I.

Quidam prosapia uir progenitus genera
Moribus ingenitam decorabat nobilitatem,
Qui dominos plures habuisse datur locupletes,
Saepius ad libitum quibus is famulans et honor[um
Nil deseruisse potuit, putat ut meruisse.
Quicquid et illorum sibi quis commisit herorum
Aut uliscendum causaeque suae peragendum

Non prolongabat, quam strennuiter peragebat.
Saepius in mortem se pro dominis dat eisdem
Seu bello seu unatu seu quolibet actu.
Nil sibi fortuna prohibente dabant malefida.
Semper promittunt promissaque dissimulabant.
Ast inimicicias horum causa sibi nactas
Cum superare nequit, super hoc quid agat, neque dic[it,

Nusquam secure se sperans uiuere posse,
Rebus dispositis cunctis matrice subactis,
Tandem de patria pergens petit extera reg[na.
Nullus et hunc alius sequitur nisi scutifer ei[us,
Qui uhat enthecam rebus uariis oneratam,
À puero sibi quem docuit sufferre labore[m.
Balenam dextrim parmam uehit atque sinistri[m;

Dextra lanceolam sub scuto fertque pharetra[m,
Annonae saccum modicum sub se satis aptu[m.
Ast loricatus dominus super et tunicatus
Pro] mitra galeam rutilam gestat chalibinam,
A]cciunctus gladio compto capulotenus auro.
Pen]det et a niueo sibimet gripis ungula collo,
V]j]gula non tota, medii cubiti modo longa,
Qua]e post ad latum uel prae decoratur ad artum
Ob]rizo mundo ceruino cinctaque loro,
No]n ut nix alba tamen ut translucida gemma.
Qu]am dum perflabat, tuba quam melius reboabat,
V]l]time dans matri domuique uale simul omni.

St]at niger ut coruus equus et ceu smigmate lotus,

Vn]dique punctatus hac sub nigredine totus.
Ad] laeuam colli complexa iuba iacet illi,
Qu]i faleratus erat ceu summum quemque decebat,
Ad] cuius sellam nil cernitur esse ligatum,
E] corio sutum ni uas mastice perunctum,
I.

A certain man (i.e. Ruodlieb, the hero), born of gentle stock, graced his inbred nobility with good manners; he is said to have had many wealthy masters. He, serving them often according to their pleasure, could yet gain none of the honors he thinks he deserves. Indeed, whatever any of those lords assigned to him, either on a mission of avenging or of carrying out some affair of theirs, he did not procrastinate, but carried it out as energetically as possible. Often he exposed himself to death for those same masters, either in war, or at hunting, or in any action at all. With fortune faithlessly denying, they gave him nothing. They always promised and then broke their promises. But when he was unable to overcome the enmities incurred because and in addition was at a loss what to do, expecting not to live securely anywhere, he arranged all his affairs and entrusted them to this mother. Finally he departed from his native land, seeking foreign realms, and no one else followed him except his shield-bearer, who carried his sack laden with various things and whom he had taught since childhood to bear his fardels. In the right hand he carried the pack and in the left the (master’s) shield, in the right he bore the spear and, under the shield, the quiver, beneath him (was) a medium-sized bag of fodder, large enough. But his master is in armor and in addition is clad in a doublet. As headdress he wears a gold-red helmet of steel. He is girt with a sword, as far as the hilt embellished with gold. From his snow-white neck hangs the talon of a vulture (i.e. a horn), not a whole talon, but one only half a cubit long. In the back, and at the broad end, and in front, where it was narrow, it was adorned with pure gold and with a thong of stag leather, not white like snow but like a transparent gem. When he blew it, it resounded better than a horn. At last he bids farewell to his mother, and, at the same time, to the entire household. His horse stands there black as a raven and as though washed with perfumed soap, but dotted all over with white spots among this blackness. On the left side a thick mane flows from its neck, and it was caparisoned as was fitting for any highest lord. To its saddle nothing is found to be bound, except a flask sewed of leather and polished with resin,
Du]licius ut sapiat potus, qui fusus in id sit,
Ex] ostro factum uel ceruical modicellum.
Qu]em super ut saluit, equus altius ipse saluuit,
Če uau]dens domino residenti fortiter illo.
Praes]ilit hunc post mox canis in cursu bene uelox,

Inu]estigator, quo non melior fuit alter,
Prae] quo bestiola uel grandis siue minuta
Non abscondere quit se, quin hanc mox reperire[t.
V]time fando uale matri famulisque ualeta
Perfusa lacrimis facie dabat oscula cunctis.

Arrepto freno, monito calcare poledro
Cursitat in campo, cita ceu uolitaret hirund[o.
Ast per cancellos post hunc pasebat ocellos
Mater, at in saepes conscendens eius omnis plebs
Post hunc propiciunt, singultant, flendo gem[iscunt,
Cum plus non cernunt hunc, planctum multiplicar[unt.
Detersis lacrimis qui tunc lotis faciebus
Consolaturi dominam subeunt cito cuncti,
Quae simulando spem premit altum cordedolo[rem.
Consolatur eos, male dum se cernit habere.

Non minor interea natum premit utiquecura
Inque uia secum perpendit plurima rerum,
Desuerire domi quod nil ualet emolum[enti
Et propter faidas sibi multas undique nactas
A patria dulci quod debit exiliari.

Secum uoluebat, se sicubi uile clientet,
Si fortuna uetus infestaretur ei plus,
Esse nouercales omnes inibi sibi fratres,
Non meliorasse res sed peius reperisse.
Intime suspirans rogat obnixe dominum flens,

Vt non deseruisset se nolit ue perire,
Sed sibi succurrat, aerumnas quo superaret.
Intranti regnum maerenti sic alienum
Venator regis subito tunc fit comes eius
Isque salutat eum resalutaturque per ipsum.

Exul erat fortis membris facieque uirilis
Voceque grandiloquus, in responso seriousus.
Quem rogat indigena, quis et unde sit, ire uelit quo.
Quo sibi non dicto desiganterque sileo,
Inquisisse piget, uelut est res, menteque tractat:

"Est si legatus, minor est eius comitatus;
Dum uenit ad curtem, quis munera, quis gerit ensen?
Pauperis est posse, reor, aut uirtutis opimae."
Dum satis obticuit, demum sibi denuo dixit:
so that the drink which was poured into it might taste sweeter; also a small pillow fashioned of crimson cloth.
When he leaped upon the horse, the horse itself reared higher, as if rejoicing that its master had spiritedly mounted. Soon a dog, very fleet in its course, runs ahead, then behind it, a hunting dog, than which none other was better, and before which no game, large or small, could hide without soon being found by it.
At last saying ‘fare thee well’ to his mother and ‘fare ye well’ to the his face suffused with tears, he gave kisses to all. [retainers, He seizes the reins, sets the spurs to the horse and gallops over the field as quickly as a swallow flies. But through the window bars his mother feasted her eyes upon him and all his people, ascending to the battlements, [as he disappeared, look after him, sob, weep, and sigh, increasing their lamentation when they see him no longer. Then, drying their tears and washing their faces, all of them quickly go to console the lady.
She, feigning hope, suppresses her deep grief in her heart and consoles them when she sees that they are sad. Meanwhile no less grief oppresses the son on every side, and on the journey he ponders many things in his mind, that serving at home was worth no reward, and that because of the many feuds which he encountered he had to become an exile from his sweet homeland. [everywhere He revolved in his mind the thought of entering some lowly service [somewhere.

(But) if his former fortune should plague him further, all his peers there would be like a stepmother to him, and his condition would not improve but be found worse. Sighing deeply and weeping, he implores the Lord persistently not to desert him, nor to let him perish, but to come to his aid, so that he may overcome his sorrows. As he thus enters a foreign kingdom in grief, the hunter of the king soon becomes his escort and greets him and is greeted by him in turn. The exile (i.e. Ruodlieb) was strong of limb and manly of countenance and full-throated in voice, serious in his reply. The native asks him who he is, and from where, and whither he He does not speak and is disdainfully silent. [wishes to go. The hunter regrets having asked how matters are and reflects: “If he is on an embassy, his retinue is too small, if he is coming to court, who is bearing the gifts, who his sword? I judge he is of poor estate but of choice quality.” After he had been silent long enough, at length he said again:

29
"Non irascaris, de me si plus rogiteris!
85 Nam tibi prodesse uolo, si possum, nec obesse.
Venator regis sibi carus sumque fidelis,
Nec solet audire quemquam clementius ac me.
Pro fida grandi patriam si deseruisti
Vis et in hac terra mihi cecum tibimet peregrina
90 Quid deseruire causasque tuas superare,
Vtile consilium tibi tunc do, non renuendum.
Vsumuenandi quoniam bene si didicisti,
O quam felicis hic ominis exiliaris!
Diligit hanc artem rex hac et in arte peritum.

95 Quisquis habet, dare quit, qui non habet, hic dare, dic, quid?
Si non coddie, tamen assidue dabit ille;
Numquam sollicitus uictus fueris uel amictus.
Cum donantur ei pulchri celeresque caballi,
Nobis praestantur, cursu quo more probentur,

100 Qui celer et facilis est nec gyrando rebellis;
Est cui maxime tunc opus, illi donat et illum.
Propter et annom nam numquam numnum dabis unum;
Nam sine mensura dabitur tibi, cum cupis, illa.
Ad mensam comites superexaltans locupletes,
Dum consiuatur, nobiscum fando locatur.
Appositum quidquid melioris erit sibi, mittit,
Id faciens nobis plus quam mercedis honoris.
Si libeat cum me te fidum foedus inire,
Dando fidem nostras iungamus foedere dextras,

105 Separet ut nil nos, dumtaxat aniaara nisi mors.
Simus ubicumque, res alterutrius uterque
Sic agat ut proprias, melius si quid queat illas."
Exul tum demum fidens sibi dixit ad illum:
"Sat mihi, domne, tuum demonstras uelle benignum,
Consiliumque tuum non aestimo transgrediendum;
Namque meas caussas, ut sunt, tu coniciaeas.
Hinc pactum fidei placet inter nos stabiliri."
Dando sibi dextras ibi fiunt moxque sodales

110 Oscula [dando sibi firmi] statuuuntur amici
Alterutris dominis famulantes cordibus unis.
Dum satis inter se de rebus disposue,
Regni metropoli coeperunt appropriare,
In qua rex genti legem dedit aduenienti.

115 Castris ingressis, pueris et equis stabulatis,
Insimul ad curtem properabant uisere regem.

120 Consiliumque tuum non aestimo transgrediendum;
Namque meas caussas, ut sunt, tu coniciaeas.
Hinc pactum fidei placet inter nos stabiliri."
Dando sibi dextras ibi fiunt moxque sodales

125 Consiliumque tuum non aestimo transgrediendum;
Namque meas caussas, ut sunt, tu coniciaeas.
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Alterutris dominis famulantes cordibus unis.
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Regni metropoli coeperunt appropriare,
In qua rex genti legem dedit aduenienti.

135 Castris ingressis, pueris et equis stabulatis,
Insimul ad curtem properabant uisere regem.

30
“Do not be angry if you are queried further by me!  
For I wish to help you if I can, and not to harm you.  
I am the king’s hunter, dear and loyal to him.  
He is wont to listen to no one so graciously as he does to me.  
If you have left your homeland because of severe feuds,  
and if in this land, which is just as foreign to me as to you,  
you wish to perform some service or to improve your lot,  
I will give you useful advice, which you should not reject.  
Provided you have learned the usage of hunting well,  
o under what happy auspices you have come hither as an exile!  
The king is fond of this art and of anyone skilled in it.  

Whoever has can give, and who has not, what, tell me, can he give?  
He (i.e. the king) will give, if not daily, at least diligently.  
You will never be in need of food or of clothing.  
When beautiful fast horses are given to him,  
They are turned over to us, so that their gait and training may be [tried out,  
to see which horse is fleet and easy to ride, and not stubborn,  
and he who needs it most, to him he gives even that.  
And for fodder you will never spend a single farthing,  
for that will be given to you without limit whenever you desire it.  
At table, turning from the wealthy lords,  
he talks and jokes with us during the meal.  
When some better food is brought to him, he sends it to us,  
doing it more as an honor than a reward.  
If you desire to enter an agreement in good faith with me,  
let us pledge our faith and join right hands in a bond  
that nothing will separate us, unless it be bitter death.  
Wherever we may be, let each of us champion  
the other’s cause as his own, to see if we can improve it.”  
Then at last the exile trusted him and said:  
“You show me sufficiently, sir, that you are well disposed to me,  
and I do not think that your counsel should be passed by,  
for you have guessed what my situation is.  
Hence it suits me that the bond of faith be established between us.”  
Each gives the other his right hand and quickly they become [comrades  
They kissed one another and established a firm friendship,  
ready to serve each other’s lords with a single heart.  
When they had sufficiently decided between themselves what do they do  
they were beginning to approach the capital of the kingdom, [next,  
in which the king laid down the law to those who neared.  
They entered the castle and found places for their squires and their  
and lost no time in hastening to court to visit the king. [horses
Vt uenatorem rex uidit, dixit ad illum:
"Vnde uenis, quid rumoris fers, dicit nobis.
Inuestigasti, per siluam quando measti,
Vrsum siue suem, libeat nos pergere post quem?"
Qui non ut domino sed ceu respondit amico:
"Illorum neutrum sed eorundem domitorem
Inuestigaui, reperi, mecum tibi duxi,
Scilicet hunc iuuenem tibimet seruire decentem,
Arte satis catum uenandi satque beatum,
Vt reor utque suo mihi cernitur in comitatu;
Et cum dignaris, illum satis ipse probabis.
Is sua fert dona tibi parua nec abicienda
Inque cientelam quo suscipias, cupit illum."
Qui praecursorem laeua tenuit bicolorem,
Cui fuit aurata collo conexa catena.

Illius herbae uim medici dicunt fore talem,
Torridula trita cum paruo polline mixta,
Hinc pilulae factae si fient more fabellae
Et iaciantur aquis, quicunque comederet ex his
Piscis, quad nequeat subtus supra sed aquam net.
Inter tres digitos pilulas tornando rotundas
Dilapidat stagno, quo pisces agmine magno
Conueniunt auide capiendo pilam sibi quisque,
Quam qui gustabant, sub aqua plus nare nequibant
Sed quasi ludendo saltus altos faciendo
Vndique diffugiunt nec mergere se potuerunt.
Ille sed in cimba percurrit remige stagna,
Post pisces urga cogens ad littora sicca,
Quos duo cum funda circumcinxere sub unda,
Cum terram peterent ad aquam resalire nequirent.

Sic piscando sibi ludum fecitque sodali.
Tunc iussere cocos prunis assare minores,
Maiores scuto regi portant ioculando:
"Venari melius hodie nos non poteramus."
Rex: "Retibus aut hamis hos cepistis ue sagenis?"
Ven.: "Non sic piscamur" ait incola "sed dominamur
Piscibus, e fundo ueniant ad nos sine grato,
When the king saw the hunter, he said to him:
"Tell us, from where do you come, what news do you bear? As you walked through the woods, did you come upon a bear or a boar which it might give us pleasure to hunt?"
The hunter replied not as to a master, but as to a friend:
"I have come upon neither of those, but have found a man who can conquer them, and brought him with me;
I mean this young man fitting to serve you, quite skilled in the art of hunting and quite favored, as I think, and as it seems to me in his company; and if you deign to do so, you will test him sufficiently. He is bringing his gifts to you, small but not to be rejected, and desires that you take him into your following."
With his left hand he held the two-colored hunting dog that had a golden chain tied around its neck.

II.

The king received the strange knight in a friendly way. The guest revealed his skill as a fisherman with the so-called buglossa herb. Medical men say that the power of that herb is such that when it is toasted and rubbed and mixed with a little flour, and when pills are made of it, in the manner of a bean, and these are cast on the waters, any fish that eats of them is unable to swim in the water, but floats on top of it. Turning the pills between three fingers, so that they are round, he scatters them on the surface, whereupon the fish congregate in a long column, each eagerly taking a pill. When they tasted it, they were unable to swim in the water any but, as though in play, they leaped high, darted in every direction and were unable to submerge. But he in a skiff glides over the surface with an oarsman (i.e. the driving the fish from behind with a rod to the dry land) [hunter], The two of them confined them in a net under the water, and while making for the land, the fish were unable to leap back into [the water. So he made fishing a sport for himself and his companion. Then they ordered the cooks to bake the smaller ones over glowing coals, but the larger ones they take jokingly to the king on a shield. "We could not do better than this on the hunt today."
King: "Did you catch them with nets, or hooks, or seines?"
Hunter: "We do not fish that way," said the retainer, "but command the fish, that they come to us from the depth involuntarily,
Et super stagnum saliendo iocum dare magnum; 
Dum sub aquam nequeunt satis et saltando fatiscunt,

25 Hos tandem uirga facimus requiescere terra.”

“Hoc uolo” rex dixit “speculari, copia dum fit.”
Plinius herbarum uires scribens uariarum
Laudat buglossam res ad multas nimas aptam.
In ualidum potum, dicit, qui ponat eandem,
Quantumcunque bibat, quod is ebrius haud fore possit.
Pulueris eiusdem, descript plinius idem,
Quam super aspergunt cum pulvere, pelle recondunt
Abstrahendo cutem caedunt per frustaque carnem,
Exprimt, ut ueros hirpos ululare putares.
Quo dum conueniunt hirpi, capram repererunt,
Quam discerpebant in momentoque uorabant,
Nec procul hinc abeunt, ambo quam lumina perdunt.
Talibus et paribus instat miles peregrinus

30 Exul et horribiles hirporum clans ululatus
Hunc si gustet quid, mox uisum cito perdat.
Herbae uenator cuius studiosus amator
In siluam pergit, plures hirpos ubi rescit,
Capram cum fune secum ducente sodale;
Quam caedunt inibi lato sub tegmine fagi

35 Huius si gustet quid, mox uisum cito perdat.
Herbae uenator cuius studiosus amator
In siluam pergit, plures hirpos ubi rescit,
Capram cum fune secum ducente sodale;
Quam caedunt inibi lato sub tegmine fagi

40 Abstrahendo cutem caedunt per frustaque carnem,
Quam super aspergunt cum pulvere, pelle recondunt
Amboque scandebant super arbore uel residebant.
Exul et horribiles hirporum dans ululatus
Nunc ueterum grandes, iuuenum graciles modo uoces

45 Exprimt, ut ueros hirpos ululare putares.
Quio dum conueniunt hirpi, capram repererunt,
Quam discerpebant in momentoque uorabant,
Nec procul hinc abeunt, ambo quam lumina perdunt.
Talibus et paribus instat miles peregrinus

50 Afectans se cum cunctis, ualet ut, studiose,
Magna pace regnum dum stat uel honore.
Alterius regni marhmanni ualde benigni
Nostris, a nostris is amor seruatur et ipsis.
Alterutrique meant emptum, quodcunque uolebant,
Vegetigal dantes uectigal et accipientes,
Nubunt hinc illuc nataque suas dederant huc,
Compatres fiunt uel qui non sunt, uocitabant.

Hic amor inter eos per multos duruit annos,
Dopecatis sunt rupta ligamina pacis.

55 Exosor pacis nostri generalis et hostis
Se men zizaniae non cessat multiplicare,
Est ubicunque fides, ut stet ea non ibi perpes;
Quo succedente fit grandis vverra repente.

60
and leaping above the surface, indulge in much sport.
Being unable to go under to any degree, and worn out by their
[leaping,
they are brought by us with the help of a rod to rest at last on dry
[land]."

“This,” said the king, “I wish to see when an opportunity offers.”
Pliny, describing the potency of various herbs,
praises buglossa as quite suitable for many things.
Whoever puts it into a strong drink, he says,
cannot become intoxicated, no matter how much he drinks.
The same Pliny relates that if one strews some of that powder
on meat and perchance gives it to a dog,
the dog will in a short time be blinded by it,
and that whatever creature may have been born without light,
will soon lose its power of vision if it tastes any of it.
The hunter (here Ruodlieb) a zealous devotee of that herb,
goes into a wood where he has ascertained there are many wolves.
His companion leads with him a goat on a line,
and they slaughter the goat there under the spreading cover of a
Removing the skin, they cut the meat in pieces [beech tree.
and sprinkle the powder over it and hide it in the skin.
Then they both climbed a tree and sat there.
The exile (Ruodlieb) making the horrible calls of wolves,
imitates now the loud sounds of the old ones, now the gentle tones
[of the young ones.
so that you might think wolves are actually howling.
When the wolves came together, they found the goat,
which they tore apart and devoured in a trice.
They are not far distant before they are blind in both eyes.
The foreign knight indulges in such and similar things,
eagerly winning the friendship of all, as he can.
Meanwhile the kingdom is in profound peace and honor.
The border dwellers of the other realm are quite well-disposed
to ours, and this affection is observed by ours, too, toward them.
Each side does business with the other, buying whatever is desired,
paying duty and in turn taking duty.
They intermarry and give their daughters away.
They become godfathers to each other, or if they are not, they call
[one another so.

This love for each other endures through many years
until the bonds of peace are broken by crimes.
The hater of our general peace and our foe
does not cease multiplying the seed of the tares,
that good faith, wherever it may be, shall not persist forever.
This seed sprouts and suddenly a great war occurs.
Quodam mercato multo populo glomerato, 65 Pro causa uili sunt occisi quia multi.

III.

"Esse scio regem quia uestrum tam sapientem,
Haec quod non iussit, tua stulta superbia suasit.
Hinc uideas qualem uunc nanciscaris honorem.
Rem peiorasti, cum te famare cupisti,
5 Ramo suspendi per suras sat meruisti."
Acclamant cuncti, cur haec tardet celerari.
Princeps respondit: "rex noster non ita iussit,
Aut se dedentem uel captum perdere quemquam,
Sed si possemus, captiuos erueremus"
Cum praeda pariter, quae fecimus ambo decenter.
Vincere uictorem, maiorem uult quis honorem?
Sis leo pugnando par ulciscendo sed agno!
Non honor est uobis, ulcisci damna doloris.
Magnum uindictae genus est, si parcitis irae.
10 Hinc precor annuite, uestro quo fiat amore,
Solus ut iste comes nobiscum uadat inermis,
Seu uultis proprio seu quouis uile caballo,
Ni placeat uobis, sibi seruiat ut puer unus,
Qui sibi prendat equum stabulans annonet et ipsum,
Vtque suam gentem uinctam prae se gradientem
Cernat, in obprobrium duxit uel quale periculum,
Ne quicquam temere praesumat tale patrare."
Tunc sibi dixere cuncti sua uerba placere.
Et iubilo magno patriam repetunt properando
20 Et quamuis uideant, sua domata qualifier ardent,
Non tristabantur, dum libertate fruuntur.
Signifer et proceres alii regisque fideles

Finipolim subeunt ibi captiuosque reseruant
Et numerant socios, sanos habuisseque cunctos
Intime gaudebant laudemque deo tribuebant.
Missus dirigitur regi, qui cuncta loquatur,
Quid uelit ut faciant praedonibus, utque remandet.
30
In a certain market where many people were gathered many were killed for trifling reason.

III.

The margrave of the neighboring country invaded with fire and sword. The king summoned his army and appointed the strange knight (Ruodlieb) general. He forced the invaders to join in battle, defeated them, and made the margrave prisoner. When the prisoner alleged that he had acted not of his own accord, but at the behest of his king, the general reprimanded him as follows.

"I know that your king is so wise that he did not order this; your foolish pride prompted it. You may see what honor you have now found from this. You have made your case worse when you desired to glorify yourself, you have well deserved to be suspended from a branch by your [calves]."
The leader replies: "Our king did not order this nor tell us to kill a man who surrenders, or anyone who is captured, but if we can, to retrieve our captured men together with the booty, both of which we have done as is meet. Who desires greater honor than to overcome the victor? Be a lion in fighting, but like a lamb in avenging: it is no honor for you to avenge the losses that cause grief. It is the finest type of vengeance when you spare your wrath. Therefore approve, I beg, so that it be done with your consent, that the count proceed alone with us unarmed, if you wish, on his horse or on some inferior mount. Or if that does not please you, let one page only serve him, who will take his horse, stable it, and feed it. And let him see his own people walking vanquished before him, and into what disgrace and danger he has led them, so that he shall not presume to undertake such a thing rashly."
Then all told him that his words pleased them, and with great jubilation they hasten to their homeland, and although they see how their homes are on fire, they were not sad in the enjoyment of freedom. The banner bearer (Ruodlieb) and the other loyal chieftains of the [king go to the city at the frontier and there put the prisoners in safe and count their comrades and heartily rejoiced [keeping that all have stayed well, and gave praise to God. A messenger is directed to the king to tell them everything and to report what he would want done with the culprits.
Qui properando suum poscit sibi ferre caballum; Scutifer hunc dum fert, uirgam de saepe simul dat.

