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

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

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Old French</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>834 Et li vallés tant chevalcha</td>
<td>Meanwhile, the young man rode on.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>835 Qu’il vit .i. carbonier venant,</td>
<td>At some point, he saw a charcoal burner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>836 .i. asne devant lui menant,</td>
<td>leading a donkey ahead of him.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>837 «Vilains, fait il, ensaigne moi,</td>
<td>“Peasant,” he said, “yes, you, pushing that donkey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>838 Qui l’asne maines devant toi,</td>
<td>Tell me, what’s the shortest way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>839 La plus droite voie a Cardoeil.</td>
<td>to go to Carduel?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>840 Li rois Artus, que voir weil,</td>
<td>I want to see King Arthur,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>841 I fait chevaliers, ce dist l’en</td>
<td>and I’ve heard that’s where he makes men knights.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>842 — Vallet, fait il, en icest sen</td>
<td>“Young man,” he said, “it’s this way;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>843 A .i. chastai sor mer assis.</td>
<td>in a castle by the sea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>844 Le roi Artu, biax dols amis,</td>
<td>You’ll find King Arthur in that castle,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>845 Lié et dolant i troveras</td>
<td>my friend, and you’ll find him</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>846 A che chastel se tu i vas.»</td>
<td>both happy and sad, if you go there.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>847 — Or me diras tu ja mon wel</td>
<td>“Could you tell me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>848 De coi li rois a joie et doel.</td>
<td>why the King is both sad and happy?”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>849 — Jel te dirai, fait il, molt tost.</td>
<td>“I certainly will.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>850 Li rois Artus et toute s’ost</td>
<td>King Arthur and all his army</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>851 S’est au roi Rion combatus;</td>
<td>have just fought King Rion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>852 Li rois des illes fu vencus,</td>
<td>The King of the islands has been beaten.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>853 Et de c’est li rois Artus liez,</td>
<td>That is what makes King Arthur happy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>854 Et de ses compagnions iriez</td>
<td>But he’s annoyed because of his companions:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>855 Qui as chastai se departirent,</td>
<td>they’ve all gone back to their castles,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>856 La ou le meillor sejor virent,</td>
<td>where they all like to live best,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>857 N’il ne set coment il lor va;</td>
<td>and the King hasn’t heard from them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>858 Ce est li doels que li rois a.»</td>
<td>That’s why he’s sad.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>859 Li vallés ne prise .i. denier</td>
<td>The young man paid no attention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>860 Les noveles au charbonier,</td>
<td>to the charcoal burner’s news,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>861 Fors tant que en la voie entra,</td>
<td>but he headed down the road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>862 Cele part ou il li mostra,</td>
<td>he had been shown.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>863 Tant que sor mer vit .i. chastel</td>
<td>He finally reached the sea, where he saw a castle,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>864 Molt bien seant et fort et bel.</td>
<td>strong, proud and majestic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>865 Et voit issir parmi la porte,</td>
<td>Coming out of the gate,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>866 .I. chevalier armé qui porte</td>
<td>was a knight in armor carrying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>867 Une colpe d’or en sa main;</td>
<td>a golden cup in his hand.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>868 Sa lance tenoit et son frain</td>
<td>He held his lance, his shield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>869 Et son escu en la senestre,</td>
<td>and his horse’s reins, in his left hand,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>870 Et la colpe d’or en la destre;</td>
<td>and the golden cup in his right.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>871 Et les armes bien li seoient,</td>
<td>His armor suited him well;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>872 Qui toutes vermeilles estoient.</td>
<td>it was entirely red.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>873 Li vallés vit les armes beles</td>
<td>The young man saw the beauty of this brand new armor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>874 Qui totes estoient noveles,</td>
<td>of this brand new armor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>875 Si li pleurent et dist: «Par foi,</td>
<td>He liked it, and said, “I swear,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>876 Ces demanderai je le roï;</td>
<td>that’s the armor I’ll ask the King for.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>877 S’il les me done, bel m’en iert,</td>
<td>If he gives it to me, I’ll be delighted,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>878 Et dehais ait qui autres quier,</td>
<td>and I won’t need any other!”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>879 Atant vers le chastel s’en cort,</td>
<td>He hurried toward the castle,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>880 Que tart li est qu’il vigne a cort,</td>
<td>for he was eager to be inside,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>881 Tant que pres del chevalier vint.</td>
<td>but, first, came up to the knight.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>882 Et li chevaliers le retint,</td>
<td>The knight stopped him</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>883 .I. petit, si li demanda:</td>
<td>for a moment to ask, “Tell me, young man,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>884 «Ou en vas tu, vallet? Di va.</td>
<td>where are you going in such a hurry?”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>885 — Je weil, fait il, a cort aler</td>
<td>He said, “I’m going to the court,”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Au roi ces armes demander. to ask the King for this armor.
— Vallet, fait il, tu feras bien; “Very well, young man!” he answered.
Or va dont tost et si revien. “Hurry there, and come back quickly.
Et tant diras al mauvais roi, And you can tell that evil King
Que s’il ne velt tenir de moi if he won't submit to me his land
Sa terre, que il le me rende, he had better give it back to me,
Ou il envoit qui la desfende or else send someone to defend it
Vos vers moi qui de que ele est moie. for I claim it as my own.
Et a ces ensaignes t’en croie, If he doesn't believe you, here's proof:
Que devant lui pris orendroit, this golden cup I took from him before,
Atot le vin que il bevoit, with the wine he was drinking.
Ceste colpe que je chi port.» I'm taking this cup with me.
Or quiere autrui qui li recort, Another messenger would have been much better,
Que cil n’i a mot entendu. for this one didn't listen to any of his words.
Jusqu’a la cort n’a atendu, He rode straight to the court,
Et li rois et li chevalier where the King and his knights
Estoient assis al mengier. were at table for their meal.
La sale fu par terre aval, The main hall was on the ground floor,
Et li vallés entre a cheval and the young man came in on his horse.
En la sale qui fu pavee The floor of the room was tiled
Et longue autretant comme lee. and was as long as it was wide.
Et li rois Artus ert assis King Arthur was seated
Au chief de la table pensis, at the head of one table, lost in his thoughts
Et tuit li chevalier mengoient while all the other knights were eating
Et li .i. as autres parloient and talking to each other.
Fors il, qui pensis fu et mus. But the King stayed by himself, pensive and silent.
Li vallés est avant venus, The young man came forward
N’il ne set le quel il salut, and did not know who to address,
Car le roi mie ne conut since he did not know the King at all.
Tant qu'Ivonés contre lui vint, Then Ivonet came to meet him,
Qui ce coutel en ta main tint. with the knife in your hand.
«Vallet, fait il, tu qui ça viens, "Young man,” he said, “you
Qui ce coutel en ta main tiens, with the knife in your hand,
Mostre moi li quels est li rois.» show me which one is the King.”
Yvonés qui molt fu cortois Ivonet, who was very courteous,
Li dist: «Amis, veez le la.» said to him, “There he is, my friend.”
Et cil tantost vers lui ala, And he went toward the King,
Sel salua si come il sot. and addressed him, in his own manner.
Li rois pensa et ne dist mot, The King was thinking and did not say a word.
Et cil autre fois l’araisone; The young man spoke to him again,
Li rois fort pense et mot ne sone. but the King was thinking deeply
Car le roie mie ne conut and did not breathe a word.

