

The following is the text of *Perceval, or the Story of the Grail*, by Chrétien de Troyes.

The left column is the line number, corresponding to the original Old French text. The middle column is the Old French, and the right column is the English. The line breaks are such so the Old French and English correspond. They are not to be construed as actual breaks in the text; any section break is indicated by a long series of dashes.

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	-----	The Red Knight
834	Et li vallés tant chevalcha	Meanwhile, the young man rode on.
835	Qu'il vit .i. carbonier venant,	At some point, he saw a charcoal burner
836	.I. asne devant lui menant.	leading a donkey ahead of him.
837	«Vilains, fait il, ensaigne moi,	“Peasant,” he said, “yes, you, pushing that donkey.
838	Qui l'asne maines devant toi,	Tell me, what's the shortest way
839	La plus droite voie a Cardoeil.	to go to Carduel?
840	Li rois Artus, que veoir weil,	I want to see King Arthur,
841	I fait chevaliers, ce dist l'en.	and I've heard that's where he makes men knights.”
842	— Vallet, fait il, en icest sen	“Young man,” he said, “it's this way;
843	A .i. chastel sor mer assis.	in a castle by the sea.
844	Le roi Artu, biax dols amis,	You'll find King Arthur in that castle,
845	Lié et dolant i troveras	my friend, and you'll find him
846	A che chastel se tu i vas.»	both happy and sad, if you go there.”
847	— Or me diras tu ja mon wel	“Could you tell me
848	De coi li rois a joie et doel.	why the King is both sad and happy?”
849	— Jel te dirai, fait il, molt tost.	“I certainly will.
850	Li rois Artus et toute s'ost	King Arthur and all his army
851	S'est au roi Rion combatus;	have just fought King Rion.
852	Li rois des illes fu vencus,	The King of the islands has been beaten.
853	Et de c'est li rois Artus liez,	That is what makes King Arthur happy.
854	Et de ses compaignons iriez	But he's annoyed because of his companions:
855	Qui as chastiax se departirent,	they've all gone back to their castles,
856	La ou le meillor sejour virent,	where they all like to live best,
857	N'il ne set coment il lor va;	and the King hasn't heard from them.
858	Ce est li doels que li rois a.»	That's why he's sad.”
859	Li vallés ne prise .i. denier	The young man paid no attention
860	Les noveles au charbonier,	to the charcoal burner's news,
861	Fors tant que en la voie entra,	but he headed down the road
862	Cele part ou il li mostra,	he had been shown.
863	Tant que sor mer vit .i. chastel	He finally reached the sea, where he saw a castle,
864	Molt bien seant et fort et bel.	strong, proud and majestic.
865	Et voit issir parmi la porte	Coming out of the gate,
866	.I. chevalier armé qui porte	was a knight in armor carrying
867	Une colpe d'or en sa main;	a golden cup in his hand.
868	Sa lance tenoit et son frain	He held his lance, his shield
869	Et son escu en la senestre,	and his horse's reins, in his left hand,
870	Et la colpe d'or en la destre;	and the golden cup in his right.
871	Et les armes bien li seoient,	His armor suited him well;
872	Qui toutes vermeilles estoient.	it was entirely red.
873	Li vallés vit les armes beles	The young man saw the beauty
874	Qui totes estoient noveles,	of this brand new armor.
875	Si li pleurent et dist: «Par foi,	He liked it, and said, “I swear,
876	Ces demanderai je le roi;	that's the armor I'll ask the King for.
877	S'il les me done, bel m'en iert,	If he gives it to me, I'll be delighted,
878	Et dehai ait qui autres quiert.»	and I won't need any other!”
879	Atant vers le chastel s'en cort,	He hurried toward the castle,
880	Que tart li est qu'il viegne a cort,	for he was eager to be inside,
881	Tant que pres del chevalier vint.	but, first, came up to the knight.
882	Et li chevaliers le retint	The knight stopped him
883	.I. petit, si li demanda:	for a moment to ask, “Tell me, young man,
884	«Ou en vas tu, vallet? Di va.	where are you going in such a hurry?”
885	— Je weil, fait il, a cort aler	He said, “I'm going to the court,