Quem super insedit, feriens uolitaire coegit,

Coepit c]alcare latus obmaculare cruore. Prospicien]s s\[axo] regis speculator ab alto Exclama]t: “iuuenem uideo nimium properantem, Parva, quo narret, non ab re sic pautavit.”

Obueniu]nt illi multi rumoris auari Comprendu]nt et equum, quid narret eumque requirunt. Dicens] omne bonum nec plus modicum neque multum, Dans pu]ro gladium regem properauit ad ipsum Dixit et]: “aeternum column regale tuorum,

Laete ujue, uale, gaude, dignissime iaude.”


Nuntius] inmensa circumdatus undique turba


Trans hoc] commissum nil est mihi, rex, tibi dictum.”

Tres marc]as tribui legato rex iubet auri, Dicit don]ato misso nimis exhilarato:

“Care, red]i propere uel ai sociis ita de me:
Rex gra]tes dictus ubis demandat et actis;
Cum uestri]s uinctis sibi quam propere ueniatis.”

Inclina]ns ad equum iuuenis citat ad remeandum, Hora qu]ae bina prius iuerat, ibat id una;

Ad celerandas res est pernium bona merces. Ut red]it, socios, ueniant, iubet, in simul omnes.

Illi co]nueniunt et in ampla curte steterunt. Tunc pe]r cancellos legatus dixit ad illos:

“Vobis im]manes rex iussit dicere grates Non so]lum dictis sed dicta sequentibus actis. Rex uult], uisatis hunc quam citius ualeatis, Mandan]s, praedonum nec dimittatis ut ullum.”

38
He in haste asks for his horse. The shield bearer gives it to him and at the same time breaks a pale [from the enclosure. The messenger mounts the horse and, striking it, causes it to go at [full speed, applying his spur to the flank so that it was covered with blood. The watchman of the king, seeing him from a high stone, exclaims: "I see a youth hurrying exceedingly. For no trifling reason is he in such a hurry about his message." Many of them approach, eager for news, and take hold of the horse, and ask the man his story. He spoke all good greetings, but not - only a little, and not [much. Giving his sword to a squire, he hastened to the king himself and said: "Eternal royal pillar of your people, live happily, hail, rejoice, most worthy of praise." To him the king: "Tell me, please, are our loyal men unharmed, or who of them were killed in battle? The booty taken away from us, tell me, is it restored?" The messenger, surrounded on all sides by an immense throng, bowed and said: "King, let anything like that be far from you! Rejoice, because none of your faithful have perished and all of your booty has returned intact and not damaged. Now our comrades ask this and seek through me to know: What shall they do with the captives whom they have brought back [in chains? Except for this commission there is nothing for me to say to you, [king."

The king ordered three gold marks to be paid to the messenger and said to the emissary, who was elated with the gift: "Dear fellow, return quickly and speak thus to the comrades from [me: the king sends thanks to you in words and deeds; with your prisoners come to him as speedily as possible." Bowing, the youth hurried to the horse to return. The distance he had travelled before in two hours, he now covered [in one. Exceedingly large reward is good for speeding things up. Returning, he orders the comrades all to come at one time. They assemble and take their place in the spacious court. Then through the window bars the messengers spoke to them: "The king has bade me speak immeasurable thanks to you not only in words, but in deeds following words. The king wishes you to visit him as quickly as you can, giving you the commission not to dismiss a single one of the culprits."
"Nunc est consilio nobis opus inueniendo, Qualiter illius pietati gratificemus, Non solis uerbis, quorum satis inueniemus, Sed quid donorum mittamus ei variorum, Est ut equis frenis auro compte faleratis, Pelliciis crisis uaricosis siue crusennis, Aæ quod quid mihi quis, dicat uelit auxiliarì."

Respondent pariter, quod agant id ualde libenter. Grates egit eis rex et post haec ait illis:

"Quid respondendum sit missis, dicite primum!"

Est ibi philosophus cunctis sapientior unus, Quem timor aut amor a recto diuertere quoquo Non in iudicio faciendo praeuallet ullo, Dicere quem pro se dicunt debere petunteque.

In regis uelle qui dicens maxime stare
Eius consilium solum monet esse sequendum. Rex: "mihi consilium quoniam sinitis tribuendum,
Restat, ut huc ueniant legati dictaque dicant
Vtque sciatis ab his, si credere neue uelitis."

Post hos direxit. Veniunt quando, sibi dixit:
"En regis, uestri domini nostri uel amici, Dulcia narraui fidei legamina plena,
Quam pie tractauit, merito quos perdere quiuit,
Reddere uel sanos mihi contra se nece dignos;

Clementer nobis demandauit sat honoris.
Quod deseruire communiter hos decet et me,
Si sic persoluet, per uos uelut ipsip spo pondit."
Dixit legatus: "non est sic morigeratus,
Vt quid uerborum soleat mutare suorum.

Est quod ait uerum, dictum sibi ualt fore uerum."
Rex ait: "id quando uel ubi fore possit, ai tu."
IV.

The army returns home with the enemy prisoners. The king treats them most humanely, paroles them and asks the margrave to remain at court, so that he may be secure from abuse. The king's victorious general (i.e. Ruodlieb) is dispatched to the enemy king (the 'lesser king') with an offer of pardon and peace. The general is received by him in a kindly and hospitable manner.

In order to discuss his reply to the 'great' king, and the gifts that should be sent him, the lesser king summons his councillors and speaks as follows.

"Now there is need for us to find counsel how we may show gratitude for his mercy, not only in words, of which we will find enough, but what various gifts we may send to him, either horses neatly equipped with gilded reins, or gray furs or many colored pelts; let anyone tell me how he may wish to help."

They answer in the same way, that they would gladly do it.

"Tell me first what reply should be made to the envoys?"

There is present a single philosopher, wiser than all, whom neither fear nor love can turn from any right when he is arriving at a judgment.

They tell him that he should speak for them and beg him so.

He says that it would be best to hold to the king's wishes and warns them that the king's advice alone should be followed.

"Since you want the counsel to be left to me it remains for the emissaries to come here and repeat their words, so that you may know from them if you are willing to believe them or not."

Then he had them brought. When they came, he said to them: "Behold, I have narrated the sweet messages, full of good faith, sent by the king, your master and our friend, how graciously he treated those whom he could deservedly destroy, returning them to me unharmed, though worthy of death so far as he is concerned."

He has with kindness brought us enough honor. To merit that is fitting both for them and me if he carries it out as he has pledged it through you."

The envoy said: "He is not so disposed as to be wont to change any of his words. What he says is true, he wishes his speech to be true."

The king said: "You say when and where that can be."
“Hoc” ait “est uestri iuris, rex, induciari.”
“Tu tamen inque locum, quo conueniamus in unum,
Vt pax inter nos firmetur mille per annos.”

Missus ait: “si uis dominis et si placet istis,
Non tam nosco locum uestris conuentibus aptum,
Campus ut est ille, quo nos pugnauimus ante,
Inter clausuras nostri uestrique gemellas,
Sunt ut ubi uicti uestri nostrique redempti,


Dimittantur ibi nobiscum pacificati.”

Omnibus ille locus est uisus ad hoc satis aptus,
Regibus ambobus conuenturis spaciousus,
Induciasque trium laudant ad id ebdomadarum.

Post haec rex surgit sic conciliumque diremit


Inque caminatam cum paucis it requietum.

Missis ualde bona dantur regalia dona,
Qui regem repetunt dignas gratesque sibi dant,
Quis miscere iubet summi uini quod habebat.
Legati surgunt detur que licentia poscunt.

Rex ait: “audite mihi dilectique notate
Quae uobis dico, quae dicite non ut amico
Sed ueluti patri meliora malis referenti:
Qualis es in corde, te talem prodis in ore,
Quae nobis uenit, tua quod legatio pandit,


Quae spondendo reis ueniam, spem dando salutis
Mirus uelle satis docet ultroneae pietais,
Contra quae grates non sufficimus dare dignas;
Sed tibi subiecti sumus in pugnando subacti
Semper et omnigeni seruimini intime prompti;


Vt demandasti, quo uis, sumus ir parati,
Est quod laudatum ternarum septimanarum
Ad spacium (uestris est uisum sic uti nostris)
In campo, primus es quo tu consiliatus.’
Oblitus si quid sum, uestra fides at id inplet.”

Respondent pariter: “meruisti sufficienter,
Nos seruire tibi semper cum corde fidelii.”
Tunc inclinabant, cum rite “ualete” recedunt.
Inde petunt summum, uelut est dignum, vicedomnum,
A quo donati sunt ualde, “uale” bene facti.

Ex iussu regis prouisorem dedit illis,
Qui procuraret, quod opus sit eis, ut haberent,
Quod studio summo compleuit cordeque fido,
Donec pacifice uel eos perduxit honeste
Extra clausuram fines regni dirimentem.

Quem bene donatum uel uerbis gratificatum
Poscunt, inclinet regi, “faciam” quibus inquit.
"This," he said, "is in your province, king, to decide."

"But you mention the place where we shall come together,
so that peace may be established between us for a thousand years."
The envoy said: "If you wish, and if it pleases those lords,
I know no place so suitable for your meeting
as this field where we fought formerly,
between the two borders of your and our land,
where yours were conquered and our men freed:
let your men be sent home and be given peace with ours."
That place seemed suitable to all for this purpose,
spacious for the two kings to have their meeting,
and they agree upon a discussion in three weeks.
After this the king rises and dismisses the council
and goes to the living room with a few others to rest.
Very fine royal gifts are given to the envoys,
who go back to the king and offer him deserved thanks.
He orders the best wine he had to be mixed for them.
The envoys rise and ask that leave be given.
The king says: "Listen to me, beloved, and note
what I say to you, and tell him this not as to a friend,
but as to a father who offers better things to evil folk.
As you are in heart, so you reveal yourself by mouth.
Your embassy which has come to us has revealed this.
This embassy, pledging forgiveness to the guilty and giving hope
teaches that it desires a marvellous fulness of mercy, [of salvation,
for which we cannot give enough thanks.
But we have been defeated by you in battle, and are in your power,
fully ready for every service at all times.
As you have required, we are ready to go wherever you desire,
which has been agreed in the space of three weeks,
as seems best to yours and to ours,
in the field which you (i.e. your lord) first advised.
If I have forgotten anything, your loyalty will add to it."
They reply together: "You are so amply meritorious
that we will always serve you with a faithful heart."
Then they bowed and depart with proper farewell.
Then they seek out the prime minister, as is proper,
and by him they were richly rewarded and given a farewell blessing.
On the order of the king he gave them a provider
who was to procure what they need, so that they might have it.
This he carried out with the greatest zeal and a loyal heart
until he had escorted them peacefully and honorably
beyond the border separating the confines of the kingdom.
After he was well rewarded and thanked with words,
they ask him to bow to the king, and he said "I will do it."
A se diuisi sunt ad patriamque reuersi.
Vtque domum redeunt, regem properando reuisunt.

“Dicite, rumoris nunc quid nobis referatis!”

Respondit missus: “quia clemens est tibi Christus,
Quod reges alii nisi grandi non superant ui,
Dat deus id sponte tibi clemens absque labore.
Nam per contigua tibi quae sunt undique regna

Crederis esse leo uigilanti semper ocello;
Quin agnellina pietate tuaque sophia
Tu uincis melius, gladius quam uincat aliis.
Namque deo teste, quo mittebar modo de te,
Nescio, plus ab eis adameris seu uerearis.

Cum rex audisset (summatum grex et adesset),
Quae demandasti sibi uel plebi simul omni,
Primo seruimen post fidi cordis amorem,
Sublata cydare surgens inclinat honeste.

Tune residens tacuit, donec rem pleniter audit,
Quantum nostrates disceptabantque suates
Atque sui nostros offendentes inopinos
Occidunt spoliant captiuatosque cremabant,
Qualiter et nostri sunt illorum dominati,
Captiuos redimunt captiuantesque ligabant;

Quos tibi cum referunt perituros seque putarent,
Quam clementer eis adimendo metum misereris,
Illos absoluens consolans et bene tractans
Praesulibus ducibus locupletibus [abbatibusque
Ipsos seruandum dederis uel equos ad alendum;

Non, ut sunt meriti, sub carcere compedis aut ui
Nec tractent illos, deceit quam regis amicos,

Vt, dum reddantur, super his ne forte querantur.

Quin ipsum comitem scelus hoc inmane patrantom
Nulli connisit, super hunc nulli bene fidit,
Sed sibimet seruit gladium persacpeque portat,
Vt nullus noceat, quem rex sic glorificabat.
Nolle recordari te, sed postquam sibi dixi,
Dedecus immensum uel inedicibile damnnum,
Quod tibi fecerunt, sub iure tuo modo qui sunt,

Quos inpunitos, quamuis meritos inimicos,
Reddere laudares in nulla re nichilatos,
Si uelit, in plebe pax ut reparetur utrimque –

Sic dicens silui uel rege nuente resedi.
They separated from him and returned to their native land. Coming home, they hastily look up the king. As soon as he sees them, he received them well and said: "Tell me, what news are you now bringing us?"

The emissary replies: "Because Christ is well-disposed toward you, the things that other kings, unless very mighty, do not obtain by God gives you in His mercy freely and without your effort. [force, For throughout all the realms that border on yours you are believed to be a lion with an ever watchful eye. Indeed, with your lamblike mercy and your wisdom you are more victorious than another's sword. For God is my witness, when I was sent away from you, I did not know if you are more loved or feared by them. When the king had heard (the retinue of nobles was also present) what you offered him and all the people – above all obeisance, in accordance with the love of a loyal heart – he rose, lifted his beret, and bowed politely. Then he sat down and was silent until he had heard the matter fully, how our men and his were negotiating and his, attacking ours unexpectedly, kill, rob, and burned the prisoners' houses and how our men then became masters of them, liberate the prisoners and bind their captors. When they bring them back to you, and they expect to die, how mercifully did you pity them and free them of their fear, absolving them, consoling them and treating them well, – and to the bishops the dukes, the rich and the abbots you left them to be served and to have their horses fed; no, they should not treat them as they deserve, in a dungeon or under the compulsion of a fetter, but as befits the friends of the [king, so that when they are returned, they will not perchance complain about these.

Nay, the very count who committed this immense crime was assigned to no captor and was fully entrusted to no one, but the count serves him and often bears his own sword, so that no one may harm him whom the king has thus glorified. But then I said to him: Do not recall the great disgrace and unspeakable damage that they have inflicted on you who are now under your jurisdiction; you have vowed to return them unpunished, although deservedly enemies, and by no means to destroy them, so that if he should wish, peace may be established among the people on both sides.

So speaking, I was silent and at the nod of the king I sat down.
In cras induciat, his ut responsa rependat. 
In summo mane curtem cuncti petiere, 
Plures rumoris cupidis quam regis honoris; 
Intromittuntur, qui quid prodesse uidentur, 
Regi consilium pro tali re tribuendum; 
Valuae clauduntur, nescit tur quis loquenter.

Est breue colloquium pro consensu sapientum. 
Nobis interea data prandia sunt sat opima. 
Dum pranderemus et adhuc uinum biberemus, 
Mittitur et post nos tres, omnes ut ueniamus. 
Fecimus, ut iussit. Cum prae se uenimus, inquit: 
'O nostri domini missi summique patroni, 
Si respondere bene sciremus vel honeste 
Demandaminibus clementibus atque paternis, 
Est ut promeritus nium, prompte faceremus. 
Dicite nunc illi de me de plebe vel omni, 
De summis mediis imis mihi iure subactis

Fidum uel promptum sibuectorum famulamen. 
Virtus mira tua, pietas tua magna, sophia, 
Intus ut adimplent te sic foris undique comunt. 
Scimus inaequales re militibusque tibi nos, 
Si uelies, posse nos pro meritis uel honeste 
Reddere pro prauis bona stat sati ultio grandis; 
Nam quo rescitur faciens plus inde timetur. 
Grande tuum posse uel inaequiparable uelle 
Sunt tibi pro muro per nullum deiciendo. 
Laesum laedenti ueniam miserendo precari! 
Nonne deizare nobis merito uidere 
Indulgens sponte peccantibus absque petente? 
Econtra nil nos simile praebere ualemus, 
Retribuat sed ut is rex post, quem sic imitaris, 
Nos exorare debemus corde uel ore; 
Vtque diu uiuas ualeas regnes et abundes, 
Nobis et cons titis affinitibus undique regnis 
Est exoptandum communiter atque precandum. 
Nam columna nostri tu solus es in uice Christi 
Atque superstite te bene possamus imperitare 
Sub uestrae fidei scuto diutissime tuti. 
Et nunc, o domine, non designare uenire 
Ad loca laudata, quando sunt induciata; 
Vobis congredium de nostris ac famulamur.‘

Sic ait et donis ditauit nos sat opimitis, 
Pellicis uel equis faleratis siue chrusennis, 
Post poscit uinum, gerdrudis amore quod haustum

46
He sets his reply to them for the morrow.  
Early in the morning all sought the court,  
more eager for news than for the king's honor.  
All those are admitted who seem to be of some value  
for giving counsel to the king in such a matter.  
The doors are closed; it is not known what they said.  
There is a brief discussion to reach agreement among the wise.  
Meanwhile a very rich feast is spread for us.  
While we were still feasting and drinking wine,  
we three are sent for, that we should all come.  
We did as he commanded; when we came before him he said:  
'O envoys of our lord and highest patron,  
if we could well and honorably respond  
to your gracious and paternal claims,  
we would promptly do as he has richly deserved.  
Now report to him from me and all the people,  
from the highest (i.e. nobles), the freedmen, and the lowest legally  
the loyal and immediate servitude of his subjects.  
Your remarkable virtue, your great mercy and wisdom  
adorn you externally in every way, just as they fill you within.  
We know we are no match for you in wealth or in warriors;  
if you should wish, you could destroy us as we deserve.  
It is a very great revenge to return good for evil.  
For such a man, doing things whereby he is known, is the more  
Your great power and incomparable will [subject to me (liti),  
are for you like a wall that can be destroyed by no one.  
To think that the injured should beg for mercy for the injurer and  
Do you not seem to us deservedly to be like a god, [pity him!  
acting indulgent toward sinners of your own accord without  
On the other hand, we can show nothing like it, [prodding?  
but that later this King whom you thus imitate may reward you,  
we should implore in heart and word.  
And that long you may live, flourish, reign and have abundance  
is to be hoped and prayed jointly  
by us all and all neighboring realms round about.  
In place of Christ you alone are our pillar  
and as long as you are alive we can well rule,  
safe for the longest time under the shield of your loyalty.  
And now, o lord, do not disdain to come  
to the promised places when they are determined;  
we come from our homes to join you and to serve you.'  
So speaking, he enriched us with splendid gifts,  
with furs and caparisoned horses and coats made of pelts.  
Then he asks for wine, drinks it, and lets us three
Participat nos tres; postremo basia figens, t
Quando uale dixit, post nos genit et benedixit.

Hinc rediebamus uicedomnum postque uidemus, s
Qui nos condonans prouisorem simul et dans
Osula fert more, grandi nos liquit amore, n
Tam tibi deuctum mandans, ut hero, famulatum. P
Sic datur a cunctis sat amica licentia nobis. G

Disciplinate noster ductor uel honeste G
Seruuit nobis in simplicitateque cordis, n
Huius dum regni confinia uidimus ampli.” m
Talis rumoris rex talis ouans et honoris o
Subridens modicum nil protulit ore superbum; n
Susspiciens laudat dominum, quo dante triumphat, o
Nil reputando sibi sed ei dans omnia dixit: d
“Induciae quo sunt laudatae quandoue, dic, sunt?” m

“Ebdomadae cum praetereunt tres, induciae sunt n
Hac in planicie, qua concertauimus ante n
Soluentes nostros in uinclae redegimus hostes, o
Sunt ubi tristati quo fiant laetifiicati. d
Sic de te ergi tunc induciando sopondi.” o

Rex ait: “hoc laudo promissorum neque fraudo. d
Dum fueras at ibi, quid agendum, dic, habuisti?” d
Respondit: “summus mihi clemens fit uicedomnus n
Procurans multum, defectum ne paterer quem; n
Seachorum ludo temptat me uincere crebro m
Nec potuiz, ludo ni sponte dato sibi solo. n
Quinque dies sic me non siuerat ante uenire; n
Explorare cupit, meas aduentus quid eo sit. n
Inuestigare nulla quod dum ualet arte, n
Post me rex misit, sibi quae dixi satis audit, n
In cras responso, dixi uelut, induciato. o
Rex poscens tabulum iubet opponi sibi sellam d
Et me contra se iubet in fulchro residere, n
Vt secum ludam, quod ego nimium renuebam m
Dicens, ‘terrible, miserum, concludere rege;’ d
Et dum me uidi sibi non audere reniti, o
Ladere laudau cupiens ab eo superari, o
‘Vinci de rege’ dicens, ‘quid obest miserum me? n
Sed timeo, domine, quod mox irasceris in me, r
Si fortuna iuuet, mihi quod victoria constet.’ n
Rex subridendo dixit uelut atque iocando: n
‘Non opus est, care, super hac re quid uereare; o
Si nunquam uincam, commocior haut ego fiam,
share in the love of Gertrude. Then he kisses us.
When he said farewell, he sighed after us and blessed us.
Then we went and saw the prime minister.
He gave us gifts and at the same time a provider,
kissed us, as is the custom, and dismissed us with great love,
offering you, as his master, devoted servitude.
Thus very friendly leave was offered to us by all.
With good breeding and honorably our guide
served us, and in straightforwardness of heart,
until we saw the confines of this huge realm."
The king, rejoicing in such news and such honor,
smiled a little and brought forth nothing haughty in his speech.
Looking up, he praised the Lord, with whose help he triumphs.
Imputing nothing to himself, but giving Him all the credit he said:
"Where, tell me, have you vowed to hold the negotiations, and
[when?"

"When three weeks have elapsed, the negotiations are (to be)
in this field, where before we fought,
releasing our men and placing the enemy in chains,
where they were saddened but now are to be made happy.
Thus I have pledged on your behalf through negotiations with the
[king."
The king said: "I approve this promise and will not practice
[deception.
While you were there, tell me, what did you do?"
He replied: "The highest minister is kind to me,
supplying a great deal, so that I should not suffer any want.
In the game of chess he often tries to defeat me
but could not, unless the game were voluntarily left to him alone.
For five days he did not allow me to come before him.
He desires to find out what was the purpose of my coming.
Since he cannot find that out by any ruse,
the king sent for me and listened well to what I said to him.
As I have said, the reply was set for tomorrow.
The king asks for a board and has a chair brought for himself,
then tells me to sit on a stool opposite him,
so that I may play with him, which I strongly declined,
saying: 'It is fearful for a lowly man to play with the king.'
And when I saw that I did not dare to resist him,
I agreed to play, desiring to be defeated by him.
I said: 'What harm to me, poor wretch, to be defeated by the king?
But I fear, lord, that you will soon be angry with me
if Fortune helps so that victory will be mine.'
The king smiled and said as though jesting:
'There is no need, dear fellow, to fear anything on this score.
If I never win, I will not become angry.
Sedquam districte noscas ludas uolo cum me;
Nam quos ignotos facies uolo discere tractus.’
Statim rex et ego studiose traximus ambo,
Et, sibi gratia sit, mihi ter uiictoria cessit,

Multis principibus nimis id mirantibus eius.
Is mihi de ponit, sibi me deponere nil uult
Et dat quae posuit, pisa quod non una remansit.
Plures suucessunt, hunc ultiisci uoluerunt
Pignora praebentes mea pignora desipientes,

Statim rex et ego studiose traximus ambo,
Et, sibi gratia sit, mihi ter uiictoria cessit,
Multis principibus nimis id mirantibus eius.