“Par foi, dist li vallés adonques, “My word,” said the young man,
Cis rois ne fist chevalier onques. “this King never made any knights!
Coment porroit chevalier faire, If I can't get a single word out of him,
Quant on n’en puet parole traire?” how could he make anyone a knight?”
Tantost del retorner s’atorne, As he started to leave,
Le chief de son chaceor torne; he pulled his horses bridle, to turn it,
Mais si pres del roi l’ot mené, but he came so close to the King,
A guise d’ome mal sené, being so clumsy,
Que devant lui, sanz nule fable, that in front of him, and this is no joke,
Li abati desor la table he knocked the cap off his head
Del chief .i. chapel de bonet. and onto the table.
Li rois torne vers le vallet The King turned to the young man
Le chief que il tenoit baissié, his head still hanging down,
Si a tot son pensé laissié he left his thoughts and said,
Je vos pri qu’a mal ne teigniez Please don’t be upset
Che qu’a vostre salu me toi; that I didn’t answer your greeting.
D’ire respondre ne vos poi, Sorrow kept me from answering.
Que li pire anemis que j’aie, because the worst enemy I could ever have,
Qui plus me het et plus m’esmaie, the one who hates me most, and worries me so,
M’a chi ma terre contredite; just came here to contest my lands,
Et tant est fols que tote quite He’s crazy enough to say
Dist qu’il l’avrá, ou weille ou non. that he’ll have them all,
Li Vermax Chevaliers a non, He's the Red Knight
De la forest de Quinqueroi, of the forest of Guingeroi.
Et la roïne devant moi, And the Queen came to sit here,
Estoit chi venue seoir, opposite me, to visit and console
Per conforter et por veoir the wounded knights who are here.
Ne m’eüst gaires correchié Nothing the Red Knight said
Li chevaliers de quanqu’il dist, would have bothered me much,
Mais devant moi ma colpe prist had he not taken my cup, from right under my nose.
Et si follement l’en leva He picked it up so furiously
Que sor la roïne versa that he spilled the wine in it
Tot le vin dont ele estoit plaine. all over the Queen.
Chi ot honte laide et vilaine, What a loathsome and uncouth thing to do!
Que la roïne en est enterre, The Queen went back to her room
Por conforter et por veoir opposite me, to visit and console
Ne m’eüst gaires correchié would have bothered me much,
Li chevaliers de quanqu’il dist, would have bothered me much,
Mais devant moi ma colpe prist had he not taken my cup, from right under my nose.
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Por conforter et por veoir opposite me, to visit and console
Ne m’eüst gaires correchié would have bothered me much,
Li chevaliers de quanqu’il dist, would have bothered me much,
Mais devant moi ma colpe prist had he not taken my cup, from right under my nose.
Et si follement l’en leva He picked it up so furiously
Que sor la roïne versa that he spilled the wine in it
Tot le vin dont ele estoit plaine. all over the Queen.
Chi ot honte laide et vilaine, What a loathsome and uncouth thing to do!
Que la roïne en est enterre, The Queen went back to her room
Por conforter et por veoir opposite me, to visit and console
Ne m’eanst gaires correchié would have bothered me much,
Li chevaliers de quanqu’il dist, would have bothered me much,
S'est il espoir molt gentix hom, but he might come from a noble family.

