

25	Le marchand devait partir outre-mer Mais d'abord fait demander à sa belle De lui faire savoir Les vêtements qu'elle désire Et les bijoux qu'elle veut qu'il lui achète, 30 Mais à son épouse il ne souffle mot.	De marchaunde ouer þe se is went, Bot first to his leman he sent For to wite of hir answe What cloþes sche wald were & what iuwels sche wold haue bouȝt, Bot to his wiif no seyð he nouȝt.	The merchant was to go oversea, But first he sent to his lover To find out her answer as to What clothes she wished to wear And what jewels she would have bought, But to his wife, he said nothing.
35	Ainsi tout s'enchaîne comme il se doit: Le marchant projette son voyage outre mer; Se met à railler son épouse Et se conduit comme un sot. « Tout est prêt maintenant et je suis sur le point De partir de l'autre côté des mers. Dame, avez-vous réfléchi Aux bijoux que vous voudriez faire acheter ? Si vous en désirez obtenir de moi, 40 Bon argent vous devrez me donner. »	So it bitidde as it be schold De marchaunde ouer þe se wold; His wiif to scorn he bigan & dede as a nice man. 'Icham diȝt & made ȝare, Ouer þe se now to fare. Dame, hastow þe biþouȝt, What juwels þou wilt haue bouȝt? ȝif þou wilt haue ani for me, Þou most me reche gode mone.'	So it happened as it must be: The merchant planned his journey oversea. He began to mock his wife And acted like a fool. « I have made ready and am prepared Now to travel over the sea. My lady, have you thought about What jewels you wish to have bought ? If you would have any from me, You must give me good money. »
45	« Messire, » a-t-elle dit, « par Saint Jean, Des espèces sonnantes et trébuchantes je n'en ai guère Dont je puisse me passer, Pourtant, Messire, puisque vous partez, Prenez ce joli sou, ce penny, Et puisque ma foi part avec vous Achetez-vous pour un sou de sagesse Que vous serrerez bien sur votre cœur. Quand vous rentrerez à la maison, que Dieu m'entende, 50 Je vous en laisserai tout le bénéfice. »	'Sir,' sche seyð 'bi sein Jon, Plente of siluer no haue y non Þat y miȝt wele spare; Bot sone, sir, so ȝe com þare, Haue a fair pani here & as ȝe be mi trewe fere Bi þerwiþ a peniworþ witt & in þine hert fast it knitt. When þou comest hom, so God me spede, Wele y wil quite þe þi mede.'	« Sir, » she said, « by Saint John, An excess of silver coins have I none That I could easily spare ; But now, sir, since you are going Take this bright penny And while you travel with my good faith Buy yourself a penny's worth of wisdom And bind it closely in your heart. And when you come back home, by the grace of God I will give you riches as your reward. »
	Le marchand crut que sa femme était devenue folle : Elle ne lui donnait qu'un petit sou de rien du tout, C'est bien à contre cœur qu'il renonçait à plus grosse somme.	De marchaunde wende his wiif were madde For þe pani þat sche him badde, Loþ him was þat siluer forgon,	The merchant thought his wife was mad To give him just a penny. Although he was reluctant to go without silver,

55	Dans sa main finalement il a pris le sou Et avec moult mépris à la fin A déposé le penny dans sa bourse; Aussitôt, sans un mot de plus Il a sauté en selle et l'a quittée. Le marchand a eu de bons vents	In his hond he tok it anon & al on scorn atte last Ʒe peni in his purs he cast; At schort wordes wiƷouten mo He lepe on hors & went hir fro. Ʒe marchaunde hadde winde ful gode	He soon took the penny in his hand And then, scornfully, He dropped it in his purse, And without another word He leapt onto his horse and left her. The merchant had good winds
60	Et a passé les flots salés.	& passed Ʒe salt flode,	And passed over the salt waters.
65	Une fois arrivé de l'autre côté de la mer Il s'est fait conseiller Sur la meilleure qualité de marchandises, Sans regarder à la dépense. Avant même de prendre du repos Il a acheté pour son amoureuse ce qu'il a trouvé de mieux :	BiƷond se when he was come Anon he haƷ his conseil nome To bigge of Ʒe fairest ware, For no siluer nold he spare; Er Ʒan he hadde rest He bouƷt his leman of Ʒe best,	When he had arrived across the sea He asked advice on how To buy the fairest wares, For no silver would he spare; Even before he went to rest He bought for his lover the very best,
70	De beaux bijoux et des vêtements Qui plairaient à toute grande dame; Mais pour son épouse bonne et fidèle Il n'acheta rien, ni vieux ni neuf.	Noble juwels & atire As ani leuedy wald desire; Bot his wiif Ʒat was gode & trewe He no bouƷt noiƷer eld no newe.	Noble jewels and clothing Such as any lady would desire, But for his wife who was good and true He bought neither old nor new.