886 Au roi ces armes demander.  
 887 — Vallet, fait il, tu feras bien;  
 888 Or va dont tost et si revien.  
 889 Et tant diras al mauvais roi,  
 890 Que s'il ne velt tenir de moi  
 891 Sa terre, que il le me rende,  
 892 Ou il envoit qui la desfende  
 893 Vers moi qui di que ele est moie.  
 894 Et a ces ensaignes t'en croie,  
 895 Que devant lui pris orendroit,  
 896 Atot le vin que il bevoit,  
 897 Ceste colpe que je chi port.»  
 898 Or quiere autrui qui li recort,  
 899 Que cil n'i a mot entendu.  
 900 Jusqu'a la cort n'a atendu,  
 901 Ou li rois et li chevalier  
 902 Estoient assis al mengier.  
 903 La sale fu par terre aval,  
 904 Et li vallés entre a cheval  
 905 En la sale qui fu pavee  
 906 Et longue autretant comme lee.  
 907 Et li rois Artus ert assis  
 908 Au chief de la table pensis,  
 909 Et tuit li chevalier mengoient  
 910 Et li .i. as autres parloient  
 911 Fors il, qui pensis fu et mus.  
 912 Li vallés est avant venus,  
 913 N'il ne set le quel il salut,  
 914 Car le roi mie ne conut  
 915 Tant qu'Ivonés contre lui vint,  
 916 Qui ce coutel en ta main tint.  
 917 «Vallet, fait il, tu qui ça viens,  
 918 Qui ce coutel en ta main tiens,  
 919 Mostre moi li quels est li rois.»  
 920 Yvonés qui molt fu cortois  
 921 Li dist: «Amis, veez le la.»  
 922 Et cil tantost vers lui ala,  
 923 Sel salua si come il sot.  
 924 Li rois pensa et ne dist mot,  
 925 Et cil autre fois l'araisone;  
 926 Li rois fort pense et mot ne sone.  
  
 927 «Par foi, dist li vallés adonques,  
 928 Cis rois ne fist chevalier onques.  
 929 Coment porroit chevalier faire,  
 930 Quant on n'en puet parole traire?»  
 931 Tantost del retorner s'atorne,  
 932 Le chief de son chaceor torne;  
 933 Mais si pres del roi l'ot mené,  
 934 A guise d'ome mal sené,  
 935 Que devant lui, sanz nule fable,  
 936 Li abati desor la table  
 937 Del chief .i. chapel de bonet.  
 938 Li rois torne vers le vallet  
 939 Le chief que il tenoit baissié,  
 940 Si a tot son pensé laissié  
 941 Et dist: «Biax frere, bien veigniez.  
 942 Je vos pri qu'a mal ne teigniez  
 943 Che qu'a vostre salu me toi;  
 944 D'ire respondre ne vos poi,  
 945 Que li pire anemis que j'aie,  
 946 Qui plus me het et plus m'esmaie,  
 947 M'a chi ma terre contredite;  
 948 Et tant est fols que tote quite  
 949 Dist qu'il l'avra, ou weille ou non.

to ask the King for this armor."  
 "Very well, young man!" he answered.  
 "Hurry there, and come back quickly.  
 And you can tell that evil King  
 if he won't submit to me his land  
 he had better give it back to me,  
 or else send someone to defend it  
 for I claim it as my own.  
 If he doesn't believe you, here's proof:  
 this golden cup I took from him before,  
 with the wine he was drinking.  
 I'm taking this cup with me."  
 Another messenger would have been much better,  
 for this one didn't listen to any of his words.  
 He rode straight to the court,  
 where the King and his knights  
 were at table for their meal.  
 The main hall was on the ground floor,  
 and the young man came in on his horse.  
 The floor of the room was tiled  
 and was as long as it was wide.  
 King Arthur was seated  
 at the head of one table, lost in his thoughts  
 while all the other knights were eating  
 and talking to each other.  
 But the King stayed by himself, pensive and silent.  
 The young man came forward  
 and did not know who to address,  
 since he did not know the King at all.  
 Then Ivonet came to meet him,  
 carrying a knife in his hand.  
 "Young man," he said, "you  
 with the knife in your hand,  
 show me which one is the King."  
 Ivonet, who was very courteous,  
 said to him, "There he is, my friend."  
 And he went toward the King,  
 and addressed him, in his own manner.  
 The King was thinking and did not say a word.  
 The young man spoke to him again,  
 but the King was thinking deeply  
 and did not breathe a word.  
 "My word," said the young man,  
 "this King never made any knights!  
 If I can't get a single word out of him,  
 how could he make anyone a knight?"  
 As he started to leave,  
 he pulled his horses bridle, to turn it,  
 but he came so close to the King,  
 being so clumsy,  
 that in front of him, and this is no joke,  
 he knocked the cap off his head  
 and onto the table.  
 The King turned to the young man  
 his head still hanging down,  
 he left his thoughts and said,  
 "Welcome, dear friend.  
 Please don't be upset  
 that I didn't answer your greeting.  
 Sorrow kept me from answering,  
 because the worst enemy I could ever have,  
 the one who hates me most, and worries me so,  
 just came here to contest my lands.  
 He's crazy enough to say  
 that he'll have them all,

