff die erde viell
Jme wart von noden also heyß
Der hunt eme syn kelle zu beiß
Er wurgede eme gorgel vnd granß
Recht als er wer gewest eyn ganß
Biß der morder mit groisser noit
Dye hende zu dem hemel boit
Vnde dede kunt den fursten daz
Daz er dez dodes schuldich waz
Do daz der koning horde
Do hieß er daz man storde
Von dem morder den hunt
Der koning zu der seluer stont
Ffraget den k morder wez meren
Aiff er dez mordez schul were
Dar vmb er gekempet hette da
Do sprach der morder leyder ja
Sage feyge bosewicht
Waz ist dins mordes geschicht
Daz du uff dir weist
Vnde mir so lange vor geist

450 With great hostility the marshal
stepped into the circle.
The Duke asked the people,
rich and poor, earnestly,
to support him in imploring God
455 to help the dog,
if it was in the right.
Then the most ferocious trial by combat began:
each had the upper hand
over the other one in turns.
460 The murderer struck the dog
so that it fell to the ground.
His strength did not frighten the dog.
Swiftly it leapt
for the murderer's throat
465 and closed its mouth,
biting him again and again,
so that blood gushed onto his feet.
The murderer fell to the ground.
Agony seared him.
470 The dog was tearing at his throat.
It choked his throat
just as if he were a goose,
until the murderer, in great torment,
raised his hands heavenwards
475 and announced to the lords
that he was guilty of the murder.
When the king heard this
he ordered that the dog be pulled away
from the murderer.
480 The king then
asked the murderer to report
if he was guilty of the murder
for which he had fought the trial by combat.
The murderer replied: "Alas, yes."
485 "Tell me, you cowardly villain,
what is the story of this murder,
of which you have convicted yourself,
and which you have kept secret from me for so long?"



Do sprach der morder segeloiß
myn kummer der ist also grois
Jch forten ich moge geneßen nit
Dar vmb uch myn hertz vergyet
Waz ich boißeheit hain gedain
Den rijtter ich ermordet hain
Der myt uwer frauen foyr
Vnde uch jn gantzen truen swoir
uwer notz vnde ere
Nu horet ir fursten here
Dye koningynnen die bat ich vmb // de myne
Vmb daz sij mir versaget
Do schoyff ich ir grois hertenleit
Daz getwerg ich slayffen droich
Zu der edeler frauen clug
Jch laycht es yr ain die brust
Daz sij werlich nit enwist
Daz munt ain munt rurt
Myt falscheyt ich uch dar furte
Daz sij gedodet werden solde
Want sij myner nit enwulde
Der koning schre owee owach
Hertenleyt vnd vngemach
Dat ich nu muß vmmer rijden
Nu vnde zu allen zijden
Dat ich der reynen frauen zart
Ye so vngenedich wart
Von jamer er sich selber sluych
Mit trenen er syn hende twoch
Dye yeme da ouergussen
Syn augen yeme flussen
Er rauffte sich sere vnde faste
Er sprach wo bistu edeler gast
Eyn reyne frucht eyn zart // lijff
Du vill hogeborn // wijff
En sal ich dich nit na myner gelust
Dich nummer gedruck ain myn // brust

The defeated murderer replied:
490 "My anguish is so great
and I fear I cannot survive.
That is why my heart now confesses to you
the evil I have committed:
I murdered the knight,
495 who escorted your lady away
and who pledged complete allegiance to you,
and I betrayed your fealty and honor.
Now listen, high lord.
I begged the queen for her love.
500 Because she refused me
I caused her great suffering and heartache.
I carried the sleeping dwarf
to the noble, beautiful lady.
I laid it close to her breast,
505 so carefully that she did not notice what was happening,
mouth touching mouth.
I deceitfully led you there,
so that she would be killed,
because she did not want me."
510 The king screamed: "Oh, woe is me! Alas!
Heartache and torment
will ride me
now and forever,
because I showed the pure sweet lady
515 no mercy."
Out of grief he beat himself.
His hands were washed
by overflowing tears.
He wept greatly.
520 He tore his hair out violently and vigorously.
He said: "Where are you, noble lost one?
Flawless character, lovely body,
highborn lady,
shall I never again when I desire it
525 press you to my bosom?"



