

COMMUNE PARLANCE

[1. Opening prayer]

[fol. 67v] Ici a nostre comencement de cesti tretis nous dirrons ainsi: en noun de Pier et Filz et Seint Esprit, amen.

En noun de la glorius Trinité, trois persons et un soul Dieu omnipotent, creour de monde, qu'est et a esté, et sanz fin regnera, de qui vient toute grace, sapience, et vertu, faiceons priere a luy devotement que luy plese de sa graunde mercy et grace toutz qui cesti livre regarderont ou enrememorunt ensy abuverer [gloss: *to be fulfillid*] et enluminere de le rosee de sa haute sapience qu'ils purront avoire souveraine grace et sen naturel d'apprendre a parlere, bien sonere, et parfitement escriere douce francés, qu'est la plus beale et la plus gracious langage et la plus noble parlere après latyn de scole que soit en monde et de toutz gentz melx preysé et amee que nulle autre. Quare Dieux le fist si douce et amyable princypalment au l'onore et louaage^{xlvi} de lui mesmez.

[2. The human body]

Et pur ce que homme est le plus noble et le plus digne creature que soit en sicle, et que Dieux a ordigné d'estre souveraine et maister dez toutz autrez creaturs et choses que sont desoubz luy, je commencerai a declarere et pleinement determinere de lui et dez lez membres de son corps et des autrez choses que lui apperteignent ou aveignent.

Et sachés que sicom dit le sage que homme est divisé en douzse partiez au manere et guise dez .xii. signes de ciel que lez government, et lez signez ont grante seigneurie et dominacione dez lez membrez suisditz, [fol. 68r] quant la lune serra en ascun d'eaux acordé a son membre.

Et voilés savoir que homme est arbre bestorné, c'est a dire l'estok, ou: le trunc, et lez racinez quelez sount versere^{xlvii} contremount, et la summitee ovesque lez branchez en avale. Ainsi est la teste d'omme qu'est la plus haute et principale partie de lui qu'est rasemblé a l'estok d'une arbre, et lez chiveux au lez racines.

Et fait a remembre qu'il en a beu cope [gloss: *money*]^{xlviii} dez membres come le front avant, lez orailez, lez oiles, lez palperes, lez surcillez, le veu clere, lez chiveux, les chiveux resursilez; auxi en la teste est la kakenel et le colle derere, la visaige devant ou est le nees, lez narez, le tiendrone [gloss: *grystyll of be no*],^{xlix} lez faucez, lez jouez, les liverez desus et desoubz qu'enclosent lez dentz environne, le bouche ov le palet amont la lange, lez gingivez et la hanapele ov lez templez, le cervel, le fosselet, le gorge, la gargalet l'ou moun alyne est passant, ausi enmy la teste amont le grive [gloss: *be shede*]. Est ausi le pis ou le pectrin, le vendone, lez espaullez, le blason, lez asselez, lez bras, lez coubtres [gloss: *elbowys*],ⁱ lez mainez, lez diez, la palme, lez unglez, lez joyntes, le pectrin, les mamels, lez coustes [gloss: *be syde*], lez costés [gloss: *be rybys*], le dos [gloss: *bak*], lez ossez, le ventre, le chyne, l'umbil [gloss: *the nauyl*],ⁱⁱ le penyil [gloss: *share*], le vit, lez cuilons [gloss: *ballat*], le cul [gloss: *ars*], le hanche, lez nagez [gloss: *buttockes*], lez esquissez [gloss: *thyys*], lez genulez, lez jambes, la garete, l'assure [gloss: *calfe*], lez peeze, lez kevyalez, lez artilez, la plante de pee, le talone [gloss: *be hele*],ⁱⁱⁱ le cervelle [gloss: *be brayne*], le gargate, le corps, le coer, le foy [gloss: *lyuer*], le pulmone [gloss: *longge*], lez splene [gloss: *mylte*], lez boelx et le stomac, [fol. 68v] lez veyns, lez nerfes [gloss: *sennes*], la rate [gloss: *be mytryff*], le feel, lez reignouns, lez reynez, la vescie, et la peal.

COMMUNE PARLANCE

1. Opening prayer

Here at our beginning of this treatise we will say thus: in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, amen.

In the name of the glorious Trinity, three persons in one omnipotent God alone, creator of the world, who is and has been, and will reign without end, from whom comes all grace, wisdom, and virtue, let us pray to Him devotedly that it might please Him in His great mercy and grace so to fill¹³¹ and illumine with the dew of His high wisdom all who will look in this book or commit it to memory,¹³² so that they may have the sovereign grace and natural disposition to learn to speak, pronounce well, and perfectly write sweet French,¹³³ which is the most beautiful and the most gracious language and the most noble speech in the world, after school Latin,¹³⁴ and better praised and loved by all people than any other. For God made it so sweet and pleasing principally to the honour and praise of Himself.

2. The human body

And because man is the most noble and the worthiest creature in the world, and God ordained him to be sovereign and master over all the other creatures and things that are beneath him, I will start by declaring and fully specifying his features and the members of his body and the other things that appertain or fall to him.

And you should know that, just as the wise man says, man is divided into twelve parts in the manner and guise of the twelve signs of the heavens, which signs govern those parts, and the signs have great mastery and domination over the aforementioned members. When the moon is in any of them, that sign affects the member that it governs.¹³⁵

And please be aware that man is an inverted tree,¹³⁶ that is to say the stock, or: the trunk,¹³⁷ and the roots are turned upwards, and the crown with the branches downwards. So man's head, which is the highest and principal part of him, resembles the trunk of a tree and his hair the roots.

And recall that he has many members such as the forehead at the front, the ears, the eyes, the eyelids, the eyebrows, clear sight, the hair, the curly hair; and also in the head there is the back of the skull and the neck behind, the face at the front where the nose is, the nostrils, the septum, the throat, the cheeks, the upper and lower lips that surround the teeth, the mouth with the palate above the tongue, the gums and the skull with the temples, the brain, the little hollow of the neck, the lower neck, the windpipe that my breath passes through, also in the middle of the head, at the top, the parting. There is also the breast or the chest, the neck muscle, the shoulders, the shoulder blade, the armpits, the arms, the elbows, the hands, the fingers, the palm, the nails, the joints, the chest, the breasts, the sides, the ribs, the back, the bones, the belly, the spine, the navel, the pubes, the cock, the balls,¹³⁸ the arse, the hip, the buttocks, the thighs, the knees, the legs, the ham, the calf, the feet, the ankles, the toes, the sole of the foot, the heel, the brain, the gullet, the body, the heart, the liver, the lung, the spleen, the bowels and the stomach, the veins, the nerves, the midriff, the gall-bladder, the kidneys, the loins, the bladder, and the skin.

[3. Furnishing a house]

Ore je vous divisaray lez chocez necessities a homme et la manere de parlere. Fait le seignour del hostel a un dez cez esquiers ou vadletez tout ainsy:

- Me faites venire devant moy mon garderobre. Ditez luy qu'il veigne tantost.
- Voluntrez, moun seignour, a vostre comandement.

Et puis le vadlet s'en irra a garderobre et luy dirra courteisment tout ainsy:

- Sir, Dieu vous esplot. Ou: Dieu vous avance.
- Vous estes bien venu, beu sir. Voilez vous rien que je puisse faire?
- Oil dea, mon seignour vous comanda d'a luy venire tantost, quar je sçay bien, se vous demurrez gairez, il serra bien marry de vous. Et pur ce vous n'arestez mye, mez avancez vous sur vostre chymyn.
- Savez vous rien qe luy plest?
- Nonyme, veraiment, mez je pense que vous en irrez ja adez [gloss: *now sone*]^{liii} devant myday pur achatere dez darreez [gloss: *peniworkes*] a l'overes [gloss: *worke*] de moun seignour.

Donques viendra le garderobre a son seignour en quanque il se poet hastiere, et quant il serra venu, il luy dirra tout ainsy:

- Mon seignour, que vous plest il?
- Guilliam, pur tant que je ne su my bien purveu de mesnage et d'autres chosez bosoinablez qu'apparteignent a mon estat quant a present, a cause que je su novelment venu a cest hostel, primerment je voil que vous faites venir ciens le quarreour, ou: le joinour, pur apparailer, joindre, ou faire lez aes de mon lit, et puis après de boter lez peceaux et paille de furment dedeins lez aes; et puis après que vous en alés a le tapecer et que vous achatez de lui pur la sale un grant doser ovesque lez tapetez, bankers [fol. 69r] et quarreaux.

Auxi que vous m'achatez de chaires, fourmez, sciellez, tables, aes, un table pur hanaps, brichets, basyns, chauffours, un euar pendaunt.

Et pur le pantrie et botrie que vous achatés du payn non pas chaufenous, mes de bon payne levee, et payn leger auxi beal et blanc com l'en poet trovere en tout le monde, et quatre tonelx de bon vyn vermaile, trois tonelx de malvesyve, cinque tonelx de blanc et deux tonelx de romney, et ce de meillour que poet estre trové ent tout ce pays ici.

Auxi que vous achatez poz de peatur^{liv} et d'argent, cuillers d'argent, goblés, piecez d'argent, madrez, terrens, veirres, cuteulx bien trenchantz, chargeours, platez, escuilez, saucers, salers pur seil, et chaundlers de fin argent.

Auxi que vous en alez a mercer et achatez de lui costiers de sengle wostede pur ma chambre, un lit entier de soy parce et un autre de drape d'or, c'est assavoir testre, cillour, curtyns et coverlit ovesque lez autres appurtenancez com blanketz, lincheux, quiltez longes, coissons, orillers, un sarge, et un large canvas de chemvre.

3. Furnishing a house

Now I will describe for you the things that a man needs and how to speak about them. The lord of a household says to one of his squires or valets thus:

- Have my wardrobe¹³⁹ come before me. Tell him to come immediately.
- Gladly, my lord, at your service.

And then the valet will go to the wardrobe and will courteously say to him thus:

- Sir, God speed you. Or: God help you.
- You are welcome, good sir. Do you want anything that I might be able to do?
- Yes indeed, my lord has commanded you to come to him immediately, and I know well that if you tarry at all, he will be angry with you. And so do not delay, but get on your way.
- Do you know what he wants?
- No, truly, but I think you'll be gone again sharpish from there before midday to buy supplies for my lord's projects.

Then the wardrobe will come to his lord, hurrying as best he can, and, once he has arrived, he will say to him thus:

- My lord, what do you wish?
- Guillian,¹⁴⁰ because I am presently not well provided with household effects and other necessities belonging to my estate, since I have recently come to this house, firstly, I desire that you have the plankmaker, or: the joiner,¹⁴¹ come here in order to construct, join, or make my bed boards; and then after that to stuff pea stalks and straws of wheat between the boards; and then afterwards go to the tapestry-maker and buy a great curtain from him for the hall as well as carpets, bench-covers, and cushions.

Also, buy me chairs, benches, stools, tables, planks, a cup-board,¹⁴² trestles, basins, saucepans, a hanging bucket.

And for the pantry and buttery, buy bread—not mouldy but good, risen bread, and light bread as good and as white as can be found in all the world—and four casks of good red wine, three casks of malmsey, five casks of white and two casks of romeny, and that of the best that can be found here in all this country.¹⁴³

Also, buy pewter and silver pots, silver spoons, goblets, silverware, wooden cups, earthenware pots, glasses, sharp knives, plates, bowls, dishes, saucers, salt cellars for salt, and fine silver candlesticks.

Also, go to the mercer's and buy from him hangings of single worsted¹⁴⁴ for my chamber, a complete set of blue silken bedding and another of golden cloth, that is to say the backing, the canopy, curtains and coverlet with other trappings such as blankets, linen cloths, long quilts, cushions, pillows, a hanging, and a large hempen canvas.¹⁴⁵

Auxi je voil que vous achatez dressours, poz d'aresme, paillez, chaudrons, troipiés, aundirez, greiles, hasties, lechefris de fere, crokes, sufflers, tenels, barels, cackez ou tables, cuves, cuvels, tynes, tynels, gates, et bolenges de stamyne.

Auxi que vous m'achatez une bone seel bien appareillé ovesque toutz lez appurtenance, c'est assavoir freyne, mors de freyne, chevestre, peutrelle, [fol. 69v] culere, seigle,^{lv} estruez, et auxi un paire dez hoseux et un pair d'esperons.

Auxi je vuil que vous en alés [a] un drapere^{lvi} et achatez vous de lui dousze vergez de blanket, dys vergez de drape noire et atant de vert, .xxiiii. vergez de sanguyne et atant de tanney, violet et buret, .viii. vergez de mustre de villers et de melley et atant de rouge et parce et .vi. vergez de bon scarlet.

Auxi que vous m'achatez du mercere un drape entir de fin soy rouge et un autre de bon wostede parce, .xxx. aulnes de drap de Raynes et atant de tresbone teal [gloss: *raw*]. Et quant vous en arrez trestout ainsy faite, vous lez porterez a la garderobe et la lez taillerez trestout en manteulx, taberdes longez, purpointz, surcotez, cotes, hopelondez, chaperons ové longez cornettez, et corsetez, et ce en le meilour maner et façone [gloss: *shap*] que vous savez ou purrez deviser, savant ce que je vuil que lez avantditez draps de Raynez et de teal soient gardez et estorez pur en faire lincheux, chemesez et brayez, et que vous en ordeignés grande cope dez cousterers ou taillandres que savent bien oevrer et ignelment coustre. Et que lez coustures soient bien et fort couseez, si que nulle defaute ou faucetee ne purra ja estre trové en lour bosoigne, quar il lour serra grande hontee se lez coustures fuissent tost après decouseez pur defaute de bon overage.

Auxi je vuil que vous en alez a cordewaner [fol. 70r] et vous achaterés de luy .vi. pair de salers escolettez, quatre paire de solers eschorchez et partusez, et cinque pairs solers ové deux noeux pur mez charetters.

Auxi je vuil que vous m'achatez un tonel de vernage pur ma propre bouche contre le fest de Pasches floris prochein que vendra, quar lors je frai un graunt mangerie.

[4. Going on a journey]

Meintenant je vous dirrai coment un homme chivachant ou chymynant se doit contenere et parler sur son chymyne, qui voet aler bien loignez hors de soun pais.

[4.1. Preparations]

Et primerment le seigneur parlera a son vadlet devant son aler ainsy:

- Janyn, venez ça.
- Mon seignour, je veigne a vous en tout quanque je me puisse hastier. Ou: avancer.

Donque dit le sir:

- Va, mesnez mez chivalx a forges pur ferr,^{lvii} s'il en est meistre, et qu'ils en eient de bons ferres et fortz et bien forgez.
- Moun seignour, il serra fait a vostre commaundement.

Also, I want you to buy dressers, brass pots, pails, cauldrons, tripods, andirons, gridles, roasting spikes, iron dripping pans, hooks, bellows, tongs, barrels, tubs or tables,¹⁴⁶ vats, small vats, casks, small casks, bowls, and sieves of warp thread.

Also, buy a good saddle that is well kitted out with all the trappings, that is to say, the rein, the bit, the halter, the poitrel, the crupper, the belt, the stirrups, and also a pair of hose and a pair of spurs.¹⁴⁷

Also, I want you to go to a draper and buy from him twelve yards of white cloth, ten yards of black cloth and the same again of green, twenty-four yards of blood-red cloth and the same again of light brown, violet, and dark brown, eight yards of cloth for show embroidered with gillyflowers and also of variegated cloth, and the same again of red and blue, and six yards of good scarlet.¹⁴⁸

Also, buy me from the mercer a full bolt of fine red silk and another of good blue worsted, thirty ells of Rennes cloth and as much of very good linen.¹⁴⁹ And when you have done all this, take everything to the wardrobe and there cut it all up into mantles, long tabards, pourpoints, surcoats, coats, houppelandes, chaperons with long ribbons, and jerkins,¹⁵⁰ and this in the best manner and shape that you know or are able to devise, except I want the aforesaid Rennes cloths and linen cloths to be kept and stored to make winding cloths, shirts, and breeches, and for you to order a good many of these things from seamsters and tailors who can work well and sew speedily. And let the stitching be good and securely sewn, so that no lack or fault may ever be found when they are used, for it will be much to their shame if the stitching should come undone soon after for a lack of good handiwork.¹⁵¹

Also, I want you to go to a cordwainer and buy from him six pairs of open shoes, four pairs of scored and perforated shoes, and five pairs of shoes with two buttons for my garters.