Is mihi de ponit, sibi me deponere nil uult
Et dat quae posuit, pisa quod non una remansit.
Plures suucessunt, hunc ultiisci uoluerunt
Pignora praebentes mea pignora desipientes,

Alterutrumque iuuant nimiumque iuuando nocebant.
Praepediebantur, uarie dum consiliantur,
Inter litigium cito uincebam quod eorum

Hoc tribus et uicibus, uolui nam ludere non plus.

Quae deponebant, mihi mox donare uolebant.

Primo respueram, uitiosum namque putabam,
Sic me ditari uel eos per me tenuari.
Dixi: ‘non sueui quicquam ludendo lucrari.’
Dicunt: ‘inter nos dum sis, tu uiue uelut nos;’

Quando domum uenias, ibi uiuere quis ueluti uis.’
Cum sat lorifregi, quae porrexere recepi,
Commoda cum laude mihi fortuna tribuente.’

Rex ait: “hunc ludum tibi censeo semper amandum,
Quo sunt sarcita tua tam bene calciamenta.

Nunc grates habeas, causas quod agis bene nostras.”
Misit et ad quosque, qui captiuos habuere,
Hos ut uestirent ad honorem uel sibi reddant,
Ipsi quos pedites misit, reddant ut equestres,
Insuper armatos uelut ad noua bella paratos.

Vestiuit comitem uelut ex summatibus unum
Binis pellicis preciosis totque chrusennis;
Coccineam tunicam gemmis auroque micantem
Dat sibi, qua regi praebet pocula uini;
Dat uel equum fortem celerem nimis aequipedantem,

Auratum frenum pulchram faleramque gerentem;
Et dat loricam, tutus ualeat fore per quam
In quouis bello communi siue duello;
Ensem uel galeam sibi lanceolam dat acutam.
Qui famulantur ei, donantur utrique clienti

Vestes ualde bonae semperque domi sibi rae;
Insuper ad bella sibi congrua praestitit arma.
Misit praecones satrapas comitesque uocandos,
Ad curtem ueniant quo regis, quam bene possint,
Et secum ferrent, sibi quae uel equis opus essent

Ad tres ebdomadas secum seu plus remanendas.
But as seriously as you know I wish you would play with me.
I wish you would help me learn the moves I do not know.'
Immediately the king and I both zealously made moves,
and, thanks be to her, three times did Victory yield to me,
with many of his nobles marvelling over it.
He pays the stakes for me but does not want me to do it for him
and offers what he has staked until not a single \textit{pisa} remained.
Many followed and wished to avenge him,
offering pledges but refusing mine,
certain to lose nothing, fully trusting unsteady fate.
They helped one another and by helping did too much injury.
They were obstructed while deliberating back and forth,
so that I quickly won while they were disputing,
and that three times, for I did not want to play more.
What they staked they immediately wanted to give me.
At first I scorned it, for I deemed it dishonoring
that I should thus be enriched and they be impoverished through me,
I said: 'I was never wont to enrich myself through gaming.'
They say: 'While you are among us, live as we do:
when you go home you may live there as you wish.'
After I had resisted enough, I took what they offered,
\textit{Fortune} bestowing on me wealth with fame.'

The king said: 'I judge that you should always be fond of this game,
for through it your shoes have been very well mended.
Now may you have thanks because you promote our cause.'

He also sent to all those who had captives,
that they should honorably clothe them and bring them to him.
Those he sent as footmen should return mounted,
moreover armed, as though prepared for new warfare.
He dressed the count as though he were one of his highest nobles,
with two precious furs and the same number of coats of pelts.
A scarlet tunic (i.e. cloak) resplendent with stones and gold
he gives him, wherein he was to offer cups of wine to the king.
He gives him a strong, fast horse of even gait,
with gilded reins, wearing beautiful armor.
And he gives him a coat of mail wherein he may enjoy safety
in any fray, general or duel.
He also gives him a sword, a helmet, and a sharp lance.

To those who were in his household, to each of them were given
very good garments, such as were always rare for them at home.
Moreover he furnished them with arms suitable for war.
He sent messengers to call together the dukes and counts,
that they should come to the court of the king as trim as they can
and bring with them what they needed for themselves or their
to remain there for three weeks or more.  

[horses,
Illuc pontifices inuitantur sapientes
Abbatesque pii scioli bene consiliari.

V.

Hic regis lata] curta fuit amphiprehensa
In me|dio uacua scenis foris undique saepìa,
Qua cum praesulibus abbatibus et duodenis
Posset prandere caenare ut sat spaciose.

Curti contiguum stat tentorium satis amplum
Solis ad exortum, de quo posuere podismum,
Cuius ad extremum fixerunt papilionem,
In quo stans mensa veste fuit uelut ara,
Quam super est posita regis crux et diadema,

Qua missae regi solet officium celebrari,
Matutinalis et iesperìna sinaxis
Cursibus inmìxtis aliis de more diurnìs.
Quo dum rex uenit, missam proferantius audit
Et per legatum regi demandat eundem,

Qui fuerat rerum prius internuncius harum,
Primitus ut uideant sese quam prandia sumant.
Quem rex, ut uidit, bene subridendo recepit
Óscula datque sibi, “quid narras?” post ait illì
“Omne bonum dici tibi de me, sat meruisti.”

“Ad te me misit rex et tibi dicere iussit,
Ne prandere uelis prius illum quam tuearis.
Obuius ad pontem uenit is tibi nos dirimentem,
Pax ibi firmatur res omnis et abbreuiaatur,
Capti redduntur captos se neue queruntur,

Nam meliorati redeunt, non attenuati.”
Rex “ita fiat” ait. Ad herum missus remeaut.
Dum conuenerunt reges ubi constituerunt,
Nil penitus dicunt sibi quam prius oscula figunt.
Noster pontifices, ut idem facerent, iubet omnes,

Et post abbatés ex ordine basiat omnes;
Eius praesulibus tunc praebitus est amor ipsus.
Reges pontifices abbatés clerus et omnis
Assumptis ducibus uel summis alterutrius
Dum resident pariter, rex maior ait sapienter:

“O nimium nobis rex dilectissime cunctís,
Sicut laudauí tibi demandansque spo pondi,
Quicquid stulticiae plebs nostra patrœuit utrimque,
Thither the wise priests were also invited
and the devout abbots, very able in giving counsel.

V.

As agreed, the great king came to the former battlefield
with his retinue and the prisoners.

Here the wide camp of the (great) king was confined,
in the center empty, but outside hedged in all around by huts,
where with bishops and abbots, twelve each,
he could have breakfast or dinner without crowding.
Next to the camp is a sufficiently large tent
facing the rising sun, from where they had made a walk;
at the end of it they had pitched a pavilion tent.
There stood a table covered like an altar,
above which was placed the king’s cross, also his diadem.
There the office of the mass was celebrated for the king,
both the matins and the vesper service,
other daily services also being interposed according to custom.
When the king came there he heard the mass with dispatch
and gave orders to the (lesser) king through the same envoy
who had formerly been their negotiator in these matters (i.e.
that they should meet before taking breakfast.

[Ruodlieb],

When the (“lesser”) king saw the envoy, he received him with a
[kindly smile,
gave him a kiss then said to him: “What have you to report?
You have well deserved that I say all good things about you.”
“My king has sent me to you and ordered me to tell you
not to have breakfast until you lay eyes upon him.
He will come to meet you at the bridge which separates us.
Peace will be established there and the whole matter settled.
The prisoners will be returned, and they will not complain that they
for they will return enriched, not impoverished.”
[were captured,
The (lesser) king said: “So it shall be done.” The envoy returned to
When the kings came together where they had decided, [his lord.
they said nothing at all to each other until they had kissed.
Our king orders all the clergy to do the same,
and then he kisses all the abbots, one after another.
Then the same affection was shown his foremost men.
The kings, pontiffs, abbots, and all the clergy,
in addition to the dukes and nobles of both sides,
took their places on a footing of equality, and the greater king spoke
“O king, most beloved by us all,
[wisely:
as I have vowed to you and pledged when I extended my summons,
whatever folly our peoples have committed on either side,
Hoc dimittamus et eosdem pacificemus,
Ut sint inter se concordantes sine fraude.

Nemo recordetur, aduersi quid patetur,
Obliuscatur ulcisci nec meditetur.
Nam mala malo quam reddere uincere prauo.”
Alter rex surgens huic dignas dicere grates.

Alter rex ait: “hoc absit, ego dum uiuam neque fiet,
Ut tibi quid iuris aut adminuatur honoris;
Es rex sicut ego, tibi me praeponere nolo,
Eiusdem iuris es, cuius sum, uel honoris.
Ob quod uenimus huic, modo perficiamus id istic
Tuque tuos recipie, sed non sine quouis honore.”

Rex ait: “hi, rex, sunt, quos uiuere fata sinebant,
Firmi compatres posthac fidique sodales.”
Quo facto nempe pax firmabatur utrimque
Per iuramentum neutrim penitus temperandum.
Tunc ambo reges redeunt ad papiliones
Cumque suis prandent; ibi grandia gaudia fiunt.

Gaudet quisque, suus saluus rediit quod amicus.
Mensa sublata disponit plurima dona,
Quae regi dentur uel eis, hunc qui comitentur;
Auri quingenta regi donanda talenta,
Insuper argentum multum uel pallia centum,
Centum loricae, totidem galeae chalibinae,
Inter equis multi decapenta bis falerati
let us dismiss this and establish peace among them,  
so that they may enjoy concord together without deception.  
Let no one recall what adversity he has suffered  
and let each forget vengeance and not meditate it.  
For I prefer to pay evil with good rather than to excel by injustice.”  
The other (“lesser”) king arose to express deserved thanks to him.  
Prevented by our king, he sits down, yet speaks as follows:  
“For so many and such great kindnesses that you have shown us  
we cannot give you enough thanks.  
Under whose shield you wield victorious arms,  
He offers you enough fame and all honor;  
therefore there is no need to glorify you.  
Your excellence and great dutifulness and your generosity  
heap the rewards of praise upon you, even if everyone were loath  
I myself and my people must do service to you 
[to do so.  
as people conquered in war and brought under your banner.”  
The great king said: “May this not be while I live, and may it not  
that any justice or honor be taken from you.  
happen,  
You are a king like me, I do not wish to make myself superior to you,  
You share the same privilege and honor as I do.  
In this way let us carry out the purpose of our coming here,  
and you take back your men, but not deprived of any of their honor.’  
So speaking, he returned the count resplendent in royal garb  
and armed as if prepared to engage in war.  
He returned none of those nine hundred otherwise,  
extcept armed and fittingly clothed.  
Then he said: “These, king, are the ones whom fate allowed to live,  
who did not act humanely while they prevailed over us  
but who treated us evilly with fire, pillage and murder.  
On the other hand, how I treated them in turn  
you may learn from what they may say to you when they have  
returned home.  
Now let them come to peace with one another and be as they used  
fast friends hereafter and loyal comrades.”  
When this had occurred, peace was indeed established on both sides  
through an oath to be broken by neither.  
Then both kings return to the tents  
and have breakfast with their men; there great joy prevails.  
Each one rejoices because his friend has come back safe.  
After the table is removed, each one lays out numerous gifts,  
to be given to the king or to those who accompanied him.  
Five hundred gold talents were to be given to the king  
and in addition much silver and a hundred coats,  
a hundred breastplates and as many steel helmets.  
Among the horses twice fifteen mules were caparisoned
Et bis quindecim onagri totidemque cameli
Atque leopardi gemini binque leones
Et pariles ursi, qui fratres sunt uterini,
85 Omnia nixei gambis pedibusque nigelli,
Qui uas tollebant, ut homo bipedisque gerebant;
Mimi quando fides digitis tangunt modulantes,
Illi saltabant neumas pedibus variabant;
Interdum saliant sesque superiebant,
Alterutrum dorso se portabant residendo,
Amplexando se luctando deiciunt se;
Cum plebs aitisonam fecit girando choream,
Accurrunt et se mulieribus applicuere,
90 Inser[tisque suis harum manibus speciosis
Erecti calcant pedetemptim, murnare trinsant,
Vt mzirentur, ibi circum qui graderentur,
Non irascantur, quodcunque mali paterentur.
Insuper et lincum de uulpe lupoque creatum
Addiderat donis, expers quod non sit honoris,
Eius ab urina quia crescit lucida gemma,
Ardens ligurius carbunculus ut precious.
95 Qualiter is fiat, libeat quem discere, discat!
Ex ferro clauos tibi fac fabricare quaternos,
In lata butina, quos fige bis in loca bina
Fortiter inpellens, euellere quis queat haut quos,
In medio butinae terebello facque foramen;
In quam pone feram licet inuitam uel rebellem
Ad clauosque pedes uincire sibi bene cures
100 Et circa collum nexam suspende catenam
Inclinando caput, ne uincula soluere possit!
Ad manductandum sibi sat da siue bibendum,
Quod bibat at uinum ualidum sit, dulce bibendum!
Ebrius exinde, dum uult, nequeat retinere,
105 Exeat urina, sed ut ignorante retenta,
Et fluat in peluim cito per butinam terebratam,
Quam dum non poterit dispersere, uiiure claudit.
Si non emittat tamen hanc moriensque retentet,
Abstracta pelle uel aperto cautius aluo
110 Tollito uesicam uel acu transpunge minutim
Et sic urinam nimis in puram preme peluim
Inque modum pisae per cuprea uascula funde
Maiorisue nucis ad grossum fundito uasis.
Suffodiens [terra quae] uasa dies decapenta
115 Esse sinas, post effodiens exinde resumas

56
and twice fifteen wild asses and as many camels, 
and two leopards and two lions, 
and identical bears who were twin brothers, 
all white, except that their fetlocks and legs were black. 
They lifted a vessel as a human being would and acted like bipeds. 
When mimes touch the strings with their fingers and play, 
they danced and varied the music with their paws. 
Sometimes they leap and turned somersaults 
and sit down and carry each other on their backs, 
and embrace and wrestle and throw each other on the ground. 
As soon as the people have started a round dance with song and 
they run up and join the women, [gyrations, 
who sang with gentle voices and pleasingly, 
and they join their paws with the delicate hands of the women. 
In an upright position they move step by step and growl and bellow, 
so that those who are taking their steps and making their turns are 
Nor are the people angry, no matter what evil they suffer. [amazed. 
He (the “lesser” king) had also added to the gifts a lynx, the off- 
and a wolf, not without value, spring of a fox 
because from its urine grows a bright gem, 
the brilliant lynx-stone, like a precious carbuncle. 
How that is made, let anyone who desires to learn, learn! 
Have made for yourself four spikes of iron 
and drive these into a wide vat in twice two places 
so hard that no one can get them out. 
In the middle of the vat make a hole with a little drill. 
Into it place the wild beast, though it may be unwilling and rebel, 
and take good care to tie its feet to the spikes. 
Around its neck hang a strong fetter, 
bending its head, lest it may be able to loosen the chain! 
Give it enough to eat and drink, 
but the wine it drinks should be strong and sweet to drink! 
Drunk as a result, it cannot hold its urine, as it wishes. 
Let the urine pass off, but as from one who does not realize it – as 
[though it were retained, 
and flow quickly into a basin through the punctured vat. 
If the lynx is unable to void it, the beast will cease living. 
But if it does not get rid of the urine and retains it in death, 
pull off its skin and with some care open its belly, 
then remove the bladder and puncture it slightly with a needle 
and press the urine into a very clean bowl. 
Pour it into little copper vessels the size of a bean, 
or into a dish the size of a larger nut. 
Bury these containers in the ground and let them remain for fifteen 
then dig them up and take out the contents, [days,
Guttas in gemmas concretas cernis et omnes,
Quae similis prunis lucent caligine noctis,
Quas decet imponi reginarum digitali,
Regis at impone magnas aptando coronae.

Adduntur donis, licet illis nil sit honoris,
Simia nare breui nate nuda murcaque cauda,
Voceque miluina cute crisa catta marina,
In quibus ambabus nil cernitur utilitatis.

Ex genealogia uol [urorum] reg[iarum] dona
Ausit cum psitachis binis [coruisque] gemellis
Monedulis stur[nis doctis garrare] loquelas,
Quicquid et audie[runt imitari q]uae studuerunt.
Pontifici cuique sua dona repone[runt] honeste.
Loricis galeis ductibus scutis retalatis

Munerat atque tubis auro praec post decoratis,
Praesidibus pulchris madri[sque] poledris,

His ita dispositis seu pelliciis ue chrusennis.
His ita dispositis modicum requiescere uult is.
Explorare iubet, alter rex quando resurgat.

Post uigilans surgit mulum falarareque iussit
Cumque quibus uoluit ad regem tunc equitaur.
Plures occurrunt et ei seruire studebant.
Quem bene suscepit rex atque sedere rogauerit,
Qui dixit: “domine, mecum dignare uenire

Et non abnuito quae munera parua tibi do,
Quicquid summatum sit et hic, ueniant, rogo, tecum.”

Rex ait: “Id fiat. Rex alter doma reuisat.”
Conuocat iste suos summates conueniendos.
Qui dum conueniunt uel coram rege sederunt,

Vt mos eius erat semper, rogitando iubebat,
Quo suus esset honor cuuius quam munera maior
Et nihil acciperet, sibi si quae rex dare uellet,

“Ne sit opus census uobis uideatur ut eius;
Mecum nunc ict, quod ego faciam facitote.”

Tabant cum regre suscepi sunt et honeste.
Dum consederunt ter miscendoque biberunt,
Rex regem duxit secum quos ireque iussit

In curtem latam [cancel]is amphiprehensam,
In qua stant mensae uario censu cumunatae,
In qua stant et equi, decet ut regem, falerati,

58
and you will see that all the drops have congealed into gems. 
Like glowing coals they will shine in the darkness of night, 
worthy to be set into the ring of queens, 
but set and fit the large ones into the king’s crown. 
There were additions to the gifts, although nothing of value: 
an ape with a short nose, a nude posterior, and a stump of a tail, 
and a long-tailed baboon with a shrill voice and a grey coat, 
in both of which nothing of usefulness is discerned.
From the family of birds he added royal gifts 
with two parrots and a pair of ravens, 
with daws and starlings, taught to chatter in words, 
and who were eager to imitate whatever they heard. 
He brought his gifts to each priest, as is proper. 
For the dukes he brings forth breastplates, helmets, and shields, 
and he presents them with horns decorated all over with gold.
The chieftains (counts) are presented with beautiful marten coats 
and grey palfreys, 
the highborn soldiers (knights) with fur coats or pelts. 
When these matters are thus arranged, he wishes to rest a little. 
He gives orders to find out when the other (great) king rises. 
Then when he awakens and rises, he has a mule saddled, 
and with those whom he has chosen he rides to the other (great) king. 
Many come running, eager to serve him. 
The great king received him well and asked him to be seated. 
The lesser king said: “Lord, deign to come with me 
and do not reject the little gifts I give you, 
and whoever of your lords may be here, they shall please come with [you.”

The great king said: “Let that be done. Let the other king go home.”
He calls his nobles to assemble.
When they come together and have been seated in the presence of [the king, 
as was always his custom, he begged them and ordered them 
that each one’s honor should be greater than gifts 
and that no one should accept anything if the king should wish to [give him something.
“Let it not seem that you are in need of his property. 
Now go with me and do as I shall.”
They went with their king and were honorably received. 
After they had sat there and drunk three times in the round, 
the “lesser” king took with him the other one and those whom the [latter had brought along 
into a wide courtyard enclosed by balconies, 
where stand tables laden with various treasures, 
where stand also horses caparisoned as fitting for a king.
Stant etiam muli stant enormesque cameli
Stant et ter deni mites onagri domitique
Stant et terribiles leopardi siue leones.
Stas et inaurata conexus, lince, catena,
Simia cum catta stat ibique marina ligata,
Stant ursi gemini multo uariamine ludi;
Quin ibi sunt et aues hominum sermone fruentes,
Psitachus et coruus monedula pica ut sternus.
Tunc ait: “haec dona tua sint, rex optime, cuncta,
Praesulibus sint haec horumque fidelibus istaec.”
Auri ter denas uni placuit dare libras
Inque capellanos quinquaginta tribuendas
Argenti libras totidemque per officiales,
Inter scutiferos uilesque ministeriales
Viginti libras nummorum distribuendas;
Nec superexaltat lixas, quin hos quoque donet;
Inter eos denas dispergendas quoque libras
Det duodenorum tantundem eiuquis eorum,
(Post ducibus galeas loricas ponit et enses,
Auratas parmas, lituos ad bella canoros
Inque suos libras sexaginta tribuendas),
Et post praesidibus det equos faleris redimitos
Atque suis denas cunctis libras tribuendas;
Postremo cunctis abbatibus his duodenis
Se det in oramen spondendo suum famulamen,
Illorum cuiuis confratribus hosque secutis
Libras triginta puororum cuiuis et unam;
Mittat et ad clastra monachis libras decapenta.
Regis simnistis aliisque fidelibus eius,
Eius seruicio qui sunt in cottidiano,
Qui ueluti glandes semper flant regis ad aures,
Et pro mercedis succurrunt pondere cuiuis,
Bona dat eximia census ad mille talenta.
Inter quos illum senatorem peregrinum
Missi qui fuerant ad se pacemque patrabant.
Munera dum uidit ea rex multumque probauit,
Dixit ad aequiuiocum: “tua munera sunt bona multum;
Ne tamen a nobis tantum donando graueris,
Pro donis uotum decernimus accipiendum.
Tam bene ludentes ursos hos tollo gemellos
Atque meae natae picam sternumque do de te
Et grates habeas tantas, ceu cuncta dedisses;
Nec uolo praesulibus ducibus quid praesidibus des.
Quod caenobitis dabis aut abbatibus istis,
There were also mules and enormous camels, there stand also three times ten wild asses, gentle and tamed, and there stand terrible leopards and lions. You also stand there, lynx, tied with a gilded chain. The ape and the baboon also stand there tethered. A pair of bears also stand there, engaged in various sports. Indeed, there are birds there, too, using the speech of men, the parrot, the raven, the daw, the magpie, and the starling. Then he said: “These gifts, best king, are all yours; let these be for the bishops, those for their loyal followers.” It pleased him to give each bishop thrice ten pounds of gold, and to the chaplains fifty pounds were given of silver, and the same amount to the episcopal ministers. Among the shield bearers and lower ministerials (clerks) twenty pounds of coins were to be distributed. Nor did he forget the sutlers, indeed, he gives them, too. Among them he gives ten pounds to be distributed and the same amount to each of those twelve (bishops). Then to the dukes helmets, byrnis, and swords, gilded shields, and sonorous bugles for war, and sixty pounds to be passed out among their retinue. And then to the counts he gives horses adorned with armor, and ten pounds each to be distributed among all their retainers. Finally to all these twelve abbots he offers himself in their prayers and pledges his service. To each of them and their confreres in their retinue he gives thirty pounds, and to each of his squires, one. He also sends to the monasteries fifteen pounds for the monks. To the advisers of the king and all his loyal counsellors who are in his daily service and who like sea-shells always whisper in the king’s ears and come to anyone’s help for heavy gain, he gives exemplary gifts of the value of a thousand talents. Among them he rewards that foreign hunter (Ruodlieb) more richly, so too his associate. They had been sent to him and brought about peace. As the king saw these gifts and examined them well he said to him who was also called king: “Your gifts are excellent. Yet lest you be injured at our hands in giving so much, we judge that in place of gifts we should accept your good will. I shall take these two bears who play so drolly and to my daughter I will give from you the magpie and the starling. Accept as much thanks as if you had given everything. And I do not want you to give anything to the bishops, the dukes, What you give to the monks or those abbots [and the counts.
Non contra dico, quia redditur id tibi uero;
Hi sunt assidui famulantes omnipotenti
Orant et pro te studiose nocte dieque
Et quod das illis, pariet tibi gaudia lucis.

Inter summates nolo plus muneris ut des."
Gratis an obitus reticeret is officiales,
Hi bene donantur secretim siue beantur.
Hoc super edictum non ausus est dare cuquam
Grande uel exiguum nec desiderat quis eorum.