950 Li Vermax Chevaliers a non  
 951 De la forest de Quinqueroi.  
 952 Et la roïne devant moi  
 953 Estoit chi venue seoir  
 954 Por conforter et por veoir  
 955 Les chevaliers qui sont blechié.  
 956 Ne m'eüst gaires correchié  
 957 Li chevaliers de quanqu'il dist,  
 958 Mais devant moi ma colpe prist  
 959 Et si folement l'en leva  
 960 Que sor la roïne versa  
 961 Tot le vin dont ele estoit plaine.  
 962 Chi ot honte laide et vilaine,  
 963 Que la roïne en est entree,  
 964 De grant dol et d'ire enflamnee,  
 965 En sa chambre, ou ele s'ocist;  
 966 Ne ne quit pas, se Dex m'aït,  
 967 Que ele en puist eschaper vive.»  
 968 Li vallés ne prise une chive  
 969 Quanques li rois li dist et conte  
 970 Ne de son dol ne de sa honte,  
 971 La roïne ne li chaut il.  
 972 «Faites moi chevalier, fait il,  
 973 Sire rois, car aler m'en weil. »  
 974 Cler et riant furent li oeil  
 975 En la teste au vallet salvage.  
 976 Nus qui le voit nel tient a sage,  
  
 977 Mais trestot cil qui le veoient,  
 978 Por bel et por gent le tenoient.  
 979 «Amis, fait li rois, descendez  
 980 Et vostre chaceor rendez  
 981 A un vallet, sel gardera  
 982 Et vostre volenté sera  
 983 Faite a Dieu en ai fait le veu,  
 984 A m'onor et a vostre preu.»  
 985 Et li vallés a respondu:  
 986 «Ja n'estoient pas descendu  
 987 Cil que j'encontrai en la lande,  
 988 Et vos volez que je desçande.  
 989 Ja par mon chief ne descendrai,  
 990 Mais faites tost, si m'en irai.  
 991 - Ha! fait li rois, biaux amis chiers,  
 992 Je le ferai molt volentiers  
 993 A vostre preu et a m'onor.  
 994 - Foi que je doi al Creatour,  
 995 Fait li vallés, biaux sire rois,  
 996 Ne serai chevaliers des mois,  
 997 Se chevaliers vermeus ne sui.  
 998 Donez moi les armes celui  
 999 Que j'encontrai devant la porte,  
 1000 Qui vostre colpe d'or em porte.»  
 1001 Li seneschal, qui fu blechiez,  
 1002 De che qu'il ot s'est correchiez,  
 1003 Et dist: «Amis, vos avez droit.  
 1004 Alez lui tolir orendroit  
 1005 Les armes, car eles sont vos.  
 1006 Ne feïstes mie que sos  
 1007 Quant vos por che venistes chi.  
 1008 - Kex, fait li rois, por Dieu merci!  
 1009 Trop dites volentiers anui,  
 1010 Si ne vos chaut onques a cui;  
 1011 A pseudome est [che] trop lais visces.  
 1012 Por che, se li vallés est niches,

whether I like it or not.  
 He's the Red Knight  
 of the forest of Guingeroi.  
 And the Queen came to sit here,

opposite me, to visit and console  
 the wounded knights who are here.  
 Nothing the Red Knight said  
 would have bothered me much,  
 had he not taken my cup, from right under my nose.  
 He picked it up so furiously  
 that he spilled the wine in it  
 all over the Queen.  
 What a loathsome and uncouth thing to do!  
 The Queen went back to her room  
 hurt and red with anger.  
 She's in such a rage that I fear  
 she won't survive!"

The young man couldn't care less  
 about what the King told him.  
 The Queen's anger and shame  
 meant nothing to him either.  
 "Make me a knight, Lord King!" he said,  
 "I want to get going."  
 The wild young man's eyes  
 shone bright with excitement.  
 None of those who heard him speak  
 thought he was smart,  
 but everyone who looked at him  
 found him handsome and noble.  
 "My friend," said the King,  
 "come down from your horse.  
 Give it to this servant, he'll take care of it.  
 Your wish will be granted  
 I vow to our Lord God,  
 for my honor and for your benefit."  
 "Yes, but the ones I met in the forest,"  
 he answered, "were on their horses.

You want me to step down?  
 Well, no! I won't do it!  
 Hurry up, now, so I can leave!"  
 "Oh, my dear friend," said the King,  
 "I will do it with pleasure,  
 for your benefit as well as for my honor."  
 "On one condition, my Lord!" said the young man.