Also, I want you to buy me a cask of vernage¹⁵² for my own consumption at the upcoming festival of Palm Sunday, for then I will lay on a great feast.

4. Going on a journey

Now I will tell you how a man riding or travelling should behave and speak on his way when he desires to go far out of his country.

4.1. Preparations

And first the lord will speak to his valet before his departure thus:

- Janyn, come here.
- My lord, I'm coming as fast as I can hasten. Or: come.

Then the lord says:

- Go, take my horses to the forge to get them shod,¹⁵³ if they need it, and let them have good shoes, both strong and well forged.
- My lord, it will be done according to your command.

Et puis le vadlet s'en va a forge ovesque lez chivalx et fait le comandement de son seignour. Et quant il serra revenu de forge, le seignour luy parlera tout ainsy:

- Janyn, as tu fait?
- Oil, vraiment, mon seignour. Ou si: Oil, mon seignour, tresbien a point. Ou si: Oil, sir, a vostre congé, certez je l'ay fait.
- Ore va tost et lez dones de feyn, d'aveyn, et du payn, quar si tost que j'ay desjuneé, je me chivacherai devers Parys, et par aventure je ne revendray pas en grant piece a cause que j'ay beucope a fayre la.

[4.2. The good-bye meal]

- Guilliam, ou estez vous?
- Mon seignour, je sui ci.
- Allez vous tost a la cusyne et demandez de le cusyner, ou: de le keu, se la viande soit unquor prest.

Et puis il s'en va a cusyne pur surveir et esgarder que tout soit [fol.70v] prest. Et en le meen temps, le seignour s'en irra seier après qu'il avra lavee sez mains. Donques lui serviront sez escuiers et vadletz de mut bone viaunde, mes primerment lez salers du seiel, cuillers et longez culteux trenchantz et lez trenchours serront apportez a table, et puis après le pain et le vin et auxi la servoise s'il en i a point.

Donques ils lui serviront al primer cours dez soupez graas dez bons herbes ov de gruel enforcé s'il soit en estre,^{lviii} et s'il soit en iver, dez choulx, de porré ou d'autre bons herbez ové la larde ou autrement la venosone.

Et après lui serviront de grande chare come de boef, motone, porc, et veel, et puis de gelyns, poulees et pullettz, poucyns, musserons, estornelx, roitelx, pestiez en grande paste.

Et a la second cours ils lui serviront dez chapons rostez et dez ouez graas, oyselons^{lix} et auxi dez ans, anattz, madlardez de river, cignes, heirons, coverlons, grues, bitors, plovers, perdris, grivez, quaillez, colombes, pugions, mavis, alloues, rassinolez, chardons, feusantz, videocok, chalaundres, verders, mosengez, musengez, begasez, blaretz, chardurolez, arundeez, oues rosers, cicoignez, pouns, et de toutz autrez oseux savage et domastez que l'en poet avoir, forspris lez oseux ravenous que ne sont pas tresbons a mangere com agas, kaves, cornails, corbels, frus, salamandre, hulotz, vel: huetz, soris chaux, escouffles, sprevers, cercelers, faucons et esgles.

Et puis après ils lui serviront de furmage, poires, pomez, cerices, et noes.

And then the valet goes to the forge with the horses and does his lord's bidding. And when he returns from the forge, the lord will say to him thus:

- Janyyn, have you done it?
- Yes, truly, my lord. Or thus:¹⁵⁴ Yes, my lord, exactly as you said. Or thus: Yes, sir, by your leave, certainly I have done it.
- Now go immediately and give them hay, oats, and bread, because as soon as I've eaten, I'll ride out to Paris,¹⁵⁵ and it may be that I will not return for a considerable time since I have a lot to do there.¹⁵⁶

4.2. The good-bye meal

- Guilliam,¹⁵⁷ where are you?
- My lord, I am here.
- Go immediately to the kitchen and ask the chef, or: the cook,¹⁵⁸ if the food is ready yet.

Then he goes to the kitchen to look and ensure that everything is ready. And in the meantime,¹⁵⁹ the lord will take his seat after washing his hands. Then his squires and valets will serve him much good food, but first of all the salt cellars, spoons and long, sharp knives and the trenchers will be brought to the table,¹⁶⁰ and afterwards the bread and the wine and also the ale, if there is any.

Then for the first course they will serve him with rich soups made with good herbs and with spiced gruel if it is summer, and if it is winter, with cabbages, leeks, or other good greens with bacon or alternatively, game.

And then they will serve him red meat such as beef, mutton, pork, and veal, and then hens, chickens and pullets, chicks, sparrows, starlings, and wrens baked into great pasties.

And for the second course they will serve him roast capons and fat geese, game birds, and also drakes, ducks, river mallards, swans, herons, curlews, cranes, bitterns, plovers, partridges, thrushes, quails, doves, pigeons, song-thrushes, larks, nightingales, linnets, pheasants, woodcock, calanders, robins, tits, snipes, coots, goldfinches, swallows, wild geese, storks, peacocks, and all the other wild and domestic birds that can be had, except the birds of prey, which are not good to eat, such as magpies, choughs, crows, ravens, rooks, lizards, owls, bats, kites, sparrowhawks, teals, hawks, and eagles.¹⁶¹

And afterwards they will serve him cheese, pears, apples, cherries, and nuts.

[4.3. On the road; asking the way and the time]

Fait le seigneur [fol.71r] après qu'il avra assés mangé:

– Oustez la table tost et alons a chival. Et Janyn, va seller Morel, mon chival, mez gardez vous bien de lui q'il ne vous morde point. Et après l'amesnez devant le huis de la sale, qar le^{lx} je monterai a chival.

Après vient le seigneur et se monte a chival et, quant il este montee, il s'en chivache sur son chymyn et dit:

– Vraiment, mez amys, je ne fu meulx montez et arraiez cez trois anz passés que je ne su a present, Dieu merci!

Et quant il vendra al but de la ville, il demandra le chymyne a une putevile tout ainsi:

– Ma commere, q'est le droit chymyn vers Parys?

– Mon seigneur, je vous dirrai. Vous chivacherés tout droit par cest chymyn tanque vous venez a la crois du pere que n'est mye la quarter d'une leuge deci. Et un petit d'illeoques vous troverés une voillet que s'en va tout droit vers l'orient; si larrez la voillet et tenerés toudis le haut chymyn tanque vous venez a un valey. Et donques vous troverés au valey une crois de fust; si larrez la crois [a] la maine droit,^{lxi} ou: dextre, et avrez le chymyn a la maine sinestre. Et puis vous troverrés bien une leuge de la un grant bois ou il i a grant cope deux^{lxii} larons, sicom l'en dit. Et pur ce, mon seigneur, gaitez vous bien d'eux, qar ils font beaucope de maulx, a ce que l'em dit. Et après que vous serrez passé le bois, vous en avrez vostre haut chymyn devers Parys tout droit devant vous, si que vous ne purrez ja forvoir sinon que vous vuilliez.

– Ore, beale dame, me ditez vous quantbien a il sonee de l' [fol.71v] [oriloge] com vous pensez? Vel sic: Qu'est ce qu'a sonee del oriloge?^{lxiii}

– Vraiment, mon seigneur, je pense bien q'il a sonee unze, qar il i a bien une heure passé depuis q'il sona dis.

Donques dit le seigneur ainsi:

– Ore, ma commere, me ditez vous, quantbien i a deci a Parys?

– Vrayment, mon seigneur, il n'y a que dys leugez bien petitz.

– Purrai je y estre unquore anoet?

– Oil verament, mon seigneur, bien a ease.

Donques dit le seigneur:

– Ma commere, a Dieu vous comande. Vel sic: Alez a Dieu. Vel sic: A Dieu soiez. Vel sic: Dieu soit garde de vous.

– Mon seigneur, je pri a Dieu q'il vous donoit^{lxiv} bon encountre et vous garde benurément dez toutz adversiteez.

4.3. On the road; asking the way and the time

The lord says, after he has had enough to eat:

- Take away the table immediately and let us go to our horses. And Janyn, saddle Morel, my horse, but be careful that he does not bite you. And afterwards, bring him before the hall door, for there I'll mount my horse.

Afterwards the lord comes and mounts his horse and, when he's mounted, he rides out on his way and says:

- Truly, my friends, I haven't been better mounted and kitted out in these three years past than I am now, thank God!

And when he comes to the end of the town, he'll ask the way from a cheap slut¹⁶² thus:

- My good woman, which is the right way to Paris?¹⁶³
- My lord, I'll tell you. You'll ride straight down this road until you come to the stone cross which isn't a quarter of a league from here. And a little way from there you'll find a path that goes directly eastward; then you'll leave the path and stay on the high way until you come to a valley. And there in the valley you'll find a wooden cross; then you'll leave the cross on your right hand,¹⁶⁴ keeping the route on your left. And then you'll find a league from there a great wood where there are many thieves, so people say. And for that reason, my lord, look out for them, because they do much harm, judging from what people say. And after passing through the wood, you'll have the high way to Paris right in front of you, so you won't be able to go off track unless you wish to.
- Now, good woman, tell me: how many times has the clock struck, do you think? Or thus: What time did the clock strike?
- Truly, my lord, I think that it struck eleven, for it's a good hour past since it struck ten.

Then the lord says thus:

- Now, good woman, tell me, how far is it from here to Paris?
- Truly, my lord, it's just a short ten leagues.
- Will I make it there by nightfall?
- Yes, truly, my lord, most easily.

Then the lord says:

- My good woman, I commend you to God. Or thus: Adieu. Or thus: Be with God. Or thus: May God keep you.
- My lord, I pray to God that he send good your way and keeps you blessedly from all adversities.

[4.4. A love song]

Lors le seignour chivache sur son chymyne et comence a chanter la plus graciouce et la plus amerous chaunçon que poet estre en tout le monde tout ainsi:

Tresdoux regarde amerusement trait
 Tant de douçour fra mon coer entrer,
 Quant lez miens oilx te poent y acountrer,
 Que tout mon sank me fuit et vers toy trait.
 Et tant me plest ton gracios attrait
 Que te veoir je ne me puisse sasuler.
 Je t'ai purtant en mon coer portrait
 Qu'autre pensee ne t'en purroit ouster,
 Et tiel pleisir fait dedeins moi entier^{lxv}
 Que jammés jour tu n'en serras retraits.

[4.5. Janyn at the inn]

Donques dit le seignour:

- Quele heure est il maintenant?
- Deux heurez après mydy.
- Donques il serra bien pres noet avant que nous serrons arrivez a Parys.
- Mon seignour, vous y vendrés bien par temps, s'il Dieu plest.
- Janyn!
- Mon seignour, que vous plest il?
- Va devant et preignez [fol.72r] nostre hostel par temps.
- Si frai je, moun seignour.

Donques Janyn s'en chivache si fort galopant que c'est merveille, tanque il serra a Parys. Puis il vient a un hostel et dist ainsi:

- Hostiler, hostiler!

Et l'autre lui respount a darrains tout dedeignusement ainsi:

- Qu'est la?
- Amys!

Donques vient l'ostiler et overt la port, et dist:

- Hé, Janyn, estez vous la?
- Oil dea, ne me poes tu veier? Quoi ne m'as tu, paillart, respondu a la primer parole que je t'appelloi? Vel sic: Quoi ne me respondez vous a primer foiz que je hurtai a port? Je pri a Dieu que il te poet mescheoir de cors, quar tu m'as fait longtens ici attendre et targer, et tu sais bien q'il ne fuit si grant froid cest anee com il fait a present, quar il negee, gresille, et gelee si fort qe l'eue est si fort et espesse gelee com la laeure de mon pee, pur quoi je sai bien que la glaas du gelee ne se degelera en grant piece. Et pur ce overes la port tost et lesse moi entrer ciens, ou autrement je depesserai trestout, par la foi que je doi a Dieu, me croiez se tu vuis.

4.4. A love song

Then the lord rides on his way and starts to sing the most gracious and amorous song that might be in all the world thus:

Sweet look, lovingly drawn,¹⁶⁵
 You will make so much sweetness enter my heart
 When my eyes can meet you there,
 That all my blood flees me and draws towards you.
 And your gracious allure pleases me so much
 That I cannot tire of seeing you.
 Therefore I have portrayed you in my heart
 So that no other thought might remove you thence,
 And it causes such pleasure within my entire being
 That the day will never come when you'll be withdrawn from it.

4.5. Janyn at the inn

Then says the lord:

- What hour is it now?
- Two hours after midday.
- Then it will be almost night before we arrive at Paris.¹⁶⁶
- My lord, you'll get there in good time, God willing.
- Janyn!
- My lord, what is your desire?
- Go ahead and take our lodging in good time.
- I shall, my lord.

Then Janyn goes off on his horse galloping so fast that it's a marvel, until he reaches Paris. Then he arrives at an inn and says thus:

- Innkeeper, innkeeper!

And the other at last replies scornfully thus:

- Who's there?
- A friend!

Then the innkeeper comes and opens the door, and says:

- Hey, Janyn, is that you?
- Yes, indeed, can't you see me? Why didn't you reply the first time I called you, you scumbag? Or thus: Why didn't you answer the first time that I knocked at the door?¹⁶⁷ I pray to God that some misfortune befall your body, for you've made me wait and tarry here so long, and you know well that there's not been such a terrible chill this year as there is now, for it's snowing, hailing, and freezing so hard that the water's frozen hard and thick a foot deep, by which I can tell that the ice of this freeze won't thaw for ages. And so open the door immediately and let me in there, or otherwise I'll smash it to pieces, by the faith that I owe to God, believe you me.

- Hé, beau sir, ne vous coruscé point, qar vraiment se j'eusse scieu que vous eussez esté ci, je vous eusse venu a primer fois que vous hurtastez a port. Et pur ce ne vous displese, mon tresdoux amy, qar je l'amendray bien a point, ainsi que vous agreerez, se Dieu plest.
- Ore me ditez vous, hostiler, avez vous de bon hostilerie ciens?
- Oil vraiment, beau sir, et bon et honest assez pur le roy, se luy plest estre loggez ciens. Ore venez en, mon amy, et je vous moustray tantost la plus honest chambre que vous veistez unqes jour de vostre vie.

Puis prent l'ostiler la clief de huis [fol. 72v] de la chambre et overt le huis et dit ainsi:

- Ore gardés et esgardés tout entour a l'apparaille de ce chambre. Coment vous est avys?
- Vrament, sir, il m'est avys q'il est tresbien appareillé et bien a mon guyse. Et auxi un autre chose me plest bien: que la chambre est si bien et honestment curraié dez balaiez et nettoié dez pouciez et dez puretteez et ordures. Qar je pense bien qu'il n'y a point dez pouciez ne dez poillez.
- Nonil, vraiment, beau sir, qar je me face fort que vous serrez bien et esément loggez ciens, savant ce q'il i a beaucupe dez soryz et dez ras. Mes de cela ne vous chaille, qar j'en ay tresbien ordeigné a point de lez prendre dez laz, reyz, et lienz que je fiz pieça de mon sutil engyn, combien que je ne le die pas pur nulle bobance. Janyn, vendra mon seignour unqore anoet pur se logger ciens? Vel sic: Serra mon seignour ce noet ci a gist?
- Oil vrament, beau sir, mes je su bien esbais pur tant que demurt si longement, qar al tens que m'en parti de luy, il n'estoit plus loignes que quatre legus^{lxvi} deci.
- Et savez vous bien donques qu'il vendra anut sanz fail?
- Oil, si Dieu m'eide.
- De par Deux donques, il serra tresbien venuz.

[4.6. At the market; fish]

- Ore, hostiler, il me faut aler au marché pur acheter pesçone fresk et saley s'il en i a point, pur le soper de mon seignour.
- Hé, mon amy, je su certain que vous ne veistez unqes jour de vostre vie si grant plentee de pesçon fresk si bien de maer com de le river com il en a present, qar verrament vous y troverez de tout maner de pesçon a vendre auxi bien de l'un com de l'autre, [fol. 73r] c'est assavoir harank sor et blanc, leyng, codlyng, troit, grelet, samone, carpes, bremes, whytyng, makerels, luces, brochelers, pikerels, anguilles, lamprons, lampreis, merlynge, esperlyng et menus, roches, perches, gernons, plays, barbels, pesçon salei, estorgeon, rayes, espineis, turbiller, espelankes, carboletz, platone, mulet, muleuel, breem de maer, gojone, tendale, geleis, tauntpe^{lxvii}, oistrees, mules, crivys et crabbes, cokkez, le broch – id est: le chien de maer –, le pourpeys, dolfyn et la baleyne et beaucupe dez autrez pesçonz que fort serront trestout maner.^{lxviii}
- Et hostiler, je te pri cherment que tu vuïs couper du bois et me faites un bon feu encountre ma revenue, qar il fait grant froid a huy. Et que tu fendes toutz cez bussches que gissent ici, et quant ils serront fenduz, que vous lez bouttés au feu ovesque cez tisons estaintz ici.