Reges inter se quando dixere “ualetis”
Oscula dando sibi, placet his patriando reuerti.
Cumque domum redeunt iuris propriique fiebant,
Ruodlieb dilectae matris cernens inopine

Scimus ubi multos te sustinuisse labores.
Quod lamentamur nos, quandocumque gregamur
Ad placitum uel ad inducas quacunque statutas;
Tunc in consilio dando par est tibi nemo,
Qui uel tam iuste ius dicat tam uel honeste

Ét qui sic uiduas defendat siue pupillos,
Propter auaricam cum damnabantur iniquam,
Qui lamentantur nimium mihi quando premuntur.
Érgo tui cuncti cum sunt hostes nihilati,
Partim defuncti partim membris mutilati,

Illores nulli tibi quod plus sunt nocturis,
Kare, redi cius, quia quos uenias inhiamus,
Inprimis ut nos bene tecum pacificemus
Praestita dando tibi, saepissime quae meruisti
Non parces propriae pro nobis utique uitate. ‘-

Ast in fine breuis huius stat epistola matris:
‘Mi fili care, miserae matris memorare,
Quam, sicut nosti, discedens deserviisti
Inconsolatam, bina [causa] uiduatam,
In genitore tuo, simul in te, nate secundo.

Dum mecum fueras, mala cuncta mihi releuabas,
I do not gainsay because it will truly be requited to you. They are zealous servants of the Almighty, and they will pray diligently for you night and day, and what you give to them will win for you the joys of light. I do not want you to give more gifts among the nobles.” Whether or not he gratuitously forgot and passed over the episcopal yet they were well rewarded in secret and made happy. [ministers, Over and above this edict he did not dare give to anyone a great or a small gift, and none of them desired it. When the kings had said ‘farewell’ to each other, giving each other kisses, it pleases them to return home. And when they come home and things are done according to their Ruodlieb, unexpectedly seeing a certain man sent to him from his dear mother, receives him well. To him he says: “Tell me, is my mother well?” He answers: “She lives, is well, and indeed has sent you this letter, which you may credit more than me.” Taking the scroll, he has a scribe read it. When he had read it over, the scribe said: “I think this brief note ‘Now we, all your lords, quite friendly to you, [states: beg you to return, since we are grieved to be without you for so long a time – we on whose account you are exiled – , and you did not cease piling feuds upon yourself, until you fled from home, seeking other realms, where we know you have sustained many trials. We lament whenever we gather to give an opinion or to arrange negotiations anywhere. No one is your equal in giving advice, no one who pronounces judgment so justly and so honorably and who can so defend widows and orphans when they are harmed by unjust greed and complain loudly to me when they are oppressed. Since now all your enemies have been annihilated, in part being dead, in part maimed, so that none of them can harm you any longer, come back speedily, dear man, because we are eager for your coming, above all that we may well make peace with you, giving you your reward which you have so often deserved, not sparing even your own life for us.”’ But at the end a brief note of his mother is written: ‘My dear son, remember your unhappy mother, whom, as you know, at your departure you left disconsolate, bereft for a twofold reason: bereft of your father and at the same time of you, child, as the second. While you were with me, you relieved me of all evils;
Cum discessisti, gemitus mihi multiplicasti.
Sed tamen utcumque decernebam tolerare,
Secure miseram düm posses ducere uitam
Prae tot tam ualidis tibi tam diris inimicis.
Qui quia sunt cuncti mutilati siue perempti,
Fili kare, redi, luctus finem dato matri
Adventuque tuo consanguineos hylarato
Non solumque tuos sed omnes compatriotas.”
Omnibus auditis miles nimis exhilaratur,
Pro sola matre lacrimis perfunditur ore.
Id resciscente populi rumore sodale,
Ultra credibile nimium fit mentis acerbae,
Illeque non quinque quod fuit apparitorum,
Stant ubi uel resident, simul intime condoluerunt;
Dicunt, quod nunquam uidissent huic similem quem
Moris honestate fidei uel in integritate
Quod nec obest ulli sed, ubi quit, profuit omni.
At qui seruimen eius nouere diurnum,
Dicunt: “quid mirum, sibi si nunc est onerosum,
Nil deseruisse ni pauper uiuere posse,
Victum uel uuestem, nullum plus emolumentum,
Huius cum regni columnen speciale sit omnis.”
Qui sibi dilectum secundum sodalem
Ad regem graditur, prae quo sic fando precatur:
“Si, rex, auderem tibi uel fore non graue scirem,
Quod nimis angit me, tibi uellem notificare.”
Rex ait: “eloquere, clemente potiris ad id me.”
Ille pedes regis amplectitur oscula dans his
Postque resurgendo uix protulit ista gemendo:
“Quid mihi causae sit, melius rex ipse uidebit.”
Sic ait inque manus dat litterulas sibi missas.
Rex ait his lectis: “nunc compatrior satis istis.
Quae tibi promittunt domini, si sic soluunt,
Consilior uideas, uenias quin, neue relinquas.
Atque tuae matris nimir est legatio suavis;
Hinc omnino tibi modo nolo reconciliari,
Quin uadas ad eam uel consoleris eandem
Contribulesque tuos uisendi te sat auaros.
Quando uelis ito, nobiscum sed tamen esto
Istius ebdomadae spicium; noli prius ire
Quam pertractemus, quid mercedes tibi demus.
Nobis seruisti quam deuotissime scisti;
Non obluiisci decet id nos sed reminisci,
Et tibi prodesse, te saepe neci tribuisse
when you had departed, you multiplied my sighs.
Nevertheless I made up my mind to bear it somehow,
as long as you could spend your unhappy life in safety
because of foes that were so powerful and so terrible to you.
Since they have all been maimed or killed,
dear son, return, put an end to your mother's grief,
and by your coming make your kinfolk happy,
not only yours but all your countrymen."
When he had heard everything, the soldier (knight) was much elated,
but on account of his mother alone his face was covered with tears.
When through the people's talk his comrade learned it,
he was saddened more than one might believe,
and indeed not only he but also his retainers.
Where they stand or sit, they all grieved heartily.
They say that they have never seen anyone like him
in quality of rearing and in honest loyalty,
and that he harms no one but, wherever possible, has been helpful
Indeed, all who knew of his daily service say: "What wonder if it is now burdensome to him
that he has earned nothing except to be able to live as a poor man
(and gets) only food and clothing, and no further advantage,
although he is a special pillar of this entire realm."
He, taking his beloved comrade with him,
goes to the king and pleads before him with these words:
"If, king, I should dare, or if I knew that it would not be burdensome
I would be willing to tell you what troubles me sorely." [to you,
The king said: "Speak, since I am well-disposed, you will achieve
He embraced the feet of the king and kissed them [your purpose."
and after rising he could scarcely utter the following with sighs:
"What my reason is, the king himself will better see."
Thus he speaks and places in the king's hands the letter that was sent
When it was read, the king says: "I am very sorry about this. [him,
If your lords will grant what they promise you,
I advise you, look into it, nay come, do not leave it undone.
Besides, the message of your mother is very sweet.
From this I do not by any means want to dissuade you.
Nay, go to her, and console her
and your kinfolk who are eager to see you.
Go when you wish, yet be with us
for the space of this week; do not go before
until we have meditated what reward we should give you.
You have served us as devotedly as you knew how.
We should not forget that, but should remember it,
and it should be to your advantage that you have often dedicated
[yourself to death
Pro me pro populo pro cuncto denique regno."
Exul at inclinat regem meminisseque gaudet
Eius seruiicii paucis respondit et illi:
"Quod tibi seruir, mihi quam bene retribuisti.
Huc postquam unii, pie rex, tibi meque subegi,
Pascha fuit tecum mihi semper cottidianum,
Semper habens multum uel honorum siue bonorum
A te non solum sed ab unoquoque tuorum."
Rex iubet, interea fiant argentea uasa,
Vt grandes lances per circuitum cubitales,
Non nisi bis bina duo plana tot atque profunda,
Quando coaptentur, ceu panes sint uideantur,
Extra speltina si sint perfusa farina.
Quorum uasorum rex unum denariorum
Replet, bizantes quos dicunt aurificantes,
Et sic coniunctim, suppingere quod nequit unum
Plus [cum martello], ne clangant forte mouendo.
Quando domum ueniat, res inde suas melius etert
Atque suos dominos faciat sibi dando benignos,
Vt sibi promissa dent praestita mente benigna.

Altera diuiditur lanx in duo sicque repletur.
Ex una parte lanciae nummos posuere
Ex auro factos et in igne sat examinatos,
A pole bizanto quibus agnomen tribuere,
Est quibus insculpta graece circum titulata
Istac maiestas illac regisque potestas
Inponendo manum stans quem signat benedictum,
Quos det dilectis consanguineis et amicis
Ad congaudendum, mos est uelut, hunc fore salluum
Exilioque graui non illum degenerasse
Sed profecisse uel honore domum rediiisse. –
Citra mazeriam lancis nummis ita fartam
Bis sex armillas imponit rex operosas,
Ex quibus octoae solidae non sunt recauatae
Plumbo repleatae, ceu serpentes capitatae,
Oscula quae sibi dant sic se nec amando nocent,
Quorum quaeque meri graue pondus gesserat au[ri;
Bis geminae reliquae gyrando fuere recuruae
Quaeque librans marcam uelut epaticam speru[latam;

Non in iis decore plus quam studet utilitati.

Et super additur his regiae fibula grandis,
In limo fusa, non malleolis fabricata
Fabrili nullo compacta uel machinamento,
Per totum solida non omninoque dolata,
for me, for the people, and finally for the entire kingdom.”
But the exile bows and rejoices that the king remembers
his service, and he replies to him in a few words:
“That I have served you, you have repaid me well.
After I came here, good king, and made myself your servant,
it was for me always a daily feast-day in your company,
and I always had many honors and many gifts,
not only from you but from every one of yours.”
The king orders that meanwhile there be made silver vessels
in the shape of large bowls, a yard in circumference,
only twice two, two flat and two deep.
Once they are fitted together, they seem like loaves of bread
when covered on the outside with flour of spelt.
The king fills one of these with silver coins
which the goldsmiths call bezants,
and indeed so tightly that he cannot force another one in
with a hammer, and when the vessel happens to move they do not
Thus he was to improve his condition when he came home [rattle.
and to make his lords well-disposed by giving to them,
that they might carry out with a benign spirit the promises given
The other bowl is divided in two sections and thus filled: [him.
on the one side of the bowl-shaped bread were placed coins
made of gold and sufficiently tested in fire,
to which they gave the name from the city of Byzantium,
around which were inscribed in Greek with titles
the (divine) majesty and the (temporal) power of the king,
the former standing, blesses the emperor by placing Her hand upon
These he is to give to his dear relatives and friends, [him.
so that they could rejoice with him, as is the custom, because he is
and did not degenerate in oppressive exile, [safe
but benefited and returned home in honor.
Within the enclosure of the bowl, so crammed with coins,
the king places twice six artistic bracelets,
of which eight solid ones are not hollowed out
nor filled with lead, but are like serpents with heads intertwined
that give each other kisses and do not injure each other with their
Every one of them bore the heavy weight of pure gold. [love.
The twice two others were tortuous and formed into a circle,
each one weighing a mark, and like an hepatic vein adorned with
[little beads.

But in them he strives not so much for beauty as for utility,
and to these is added the great brooch for a queen,
moulded in an earthen form, not made with mallets,
and put together by no workman’s tool,
solid in every respect, but not at all hammered.
In medio cuius aqulae stat imago uolantis
Eius et in rostro pila stat christallina su[mmo,
In qua motari uisuntur tres uolucelli,
Essent ceu uuui, gestire uolare[que prompti.
Aureus hanc aqu[ilam] per girum circulus ambit,
Quae t]am lata fuit, sibi pectus quod bene texit.

Non erat in]merito sic, auri fusa talento. –
Addidit hi]s alius in pensando leuiores
Quauius] et in quarum gemmarum multigenarum
Fulgor] erat u[arius, uelut inspiceres ibi sydus,
Quarum] quaeque librae quadrantem ponderat aequae.

Cum gran]di boga gracili pendendo catena.
Et super] his modicam, quam praetendendo diatim,
Laccern]am cum qua configat, ne stet aperta
Ossa]e ne possint cerni maiuscula si sint. –
Ex aur[jo lunam solidam super addidit unam
Pensan]tem libram, faber in qua protulit artem.
In cur]utatura sunt inque recircuitura
Imposi]ti lapides generosi cuncticolores,
Or]t de] coceleis in maio mense marinis
Rerum co]nmixtis auro de more reclusis.

Sunt in p]lanicie gracies sperulae variatae;
Conser]itur uirtuo uitrum, discernitur auro,
Compo]nens nodos uel folia uel uolucellos.
Ignibus h]iirsuta primo fiunt, tuberosa
Cum sput]o uel aqula poliuntur cote scabrosa.

Id ge]nus electrum fabrile uocatur honestum.
Ast in spl]ndente post gemmas margine lunae
Dant b]ulla]e dulcem se conlidendo fragorem. –
Hanc lun]am lancea uel auro praecipit addi,
Qui post] octonas in lanceum ponit inaures.

Quatt]uor ex illis comptae fulsere lapillis
Nobilibus] uariis ametistis atque berillis;
Quatt]uor ast aliae non sunt gemmis redimitae,
ñexus] deflet miris nodis uariati,
Sicit pincillo quis uitrum pingeret au[ro;

Bulla]e cum bacis clangunt, cum se mouet auri[s. –
Tandem ter denos fabricare iubet digit[ales
Ex auro puro, reperitur non melius quo.
In quorum quemque iubet includendo locare
Ligurium uel iacinctum pulchrumue berillum,

Quorum tres sponsae dandi sunt accipiend[ae,
ñon grandes, gracies, quos ferre decet mulieres. –
Lancibus impletis his donis imperiosi

68
In the middle of the brooch is the image of a flying eagle, and at the end of its beak is a crystal ball, on which three birds are seen to move to and fro, as though they were alive, ready to exult and to fly. A golden ring holds this eagle encircled, and the eagle was so broad that the ring well covered the wearer's [breast.

The bird was so broad not without reason, it was cast from a talent To these he added other brooches, lighter in weight. [of gold.

In each of these gems of many kinds the lustre was different, as you might discern a constellation above; each of them weighed a good quarter of a pound, with a large clasp hanging from a slender chain. And in addition to these was a small brooch to wear in front every with which to fasten the garment so that it will not be open [day, and so that the (wearer's) bones cannot be seen if they are big. Moreover he added a solid lunula, or crescent-shaped piece, of gold, weighing one pound, in which the goldsmith revealed his skill.

In the curvature and in the re-curvature precious stones (i.e. pearls) of all colors were imbedded, as produced by sea-shells in the month of May, with gold laid between the shells, as was the custom. On the surface are delicate spheres of various kinds. Glass is attracted by glass but repelled by gold, causing knots, or leaves, or birds. First they are made rough in fire, and the humps are then polished on a coarse whetstone with saliva or water. This beautiful kind of material is called *electrum fabrile*, or enamel. But behind the gems, on the resplendent edge of the lunula, baubles produce a sweet sound as they strike each other. The king commands that this lunula be carefully placed in the bowl- and he places eight ear-pondants in the bread. [shaped bread, Four of them gleamed bright with pearls and with various precious amethysts and beryls. But four others were not inlaid with gems, but intertwined with remarkable nodes, with rare curves, as if someone might paint glass with a brush dipped in gold. The baubles (capsules) with the pearl berries tinkle when the ear Then he orders thricе ten rings to be made [moves. of pure gold, than which none better is found. Into each of them he causes to be inlaid the lynx-stone, hyacinth and beautiful beryl, of which three are to be given to his bride to be, not large but delicate, as it is fitting for women to wear. When the bowls were filled with these gifts fit for an emperor,
Atque coaptatis clausi firme capitatis,
Has iubet obduci rex glutine ualde tena[c[i,
Polline commixto multo tribulamine [trito,
Vt non abradi nec aqua queat hoc aboleri.
Quando dies uenit, ad quam rex induci[auit,
Quod deberet ei pie respondere clienti,
Dixit principibus: “noster miles peregrinus
Vult remeare domum carta reuocatus h[erorum,
Pro quorum causa patria caret, ut patet, ipsa.
En hic est carta; nunc uos audite, quid illa
Dicat”. Sic inquit et eam sciolus recitauit.
Carta perlecta fiunt ibi tristia corda,
Compare tam fido tam miti tamque ben[igno,
Tali tyrone regem sesque carere.
Et regi suadent, hunc ui prece seu reti[neret,
Vxorem sibi det et honoribus hunc locup[etet,
Dicentes dignum comitatu quouis eund[em.
Rex ait: “absit, ut is de me tribuletur [amicus,
A quo sum numquam minimam commotus in [iram,
Quin irascentem me mitem reddit ut ag[num,
Totius fidei plenum se praebet in omni.
Nam sic e[xii grauis est sibi sarcina longi,
Qualiter i[n quoquam non hoc sentire ualebam.
[Not di]mittamus et eum patriare sinamus.
Has habeat gra]tes, si post sua sic ueniat res,
Quod non esse do]mi queat, huc bene posse reuerti,
Inueniat ]ueteres ut apud nos commoditates.”
Sic ait et p]uerum iubet, ad se quo uocet illum.
Is curren]s uocat hunc; ad regem uenit is illuc.
Dum modicum]m siluit, clementer rex sibi dixit:
“Te nimis in]uite, mi kare, reliquero de me;
Semper prom]ptus eras et in omni morigerebas;
Hinc hab]eo grates tibi, dilectissime, grandes.
Inuidus] es nulli sed plebi karus es omni.
Nunc mi]i dic uerum, karissime cunctigenorum,
Praemia dem t]ibi peccunna malisne sophia.”
Is reputa]ns mente, sibi quid respondeat apte:
“Non cup[i]o, quod” ait “conponderat usus honori.

Census hab]et multos, ubi noscitur, insidiantes
Pauperies mis]eros cogit plures fore fures;
In consanguineo]s parit inuidiam uel amicos,
Vel fratrem] stimulat, fidei quo foedera rumpat.
Est meli[u]s, censu careat quis quam quoque sensu,
Et quicum]que pia satagit florere sophia,
and closed securely with spikes that had heads, 
the king orders them covered with very sticky glue, 
much flour, often ground by rubbing, being mixed in, 
so that it could not be rubbed off nor destroyed by water. 
When the day came on which the king had agreed 
that he should reply fittingly to his servant, 
he said to the princes: “Our soldier(knight), a foreigner here, 
wants to return home, called back by a note of his lords, 
on account of whom he is without his country, as it appears. 
See, here is the note, now hear what it 
says;” So he spoke and a clerk read it. 
The hearts were saddened there when the note was read, 
because the king and they would lose such a recruit, 
a comrade so loyal, so gentle and so kind. 
And they urge the king to retain him by force or entreaty, 
to give him a wife and to enrich him with honors, 
saying that he was worthy of any retinue. 
The king said: “Far be it that my friend should be troubled by me, 
he by whom I have never been aroused to the least anger. 
Nay, when I am angry he makes me mild as a lamb, 
and in everything he shows himself full of complete loyalty. 
For so heavy rests on him the burden of long exile 
as I have not been able to sense in anyone else. 
Let us now dismiss him and allow him to return home. 
Let him have these thanks: if later his affair should turn out in such 
a way that he cannot live at home, that he will well be able to return 
that then he may find among us his old comforts.” [here, 
So he speaks and orders a page to call him hither. 
He runs and calls him: the man comes to the king. 
After a little silence the king said to him graciously: 
“Quite unwillingly, my dear man, I will let you go from me. 
You were always ready and did my bidding in everything. 
For this I am most grateful to you, my dear friend. 
You are not disliked by anyone, but dear to all the people. 
Now tell me true, dearest of all, 
shall I give you gifts in money or do you prefer them in wisdom?” 
Thinking over in his mind what he should properly reply, 
he (Ruodlieb) said: “I do not desire that which common custom 
rates as on a par with honor. 
A treasure where it is known finds many intriguers, 
Poverty compels many wretched to become thieves. 
Among relatives and friends it begets envy, 
and it incites a brother to break his troth. 
It is better that a man lack treasure than that he lack all sense. 
Whoever is occupied in thriving on God-fearing wisdom,
Ille uel arger[n]ti semper sat habebit et auri,
Quae uult] expugnat, quia telis intus abundat.
At memini] multos uidisse creberrime stultos,

Qui cunctis opibus per stulticiam nichilatis
Viuebant in]opes, uitiose degenerantes,
Quos non iuuis]se sed opes patuit nocuisse.
Vnde potes facile me uerbum tale docere,

At memini] multos uidisse creberrime stultos,
Qui cunctis opibus per stulticiam nichilatis
Viuebant in]opes, uitiose degenerantes,
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Qui cunctis opibus per stulticiam nichilatis
Viuebant in]opes, uitiose degenerantes,
Quos non iuuis]se sed opes patuit nocuisse.
Vnde potes facile me uerbum tale docere,

Non uolo pecuniam, sitio gustare sophiam.”
Hoc rex audito: “mecum” surgens ait “ito”,
In penetraloque pedant nullum secumque sinebant.
Rex residen, pro se tunc exule stante cliente,
Dixerat in primis: “nunc audi cordis ab imis,

Non tibi sit rufus umquam specialis amicus!
Si fit is iratus, non est fidei memoratus;
Nam uhehens dira sibi stat durabilis ira.
Tam bonus haut fuerit, aliqua fraus quin in eo sit,

Quam uitare nequis, quin ex hac commaculeris;
Nam tangendo picem uix expurgaris ad unguem.

Quamuis cenosa per uillam sit uia trita,
Numquam deuites callem, quo per sata pergas,
Ne male tracteris caresque tuis ibi frenis

Correptus per quem responsum dando superbum.

Quo uideas, iuuenem quod habet senior mulierem,
Hospicium tribui tibi non poscas iteranti;
In te nam magnam facis insons suspicacionem.
Hic timet, haec sperat, fors inter eos ita uersat.

Ast ubi uir uiduam iuuenis teneat ueteranam,
Hospitium posce; non hic timet haec nec amat te,
Tu[nc] ibi secure dormis sine suspicione.

Poscit ad occandum si te concius agellum,
Vt praestetur equa generandi tempore feta,
Noli praestare, ni uis hanc degenerare;
Nam perdet pullum, si planificabit agellum.
he always has enough silver and gold
and conquers whatever he wishes because within him he is rich in
But I recall that I have very often seen many stupid folk [weapons.
who, destroying all their possessions through folly,
lived in need and were impoverished through their own errors,
whom wealth appeared to have harmed, not helped.
Therefore you can readily teach me such a word
which, if I obey it and do not violate it,
will be as precious as though a man gave me ten pounds.
No one will take this away from me, become my enemy, nor hate me
because of that, and no bandit will kill me when I am at bay.
It is fitting that rich treasure be in the chamber of the king,
the poor man has enough if he is physically able and excels in skill.

I do not want money, I thirst for the taste of knowledge.”
The king hearing this, rose and said: “Go with me!”
They went into the inner quarters and allowed no one to come along.
The king, sitting down while the retainer from abroad stood before
said first of all: “Now listen from the bottom of your heart [him,
to what I say to you as a true friend to a friend!

Never let a red-headed man be your special friend!
When such a one becomes angry, he is not mindful of good faith,
for his wrath is vehement and terrible, and will last.
He will not be so good that there will be no guile in him,
and you will be unable to avoid it or keep from soiling yourself by it.
For after touching pitch, you will scarcely get clean down to your [nails.

Although the usual road through a village may be muddy,
ever avoid the path in order to proceed over the planted fields,
lest you be treated badly and lose your reins
when attacked by someone giving a haughty answer.

Where you may see that an older man has a younger wife,
do not ask for hospitality to be given you when you travel,
for though innocent, you will arouse great suspicion against yourself.
He will fear, she will hope: fate so confounds them.
But where a young man has an old widow as his wife,
ask for hospitality. He will not fear, she will not crave you.
Then you will sleep there unworried, without suspicion.

If your fellow citizen asks you when harrowing his field
that you furnish a mare which is ready to have a colt,
do not lend it, unless you want it to deteriorate,
for it will lose its foal if it levels off the field.
Non tibi tam karus sit contribulis tuus ullus,
Quatirus hunc saepe soleas uisendo grauare,
Plusque solet rarum quam continuum for karum,
Nam cito uilescit homini quodcumque frequens fit.