"I'll never be a knight,  
 unless I can be a red knight.  
 Give me the armor of the one  
 I met outside, in front of the gate,  
 the one who carried away your golden cup."  
 The seneschal, who was among the wounded,  
 was annoyed by what he heard,  
 and said, "My friend, you're right.  
 Don't wait! Go after him, now,  
 and take away his arms, they're yours!  
 You've done a wise thing,  
 coming here for them."  
 "Keu," said the King, "enough!  
 You speak bitter words far too easily,  
 and you don't worry who you say them to.  
 This is disgraceful for a gentleman.  
 This young man may be simple,

1013 S'est il espoir molt gentix hom,  
 1014 Et se ce li vient d'aprision,  
 1015 Qu'il a esté a vilain mestre,  
 1016 Encore puet preus et sages estre.  
 1017 Vilonnie est d'autrui gaber  
 1018 Et de prometre sanz doner.  
 1019 Preudom ne se doit entremetre  
 1020 De rien nule a autrui prometre  
 1021 Que doner ne li puisse ou veille,  
 1022 Que le mal gre celui n'acueille  
 1023 Qui sanz prometre est ses amis;  
 1024 Et des que il li a pramis,  
 1025 Si bee a la promesse avoir.  
 1026 Et por ce si poëz savoir  
 1027 Qu'assez venroit il mix veer  
 1028 A home que faire baer;  
 1029 Et qui le voir dire en volroit,  
 1030 Soi meïsmes gabe et dechoit;  
 1031 Qui fait pramesse et ne la salt,  
 1032 Le cuer de son ami se talt.»  
 1033 Ensi li rois a Ke parloit,  
 1034 Et li vallés qui s'en aloit  
 1035 A une pucele veüe  
 1036 Bele et gente, si le salue,  
 1037 Et ele lui et si li rist,  
 1038 Et en riant itant li dist:  
 1039 «Vallet, se tu vis par eage,  
 1040 Je pens et croi en mon corage  
 1041 Qu'en trestot le monde n'avra  
 1042 N'il n'i ert n'on ne l'i savra,  
 1043 Nul meillor chevalier de toi;  
 1044 Einsi le pens et cuï et croi.»  
 1045 Et la pucele n'avoit ris  
 1046 Passé avoit ans plus de .vi.,  
 1047 Et ce dist ele si en haut  
 1048 Ke tot l'oïrent; et Kex saut,  
 1049 Cui la parole anuia molt,  
 1050 Se li dona cop si estolt  
 1051 De la palme en la face tendre  
 1052 Que il le fist a terre estendre.  
 1053 Quant la pucele feru ot,  
 1054 En son retor trova .i. sot  
 1055 Lez une cheminee estant  
 1056 Si le bouta el fu ardant  
 1057 Del pié par corroz et par ire,  
 1058 Por che que li sos soloit dire:  
 1059 «Ceste pucele ne rira  
 1060 Jusqu'atant que ele verra  
 1061 Celui qui de chevalerie  
 1062 Avra toute la seignorie.»  
 1063 Einsi cil crie et cele pleure  
 1064 Et li vallés plus ne demeure,  
 1065 Ains s'en retourne sanz conseil  
 1066 Après le Chevalier Vermeil  
 -----  
 1067 Yvonés, qui les drois sentiers  
 1068 Savoït toz et molt volentiers  
 1069 Aportoït noveles a cort,  
 1070 Toz sols sans compaignon s'en cort  
 1071 Par .i. vergié dalez la sale,  
 1072 Et par une posterne avale  
 1073 Tant qu'il vint au chemin tot droit  
 1074 Ou li chevaliers atendoit  
 1075 Chevalerie et aventure.  
 1076 Et li vallés grant aleure

but he might come from a noble family.  
 If he had a poor upbringing,  
 or an unworthy teacher,  
 he could still become wise and valiant.  
 It's despicable to make fun of others  
 and to promise, without giving.  
 A man of honor must undertake  
 to never promise anything  
 he cannot or will not give,  
 or else the other will be ungrateful.  
 Before the promise, he was a friend,  
 but, once the promise made  
 he expects it to be kept.  
 You should know,  
 that it's better to refuse something  
 than to make someone expect it.  
 And to be totally frank,  
 a man who doesn't keep his promises  
 fools no one but himself,  
 because he loses his friends.”  
 As the King was talking to Keu,  
 the young man, on his way out,  
 saw a beautiful, graceful maiden.

He greeted her, and she replied with laughter.  
 While laughing, she said,  
 “Young man, if you live a full life,  
 I feel deep in my heart  
 that no greater knight than you  
 will be seen, will be known,  
 ever, anywhere in the world.  
 Yes, I think so, I know it; I'm sure.”  
 This maiden hadn't laughed  
 for more than six years.  
 She spoke loudly,  
 and everyone heard her. Keu started.  
 These words made him furious.  
 He slapped her delicate face so hard

that she fell to the floor.  
 After hitting the girl,  
 he turned and saw a jester  
 standing near a fireplace.  
 Out of anger and irritation,  
 he kicked him into the hot fire,  
 because the jester had often said,  
 “This maiden will never laugh again  
 until the day she sees  
 the one whose glory as a knight  
 will outshine all others.”  
 As the jester howled and the maiden cried,  
 the young man left, without discussion,

to find the Red Knight.