O herre got so muden ich dir
Daz du den doit sendes mir
Vmb diese groisse missedait
Dye myn lijff begangen hait
Der koning sprach sage bosewigt
Vnd en hele mir nummer nit
War myn frauwe beqweme
Do du den rijtter nemes
Den lijff sunder schulde
Er sprach herre uwer hulde
Dye is mir gar vnwege
Myn frauwe enwas nit drege
Do ich dem rijtter nam den lijff
Do floich daz mynnencliche wijff
Also verre jn den dann
Jch enwist nit war sij quam
Der koninck den hencker hies
Daz er yeme all syn gleder zu sties
Want er is woil verdyenet hat
Er heys reyden eyn guit ratt
Dar uff sat man den morder
Er nam eyn ende bitter
Viell schiere boden wart gesant
Boden uß jn alle lant
Abe man id vermen verneme
So war dye frauwe komen wer
Man suecht sij hyn vnde her
Von yr enhort men keyne mere
Dyß verzoich sich verdhalf jare
Bis die schone fraue clare
Sant kauffmanschaff jn die stat
Dye sij selber hatte gemacht
Na yr so groiße jamer waz
Jn der statt eyn frauwe saß
Dye yrrem boden sijde gaff
Da er sij zu keuffen plach
Sijde wolde der boden keuffen
Dye kremers sprach ich muß lauffen
Beyde myn eyn cleyne wile

Oh, mighty God, I beg you,
send me death
because of the great crime
I have committed!"
530 The king said: "Tell me, villain,
and do not hide it from me,
what happened to my lady
after you took
the blameless knight's life?"
535 He replied: "Sire, I am beyond the reach
of your favor.
My lady was not slow.
When I took the knight's life,
the lovely woman fled
540 so far into the evergreen forest
that I do not know what happened to her."
The king ordered the executioner
to break all of his limbs,
which he well deserved.
545 He ordered the preparation of a solid execution wheel.
The murderer was put on it.
He came to a miserable end.
Messengers were sent straight away,
throughout the country,
550 to discover if anyone knew
what had happened to the lady.
They looked for her everywhere,
but there was no news of her.
The search continued for three and a half years,
555 until the pure and beautiful lady
sent goods to the city
that she had made herself.
There was so much grief on her behalf.
Now in the city there lived a lady,
560 who gave silk to her broker,
who was accustomed to buying and selling it.
The broker wanted to sell her some silk.
The tradeswoman said: "I have to run.
Wait a minute for me.



Jch komen jn sneller ylen
Jch gain jn daz neiste huyß
Alsus lyeff die frauwe hin uß
Ffrolich uff den berch
Want sij erkant woil daz werck
Dat id machte die koningynne
Myt yren zarten henden fyn
Want sij waß eyne meysterin
Sy lyeff uff die burg zu hant
Da sij den koning fant
Sij hijes yr gebn boden broit
Sij sprach herre nu habent kein noit
Jch hoffen myn frauwe wandels frij
Von goitz gnaden funden sij
Der koning waz der meren fro
Ain die fraue lyeff er do
Vnde koste sij ain yren munt
Vnde sprach wo ist myns heiles funt
Dye mir myn leben hait getroist
Hilff herre daz ich werde erloyst
Von sorgen vnd von arbeit
Vnd jamer den myn hertze dreytt
Nu enpynt mich armen man
Von groissen sorgen die ich hain
Do sprach die fraue dogentlich
Nemet von uch den von oysterich
Vnde kompt mit mir jn den gadem
Da werdent ir entladen
Von groisser sorgen ouerlast
Da vindet ir eyne werden gast
Ffregt jn er saget uch woil
Wo man myn fraue finden sal
Der koning nit lenger enbeyt
Zu dem hertzoche er do reytt
Jn freuden richen synnen
Zu der koningynnen
Do gesach er wo der kauffman // stunt
Als noch die kaufflode gerne dont
Dye da kaufmanschaft dryuen

565 I will come back quickly.
I am going next door."
And then the lady, delighted,
raced up the hill,
because, as a master craftswoman,
570 she had recognized the silk embroidery
made by the queen
with her dainty, delicate hands.
She ran right to the castle,
where she found the king.
575 She demanded messenger bread as a reward.
She said: "Sire, your troubles are over!
I believe that my constant lady
has been found by the grace of God."
The king was overjoyed by this news.
580 He ran to the lady,
kissed her on her mouth
and said: "Where can I find my fortune,
who has always comforted and believed in me?
Help me, Lord, deliver me
585 from the sorrow, hardship,
and grief that burden my heart.
I'm a miserable man; release me
from these great sorrows that I have."
The virtuous lady replied:
590 "Take the Duke of Austria
and come with me to the merchant's booth,
where you will be freed
from the mighty burden of your great sorrows.
You will find an honorable stranger there.
595 Ask him and he will indeed tell you
where my lady can be found."
The king no longer hesitated:
he rode to the duke
and in joyful anticipation
600 they set out for the queen.
He saw where the merchant was standing,
as merchants usually do
when they are conducting trade.