Ancillam propriam quamuis nimium speciosam
Non uelut uxorem facias tibi consocialem,
Ne contemnat te tibi respondendo superbe,
Ne reatur, se domui debere prae esse,
Si pernoctabit ad mensam siue sedebit.
Tecum manducans pernox tecum ue repausans
Continuo domina cunctorum uult fore summa.
Talia famosum faciunt ignominiosum.

Si libet uxorem traducere nobiliorem
Causa karorum generandorum liberorum,
Tunc cognoscibilem conquire tibi mulierem
Et nusquam, mater tibi ni quo consilietur!
Quam dum quaesieris, decent omnimodis ut honores,
Tractes clementer; illi tamen esto magister,
Litigium cum te ne quod praesumat habere;
Nam uitium nullum maius ualet esse uiorum,
Quam si subjici sint, quis debent dominari.
Et licet in cunctis bene concordet tibi rebus,
Numquam uelle tuum debes sibi pandere totum,
A te correpta si post pro re uitiosa
Improperare uelit, ut nil tibi dicere possit,
Vnde pudor uel amor inter uos quid minuatur.

Nulla repentina tibi tam grauis ingruat ira,
Quin pernoctare uindictam perpetiare,
Maxime cum dubia res est, non ut tibi dicta,
Forsan cras gaudes, animi quod frena tenebas.

Nunquam cum domino tibi lis sit siue magistro;
Namque potestate, si non iuste superant te.
Nec quid eis praestes, ueraciter id quia perdes.
Cum rogat, ut praestes, est tunc melius, sibi quo des,
Inueniet culpam quia, tantundem tibi per quam
Tollat; utrumque perit nec grates nec bona reddet.

"Grates" dicet "habe", cum despoliaberis a se,
Tunc inclinabis dominum laudans, quod abibis
Sanus cum uita, nihilis pensans tua damnas.
Let no kinsman of yours be so dear to you
that you get into the habit of burdening him by visiting him often.
What is rare is usually dearer than what is constant,
for what occurs often to a man quickly cheapens.

Do not treat your own maid-servant, although she may be quite
as though she were your wife and social equal,        [attractive,
lest she despise you and answer you haughtily
and lest she think that she should preside over the house
if she spends the night with you or sits at the same table.
When she eats with you and rests with you at night,
she will always want to be the highest mistress of all.
Such things make a man notorious and disgraced.

If you desire to take a wife of some nobility
for the sake of rearing beloved children,
then select for yourself a wife worthy of knowing,
yet in no case unless your mother advises it.
When you will have selected her, you should show her honor in every
and treat her with kindness, yet be her master,        [way
so that she will not presume to have any quarrel with you,
for there cannot be greater disgrace for men
than if they are subjected to those whom they should rule.
And although she agrees with you in all things,
you should never be willing to disclose your whole business to her,
so that if she is later punished by you for something shameful
and may wish to revile, she can say nothing to you
whereby respect or love between you may in any way be diminished.

Let no sudden wrath come over you, so strong
that you will not permit the revenge to wait another night,
especially when the matter is doubtful and not as described to you.
Perhaps tomorrow you will rejoice that you checked the bridle of
[your spirit.

Never let there be a dispute for you with your lord or master,
for they will get the best of you by virtue of power if not of justice.
And do not lend them anything, for you will truly lose it.
When he asks that you lend, it is then better that you give it
because he will trump up some fault on account of which he can take
[again as much
away from you; both will be gone, and he will return neither thanks
[nor property.

He will say “thank you” when you have been plundered by him,
then you will bow, praising the Lord that you got off
sound with your life, rating your loss as nothing.
Et numquam sit iter quoquam tibi tam properanter,
Vt praetermittas, quin, ecclesias ubi cernas,
Sanctis committas illis te uel benedicas.
Sicubi pulsetur aut si quo missa canatur,

Descendás ab equo currens uelocius illo,
Kattholicae paci quo possis participari.
Hoc iter haut longat, penitus tibi quin breuiabit

Tutius et uadis hostem minus atque timebis.

Abnuito numquam, si te cogens homo quisquam

Oret amore pii ieiunia frangere Christi,
Non ea nam frangis sua sed mandata replebis.

Si tibi sint segetes prope plateas generales,
Non facias fossas, progressus ulteriores
In sata ne ãiant; nam fossas circueundo

Strata fit utrimque per siccum gente meante;

Si non fodisses, damnnum minus hinc habuisses."

Dum rex conticuit sapientia uerbaque finit,
Ambo prodibant rex inque throno residebat
Et laudat cunctis uirtutem militis eius
(Econtra murmur laudantum multiplicatur),
Qui grates regi populo referebat et omni.
Rex ait: "ito domum cunctorum plenus honorum
Atque uide matrem totamque tuam pariter rem,
Si potes in patria tamen esse tua uelut ista,

Soluere sique uelint domini quae pollicit sunt.
Qui si fallant te, decet, ut fallantur et a te,
Nec famuleris eis totiens delusus ab illis;
Nulli seruito parco nimis aut inhonesto.
Si tibi contingat, animus tuus unde uacillet,

Taedeat ut patriae propriae te, si repetis me,
Eiusdem uelle contra te reperies me,
Quo nunc te linquo; dubium non huius habeto.”
Post nuerat digito prae se stanti paranimpho
Et sibi secretim de more susurrat in aurem,
Illuc ut peras camerarius afferat illas,
In quibus hi panes fuerant intus locupletes,
Polline perfusi foris, intus pecuniosi.

76
And never let your journey anywhere be so hurried that you neglect, where you may see churches, to commend yourself to their saints and say a prayer. Wherever the bells are being struck, or if a mass is being sung dismount from your horse and run there with speed, so that you can take part in the peace of Catholicism. That will not make your journey longer, nay will make it much shorter for you, And you will travel more safely and fear your enemy less.

Never refuse when some man, urging you, begs you by the love of our dear Christ to break the fast, for you will not break it but fulfill His commands.

If you own tilled fields near public streets, do not make ditches, lest future thoroughfares be made into your fields; for, going around the ditches, a new street will be made and the people will walk on both sides over [the dry land.

If you had not dug the ditch, you would have less damage as a result.

When the king was silent and had finished his wise words, both of them went forth, and the king sat on his throne and praised to all the virtue of his soldier. Thereupon the murmurs of those praising him were multiplied. He gave thanks to the king and to all the people. The king said: “Go home, laden with all honors, and see your mother and no less all your affairs, but provided only you can be in your native country as you were [in mine, and your lords are willing to carry out what they have promised. If they deceive you, it is fitting for them to be deceived by you. Do not serve them, as long as you are deceived by them. Do not serve a man who is too stingy or dishonest. If things should happen to you as a result of which your spirit may [waver, so that your native country is repugnant to you, you will [back to me, as I now dismiss you; have no doubt of that.” Then he signalled with finger to the chamberlain standing before and, as was his custom, secretly whispered in his ear [him that he should bring hither those knapsacks in which these rich loaves of bread were, covered outside with flour, inside full of money.
Allatis peris rex inquit: “mi bone sodes, Hos geminos panes numquam, karissime, frangas, Primitus ad mairem uenias quam tam tibi karam, Cuius in aspectu solius frange minorem; Cum sedeas nuptum cum sponsa, frange secundum. Hinc et dilectis quantum uis detur amici, Vt sapiant, qualis noster solet fore panis.”

555 Atque ualedicens rex, oscula ter sibi figens Cum gemitu liquit. Miles lacrimando recessit. Quem sequitur cunctus ad equum populus gemebundus, Cumque ualedicunt, sibi flentes oscula figunt. Inde recedente solo comitante sodali.

560 Scutifer, enthecam qui uexit eo modicel[lam, Traxit sagmarium uariis opibus oneratum. Inter dilectos fit magna querela sodales, Tam breue tunc tempus quod ouarent alterut[rius; Nam non ni triduo simul ibant sermocin[ando. Ad noctem medium prolongant sumere caen[am. Post mensam demptis ambobus calciamen[tis, Postquam dormitum decernunt uisere lect[um, Auersi flebant taciti, lacrimando ge[mebant. Vt puer ille magis flet se quatiendo soda[lis, A sibi tam fido quod disiungendus amic[o; Nescit, an hunc unquam fuerit uisurus in [aeuum; Peruigil insomnem uellet flens ducere noct[em, Ni cito quod somnus cor maerens opprimit eius. Cumque diescebat, ambo simul euigilab[ant Surgunt, induerant se, prandent et fa[lerabant Insimul et pergunt, donec confinia cern[unt Alterius regni, qua sunt postremo dire[mpti; Exul et, ut potuit prae fleu, uix sibi dix[it:

“Kare, meo domino de uero corde ue s[ancto
Dic, precor, oramen uel deuotum famul[amen Omnibus atque suis mihi ceu cor semper am[andis.” Basia dum sibi dant, ambo nimir inti[me flebant Alterutrimque “uale” dicebatur sat abun[de, Discedunt a se sic in sua maestus u[terque.

585 Vtque suae patriae iam coeptit repropi[are, Rufus eum uidit ac currens se sibi i[ungit; Quando salutauit, hunc un[de meet rogitauit
When the knapsacks had been brought, the king said: “My good
never break these two loaves, dearest friend, [man, please,
until you come to your mother, who is so dear to you;
in her presence alone break the smaller one.
When you sit at your wedding with your bride, break the second.
And of this let as much as you wish be given to your dear friends,
that they may taste how our bread is wont to be.”
But the king, saying farewell and giving him three kisses,
left with a sigh. The soldier(knight) withdrew weeping.
The whole populace follows him with sighs to his horse,
and when they say goodbye they weep and give him kisses.
As he went from there his only companion (i.e. the hunter) accom-
panied him.
The shield-bearer, who had carried his small travelling sack, (i.e. 
when he arrived)
now pulled a pack-horse laden with various treasures.
Great lamentation was expressed by the beloved comrades
that for so short a time they would be happy with each other.
For at least three days they travelled together chatting.
Until the middle of the night they prolong the eating of supper.
The meal ended, they both take off their shoes,
and after they decide to seek their bed to sleep
they turn away and weep in silence, sighing under tears.
His comrade wept even more, like a child, and was convulsed
because he had to be separated from him, who was so loyal a friend.
He did not know if he would ever in his life see him again.
Wide awake and weeping he would have wished to spend the night
had not sleep quickly come over his sorrowing heart. [sleepless,
And when morning came, both awakened at the same time,
arise, get dressed, breakfast and bridle the horses
and together depart until they discern the confines
of the other’s realm, where finally they separated.
The exile, as well as he could for weeping, said to his friend with
[difficulty:
“Dear friend, please tell my master with a true and venerating heart
of my devoted prayer and humble service,
also for all his people who will always be so dear to me as my heart.”
While they gave each other kisses, both wept most bitterly
and said “farewell” to each other again and again.
Thus they separate to their homes, each one sad.
As he (i.e. Ruodlieb) was already beginning to approach his native
[land again,
a red-headed man spied him and joined him with haste.
After the stranger had greeted him (Ruodlieb), he asked him from
[where he was coming,
“Posthac cum peccas, noceas cui, non maledicas, 
Est quia alde graue duplex damnum tol[erare, 
Perdere quemque suum super hocque pati male[dictum.”
E regione minas rufus satis egit inanes,
where he wished to go, and if he might accompany him. He (Ruodlieb) replied to him wisely but disdainfully enough: “The road is public, you can go wherever you wish.”
The red-head begins to indulge in much lying palaver, although he does not get any reply from the soldier. Since as the day progressed he (Ruodlieb) cannot endure his cloak he ties it, as is his wont, behind him to his saddle. [on him, The red-head reflects with all his wits how he can obtain it. They proceeded and then come to a stream and water the horses. Stroking the horse’s back as if to wipe it, he stealthily snatches the strap and, attached to it, the cloak, holds it under his armpits and returns from the water. Then, leaping from his horse, he hurries to stuff the cloak into his sack, and delayed behind the other as if he were testing something, whether anywhere he had nails from his horseshoes scattered about. Then he hurried to the other and patronizingly said to him: “Before, my good man, were you not seen by me to have a cloak in your saddle? I am surprised that I do not see it.” To him the soldier said: “Indeed, I wonder where it may be.” The red-head said: “In the water something floated away. So, where we were drinking, there perhaps we lost it. Therefore let us return to see if we can find it.” “Let it be,” said the soldier, feigning, as though it were nothing to Then at eventide they began to near a village [him, through which a rather broad street runs, muddy. On a horse no one can get out of these puddles, nor could anyone cross along the fence on foot since the road is so muddy, were there not a very narrow boardwalk, even by trying which sufficiently and holding on to the fence with one would hardly avoid falling into the mud. [one’s hand, But there is a narrow path, beaten from the field through the tilled Now the red-head recommended that same easy path, [land; saying he cannot travel through such puddles and that he knew no road so muddy and wet.

VI.

The peasants gave the red-head a sound thrashing. When he complained and became abusive about it, the knight Ruodlieb told him it was well deserved. “Hereafter when you sin, do not malign him whom you injure, because it is very hard to endure a twofold injury and to lose what one owns in addition to suffering slander.” With regard to this region the red-head uttered enough empty [threats,
Non pernoctari dicens quam sint mutila[ti,

Insectans numeros], quia uult incendere cun[ctos.
Miles subrisit, sibi quid peius fore nam sci[t.

Ad uillam propiant, ubi pernoctare uolebant.
Sol petit oceanum monet hospitiumque pete[ndum;
Rufus pastorem uocat unum conueniend[um,
Illuc qui unet, quem rufus mox rogitauit:
"Dic uicinorum mihi nomina praecipuorum;
Est hic quis diues, nostri fore qui queat h[ospes?"
Pastor ait: "multi sunt hic, quos non stupefir[i

Sat scio, si centum scutis comes appetat [unum,
Quin his seruiire possint omni sub honor[e.
Esset homo pauper, nequeat qui sufficien[ter
Vobis seruiure uestros et equos stabulare.
Multi sunt soliti licet hospitibus famu[liari,
Inter eos omnes non suscipit aduenientes
Tam bene ceu iuuenis ueluti uetus u[xor illius."
Rufus ait: "uidam quid habet iuuenis ueter[anam?
Vir uetus uxor uxor debet habere uetern[am,"
Pastor ait: "nusquam melius nupsisset ad uill[am.
Pauper erat nimium, prius is quam duxerat [illam.
Nunc domínatur ei, seruiuit cui uice ser[u,
Ac ueluti dignus, est nam pius atque benignus,
Gratia sitque deo, qui sic miseretur ege[no."
Tunc dixit miles: "quae te rogo, dic mihi, so[des,
Quaiderit, inopi locuples quia nups[it."
Tunc ait i[s: "domine, dic, audieris, mihi, nonne;
Agna vetus]s cupide [ua]s lingit salis amore
Quem] prius haec habuit, secum dirissime uixit.
Nam fuit] ingra]tus parcus rarissime laetus;
Nun]quam ridetem iderunt neue iocantem.
Quid], dix[it], pecorum uel apum fuerit uel equorum,
Vix]; numerum nescit, quantum cuiusque sibi sit.
Rar]o tamen carnis propriae saturatur uteruis,
Cas]eolos comedunt duros ser[u[m] que biberunt,
Qui]cquid habent, uendunt, precium cuaeteque recondunt.
Suai]uis is hac ueniens iuuenis nudus uel egenus
Vadi at hunc, primo panem mendicat ab illo.
Qui] sibi buccellam sigalinam uix dedit unam;
Han]c dum suscepit, reuerenter stabat et edit.
Me]nsa sublata properat sustollere uasa,
saying that there would be no sleep until they (i.e. the peasants) had [been mutilated, maligning many because he wishes to roast them all. The soldier smiled, for he knew that something worse would happen [to him.]

They hurry to the village where they wished to spend the night. The sun is seeking the ocean and warns that shelter must be sought. The red-head calls a shepherd to meet him, and when he came, the red-head questioned him forthwith:

"Tell me the names of the most distinguished neighbors, is there any rich man here who could be our host?"

The shepherd said: "There is many a one here who would not, I well [know, be rebuffed if a count should visit him with a hundred shields.

Indeed, he could serve them with honor.

He would be a poor man who could not adequately serve you and stable your horses.

Although many are accustomed to serve guests, among all of them no one receives comers so well as a young man and his old wife.”

The red-head said: "Why does a young man have an old widow?

An old man should have an old wife.”

The shepherd said: "Nowhere would he have married a better woman. He was too poor before he took her. Now he is the lord of her whom he served like a slave, for he is just as dutiful and kind as he is worthy.

Thanks be to God who so pities the poor.”

Then the soldier said: "As I ask you, please tell me, how did it come that the rich woman married the poor man?"

Then he said: "Tell me, lord, you have surely heard: An old sheep licks the vat with desire, in its love of salt.

The man she had had before, he lived with her most dreadfully, for he was ungracious, stingy, and rarely cheerful. They never saw him laughing or joking.

With difficulty he could tell what cattle, bees or horses he had; he did not know their number or how many of each he had. But rarely was either of them sated by meat they owned; they ate hard cheeses and drank whey; whatever they have, they sell and carefully hide the proceeds.

That pleasant young man, coming here bare and poor, goes to him and first of all begs bread from him. He barely gave him a small morsel of rye bread. After he had taken it he stood modestly and ate it. When the table had been removed, he hurries to clear away the dishes,
Ne m]ingat catta catulusue coinquinet illa,
Sed]ulus ac lauit, post in toremua reponit.
CoC]ear in disco curat seruare magistro,
50 Vt] sibi praeponat, cum prandit quandoue caenet,
App[osito cultro cum sale ue cum coceleari;
Si be]ne conditum quid non sit, condiat hinc id,
Seu] sit holus seu sorbicium seu quidque ciborum.
Id] notat in corde senior, si non ait ore.

55 Nil pr[aetemisit iuuenis, quod opus fore uidit:
Boujes sicut oues adaquat, porcos ue capellas,
App]ortat faenum quibus annonat parafredis,
Quae] fecit sponte sibi nemine praepiante.
Si quid] alius erat opus, id studiosius egit.
60 Et c]um per triduum mansisset sic apud illum,
Is] nisi buccellam sibi nil dedit ad comedendum,
Cumque diutius esuriem sufferre aquiret,
Inclinabat ei cupiens alio proficisci.
Ille sibi dixit, hunc cum secedere uidit:

65 'Nunc hie esto dies binos tantummodo uel tres,
Alterutrum nostros mores donec uideamus.'
Consensit iuuenis, mox augetur sibi panis,
Quadrans mane datur sibi sero dabatur et alter.
Interea rogat hunc, si quam cognouerit artem.

70 'Artem quam possem cognoscere, dic, meliorem,
Quam quod nosco cibos lautos confingere pl[ueres
Vilibus ex causis, ex herbis siue farinis,
Ad quae nil nisi lac posco modicumue sagi[men
Et tantum salis, detur ut dulcedo sapori.
75 Est aliud, domine, nobis omnino necesse,
Quod non irasci debes de me tibi dici.'
'Dic' ait 'id quid sit, non irascor.' Puer inquit:
'En uelut es, cunctis diues satis esse uider[is,
Et tuus est panis solaminis omnis inanis,
Furfuribus plenus fuscus lolio uel amar[us.
Si praesentare mihi uis cuiusque farinae
Vel modium uel dimidium panes faciendum,
Tot bene cribratos praesentabo tibi panes
Semine conditos apii uel sale respersos,
80 Et pigmenturas aliqas lardo superunctas
Atque coronellas [alia]s alis, uti meclas.
Haece faciens, numerum [rerum minuo] tibi [paruum
Quicquid et escribr[o, cautissime uase recondo
Atque tus pullis dabo siue strepentinibis au[cis.

84
lest the cat urinate on them or the dog soil them.
With care he washes them and then puts them into the closet,
and provides a spoon in a dish to serve the master,
so that he may set it before him when he has lunch or dinner,
and he places a knife there, with the salt and a spoon,
in case anything is not well seasoned, that he may season it,
be it cabbage, or bouillon, or any food.
This the old man notes in his heart, even if he does not speak with
[his mouth.]
The young man omitted nothing that he saw to be necessary.
The cattle as well as the sheep he waters, the swine and goats,
and he brings hay with which he feeds the horses,
This he does of his own accord, with no one giving him instructions.
If something of a different kind was necessary, he did it zealously,
and when he had thus stayed with him for three days in this activity,
the host gave him nothing to eat except a morsel of bread.
When later the youth could not endure the hunger,
he bowed before the old man and expressed the desire to go elsewhere.
The latter said to him as he saw him about to depart:
‘Now stay here only for two or three days more
until we understand each other’s ways.’
The youth agreed, and soon his bread ration is increased;
in the morning a fourth of a pound is given to him, in the evening
At this time he asks him if he knew any skill.     [yet another.
‘What better skill could I learn, tell me,
than that I know how to make more good foods
from cheap things – from herbs or flour,
for which I ask nothing except milk and a little grease
and so much salt that savor is given to the taste.
Something else, master, is very much needed by us,
which you should not be angry in having me tell you.’
‘Tell me,’ he said, ‘whatever it may be, I will not be angry.’ The
‘See, as you are, you appear to all quite rich,     [young man said:
yet your bread is devoid of all comfort (i.e. tastiness),
being full of bran, dark and bitter with darnel.
If you wish to present to me either a measure
of any flour, or half a measure, for making bread,
I will present to you so much well-strained bread,
seasoned with the seed of celery and sprinkled with salt,
and some spiced cakes smeared with lard,
and ring-cakes, and others for other people, like twists.
Doing this, I will not much diminish the number of your possessions,
and whatever I drop from the sieve, I will put back most carefully
and give it to your chickens or your chattering geese.   [in a dish
If I break bread to be distributed among your servant boys,
Non [ita seir]is, ut eis [lenis] uidearis;
Haec faciendo domum totam tibi promptifi[cabis;
Inspiciens] cuncta praesens sta, nitere furca.'
Esset quod] iuuenis multum sapiens, homo cernens

Procura\nda sua commisit ei bona cuncta,
Res ut pro\uideat puerosque suos, uti uellet.
Tali cau\tela facit hoc, tali queoque cura,
Vt domi\no nil deficeret nulliue suorum.
Vltra praec\bendam sibi nil tuit ille statutam,

Saepe l\aborabat, quo se uestire ualeret.
Sic fam\ulan\o fide domino summa, sine fraude
Vixi\t nescio quod. Posthaec moritur scelus illud;
Sordid\jor nemo uixit uel amarior illo.
A paucis] fletur propriorum, dum tumulatur.

Nemo uet\at, uidua iuueni tunc fiat amica

Corde te\nus, sed ad ecclesiam simul ire uidemus,

Ad me\nsam resident simul, ad lectum simul ibunt.
Matrem\] iam dominam uocat hanc ast hunc ea natum.
Mox] famuli famulae patrem suescunt uocitare,

Ille su\os liber\s econtra nominat illos.
Nun\qu\am maio\rem nos cernebamus amorem
Nec co\ntectales sibi tam bene conuenientes.
Ianua\], quae uiduis prius est et clausa pupillis,
Haec nu\nc diuitibus semper patet atque misellis.

Ilic\] hospitium, si uultis, habebitis aptum;
Stat uel\] in ingressu uillae grandis domus horum.”
Tunc a\it et Rufus uanus nimiumque superbus:
“Est uet\us hic aliquis, cui sit pulcherrima coniunx?”
Hic a\it: “est senior, multum bona cui fuit uxor;

Pro d\olor, ah moritur. Is nupsit denuo nuper
Et\] duxit iuuenem stulta[m] nimiumque procacem.
Censet\] pro nihilo, contemnit eum quia, crebro
Huncce procis] stultis ludens inhonestius illis.

.................................

VII.

Panes ille secat et in illos distribuebat,
Carnis de senis discis quod et accidit illis.