Et se ce li vient d'aprision, If he had a poor upbringing,

Qu'il a esté a vilain mestre, or an unworthy teacher,

Encore puet preus et sages estre. he could still become wise and valiant.

Vilonne est d'autrui gaber It's despicable to make fun of others

De rien nule a autrui prometre to never promise anything

Que donner ne li puisse ou veille, he cannot or will not give,

Que le mal gre celui n'acueille or else the other will be ungrateful.

Qui sanz prometre est ses amis; Before the promise, he was a friend,

Et des que il li a pramis, but, once the promise made

Si bee a la promesse avoir. he expects it to be kept.

Et por ce si poëz savoir You should know,

Qu'assez venroit il mix veer that it's better to refuse something

A home que faire baer; than to make someone expect it.

Et qui le voir dire en volroit, And to be totally frank,

Soi meïsme gabe et dechoit; fools no one but himself,

Qui fait pramesse et ne la salt, because he loses his friends."

Ensi li rois a Ke parloit, As the King was talking to Keu,

Et li vallés qui s'en aloit the young man, on his way out,

A une pucele veie saw a beautiful, graceful maiden.

Et ele lui et si li rist, He greeted her, and she replied with laughter.

Et en riant itant li dist: While laughing, she said,

«Vallet, se tu vis par eage, "Young man, if you live a full life,

Je pens et croi en mon corage I feel deep in my heart

Qu'en trestot le monde n'avra that no greater knight than you

N'il n'erti n'on ne l'i savra, will be seen, will be known,

Nul meillor chevalier de toi; ever, anywhere in the world.

Einsi le pens et cuit et croi.» Yes, I think so, I know it; I'm sure.

Et la pucele n'avoit ris This maiden hadn't laughed

Passé avoit ans plus de .vi., for more than six years.

Et ce dist ele si en haut She spoke loudly,

Ke tot l'oïrent; et Kex saut, and everyone heard her.  Keu started.

Cui la parole anuia molt, These words made him furious.

Et li vallés grant aleure he turned and saw a jester

Lez une cheminee estant standing near a fireplace.

Si le bouta el fu ardant Out of anger and irritation,

Del pié par corroz et par ire, he kicked him into the hot fire,

Por che que li sos soloit dire: because the jester had often said,

«Ceste pucele ne rira “This maiden will never laugh again

Jusqu'atant que ele verra until the day she sees

Que il le fist a terre estendre. that she fell to the floor.