Der bode nit langer moicht blyuen
Der koning fragede den selben knecht
Sage ain vnd sage recht
Wan haistu die penwert braicht
Der koler sich balde bedaicht
Er sprach ich komen uß engellant
Von dannen bin ich her gesant
Vnde bin komen also her
Der koning sprach jn rechter ger
Dyß werck wircket eyne frau fyn
Wyse mich balde die meistoryn
Vnde sagestu nyt die warheit
Der doyt dir von mir geschiet
Der koler quam jn kommer groiß
Myt trenen er sich sere begoyß
Er sprach myt groissem leyde
Gelouent mir mit urem eyde
Daz yr dem zarten wyfe
Nyt enschaid ain yren lyff
Da mit sij bedrubet sij
Der hirtzoch stunt na da bij
Er sprach uff die true myn
Dar vur wil ich burge sin
Der koler sprach wilt ir schauen
Dye mynnencliche frauwee
So koment mit mir jn das holz
Vnde gesyet die fraue stolz
Sij hait sich gar ergeuen
Jn eyne vil heylich leben
Cleyne sint yr dye locke
Sij dreyt ain eyne graen rock
Myt flijße hait sij vor den gebeden
Der ir zu eyne man wart geben
Der koning waz der meren fro
Daz sij sich hatte gehalden also
Als eyne regelerynnen
Aldurch dye godes mynne

The broker wanted to leave.
605 The king asked this merchant:
"Tell me and tell me truly,
from where did you bring these goods?"
The collier bethought himself quickly.
He replied: "I come from England,
610 I was sent here from there
and that is how I have come here."
The king said, driven by true desire:
"This embroidery has been made by a highborn lady.
Show me that master craftswoman immediately!
615 And if you do not tell me the truth,
I will have you killed."
The collier was overcome by anxiety,
and he wept greatly.
He spoke with great anguish:
620 "Swear to me on your troth
that the sweet woman
will not be harmed
or caused any grief."
The Duke was standing close by.
625 He said: "I pledge on my honor,
that it will be as you say."
The collier said: "If you wish to see
the lovely lady,
then come with me into the woods
630 and you will behold the highborn lady.
She has given herself over completely
to an utterly holy life:
her hair is short,
she wears a gray robe,
635 and she prays diligently for the one
who was given to her as a spouse."
This news pleased the king,
that she had lived
as if she were a nun
640 entirely for the love of God.



Durch godes willen sij daz duet
Ayn den si sich gelayssen hait
Der koning sprach nu sage mir
Vff welche zijt quam sij zu dir
Er sprach daz ist verdhalf jare
Daz dye zarte frauwe clare
Zu mir quam jn den dan
Dar na sij balde eyn kint gewan
Daz ist eyn schoner knabe
Mit flijße ich eme gedinet habe
Broderlich ain allen wanck
Myr wart die zijt nye zu lanck
Der koning sich bedaichte
Er lyeße syn hertz zu raste
Daz also sere besweret waz
Zu hoyffe lyeß er wißen daz
Daz syne frauwe reyne gehere
Myt goitz gnaden funden were
Dye welt wart der meren fro
Myt dem koning zoich man do
Myt mancher ritter schar
Zu dem jungen rijtter fursten gar
Do hyn zu dem walde
Do sprach der koler balde
Zu dem koning von hoger art
Herre laissent uwer gebroche
Myn fraue ist also gemuet
Wer weder godes willen duet
Den schuwet sij gar sere
Herre nu volget myner lere
Vnde komet mit mir heymlich dar
Wirt myn frauwe dez geruchtz // gewar
Dan birget sij sich jn der geschicht
Daz mir sij kunnen fynden nicht
Der walt ist grois vnd lanck
Dez sorget alles myn gedanck
Sij fortet anders ir wilt sij doden