86
you should not go aside, so that you will seem to them kind.
Doing this, you will make the whole house well-disposed to you.
Stand there in person, surveying everything, and lean on your two-
The man, seeing that the youth was very wise, [pronged stick.]
entrusted all his possessions to his care,
that he might look after his affairs and his servants as he wished.
This he does with such pains and also concern
that nothing was wanting to his master nor to any of his people.
He took nothing for himself, except the maintenance agreed upon;
often he labored so that he could clothe himself.
Thus serving his master with the greatest loyalty, he lived
without deceit, I know not how long. Then that scoundrel died.
No one lived more sordidly nor more repulsively than he.
By few of his own folk was he mourned when he was buried.
No one objects that the widow then becomes friendly with all her
[heart

at table they are together, and to bed they go at the same time.
Already he calls his lady mother and she him son.
Soon the men and women retainers become accustomed to call him
and he in turn calls them his children. [father,
Never have we seen greater love,
nor a couple so agreeable with each other.
The door which used to be closed to widows and orphans
is now always open to rich and poor.
There, if you wish, you will have suitable hospitality.
Their large house stands at the beginning of the village.”
Then the red-head, vain and quite haughty said:
“Is there any old man here who has a very pretty wife?”
He said: “There is an older man who had a very good wife.
Alas, what grief, she died. Then recently he married again
and took a young foolish one, quite impudent.
Because she despises him, she thinks nothing of it when often
she deceives him with stupid suitors, more dishonorably than they.

VII.

This pleased the red-head. The knight, however, followed the
shepherd’s advice and went to the young man with the aged wife.
To the needy of the village who came to him at supper time, the
peasant gave food.
He cut loaves of bread and distributed these among them,
and what meat fell to them from the six tables.

87
His consolatis, laetis ad doma reuersis
Hospes item dixit: “cum Christus quem mihi mittit,
5 Tunc est pascha meum mihi uelque meis celebra[ndum,
Sicut in hac nocte, dum laetificabimur a te.
Est mihi quod uenit de te, deus ut mihi mittat.”
Cui mox de scapula partem mittit quoque sura,
In plures offas quam concidendo minutas
10 Pro sacramentis pueros partitur in omnes.
Post haec sat cocti domino, sat ponitur assi,
Potus at in patera summi tuberis nucerina
Praecipui uini piperati siue medonis,
In qua bis bina sunt aurea flumina sculpta;
15 Dextra dei fundo paterae confixa stat
Quam, dum pernoctat ibi, quidam summus ei dat.

Numquam gustauit tamen ex hac, ni sibi mittat,
Cui seruitur in hac, in opus seruatur at istud.
Finita caena postquamque datur sibi lympha,
20 Fertur ei uinum, de quo bibit et sibi misit,
Qui dederat dominae prius et post eбит ips[e.
De mensa surgit miles modicumque resedit,
Sicque iacens tractat, hominem qui gratificaret.
Tandem matronae dederat sua pallia prompte,
25 Possit ut ecclesiam sic compta reuisere sanctam.
Interea rufus quid agat non praeteremamus.
Miles ut intrauit, ubi tot bona reperreriebat,
Rufus, cur subeat, uetus est ubi simia, dixit.
Miles dixit: “ueelles mecum, post forsan ouare[s;
30 Quod uolui reperi, sed quod tu quaeris habebis.”
Asstantes multi rufus sunt consiliati,
Deserat haut comitem, [diuertere tam bene nusquam.
At dedig[nanter discessit ab hoc properanter
Currit et ad] neptem, nil nacturus nisi mortem.
Stat senio]r curte liberique sui duo prae se.
Tunc rufus] pulsat, quatiens portam nimis inquit:
“Quam cito qu]is aperi uel me praelinquere noli.”
Cumque senex “quis sit, per saepem prospice” dixit,
40 “Vir qua]it et frangit portam” currens puer inquit.
Rufus ait: “pande, rogitas quasi nescieris me.”
Tunc sunt i]rati iuuenes nimis hinc stomachati.

Rufus pro]terue nimis incursando superbe
88
When they were satisfied and had gone home happy, the host spoke: "When Christ sends someone to me, then it is my Easter and it must be celebrated by me and mine, as on this night, when we are made happy by you. What comes from you is to me as though God sends it to me." To him he soon sends a part from the shoulder and also from the calf, and cutting it into many tiny bits he divides it among all the servants as a sacrament. After that enough boiled and roasted meat is placed before the But the drink, in a walnut goblet of the best grain, [master. was excellent spiced wine and mead, and in the goblet twice two golden rivers are carved. In the very bottom of the goblet the right hand of God is fashioned. While he slept in his house there, a certain high-placed man had [given this to him.

He never tasted of it, unless handed to him by the guest who was served with it; for that purpose it was kept. When the meal was finished, and after water was given to him, he was brought wine, from which he drank and which he sent to the The latter offered it first to the lady and then he drank. [guest. The soldier arose from the table and rested a little. As he lay thus he reflected how he could do the man a favor. Then forthwith he gave the matron his cloak, that thus clad she might visit the holy church. Meanwhile let us not pass over what the red-head was doing. As the soldier entered where he found so many good things, the red-head said (asked) why he was going where the old ape was. The soldier said: "If you should wish to go with me, later you would [perhaps rejoice;

what I wished I have found, but what you seek you will have."

Many standing near him advised the red-head that he should not desert his comrade, that nowhere would he find But disdainfully he departed from him in haste [better quarters. and runs to the 'cousin', to find nothing but death. He found the old man's door with much grating before it. The old man stood at the court, and his two sons before him. Then the red-head beat the gate, shaking it hard, and said: "Somebody open as quickly as possible and don't leave me outside!"

Then the old man said: "Look through the fence to see who it is." The boy ran up and said: "A man is shaking and breaking the gate." The red-head said: "Open! You ask as though you didn’t know me." Then the young men, quite annoyed at this, were angry. Fearing the violence of the evil fellow, the old man bids the door be [opened for him.

The red-head stormed very impetuously and haughtily
In curtem] mitram non deponebat et ensem
(Desil]ens ab equo, freni loro sude iacto)
Strinxit ut] insanus, prae se stetit utque profanus.
Et tunc i's tandem ridens ait ad seniorem:
“Si uos n]oscatis me, miror quod reticetis.”
“Nescio qu]is sitis” ait is “stulte satis itis,
Nescio quj]is sitis nunc nobis quid ue uelitis.”
“Est uxor uest]ra mea neptis ulde propinquaque;
Hanc ut] conueniam solus permittite solam.”
Is dixit] “facite” iubet hanc ad eumque uenire.
Quae uenit; u]t uidit, ardens in corde cupiuit,
Gauden]s arrisit, ea congaudens sibi risit.
“Omne bon]um genitor tibi mandat uel tua mater.
Post dicam] solus ubi uis et quicquid alius.”
Rufus ait]: “Primo quae dico corde notato,
Nostrum col]loquium nam non debet fore longum;
Non fle, non ride, te contineas seriose,
Ne uetu]s ille canis sapiat nostram rationem;
Si mihi] consentis, ab eo citius redimeris.
Est hic nam juuenis satur omnigenae probitatis,
Haut b]reuis haut longus sed staturae mediocris;
Est similagineus totusue genis rubicundus,
In toto mundo non est speciosior illo.
Qui dum rescisset, tu quam speciosa fuisses
Et quas aerumnas patereris cottidianas,
Corde tenus doluit gemebundus uel mihi dixit:
‘Vnquam si fueris mihi fidus, kare sodalis,
Ito, dic illi mulieri martirizatae,
Si uelit, ut redimam se uel de carcere tollam,
Audierit gracilem cras quando tubam reboantem,
Vt dicens nulli sibi tam fidae mulieri
Exeat e curte platea stans inopine,
Donec accurram cum pluribus hanc rapiendam.
Posthac haec hera sit agat et sibi quodque placebit.’
Nunc sibi demanda quod uis, neptis mea cara.”
Discipline stans hoc audiiit ut omne,
Interius gaudens tamen inquit ei quasi maerens:
“Cuncta libens facio, sis certior, atque fidem do.”
Accepta dextra rufus dubitans nihil ultra:
“Ter mihi succumbas in mercedem uolo laudes.”
“Si decies possis, fac” inquit, “uel quotiens uis.”
“Sicut abire uelim, facio, quod tu prohibeto”
Adque senem reiiit, “mihi praecipitoteque” dixit.
into the court, did not leave his hat, and like a maniac
drew his sword (leaping from his horse and slinging the strap
of the bit around a post) and stood there like a demon.
And then at length, smiling, he said to the old man:
“If you know me, I wonder why you are silent.”
“I don’t care who you are,” he said, “you act very stupid,
I don’t know who you are and what you wish of us.”
“Your wife is my cousin, very close of kin,
Permit me alone to meet with her alone.”
He said: “Do it,” and bids her go to him.
She comes; as he saw her, he glowingly felt a heart’s desire.
Rejoicing, he smiled, she, rejoicing with him, smiled at him.
“Your father, your mother send all good greetings to you.
Later I shall say something else, alone, and in some other place.”
Then they go to stand at the gate and lean on the fence.
The red-head says: “First mark well in your heart what I say,
for our talk should not be long.
Do not weep, do not laugh, stay serious,
lest that old dog get to know our plan.
If you will agree, I will free you from him quickly,
for here is a youth sated with (i.e. full of) all kinds of uprightness,
not short, not tall, but of medium stature.
He is sandy-headed and quite red of cheek;
in all the world there is no more handsome man than he.
When he had learned how attractive you were
and what daily sorrows you were bearing,
sad to the bottom of his heart he grieved and said to me:
‘If you were ever true to me, dear comrade,
go tell that tortured woman,
if she wishes, that I will release her and snatch her from the dungeon,
when tomorrow she hears the gentle horn sounding –
although telling it to no woman, however loyal to her –
let her go from the court and stand in the street unseen,
until I come running with many to snatch her.
Afterward she shall be mistress and do whatever pleases her!’
Now advise him as you wish, dear cousin.”
Standing decorously as she heard all this,
rejoicing in her heart, she nevertheless said to him as though she were
“I will do everything gladly, be certain, and I give my word.” [sad: Taking her right hand, the red-head did not doubt any more.
“As reward I wish that you will promise to submit to me three times.”
“Do it ten times if you can,” she said, “or as often as you wish.”
“I shall act as though I wanted to go, but stop me from doing so.”
He returned to the old man and said: “Permit me to leave.”
Ille libens faceret, si prae muliere ualeret. 

Illa rogat multum, discedere ne sinat illum.  
“Si uelit, hic maneat, quod nobis sit, sibimet sit.”  
Duxerat in stabulum properantius illa caballum;  
Non ea nec rufus reminiscuntur magis eius,  
Manducet, si quid ibi graminis is reperisset. 

Intranemque domum neptis bene suscipit illum,  
Insimul assidunt sat sermicinandoque ludunt,  
Insertos stringunt digitos, sibi basia figunt.  
Ingreditur senior, quo non seriosior alter,  
Hispidus in facie, poterat quod nemo uidere  
Eius quid uultus /uerat, quia ualde pilosus,  
Ni solus nasus curuus fuit et uaricosus.  
Stant oculi gemini uelut effosi tenebrosi,  
Hosque retortorum superumbrat silua pilorum  
Neue foramen ubi sit in os, quit quisque uidere,  
Sic se barbicia praetendunt longa ue spissa.  
Ille parare tamen pueros iussit sat edendum.  

Istorum nimius cum displicuit sibi ludus,  
Inter eos resinet natibus disiunxit et ipsos.  
Ad modicum reticent intersessosque dolebant;  
Prae se curando fantur per plura iocando.  
Cum pertaedebat, mensam uelare iubebat  
Dixit et uxor: “satis est, iam parce pudori.  
Non debet mulier sic esse procax, neque sed uir,  
Et praesente uiro ludat decet haut alieno.”  
Sic diciens surgit, ad secretum uelut iret,  
Respiciebat eo terebelli perque foramen.  
Rufus et in solium salit infeliciter ipsum,  
Vna manus mammas tractabat et altera gambas,  
Quod celabat ea super expandendo crusenna.  
Hoc totum ceu fur rimans senior speculatur.  
Quando redit, sibi non cedit, nam non ea siuit.  

Tuncque sedens solio nimis indignando supremo,  
Saepe monet dominam, quo praecipiat dare caenam;  
Quae subsannando caenam differt ioculando.  
Is rogitat, caena, pueros, essetne parata:  
“Quam cito uos uultis” dicunt “caenare ualetis.”  
“Nunc, hera, caenemus requiescendumque meemus  
Pauset et est tempus ut uester karus amicus  
Satque fatigastis hunc, nunc pausare sinatis.”  

92
He would gladly have done it if he had any authority over the
She asks him earnestly not to let him go. [woman.
"If he wishes, let him stay here, and let him share what is ours."
Promptly she led his horse into the stable.
Neither she nor the red-head think of it any more.
If it found any grass there, it would eat.
The cousin received him well as he entered the house.
Together they sit down and indulge in playful conversation.
They clasp each other’s hands and kiss.
The old man comes in, than whom no one is more serious,
shaggy of face, so that no one could see
what his countenance was, since it was very hairy,
except the nose alone, which was crooked and many-colored.
The two eyes were dark as though they had been gouged,
and a forest of bushy hair shaded them above,
nor can anyone see where the opening in his mouth is.
His long and heavy beard projects from his face.
Nevertheless he ordered the servant-boys to prepare something to
eat.
Since the excessive frolicking of these young people displeased him,
he sat down between them and separated them with his buttocks.
For a little while they were silent, and it pained them that someone
was seated between them.
Leaning forward in front of him they continue talking and joking.
When it got too much for him, he ordered the table set
and said to his wife: “It is enough, now have some sense of decency.
A woman should not be so brazen, not even a man,
and when the husband is present she should not play with another.”
So speaking, he rises as though going to the privy,
but he looked back through a hole made by a borer.
Unhappily the red-head leaped to the old man’s chair;
one hand took hold of her breasts, the other her legs,
which she concealed with a fur garment by spreading it out over her.
Like a thief spying, the old man watches all that.
When he returned, the red-head did not withdraw before him, for
she did not permit it.

Then, sitting in the foremost seat with great indignation,
the husband often warns her to have the dinner brought.
She with insulting grimaces and jests puts off the dinner.
He asks the servants whether the dinner was ready.
“As soon as you wish you may eat,” they say.
“Now, wife, let us eat and go to rest.
It is also time that your dear friend should rest.
You have made him tired enough, now let him rest.”
VIII.

Venit is atque fidem sibi uult praedicere sanctam
(Non ualet is, “credo” gemebundus ait, nisi crebro)
Paeniteat, uel eum rogitat, mala quae faciebat.
Nutibus et uerbis se paenituuisse docebat.
5 Per domini corpus fit ab omni crimine mundus.
Exalans animam domino commiserat illam

Dicens: “Christe pie mihi ualde reo miserere,
His et dimitte, mihi uiuere qui rapuere,
Inspiresque meis, ut idem faciant, rogo, natis.”
10 Sic dicens siluit, cito posthaec uiuere clausit.
Aurorante die populus conuenit ubique
Ante fit ecclesiam multus conuentus et ipsam
Et uicinorum maiorum siue minorum.
Rector eo uenit, scelus ut miserabile rescit.

Vtque resederunt ibi, quos residere decebat,
“Hic” ait “est” rector “miserabilis utique rumor,
Quod sit percussus, quo non melior fuit ullus.”
Flentes dicebant omnes, ibi qui residebant:
“Vlciscatur ni, rescimus par iterari.”
20 Misit post liberos, post mordritas simul ipsos.
Qui dum uenerunt, coram rectore steterunt,
Rufus ridendo, terram rea conspiciendo.
Rector, dum uidit quod risit, “pessime” dixit
“Rides, cum cunctos hic flentes cum uideas nos.
25 Quid succensebas, quod eum sic martirizabas?”
Rufus ait: “dentes mihi demesperat antiores
Ob nullam caus[am], [ni] quod sedi prope neptem.”
Dixit et: “ancilla tua neptis si fuit illa,
Cur hanc stuprabas, sceleri scelus adiciebas?”
30 Rufus ait: “cur me fur haec attraxerat ad se?
Cur [quae]ram facere?] facetem non, ni peteret me.”
Quae tantum fleuit, riusus lacrimis ibi quod fit.
Ex oculis sanguis posthaec fluxit sibi grandis.
Postquam conualuit, quod quid fari ualet, inquit:
“O nimis infide, cur sic mentire super me?
Exemplaris adam, qui culpam uertit in euam.
Non post te misi, non te prius, impie, uidi.
VIII.

During the night the red-head had a clandestine meeting with the peasant's wife but they were detected by the old man. In the struggle which ensued, the latter was wounded fatally by the red-head. A priest was summoned to attend the dying peasant.

He (i.e. the priest) comes and wishes to preach the holy faith to him. The old man has no strength except to sigh and say again and again, "I believe."

The priest keeps asking him if he repents the evil he did. He indicated with gestures and words that he repented. Through the body of the Lord he was cleansed of all guilt. Breathing out his soul he committed it to the Lord, saying: "Dear Christ, pity me, truly a sinner. Forgive also those who snatched my life, and inspire my sons, pray, to do the same."

So speaking he became silent, and after that he quickly ceased living. When the sun rose, the people came together on all sides, and a great crowd gathered before the church itself of neighbors both great and small.

The judge went there when he learned of the wretched crime. When they took their seats there, for whom it was proper to do so, the judge said: "Here about goes a very lamentable report that he has been struck down than whom there was none better." Weeping, all these who lived there said: "Unless there is revenge, we know the same will be repeated."

He sent for the sons and at the same time for his murderers. When they came, they stood before the judge, the red-head laughing, the guilty woman looking down to the ground. The judge, seeing that he was laughing, said: "Scoundrel, do you laugh, when you see us all weeping here? What made you angry that you murdered him thus?"

The red-head said: "He had knocked out my front teeth for no reason, except that I sat near my cousin."

The judge said: "If the maid was your cousin, why did you defile her and add crime to crime?"

The red-head said: "Why did she, the thief, draw me to her? Why should I ask to do it? I would not have done it, had she not. She wept so much, that there was a river of tears. [approached me."

Then much blood flowed from her eyes. After she had recovered so that she could say something, she spoke: "O you faithless fellow, why do you lie so about me? You imitate Adam, who turned the blame against Eve. I did not send for you, scoundrel, nor have I seen you before.
Me cum promissis mendosis decipiebas.
Non ego defendo quod feci, sed mage damno
Quod tu fecisti, me consiliante patrasti.
Non ego, confiteor, ulcisci me super opto.
Iudicium, rector, fieri differto parumper,

Donec accusem memet, donec quoque damnem.
En, mea iudex sto, quia ulde libens tolerabo.
Si me suspendi uultis super arbore grandi,
Radite caesariem mihi, longam plectite funem,
Stranguler ut per eam, per quam rea saepe fiebam.
Sed rogo, post triduum corpus tollatis ut ipsum
Et comburatis, in aquam cinerem iaciatis,
Ne iubar abscondat sol aer aut neget imbre,
Ne per me grando dicatur laedere mundo.
Inclusam uase uultis submergere si me,
Deforis in uase quod feci notificate,
Innueniant qui me, ne praesumant sepelire;
Tantum uas rumpant in aquam uel reiciant me,
Piscibus ut citius uorer aut diris cocodrillis.
Vultis in ignitum fumosum trudere furnum,
Ingrediar sponte, quo non cremer igne gehennae.
Vt caream uita, si uultis, mersa cloaca

(Sum nimis inmunda, tali dignissima paena),

Incidero prompte, quia tali gaudeau fine,
Tartareus foetor mihi post ne perpetuetur.
Quicquid supplicii reperitis adhuc grauioris,
Omne libens patiar, muito peiora merebar.”

Quae dum conticuit, rector miserans ita dixit:
”Iudicat haec semet, uos dicite, si sat in hoc sit.”
Omnes plorantes, nimium sibi compatientes
Dicunt: “non opus est, rector rogitet super hoc plus.”
Dicunt causidici: “uitalm decernimus illi
Donari tantum, si paeniteat male factum.”
Eius priuigni mansuefacti uelut agni
Volumunt pedibus rectoris dando precatus
Vt uitam ueniam sibi concedatque salutem,
Esse domus dominam, uelut ante fuit, sinat illam.
Quod dum promisit clementer, id illa recusat:
”Amodo non dominam, sed me dicant homicidam;
Viuere si uultis me, sed tamen, oro, salutis
Vt mihi tollatis, quo me non debilitatis.
Nares truncate, quidquid sit et oris utrimque,
You deceived me with lying promises.  
I do not defend what I did, but more do I condemn  
what you did and carried out with my advice.  
I confess I do not desire to take vengeance on top of what has  
[occurred.

Judge, postpone handing down judgment for a short time  
while I accuse myself and even pronounce my own judgment.  
See, I stand here as my own judge, and quite willingly I will suffer.  
If you want me hung on a large tree,  
then cut off my hair and weave a long rope,  
so that I may be strangled by that through which I became guilty.  
But I ask, after three days take my body away  
and burn it and throw the ashes into the water,  
lest the sun hide its brightness, or the air deny the rain,  
and lest the hail be said to harm the earth because of me.  
If you wish to enclose me in a keg and submerge me,  
record on the outside of it what I did,  
so that those who may find me shall not presume to bury me.  
Let them merely break the keg and toss me into the water,  
so that I may be more quickly devoured by the fish or the terrible  
If you wish to push me into a fiery, smoky furnace,  
[crocodiles.  
I will enter of my own accord, that I may not be burned by the fire  
[of Gehenna.  

Let me be drowned in the sewer if you wish, in order that I may be  
[deprived of life.  

(I am unclean enough and worthy of such punishment)  
I shall jump in myself without delay, since I rejoice in such an end,  
so that the stench of Tartarus shall later not be perpetuated for me.  
Whatever more terrible punishment you still find for me,  
I will endure everything willingly, for I have deserved much worse.”  
When she was silent, the judge pitied her and said:  
“She judges herself, tell me if that is enough.”  
All weeping and pitying her greatly  
say: “There is no need that the judge ask more than this.”  
The jurors speak: “We decree that her life  
be granted to her if she repents her evil deed.”  
Her stepsons, as tame as lambs,  
throw themselves at the feet of the judge, uttering prayers  
that he grant her life, pardon and safety  
and permit her to be mistress of the house as she was before.  
But when he promised it graciously, she refused it:  
“As from now on let people not call me mistress, but murderess.  
If you want me to live, then, I pray,  
take of my well-being (health), but not enough to cripple me.  
Cut off my nostrils and my lips above and below my mouth,
Vt stent horribiles omni sine tegmine dentes,
Vt nullum libeat posthac, mihi basia quo det,
In crucis atque modum me comburatis in altum
Per geminas buccas rosa ceu tenus hac rutilantes,
Nourerit ut quisquam, propter sceleus hoc mihi factum,
Et dicit, 'tibi uae, meruisti tale quid in te?'
Ne grandis culpa penitus me sic stet inulta.'
Tunc rector libers hanc commisit senioris,
Mater et ut domina sit eis nec, ut ante, nouerca.

Quae uestes pulchras ornatus abicit omnes
Induitur tunica uelut ex fuligine tincta.
Caesariem rasit, hinc resticulos ea plectit,
Cum quibus et teneras constrinxerat illa mamillas,
Restes ui mordent carnes, donec putrefiunt.
Tegmen pannosum caput omne tegebat et ipsum;
Sic nil ni nares oculi cernuntur et eius.
Psalterium discit animae senis idque canebat.
Non manducabant, nisi stellam quando uidebat
(Tunc siccum panem comedens atrum cinerosum),
V[el bi]bit ex limpha tantum coclearia terna.
Ambulat haec pedibus nudis per frigus et aestus
Dormit et in lecto nihil palea nisi strato
Et pro plumacio posito tantummodo ligno.
Ante diem surgit senis ad tumulum ueniauit,
Donec sudauit, donec plus stare nequuit;
Tunc ruit in faciem, dum fontem flens ibi fecit.
Ningeret aut plueret seu sol torrando cremaret,
Venit ad ecclesiam, mox ut pulsatur, ad ipsam,
Et non inde redit, dum circumquaque diescit;
Ad breue tunc reedit, donec faciem sibi lauit
Presbiter ad missam uel pulsabat celebrandam;
Tunc rediit, nonam post haec ibi mansit ad horam.