75	Quand il eut fini toutes ses emplettes, Après le souper il s'assit pour réfléchir Puis dit à son valet, « Nous avons encore oublié quelque chose - Il nous faut réfléchir sérieusement :	When he hadde alle Ʒis ware ybouƷt, After soper he sat & ƷouƷt, Anon he seyde to his knaue 'O Ʒing forƷeten now we haue We moten biƷinken ous bett Our dames peni is vnbiſett; What an earnest & a game,	When he had purchased all his wares, After his supper he sat and thought. Then he said to his manservant « We have still forgotten one thing, We must think it over well :
80	Le sou de notre dame n'est pas encore dépensé ; Qu'elle ait voulu plaisanter ou qu'elle ait été sérieuse, Elle nous en tiendra rigueur à tous deux. » Un vieillard était assis tout près Et pouvait tout entendre,	Ʒerof we ben boƷe to blame.' An eld man Ʒerin sat, His wordes wele vnderƷat,	Our lady's penny is unspent ; Whether she spoke in earnest or in jest, We are both responsible for it. » An old man was sitting close by, He could hear their every word
	Et dans son cœur il pensa alors Que quelque chose allait de travers. Ce vieillard était un sage, Il décida d'en apprendre d'avantage	& in his hert he ƷouƷt anon, Ʒat sum Ʒing Ʒer was misgon. Ʒe eld man was wise of lore & ƷouƷt for to wite more	And soon he felt in his heart That something was wrong. The old man was wise in the ways of the world And he determined to learn more

85	Tandis qu' ils boiraient leur vin et leur bière, Et se prépara à les aborder. « Marchand, » dit le vieillard, « par charité, Réponds à ma question : Qu'est-ce que ta femme voulait te faire acheter ?	As þai dronken win & ale, He gan reherse better her tale. 'Marchaunde,' seyd þe old man' <i>par charite</i> Telle þat ich aske now þe; What wald þi wiif an ybouzt?	While they were drinking their wine and ale, So he began preparing his approach. « Merchant, » said the old man, « <i>par charite</i> , Give an answer to my question : What did your wife want you to buy ?
90	Dis-moi la vérité sans te moquer	Say me soþe & gabbe nouzt	Tell me truly and do not lie
95	Et je te donnerai quelque chose qui vaudra bien un sou Si tu veux l'acheter. » Le marchand a répondu, « En vérité, Je lève mon verre à cette idée. » Et il poursuivit : « Sur la Bible, Ma femme m'a donné de quoi acheter Pour un sou de la sagesse Que je devrais garder soigneusement dans mon cœur.	& y schal selle þe worþ a pani ʒif þat þou wilt bigge ani.' Sayd þe marchaunde 'sikerliche, Here schal rise a fair beuerege.' Quaþ þe marchaunde 'bi Godes boke, Mi wiif a pani me bitoke To bigge þerwiþ a paniworþ witt & in min hert fast it knitt;	And I shall give you a penny's worth If you wish to make a purchase. » The merchant replied, « Truly, That should be a fair bargain. By the holy Book, » the merchant said, My wife gave me a penny With which to buy a penny's worth of wisdom And bind it closely in my heart ;
100	Elle a juré, que Dieu nous garde, Qu'elle m'en laisserait tout le bénéfice.»	Sche swore, also God hir spede, Sche wald quite me mi mede.'	She swore that, by the grace of God, She would give me riches as my reward. »
105	« Marchand, » a dit le vieillard, « sur ta vie, As-tu autre amour que ton épouse ? » Le marchand lui a répondu à pleine voix Car il était fier de sa dulcinée, « Oui, » a-t-il dit, « sur ma vie, Une qui en vaut bien cinq. » « Aha! », a répliqué le vieil homme en riant, « c'est bien ce que je soupçonnais, Mais je n'en avais pas la certitude	'Marchaunde,' quaþ þe old man 'bi þi liif Hastow ani leman bot þi wiif? þe marchaunde answerd him aloude, For of his leman he was proude, 'ʒe,' he seyd 'so mot y þriue, On þat is worþ swiche fiue.' 'O!' quaþ þe old man & louʒ 'þat ich ouertrowed wele anouʒ; Bot riʒt for soþe nist ich it nouzt Er þi seluen it hadde out ybrouzt,	« Merchant, » said the old man, « on your life Have you any lover except for your wife ? » The merchant answered him clear and loud, For of his sweetheart he was proud, « Yes, » he said, « as I should thrive, One that is woth any other five ; » « Ah ha! » replied the old man and laughed, « I suspected that well enough, But I did not know for sure
