



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 scho ner frawen
Von den ir abentu r su nd schawen
Wie der vest ritter her Nithart
Mit der herczogin verwetet ha t
Wer vinde daz erst blu melin
der sol derer ander bu l jarlang sin

Loquatur ducissa

Got gru z dich edler nithart
Von wann kumbst her an diser vart
Oder wie sta t din gemu t
Gen dez liechten mayen blu t
Wez wellen wir nu beginnen
Da von wir frau d gewinen
Wann min gemu t sta t also
daz ich wil mit dir wesen fro
Gen dez liechten mayen schin
Ich vn die kla ren megentin

Respondeat nithardus

Gena d 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 scho n frawen gu t
Wil ich wesen hoch gemu t
Su chen mit richem schal
Wil ich blu men vnd vial
Vnd vind ich dann daz blu melin
So mu ssent ir min bu l sin

Proclaimer

Listen ladies and gentlemen
Now on this occasion,
Will enter the stage,
A duchess and Lord Neidhart
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,
As you request, so shall it be.
And I pledge myself to it
25 That I will furthermore compose
The best that I can
Both night and day.
On behalf of all good and beautiful ladies
I will be of high spirit.
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
flore[m] sub pilleo et redeat**

Ach edliu frawe minneclich
An hohen frauden bin ich rich
Wan ich an disen stundn
ha n an viol blu men fundn
die su llent ir ga n schawn
Ir und die edeln junkfrawen

Levato pileo a ducissa

Ach waufen u mmer wa ffen
Dar vmb sol man dich straufen
daz du nimmer liegest
Vnd kain frawen me betriegest
Du vaiger swacher man
Ez mu s dir an daz leben ga n

Respondeat nithardus parum percussus

Ach edliu frawe hochgebon
La nd ab gen mir den iwer[n] zorn
Vnd la nd mich han iwer huld
Ez ist geschehen a n all min schuld
Ain gebur mircz ha t ze laid geta n
Er mu ss ain bain ze pfand hie la n

Nithardus ad rusticos

Sagt an ir dorf knappen
Iw to rpel vnd ir mu strappen
Waz ha nd ir an mir gerochen
daz ir den viol ha nt abebrochen
Vnd mir mit iwer[m] vngelimpf
Zer sto rent ha nt den minen schimpf
Ze pfant mu st ir diu bain hie la n
Und vf den stelczen hain ga n.

**Neidhart should go and put his cap
over the flower and then return:**

35 Oh noble and lovely lady,
I am rich with joys
because I have found a violet.
Two or three days ago
40 At this moment,
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 –
In 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.