– Well, good sir, don't get angry, for truly if I'd known that you were here, I would have come the first time that you knocked on the door. And so don't be displeased, my sweet friend, for I'll make it all good, so that you're satisfied, God willing.

– Now tell me, innkeeper, do you have good facilities in here?

– Yes, truly, good sir, both good and fine enough for the king, should he wish to be lodged here. Now come along, my friend, and I'll show you immediately the finest room that you ever saw any day of your life.

Then the innkeeper takes the key to the door of the room and opens the door, and says thus:

– Now take a good look around the fittings in this room. What do you think?

– Truly, sir, I think it's very well appointed and thoroughly to my liking. And there's also another thing that I like: that the room is so well and finely swept and cleaned of dust, grime, and dirt. Indeed, I think there's not a speck of dusk or a hair in here.

– No indeed, truly, good sir! I guarantee that you'll be handsomely and comfortably lodged here, except that there are lots of mice and rats. But don't worry about that, because I've organized an excellent means of trapping them in snares, nets, and lines that I made some time ago using my own subtle contrivance, and I'm not just saying that to boast.¹⁶⁸ Janyn, will my lord come to take his lodging here before nightfall? Or thus: Will my lord stay here tonight?

– Yes, indeed, good sir, but I'm surprised that he's taking so long, for when I left him he wasn't further than four leagues from here.

– And are you sure that he'll be here by nightfall without fail?

– Yes, God help me.

– By God then, he'll be most welcome.

4.6. At the market; fish

– Now, innkeeper, I have to go to market to buy fresh- and saltwater fish, if there are any, for my lord's supper.

– Well, my friend, I am certain that you have never seen on any day in your life such great plenty of fresh fish, both of the sea and of the river, as there are there, for truly you will find there all kinds of fish for sale both of one kind and of the other, that is to say smoked and unsmoked herring, ling, codling, trout, grayling, salmon, carp, bream, whiting, mackerels, lucas, pikes, young pikes, eels, lamperns, lampreys, merlan, sparling and flatfish, roaches, perches, tenches, plaices, barbels, salted fish, sturgeon, rays, sticklebacks, turbot, smelts, coal-fish, sole, mullet, milwell, sea bream, gudgeon, tendal, jelly-fish, prawns, oysters, mussels, whelks and crabs, cockles, seal – that is, the seadog – the porpoise, dolphin and the whale and many other fish, so that it will be hard to manage them all.¹⁶⁹

– And innkeeper, I beg you kindly to cut wood and make me a good fire for my return, for it is very cold today. And let all these logs lying here be split, and once they're split, let them be thrown in the fire with these old fire-brands.

Adonques Janyn s'en va a marchee, et quant il serra venu la, il demande d'un pesçoner ainsi:

- Mon amy, avez vous de bon samon et dez lucez a vendre?
- Oil verament, auxi bons et beaux come vous troverés en tout la marchee.
- Ore moustrés lé moi donques.

Lors dit Janyn:

- Verament, cez sont bons et beaux. Mon amy, que me costra cez deux lucez et le samon? Vel sic: Que paierai pur cez deux lucez? Vel sic: Que vous durrai je pur ceci?
- Verament, sir, vous me durrez pur cez deux lucez et le samon deux marcz.
- Nonil da, mon amy, il est trope chere.^{lxix}
- Je vous dirrai un mot: pur tout **[fol. 73v]** vous me durrez .xx. sols, ou autrement vous ne lez avrez mye.
- Baillez ça donques et veiez ci vostre argent, et a Dieu vous comande.
- Beau sir, Dieu vous doint bone sanité et paix.

Adonques Janyn s'en va a l'ostel ov le pesçon et l'a baillé al cusynner pur l'aparailler et cuyer encontre la venu du seignour.

[4.7. Evening at the inn; a story]

Et tost après est le seignour venu a soun hostelle. Donques il descent de son chival et entre sa chambre et puis dit il a son botiller:

- Aportez a nous un foitz a boire du vin claret, quar si Dieu m'eide, j'en ay grant soyff et auxi grant faym ovesques. Et Janyn, metté la table tost, quar il est haut temps d'aler soper. Et puis après alés a la dame de ciens et ditez lui que je lui pri pur venir souper ovesque nous.

Donques le seignour soi regarde tout environ et dit ainsi:

- Que da! Enquors est la table a mettre! Male semaigne soit vous mys, quar vous ne faites que songer et muser! Mettés la table tost, quar il est oet de l'oriloge, et va pur la dame de ciens!

Puis Janyn s'en va pur la dame et lui dit:

- Madame, mon seignour vous pria pur venir souper oveque lui.
- Voluntrés, beau sir, a son tresgentele commandement.

Et puis va la dame de l'hostel oveques le vadlet devers la chambre du seignour, et quant ele serra entré la chambre, ele dirra au seignour tout ainsi:

- Mon seignour, Dieu vous benoit et la compaignie.
- Si Dieu m'eide, ma tresdouce **[fol. 74r]** amye, vous estes tresbien venuz ciens. Verament, m'amy, il y a grant piece passé puis que je ne vous vei.

Then Janyn goes to the market, and once he's arrived there, he asks a fishmonger thus:

- My friend, do you have any good salmon and pike to sell?
- Yes indeed, as good and fine as you'll find in all the market.
- So show them to me, then.

Then Janyn says:

- Truly they are good and fine. My friend, what will these two pikes and the salmon cost me? Or thus: What will I pay for these two pikes? Or thus: What will I owe you for this?
- Truly, sir, for these two pikes and the salmon you'll owe me two marks.¹⁷⁰
- Indeed I won't, my friend, for that's too dear.
- I'll tell you what: for the lot you'll owe me twenty sols or otherwise you'll not have them at all.
- Give it here then and here's your money, and I commend you to God.
- Good sir, may God give you good health and peace.

Then Janyn goes to the inn with the fish and gives it to the cook to prepare and cook for the arrival of the lord.

4.7. Evening at the inn; a story

And immediately afterwards the lord has arrived at his inn. Then he gets off his horse and enters his room and says to his butler:

- Bring us some claret wine to drink straight away, for, God help me, I'm very thirsty for it, and hungry with it too. And Janyn, set the table immediately, because it is high time to go to supper. And then afterwards go to the lady of the house and tell her that I beg her to come to supper with us.

Then the lord looks around and says thus:

- What's this? The table is still to be set! A curse on you,¹⁷¹ for you only stare and dream! Set the table immediately, for it's eight o'clock, and go for the lady of the house!

Then Janyn goes for the lady and says to her:

- Madam, my lord has begged you to come to supper with him.
- Gladly, good sir, at his kind command.

And then the lady of the inn goes with the valet to the lord's room and once she's entered the room she will say to the lord thus:

- My lord, God bless you and this company.
- God help me, my sweet friend, you are very welcome here. Truly, my friend, I haven't seen you for a long time.

- Mays par m'anme, mon seignour, vous ditez veire.
- Par vostre foy, coment vous est il a jour de hui?
- Tresbien, mon seignour, Dieu mercy et melx pur vous.
- Si Dieu m'eide, m'amy, j'en ay grant joie. Ore, m'amy, venez vous en, quar vous serrez ici devant moy en un chaier.^{lxx} Par Dieu, si frés.
- Vostre merci, mon seignour.

Donques ils serront serviez a souper de mult bon viande. Et le seignour dit a la dame ainsi:

- Que chiere faitez vous?
- Mon seignour, tresbon chiere, Dieu merci. Et la vostre?
- Quoi ne mangés vous donques?
- Si fais je, mon seignour, vostre merci.
- Ore il parra.

Et tost après souper le seignour et la dame de l'hostel s'en irront pres de feu. Donques dit le seignour:

- Je vous empri, m'amy, q'il ne vous desplest point de la counte que je vous counterai maintenant, quar verament je ne vous dirrai point de mensonge. Verament, m'amy, il est le plus meilour counte que j'oy unques mais jour de ma vie.
- Ore, mon seignour, je l'orray tresvoluntrés a vostre comaundement, de par Dieux.

- Donques je le vous dirrai. Jadys i avoit en Burgoyne une dame bone, gentele, et sage que passoit toutz lez autres dames de cel pays la auxi bien de bealté com de bontee. Et cele dame avoit un baron que fuist mult bon chivaler et vaillant. Auxi il avoit un escuier demurrant en lour hostel que fuist bien joliet au coer et estoit auxi homme de mult bon façon et beaux et si bien et gentilment entaillé de corps que ce fuist merveilles.

Et si avient un jour que cil escuier, sicom il regardoit sur la dame de l'hostel, que le corps et le coer luy furent trestout enravoiez pur la [fol. 74v] grant bracier d'amour q'il en out devers la dame. En tant ne savoit que dire ne que faire, si endura de jour en autre tresgrandez paines et dolours. Puis il pensa bien que son amour ne poet estre aperceu, et suffrist tant de tristicie et dolour au cuer que nut ne jour ne pouoit mye dormir. Si fuist il naufrés trop pitousement de la lance d'amour bien après a la mort.

Si avient a darrainz que l'escuier s'en ala parler a la dame tout en secret, ainsi lui disant: "Ma tresgentele, tresamyable et tressoveraine dame," fist il, "je vous empri tresentierment de cuer q'il ne vous desplese de ce que je vous dirrai maintenant." "De par Dieu," fist ele, "me ditez vous tout quanque vous vuillez, et je n'en parlerai ja jour de ma vie, ne vous sourciez."

"Ore, dame," fist il, "mes que vous ne displese, je su si dolourosement naufré au coer de l'ardant amour que pieça j'ay eu et enqore ay devers vous que je ne puisse pas longement endurer ne vivre sanz consolacion de vostre tresgraciouce persone. Pur quoi, ma tresdouce dame," fist il, "eiez pitee de ma dolour ou autrement vous serrez cause de ma mort."

- But by my soul, my lord, you speak truly.
- By your faith, how are you today?
- Very well, my lord, thank God, and better for seeing you.
- God help me, my friend, that gives me great joy. Now, my friend, come closer: sit here before me in a chair. By God, you shall.¹⁷²
- Thank you, my lord.

Then they will be served supper with much good food. And the lord says to the lady thus:

- How are you?
- My lord, very well, thank God. And you?
- Why aren't you eating then?
- But I am, my lord, thank you.
- Well, we'll see about that.

And immediately after supper, the lord and the lady of the inn will go to the fireside. Then the lord says:

- I beg you, my friend, not to be displeased by the story that I will tell you now, for truly I won't tell you a lie. Truly, my friend, it is the very best story that I ever heard any day of my life.
- Now, my lord, I'll gladly listen as you bid, by God.

- Then I'll tell it you.¹⁷³ Once there was in Burgundy¹⁷⁴ a good, noble, and wise lady who surpassed all the other women of that country both in beauty and in goodness. And that woman had a lord who was a very good and valiant knight. Also there was a squire living in their household who was merry-hearted and was also a very good-looking and handsome man, and he cut such a fine and noble figure that it was a marvel.

And it happened one day that this squire, when he was looking at the lady of the house, was totally ravished¹⁷⁵ body and heart by the great ardour of the love that he had for the lady—so much so that he didn't know what to say or do and so endured great hardships and pains from one day to the next. Then he thought that his love might not be noticed, and he suffered so from sadness and heartache that night and day he couldn't sleep a wink. Thus he was wounded too pitifully by love's lance and almost approaching his death.

Then it came to pass finally that the squire went to speak to the lady in private, saying to her thus:¹⁷⁶ "My most gentle, most pleasant, and most sovereign lady," he said, "I beg you with my whole heart not to be displeased by what I will tell you now." "By God," she said, "tell me all that you wish, and I will not ever speak of it as long as I live, don't you worry."

"Now, lady," he said, "although it might displease you, I am so painfully wounded in my heart by the burning love that long ago I had and still have for you, so that I may not last long or live without the consolation of your gracious person. Therefore, my most sweet lady," he said, "have pity on my pain or otherwise you will be the cause of my death."

Donques dit la dame: “Est ce voire que vous en avez tant d’amour envers moy com vous ditez?” “Par mon surment,” fist il, “beale, tresdouce dame, si est.” “Ore,” fist ele, “je vous ottoire m’amour. Mais pur acompler vostre desire plus privément, je vous dirrai coment vous frez. Vous savez bien que mon seignour se purpose de chivacher hors de la ville demain après manger. Et pur ce alés et demandés maintenant congé de luy pur aler a vous amys que demurrant^{lxxi} en ce pais yci pur certeinz bosoignez que vous en avez a faire. Et quant vous l’avrez fait, pur lui deceiver plus sutilment, je vous conseile que vous en alez sur vostre chymyn. [fol.75r] Mais demain a nut, quant il serra grant oscurtee, retournez si privément com vous purrez, et venez a ma chambre par le huis du chardyn un poi devant mynut pur coucher ovesque moi.”

Lors dist l’escuier: “Ma tresgentele dame, je vous remercie souverainement de cuer de vostre amour et curtaise.”^{lxxii}

Et puis après, quant l’escuier avoit congee de son seignour pur aler a sez amis, si s’en ala bien matyn a l’ajournant. Et après manger, le seignour comanda sez vadletz de seller les chivalx pur chivacher hors de la ville. Donques vient la dame de l’hostel a son seignour et lui dit ainsi: “Mon seignour,” fist ele, “vous ne civacherez hors de ciens maishuy, se vous plest, qar il [est] de[j]a bien pres de noet,^{lxxiii} et pur ce je vous consele d’arester ceste journee et alez vous demain.”

“Dame,” il fist, “je le vuil bien.”

Si avenoit, après qe le seignour et la dame avoient soupez, ils s’en aleront coucher ensemble. Lors vient l’escuier a mynut tout privément a lour chambre, sicom la dame lui avoit enseigné, et ne quidoit mye que le seignour estoit couché ovesques la dame. Et quant il fuist venu a coustee du lit l’ou la dame coucha, la dame lui prist par la mayne, ainsi lui disant en son orail: “Ne sonez vous mot,” fist ele, “pur nulle chose de monde, mais escottez vous bien a ce que je vous dirrai.”

Donqs la dame se turna vers son seignour pur lui eveiller, et quant il fuist eveillé, la dame lui dit ainsi: “Mon seignour,” fist ele, “il i a un escuier demurrant en vostre court, cil qui demanda congé de vous heir soir, qi m’a parlé et requys d’amour pur coucher ovesque moi. Et se vous ne croiez mye, levez sus tost et vestez vous en ma robe, et appareillez vous en manere et guyse de moi et alez vous a verger et l’attendez un poi, et vous veiez maintenant coment il vendra de m’enravoir.”

Donques le seignour ce comenci^{lxxiv} pur estre [fol. 75v] marri et dit: “Que da, est ce voire que tu dis?” “Verament, mon seignour,” fist ele, “si est.”

Lors le seignour se leva tost bien vigorusment come un homme forsennez et soi vestoit com la dame lui avoit apris. Et puis s’en leva^{lxxv} tresfort current vers le verger, de prover ce que la dame lui avoit dit.

Donques dit la dame a l’escuier tout ainsi: “Mon amy,” fist ele, “n’avez vous point talent pur vous esbatre ovesque moi?” “Par mon surement, ma tresdouce dame,” fist il, “je su si disconfiz et pauereux au coer que n’ay je plus d’appetit ne voluntee pur esbatre ovesque vous que un petit enfaunt que n’entent point de male.”

Then said the lady: "Is it true that you have so much love for me as you say?" "On my oath," he said, "beautiful, most sweet lady, it's true." "Then," she said, "I grant you my love.¹⁷⁷ But to fulfil your desire more discreetly, I will tell you what you shall do. You know that my lord purposes to ride out of town tomorrow after dining. So go now and ask him leave to go to your friends who reside nearby in the country on account of certain affairs that you have to see to. And when you've done that, to deceive him more subtly, I recommend that you go on your way. But tomorrow at night, when it's completely dark, return as discreetly as you can, and come to my room by the garden gate a little before midnight to lie with me.