110	Avant que toi-même tu ne le confirmes,	Er þi seluen it hadde out ybrouzt,	Until you yourself had said so.
	Mais maintenant que je connais la situation Je vais te donner, à coup sûr, Pour un sou de sagesse,	Bot now ich wot hou it is Y schal selle to þe, ywis, A peniworþ of wisdom,	But now that I know how things stand I shall give you, truly, A penny's worth of wisdom,

115	Ton serviteur en sera témoin, Qui vaudra beaucoup plus que ton penny Si tu fais comme je te le dis. » « D'accord, » a dit le marchand, « par la croix, Si ton conseil me semble bon. » « Lorsque tu auras chargé toutes tes marchandises sur le bateau,	Pat schal bere wittnesse of þi grome, Wele better þan þi pani be ʒif þou wilt don after me.' 'ʒis,' seyð þe marchaunde 'bi þe rode, ʒif ich finde þi conseyl gode.' 'When þou hast don in schippe þi ware	To which your groom shall bear witness, It will be much more valuable than your penny If you do as I say. » « Agreed, » said the merchant, « by the cross, If I find your counsel good. » « When you have put your wares in the ship
120	Et que tu seras prêt à repartir	& þou art redi ouer to fare	And are ready to sail over the sea
125	Et à rejoindre ton port d'attache Veille bien à ne pas l'oublier. Revêts de pauvres hardes, Comme si tu n'en avais pas d'autres, Et va chez ta bien-aimée Et commence à gémir piteusement Et montre-lui une figure lugubre Et dis que tu as perdu tes marchandises Et dis que tu as assassiné un homme,	& tow be in ʒour hauen ybrouʒt, Loke þat þou forʒete it nouʒt. A pouer wede do þe opon, Also þou no haddest oþer non, & wende to þi lemannes inne & sore sike þou biginne & dreri chere make hir bifore & say þou hast þi gode forlore & say þou hast a man yslawe,	And be brought into port, See to it that you do not forget. Put on poor rags As if you had none other And go to your sweetheart's house And begin to sigh grievously And put on a sad face before her And say you have lost your goods And say you have killed a man,
130	Que tu n'oses pas te soumettre à la loi du pays	Pou no darst abide londes lawe	That you dare not submit to the law of the land,
135	Et demande à ton amoureuse si elle pourrait T'héberger pour la nuit Sinon, tu devras fuir loin du pays, Et ainsi tu la mettras bien à l'épreuve. Quand tu auras appris la disposition de ta bien-aimée,	& aske þi leman ʒif sche miʒt Herberwe þe þis ich niʒt & elles þou most fle out of lond, & riʒt þus þou schalt hir fond. When þou wost þi lemannes wille,	And ask your lover if she would Give you shelter for the night Or else you must flee the land, And thus you shall put her rightly to the test. When you have learned your lover's disposition
140	Retourne incontinent chez toi Chez ton épouse légitime, Raconte ton aventure étonnante Et avise-toi bien et réfléchis bien Laquelle tu trouves le mieux quand tu es dans le besoin,	Hom to þi wiif wende ful stille & also to þine owen spouse Telle of þi chaunce meruailouse & avise þe wele & take gode hede Wheþer þou findest better at nede,	Then go straight home To your lawful wife And tell her of your extraordinary bad luck. Consider well and take good heed Who you find better in your need :
	Ta bonne amie ou ton épouse, Et à celle-là attache-toi toute ta vie, Car deux, ça coûte bien cher A vêtir richement,	Oþer þi leman oþer þi wiue, & to hir held þou al þi liue; For tvay wil cost swiþe miche For to atire richeliche,	Your lover or your wife, And tie yourself to her for all your life ; For two will cost so very much To attire richly,

145	Tandis qu'une te donnera plus qu'il n'en faut De plaisir sous ses jupons. » Le marchand a vu et a compris Que son conseil était sage et bon. « Vieil homme, que Dieu te garde,	And on wil finde anouȝ & more Of þe gamen vnder þe gore.' þe marchaunde seiȝe & vnderstode þat his conseile was wise & gode, 'Eld man, wele mot þou fare, Haue here þi peni, ichaue mi ware.'	While one will provide more than enough Amusement beneath her skirts. » The merchant saw and understood That his counsel was wise and good. « Old man, fare you well,
150	Prends ce sou et nous sommes quittes. »		Take this penny, I have my wares. »
155	Le marchand a acheté tout ce qu'il voulait, De la soie et des sandales et des vêtements brodés d'or, Sous peu Dieu lui a envoyé des vents favorables Et il est rentré dans son pays.	þe marchaunde bouȝt vp þat he wold, Silke & cendel & cloþes of gold, Sone after gode winde God him sent, Hom to his cuntre he went.	The merchant bought up all that he wanted, Silk and sandals and clothes of gold, Soon after God sent him good winds, And home he went to his country.
160	Le marchand n'eut garde d'oublier Une fois arrivé au port De faire comme le vieil homme lui avait conseillé Et selon l'avis qu'il lui avait donné. Il s'est revêtu de pauvres hardes Et s'est rendu chez sa bonne amie.	þe marchaunde forȝat him nouȝt, When he was in hauen ybrouȝt, To don so þeldman him badde & so bifore haþ him radde. He dede on him a pouer wede, To his lemannes in he ȝede;	The merchant did not forget, When he had arrived in port, To do as the old man had told him, As he had counseled him before. He dressed himself in rags, He went to his lover's house,
165	A la porte il a frappé. La belle ordonne à sa servante D'aller voir qui était à la porte Et faisait tant de bruit.	At þe gate he knocked anon, His leman bad hir maiden gon, To wite who was atte ȝate & knocked so þerate.	And knocked at once at the door. His sweetheart asked her maidservant to go And find out who was at the door And was knocking thus at it.