Ivonet, who knew all the shortcuts,  
 and who loved to bring news  
 back to the court, left his companions.  
 Alone, in haste, he went through an orchard  
 adjoining the main hall,  
 went through a back gate  
 and came out on the road  
 where the Red knight was waiting  
 for adventures and knightly honor.  
 Just then, the young man came riding toward him,

1077 Vint vers lui por ses armes prendre,  
1078 Et li chevaliers por atendre  
1079 Avoit la colpe d'or jus mise  
1080 Sor .i. perron de roche bise.  
1081 Quant li vallés aprochié l'ot  
1082 Tant que li .i. l'autre oir pot,  
1083 Si li cria: «Metez les jus  
1084 Les armes, ne les portez plus,  
1085 Que li rois Artus le vos mande.»  
1086 Et li chevaliers li demande:  
1087 «Vallet, ose nus cha venir  
1088 Por le droit le roi maintenir?  
1089 Se nus i vient, nel celer pas.  
1090 — Coment, deable, est ce ore gas,  
1091 Dans chevaliers, que vos me faites,  
1092 Qu'encor n'avez mes armes traites?  
1093 Ostez les tost, jel vos comant.  
1094 — Vallet, fait cil, je te demant  
1095 Se nus vient cha de par le roi  
1096 Qui combatre se weille a moi.  
1097 — Dans chevaliers, car ostez tost  
1098 Les armes, que je nes vos ost,  
1099 Que plus ne les vos sofferroie.  
1100 Bien sachiez que je vos ferroie,  
1101 Se plus parler m'en fasiiez.»  
1102 Lors fu li chevaliers iriez;  
1103 Sa lance a a .ii. mains levee  
1104 Et si l'en a doné tel colee  
1105 Par les espaulles en travers,  
1106 De la ou n'estoit pas li fers,  
1107 Qu'il le fist embronchier aval  
1108 Jusques sor le col del cheval.  
1109 Et li vallés s'est correchiez  
1110 Quant il senti qu'il fu blechiez  
1111 De la colee qu'il ot prise.  
1112 En l'oeil al miex qu'il pot l'avise  
1113 Et laisse aler le gavelot;  
1114 Si qu'il n'entent ne voit ne ot,  
1115 Le fiert parmi l'oeil el cervel,  
  
1116 Que d'autre part del haterel  
1117 Le sanc et la cervelle espant.  
1118 De la dolor li cuers li mant,  
1119 Si verse et chiet toz estendus.  
1120 Et li vallés est descendus,  
1121 Si met la lance a une part  
1122 Et l'escu del col li depart,  
1123 Mais il ne set venir a chief  
1124 Del hiaume qu'il a sor le chief,  
1125 Qu'il ne set coment il le praigne.  
1126 Et s'a talent qu'il li desçaigne  
1127 L'espee, mais il nel set faire  
1128 Ne del fuerre ne le puet traire,  
1129 Ains prend l'espee et sache et tire.  
1130 Et Yvonés comence arrire,  
1131 Quant le vallet voit entrepris.  
1132 «Iche que est? fait il, amis,  
1133 Que faites vos? — Je ne sai coi.  
1134 Je quidoie de vostre roi  
1135 Qu'il m'eüst ces armes donees,  
1136 Mais ains avrai par carbonees  
1137 Trestot esbrahoné le mort  
1138 Que nule des armes en port,  
1139 Qu'eles se tienent si au cors  
1140 Que ce dedens et che defors

as fast as possible, to take away his armor.  
The Red knight, awaited him,  
placing the golden cup  
on a block of gray stone.  
As soon as the young man was close enough  
that the Red knight could hear him,  
he yelled out, "Put down your arms.  
You will carry them no longer;  
this is an order from King Arthur."  
But the Red knight asked him,  
"Young man, does someone dare come here  
and plead for the King's cause?  
If someone's coming, don't hide it from me."  
"What the devil, is this a joke  
that you're playing on me, Sir knight,  
by waiting to take off your arms?  
Throw them down at once, I command you!"  
"Young man," he said, "I ask you,  
is someone coming here, in the name of the King,  
with the desire to fight me?"  
"Sir Knight, take off your arms at once,  
or I will take them from you.  
I won't give you another second.  
beware that I'll have to strike you,  
If you make me talk any more."  
The knight, at this, lost his composure,  
with two hands he took up his lance  
and hit the young man hard  
across his shoulders,  
with the part that was not of iron.  
He knocked the young man over  
onto his horse's neck.  
The young man was angered  
by the wound he had received.