Then the squire said: "My most noble lady, I thank you supremely from my heart for your love and courtesy."

And then afterwards, when the squire had obtained leave from his lord to go to his friends, he left early in the morning at dawn. And after eating, the lord ordered his valets to saddle the horses to ride out of town. Then the lady of the house comes to her lord and says thus:¹⁷⁸ "My lord," she said, "don't ride out of here right now, please, for it is already almost night, and so I advise you to stay today and go tomorrow."

"Lady," he said, "I will."

So it happened. After the lord and the lady had supped, they went to bed together. Then the squire comes at midnight very discreetly to their chamber, just as the lady had instructed him to, and he had no idea that the lord was lying with the lady. And when he arrived at the edge of the bed where the lady was lying, the lady took him by the hand, saying thus to him in his ear: "Don't say a word," she said, "for anything in the world, but listen well to what I am about to tell you."

Then the lady turned to the lord to wake him, and when he was awake, the lady said to him thus: "My lord," she said, "there is a squire residing in your court—the one who asked your leave yesterday evening—who has spoken to me and requested on account of his love to sleep with me. And if you don't believe me, get up right now, put on my dress, and deck yourself as me, and go to the orchard and wait there a little, and you will see immediately how he will come to ravish me."¹⁷⁹

Then the lord began to grow angry and said: "What indeed! Is it true what you say?" "Truly, my lord," she said, "it is."

Then the lord started up energetically like a man gone mad and got dressed as the lady had instructed him. And then he took off running to the orchard to test what the lady had told him.

Then the lady said to the squire thus: "My friend," she said, "do you have any wish to play with me?" "On my oath, my sweet lady," he said, "I am so distressed and scared at heart that I have no more appetite or desire to play with you than a little child who knows no malice."¹⁸⁰

“Ore,” fist ele, “faitez vous un chose que je vous dirrai, et vous en avrez m’amour as toutz jours mais, devant toutz autrez de monde sanz faire changement.” “Par Nostre Dame de Bologne,” fist il, “je le frai tresvoluntrés, se je purrai.” “Maintenant,” fist ele, “prennés un bon bastone et alez au verger et la, vous trouverez mon seignour arraié en manere et guyse de moy, et batez lui bien et donez lui dez bons horrions sur le dos, ainsi lui disant: ‘Va t’en a ton lit, maveise putaigne que tu es, va t’en de par deable et de par sa mere ové tout, ou autrement je toi rumberai le colle devant que tu bougeras deci.’ Quar verament,” fist ele, “se vous faitez ainsi, il n’avra unques mais après male suspeccione de nous, et en tiele manere nous purrons faire tout nostre desir en tens a venir et privément sanz escient de lui ou d’ascun autre.” “Si Dieu m’eide, ma tresgracieuse dame,” fist il, “je m’en irrai voluntrés pur vostre comandement acompler.”

Et quant il fuist venu a verger, il regardoit le seignour com le grant deable, lui donant dez horions tresbien asiz, sicome la dame lui avoit comandé, ainsi lui parlant com il fuist apris par [fol.76r] devant. Et tost après, le seignour se courra bien ignelment a sa chambre.

Et puis dit le seignour a la dame ainsi: “Dame,” fist il, “cil escuier de quoi vous m’en parlastez m’a tresmal batu, quar il quidoit que vous y fustez. Pur quoi je sçai bien q’il est bien loialx a vous. Et pur ce je vous fray tresbien acorder, quar ce q’il a fait, il ne fist que soulement pur vous attempter.”

“Ore, mon seignour, je le fray a vostre comandement.” Et puis après la dame et l’escuier avoient toutdis lour voluntees d’esbatement et desduyt, sans escient de nully. Et en tiel manere le seignour fust deceu par coyntise d’une femme, qar pur la greynour partye toutz lez femmez de monde sont plains de maveistee et tresone.

Et pur ce le sage Salemon dit en Livre de Sapience q’il n’y a malice en tout le monde que surmonte la malice de maveise feme. Dont je pri a Dieu que vous vuilez bien garder d’eaux. Amen.

- Ore, ma tresdouce amye, coment vous est avys de ceste tresnoble counte que je vous ay countee maintenant?
- Verament, mon tresdouce seignour, mais q’il ne vous displese, il est le pesyne^{lxvii} counte que j’oy unques mez dez femmez. Je pense bien q’il n’avenoit point ainsy com vous avez dit.
- Par seint Jakes, m’amy, si fist il.
- Toutezvoiez, vraiment, ne vous displese, je ne puisse le croier que ascune femme vorroit faire tiel tresone a son seignour.
- De par Dieu donques, ne parlons de la matere. Jany, que faitez vous?
- Mon seignour, se vous plest, je songe.
- Reveille toy, de par de deable^{lxviii} et de par sa miere ové tout, ou autrement je toy dorray un tiel sufflet que tu penseras de moy deci as quatre jours, me croies se tu vuis.
- Hé, mon seignour, pur Dieu, ne vous displese, je su tout prest a vostre comandement.
- Ore [fol. 76v] va nous traire a boire du meillour vin ciens. Si tost que j’ay bu, je m’en irray coucher.

“Now,” she said, “do one thing that I tell you and you’ll have my love for ever more, before all others without wavering.” “By Our Lady of Boulogne,” he said, “I’ll do it most willingly, if I can.” “Right now,” she said, “take a good stick and go to the orchard and there you’ll find my lord decked out like me, and beat him well and give him some good blows on his back, saying to him thus: ‘Go back to your bed, evil whore that you are! Get out of here, by the devil and his mother and all the rest! Or otherwise I’ll break your neck before you budge from here!’ For truly,” she said, “if you do thus, he won’t ever again suspect us, and in this way we’ll be able to do whatever we want in the future privately without him or anyone else knowing.” “God help me, my most gracious lady,” he said, “I’ll gladly go to carry out your command.”

And when he came to the orchard, he looked at the lord like the devil himself and gave him some well-placed blows, just as the lady had ordered him, speaking to him as he had been instructed to beforehand. And soon after, the lord ran back to his bedroom in haste.

And then the lord said to his lady thus: “Lady,” he said, “that squire you spoke to me about has beaten me terribly because he thought that you were there. So I know that he’s loyal to you. And so I’ll be certain to make peace between the two of you, because what he did he did only to tempt you.

“Now, my lord, I’ll do as you command.” And then afterwards the lady and the squire always had their amusement and pleasure as they wished without anyone finding out. And in such a fashion the lord was deceived by the trickery of a lady, for all the women of the world are for the greater part full of malice and treason.

And that’s why the wise Solomon says in the Book of Wisdom that there is no evil in all the world that surpasses the evil of an evil woman. So I pray to God that you might be kept from them. Amen.¹⁸¹

- Now, my sweet friend, what do you make of this noble tale that I have just told you?
- Truly, my sweet lord, I hope that this will not displease you, but it’s the worst tale I’ve ever heard of women. I think it didn’t fall out as you said.
- By saint James, my friend, it did, he said.
- Nevertheless, truly, saving your displeasure, I cannot believe that any woman would commit such treason against her lord.
- By God then, let’s not talk of the matter. Janyn, what are you doing?
- My lord, if it pleases you, I’m dozing.
- Wake up, by the devil and his mother and all the rest!¹⁸² Or otherwise I’ll give you such a blow that you’ll be thinking of me four days from now, believe you me.
- Well, my lord, by God, don’t get angry, I’m ready at your command.
- Now, go to draw us some of the best wine of the house to drink. As soon as I have drunk, I’ll go to bed.

Et puis Janyn aporte de tresbon vyn a son seignour, et le seignour dit a la dame de l'hostel:

- Dame, prenez vostre hanap et comencés.
- Mon seignour, s'il vous pleast, non fray devant vous.
- Par Dieu, si frez.
- Vostre merci, mon seignour.

Et puis après la dame prent congé du seignour pur tout la noet ainsi:

- Mon seignour, je me recomande a vous et eprⁱ^{lxviii} a Dieu qu'il vous doint bone nut et bon repos.
- M'amy, bone noet vous doint Dieux.

Et se vous vuilez [tr]umper^{lxix} ascun, vous dirrez ainsi:

Dieu vous doint bone nut et bon repos
Et beau lit et vous dehors.

Vel sic:

Dieu vous doint bone noet et auxi bon repos,
Que vous n'aiez maishuy le cuil clos.

[5. The digger and the gardener]

Une manere du parler dez labourers et overurs des mestiers. Dit le closier d'un gardin a un fosseour qi foue lez terres ou les fosses in ceste manere:

- Mon amy, par ta foy, qu'as tu gaigné ceste sepmaigne?
- Par mon serement, j'en ay gaigné toute ceste sepmaigne pur fouir les terres et faire des fosses bien parfons que .xii. deniers et mes despenses.
- Par la mort du Dieu, c'est bien petit.
- Ore me dites, beau sir, qu'avés vous gaigné?
- Volentiers, mon gentil compaignone. J'ay enté toutz les arbres de mon gardeyn des les plus beals entes que j'ay vieu pieça et ore ils comencent^{lxxx} a reverdir, et auxi j'ay foué un autre gardein et je l'ay tresbien a point planté des cheux, porré, perselé, et sauge, et dez autres vertouse herbes. Et plus unquore je l'ay esraché et essarté toutz lez ortites putes et les mavaisses herbes, et tresbien semé de beaucope [fol. 77r] des bons semailles ou grains. Et j'en ay la auxi beaucope dez beals arbres portauns des divers fruis come des pomes, pors, prunes, et cherises et noes, et je les ay tresbien apparillés et unquore j'en ay gaigné ceste sepmaigne que troys deniers et mes despenses. Mais ne gaignay le darrayne sepmaigne que fuit derechief atant, et j'en estoy adonques bien hetiés.
- Hé, mon amy, ne vous chaille, quar il faut gagner ce que ne poet^{lxxxi} avoir a jour de huy.
- Hé, escoultés coment toutz les cloches sonent en le clocher!
- Hé, mon amy, c'est a cause de la solempneté que serra demayne. Il est temps de nous aler a pranger.
- Cen fait mon! Ou si: Ce fait mon!

And then Janyn brings some good wine to his lord, and the lord says to the lady of the house:

- Lady, raise your cup and drink.
- My lord, please, I shan't before you.
- By God, you shall.
- Thank you, my lord.¹⁸³

And then afterwards the lady takes leave of the lord for the night thus:

- My lord, I recommend myself to you and I pray to God that he may give you a good night and good rest.
- My friend, may God give you good night.

And if you want to play a joke on someone you will say thus:

May God give you good night and good rest
And a good bed with you out of it.

Or thus:

May God give you good night and good rest with it
And may you drown in your own shit.¹⁸⁴

5. The digger and the gardener

A way of speaking¹⁸⁵ belonging to peasants and craftsmen. A garden-keeper says to a ditch-digger who digs the earth or ditches in this manner:

- My friend, by your faith, what have you earned this week?
- On my oath, for digging the earth and making good, deep ditches all this week I've only earned twelve pence¹⁸⁶ and my expenses.
- By God's death, that's not much.
- Now, tell me, good sir, what have you earned?
- Gladly, my noble companion. I've grafted all the trees in my garden with the most beautiful grafts that I've seen for ages and now they're beginning to sprout, and also I've dug out another garden and I've planted it very neatly with cabbages, leeks, parsley, and sage, and other virtuous herbs. And what's more I've torn up and cleared away all the rotten nettles and the weeds, and skilfully sewn lots of good seeds or grains. And I also have lots of beautiful trees bearing different fruits such as apples, pears, plums, and cherries and nuts, and I have fixed them up neatly, and still this week I've only earned three pence and my expenses. But last week I earned the same again, and I was glad for it then.
- Well, my friend, don't worry about it, for you have to earn what you can get these days.
- Hey, listen how all the bells are ringing in the bell tower!
- Well, my friend, it's because of tomorrow's festival. It's time we went to have lunch.
- Yes, indeed! or thus: It is indeed!

Donques ils s'en vont a l'ostel pur diner emsemble. Et quant ils serront venus, ils serront servies des choux lardé bien graas et buré ensemble, et auxi du lait et des le ouys^{lxxxii} ovesques les comques, l'aubeaux, et les moealx. Et ces deaux mescheaux serront si friandes de lour viande q'ils se transglouteont^{lxxxiii} sanz maschier, a cause d'estancher plus tost lour grande fayme. Et quant ils en aiont^{lxxxiv} trestout mangés, ils rueront les os a lour mastins. Donques ils rongeront^{lxxxv} si fort que le diable, et primerment ils s'esbateront atant ensemble q'ils combateront droitement ainsi que le plus fort esbatara le plus feble a la terre.

Donques dit l'un villaine a l'autre:

– Mon mastine est le plus cravant que n'est la vostre, et pur ce nous les departirons ou autrement nous lessons que l'un serra batu a la terre.

[6. The baker and his apprentice]

Un autre manere de parler. Fait le bolongier a un de ses vadletz tout ainsi:

– Pier, pernés la siel et va traiere de l'eaue tost, et puis le boutés en la grande paille et le mettés sur le feu, [fol. 77v] car il me faut pestier unquore anut et cuire .ix. bussels de farine de furment pour les despenses de mon seignour de Leyer, car l'endemayn de Saint Michael serra l'entierement de ma tresnoble dame madame de Geynys que fuit sa compaigne et que trespassa au fest de la Exaltacione Saint Croix darraine passé.

– Maister, je vous empri, ne vous displease, car vraiment je ne puisse pas espuiser l'eaue a cause que je su blessé en lez mainz.

– Et coment fus tu ainsy blessé, meschiant paillart que tu es?

– Vraiment, sir, sicome je me juay au l'espeie des deux mains ovesque un des mes compaignons, il me done un tiel horion sur la mayne droit qu'el la fendist tout parmy la palme jusques au os. Ore veiez vous le pref: il n'est pas mençoige^{lxxxvi} ce que je vous die.

– Par la mort de Dieu, tu fus que foel ainsi juer de t'en blesser en ceste manere. Maintenant j'en ay grant bosoigne de toy, et tu ne me puisse riens profiter.

– Hé, mon tresdoux maister, ne vous chaille, car je vous fray avoir un autre en noun de moy desques a heure que j'en serray tout garry.

– Et savés vous bien que vous frés?^{lxxxvii}

– Oil dea, ne vous surciés de cela.

– Or il parra donques, mais toutzvois je suy bien marry que tu es ainsy naufré, car la plaie est bien parfont et pereilouse. Mais nepurquant te recomfort bien, car s'il Dieu plaist, tu en serras tresbien garry.

Then they go to the inn to eat together. And once they've arrived, they'll be served with cabbages and good, fatty bacon, covered in butter, and also with milk and eggs in their shells, egg whites, and egg yolks. And these two scoundrels will be so greedy for their food that they'll swallow it without chewing, so as to satisfy more quickly their great hunger. And when they've eaten everything up, they will throw the bones to their mastiffs. Then the dogs will chew on them as hard as the devil, but first they'll play together, attacking skilfully, so that the stronger will fight the weaker to the ground.

Then one peasant says to the other:

– My mastiff is more cowardly than yours, so let's split them up, or otherwise we'll be leaving one to beat the other to the ground.

6. The baker and his servant

Another way of speaking. The baker says to one of his servants thus:

– Pier, get the salt and go and draw water immediately, and then throw it in the big pot and put it on the fire, because I still have to bake tonight and cook nine bushels of wheat flour for the storehouses of my lord of Layer, because the day after the feast of Saint Michael will be the burial of my noble lady Madame de Geynys¹⁸⁷ who was his companion and who died back at the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

– Master, I beg you, don't be displeased, but truly, I cannot draw water from the well because I've hurt my hands.

– How did you get injured like this, you evil scumbag?¹⁸⁸

– Truly, sir, when I was playing at fencing two handed with one of my companions, he gives me such a blow¹⁸⁹ on my right hand that he split it right through the palm down to the bone. Now, see here the proof: it's no lie that I'm telling you.

– By God's death, you were nothing but a fool to play like that and injure yourself in such a way. Right now I really need you, and you're good for nothing to me.

– Oh, my dear master, don't worry, for I'll make sure you have someone to replace me until the time I'm fully healed.

– And are you sure you'll be able to?

– Yes, indeed. Don't you worry about that.