Qu'en pustret le monde n'avra the one whose glory as a knight

En son retor trova .i. sot standing near a fireplace.

Si le boute el fu ardant Out of anger and irritation,

Del pié par corroz et par ire, he kicked him into the hot fire,

Por che que li sos soloit dire: because the jester had often said,

«Ceste pucele ne rira “This maiden will never laugh again

Jusqu'atant que ele verra until the day she sees

Ceului qui de chevalerie for adventures and knightly honor.

Avra toute la seignorie." will outshine all others."

Einsi cil crie et cele pleure As the jester howled and the maiden cried,

Et li vallés plus ne demeure, the young man left, without discussion,

Ains s'en returne sans conseil to find the Red Knight.

Après le Chevalier Vermeil

Yvonés, qui les drois sentiers Ivonet, who knew all the shortcuts,

Savoit toz et molt volontiers and who loved to bring news

Aportoit noveles a cort, back to the court, left his companions.

Toz sols sans compagnon s'en cort Alone, in haste, he went through an orchard

Par .i. vergié dalez la sale, adjoining the main hall,

Et par une posterne avale went through a back gate

Tant qu'il vint au chemin tot droit and came out on the road

Ou li chevaliers atendoit where the Red knight was waiting

Chevalerie et aventure. for adventures and knightly honor.