170	Le marchand tambourine tant et si bien Qu'enfin on le fait entrer. Que la peste l'emporte, cette femme! La belle ouvre de grands yeux Quand elle le voit si mal vêtu, Elle se réfugie tout en haut dans sa chambre	þe marchaunde bete so hard & fast þat in he come atte last. On iuel deþ mot sche dye - His leman loked out wiþ hir eiȝe, For sche seiȝe him so iuel diȝt Into hir chaumber hye stirt an hiȝt	The merchant beat so hard and loud That at last they let him in. May she die a horrible death! His lover stared with eyes opened wide, And when she saw him so poorly dressed She ran upstairs to her room
	Et barricade sa porte Pour qu'il ne puisse en aucun cas entrer. « Petite servante » dit le marchand, « Va trouver ma bonne amie	& schette þe dore wiþ þe pinne, For he no schuld nouȝt com þerinne. 'Maiden,' quaþ þe marchaund anon 'To mi leman þou most gon,	And bolted the door with the peg, So that he could not enter. « Maiden, » said the merchant then « You must go to my dear one;

175	Et implore la de bien vouloir Descendre me parler Au nom de tout l'amour Que nous avons connu. » La servante vite à la chambre est montée	Prayer, 3if hir wille be, Þat sche com & speke wiþ me For al þe loue þat haþ ybe Bitvix mi leman & me.' Þe maiden into chaumber ranne,	Beseech her, if she will, To come down and speak with me For all the love that there has been Between my sweetheart and me. » The maiden ran to the chamber,
180	Et ainsi parle à sa maîtresse:	To hir leuedi sche seyde þanne	And her mistress she said :
185	« Madame, votre amant, si gentil et généreux Est revenu d'outremer, C'est lui qui se tient dans la salle en haillons et m'inspire moult chagrin et pitié, ma foi, Et vous demande de lui faire la grâce De descendre lui parler avant qu'il ne reparte	'Madame, þi leman gent & fre Is comen hom fro bi3ond þe se & stont in halle iuel di3t & þat me reweþ, bi God almi3t, & praieþ þe hastow art hende Com speke wiþ him er þan he wende.'	« Madam, your gentle and noble lover Has come home from beyond the sea And is standing in the hall so badly dressed That it tears my heart, I swear to God. He asks that you have the courtesy To come and speak with him before he goes on his way. »
190	Que Dieu maudisse cette femme! Telle une mégère, elle lui a répondu « Va, dit-elle, et demande lui sans broncher Qu'il t'explique ce qu'il veut	Cristes curs com on her mold - Sche answerd as a schrewe schold 'Go þou,' sche seyde 'to him wel stille & bidde him telle þe his wille,	May Christ's curse be on her grave! She answered like a shrew : « Go to him straight away, » she said, « And ask him to tell you what he wants,
195	Et ne manque pas de l'informer Que je suis au lit, bien malade, en vérité, Et que, fût-il mon frère Je ne puis lui parler ni à lui ni à un autre. » La servante dans la salle est redescendue Et a répète ce que sa maîtresse a ordonné. « Messire, ma maîtresse vous fait dire, sans mentir, Qu'elle est trop mal en point Et que c'est à moi que vous devez dire ce qui vous amène. »	& say to him wiþouten mis Þat icham iuel at ese, ywis, Þat y ne may, þei he were mi broþer, Speke wiþ him no wiþ no noþer.' Þe maiden into halle trade & teld so þe leuedi badde 'Sir, mi leuedi seyt, wiþouten les,	And say to him without faltering That I am so unwell, in truth, That even if he were my brother, I could not Speak with him nor with anyone else. » The maiden returned again to the hall And repeated what her mistress had told her to. « Sir, my lady says, and it's no lie,
200	« Petite, retourne chez ta maîtresse.	Þat sche is so iuel at ese & bad þou schust me þi wille sayn.'	That she is very unwell And she asks you to tell me what you want. »
	Dis lui que toute ma fortune a disparu, Qu'il ne me reste plus aucune ressource, Moi qui n'avais jamais connu le besoin auparavant.	'Sweteing, to þi leuedi wende o3ain, Say hir mi gode is al agon & y no haue spending non, For y no hadde neuer er nede;	« My dear, go to your lady again, Tell her my wealth is all gone And I have no means of support, Although I have never known want before.