Nilque potestatis sibi uendicat, hanc sinit illis;
Quod sibi dant, habuit, quod non dant, non ea quaerit.
Haec nunquam risit, cum nemine postea lusit,
Cum rident alii, fletus dulcis fuit illi.
Hanc irascentem rixantem luxuriantem
Nemo uidebat eam, dum uitam deserit istam.
Illa commissa natis ab eisque recepta
Rector ait populo: "quid agamus, dicite, rufo,
Qui scelus hoc geminum patrat inter nos gmebundum?"
so that my teeth will show ugly without any covering,
and that in future no one will have the desire to kiss me,
and in the manner of a cross brand me deeply
on my two cheeks, which up to now have been as ruddy as a rose,
so that everyone will know that this was done because of my sin,
and will say: ‘Woe unto you, did you deserve anything like this?’,
and so that my great wrong will not be unavenged against me.’’
Then the judge committed her to the children of the old man,
that she might be mother and mistress to them and not, as before,
[a step-mother.

She puts away her beautiful clothes and all adornments
and dresses in a tunic as though dyed in soot.
She shaved off her hair and with it wove little ropes,
with which she bound together her breasts.
The ropes cut her flesh severely, so that it deteriorated.
A ragged cloth covered her whole head,
and thus nothing but her nose and eyes were visible.
She learned the psalter and sang it for the soul of the old man.
She did not eat, except when she saw the (first) star
(then she ate dry bread, dark, like ashes),
and she drank only three spoonfuls of water.
With bare feet she walked through cold and heat,
and she slept in a bed with no mattress except straw,
and for a pillow only wood was placed.
Before daybreak she rose and kneeled at the tomb of the old man
until she perspired and could no longer stand.
Then she fell on her face and wept a fountain of tears.
Whether it snowed or rained or the sun burned with its heat,
she came to her church as soon as the bells tolled
and did not return from there until daybreak was visible everywhere.
Then she went back after a short time, as soon as she had washed
and the priest rang for the singing of the mass.
[her face
Then she returned and thereafter remained until the ninth hour
[(nones).

She claims no authority for herself; this she leaves to the sons.
What they give her, she held, what they do not give, she does not
She never laughed and never again jested with any one.  [ask for.
When the others laugh there was sweet weeping for her.
No one ever saw her become angry, quarrel,
or dissipate to the time she left her life.
After she had been committed to the sons and been received by them,
the judge said to the people: “Tell me, what shall we do with the
[red-head,
who has committed this double crime which must be lamented
[among us?”
Rufus iudicii certus necis: "obsecro" dixit
"Hic habeo comitem, prius hunc curate uocandum,
Quam quid in his culpis ulciscendum rogitetis,
Qui cuius generis sim, quit sat dicere uobis."
Mittere dum post hunc eius cupidii uoluerunt,
Milītis hospes ait: "quem uos uultis citus asstat.
Hac mecum nocte mansit, quod non fuit iste."
Quem dum produxit, stantem rector rogitauit:
"Dic, miles summe, socius tuus iste uir estne?"

IX.

"Qu. .......................
Obuiat omnia quae [fuerant grandis tibi curae,
Quae cum tempus erit, tibi dicere cuncta licebit.
Nunc falerare tibi iubeas unique clienti.
[Nam cognoscunt] te [magis] ac me compatriotae;
Quando uidebunt te, deuitabunt penitus me.
Debes ire domum, si sit tua gratia mecum."
Cui cor mox hylarat, praæ laeticia quoque flebat.

"Desine" miles ait, ["rivus lacrimis, vereor, fit.
Scutiferum uocat . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
Ambo scutiferi c . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
Qui mox ascen . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
Scutifer[os] dico . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
Cursu u[lo]ci re . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
100
The red-head, certain of capital judgment, said: "I beg you, I have a comrade (Ruodlieb) here, have him called first before you examine how these crimes are to be punished. He can tell you satisfactorily of what family I am."

When they, eager to carry out the red-head's request, sent for the [comrade, the host of the soldier (Ruodlieb) said: "He whom you wish [quickly be there. Last night he stayed with me, but that man (i.e. the red-head) did [not."

When the host brought him, the judge asked him as he stood there: "Tell me, noble soldier, is this man your comrade, or not?"

The end of the story about the red-head has not come down to us. We may assume, however, that he suffered the punishment he deserved. See VI, 7.

IX.

Meanwhile Ruodlieb meets a kinsman (a nephew) of his who is also living abroad. Ruodlieb tries to free him from the clutches of a disreputable woman and to persuade him to return home with him. But the kinsman hesitates to do so and has a confession to make. Ruodlieb says to him:

"It does away with everything which has been of great care to you. When the time comes you may tell me all this. Now have a horse caparisoned for yourself and one for a single for the compatriots know you more (i.e. better) than me. [squire; When they see you, they will completely ignore me. You should go home if your good will is with me."

His (i.e. the nephew's) heart was so happy that he even wept with [joy. "Stop," said the soldier (Ruodlieb), "I fear there will be a river of [tears."

He calls the shield bearer . . . . . . . . .

Both shield bearers . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

He soon ascen . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

I say the shield bearers. . . . . . . . . . .

with speedy pace . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

101
Quid ue [u]olun. . . . . . . . . .
Ne[ue] sec[ram]de . . . . . . . . . .

X.

Est ibi secrete prope secessus . . . . .
In quo sunt clau[i] plures in pariete fixi,
Quis suspendere res potuissent quasque ui[ant]es,
Ne noceant mures, cum non timeant i[bi] fures.
Cum dominis domina pedat ad solaria celsa,
Qua dicebat eis: "multum bene nunc ueniatis!"
Dum grates referunt, rogat illos, ut residerent
Atque iocarentur di[ver]sa dum loquerentur.

Et sibi quos uellent pis.
Moles multigenae p . . . . . . . . . .
Tantum tres desunt . . . . . . . . . .
Miles ait: "nunc piscari . . . . . . . . . .

Est in [aqua] cimba . . . . . . . . . .
Assumunt uirgam q . . . . . . . . . .
Donec uenerunt pisce[s], pilulas comederunt

Quas qui gustabant, [sub aquam resalire nequibant . . . . . . . . . .
Quos miles uirga perterrens cogit ad arua.
Miratur domina dominellarumque caterua,
Contribulisque suus ouat in uirtutibus eius.
Fit nimius risus manuum plausus ue cachinnus
Whatever wish . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
Lest . . . the evening . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

X.

Finally Ruodlieb does succeed in persuading his nephew to accompany him on the journey home. With two squires they ride away quickly and come upon a castle, where a widow lives with her daughter.

There is here secretly and close at hand a retreat . . . in which many nails are placed in the wall, so that travelers could hang all their things on them, and so that no mice will harm them, since people fear no thieves there. With the men the mistress goes to the high sun-porch, where she said to them: “A hearty welcome to you.”

While they say thanks, she asks them to sit down and to indulge in various pleasantry and conversation.

Ruodlieb repeats his demonstration of fishing with the buglossa herb, in a boat, using rods. In this way he entertains the group.

and to her whom they wish . . . . . . .
Many kinds of masses . . . . . . . . . . . . .
Only three are lacking . . . . . . . . . . . .
The soldier says: “now to fish . . . . . . .
with the powder of the buglossa, with which we also fished before . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

There is a skiff in the water . . . . . . . . .
They take up the rod . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
When the fish came, they ate the pills . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
when they tasted them, they could not submerge in the water . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

The soldier, stirring them up with the rod, drives them to the shore. The mistress marvels and the crowd of young ladies, and his relative (i.e. nephew) rejoices over his abilities. Much laughter, clapping of the hands and hilarity occur,
Accurruntque coci, tollunt properantque parari.

Egressus lintre cuncto populo comitante
Ad dominam repetat, ea quem bene suscipiebat.
35 "Piscator talis est nusquam, uos uelut estis."
Tunc iubet exponi pisces in gramine molli,
Ut, diversos quot, uideat, lacus is generaret.
Tunc sunt expositi, quotquot fuerant ibi capti:
Lucius et Rufus, qui sunt in piscibus hirpus,
Pisces namque urant,illos ubi prendere possunt,
Prahsina, Lahn, Charpho, Tinco, Barbatulus, Oruo,
Alnt, Naso, qui bini nimis intus sunt acerosi,
Rubeta fundicolae, Truta digena, rufa uel alba,

In capite grandis capito post degener alis,

Labulis Anguilla uel per caput horrida Walra,
Asco, Rinanch, ambo dulces nimis in comedendo,
Ast Agapuz ut acus in dorso pungit acutus,
Praeterea multi pisces mihi non bene noti.
His uisis tolli citius iubet illa parari.

Mensa parabatur, latis similis cumulatur.
Mittet et interea, cito quo ueniat sua nata,
Postquam mox agiles plures saluere tyriones,
Texuit ex auro quae bina ligamina sposo,
Post quemcumque sibi tribuat clementia Christi.

Quae dum procedit, ceu lucida luna reluxit.
Quam sollers esset, nemo discernere posset,
An uolet an naret an se quocumque moueret
Semper ut uuis erat uel se form]osa leuabat

Tunc hera poscit aqua[m, quam sumere iussit herilem.

Et post hospitibus datur, ultime sed sibi post hos
. . . . . . . . . . . unt insimul ambae.
Maior maiori, iunior consedit herili.

Cuique bonum sedile vel mensam] tunc iubet apte.
Eius contribulis conuiua fiebat herilis.

Vna sibi patera, sibi lanx etia[m datur una.
Prae quibus ille canis stat furti proditor omnis.
Qui gannito clamans crebr]o faciemque reuertens,
Cauda blanditur, quid ei, monet, ut tribuatur;

Contribulis quicquid sibi sponte d]at, ille recepit;
and the cooks come running, gather up things, and hasten to be prepared. Getting out of the skiff, with all the people collecting around him, he goes to the mistress, and she received him well. “There is no fisherman like you.” Then he orders the fish spread out in the soft grass that one might see what different ones that lake brought forth. Then there were spread out all the many kinds caught there: the pike and the red-bass, which are the wolf among fish, for they devour fish where they can catch them, the bream, the salmon, the carp, the tench, the barbel, the red-eye, the chub, the broad-snout, both of them full of sharp bones, the char, that lives at the bottom, the trout of two kinds, red and the bull-head, large of head, but in back undeveloped in fins, [white, the slippery eel and the sheat-fish, ugly of head, the grayling, the salmon-trout, both very sweet for eating, but the bass with its back stabs like a sharp knife.

Besides, many fish not well known to me. After she had seen them she ordered them taken away quickly and prepared. The table was prepared and piled with rolls that were brought. Meanwhile she sends for her daughter to come quickly. Then soon many nimble squires hurried along. She was weaving two bands of gold for her betrothed, whomever the mercy of Christ might some day assign her. When she came forth, she beamed clear as the moon. How graceful she was: no one could discern, whether she flew or swam or wherever she moved, she was always like a bird and raised herself up in beauty.

The mistress invited the guests to a meal. Then the mistress asks for water, which she bids the daughter of the house take, and later it is given to the guests, but finally after them to herself. . . . . . . . . . . both at the same time. The older man (i.e. Ruodlieb) sat with the older woman (i.e. mistress) the younger with the daughter. To each she then fittingly assigns a good seat and a table. His relative became the table-mate of the daughter. One single goblet and also a single dish is given to them. In front of them that dog stands, who betrays every theft, who, noisy with his frequent barking, and turning his head, coaxes with his tail and reminds them that something should be given to him.

Whatever the kinsman gives him voluntarily he takes,
70 Excidit at sibi quid casu, non id repetiuit.
Ille cani dixit malus quod] hoc homo coxit,
Nunquam gustauit aut gustatum reveomebat.
Militis a sella dapifer] calc]aria tollit
Postmodo sc]utellas dapifer cum posceret illas,
Porrigat has sibi mox, cunctis lixis uelut est mos
Illum tunc gannito canis inspiciens male crebo,
Insiluit tandem, lacerando trahit sibi uestem
Atque momordisset, ni scutifer eripuisset.

Miles ridebat, plebs cetera cuncta stupebat.

80 Tunc dixit domina: “res cernitur haec mihi mira.”
Miles ait: “furti canis est hic conscius isti.
Quod furabaris, nisi reddideris, morieris.
Vade, fer in medium quod fecisti cito furtum.”
Currens absque mora retulit calcaria bina.

“Haec” ait “a sella denodaui modo uestra;
Tunc ibi nemo fuit uientum nemoque uidit
Neue canis sciret, a daemone ni didicisset.”
Miles ait: “sibi da, cernas cui praeebeat illa.”

Quae sibi dum iecit, cuius fuerant ea reddit.

Hic dixitque cani: “nunc illa referto sodali.”

Quae dat scutifero caudam persaepe mouendo.
“Ante pedes cadite furis ueniamque rogate.”
Qui se prostrauit caput inque pedes sibi ponit
Et ueluti fieret ueniam poscens ululauit.

“Nunc tu dic: surge uel amici simus ut ante.”
Quod cum dixisset, surgens canis exhilarescit,
Nunc hunc nunc dominos nunc gratificat residentes.

Miles ait: “uestrum sibi quis captando capillum,
Accipiat baculum, uelut ulciscendo reatum.”

Quod duo dum faciunt “cur furabaris?” et aiunt,
Insiliebat eos canis hunc ab isque redemit,
Mordens in suras illos nimium dolituros,
Sic se lusisse, cum quo prae pacificat se.

Quidam ridebant, quidam nimis inde stupebant.

Prandia cum caena sic sat fiunt opulenta.
Fercula post multa, post pocula tam numerosa
Limpha datur; modicum residetur, dum biberetur.
Tempus pomorum non tunc fuit ulligenorum,
Ni pueri ueniunt, de silua fraga ferebant,
but what fell to him by chance, that he did not go after. The kinsman said to the dog: \"An evil person cooked this.\" Then the dog never tasted it and spat out what he was chewing. The cupbearer steals spurs from the soldier’s (Ruodlieb’s) saddle. Afterwards, when the cupbearer asked for certain bowls, the servant gives them to him forthwith, as is the custom with all The dog, looking at him sullenly with frequent barking, [sutlers. at last leaped at him, pulled at his garment and tears it to pieces and would have bitten him, had not the shieldbearer snatched him away. The soldier (i.e. Ruodlieb) laughed, all the rest of the people were astonished. Then the mistress said: \"This thing seems to me wonderful.\" The soldier said to the cupbearer: \"This dog is conscious of a theft on Unless you return what you stole you will die. \"Go, bring into the middle quickly what you have stolen.\"

Running, the cupbearer brought back the two spurs without delay. \"This,\" he said (to Ruodlieb), \"I just took from your saddle. There was no living person there at the time, and no one saw it, nor would the dog know it had he not learned if from a demon.\" The soldier said: \"Give them to him and see to whom he will offer them.\"

When he tossed them to the dog, he returned them to the owner. He then said to the dog: \"Now take them back to our comrade\" [(i.e. the shieldbearer).

He gives them to the shieldbearer with much wagging of his tail. \"Fall before the feet of the thief and beg his pardon.\"
He stretched out on the ground and placed his head between his paws and as though he were weeping, he whined and begged pardon. \"Now you say to him: Arise and let us be friends as before.\"
When he had said that, the dog arose and was joyful and was ready to serve now him, now the masters, now those sitting there.

The soldier said: \"Anyone of you, pulling the shieldbearer’s hair, would receive a blow with a stick, as if in payment for his guilt.\"
When two did that and asked: \"Why did you steal?\"
the dog leaped at them and freed him from them, biting them in the calves so that they felt severe pain because they had mocked him with whom the dog had before made Some laughed and some were quite amazed by this. [peace.
Lunch and dinner are eaten there in rich abundance. After many courses, after many cups, water is given; for a while they remained seated and drank. This was not the time for any kind of fruit, except that boys came and brought strawberries from the woods,
Quaedam pars uasis, pars corticibus corilinis,
Quae singillatim legerunt undique passim.
His esis mensa remouetur, sumitur aqua.

* * *

His esis mensa remouetur, sumitur aqua.

Ille ligaminibus de lukka crura coemptis
cca sibi fluitaret.

Atque super pedules se calceolos sericatos
unxit sericosis.

Contrubulis rubeos soccos sub curduanelis
gestans operosis.

Ambo ligaturis coniunxit crura gemellis
re sunt margine cunctae,
A quibus et multae dependent undique bullae.
Post haec pellicium mox induerat uaricosum,
Prae uel post fissum uel circumquaque gulatum,

Fibro limbatam lato nimis atque nigello.

Sumpsit, herilis quem sibi] donauit digitalem
Ad minimum digitum bene uix tum convenientem

interulam male lotam

Mantel mardrinum senio sudoreque fuscum
Vestiti sic erant, mox ad dominas repedabant,
Quas ad cancellos inuenerunt speculantes.

XI.

Tunc sibimet comedunt [ueteres] pullis tribuerunt.
Cum per aperturas in domate quis sibi micas
Praebet, mox illo concurrebant adhioando
Captantes auide, quod quit contingere cuique.

Sic consuefactae sunt post modicum cito cunctae;
Quin post, ostiolum sibi cum fieret patefactum,
In manibus resi dent, quod eis datur accipiebant,
Dumque fiunt saturaes leniendo manuque politae,

Doma sua sponte certatim mox subierunt
Et componendo rostris pennas residendo,
Sic gaudendo, diem quod nonsiluere per omnem.
some in vessels, some in the rind of hazel-nut wood.  
These they had collected one by one, here and there in many places.  
After these had been eaten, the table was removed and water brought

(Eleven lines missing)

. . . . . . . . . . to take off their shoes.  
He bound his shins with bands bought in Lucca.
. . . . . . . . . . . might flow toward him
and over his gaiters low silken shoes
. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . of silk.
His kinsman wore red socks under shoes of cordovan leather,
. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . he wore, with skilled handiwork.
He bound both legs with double bands.
. . . . . . . . . . . . . . are all in the border,
and from which many bells hang on every side.  
After this he soon put on a striped fur,  
with an incision in front and in a back and with a red border all

[around,  

. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . by placing a pelt reaching to the floor,  
edged with very broad and black beaver fur.  
He took the ring which the young lady had given him,  
barely fitting his smallest finger

. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . the undergarment badly washed (washed threadbare?)  
The marten coat dark with age and sweat.  
Thus they were dressed, and soon they repaired to the ladies,  
whom they found at the latticed windows looking out.

XI.

The two ladies and the men amused themselves in various ways. They  
looked at the bird cages in the garden and watched the daws perform.

Then the older birds themselves ate and gave to their young.  
When anyone through the bars in the cage offered them  
crumbs, they soon hastened to the spot, opening their bills,  
eagerly taking what might fall to each.
After a little while they were all quickly used to it;  
indeed, later, when the little door was opened,  
they perched on one's hand and took what was given them,  
and when they had become sated and were sleeked by the stroking  
[of a hand,  
they soon vied in returning of their own accord to the cage,  
and perching they smoothed their feathers with their bills,  
rejoicing so much that they were not silent all through the day.
Oblectamentum fit herili deliciosum,
Cum nimis insuae senibus sit tale quid omne.
Pabula nulligena, uel limpha stat in domicella

Sturnorum, sed eos duxere fame domitandos,
Vt per aperturas poscant escas sibi dandas,
Quod primo ueteres nimium renuere parentes.
Cum pullis non dant, has illi deseruerunt,
Qui digitum praebent, his illi mox ad hiabant.

Eligitur sciola super hos doctura magistra
Nostratim fari "Pater" et "noster" recitare
Vsqve "qui es in caelis" lis lis lis triplicatis,

Staza soror, "canite canite" doceat geminare,
Quod pulli discunt, ueteres quam discere possent.

Interea miles, consanguineus simul eius
Cum domina uadunt, harpatores ubi ludunt.
Miles ut audiuit, male quam rithmum modulauit
Inter eos summus illius artis alumnus,
Ad dominam dixit, ibi si plus harpa fuisset.

"Est" ait "hie harpa, melior qua non erit ulla,
In qua, dum uixit, meus heros simphoniauit,
Cuius clangore mea mens languescit amore,
Quam nemo tetigit, is postquam uiuere finit,
In qua, si uultis, rithmos modulare ualetes."

Quam iubet afferri sibi, quam ciat is moderari

Pulsans mox laeu\[modo dextra\] digitis geminis,
Tangendo chordas dulces reddit nimis odas,

Multum distincte faciens uariamina quaeque,
Quod pede saltandi manibus neumas uel agendi
Nescius omnino citus haec perdisceret ambo.

Qui prius audacter chordas pulsant ioculanter,
Auscultant illi taciti modulare nec ausi.

Sic tribus insolitis actis dulcisimne rithmis
Quartum poscit hera faceret petit et sua nata,
Eius contribulis quem saltaret uel herilis.
Quem per sistema siue diastema dando responsa
Dum mirabiliter operaretur ue decenter,

Surrexit iuuenis, quo contra surgit herilis.
Ille uelut falcho se girat et haec ut hirundo;
Ast ubi conueniunt, citius se praeteriebant;
IJs se mouisse, sed cernitur illa natasse,
That gave the young lady delightful pleasure, 
while all such things are quite unpleasant to old folk. 
No kind of food or water is in the cage  
of the starlings, but their owners thought that they would be forced  
to ask that food be given them through the bars,        [by hunger  
which at first the older birds, the parents, refused to do.  
When these do not feed the young ones, the latter deserted them.  
When people offer them a finger, the birds soon peck at it.  
There is selected from among them a clever leader who is to teach  
to say in our language  "Father" and to recite "our",          [them  
even as far as "who art in heaven, with "-ven," -ven" -ven"  
[repeated three times.  

Let Sister Starling teach them to say "Sing, sing" twice,  
which the young ones learn before the old ones can.  
Meanwhile the soldier and at the same time his kinsman (i.e. the  
go with the mistress to where the harpists are playing.  [nephew  
When the soldier heard how badly he played the melody,  
though he was the best pupil of that art among them,  
he said to (asked) the mistress if there was another harp here.  
"There is," she said, "a harp here, than which there will never be a  
on which my lord played while he lived.                      [better one,  
Through its music my thoughts languished in love.  
No one has touched it since he ceased living.  
If you wish, you may make music on it."
He has that brought to him and hastens to tune it.

(two lines missing)  
Plucking now with two fingers of the left, now with the right,  
by intoning chords, he renders very sweet songs,  
producing many variations with great clarity.  
He who was entirely unversed in moving his feet in a dance  
or in beating time with his hands, learned both of these things [quickly.  

Who formerly had boldly struck the chords like gleemen,  
they listened silently and did not dare play.  
Then, after three new melodies had been played very sweetly,  
the mistress and her daughter ask him to play a fourth,  
which his kinsman would dance with the young lady.  
While he carries this out with runs and phrases  
in an admirable and decorous way, and performs the response [(i.e. restates the theme),  
the young man arose and the young lady too.  
He turns in the manner of a falcon and she like a swallow.  
But when they came together, they passed one another again quickly,  
he seemed to move (glide) along, she to float.
Neutrum saltasse neumas manibus variasse

Nemo corrigere quo posset, si uoluisset.
Tunc signum dederant, ibi multi quod doluerunt,
Deponendo manus, finitus sit quia rithmus.
Insimul et resident et in alterutrum nimirum ardent
Lege maritale cupientes consociari,

Illius id matre fieri nimium cupiente
Atque facultante, quo uelent, semcinare.
Hunc dominella rogat, quo secum tessere iudat,
Annulus ut uicti donetur ter superanti.
Tunc is: “qui ludum, quem ludamus modo primum,
Acquirat”, dixit “digitalis uterque suus sit.”

Haec ea lauduit ludens et eum superavit,
Gratis perdente iuuenes gratis sibi dante.
Quae nimium laeta, se sic habuisse trophaea,
Ludendo proprium cito perdebat digitalem,

Quem trahit a digito iaciebat eique rotando.
In cuius medio nodus fuerat caus intro;
Hunc ni laxare, digiton non impoisset.

XII.

“Nunc, hera, nunc matrem quam proxime uideris, [inque;
Dic mihi, si ualeat, si tranquille sua res stet,
Quandoque commater fieret tua, si mihi frater
Èx illa sit, quem de fonte leuaueris, inque,
Anne tuam natam de fonte leuauerit ill[am].”
Obstupefecta nimis dictis hera militis ist[is:
“Ah, quid dixisti, quod eam nupsisse pufasti,
Cui fuerat sine te non ipsum uiiere dulce?
Nam flendo uisum post te iam perdidit ipsum.