He took aim at the knight's eye, as best he could,  
and hurled his spear.  
Before he noticed, or saw or heard anything,  
the spear went through the knight's eye  
and reached his brain.  
Blood and brains gushed out through his neck.

The pain made him faint,  
he fall backwards and lay on the ground.  
The young man dismounted his horse,  
put the spear aside,  
and took the knight's shield from around his neck.  
But he could not get it over,  
the helmet he was wearing.  
He didn't know how to handle it.  
He also wanted to take his sword from his waist,  
but didn't know how to do this either.  
He could not even take it from its sheath.  
So he grabbed the sheath and shook it all around.  
Ivonet started laughing  
seeing him so confused,  
"What's the matter, my friend?" he said,  
"What are you doing?" "I don't know.  
I thought your King  
said that these arms were mine,  
but I would have to cut this corpse  
in pieces the size of steaks  
to be able to take any of his arms.  
They stick to his body so well  
that the outside and the inside are one

1141	Est trestot .i., si com moi samble,	or so it seems.
1142	Qu'eles se tienent si ensamble.	He's all of one piece."
1143	— Or ne vos caut de nule rien,	"Don't worry,
1144	Que jes departirai molt bien,	I can remove them easily,
1145	Se vos volez,» fait Yvonés.	if you wish," said Ivonet.
1146	«Faites dont tost, fait li vallés,	"Well go ahead!" said the young man,
1147	Ses me donez sans nul arest.»	"Hurry up and give them to me."
1148	Tantost Yvonés le desvest,	Ivonet undressed him quickly
1149	Et dusqu'en l'orteil le deschauc;	from head to toe.
1150	N'i a lessié hauberc ne cauce	He left nothing: not mail, nor boots,
1151	Ne hiaume en chief n'autre armeüre.	nor the helmet on his head, nor any other piece of
	armor.	
1152	Mais li vallés sa vesteüre	But the young man didn't want
1153	Ne volt laissier, ne ne preïst,	to leave behind his old clothes, nor take,
1154	Por rien qu'Ivonés li deïst,	in spite of Ivonet's insistence,
1155	Une cote molt aesie,	
1156	De drap de soie gambesie,	the comfortable well-lined silk tunic,
1157	Que desoz son hauberc vestoit	the knight had worn under his mail
1158	Li chevaliers quant vis estoit.	when he was alive.
1159	Ne oster ne li pooit des piez	He also refused to take off the
1160	Les revelins qu'il ot chauciez,	hobnailed boots he was wearing.
1161	Ains dist: «Deable! est che ore gas?	"The devil with you, you must be joking!
1162	Que chanjeroie mes bons dras,	Why should I change these sturdy clothes,
1163	Que ma mere me fist l'autr'ier,	that my mother made for me a few days ago,
1164	Por les dras a che chevalier?	for those of the knight?
1165	Ma grosse chemise de chanvre	My good, heavy hemp shirt,
1166	Por la soie qui'st mole et tanvre?	you want me to trade it for his,
1167	Voldriiez vos que je laissasse	which is too soft, too frail?
1168	Ma cotele ou aigue ne passe	And my tunic, which keeps out water,
1169	Por cesti qui n'en tenroit gouste?	for this one that would soon be soaked?
1170	Honi soit sa gorge tote	May the Devil stifle
1171	Qui cangera ne loing ne prés	he who wishes, in one way or another, to exchange
1172	Ses bons dras por autrui malvés.»	the good clothes which are his
		for the bad ones that some other owns!"
1173	Molt grief chose est de fol aprendre;	It's not easy to teach a fool!
1174	Rien fors les armes ne volt prendre	In spite of Ivonet's begging,
1175	Por proiere que on li face.	he wanted nothing other than the arms.
1176	Yvonés les cauces li lace	So Ivonet laced his large boots
1177	Et sor les revelins li chauce	and put the spurs on.
1178	Les esperons desor la cauce,	
1179	Puis li a le hauberc vestu	Then he put the chain mail on him;
1180	Tel c'onques nus mielldres ne fu,	it was the best that had ever been made.
1181	Et sor la coiffe li assiet	On the hood of mail he put the helmet,
1182	Le hiaume qui molt bien li siet,	which fit him perfectly.
1183	Et de l'espee li ensaigne	As for the sword, he taught him
1184	Que bien lasque et pendant le chaine,	to not buckle it tightly, but to wear it loosely.
1185	Puis li met le pié en l'estrier,	He then put his foot in the stirrup,
1186	Sel fait monter sor le destrier.	and helped him mount his steed.
1187	Ains mais estriers veü n'avoit	To tell the truth, he had never seen stirrups,
1188	Ne d'esperons rien ne savoit	and as for spurring, he only knew
1189	Fors de cinglant ou de roorte.	how to use a strap or a switch.
1190	Yvonés l'escu li aporte	Ivonet then brought him the shield
1191	Et la lance, puis si li baille.	and the spear.
1192	Ainçois que Yvonés s'en aille,	Before Ivonet left,
1193	Dist li vallés: «Amis, prenez	the young man said to him, "My friend,
1194	Mon chaceor, si l'en menez,	here is my hunting horse; take it.
1195	Qu'il est molt bons, et jel vos doing	He is excellent, I give it to you,
1196	Por che que je n'en ai mais soing.	I don't need it any more.
1197	Et portés sa colpe le roi,	Bring the cup back to the King,
1198	Si le salüés de par moi;	and give him my regards.
1199	Et tant dites a la pucele,	And tell this to the maiden
1200	Ke Kex feri sor la maissele,	that was struck on the cheek by Keu:
1201	Que se je puis, ains que je muire,	the seneschal can be sure that before I die,
1202	Li quit je molt bien metre quire,	I will give him something to sweat about!
1203	Que por vengie se tenra.»	She can be sure to be avenged!"