205	Que j'ai commis un acte affreux: Au cours d'une dispute et d'une querelle J'ai ôté la vie d'un gentilhomme. Dis lui que j'ai commis un meurtre Et n'ose pas affronter la loi de mon pays. Implore ma mie de consentir	Ichaue ydon a sorweful dede, In a cunttek & a striif For-reft a gentil man his liif. Say hir ichaue a man yslawe, Y no dar abide no londes lawe. Pray mi leman 3if sche mi3t	I have done a terrible deed: In an argument and a quarrel I took the life of a gentleman. Tell her I have killed a man And dare not face the law of the land. Ask my darling if she might
210	A me donner asile cette nuit	Herberwe me þis ich ni3t	Shelter me for the night
215	Dans une chambre bien cachée et discrète. Sinon je devrai m'enfuir aussitôt. » Quand la belle entend ce récit Elle lui fait cette cruelle réponse: « S'il a perdu tous ses biens Avec lesquels il achetait et vendait Il ne lui reste plus que ses yeux pour pleurer. Je refuse de le revoir.	In a chaumber priue & derne, Oþer ich must fle now also 3erne.' þo þat his leman þis wordes herd, Wel schrewelich sche answerd '3if he haue lorn his catelle þat he schuld wiþ bie & selle, Dapet who þerfore wepe; Of him no more y no kepe. Say y me self schal, bot he fle,	In a private and secret room, Or else now I must swiftly flee. » When his lover heard these words, How shrewishly she answered : « If he has lost his possessions, All his means of buying and selling, It's no use crying over it - I will keep company with him no longer. Say that unless he flees, I shall
220	Et dis lui de filer sans tarder, sinon, Je me rendrai moi-même en ville	Swiþe gon into þe cite	Go into the town myself at once
225	Prévenir les sergents du roi Pour qu'ils s'emparent de lui sans plus attendre Et le jettent en prison Avant que de le pendre. » L'humble servante va Rapporter ces paroles au marchand. « Fuyez si vous voulez avoir la vie sauve Car votre bonne amie refuse de vous protéger.	& do þe kinges bailifes come & hastiliche he schal be nome & in a strong prisoun be cast & be anhonged atte last.' Forþ went þat maiden smal & told him þis wordes alle 'Fle, 3if þou wilt þi liif haue, For þi leman nil þe nou3t saue. Mi leuedi haþ her oþ ysworn Bi him þat was in Bedelem born	And call the king's bailiffs, And he will be taken without delay And cast into a strong prison And finally be hanged. » The lowly maid went forth And told him all these words. « Flee, if you want to save your life, For your sweetheart will not protect you. My lady has sworn an oath By Him that was born in Bethlehem
230	Ma dame a juré par serment Devant celui qui est né à Bethlehem	Bi him þat was in Bedelem born	By Him that was born in Bethlehem
	Qu'elle ne vous accordera aucun secours Ni dehors ni dedans. Elle ne s'associera jamais à la trahison Qui consiste à protéger un félon traître à son roi. »	þat sche nil do þe no socour, Noiþer in soler no in bour, No ben yfounde wiþ swiche tresoun For to sustene þe kinges feloun.'	That she will give you no succour Neither inside nor outside the house. She will not be found doing such treason As to sustain a traitor to the king. »

235	Immuable, sans dire un mot, Comme plongé dans ses pensées, Il décide de chercher ailleurs Que dans ces lieux inhospitaliers Meilleure consolation et réconfort	Stille he stode, answerd he nouzt, As man þat is in gret þouzt; He þouzt ferþer for to gon, For help no fond he þer riht non, Sum better solauce for to finde, For þer was comfort al bihinde.	He stood still, deep in thought , But answered nothing ; He decided to go elsewhere To seek some better solace, Since he had found no help, And all comfort was denied to him there.
240	Impossibles à trouver céans.		
245	Le marchand, aussitôt, Se rend chez lui, Entre dans son logis Toujours vêtu de ses haillons. Sa bonne épouse se dresse et le regarde Avant de le prendre dans ses bras. Le voyant si peu couvert Elle le mène à la chambre Et n'a de cesse qu'elle	Þe marchaunde duelled no wiht, Hom to his hous he went riht; He went him forþ into his halle In a pouer atire wiþalle. His gode wiif stode & him biheld & in hir armes sche him feld; For sche seiþe him cloþed so þinne Sche ladde him þe chaumber wiþinne, & wiþ gode hert sone anon A newe robe sche dede him on	The merchant did not tarry, Straight home to his house he went And entered at once into the hall Still attired in his rags. His faithful wife arose and took one look at him And seeing him so poorly dressed, She folded him in her arms ; She led him into the bedroom And cheerfully she soon Had put new clothing on him.
250	L'eût vêtu de neuf.		
255	Puis elle lui dit: « Bienvenue, Messire, Contez moi vos fortunes de l'autre côté des mers » Le marchand répond à son épouse « Madame, lors d'une terrible tempête notre navire s'est brisé, Toutes mes marchandises ont disparu Me voici devant vous dans le dénuement. Aidez moi, Madame, si vous le voulez bien. J'ai versé le sang d'un gentilhomme Et n'ose me soumettre aux rigueurs de la loi.	& seyde 'sir, welcome þe be. Hou haue þe farn biþond se?' þe marchaunde to his wif spak 'Dame, in foule storm our schippe brak, Þer was mi gode al binome, Þus pouer icham to þe come, Helpe me, dame, 3if þat þou wilt; A gentil man ichaue yspilt, Y dar no londes lawe abide. Y pray þe, dame, þatow me hide	Then she said « Be welcome, Sir. How did you fare beyond the sea ? » To his wife the merchant replied « My lady, in a terrible storm our ship broke up, And all my goods were carried away, Thus have I come home to you a poor man. Help me, my lady, if you will; A gentleman's blood I have spilt And I dare not submit to the law of the land.