Et li vallés grant aleure Just then, the young man came riding toward him,
Vint vers lui por ses armes prendre, as fast as possible, to take away his armor.
Et li chevaliers por atendre The Red knight, awaited him,
Avoit la colpe d'or jus mise placing the golden cup
Sor i. perron de roche bise. on a block of gray stone.
Quant li vallés aprochié l'ot As soon as the young man was close enough
Tant que li i. l'autre oïr pot, that the Red knight could hear him,
Si li cria: «Metzez les jus he yelled out, “Put down your arms.
Les armes, ne les portez plus; You will carry them no longer;
Que li rois Artus le vos mande.» this is an order from King Arthur.”
Et li chevaliers li demande: But the Red knight asked him,
«Vallet, ose nus cha venir “Young man, does someone dare come here
Por le droit le roi maintenir? and plead for the King's cause?
Se nus i vient, nel celer pas. If someone's coming, don't hide it from me.”
— Coment, deable, est ce ore gas, “What the devil, is this a joke
Dans chevaliers, que vos me faites, that you're playing on me, Sir knight,
Qu’encor n’avez mes armes traites? by waiting to take off your arms?
Ostez les tost, jel vos comant. Throw them down at once, I command you!”
Et li chevaliers li demande: But the Red knight asked him,
“Vallet, fait cil, je te demant is someone coming here, in the name of the King,
Se nus vient cha de par le roi with the desire to fight me?”
— Dans chevaliers, car ostez tost “Sir Knight, take off your arms at once,
Les armes, que je nes vos ost, or I will take them from you.
Que plus ne les vos sofferroie. I won't give you another second.
Bien sachiez que je vos ferroie, beware that I'll have to strike you,
Se plus parler m’en fastiez.” If you make me talk any more.”
Lors fu li chevaliers iriez; The knight, at this, lost his composure,
Sa lance a a.ii. mains levee with two hands he took up his lance
Et si l’en a doné tel colee and hit the young man hard
Par les espaulles en travers, across his shoulders,
De la ou n’estoit pas li fers, with the part that was not of iron.
Qu’il le fist embronchier aval He knocked the young man over
De la colee qu’il ot prise. onto his horse's neck.
En l’oeil al miex qu’il pot l’avise He took aim at the knight's eye, as best he could,
Et laisse aler le gavelot; and hurled his spear.
Si qu il n’entent ne voit ne ot, Before he noticed, or saw or heard anything,
Le fiert parmi l’oeil el cervel, the spear went through the knight’s eye
De la dolor li cuers li mant, and reached his brain.
Si verse et chiet toz estendus. he fall backwards and lay on the ground.
Et li vallés s’est correchiez The young man was angered
Quant il senti qu’il fu blechiez by the wound he had received.
De la colee qu’il ot prise. He took aim at the knight’s eye, as best he could,
En l’oeil al miex qu’il pot l’avise and hurled his spear.
Et laisse aler le gavelot; Before he noticed, or saw or heard anything,
Si qu il n’entent ne voit ne ot, the spear went through the knight’s eye
Le fiert parmi l’oeil el cervel, and reached his brain.
Mais il ne set venir a chief He took aim at the knight’s eye, as best he could,
Del hiaume qu’il a sor le chief, and hurled his spear.
Qu’il ne set coment il le praigne. Before he noticed, or saw or heard anything,
Et s’a talent qu’il li desçaigne the spear went through the knight’s eye
L’espee, mais il nel set faire and reached his brain.
Ne del fuerre ne le puet traire, The pain made him faint,
Et Yvonés comence arriere, he fall backwards and lay on the ground.
Ains prent l’espee et sache et tire. The young man dismounted his horse,
Qu’il m’eust ces armes donees, The young man dismantled his horse,
Si qu il n'entent ne voit ne ot, put the spear aside,
Le fier parmi l’oeil el cervel, and took the knight's shield from around his neck.
Le siecle qu’il a le haterel Blood and brains gushed out through his neck.
Le sanc et la cervele espant. The pain made him faint,
Si vers li por ses armes prendre, he fall backwards and lay on the ground.
Et li chevaliers por atendre The Red knight, awaited him,
Avoit la colpe d’or jus mise placing the golden cup
Sor i. perron de roche bise. on a block of gray stone.
1141 Est trestot i., si com moi samble, or so it seems.
1142 Qu’èles se tienent si ensamble. He’s all of one piece.”
1143 — Or ne vos caut de nule rien, “Don’t worry,
1144 Que jes departirai molt bien, I can remove them easily,
1145 Se vos volez,” fait Yvonés. if you wish,” said Ivonet.
1146 «Faites dont tost, fait li vallés, “Well go ahead!” said the young man,
1147 Ses me donez sans nul arest.» “Hurry up and give them to me.”
1148 Tantost Yvonés le desvest, Ivonet undressed him quickly
1149 Et dusqu’en l’orteil le deschauce; from head to toe.
1150 N’i a lessié hauberc ne cauce He left nothing: not mail, nor boots,
1151 Ne hiaume en chief n’autre armure. nor the helmet on his head, nor any other piece of
1152 Mais li vallés sa vesteüre But the young man didn’t want
1153 Ne volt laissier, ne ne preïst, to leave behind his old clothes, nor take,
1154 Por rien qu’Yvonés li deïst, in spite of Ivonet’s insistence,
1155 Une cote molt aessie,
1156 De drap de soie gambesie, the comfortable well-lined silk tunic,
1157 Que desoz son hauberc vestoit the knight had worn under his mail
1158 Li chevaliers quant vis estoit, when he was alive.
1159 Ne oster ne li poot des piez He also refused to take off the
1160 Les revelins qu’il ot chauciez, hobnailed boots he was wearing.
1161 Ains dist: «Deable! est che ore gas? “The devil with you, you must be joking!
1162 Que chanjeroie mes bons dras, Why should I change these sturdy clothes,
1163 Que ma mere me fist l’autr’ier, that my mother made for me a few days ago,
1164 Por les dras a che chevalier? for those of the knight?
1165 Ma grosse chemise de chanvre My good, heavy hemp shirt,
1166 Por la soie qui’st mole et tanvre? for this one that would soon be soaked?
1167 Voldriiez vos que je laissasse which is too soft, too frail?
1168 Ma cotele ou aigue ne passe And my tunic, which keeps out water,
1169 Por cesti qui n’en tenroit goute? for this one that would soon be soaked?
1170 Honi soit sa gorge tote May the Devil stifle
1171 Qui cangera ne loing ne prés he who wishes, in one way or another, to exchange
1172 Ses bons dras por autrui malvés.” the good clothes which are his
1173 Molt grief chose est de fol aprendre; for the bad ones that some other owns!”
1174 Rien fors les armes ne volt prendre In spite of Ivonet’s begging,
1175 Por proiere que on li face. he wanted nothing other than the arms.
1176 Yvonés les cauces li lace So Ivonet laced his large boots
1177 Et sor les revelins li chauce and put the spurs on.
1178 Les esperons desor la cauce,
1179 Puis li a le hauberc vestu Then he put the chain mail on him;
1180 Tel c’onques nus mieldres ne fu, it was the best that had ever been made.
1181 Et sor la coiffe li assiet On the hood of mail he put the helmet,
1182 Le haume qui molt bien li siet, which fit him perfectly.
1183 Et de l’espee li ensaigne As for the sword, he taught him
1184 Que bien lasque et pendant le chaine, to not buckle it tightly, but to wear it loosely.
1185 Puis li met le pié en l’estrier, He then put his foot in the stirrup,
1186 Sel fait monter sor le destrier. and helped him mount his steed.
1187 Ains mais estriers veü n’avoit To tell the truth, he had never seen stirrups,
1188 Ne d’esperons rien ne savoit and as for spurring, he only knew
1189 Fors de cinglant ou de roorte. how to use a strap or a switch.
1190 Yvonés l’escu li aporte Ivonet then brought him the shield
1191 Et la lance, puis si li balle. and the spear,
1192 Aincois que Yvonés s’en aille, Before Ivonet left,
1193 Dist li vallés: «Amis, prenez the young man said to him, “My friend,
1194 Mon chaceor, si l’en menez, here is my hunting horse; take it.
1195 Qu’il est molt bons, et jel vos doing He is excellent, I give it to you,
1196 Por che que je n’en ai mai soing. I don’t need it any more.
1197 Et portés sa colpe le roi, Bring the cup back to the King,
1198 Si le salüés de par moi; and give him my regards.
1199 Et tant dites a la pucele, And tell this to the maiden
1200 Ke Kex feri sor la maisselle, that was struck on the cheek by Keu:
1201 Que se je puis, ains que je muire, the seneschal can be sure that before I die,
1202 Li quit je molt bien metre quire, I will give him something to sweat about!
1203 Que por vengie se tenra.» She can be sure to be avenged!”
Et cil respont que il rendra
The other swore that he would return