1204 Et cil respont que il rendra  
 1205 Au roi sa colpe, et son message  
 1206 Fornira il a loi de sage.  
 1207 Atant departent, si s'en vont.  
 -----  
 1208 En la sale ou li baron sont,  
 1209 Entre Yvonés parmi la porte,  
 1210 Qui au roi sa colpe raporte.  
 1211 Si li dist: «Sire, or faites joie,  
 1212 Que vostre colpe vos renvoie  
 1213 Vostre chevaliers qui chi fu.  
 1214 — De quel chevalier me dis tu?»  
 1215 [Fait li rois, qui en sa grant ire  
 1216 Estoit encore. «En non Dieu, sire,]  
 1217 Fait Yvonés, del vallet di  
 1218 Qui orendroit parti de chi.  
 1219 — Dis tu dont del vallet galois  
 1220 Qui me demanda, fait li rois,  
 1221 Les armes de synople taintes  
 1222 Au chevalier qui hontes maintes  
 1223 M'a faites selonc son pooir?  
 1224 — Sire, de lui di je por voir.  
 1225 — Et ma colpe, coment ot il?  
 1226 Aime le tant et prise cil  
 1227 Qu'il li ait de son gre rendue?  
 1228 — Ainçois li a si chier vendue  
 1229 Li vallés que il l'a ocis.  
 1230 — Et coment fu che, biax amis?  
 1231 — Sire, ne sai; mais que je vi  
 1232 Que li chevaliers le feri  
 1233 De sa lance et fist grant anui,  
 1234 Et li vallés referi lui  
 1235 D'un gavelot parmi l'ueilliere  
 1236 Si qu'il li fist par de deriere  
 1237 Le sanc et le cervele espa[n]dre,  
 1238 Et lui par terre mort estandre.»  
 1239 Lors dist li rois au seneschal:  
 1240 «Ha! Keu, com m'avez hui fait mal!  
 1241 Par vostre lunge, l'enuiouse,  
 1242 Qui avra dite mainte oisouse,  
 1243 M'avez vos le valet tolu  
 1244 Qui molt m'a hui cest jor valu.  
 1245 — Sire, fait Yvonés al roi,  
 1246 Par mon chief, il mande par moi  
 1247 A la pucele la roïne,  
 1248 Que Kex feri par aatine,  
 1249 Por mal de lui et por despit,  
 1250 Que il le vengera, s'il vit,  
 1251 Et s'il em puet venir en leu.»  
 1252 Li fols qui sist dalez le feu  
 1253 Ot la parole, et salt en piez  
 1254 Et vient devant le roi toz liez,  
 1255 S'a tel joie qu'il trepe et salt,  
 1256 Et dist: «Dans rois, se Diex me salt,  
 1257 Ore aprochent vos aventures;  
 1258 De felenesses et de dures  
 1259 En verrez avenir sovent.  
 1260 Et si vos met bien en covent  
 1261 Que Kex puet estre toz certains  
 1262 Que mar vit ses piez et ses mains  
 1263 Et sa langue fole et vilaine;  
 1264 Que ains que past une quinsaine  
 1265 Avra li chevaliers vengié  
 1266 Le cop qu'il me dona del pié,  
 1267 Et la buffe ert molt bien rendue

The other swore that he would return  
 the cup to the king, and give the message  
 exactly as he had said.  
 They each went their own way.