– Hmm, we'll see about that. But in any case I'm angry that you've hurt yourself like this, because the wound is very deep and dangerous. Still, take comfort, because, God willing, you'll be fully healed.

[7. The draper and his apprentice]

Autre manere de parler des marchantz. Dit un marchand a un de ses apprentiz tout ainsy:

- Guilliam, ou es tu?
- Mon seignour, je su cy.
- Venez a moy. Ou si: Vien avant donqs.
- Maister, je vien a vous ore.
- Ou as tu esté depuis que [fol. 78r] tu levas? J’eusse esté au marché pieça se tu ne feus. Et tu sais bien que j’en fuy bien matyne levé pur aler au marché a viendre mes denrés. Male sepmaigne soit toy mys, car j’en ay perdu huy mon marché a cause de ta folie!
- Qu’en puisse je? Vous savez bien que j’ay esté occupié entour vous bosignes, sicom moi comandastez hier soir.
- Hé, tu mens fausement. Tu as esté ovec tes filletz putaignes, et pur ce je pri a Dieu que tu puisse avoir le vit coupé, car je sçai bien que tu en aras male estraine a darrains se tu ne vis lesse^{lxxxviii} ta folie, par Dieu!
- Mon seignour, je ne fus pas.
- Tu mens fausement parmy la gorge. Je sçai bien que tu y fus.
- Save vostre grace, non fas.
- Teis toy, de par le deable! Ou si: Finés vous! Ou si: Tien te coy ou te je doneray un ytiel sufflet que tu penseras de moy decy as quatre jours, me croyez se tu vis, car je teneray covenant! Ou si: Tenés vous coy! Ou si: Finés vous! Ou si: Ne me parlas^{lxxxix} ja plus a ceste foitz sur peril qu’en purra avenir, quar se vous le frés, vous en arés dez horions si bien assés que par aventure vous penseras de moy decy as troys sepmaignes, me croiés se vous voillés, quar vraiment je vous tiendray la covenant!
- Hé, mon tresdoux maister, je vous cri mercy et vous en supplie humblement de vostre grace que vous me voillés pardonere vostre maletalent, quar s’il Dieu pleist, je ne mesponderay^{xc} ja plus envers vous.
- Ore va t’en, quar je te pardone.
- Grant mercy, mon seignour.

Donques l’epprentice s’en vait a Parys pur vendre lez [fol. 78v] danrés de son maister, et la veignent grant cope des gentz dez diverses pays de les achater. Et l’apprentis lour dit tout courtaisment en ceste manere:

- Mes amys, venez vous ciens, et je vous moustray d’auxi bon drape come vous troverés en tote ceste ville, et vous en arez d’aussy bon marché come nulle autre. Ore regardés, beau sir, coment vous est ayys? Ou si: Coment vous pleast il? Vieicy de bon escarlet violet, sanguin et de toutz autres colours que n’en poet nomer. Ore esliez de tiel que vous pleast.

Donques dit un marchand:

- Que me costra tout ce renc de scarlet?

7. The draper and his apprentice

Another way of speaking belonging to merchants. A merchant says to one of his apprentices thus:

- Guilliam,¹⁹⁰ where are you?
- Master, I am here.¹⁹¹
- Come to me. Or thus: Come forward now.¹⁹²
- Master, I'm on my way now.
- Where have you been since you got up? I could have been at the market long ago if it weren't for you. And you know that I got up early in the morning to go to market and sell my wares. A curse on you,¹⁹³ for I've lost business today on account of your foolishness!
- How is that my fault? You know that I've been busy on your errands, as you ordered me yesterday evening.
- Ha, you lie falsely. You've been with your whore girls, and for that I pray to God that someone cuts your prick off, because I know that it'll bring you bad luck in the end if you won't leave off your madness, by God!
- Master, I wasn't.
- You're lying falsely through your teeth. I know well that you were there.
- Saving your grace, I was not.
- Shut up, by the devil! Or thus: Stop it!¹⁹⁴ Or thus: Keep quiet or I'll give you such a punch that you'll be thinking of me four days from now, believe you me, because I'll keep my word! Or thus: Keep silent! Or thus: Stop it! Or thus: Don't say another word to me now for fear of what might happen, because if you do, you'll get such well-placed blows that you may well be thinking of me three weeks from now, believe you me, because truly I'll keep my word to you!
- Oh, my sweet master, I cry out to you for mercy and humbly beg you by your grace that you'll spare me your anger, because, God willing, I'll never offend you again.
- Now go along, for I pardon you.
- Many thanks, master.

Then the apprentice goes to Paris¹⁹⁵ to sell his master's wares, and a great many people from different lands come there in order to buy them. And the apprentice says to them courteously in this fashion:

- My friends, come here, and I'll show you cloth as good as any you'll find in all this town, and you'll get it at a bargain like none other. Now look, good sir, what do you think? Or thus: How do you like it?¹⁹⁶ Here is good, fine cloth in violet, blood red, and all the colours you can name. Now pick out the one you'd like.

Then a merchant says:

- How much will this whole roll of cloth cost me?

Et l'autre dit ainsi:

- Beau sir, vous me donrrés dux millez franks.
- Nonil dea, mon amy, mais savés vous que je vous en donrray? Vous en arés de moy pur tout ce renc .xii.c. franks.
- A, mon tresdoulx sir, il m'est avys que vous estes prudres et vaillantz. Je vous die un mot: pur tout vraiment vous me donrrés .xv.c. frankes.
- Non feray je, car si Dieu m'aid, je ne vous doneray plus, et encore il m'est avys qu'il est bien chier.
- Par Dieu, non est, beau sir, mes vous estes trop tenant. Mais pur ce que j'ay esperance que vous achaterés de moy plus des danrés en temps a venir, vous l'arés de la price que me costa, c'est assavoire .xii.c. francs, mais que vous me païés bien.
- Maintenant, mon amy, ne vous surciés, je vous paieray tresbien, s'il Dieu pleast, si que vous me donés jour de paiement jusques a la goule d'aougost.
- Vraiment, sir, il ne vous displese, je ne le puisse faire sil noun^{xci} q'il m'en serroit grant areresment et empirement de mon est[at],^{xcii} laquele chose je pence bien que ne voudrez my desirer que j'en fusse [fol. 79r] auximent arereissé ou enpiré a cause de vous, car je doi as gentz de pais grantz sommes d'argent que j'ay enprompté d'eux jusques a Noel proschein a venir, et sur ce j'en suy obligé et tenu par une forte obligacione fait de double de paier a mesme le fest. Et se je faudray donques de mesme le paiement en partie ou en tout, je me fas fort que je serra enprisoné, et j'en su certayne que je ne m'isseray my d'illeoques avant que j'en aray trestout fait gré. Et pur ce, beau sir, je vous en pri tant chierment com je puisse que me voillés paier mon argent tout ensemble ore a ma grant necessitee sanz plus loigne dilay. Et vraiment, sir, je vous apprestera un autre foitz voluntiers derechief atant.
- Hé, mon amy, ne vous corucés point, car vous arés ore la moitié de l'argent, et de l'autre moitié je me obligeray a vous par une obligacione de vous paier bien et loialment a fest de Saint Petre la Vincle prochein qui viendra. En vous bien agrerés donques?
- J'en su bien agree, meis toutzvois j'ameroi meulx de l'avoire maintenant a ma grant busoigne que plus en delay. Mais depuis que il ne poet estre autrement, il me covient atteindre le jour de paiement.

Et quant l'apprentiz en ara trestout achevé et accordé ovec luy, il luy dirra tout ainsi:

- Mon tresdoulx amy, maintenant ces danrés sont vestres. Vraiment, vous avez de mesme la price que je les achata. Ou si: Si Dieu m'aid, vous les avés d'auxi bon marché come [fol. 79v] ils me costirent. Ore prenez vous biens, et je pry a Dieu q'il vous en done atant de profit et encreusement come voudroy en avoire s'ils fussent les miens.
- Sir, grant mercy de vostre curteisie. Et se je vieurai^{xciii} as deux ans, vous ne perdrés ja riens de vostre bienfait, car s'il Dieu pleist, je le vous rendray bien.
- Beau sir, a Dieu vous comande.
- Mon tresdoulx amy, Dieu vous ait en sa garde.

And the other says thus:

- Good sir, you'll give me two thousand francs.¹⁹⁷
- No indeed, my friend, but do you know what I will give you? For the whole roll you'll have twelve hundred francs off me.
- O, my sweet sir, I can tell that you're worthy and brave. I tell you what: for the lot, truly, you'll give me fifteen hundred francs.
- I shall not, for, God help me, I won't give you any more, and still that seems to me to be expensive enough.
- By God, it is not, good sir, you're being too tough on me. But because I hope you'll buy more wares from me in the future, you'll have it at the price it cost me, that is to say twelve hundred francs, but be sure to pay me properly.
- Now, my friend, don't worry, I'll pay you very properly, God willing, if you give me until the first of August to pay.
- Truly, sir, don't be displeased, I cannot do that without causing great harm and damage to my good health, which I think you would not wish for me—that I should be so harmed or damaged on your account—for I owe great sums of money to people of this country that I borrowed from them until next Christmas coming, and on this point I'm obliged and held by a powerful contract twice sworn to pay by that date. And if I lack that payment then in part or in whole, I guarantee that I'll be put in prison, and I'm certain that I won't get out of there before I've given complete satisfaction for it. So, good sir, I beg you as kindly as I can that you'll pay me my money all together now seeing my great need without any longer delay. And truly, sir, another time, I'll gladly lend you the same amount again.¹⁹⁸
- Well, my friend, don't get angry, for you'll have half the money, and I'll pledge the other half to you in a contract to pay you fully and loyally at the Feast of Saint Peter ad Vincula¹⁹⁹ next. Are you satisfied with that, then?
- I'm very pleased, but still I would much prefer to have the money right now than with a delay seeing my great need. But since it can't be otherwise, I'll have to wait for the payment day.

And when the apprentice has finally finished and reached an agreement with him, he will say thus:

- My sweet friend, now the wares are yours. Truly, you have them at the same price that I bought them at. Or thus: So help me God, you have them as cheaply as they cost me. Now take your goods, and I pray to God that he give you as much profit and increase as I would wish to have of them if they were mine.
- Sir, many thanks for your courtesy. And if I'm living two years from now, you won't lose anything of your good deed, for, God willing, I'll pay you back for it handsomely.
- Good sir, I commend you to God.
- My sweet friend, may God keep you in his guard.

[8. At the dubber's]

Un autre manere de parler. Dit un vaidlet a un dubbeour des veillez drapes en ce manere:

- J'en ay icy un purpoint qu'est rumpus en beucope des lieux et auxi pur le greindre partie les cousters sount decoués. Et pur ce je vous pri chierment que vous le vuillés adubber bien et honestement pur mon argent. Et dites moy, que vuillés vous en avoir?
- Par Dieu, mon amy, vous me donerez .vi. deniers a un mot, car vraiment l'overaige du tiel bien vault atant entre deux frers. Je le feray tresbien a point.
- Beu sir, ainsi que je l'ay dymenge prochiene que vient au darrains, car j'en ay grant mestier.
- De par Dieu, il ne vous faudra ja de m'en parler plus, car s'il Dieu pleist, il serra donques tout prest tresbien a vostre plesir, ne vous surciés.

[9. Two stable boys]

Une autre manere du parler. Dit un garcion a son compaignon ainsi:

- Leisse ta folie maishui et va t'en a esgarder a tes chivalx, car se ton maister te troveroit icy esbatant, il te torcheroit tresbien sur la teste.
- Hé, mon amy, ne te chaille.
- Avysés vous donques, car je ne puisse gueirs arester.
- Ore alons.

Et s'en vont ensemble a les chivalx. Et quant ils viendront la, l'un dit a l'autre ainsi:

- Mon compaignon, gardés vous bien de Sorere^{xciv} quant luy vous monstrés, car il vous frapera voluntiers. Et pur ce ne montés vous lantement, mais si ignelment come vous purrés.

Et ces deux compaignons se montent as chivalx. Et puis l'un dit [fol. 80r] a l'autre ainsi:

- Vous estes en grant meulx monté et araiés que je ne su.
- Save vostre grace, beal sir, non su je.

Et s'ent chivachent ensemble vers l'estaunc, et sitost com les chivalx ont assés bu, ils les jettent en l'eaue. Donques ils ne poent surdre se a paine non, a cause que leurs garnementz sont trestoutz moilliés. Et puis se courront fort pur atteinere les chivalx, et quant ils les ont atteintz, ils les frottont tresbiene de lour bastons des les faire plus privés, et s'en chivachont a l'ostel, et puis les seient^{xcv} encontre le feu et s'en chaufont bien.

Donques dit l'un compaignone a l'autre:

- Quoy me ne disoiés vous quant vous estiez a l'estaunc la manere et l'usage de vous chivalx? Vraiment, vous estes bien meschaunt et malveis.
- Si Dieu m'aid, je ne le cogny my, quar vraiment ils n'ont pur acustume de faire, au moyens que je le vei unques.
- Donques ne poent challair.

8. At the dubber's

Another way of speaking. A servant says to a dubber of old clothes in this fashion:

- I have here a pourpoint²⁰⁰ that is torn in many places and the better part of the seams have come undone too. And so I beg you kindly that you will dub it well and honestly for my money. And tell me, how much do you want for the work?
- By God, my friend, you'll give me six pence²⁰¹ at a word, for truly such work is well worth as much between two brothers. I'll do it very exactly.
- Good sir, see that I have it next Sunday at the latest, for I have great need of it.
- By God, you needn't mention it again to me, for, God willing, it'll all be ready very much to your liking by then, don't worry.

9. Two stable boys

Another way of speaking. A boy says to his companion thus:

- Stop messing around right now and go to check on the horses,²⁰² for if your master found you here playing, he'd give you a good knock on the head.
- Hey, my friend, don't worry about it.
- Watch out, then, because I can't hang around here forever.
- Well, let's go then.

And they go to the horses together. And when they come there, one says to the other thus:

- My companion, watch out for Sorel when you mount him, for he'll gladly kick you. And so don't mount him slowly, but as quickly as you can.

And these two companions mount the horses. And then one says to the other thus:

- You're much better mounted and kitted out than me.
- Saving your grace, good sir, I'm not.²⁰³

And they ride off together towards the pond, and as soon as the horses have drunk enough, they throw the boys in the water. Then they can only get out with great difficulty, because their clothes are completely drenched. And then they run hard to reach the horses, and when they've got them, they beat them all over with their sticks in order to make them more obedient, and they ride off to the inn, and then they sit themselves against the fire and warm themselves up nicely.

Then one companion says to the other:

- Why didn't you tell me when you were at the pond about the way and habit of your horses? Truly, you're mean and bad.
- God help me, I didn't know, for truly, they don't usually do that, at least that I have ever seen.
- Then let's drop it.

- Ore buons un foiz et reheitons nous bien, car il nous ne profitera ja plus en plaindere.
- Ore regardés, moun amy et compaignon, coment mes soliers sont tout depeciés. J'en su bien esbayse, car il n'y a encore que sis jours passés que je les avoy tout de novel. Ore me faut aler a soveteur de les adoubber et quarrir des bons quarraux et fortz et de bon cuier de boef et bien espissez q'ils me purront longement durer.
- Ousteons nous ces bussés et tisonnis, q'il ne purra ja estre aperceu que nous avoions de si grant feu, et sarrez vous bien le feu et alons nous esbater un poy de temps. Delivre toy donques et vien nen^{xvii} se tu vuïs, car je m'en vais.

[10. Different greetings; news from Orleans]

Autre manere de parler. Quant un homme encountra ascune a matyne, il luy dirra [fol. 80v] tout ainsi:

- Dieu vous doigne bon matyne et bon aventure. Ou si: Sir, Dieu vous doigne bon jour et bon encountre.
- Mon amy, Dieu vous doigne bon matyne et bon estrayne.

Et a mydday vous parlerés en ceste manere:

- Mon seignour, Dieu vous done bon jour et bon houres. Ou si: Sir, Dieu vous benoit et la compaigne.^{xcvii}

Ou vous dirrés ainsi:

- Dieu vous garde. Ou si: Sta bien. Ou si: Reposez bien.