She is doing this by the will of God,
to whom she has entrusted herself.
The king said: "Now tell me,
when did she come to you?"
645 The collier said: "Three and a half years ago
the pure and sweet lady
came to me in the evergreen forest.
Soon after she gave birth to a child,
a handsome boy.
650 I have served him diligently,
like a brother, faithfully.
The years went by quickly."
The king came to a decision.
He allowed his heart to rest,
655 which had been so very heavy.
He let it be known at court
that his pure highborn lady
had been found by the grace of God.
The people were overjoyed by this news.
660 They, and the king,
and a large band of knights, all together
they rode into the forest with her dainty, delicate hands.
to the young prince.
There the collier said immediately
665 to the king with the greatest respect:
"Sire, desist from all this noise.
My lady's state of mind is such
that she is frightened of with her dainty, delicate hands.
anyone who acts against God's will.
670 Sire, follow my advice
and come with me quietly.
If my lady becomes aware of all this shouting
she will hide herself away in the thickets
so that we will not be able to find her.
675 The forest is deep and wide.
This weighs upon my mind.
Otherwise she will fear that you wish to kill her."



Der koning dede waz man jn hieß
Vff daz er funde die getrue // dyet
Dye er so lange hat verlorn
Der koning hoichgeboren
Volgede dem gueden manne
Want syn rait yme woil bequam
Er ging gutlich da hyn stain
Biß er bij die hutte quam
Da wart yeme freude kunt
Want er fant muder vnd kint
Der junge furste lyeff vogel schiessen
Daz kint begunde verdryessen
Do is der lude also vil gesach
Vyll balde is zu der muder sprach
Sage mir lyue moder myn
Waz geruchtes mach dit syn
Waz dunt dye lude hye
Dye koningynnen vor die hutte // ging
Vnde sach wo r der konig her zoich
Sij nam daz kint vnd floych
Wye gerne sij geflogen were
Doch so waz daz kint so swere
S Wye gerne sij geflygen wulde
Der koning dede als er sulde
Er lyeff yr snellichen na
Er sprach erbarmet uch fraue
Ouer mich armen man
Want ich hain uch vnrecht gedain
Daz ich biß ain den junxten dag
Nummer wail gebuyssen mag
O zarte wijff ain argelist
Zeune mir dat du edel bist
Vnde buet mir fruntlich dynen gruiß
Er viell yr neder ain die fueß
Vnde weynde also sere
Von der groisser swere
Dye yeme waz wederfaren
Er neych sijch gutlich zu yren armen

The king did as he was told
so that he would find this faithful servant,
680 who had been lost for so long.
The highborn king
followed the virtuous man
because his advice was entirely in the king's interest.
He followed him there confidently,
685 until he came to the hut.
Now he knew joy,
for he had found mother and child.
The young prince was out hunting birds.
The child became annoyed
690 when he saw so many people.
He said to his mother straightaway:
"Tell me, dear mother,
what might this shouting be?
What are these people doing here?"
695 The queen went in front of the hut
and saw the king approaching.
She picked up the child and fled,
but however much she wanted to escape
the child was too heavy.
700 She wanted to escape
but the king acted as he should.
He raced after her.
He said: "Milady, take pity
on me; I'm a miserable man,
705 because I have done you such wrong
that until Judgement Day
I will not be able to ever atone for my sins.
Oh, sweet lady without guile,
show me how sublime you are
710 by greeting me kindly."
He fell at her feet
and wept greatly
out of the great anguish
that had befallen him.
715 He bowed down in submission to her.



Er sprach ich wil nummer uff stain
Jch wil vor dyne hulde hain
Der jamer da yr hertz ainfing
Do koste er sij
Den koning sij lijfflich vmb fing
Do koste er sij vor yren mont
Er sprach geloifft sij got dusent stont
Daz ich dich fraue funden hain
Dez wil ich mich d ain die true lain
Er kuste yr augen vnd geleder
Eyn gantz suyn vnd freden
Von yn beyden do erginck
Daz lyue kint er vmbfing
Vnde sprach zu yeme bermenclichen
Hette ich nu gedodet dich
So were myn sele versencket
Vnd jn den hellen grunt erdrenckt
Myn lyeffe crone myns hertzen bant
Daz haistu vor wail bekant
Du vill hoichgeloiffter got
Du haist mir geholffen usser noit
Dyne genade lyeß mich nye
Jch hain mit freuden funden hye
Dye ich zu troist hat erkoren
Vnde daz lyue kint usser
Hoger art geboren
Von yrme zarten lyue
Dye mir zu eynem wijffe
Waz gegeben
Nu willen mir vnß leuen
Gantz keren ain hern crist
Want er vnß aller helffer ist
Hije myt dese rede eyn ende hait
Js waz dem koler eyn selige dayt
Daz dye frauwe bij jn qwam
Er wart dar na eyn selich man

He said: "I will never get up again,
unless I have your favor."
His misery moved her heart.