Au roi sa colpe, et son message
the cup to the king, and give the message

Fornira il a loi de sage.
exactly as he had said.

Atant departent, si s’en vont.
They each went their own way.

En la sale ou li baron sont,
Ivonet entered the great hall,

Entre Yvonès parmi la porte,
where the barons were, by the main door.

Qui au roi sa colpe raporte.
He brought the cup to the king, and said,

Fornira il a loi de sage.
exactly as he had said.

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Fornira il a loi de sage.
exactly as he had said.
Et comperee et chier vendue for the slap he gave the maiden.

Que il dona a la pucele, The knight will break his right arm

Que entre le coute et l’aissele between the elbow and shoulder.

Le bras destre li brisera.

I. demi an le portera Keu will wear a sling for half a year.

Au col pendu, et bien l’i port, He will have to be patient!

N’i puët falir ne qu’a la mort.» He cannot escape it, no more than a man can escape death.”

Cele parole tant greva These words were so painful to Keu

Keu que par poi qu’il ne creva that he almost exploded in rage,

De maufalent et de corroz, and, in his anger, could have easily

Que il ne l’ala devant toz taken care of the jester, in his own manner

Tel conraer que mort l’eüst. and left him dead.

Por che que al roi despleüst, But he dared not displease the king,

Laissa que il ne l’envaï. and decided to retain himself,

Et li rois dist: «Ah! ah! while the king said,

Keu, com m’avez hui correchié! “Oh! Keu, you have greatly annoyed me today!

Qui assené et adrecié If someone could have trained

Le vallet as armes eüst, the young man in the use of arms,

Tant c’un poi aidier s’en seüst and helped him learn to handle

Et de l’escu et de la lance, a spear and a shield,

Bons chevaliers fust sanz doutance; he would have, no doubt, become a fine knight.

Mais il n’en set ne peu ne bien But, for now, he knows so little

D’armes ne de nule autre rien, of arms, as of other things,

Que neïs traire ne saroit that he won’t even be able to draw his sword

L’espée se besoing avoit. when the time comes.

Or siet armez sor son cheval, And he’s riding, fully armed, on his horse!

S’enconterra aucun vassal He may meet some villain

Qui por son cheval gaaignier who wouldn’t hesitate to cripple him,

Nel doutera a mehaigniér. just to steal his horse.

Tost mort ou mehaignié l’ara, Yes, he’ll soon be killed or crippled,

Que desfendre ne se sara; because he won’t know how to defend himself.

Tant est niches et bestïax, He’s too simple, he really is a fool.

Tost ara fait ses envïax.» The die is cast!”

Einsi li rois plaint et regrate And the king wept and regretted

Le vallet et fait chiere mate, losing the young man, and looked forlorn.

Mais il n’i puët rien conquester, But he had nothing to gain,

Si laisse la parole ester. and spoke no more of it.