260	Je vous conjure, madame, de me cacher		
	Dans un endroit secret et dissimulé aux regards Sinon il ne me reste plus que la fuite. » « Non, répond-elle, mon bel ami Vous ne me quitterez plus. »	In a chaumber priue & derne Or ich mot fle now also þerne.' 'Nay,' sche said 'mi leman hende, þete schaltow nouzt fro me wende,	In a private and secret room Or else now I must swiftly flee. » « No, » she said, « my dear love You shall not leave me again. »

265	Elle verse alors des larmes amères Tout en le consolant de toute sa force. « Même si vous avez perdu vos biens terrestres,	Sche wepe wel sore anonriȝt & comfort him wiȝ al hir miȝt, 'Pei þou haue lorn þis warldes wele,	Forthwith she wept tears of sorrow And comforted him with all her might, « Although you have lost your wordly wealth,
270	Ne les pleurez pas tant, Ne les regrettez pas. Celui à qui vous les deviez vous les remplacera peut-être.	Perfore murn þou nouȝt to fele, No noþing wepe þou to sore; He þat sent þat may sende more.	Do not regret it too much, Nor weep for it too bitterly; He that sent it can send more.
275	Messire, il me reste encore soixante livres sterling Qui sont à nous deux en petites pièces Et avant quinze jours J'aurai rassemblé la somme en argent	Sir, ȝete ichaue sexti pounde Of ȝours & mine of pans rounde, And ar þis day a fourtenniȝt Þe siluer schal be wide ydiȝt, & y me self, wiȝouten duelling, Fare y wil to þe king, Biforn him & ek his quen Falle opon mi bare knen & y no schal neuer ses & y no schal neuer ses	Sir, I still have sixty pounds Of yours and mine in round pennies, And before a fortnight from this day The silver will be made ready And I myself, without delay, Will go to the king, Before him and his queen, I will fall upon my bare knees And I will never cease
280	Et moi même, sans tarder, Irai devant le roi, Devant le roi et la reine. Je tomberai à genoux Et n'aurai de cesse D'obtenir votre grâce.	Til ichaue pircached þi pes;	Until I have gained your pardon.
285	Une fois celle-ci obtenue, Dussions nous y laisser jusqu'à notre chemise, Avec ma servante, à la sueur de notre front,	& when ichaue þi pes ymaked Þei we ben boȝe moder-naked, Y & mi maiden schal swete & swinke	And when this is done Although we may both go stark-naked My maidservant and I will sweat and toil
290	Nous vous assurerons le vivre et le couvert Car nous savons cuisiner, brasser la bière et tout faire Et donc messire, cessez de vous tourmenter, Avant sept ans, Dieu m'en soit témoin, Nous serons plus riches que nous ne l'étions. » Le marchand vit et comprit Que le conseil de sa femme était sincère et bon	& win þe clopes, mete & drink Wiȝ brewing, bakeing & oȝer chaffare; Perfore, sir, þarf þe nouȝt care. Ar today seuen ȝer, & God tofore, We schul be richer þan we were ore.' Þe marchaunde seiȝe & vnderstode His wiues conseil was trewe & gode	And earn clothing, food and drink for you Through our brewing, baking and the rest ; Therefore, Sir, you need not worry. In seven years' time, by the grace of God, We shall be richer than we were before. » The merchant saw and understood That his wife's counsel was true and good
	Et devant la consolation qu'elle lui apportait Décide de la détromper enfin.	& for þe solas þat hye him made He þouȝt hir hert for to glade	And for the solace that she gave him He decided to gladden her heart

295	« Aucun tribunal, Madame, ne vous glacera le cœur Car la situation n'est pas celle que je vous ai dite. Devant le Sauveur qui a racheté le monde Je vous le jure, jamais je n'ai occis quiconque. Et n'ai pas non plus perdu tous mes biens. Au contraire j'ai acquis beaucoup de marchandises Et les ai rapportées à bon port 300 Pour une valeur de plus de mille livres.	'No þing, dame, wex þine hert cheld, It nis nouȝt so as y þe teld. Bi him þat þis warld wan ȝete no slouȝ y neuer man; Nis nouȝt mi catel al agon, ȝete ichaue wel gode won Ybrouȝt into hauen hole & sounde þat is better þan a þousand pounde.	« None of this, my lady, will make your heart grow cold, It is not as I told you. By Him that redeemed the world Never yet have I slain a man, Nor is my property all gone. Rather, I have acquired much more, And brought into the harbour safe and sound Goods worth more than a thousand pounds.
305	Les seuls propriétaires à ce jour En sont le Seigneur notre Dieu, toi et moi! » Et sans accorder une pensée de plus à cette question Il la prend dans ses bras, l'embrasse et l'emmène au lit. 310 Dès qu'il fait jour le marchand se lève, Revêt une robe de soie, Enfourche son fier destrier, Et se rend chez sa bonne amie. Elle était à sa fenêtre, 310 Le voit traverser le champ	Naþ noman part þerin now Bot God of heuen & ich & tow.' Of þis kepe y no more ȝedde, Bot clept & kist & ȝede to bedde. þe marchaunde aros þo it was day & dede on him a robe of say, A gode palfray he bistrode & to his lemannes in he rode. His leman out at a windowe biheld & seiȝe him com ouer þe feld	No one owns any part of it now Except God in heaven and you and I. » And without giving the matter another thought, They embraced and kissed and went to bed. The merchant arose at morning's light And put on a robe of silk, He mounted a fine palfrey horse And rode to see his sweetheart. His lover was looking out of a window And saw him coming over the field
315	Et le reconnaît au bruit des sabots du cheval. Vite elle passe une robe neuve Se pare tout entière Et vient au devant de lui dans la grande salle. 315 Sitôt qu'il eut mis pied à terre Elle va droit à lui, Lui met les bras autour du cou Et lui dit: « Bienvenue, mon doux ami. » Et avant qu'il puisse même réagir, 320 Elle l'avait embrassé deux ou trois fois.	& bi þe prikeing sche him knewe, Sche dede on hir a robe newe & diȝt her richeliche wiþalle & com oȝain him into þe halle. Sone þe marchaunde was doun yliȝt, To him sche strit anonriȝt, & bi þe swere sche haþ him nome & seyð 'swete leman, wel come.' Er þan euer þe marchaunde wist, Tvies or þries sche him kist.	And she recognized him by the hoofbeats. She put on a new dress And decked herself all richly And came before him in the hall. As soon as the merchant had alighted, She went straight to him, Put her arms around his neck And said « Sweet lover, welcome. » Even before the merchant knew it, She had kissed him two or three times.