Et as overes^{xcviii} et labourers, vous dirrés ainsi:

- Dieu vous aid, mon amy. Ou si: Dieu vous avance, compaignone.
- Bien soiés venu, beau sir.
- Dont venés vous? Ou si: De quele partie venez vous?
- Mon sir, je veigne a Aurliance.
- Que noveles la?
- Mon sir, y a grant debat entre les escolers, car vraiment ils ne cessent de jour en autre de combatre ensemble.
- Et des queles parties sont ils?
- Ils sont de Picardie et de Champanie, et les Picardes vont a mynut tout parmy la ville acustément^{xcix} bien armés et araeia a guys des gens d'armes portans des gelyns, espeies, et haches, et serchont les Champanoys de rue en rue de les racontrer a cause de la grant hayne et annemyté q'ils ont envers eux. Et sitoust q'ils ont trovés,^c ils se guerront ensemble si fort que c'est mervail. Et le roy les a maundé par ses letres patens de lesser sa folie sur payne de forfair envers luy tout quanque ils ont en sa roialme, et encore ils ne vuillent cesser ne prendre plus de garde a maundement de roy que je ne feroiy de la plus petite paille desoubz mes pees.

- Now, let's drink a draft and cheer ourselves up, for there is no use carrying on complaining about it.
- Now look, my friend and companion, how my shoes have fallen apart. I'm distraught, for its only six days ago that I had them brand new. Now I'll have to go to the cobbler to get them fixed and patched with good strong patches of good, thick cowhide, so that they last me a long time.²⁰⁴
- Let's put these logs and branches to one side so that no one can see that we've had such a big fire, and beat down the fire and let's go and have some fun for a bit. Move yourself then and come on, if you want, because I'm off.

10. Different greetings; news from Orleans

Another way of speaking. When a man meets someone in the morning, he'll say to the person thus:

- May God give you good day and good luck. Or thus: Sir, may God give you good day and good fortune.
- My friend, may God Give you good morning and good chance.

And at midday you will speak in this manner:

- My lord, may God give you good day and much success. Or thus: Sir, God bless you and this company.

Or you will say thus:

- May God keep you. Or thus: Keep well.²⁰⁵ Or thus: Rest well.

And to handworkers and peasants, you will say thus:²⁰⁶

- God help you, my friend. Or thus: God speed you, companion.²⁰⁷
- You are welcome, good sir.
- Where do you come from? Or thus: from what part do you come?
- My lord, I come from Orleans.
- What news there?
- My lord, there is a great dispute between the students, for truly they do not stop fighting each other from one day to the next.²⁰⁸
- And from what parts are they?
- They are from Picardy and Champagne, and at midnight the Picards usually go about the town well armed and kitted out like men at arms bearing blades, swords, and axes, and they look for the Champenois from road to road trying to meet with them on account of the great hatred and enmity that they have towards them. And as soon as they find them, they battle together so hard that it's a marvel. And the king has commanded them by his letters patent to leave off their madness on pain of forfeiting to him everything that they possess in his kingdom, and still they won't stop or pay further heed to the king's command than I would to the least bit of straw beneath my feet.

- Par Nostre Dame, c'est grant despit.
- Par Dieu, se je fu que le roy, je bateroye tresbien lour orguil.
- Hé, mon amy, [fol. 81r] j'ay oblié de vous demandre un chose. Dont estes vous? Ou: De quele pays esties vous? Ou fuistes vous nee?
- Mon sire, je su de Henoude.
- Que dea, vous esties un Englois donques!
- Nonil dea, mais nous aymons bien les Englois a cause que les plus vaillantz seignours de ceste pais la sont de nostre linage.
- Hé, mon amy, je vous en croy bien.

[11. Consoling a child]

Ore je vous moustray la manere de parler a un enfant. Quant vous orrés ou verrés un enfant plorer ou gemyr, vous dirrés ainsi:

- Qu'as tu, mon enfant? Ou si: Qu'avés vous, mon amy? Ou si: Qui te meffait, beau fils? Ou si: Qui t'a fait plorer, beau doulx enfant?
- Mon seignour, vostre petit garcion m'a ainsi froté, acraché, bufaté et batu q'il me fist sangnier la noise.
- Hé, beau fils, ne vous chaille, car je l'amendray bien a point, et il serra tresbien batu sur le cuil pur l'amour de vous. Et puis il ne serra plus si hardif de vous meffair decy en avant.
- Grant mercy, mon seignour.

[12. Turning away a beggar]

Et quant un homme povre viendra a ta maisone a demander pur Dieu de t'ailmoigne, et se ne vous vuillés lui faire ascune bien pur Dieu, vous dirrez ainsi:

- Mon amy, Dieu vous face bien. Ou si: Dieu vous vuille aider, car vraiment, mon amy, se je purroy, je vous aidaisse tresvoluntiers, car il me semble que vous n'eisties pur bien heités. Dieu le vuille amendre.
- Vraiment, beau sir, vous dites voir, car j'ay esté longe temps malade.

[13. Two companions at an inn]

La manere de parler entre compaignons que demuront ensemble en un hostel quant ils se devoit aler a coucher.

- Guilliam, avez vous fait nostre lit?
- Nonil, vraiment.
- Hé, vraiment vous esties bien meschant, [fol. 81v] que nostre lit est unquore a faire. Surdés vous le cuil et alés vous faire nostre lit, je vous en pri, car je voudray estre endormy. Ou si: Car je dormisse tresvoluntiers se je fuisse couché.
- Hé, beau sir, me lessés vous chauffer bien les pees primerment, car en ay^{ci} grant froid.

- By Our Lady, that's a great shame.
- By God, if I were the king, I'd beat their pride right out of them.
- Well, my friend, I forgot to ask you something. Where are you from? Or: From what country are you? Where were you born?
- My lord, I am from Hainaut.
- So indeed! Then you're English!²⁰⁹
- No indeed, but we like the English because the bravest lords of that country are of our lineage.
- Well, my friend, if you say so.

11. Consoling a child

Now I will show the way to speak to a child. When you hear or see a child crying or whimpering, you will say thus:

- What's wrong, my child? Or thus: What's wrong, my friend? Or thus: Who's upsetting you, good son? Or thus: Who's made you cry, good sweet child?²¹⁰
- My lord, your little boy has so roughed me up and scratched, punched, and beaten me that he's made my nose bleed.
- Oh, good son, don't worry, for I'll make it all right, and he'll be thoroughly beaten on the arse on your account. And then he won't be so bold as to mistreat you in future.
- Many thanks, my lord.

12. Turning away a beggar

And when a poor man comes to your house asking alms in God's name, and if you don't want to give him anything for God's sake, you'll say thus:

- My friend, may God do you good. Or thus: May God help you, for truly, my friend, if I could, I'd willingly help you, for it seems to me that you are not in a good way. May God amend it.
- Truly, good sir, you speak the truth, for I've been ill for a long time.

13. Two companions at an inn

The manner of speaking between companions staying together at an inn, when they have to go to bed.

- Guilliam,²¹¹ have you made our bed?
- No indeed, truly.
- Well, you really are wicked. Our bed is still to be made! Get off your arse²¹² and go and make our bed, I beg you, for I would like to be able to go to sleep. Or thus: For I'd most gladly sleep if I could get into bed.
- Well, good sir, let me warm your feet first,²¹³ because they're giving me a chill.

- Et coment le purrés vous dire pur honte, quant il fait si grant chaut? Anlumés la chaundelle et va traire du vin.
- Alés vous mesmes se vous vuillés, car je ne bougerai ja.
- Il le meschie que vous en dorira a boire, car je m'en irrai querre du vin pur moi mesmes et pur Janyn, et, par Dieu, se je puisse, vous ne beverés maishuy a cause de vostre malveis volunté.
- Vraiment, vous esties bien malvois. Je pri a Dieu que il vous meschie.
- Tois toi, senglant merdous garcion, villain mastin, meschiant paillard que tu es, ou tu en aras des horrions que les sentiras decy as quatre jours!

Donques il luy done un bon boffe sur la jouue, ainsi disant:

- Dieu met toi mal an. Quoi me respondez vous ainsi?

Et l'autre se comce^{ci} a plorer et dit:

- Je pri a Dieu que tu puis rumper le col avant que tu en irras hors de ciens!
- Par Dieu, il fuit te meulx taiser si que tu n'as plus de damage.
- Vraiment, sir, je ne suffrai ja plus estre batu de vous. J'aimasse mieulx encore demourer la ou nul homme me cognoisça qu'a reister plus loignement^{ciii} icy.
- Hé, Guilliam, vous ne chaille, je ne vous ferai ja plus de mal. Ore bions^{civ} nous tost et alons coucher. Guilliam, ou alés vous?
- Je m'en vais amont.
- Beau sir, je vous en pri que vous coverés le feu primerment et oustés ces busses et tisons tost et buttés les carbons et les breis ensemble et mettez desoubz les cindres, et puis nous irrons coucher.

Et puis après ils vont a lour [fol. 82r] chambur amont. Et quant ils serront la, l'un demandra a l'autre ainsi:

- Ou est Briket, le petit chien, et Floret, le petit chien?
- Je ne sçai mie ou Briket est devenu, mais toutzvois Floret s'en est couché aval ov les autres chiens qui gisent en le gardein.

[14. Dialogues between traders]

Autre manere de parler entre les vitailers.

- Et coment tenés vous cecy?
- Sir, il vault bien oet deners.
- Non pas, mais je vous donray tant, et si est il chiere achaté. Pregnés l'argent se vous vuillés. Certes je ne vous doneray plus.
- Sir, preignés a vous donques, et baillez moy bon estrayne. Vraiment il vault bien vostre argent. Ore vous l'avés bon marché, et pur ce autre foiz venez a moy.
- Dites, veuillez vous vendre cella?

- And how can you say that, for shame, when it is so hot. Light the candle and go to draw some wine.
- Go yourself if you want to, for I'm not budging from here any time soon.
- May ill luck befall whoever gives you to drink, for I'm going to look for some wine for myself and for Janyn, and, by God, if I have any say in it, you won't drink anything from now on in because of your ill will.
- Truly, you really are bad. I pray to God that you fall unlucky.
- Shut up, you bloody, shitty boy, mean dog, evil scumbag that you are, or you'll get blows for it that you'll feel four days from now!²¹⁴

Then he gives him a good knock on the cheek, saying thus:

- May God send you bad luck for a year. Why do you talk back to me like this?

And the other starts to cry and says:

- I pray to God that you break your neck before you leave here!
- By God, you'd do better to shut up so you don't get hurt any worse.
- Truly, sir, I won't put up with being beaten by you any longer. I'd rather be where no one knows me than to stay any longer here.
- Well, Guilliam, don't worry about it, I won't hurt you anymore. Now let's have a quick drink and go to bed. Guilliam, where are you going?
- I'm going upstairs.
- Good sir, I beg you to cover the fire first and to take out those logs and branches right away and to throw the coals and the embers together and put them under the ashes, and then we'll go to bed.²¹⁵

And then afterwards they go up to their room. And when they're there, one will ask the other thus:

- Where is Briket, the little dog, and Floret, the little dog?²¹⁶
- I have no idea what's become of Briket, but Floret is in any case sleeping downstairs with the other dogs who are lying in the garden.

14. Dialogues between traders

Another manner of speaking between victuallers.

- And what price do you give this?
- Sir, it's worth eight pence.²¹⁷
- No it isn't, but I'll give you so much,²¹⁸ and so it's bought dearly. Take the money if you wish. I certainly won't give you any more.
- Sir, take it then, and wish me good fortune. Truly it's worth your money. Now you've got it at a good price, so come back to me another time.
- Say, do you want to sell that?

- Oy, sir, il est bon pur vous.
- Dites coment le veuillez doner.
- Sir, vous me donerez tant pur ce.
- Non frai. Il ne vault atant. Dites a un mot coment l'aray.
- Sir, vous me donerez tant.
- Non fray, car il est trope. Dites que est le darrain mot de ce?
- Sir, a un mot, vous ne l'arés pas miens.

Donques il regarde a un autre chose.

- Ore, de quel prise est cecy?
- Sir, vraiment il vault sis deniers.
- Non pas a moy, mais je vous doneray cinque deniers. Tenés, un denier en erres, et a Dieu vous comande.
- Sir, je ne prendray pas congé de vous.

[15. Asking the time and the way]

Autre manere de parler et pur demander le droit chymyne par la pays.

- Beau sir, Dieu vous esplot. Dites moy se vous plaist, que heure del joure est il?
- Sir, je pense que est dis.
- Que dea, mettés le chapron, paillarde, com tu parles a prodome! Et dites, coment est anommé ceste ville, et ou demurt Guilliam Rorane?
- Sir, il ne demourt pas icy maintenant.
- Ore ou luy troveray je donques?
- Sir, vous luy troverés demourant en le haut rieu a l'autre cousté del moustre.

[16. Asking for lodging; giving a message]

Autre manere pur demandere hostel.

- Dieu garde, beale dame.
- Bien soiés venu, beau sir.
- [fol. 82v] Dame, purroy je estre loggé ciens et avoir fein et avens et autres choses que a moy appent?
- Oy, sir, je vous troveray assés ov l'aide de Dieu.
- Dame, ou est le sir de ciens?
- Avés vous ascune coignoissance de lui?
- Oyl dea, je lui coignoiss tresbien.
- Sir, il viendra tost, come je quide. Dites a moy, que est vostre voluté?
- Dame, je voudray parler a lui.

- Yes, sir, it's good for you.
- Tell me for how much you'll give it.
- Sir, you'll give me so much for it.
- I shall not. It's not worth as much. Tell me without haggling for how much I'll have it.
- Sir, you'll give me so much.
- I shall not, for it's too much. Say, is this your last word on the matter?
- Sir, in a word, you won't have it for less.

Then he looks at something else.

- Now, what's the price of this?
- Sir, truly, it's worth six pence.
- Not to me! But I'll give you five pence. Here's a one penny deposit, and I commend you to God.
- Sir, I won't take my leave of you.²¹⁹

15. Asking the time and the way

Another way of speaking for asking the right way through the country.

- Good sir, God speed you. Tell me please: what hour of the day is it?
- Sir, I think it is ten.
- Well, really! Put up your hood, scumbag, when you're talking to a man of quality!²²⁰
And say, what is this town called? And where does Guilliam Rorane live?
- Sir, he is not living here currently.
- Well, where will I find him, then?
- Sir, you will find him living in the high street on the other side of the minster.

16. Asking for lodging: giving a message

Another way of asking for lodging.

- May God keep you, good woman.
- Welcome, good sir.
- Madam, might I be lodged here and have hay and oats and other things I'll need?
- Yes, sir, I'll find you enough with God's help.
- Madam, where is the master of the house?²²¹
- Do you know him at all?
- Yes indeed. I know him well.
- Sir, he'll be here presently, I think. Tell me, what is your bidding?
- Madam, I would like to speak with him.

- Vraiment, sir, il n'est pas ciens ore.
- Dame, viendra il tost?
- Par ma foy, sir, je ne sçai. Vous purrés a moy dire vostre voluté.
- Nonil, je lui vouldroy dire moy mesmes.
- Sir, amontés et vous beverés, se vous pleast.
- Non fray a ceste fois, par vostre congé.
- Sir, je dirray vostre message.
- Dame, Dieu le vous rende.
- Sir, dites a moy vostre nom.
- Dame, j'ay a nom Guilliam.
- Sir, en bon aventure.
- Dame, vous please dire mon message a vostre maister?
- Sir, je le fray tresvoluntiers.

Et donques quant il est alé, autre vient al port et dit a un des servantz:

- Ou est la dame de ciens?
- Sir, je croy que ele est en la sale.
- Alés vous et faites mon message a ele.
- Sir, coment le dirray?
- Dites a ele que je su cy.

- Dame, il y a un homme a port que vous vouldroit en parler.
- Dites a luy que je viendray tost.

Donques viene la dame a la port et dite:

- Sir, vous estes bien venu.
- Vostre merci, beale dame, et avés vous point d'ostel pur moy?
- Sir, quantbien vuillez vous demourere?
- Dame, je ne sçay mye vous dire.
- Et combien vuillez vous donere pur vostre viaunde et la chambre?
- Dame, que vuillez vous prendre?
- Sir, nient miens que sis deniers le jour.
- Dame, je le doneray tresvoluntiers. Dame, je manderay mes choses cy.
- Sir, vous serrés bien venuz.

- Truly, sir, he's not here now.
- Madam, will he come soon?
- By my faith, sir, I don't know. You can tell me your bidding.
- No, I would like to tell him myself.
- Sir, go up and have a drink, if you please.
- I shall not at this time, by your leave.
- Sir, I'll pass on your message.
- Madam, may God repay you for it.
- Sir, tell me your name.
- Madam, my name is Guilliam.²²²
- Sir, that's very well.
- Madam, will you give my message to your master?
- Sir, I will do so willingly.