Ivonet entered the great hall,  
 where the barons were, by the main door.  
 He brought the cup to the king, and said,  
 "My Lord, rejoice!  
 Here is your cup, sent to you  
 by the one who became your knight right here."  
 "Which knight are you talking about?"  
 said the king, still overcome by his sadness.  
 "Good heavens, my lord!", said Ivonet,  
 "I'm talking about the young man  
 who left us just a few minutes ago."  
 "Do you mean," said the king,  
 "The young Welshman who asked  
 for the arms of the Red Knight,  
 the knight who has so often  
 sought to put me to shame?"  
 "Yes my lord, I am speaking of him."  
 "And how did he get my cup?  
 Did the other knight think so highly of him  
 that he gave it to him of his own free will?"  
 "The young man made him pay such a price  
 that he simply killed him."  
 "And how did that happen, my friend?"  
 "My Lord, I don't know for sure,  
 but I saw the knight hit him  
 with his spear, and rough him up.  
 Then the young man struck back  
 with his spear right through his visor,  
 making his brains and blood  
 gush out from behind his head.  
 Then I saw him laying on the ground."  
 Then the king said to the seneschal,  
 "Ah, Keu, you have wronged me today!  
 Your spitefulness, which has already  
 caused so much trouble,  
 has deprived me of a knight  
 who would have been very useful to me today."  
 "My Lord," said Ivonet to the king,  
 "He also asked me  
 to tell the Queen's servant,  
 the one that Keu struck in defiance  
 out of hatred and contempt of him,  
 that he will avenge her,  
 if he lives long enough to do so."  
 The jester, sitting by the fireplace,  
 jumped up when he heard those words  
 and came before theeking, smiling with joy.  
 "My Lord," he said, may God strike me down,  
 but these fearful and dangerous adventures  
 we have been waiting for,  
 you'll see, will occur more than once.  
 And, I assure you, Keu can be sure,  
 he will regret the day when his hands and feet  
 and tongue were so uncouth,  
 because in less than forty days  
 that knight will avenge  
 the kick he gave me,  
 and he will pay very dearly

1268 Et comperee et chier vendue  
1269 Que il dona a la pucele,  
1270 Que entre le coute et l'aissele  
1271 Le bras destre li brisera.  
1272 .I. demi an le portera  
1273 Au col pendu, et bien l'i port,  
1274 N'i puet falir ne qu'a la mort.»  
death.”  
1275 Cele parole tant greva  
1276 Keu que par poi qu'il ne creva  
1277 De mautalent et de corroz,  
1278 Que il ne l'ala devant toz  
1279 Tel contraer que mort l'eüst.  
1280 Por che que al roi despleüst,  
1281 Laissa que il ne l'envai.  
1282 Et li rois dist: «Ahi! ahi!  
1283 Keu, com m'avez hui correchié!  
1284 Qui assené et adrecié  
1285 Le vallet as armes eüst,  
1286 Tant c'un poi aidier s'en seüst  
1287 Et de l'escu et de la lance,  
1288 Bons chevaliers fust sanz doutance;  
1289 Mais il n'en set ne peu ne bien  
1290 D'armes ne de nule autre rien,  
1291 Que neïs traire ne saroit  
1292 L'espee se besoing avoit.  
1293 Or siet armez sor son cheval,  
1294 S'enconterra alcun vassal  
1295 Qui por son cheval gaaignier  
1296 Nel doutera a mehaignier.  
1297 Tost mort ou mehaigné l'ara,  
1298 Que desfendre ne se sara;  
1299 Tant est niches et bestiax,  
1300 Tost ara fait ses enviax.»  
1301 Einsi li rois plaint et regrate  
1302 Le vallet et fait chiere mate,  
1303 Mais il n'i puet rien conquerer,  
1304 Si laisse la parole ester.

for the slap he gave the maiden.

The knight will break his right arm  
between the elbow and shoulder.  
Keu will wear a sling for half a year.  
He will have to be patient!  
He cannot escape it, no more than a man can escape

These words were so painful to Keu  
that he almost exploded in rage,  
and, in his anger, could have easily  
taken care of the jester, in his own manner  
and left him dead.  
But he dared not displease the king,  
and decided to retain himself,  
while the king said,  
“Oh! Keu, you have greatly annoyed me today!  
If someone could have trained  
the young man in the use of arms,  
and helped him learn to handle  
a spear and a shield,  
he would have, no doubt, become a fine knight.  
But, for now, he knows so little  
of arms, as of other things,  
that he won't even be able to draw his sword  
when the time comes.  
And he's riding, fully armed, on his horse!  
He may meet some villain  
who wouldn't hesitate to cripple him,  
just to steal his horse.  
Yes, he'll soon be killed or crippled,  
because he won't know how to defend himself.  
He's too simple, he really is a fool.  
The die is cast!”  
And the king wept and regretted  
losing the young man, and looked forlorn.  
But he had nothing to gain,  
and spoke no more of it.