325 330	<p>« Malgré ces baisers, reprit-elle, Nous ne sommes pas encore réconciliés. Je vous en veux, et à juste titre. Quel besoin aviez-vous de me mettre à l'épreuve? Ne saviez-vous pas au fond de votre cœur Que je vous suis toujours soumise? Mon corps et tout ce que je possède sont à vous, Nul autre n'en possède la moindre partie. » Alors elle lui ébouriffa les cheveux Et continua ses chatteries.</p>	<p>'Pei we be kist' sche seyde anon 'zete no be we nouzt al at on; Icham wroþ wiþ þe, & wele y may; What nede was it me to asay? No wostow wele in þine entent Icham to þi comandment? Bodi & chatel, al is þine, Has noman elles part þerinne.' Þus sche stroked his here & made it touz & conraid Fauuel wele ynouþ.</p>	<p>« Although we have kissed, » she said then « We are not yet all reconciled ; I am angry with you, and well I should be ; What need was there to test me ? Didn't you know in your heart That I am at your bidding ? My body and my possessions, all are yours, No one else has any claim on them. » Thus she stroked his hair and tousled it, And flattered him well enough.</p>
335 340	<p>« Non, dit le marchand, par St Jean, Nous ne sommes pas encore réconciliés. Alors que j'étais de l'autre côté des mers, on m'a prévenu Que tout ce que je t'avais acheté, Tu en avais fait don à un autre marchand Et que ton amour s'était détourné de moi. » « Mon bel ami, dit-elle, maintenant tu vas voir Qu'on t'a raconté des mensonges, Et ton valet en sera témoin, Ce sont des menteries.</p>	<p>'No,' quap þe marchaunde 'bi seyn Jon. zete no be we nouzt al at on. Yt was me told biþonde þe se, Alle þe gode þat y brouzt to þe Anoþer marchaunde þou hast yzoue & hast fro me turned þi loue.' 'Leman,' hye seyde 'now schaltow se þat swiche wordes les be, & so schal þi grome als, þat swiche tales ben fals.</p>	<p>« No, » said the merchant « by Saint John. We still are not all reconciled. I heard across the sea That you have given all the things I brought you to another merchant And have turned your love away from me. » « Sweetheart, » she said « now you shall see That such words are untrue, And your groom can see as well That such tales are false.</p>
345	<p>C'est ta vieille bonne femme qui t'a raconté tout cela Elle passe ses journées, du matin au soir, à parler contre moi. Ce sont menteries de la menteuse, ton épouse, Que le Christ lui raccourcisse la vie, Car si la mégère était dans sa tombe Je sais parfaitement bien Que tu ne saurais jamais rien me refuser Du matin au soir et du soir au matin »</p>	<p>Þis teld þe þin old crate; Sche spekeþ me qued arliche & late. Þis was a lesing of dame crate, þi wiif - Ihesus Crist so schort hir liif - For were þe crate leyde in mold þan wist ich wele þat y schold Of þe euer han mi wille, Arliche & late, loude & stille.'</p>	<p>Your old shrew told you that ; She speaks wickedly of me day and night. This was a lie of the lady crone, your wife, - May Christ Jesus shorten her life for it - For if the hag lay in her grave Then I know well that I would Always get whatever I desire from you, By hook or crook, whenever I like. »</p>

350	Sur le sol elle étale une étoffe De bonnes dimensions en longueur et largeur	Sche sprad a kaneuas on þe flore Þat was boþe gret [&] store	She spread a cloth upon the floor That was both large and wide
355	Et fait apporter toutes ses richesses: Des broches en or, des bagues de valeur, Seize draps en toile à la blancheur de lait, Huit châles et cinq couvre-pieds D'autres bijoux trop nombreux pour qu'on puisse les compter, De splendides coupes et aiguères d'or, « A présent choisis celle que tu décides de croire, La vieille mégère ton épouse, ou moi. » Le marchand regarde tous les trésors	& brouzt forþ her riche þinges, Broches of gold & riche ringes, Sextene schetes milk white, Viiij chalouns & v couerlite Oþer juwels mani on teld, Masers riche, coupes of gold. 'Now miȝt tow leue & wite & se	And brought forth her treasures: Broches of gold and opulent rings, Sixteen milk-white sheets, Eight shawls and five coverlets Other jewels too numerous to be counted, Rich drinking cups, and bowls of gold. « Now you can see and choose whom to believe:
360	Et les enveloppe dans le tissu.	Dame old crate, þi wiif, oþer me.' Þe marchaunde al þis gode biheld & in þe caneuas togider it feld	That old hag, your wife, or me. » The merchant took one look at all the things And folded them together in the cloth