And then when he has gone, another comes to the door and says to one of the servants:

- Where is the lady of the house?
- Sir, I think that she is in the hall.
- Go and deliver my message to her.
- Sir, what shall I tell her?
- Tell her that I am here.
- Madam, there is a man at the door who would like to talk to you.
- Tell him that I'll come immediately.

Then the lady comes to the door and says:

- Sir, you are welcome.
- Thank you, good woman, and do you have any lodgings for me?
- Sir, how long would you like to stay?
- Madam, I can't say.
- And how much will you give for your food and board?
- Madam, how much will you take?
- Sir, not less than six pence per day.
- Madam, I'll give that willingly. Madam, I'll have my things brought here.
- Sir, you will be welcome.

Et quant ses choses sont venuz et aportez a la maison, il dit ainsi:

- Dame, faites [fol. 83r] mettre mes choses sus.
- Sir, eles serront my en savegarde, et vous beverés devant vostre departir. Preignés le hanape.
- Vous comencerés.
- Non fray devant vous.
- Si frés vraiment.
- Par Nostre Dame, cy est bon boivre.
- Sir, grant proue le vous face.

[17. At the scrivener's]

Autre manere de parler.

- Esties vous un cleric?
- Oy sir, purquoy demandés vous?
- Pur ce que je voudroy avoir une comissione de vous fait.
- Sir, vous arés voluntiers.

Donques il seira et escriera un comissione en ceste manere:

“A toutz yceux qui cestes letres verront ou orront, Johan d’Orlians de Parys, salut. Sachent toutz gentz ... Ou: Conu soit a toutz gentz que je, Johan...” et cætera.

[18. Asking the way; delivering a present]

La manere pur demander le chymyn vers la maisone d’un chivaler en ville ou en cité tout ainsi:

- Beau sir, me ditez vous se vous pleast, ou demurt mon seignour Guilliam Montendre?
- Mon amy, je vous dirray voluntrés. Purquoy alez vous dela? Vous avez forvoié beaucoup. Venez vous deça et je vous enseigneray le droit chymyn et sa meisone. Veiez vous bien ou il y a un grant moustier cy aval au but de ce reue?
- Oil, sir, je le vei bien.
- De par Dieu, donques, quant vous y serrez, vous troverés de l’autre costee de moustier une petit ruet que s’en va tout droit vers bys, et cele ruet vous mesneray tanque vous serrez droit en le haut rue, et donques vous verrez devant vous en mylieu de le haut rue deux cordelx pendantz as fenestres a travars le rue et la desur deux cynges currantz et esbatantz ensemble et auxi un grosse pere gisant a l’huis de la meisone.

Et quant il serra pres de son hostel, enquire est il si soit^{ev} q’il ne sciet mye bien droit [fol. 83v] aler avant, qu’il en a un autre foiz demandé la voie. Donque dit il ainsi a primer homme qu’il encontre:

- Beau sir, demurt ici mon seignour Guilliam Montendre?
- Oil, vraiment.

And when his things have come and have been brought to the house, he says thus:

- Madam, have my things carried up.
- Sir, they'll be put in a safe place, and you'll drink before you go. Take a cup.
- Please begin.
- I shan't do so before you.
- Please do.
- By Our Lady, this is a good draft.
- Sir, here's to your health!²²³

17. At the scrivener's

Another way of speaking.

- Are you a clerk?
- Yes, sir, why do you ask?
- Because I would like you to do a commission for me.²²⁴
- Sir, you shall have it willingly.

Then he will sit and write a commission in this manner:²²⁵

"To all those who will see or hear these letters, Johan d'Orlians de Parys sends greetings. Let all people know... Or: Let it be known to all people that I, Johan," and so forth.

18. Asking the way; delivering a present

The way to ask the route to the house of a knight in a town or city thus:

- Good sir, tell me please, where does my lord Guilliam Montendre live?²²⁶
- My friend, I will tell you gladly. Why are you going off in that direction? You've gone far out of your way. Come here and I'll show you the right way and his house. Do you see where there is a big minster down from here at the end of this street?²²⁷
- Yes, sir, I see it.
- By God, then, when you're there, you'll find a little road on the other side of the minster that goes straight northwards, and that road will lead you right up into the high street, and there you'll see before you in the middle of the high street two cords hanging from the windows across the street and on them two swans running and fighting together²²⁸ and also a great stone lying at the door of the house.

And when he is near the house, he's still so foolish that he doesn't know the right way to proceed, and so he asks the way another time from someone else. Then he says thus to the first man that he meets:

- Good sir, does my lord Guilliam Montendre live here?
- Yes, truly.

Puis s'entre leins et dit ainsi:

- Ore soit Dieu. Vel sic: Dieu soit ciens. Mon seignour, Dieu vous benoit et la compaignie.
- Bien soiez venu, compaignon.
- Mon seignour, vostre cosyn soy recomande a vous, et il vous a envoié trois blans leverers si voluz com un ourse, bien currentz et de bon entaille, et auxi trois greus si privees qu'il^{evi} si vuillent pestre a main.
- Hé, vraiment, c'este un tresnoble chose et bien a mon gree. Et ditez lui, quant vous serrez venu a l'ostel, que je lui esmerci grandement de son tresnoble doneson et de sez grandez despensez qu'ore m'a envoié.
- Moun seignour, il serra fait a vostre comandement.
- Ore alez diner avant que vous passez.
- Grant merci, mon seignour.

Et après diner, il prent congé du seignour ainsi:

- Mon seignour, je me recomande a vous et je pri a Dieu que vous doint bone vie et loigne.
- Mon amy, a Dieu vous comande. Vel sic: Dieu soit garde de vous. Vel sic: Alés a Dieu. Vel sic: A Dieu soiez. Vel sic: Dieu vous eit en sa garde.

[19. Different greetings according to the time of day]

Quant vous encontrez ascuny a l'ajournant, vous dirrez ainsi:

- Mon amy, Dieu vous donne bon matyn et bon estrayne.
- Bon matyn vous doigne Dieu, beau sir. Vel sic: Dieu vous donne bon matyn et bon encontre.

A mydy, vous parlerez ainsi:

- Dieu vous donne bon jour et bons heurez.
- Bon jour vous doigne Dieu et bon detinee [gloss: *hap*].

Après manger, vous dirrez ainsi:

- Dieu vous done bones vespres, sir.
- Dieu vous done bon encontre.

Et anut vous dirrez ainsi:

- Sir, Dieu vous done bon soer.
- Bon soer vous doint Dieux.

Et quant vous prendrez congé de nully pur tout la nut, vous dirrez ainsi:

- [fol. 84r] Sir, Dieu vous doint bon nut et bon repos, quar je m'en irray coucher.

Then he goes in there and says thus:

- Now, greetings in God's name. Or thus: May God be in this house. My lord, God bless you and this company.
- Welcome, companion.
- My lord, your cousin recommends himself to you, and has sent you three white hares as hairy as a bear, speedy and shapely, and also three cranes so tame that they'll eat out of your hand.
- Well, truly, it's a very noble thing and much to my liking. And tell him, when you're back at his house, that I thank him profoundly for his noble gift and for the generous provisions that he has sent me now.
- My lord, it shall be done according to your command.
- Now, go to eat before you are on your way.
- Many thanks, my lord.

And after eating, he takes his leave of the lord thus:

- My lord, I recommend myself to you and pray to God that he give you a good and long life.
- My friend, I commend you to God. Or thus: May God be your keeper. Or thus: Go with God. Or thus: Be with God. Or thus: May God have you in his keeping.²²⁹

19. Different greetings according to the time of day

When you meet someone at dawn, you'll say thus:

- My friend, may God give you good morning and good fortune.
- May God give you good morning, good sir. Or thus: May God give you good morning and good luck.

At midday, you'll say thus:

- May God give you good day and good luck.
- May God give you good day and good fortune.

After eating, you'll say thus:

- May God give you good evening, sir.
- May God give you good luck.

And at night you'll say thus:

- Sir, may God give you good evening.
- A good evening to you, by God.

And when you take your leave of anyone for the night, you'll say thus:

- Sir, may God give you good night and good rest, for I'm off to bed.²³⁰

[20. Dialogue with an ill man]

Une autre manere du parler.

- Dieu vous garde, mon amy.
- Vous bien estez encoutré, beau sir.
- Qu'avez vous, mon amy?
- Vraiment, sir, je sui maladez.
- Hé, mon amy, se veuillez vous aler en pilrynage oveque moy pur chercher saint Denyse de Parys, vous en serrez tout guarry, s'il Dieu plest.
- Hé, plust a Dieu et a la virgyn Marie, mon tresdoux sir, que je purroi aler ovesque vous, quar je m'en allisse donques tresvoluntrés. Mes vous me faut avoir pur excusee quant a present, quar mon chival me ferist devant hier si dispitusement sur la jambe destre q'il en est tout enfleez et auxi le peel rumpuz, si que je ne puisse mye aler se a peyne noun. Pur quoy j'en ay grant paour q'il deviendra un marmol; vraiment il puit plus vilainement qu'un fimers purriz tout plain de caroyne et de merde et de toutz autres ordurez et chosez puantz. Et pur ce je pense bien que je ne vivray gairs sinon que j'en ay le plust tost^{cvi} remedie.
- Hé, mon amy, ne savez vous point q'il y a un chaunçon que dit ainsi:

J'endure et endure^{cvi} me faut.
 Mal endurent ne poet durer.
 A bien enduré rien ne faut.
 Qi vould vivre il faut endurent.

Et ainsi vous covient suffer et passer le temps et en tout tribulacione de loier et regracier nostre Seignour Dieu omnipotent, sicom le droiturel homme Job fist en sa vie, qui a tout tens fuist si prudres et humbles envers Dieu que sa bouche nunquis pechat. Et ce fuist par la souverain vertu et grace que Dieu lui avoit doné, dont l'enmy en avoit si grant despit que il ne cessa de jour en autre devant q'il avoit congee et l'ottroye de Dieu de lui tempter.

Et puis après par fouldre, tonoir, et autres [fol. 84v] tempestez il occist toutz ces pestez^{cix} si bien priveez com sauvagez, c'est assavoir chivalx, jumentz, muletz, mulez, asnes, torez, boefs, bovetz, boterelx,^{cx} vaches, velez, juvencz, senglers, troyes, pors, porcels, porceletz, berbys, touns – id est taillardz^{cx} –, chastryz, berbys miere – id est oaillez –, agnelx, agnelletz, chevres, chevretz, mastins, chiens, leverez, bracees, levres, conyns, martirs, fuuyns, mustels, herizons, regnardez, loupz, cerfs, bouches,^{cxii} brocartz, dames roos, loires, ficheux, escurrelx, ours, cinges, marmesetz, unicornes, olifantz, dromodairs, lipars, lions, et lionesses.

Et quant lez messagers viendront de lui annoncer toutz ces aventures, il leva sus sez mains vers Dieu et lui en loa et regracia ainsi lui disant humblement: "Dieu l'a doné et Dieux l'a pris. Je lui regracie de toutz cez dones, quar quant il lui plerra, si lez purra bien restorer." Unquore ne voloit my l'anemy cesser de sa malice, mais tost après, a temps que toutz sez parentz de sa lynage seient a manger ensemble en bon paix et tranquillitee, il fist par tempest horrible la meisonne tresboucher a terre, et ainsi ils furent trestoutz mortz.

20. Dialogue with an ill man

Another way of speaking.

- May God keep you, my friend.
- You are well met, good sir.
- What is wrong, my friend?
- Truly, sir, I am ill.
- Well, my friend, if you'll go on a pilgrimage with me to seek Saint Denis of Paris,²³¹ you'll be completely healed, God willing.
- Oh, would that it might please God and the Virgin Mary, my sweet lord, that I might go with you, for then I'd go most willingly. But you must hold me excused for now, because the day before yesterday my horse kicked me so spitefully on my right leg that it's all swollen and the skin's broken too, so that I can scarcely walk without pain. So I'm terrified that it will fester; truly, it stinks more foully than a rotten dung heap stuffed with carrion and shit and all other kinds of filth and stinking things.²³² That's why I think that I'll not live long unless I find a remedy for it quickly.
- Well, my friend, don't you know that there's a song that goes thus:

I endure and endure I must.²³³
 Who endures poorly cannot last.
 To he who has endured well nothing lacks.
 Who wants to live must endure.

And so it behooves you to suffer and drive the time away and in all tribulation to praise and thank our Lord God omnipotent, like the just man Job did in his life, who was at all times so honourable and humble towards God that his mouth never sinned. And it was by the sovereign virtue and grace that God had given him, at which the enemy had such great spite that he did not cease from one day to the next until he had leave and God's permission to tempt him.

And then afterwards by lightening, thunder, and other storms he killed all his animals, both tame and wild, that is to say his horses, mares, mules, she-mules, donkeys, bulls, oxen, bullocks, little toads, cows, calves, heifers, wild boars, sows, pigs, piglets, little piglets, sheep, rams – that is uncastrated animals – wethers, mother sheep – that is wool sheep – lambs, little lambs, goats, little goats, mastiffs, dogs, hunting hounds, hunting dogs, hares, rabbits, martens, stone martens, weasels, hedgehogs, foxes, wolves, stags, hinds, young stags, female roedeer, otters, polecats, squirrels, bears, monkeys, marmosets, unicorns, elephants, dromedaries, leopards, lions, and lionesses.²³⁴

And when the messengers came²³⁵ to announce all these misfortunes to him, he lifted up his hands to God and praised and thanked Him for them saying thus to Him humbly: "God gave it and God took it away. I thank Him for all these gifts, for when it pleases Him, then He will be able to restore them." But the enemy didn't want to cease his malice, and soon afterwards, when all Job's relations in his lineage were sitting to eat together in peace and tranquility, he had the house thrown down to the ground by a horrible storm, and thus they all died.

Et quant lez messagers viendront de lui signifier l'aventure que fuist avenuz, il en regracia Dieu devotement en disant: "Beau sir Dieux, benurés soiez tu en tes overes et faiz, quar sicom il te plust, si est il fait."

– Hé, moun tresdoux amy, purquoy ne fustez vous mye fait un frere mendivant ou un curee d'une esglise ou autrement un chapelein parochiel? Vraiment, il est grant damage que vous n'estez mye fait un clerk, quar vous eussez donques esté un souverain [fol. 85r] prechour.

– Hé, mon amy, vous savez tresbien flater, quar je sçay bien ore que vous mokkez de moy.

– Par Nostre Dame, save vostre grace, non fais. Ore alez a Dieu, sir.

– Mon tresdoux amy, je pri a Dieu q'il vous done bone vie et longue.

[21. Dialogue with a foreigner]

La manere du parler a un estrange homme qui vient de loigne pais.

– Mon tresgentil sir, Dieu vous benoit.

– Mon tresdoux amy, je pri a Dieu qu'il vous done bon rencontre. Vel sic: Sir, Dieu vous benoit et la compaigne.

– Beau sir, dont venez vous, se vous plest? Vel sic: De quel part venez vous, mon tresdoux amy, mes q'il vous ne displese?

– Vraiment, sir, je vien tout droit de Venys.

– Hé, mon amy, c'est un ville de Lumbardie!

– Oil vraiment, beau sir, si est.

– Par mon serment, mon tresgentil sir, j'en ay grant joy de vous que vous estes si bien travaillé, depuis que vous estes si joefnes, quar je pense bien que vous n'avez unquore .xxx. ans.

– Si ay je vraiment^{cxiii} et plus, mais pur ce que je su bien sains et joliet au cuer, la mercy Dieu, l'en me dit que je su plus joefnes que je ne su.

– Ore sir, est Venyse une beale citee?

– Oil dea, et le plus noble porte que est en tout le monde, sicom l'en m'a dit en cele pais qu'ont travaillé partout.

– Et de que pais estes vous, beau sir, mes q'il ne vous displese?

– Vraiment, sir, je su de France.

– Et de quele ville, se vous plest?

– De Parys, sir.

Vel sic:

– En que pais fustez vous nee, beau sir, se vous pleast?

– Vraiment, en le roialme de France.

And when messengers came to describe to him the misfortune that had occurred, he thanked God for it devotedly, saying: “Good Lord, God, blessed be you in your works and deeds, for just as it pleased you, so it is done.”