She embraced the king lovingly.

720 He kissed her on the mouth.

He said: "Praise be God a thousandfold
that I have found you, milady.
For this I will surrender myself to loyalty."
He kissed her eyes and limbs.

725 There they both made peace
and reconciled.

He embraced the lovely child
and said to it pitifully:
"If I had killed you

730 my soul would have been sunk
and drowned in the depths of hell,
you my crown of life, seal upon my heart.
You knew this,
oh mighty God.

735 You helped me out of difficulty.
Your grace has never abandoned me.
With joy I have found here
the one whom I chose as my companion,
and the lovely child,

740 born of noble birth
from her tender body,
the one who was
given to me as a wife.

Now we will turn our lives

745 entirely to Lord Christ
for he is the helper of all of us."

This is the end of this story.

A great good fortune it was for the collier
that the lady came to him.

750 He became a fortunate man.



Der koning eme alle syn armoidt verdreiff		The king rid him of all of his poverty.
Er gaff eme sloße vnd dorffer		He gave him castles and villages
Vnde yn jn synen hoff		and brought him to court
Want er daz kint usß dauff hoiff		where he received the child at his baptism,
Dez dye koningynnen bij yeme waz genessen	755	because the queen had delivered the child with him.
Sunder allerley weessen		Free of all harm,
Hat sij sijch gehalden jn dem walde		she survived in the forest.
Sij waz dach nit sere alt		She was not very old.
Sije behyelt yre ere		She kept her honor
Vnd waz dogentlich zu eren	760	and had virtuously honored
Dem ouersten koning rijch		that Sovereign Mighty King,
Der alle ding gelonen mach		who can reward anything,
Js sij naicht oder dagh		whether it is day or night,
Jn hemell aiff uff erden		on earth or in heaven.
Dye rede lassen mir nu gewerlich	765	Let the story now be
Vnde dancken gode von hemelrich		and thank God in heaven,
Dem synt alle ding mogelijch		who can do anything.
Hije mit hait diß buech eynde		This is the end of the book.
Got vns alle von sunden wende		May God protect us all from sin.
Amen	770	Amen.

Critical Notes

Transcription

Line 11	There is a lacuna between ll. 11 and 12 which I have emended following Strippel: "Now the king had a marshal." (p. 213, l.13).
Line 47	"sprach" at the end of line 46 was substituted by "gedohte" taken from Strippel because the subsequent text makes clear that the marshal would never talk about his evil thoughts before taking leave of the queen (p. 220, l. 48); she is ignorant of his evil intentions.
Line 118	"vnschult" was translated as "schult" because the queen is talking about how God will prove that she is innocent not guilty; "vnschult" seems to be a scribal error.
Line 135	"durch got" at the end of line 134 drifted onto the wrong line. Staying true to the rhyme and for clarity of meaning "durch got" was moved to the beginning of line 135.
Line 265	There is a lacuna between ll. 265 and 266 which I have emended following Strippel: "and needed" (p. 257, l. 258).



Translation

- Line 35* The syntax has been changed in the English translation for clarity of meaning.
- Line 338* "heym" was translated as "hof" because the Duke's home is Austria and he is riding back to the king's court, not Austria.
- Line 375* The syntax has been changed in the English translation for clarity of meaning.
- Line 415* The syntax has been changed in the English translation for clarity of meaning.
- Line 423* There is a lacuna between ll. 423 and 424 which I have emended following Strippel: "and how the trial by combat should take place here," (p. 282, l. 380).
- Line 536* The syntax has been changed in the English translation for clarity of meaning.
- Line 572* The syntax has been changed in the English translation for clarity of meaning.
- Line 662* The syntax has been changed in the English translation for clarity of meaning.
- Line 668* The syntax has been changed in the English translation for clarity of meaning.
- Line 726* The syntax has been changed in the English translation for clarity of meaning.