365	Il en fait un gros paquet Qu'il jette sur le dos de son valet. « Hâte toi, mon bon serviteur, De rapporter tout ceci à ma femme. Dis lui de le mettre en lieu sûr Car c'est moi qui ai acheté chacun de ces objets. » Debout, sa dulcinée le regarde Le cœur plein de chagrin et de désarroi.	& dede it in a wide sak & slonge at his gromes bak. 'Heiȝe þe biliue, mi gode grome, To mi wiif bere þis home. Bid hir þat sche kepe it wele, For ich it bouzt euerich dele.'	And made it into a large sack, Then slung it over his manservant's back. « Hasten quickly, my good groom, And take this home to my wife. Ask her to keep it safe, For it is I who have purchased every bit of it. »
370	Le cœur plein de chagrin et de désarroi. « Cher amour, dit-elle, êtes vous fâché? Je m'en voudrais de vous avoir courroucé	His leman stode & loked on him þo & at hir hert hir was ful wo. 'Leman,' sche seyde 'artow wroþ? To greue þe it war me loþ.	His lover stood and looked at him then And her heart was full distressed. « Dear heart, » she said, « are you angry ? I would be sorry to grieve you.
375	Et si j'ai mal agi ou parlé, Sachez que c'était uniquement par amour pour vous, Et laissez toutes ces affaires chez moi, ici, Vous pourrez toujours les reprendre à votre gré. » Le marchand s'adresse à elle de nouveau, Et lui reproche sa fausseté.	ȝif ich haue ani þing misse[y]de, For loue it be doun yleyde, & lete þis gode duelle here stille, No miȝt þou it feche at þi wille.' Þe marchaunde oȝain to hir sayde, Of hir falshed gan hir abrayde	If I have done or said anything wrong, Let it be laid down to love, But let these goods remain here, And you can fetch them whenever you want. » The merchant spoke to her again, And reproached her for her falsehood

380	<p>« On m'avait conseillé de vous mettre à l'épreuve. Jamais plus vous ne me trahirez Et jamais plus, si Dieu le veut, Ne poserez les yeux sur moi ».</p>	<p>'Y was ytau3t me þe to asaye, No schaltow neuer eft me bitraye, Ne after me, bi Godes ore, No þarf þe loke neuer more.'</p>	<p>« I was enjoined to test you, Never again will you betray me, Nor, by the grace of God, Will you ever need to look on me again. »</p>
385	<p>Sur ces mots il saute sur son cheval Et quitte cette méchante femme à bride abattue. Arrivé chez lui, Il appelle sa femme si aimante Et pose par terre le paquetage Avec son contenu si précieux. « Voyez, madame, par mon commerce,</p>	<p>He lepe on hors at wordes fewe & priked fro þat fals schrewe. He rode him hom to his house & cleped forþ his leue spouse & laid þe sak on þe flore þat was michel riche & store 'Lo, dame!' he seyð 'Bi mi chaffare</p>	<p>He leapt onto his horse with those few words And galloped away from the false shrew. Home he rode to his own house And called forth his beloved spouse And laid the sack upon the floor With its many rich treasures « Lo, my lady ! » he said, « Through my trading</p>
390	<p>Je vous rapporte pour un sou de marchandises. J'espère que vous en serez contente Sinon, plus jamais ne parierons.</p>	<p>Ichaue ybrou3t þi peniworþ ware, Bot þe þink it wele bisett, Go, biware anoþer bett.'</p>	<p>I have brought you a penny's worth of wares, Now, consider the money well spent Or never again will we make another bet. »</p>
395	<p>La bonne épouse regarde toutes les richesses Et remercie Jésus, Roi des Cieux, que son mari Les ait rapportées chez eux Et qu'il ait enfin décidé De vivre avec elle selon la loi de Dieu. Ce fut pour elle un jour de bonheur et de joie. Leur part de richesses matérielles était suffisante, Ils vécurent ensemble de nombreuses années Coulant des jours heureux, comme nous devrions le faire,</p>	<p>þe gode wiif sei3e al þat riche þing & þonked Ihesu, heuen-kinge, þat he haþ þe gode hom brou3t & he haþ turned his þou3t To liue wiþ hir in godes lay. Bliþe & glad sche was þat day. Ynou3 þai hadde of warldes wele, Togider þai liued 3eres fele. þai ferd miri, & so mot we.</p>	<p>The good woman saw all the rich things And thanked Jesus, the heavenly king, That he had brought the goods home And had made up his mind To live with her according to the law of God. Happy and glad she was that day. They had plenty of worldly wealth, They lived together for many years. In happy contentment, and so should we.</p>
400	<p>Amen, amen, <i>par charité.</i></p>	<p>Amen, amen <i>par charite.</i></p>	<p>Amen, amen, <i>par charite.</i></p>

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