- Hey, my sweet friend, why didn’t you become a mendicant friar or the curate of a church or otherwise a parochial chaplain? Truly, it’s a great shame that you never became a clerk because you could have made an excellent preacher.
- Ha, my friend, you know well how to flatter, for I know well now that you’re mocking me.²³⁶
- By Our Lady, saving your grace, I am not. Now, go with God, sir.
- My sweet friend, I pray to God that he give you a good and long life.

21. Dialogue with a foreigner

The way of speaking to a foreign²³⁷ man who comes from a faraway country.

- My noble sir, God bless you.
- My sweet friend, I pray to God that he give you good fortune. Or thus: Sir, God bless you and this company.
- Good sir, where do you come from, if it please you? Or thus: What part do you come from, my sweet friend, if you don’t mind my asking?
- Truly, sir, I’ve come straight from Venice.
- Oh, my friend, that’s a city in Lombardy!
- Yes, truly, good sir, it is.
- By my oath, my noble lord, I am so happy for you that you are so well travelled, seeing that you are so young, for I think that you are not yet thirty.
- But yes sir, truly, I am, and some, but since I’m healthy and jolly at heart, thank God, people tell me that I am younger than I am.
- Now, sir, is Venice a beautiful city?
- Yes indeed, and the most noble port there is in all the world, as I was told in that country by people who have travelled everywhere.
- And from what country are you, good sir, if you don’t mind my asking?
- Truly, sir, I am from France.
- And from what city, please?
- From Paris, sir.

Or thus:

- In what country were you born, good sir, please?
- Truly, in the kingdom of France.

- Je vous en croi bien. Vous parlez bien et gracieusement doulx franceys, et pur ce il me fait grant bien et esbatement au coer de parler ovesque vous de vostre beal langage, quar est le plus gracios parler que soit en monde et de toutz gentz melux^{cxiv} preisés et amee que nulle [fol. 85v] autre. Et coment vous est avys, beau sir, de la tresbeale citee de Parys?
- Veraiment, il m'est avys que je ne vie unques mais jour de ma vie si beal citee com est, toutz chosez acomptez, quar il en y atant de si beaux chasteulx, si grantz forteressez, et si hautez meisons et fortez et que sount si honestment apparaillez que, se vous lez eussiez veu, vous en serroiez trestout esbaiez.
- Veraiment, sir, il puit bien estre veritable ce que vous ditez. Hé, plust a Dieu et a la virgyne Marie, mon tresdoux amy, que je sceusse si bien et gracieusement parler franceys com vous savez, quar veraiment j'en fuisse donques bien aisee au coer.
- Par Nostre Dame de Clery, je voudroy que vous sceussez, mais toutzvois vous parlez bien assez, ce m'est avys, qar je pense bien que vous avez demurré grant piece la, depuis que vous parlez si bien et plainement la langage.
- Par seint Paul, sir, n'y fu^{cxv} unques mais.
- Et coment savez vous parler si bien donques?
- Veraiment, sir, sicom je m'ay coustumé a parler entre lez gentz de ce pays icy.
- Seinte Marie, j'en su bien esbaiez. Coment vous lez purrez apprendre en ce pais? Qar vous parlez bien a droit, hardement.
- Save vostre grace, non fais.
- Par Dieu, si faites bien et gentilment come se vous eussiez demurré a Parys ces .xx. ans, qar veraiment je n'oy unques mais Engloys parler franceys si bien a point ne si doucement com vous faites. Ce m'est avys tutezvoiez.
- Hé, sir, je vous remerci de ce que vous me preisez plus que je ne su pas digne toutesvoies. Et pur ce je su toutzjours a vostre gentil comandement en quanque je purray faire pur l'amour de vous. Et veraiment, beau sir, vous estes tresbien venuz en ce pais. Vel sic: Par m'anme, sir, vous estes tresbien venuz ciens.
- Grant merci, mon sir, de vostre grant gentrise et courteiseie.
- Beau sir, fustez vous unques mes a Rouan en Normandie?
- Nonil, veraiment, je ne fui unques la jour de ma vie, mais [fol. 86r]^{cxvi} j'ay esté autre part en beaucope dez lieuz autrez: en Touren j'ay esté, a Bloyez et a Chantres et a Orlions auxi bien.
- A Orlions? Seint M[a]rie, c'est bien pres a but de le monde, sicom l'en dit en cest pais icy.
- Veraiment, sir, ils sont bien folez que le quident, qar c'est en mylieu du roialme de France.
- Est Orliance une beale ville?
- Oil, sir, si Dieu m'eide, la plus beale que soit en roialme de France après Parys. Et auxi il y a un grant estudie dez lois, qar lez plus vailla[nz] et lez plus gentils clercz que sont en cristiantee y repairent pur estudier en civil et canon.

- I can well believe you. You speak sweet French well and graciously, and so it does me much good and joy to my heart to speak with you in your beautiful language, for it is the most gracious language in the world²³⁸ and more highly praised and loved by all people than any other. And what is your opinion, good sir, of the beautiful city of Paris?
- Truly, I reckon that I never saw such a beautiful city as it is on any day of my life, taking all things into consideration, for there are so many handsome castles, such great fortresses, and such tall and strong houses that are so finely arrayed, that, if you had seen them, you'd be totally amazed.
- Certainly, sir, it may be true what you say. Oh, that it might please God and the virgin Mary, my sweet friend, that I might be able to speak French so well and graciously as you do, for truly, that would make me happy at heart.
- By Our Lady of Cléry,²³⁹ I wish that you might, but in any case you speak well enough, in my opinion, for I think you have spent a long time there, since you speak the language so well and clearly.
- By saint Paul, sir, I was never there.
- And how do you know how to speak so well, then?
- Truly, sir, just by my habit of speaking with people in this country here.²⁴⁰
- Saint Mary, I'm astonished. How can you learn it in this country?²⁴¹ For you speak very correctly, certainly.
- Saving your grace, I don't.
- By God, you do, well and nobly, as if you had spent these last twenty years at Paris, for truly I never heard an Englishman speak French so correctly and so sweetly as you do. At least that's my opinion.²⁴²
- Well, sir, I thank you for praising me above my worth in any case. And so I'm always at your noble bidding in whatever I might be able to do for love of you. And truly, good sir, you are very welcome in this country. Or thus: By my soul, sir, you are very welcome here.
- Many thanks, my lord, for your great gentility and courtesy.
- Good sir, were you ever at Rouen in Normandy?²⁴³
- No, indeed, I've never been there even once, but I've been elsewhere, in many other places: I've been to Touraine, to Blois, and to Chartres and to Orleans as well.
- To Orleans? Saint Mary, that's almost at the end of the world, as they say in this country here.
- Truly, sir, they are very foolish who think that, for it's in the middle of the kingdom of France.
- Is Orleans a beautiful city?
- Yes, sir, so help me God, the most beautiful in the kingdom after Paris. And also there is there a great law college, for the bravest and the most noble clerks in Christendom go to study both civil and canon law there.²⁴⁴

- Mon tresdoux amy, je vous en croy bien, mais toutzvoies j'oy dire que l'anemy y aprent sez disciples de nigromancie en un teste d'aresme.
- Save vostre grace, beau sir, quar vraiment ce n'est pas voire.
- Ore alons boire, sir, se vous plest.
- Grant mercy, beau sir.
- Bevez a moy, je vous en pri.
- Vous comencez, se vous plest.
- Par Dieu, non fray.

Et puis dit l'autre, quant il a beu:

- Sir, grant mercy de vous grandez biens et dispensez. Vel sic: Grant mercy de vous biens.
- Il n'y a de quoy, beau sir.
- Si est, vraiment, qar se je [vous] purroy jamés veoir^{cxvii} en mon pais, je vous rendray bien la grant gentryse qu'ore m'avez fait par la grace de Dieu. Ore je me recomande a vous et je pri a Dieu q'il vous doint sanité et paix.
- Mon tresgentil sir, a Dieu vous comande, qi vous doint bone vie et longe.

[22. A tailor and his new master]

La manere de parler entre deux cousturers.

- Moun tresdoux sir, Dieu vous avance.
- Bien soiez venuz, beau sir.
- Ou demure le meillour cousturer de ceste ville?
- Purquoy demandez vous, mon amy?
- Pur ce que je voeroy avoir un bon maistere pur overer ovesque lui.
- Estez vous cousturer donques?
- Oil, vraiment, sir.
- Veuillez vous overer ovesque moy?
- Oil, sir, tresvoluntrés, se vous me veuillez doner atant com nulle autre.
- Que^{cxviii} vous donorai je la semaigne?
- Sir, vous me donrrez set souldz de- **[fol. 86v]** [ux dene]rs et mes despensez.
- Quantbien de tens pensez vous d'arester en ce ville?
- Dymy ans, s'il Dieu plest.
- Que manere d'overage savez vous meulx faire?
- Vraiment, il ne me chaut quele manere d'overage q'il soit, s'il soit dez hopelondez ou purpointz ou cotez.
- Hardiz, entrez ciens donques et vous en avrez de moy atant com vous avez demandé.

- My sweet friend, I well believe you, but nevertheless I hear say that the enemy teaches his disciples necromancy there in a brass head.²⁴⁵
- Saving your grace, good sir, that really is not true.
- Now let's go to drink, sir, if you like.
- Many thanks, good sir.
- Drink with me, I beg you.
- You start, please.
- By God I shall not.²⁴⁶

And then the other says, once he has drunk:

- Sir many thanks for your wonderful welcome and generosity. Or thus: Many thanks for your welcome.
- It's nothing, good sir.
- But it is, truly, and if I ever see you in my country, I'll repay you the great gentility that you've just shown me by the grace of God. Now I recommend myself to you and pray to God that he give you health and peace.
- My sweet sir, I commend you to God. May He give you a good and long life.

22. A tailor and his new master

The way of speaking between two tailors.

- My sweet sir, God speed you.
- Welcome, good sir.
- Where does the best tailor in this town live?
- Why do you ask, my friend?
- Because I would like to have a good master and work with him.
- Are you a tailor, then?
- Yes, truly, sir.
- Would you like to work with me?
- Yes, sir, gladly, if you'll pay me as much as the next man.
- What shall I give you per week?
- Sir, you'll give me seven sous, two pence, and my expenses.²⁴⁷
- How long do you plan to stop in this city?²⁴⁸
- A half year, God willing.
- What kind of work can you do best?
- Truly, I don't mind what kind of work it is, whether it's houppelandes or pourpoints or coats.²⁴⁹
- You're a bold one! Come in here then and you'll get from me as much as you've asked for.

- Sir, je le vuil bien.
- Mon amy, estes vous jun unquore?
- Nonil, vraiment, sir, j'en ay dyné tresbien, Dieu merci.
- Va donques a la dame de ciens [et] bevez ovesque ele, et puis après venez a vostre bosoigne.
- Maister, si frai je.

[23. Two companions at an inn again]

Une autre manere du parler entre deux compaignons qui demurent ensamble en un hostel quant ils se deyvent aler coucher.

- Guilliam, mon amy, il est haut tens pur nous aler coucher maishui.
- Perot, ce fait mon, toutzvoiez.
- Guilliam, va traier du vin.
- Perot, alez vous mesmez se vous voillez, quar je ne bougeray mye.
- Hé, Guilliam, que vous estes bien mescheant et mavois. Malourés soit il que vous en donrra a boire, quar je irray quere du vin pur Johan et pur moy mesmez, et par Dieu, se je puisse, vous ne bevrés maishui.

Et donques dit il:

- Je pri a Dieu q'il vous meschie.

Et l'autre respoint et dit:

- Dieu mette toy mal an, meschiant paillarde qui tu es, qar tu ne cheveras ja.
- Guilliam, je vous en pri que vous serrez, ou: couvrez, bien le feu, et apportez sus en vostre chambre un chopyn de vin vermaile que nous purrons boire devant que nous en irrons coucher.

Et puis après il vient ové le vin et dit:

- Prennez le hanape et versez le pot et bevez a moy un bon trait hardiment.
- Par Dieu, mon amy, si frai je.
- Que da, vous m'avez malement deceu, quar vous en avez bu tout qanque il avoit. Perot, de male estraine soiez vous estraygné.
- Mais Guilliam, ne [fol. 87r] vous chaille, quar je m'en irray quere du vi[n pour vous.

Et quant ils ont] bu tout deux, donq dit l'une a l'autre:

- Guill[iam, pour Dieu, deschausez] vous et devestez vous tost, si que nous fuissons coc[heez.

- Sir, with pleasure.
- My friend, are you still waiting for breakfast?
- No, truly, sir, I've eaten very well, thank God.²⁵⁰
- Then go to the lady of the house and have a drink with her, and then afterwards come to your work.
- Master, I shall.

23. Two companions at an inn again

Another way of speaking between two companions who are staying together at an inn, when they have to go to bed.

- Guilliam,²⁵¹ my friend, it's high time for us to go to bed now.
- Perot, that it is, indeed.
- Guilliam, go to draw some wine.
- Perot, go yourself if you want, for I won't budge an inch.
- Ha, Guilliam, how mean and bad you are. A curse on whoever gives you a drink, for I shall go to look for some wine for Johan and for myself, and by God, if I have any say in it, you'll never drink again.

And then he says:

- I pray to God that you come to grief.²⁵²

And the other responds and says:

- May God send you bad luck for a year, evil scumbag that you are, for you'll never give up.²⁵³
- Guilliam, I beg you to smother, or: cover, the fire well, and bring a cup of red wine up to your room so that we can drink before we go to bed.

And then after he comes with the wine and says:

- Take the cup and pour the pot and boldly drink with me a good draft.
- By God, my friend, I shall.²⁵⁴
- What's this? You've evilly tricked me, for you've drunk all there was. Perot, may you be rewarded with ill favour.
- But Guilliam, don't worry, for I'll go to find some wine for you.

And when they've both drunk, then one says to the other:

- Guilliam, for God's sake, take your shoes and clothes off immediately, so we can get into bed.

Et puis après, quant ils] serront cochez ensemble, l'une dit a l'autre ai[nsi:

– Trahez vous la, beau sir,] quar vous suez si fort que je ne puisse pas [endurer que vous me touchez] point, et estanchez le chandele tost.

– Si Dieu m'[ait, compaignon, il] ne me sovenoit point.

– Hé, lez poucez me mo[r]dent fort, et me font] grant male, quar vraiment, je m'ay graté le [dos si fort que le sanc] curt avalle, et pur ce je comence pur estre rey[gnous. La cher me] mange tresmalement, si me faut estre [estufée demain au] darraiens pur Dieu.

– Guilliam, tenez vous et dor[meons myshuy,] mez primerment nous dirrons *De profundis* en l'onore de Dieux et de [Nostre] Dame et pur lez anmes dez trespassez qui la mercy de Dieu attend[ent] en paynes de purgatorie, q'ils purront le plus tost estre relevez de lour payns a cause de nous priers et venire a la joye pardurable, laquele joie Dieux, qui maint en haut paradyse et nous rechata de son precious sanc, pur sa grant mercy et pitéous^{cxix} ottroit en le fine, s'il lui pleast. Amen.

Ici fine le commune parlance, nulle meliour en tout le France.

Je vie une reyne seiere en vn reyne ou vn renn en my le rioalme de royne.^{cxx}

And then afterwards, when they are in bed together, one says to the other thus:

- Move yourself further over, good sir, because you’re sweating so hard that I can’t stand you touching me, and snuff out the candle immediately.
- May God keep me, companion, I didn’t realize.
- Ouch! The fleas are biting hard and hurting me terribly, for truly, I’ve scratched my back so hard that blood’s running down it, and so I’m starting to get scabby. My skin’s itching something awful, so I’ll have to take a steam bath tomorrow at the latest, by God.
- Guillian, shut up and let’s go to sleep now. But first we will say *De profundis* in honour of God and of Our Lady and for the souls of the dead who are awaiting God’s mercy in the pains of purgatory, that they might the sooner be relieved of their pains because of our prayers and come to eternal joy, which joy may God—who dwells in paradise above, and bought us with his precious blood—grant on account of His great and compassionate mercy, at the end, if it pleases Him. Amen.²⁵⁵

Here ends the *Commune parlance*,²⁵⁶ there’s none better in all of France.²⁵⁷

I saw a frog sitting in a bridle or a net in the middle of the queen’s kingdom.²⁵⁸