Illa meam natam de fonte leuauerat istam
Et pro natus propriis nos post habet amb[as,
Saepeque nos uisit uel nobis tunc aliud fert.”
Audit ut hoc miles, matri compassus ait flens:
“An queso septimana reuenire domum uel in ist[a?”

“Cras” ait “ad seram matrem quis cernere karem,
Sed panem missi penes hanc uolo prima mereri.”
Est diuulgatum, commatris eum fore natum,
Inter mancipia fit laeticia cito magna,
Congaudent matri redivu pro sopste nati.

112
Neither in dancing nor in beating varied time with the hands
could anyone improve upon them, had he wished to.
Then they gave a signal by dropping their hands
(which many there present bemoaned) that the dance was over.
Together they sit down and are strongly aglow for one another,
desiring to be united by the law of marriage.
Her mother was very eager that this be carried out
and gave the man opportunity to discuss whatever they wished.
The young lady asks him to play at dice with her,
on condition that the ring of the loser be given to whoever wins
Then he said: "Who wins even the first game [three times.
that we play- both rings shall be his."
She approved that and in playing defeated him,
the youth losing gladly and giving her his ring gladly.
She is very happy that thus she possesses the trophies.
Then she played and soon lost her own ring;
this she drew from her finger and tossed it so that it rolled toward
Inside it in the middle was a hollow knot. [him.
Without loosening it he could not put the ring on his finger.

XII.

Some time later, it seems, the old mistress of the castle met Ruod-
lieb for a talk about the latter's kinsman and his affairs. They also
discussed Ruodlieb's family, which was not unknown to the lady.

"Now, lady, now tell me, how long ago did you see my mother?
Tell me if she is well, if her condition is peaceable,
and since she became godmother in your family, tell me whether I
a brother from her whom you took from the baptismal fount, [have
or whether she took that daughter of yours from the fount."
The lady was very much surprised by these words of the soldier:
"Ah, what did you say? That you thought she had married,
to whom not even life was sweet without you?
For from weeping for you she has already lost her vision.
She took that daughter of mine from the fount
and subsequently treats both of us as though we were her own
and often visits us and then brings us something." [children,
When the soldier hears this, he feels pity for his mother and says
"Can I still return home this week?" [with tears:
"Tomorrow evening you can see your dear mother," she said.
"But I wish to be the first to earn the messenger's bread at her home."
It was bruited about that he was the son of the godmother.
Presently there was great rejoicing among the retainers.
They are happy with the mother over the safe return of her son.
Tune hera direxit missum, quem dicere iussit Commatri, natum praeidente die rediturum. Intererea iuuenis pariter ludunt et herilis. Hunc ea ter uicit, hanc is totiens superavit, Alterutrim uicti gaudentes omne pacti,

Virginis is quod erat, iuuenis quod uirgo manebat, Non se uicisse, sed uictos succubuisse. Haec suus, ille sua uocitabantur uice uersa,

Mutato sexu soloeismi scemate facto. Nec iam celarunt, se quin ardenter amarent,

Mater si sineret, uel in ipsa nocte coirent. Illa tamen sineret, sibi si non dedecus esset. Vt praestoletur, tunc uirgo uix superatur.

* * *

... lus non dominetur
... uelit ire sinatur
... d]omino dominaeque placebat
... um, domini faciendum
... s resident quibus illi
... mjulta uiando loquentes
... os uidet a matre missos
... omnibus oscula praebet
... matris amorem
... um prius intueatur
... deus utque remittat
... debemus famulari
... rediisse uidemus
Sat locupletatum uel ho]noribus amplificatum."... gra]tes ubis et habebo
... m]atri bonitatis
... spondent et ouantur
... s accuset apud te
... ili debueramus
... et ante non uti seruos
... ius ad haec famulari?
... r non uenere nisi tres
... ectant here nostri
... endum facientes
... dans oscula dixit:
... s grandis fit in illis
... ibi fuit atque bibe
Then the mistress dispatched a messenger, whom she directed to say to their godmother that her son would return this very day. Meanwhile the young man and the young lady again play at dice. She defeats him three times, he her just as often. In each case the one who was defeated rejoiced in what their agreement foreboded: that he belonged to the maiden and she remained his, that they had not won but surrendered in defeat. She was wont to be called his lad and he her girl, one assuming the place of the other, with the sexes exchanged, thus making a design of solecism. No longer do they conceal that they love each other ardently, and if the mother permitted it they would cohabit that very night. The mother would indeed permit it if it were not a disgrace to them. Then the maiden was prevailed upon with difficulty to wait.

Here a gap occurs: Ruodlieb and his young kinsman depart after the details of the latter's marriage have been settled.

. . . . . . . . . . . should not rule
. . . . . . might wish . . might be permitted to go
. . . . . . . . . . . was pleasing to master and mistress
. . . . . . . . . . . of the master, to be made
. . . . . . . . . . . in which they live
. . . . . . . . . . . speaking much while travelling
. . . . . . . . . . . sees the messengers from the mother
. . . . . . . . . . . gives kisses to all
. . . . . . . . . . . mother's love
. . . . . . . . . . . looks at it first
. . . . . . . . . . . and as a god may give back
. . . . . . . . . . . we ought to serve
. . . . . . . . . . . we see . . . . . . . . . has returned

sufficiently enriched and showered with honors.”
. . . . . . . . . . . and I will give thanks to you
. . . . . . . . . . . of kindness to the mother
. . . . . . . . . . . they pledge and are cheered
. . . . . . . . . . . may accuse in your house
. . . . . . . . . . . we had owed
. . . . . . . . . . . and previously not as slaves
. . . . . . . . . . . to serve for this?
. . . . . . . . . . . did not come, except three
. . . . . . . . . . . ours yesterday
. . . . . . . . . . . making . . . . to be
. . . . . . . . . . . giving kisses, said:
. . . . . . . . . . . becomes great in them
. . . . . . . . . . . there he was, and they drank
60 . . . . . . . . . . . . . herum comitantur ouantes
   . . . . . . . . . . . . m cum reliqua re
   . . . . . . . . . . . . q]ualiter omnia starent
   . . . . . . . . . . . . diceret omnia stare
   . . . . . . . . . . . . d nocuisse suorum
65 . . . . . . . . . . . . nitus iacuisset agrorum
   . . . . . . . . . . . . era]t omnipotentem

* * *

. . . . . . . . . . . . cerasiorum
Sederat hinc speculans prae se pendentia spernens
. . . . . . . . . . . . rantia mora.

70 Nunciet ut primus, dominus cum uenerit eius
   . . . . . . . . . . . . monedula supra
Explorans quid agat, cur cerasiis ita parcat
Quidquid agit uel ait, notat, ut post] hoc ea prodat.

Ille magis dominum cupit ut uideat equitantem,

75 Semper ait pro se: Ruodlieb her]e curre uenique
   Idque monedula discit et ad dominam reuoluit
Sic dicens illi: “quod nunc dicam], precor, audi.”
Quae dixit “loquere”. “Ruodlieb here, curre uenique.”
Tunc quamuis dominam pueri uider]e gementem,
80 Omnes risere, uolucrem quid tale notare.
Mater ait: “reuola, pu]or et sedeas ubi supra
Quod dicatque nota, si clamet, tu quoque clama.”
Tunc reuolat recta ue notat] monedula uerba
Ipsius pueri Ruodlieb uenientis auari
85 Ruodlieb, quaerit, ubi vel esset vel] quando ueniret
   Prospicit e silua socios emergere densa;
Primo contribulis, iuxta quem scutifer eius,
Postremo dominus meat officialis et eius
   . . . . . . . . . . . . quaequ suarum.
90 Tunc puer exclamat: “dominus, gaudete, propinquat.”
. . . . . . . they escort the master with jubilation
. . . . . . . . . . with the rest of the matter
. . . . . . . . . . as all the things may stand
. . . . . . . . . . would say that everything is
. . . . . . . . . . to have harmed
. . . . . . . . . . of the fields
. . . . . . . . . . the all-powerful man
(lines 33–66 above are too badly mutilated to be understood. But it appears that Ruodlieb's mother sent three messengers out to meet him and his kinsman, and to escort him home jubilantly. As soon as Ruodlieb meets the messengers, they all have a drink. After line 66 another gap occurs).

Besides the three messengers of Ruodlieb's mother, a boy has also gone forth to meet him and now awaits him in a cherry tree.

. . . . . . . . . . of cherries
He had sat down (in the tree) watching from there but spurning the [fruit hanging in front of him
. . . . . . . . . . the delay
He would be first to announce when his master would arrive.
. . . . . . . . . . a jackdaw over him,
exploring what he was doing and why he was so sparing of the [cherries.
Whatever he does or says, she notes, so that she (the jackdaw) [could report it later.

He is more desirous of seeing the master come riding and is always saying to himself: Ruodlieb, master, hurry and come, and this the jackdaw learns and flies back to her mistress, speaking thus to her: "Please listen to what I shall now say."
The mistress said: "Speak!" "Ruodlieb, master, hurry and come."
Then although the pages found their mistress lamenting, yet all laughed that the bird had learned such a thing.
The mother said: "Fly back and perch up where the lad is, and mark what he says, and if he shouts, you shout too."
Then the jackdaw flies back directly and heeds the words of the boy who was eager for Ruodlieb's coming.
He asked where Ruodlieb was and when he would come, he sees the companions emerging from a dense forest, first the kinsman, next to him the shield bearer, and last the master (Ruodlieb) comes and his officer
. . . . . . . . . . . each of his.
Then the lad exclaims: "Rejoice, the master is coming."

Sic pedat ad mensam comes [insedit ad illam, Non tamen in solio uoluit residere supremo, Sed subiectiue matris dextrim uelut hospes Atque libens totum sibi permisit dominatum; Haec quod ei dederat, reuerenter suscipiebat. Incidens panem turbam partitur in omnem, Trans misit cuiuis discum specialibus escis, Cum uno pateram, mittens aliquando medonem. Ruotlieb contribulis conuiua fuit socialis, Ex uno pane comedunt, uno quoque lance, Ex uno cyato biberant communiter ambo. Matri conuiua solet esse monedula sola, Cui pilulam micae cum dat, capit illa, superbe Perspacians, mensam transversim transilit omnem. Fercula post multa post pocula totque secuta Tunc hæra poscit aquam, camerarius attulit ill'am. Ad mensas quasque summo iubet hanc dare cuique. Post hinc pincernæ passim potum tribuere. Mensis amotis mensalibus atque plicatis Laeti consurgunt dominae gratesque dederunt, Dicunt gaudere, Ruotlieb sanum redisse, Quo consoletur matrem, ne plus tribuletur, Primitus ut saepe, dolet illo cum caruisse. Est diuulgatum cito per totam regionem,
The jackdaw returned to Ruodlieb’s mother with these words. Soon after that Ruodlieb arrived with his little troop. His mother gave a feast in his honor, for which Ruodlieb and his young kinsman are preparing when the fragment begins.

He (i.e. the kinsman) did not shave his beard because not a single hair is there. Whether he be a cleric, or a woman, or a beardless schoolboy; he has so tender and maidenly a face.

After they had cut their hair and washed off the dirt with water, they left the tub. Soon the shield bearer laid the bathrobe over them, and covered with this, they sought the couch until each was dried and his warmth diminished.

After a little while each rises and takes his shoes.

(Here this fragment breaks off in the Munich codex. What follows, after a gap, is from the St. Florian fragments; only bits of 11. 31–55 are in the Munich codex too).

Thus his companion (i.e. Ruodlieb) walks to the table and sits down yet he did not wish to sit in the elevated seat, but humbly to the right of his mother, like a guest, and gladly he left to her the entire rulership. What she offered him he accepted dutifully. Cutting up bread, she divides it among the whole multitude and passes to each one a platter with special dishes, sending now a goblet with wine, now mead. His kinsman was Ruodlieb’s sociable table companion. They eat of one bread and even from one plate, and they both drink together from one tumbler. The mother’s only table companion was as usual the jackdaw; when she gives the bird a crumb – like a pill –, the bird takes it, struts about proudly and hops back and forth across the whole table. After many dishes and as many goblets that followed the mistress asks for water and the chamberlain brings it. At each table she has water given to the man of the highest rank. Finally the cupbearers serve drink everywhere. After the tables are removed and the tablecloths folded up, they all arise happily and give thanks to the mistress. They tell her how happy they are that Ruodlieb has returned unharmed, so that he can give the mother courage and she need not be troubled as often at first when she grieved over his absence. [any more, The news quickly spread over the entire region]
Ruotlieb uenisse locupletatum sat abunde.

35 Dum sibi post placuit dum secretumque sibi fit,
Inrat conclaea cum dilecta sibi matre
Scutiferumque iubet, enthecum quo sibi feret.
De qua multiplices extraxit opes preciosas
In chrusinis, in pelliciis census et alius,

Exul quae Denis nancisebatur in annis.
Post poscit peras, quas scutifer attulit amb[as.
Extrahat ut panes, iubet hunc, factos aput Afr[os.
Quos dum produxit, matri ioculanter is inquit:
"Hos deseruuii, tenus hac, mater, ubi mansi.

Hos mihi rex dederat m[odo frangere meque sinebat."

Mater ait: "famulos no bis, reor, ante uocandos;
Quam bene sint sapidi, uideant, panes africani."
Is dixit: "melius quo soli uideamus."
Educes cultrum, quo panem dissec[et unum,
Percipit argum, sub qua fuit aurum.
Pollen ut abrasit iubar argentique reluxit,
Clauis coniun]ctos cernens tria per loca lances,
Comminuens lima cito clauorum capitella,
Dissoluens] lances uidet aureolos ibi nummos

Tam strictim iunctos, quod suppingi nequit unus.
Ruotlieb exult]at domino grates et agebat.
Nec cunctan]s parilem manibus sustollere lancem,
Tergendo p]ollen, clauos limando minutim,
Nummis confert]am uario censuque repletam

Cernit et obstupuit. Niumm suam mater ouauit,
Tunc gemitus e]dens, in mente sat ast hylarescens
Perfusis] oculis grates Christo dat in altis,
Quod locupletat]um dederat sibi tamque beatum.
Miles humi dat] se terram premit oreque saepe,

Ceu se pro] regis pedibus domini dareus eius.
Tunc niumm p[lo]rans faciem lacrimandoque tingens
Orabat: "domjine, num par tibi quis ualet esse,
Qui clemens] illum miserum dignaris homullum
Sic locuplet]are uel honoribus amplificare,

Eius nec uiius] reminiscere quod patereris?
Nunc mihi des, domine, quo non moriar, precor, ante
Quam rursus ujideam, quem pauper egensque pebem,
Qui manda]nte te clementer suspiciens me
Fecit tantar]um consortem deliciarum

Et miserum denos secum retinendo per annos
Amplificau]t me, queo quod post hac sat honeste
Viuere fidenter, haec si tracto sapienter."
Ruotlieb cum m]atre, dum sat gaudent super hac re,
that Ruodlieb had come home quite abundantly enriched.
Later when it pleased him and he had an unnoticed opportunity,
he enters a chamber with his beloved mother
and gives the shield bearer orders to bring his travelling sack to him.
From this he took many costly riches
in pelts, furs, and of other wealth
which he had acquired as an exile in ten years.
Then he asks for the bags, both of which the shield bearer brings.
He orders him to pull out the breads made among the Africans.
As the man brought them forth, Ruodlieb said light-heartedly to
"These I earned up to now, mother, where I stayed. [his mother:
The king gave them to me and said I could open them only now."
The mother said: "I think the retainers should first be called;
let them see how tasty the African breads are."
He said: "I think it better that we inspect them alone."
Taking out his knife with which to cut the one bread,
he sees the silver of the bowl, under which was the gold.
As he scratched off the flour, the gleam of the silver shone forth.
Seeing the bowls joined by spikes in three places
and quickly breaking the heads of the spikes with a file,
he opens the bowls and sees there the gold coins
so tightly crammed that not (another) one could be wedged in.
Ruodlieb rejoiced and gave thanks to the Lord.
Without delay he took the other identical bowl in his hands,
and wiping off the flour and filing the spikes small,
he sees that the bowl is stuffed with coins and filled with all kinds
of wealth; he was surprised, and his mother exulted, exceedingly.
Then after sighing, but happy enough in her heart,
she sheds tears and gives thanks to Christ on high
because He had given him back to her so enriched and so blessed.
The soldier falls to the ground and often touches his face to the earth,
as though he were lying before the feet of the king, his lord.
Then weeping, so that his face was covered with tears,
he prayed: "Can anyone be Thy equal, Lord,
who mercifully deemed this poor wretch of a man worthy
of being so enriched and so showered with honors,
and did not remember his faults which Thou hast suffered?
Now grant me, God, I pray, that I may not die
before I see him again whom I sought out when I was poor and
who at Thy behest received me mercifully [needy,
and made me a participant of such delights
and kept me, wretch, with him for ten years,
enriching me so that I can hereafter live
honorably enough and in faith so long as I manage things wisely."
Rejoicing much over this, Ruodlieb and mother
Lances conclu[ld unt, cautissime quam ualuerunt,
Et prendunt, census secum fert quicquid aliús. Accurrunt] plures proprii serui iuniores.

XIV.

" . . . . . . pueris ceu credo uenire
Quidam karorum nostri consanguineorum,
Qui quando ueniant, haec dum firmentur, ibi sint.
Ad uos nunc illam uos inuitate puellam,
Vestri communes ueniant utrimque fideles."
Quae cum uenisset hanc hi circumque stetissent,
Curtis amicorum cito plena fit aduenientum.
Quos Ruodlieb bene suscepit, quibus oscula praebet,
Et prandere rogat satis illis et tribuebat.

Amotis mensis dominabus et inde reuersis
Ad sua secreta, praecedit eas ea nata;
Post illasque pedant, sibi qui plumatia portant,
Et plures alii comitantes his famulari.
His uinum ferri iubet illo pro famulari;
Dumque bibit quisque, sibi uicino dedit, usque
Pincernae pateram reddebat euacuatam.
Inclinant, abeunt Ruodlieb dominosque reuisunt.
Tunc Ruodlieb dixit: "quia uos deus hue glomerauit,
Nunc audite mihi curate uel auxiliari,
Connubium quoddam quo fiat nunc stabilitum,
Est quod laudatum, sic ad nos induciatum,
Ad quod praesentes mihi uos cupio fore testes.
Contiguit, ut iuuenis meus iste nepos et herilis
Mutuo diligenter sese, dum tessere ludunt,
Lege maritai cupientes consociari."

Dicunt: "hoc cuncti debemus consiliari,
Indolis ut tantae uir tam uirtutis opimae
Non dehonestetur, citius se de ueripiatur
A scorto turpi digne satis igne cremari,"
Et laudant dominum, quod in hoc cosmo fuit usquam
Femina, quae magicam de se diuelleret ipsam.
Tunc surgit iuuenis, grates dabat omnibus illis,
Quod tam clementes sibi sunt communer omnem,
Inquit et, horrere penitus se seque pudere
close the bowls as carefully as possible
and take them and whatever else of treasure he had brought.
Then several of their younger servants come running up.

XIV.

Ruodlieb makes preparations for the wedding of his young kins-
man and gives the necessary instructions. In the following passage
he seems to be addressing the mother of the bride, but neither the
context nor the syntax of the first speech is clear.

"... to the boys (pages?) ... as I believe are coming
 Certain ones of our dear kinsmen
 who, when they come, shall be here while these bonds are established,
 Now invite that daughter of yours to your house,
 and let all your faithful retainers on both sides come."

When she had come and they had gathered around her,
the court was soon full of arriving friends.
Ruodlieb received them well and kissed them
and asked them to take a light meal, apportioning enough for each.
After the tables had been removed while the ladies had left
for their quarters, her daughter went ahead of them.
Behind them walk those who carry their pillows
and many others who accompany them to serve them.
He orders wine to be brought and service to be shown them in his
after each one drinks he gives the cup to his neighbor until [name; they return the empty vessel to the cup-bearer.
They bow and leave and rejoin Ruodlieb and the lords.
Then Ruodlieb said: "Because God has gathered you here,
now listen and take care to help me,
so that a certain marriage may now be performed
which was vowed and thus left to us to arrange.
For this I desire that you who are present be witnesses.
It happens that this youth, my nephew, and the young lady
fell in love with each other while playing at dice,
desiring to be joined by the law of matrimony".
They say: "We should all take counsel about this:
how a man of such quality and of highest virtue
shall not be dishonored, but may be snatched speedily
from that shameful strumpet well worthy of being burned in fire."
And they praise the Lord that in this world there ever was
a woman who could tear this sorceress away from him.
Then the youth rises and gives thanks to all of them
that together they are all so gracious to him,
and he says that he is deeply dismayed and ashamed

123
Sic dehonestatum per id execrabile scortum.

"Nunc opus uxore nimium mihi cernitis esse,
Quam quo[niam] facile nunc possumus hic reperire,
Hanc desponsari desidero uel mihi iungi,
Vt sitis testes et ad hoc mihi, quaeso, libentes,
Alterutros cum nos dotabimus, est ueluti mos."

Qui dicunt: "prompte tibi subueniemus in hac re."

Ruodlieb post dominas pariter direxit eas tres,
Quae cito uenere nata praeeunte morose.
Contra quas agmen surrexit eis ad honorem.

Cuncti dum resident, spatium breue conticuerunt,
Tunc Ruotlieb surgit et ut auscultent sibi poscit.
His post contribulis pactum dixit uel amicis,

Hic] quod et haec ferueret in alterutrius amorem.
Hanc hunc uxorem suimet si uellet haber[e

Illam [si cupio? Rogitatis? Credite, certo!
Illum si uellet, rogitant; parum quoque ridet,
Post ait: "an seruum nolim ludo superatum,
Tessere quem uici sub talis faenore pacti,
Seu uicinat, seu succumbat, soli mihi nubat.

S]jeruiat obnixe, uolo, quo mihi nocte dieque,
Qu]od quanto melius facit, est tanto mihi karus."
T]unc risus magnus fit ab omnibus atque cachinnus,
T]am praesumptive loquitur quod tam uel amice.
E]ius at ut matrem cernunt haec non renuentem

E]t genus amborum par posseque diuitiarum,
Discutiunt caute, bene conueniant quod utrimque,
Hanc desponsari sibi censent lege iugali.
S]ponsus at extraxitensem ue piramide tersit;
Anulus in capulo fixus fuit aureus ipso,

A]ffert quem sponsae sponsus dicebat et ad se:
"A]nulus ut digitum circumpagit undique totum,
Sic tibi stringo fidi.m firmam uel perpetualem,
Hanc seruare mihi debes aut decapitari."
Quae satis astute iuueni respondit et apte:

"Iudicium parile decet ut patiatur uterque.
Cur seruare fidi.m tibi debeo, dic, meliorem,
Quam mihi tu debes? Dic, si defendere possis,
Si licuisset adae, maecham superaddat ut euae,
Vnam cum costam faceret deus in mulierem;

Quam de se sumptam cum proclamauerat adam,
Dic, ubi concessas binas sibi legeris euas?

124
that he has been dishonored by that detestable strumpet.
“You see that now I need a wife badly.
Since now we can easily find her here,
I desire that this one be promised and joined to me.
I ask that you be witnesses and well disposed to me in this
when we give each other wedding gifts, as is the custom.”
They say: “We will readily help you in this.”
Then Ruodlieb called together those three women,
who came quickly, the daughter walking in the van decorously.
Facing them, the line of people arose to honor them.
When all sat down, they were silent for a brief time,
then Ruodlieb got up and asked them to listen to him.
Thereupon he said to these relatives and friends that there was an
[agreement, that he and she were glowing with love for one another.
(They asked) him if he wished to have her as his wife
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Cum meretricares, essem scortum tibi uelles?

Absit, ut hoc pacto tibi iungar; uade, ualeto

Et quantumcunque scortare uelis, sine sed me.

80 Tot sunt in mundo, tibi ceu quo tam bene nubo.”
Sic dicens gladium sibi liquerat et digitalem.
Cui dixit iuuenis: “fiat, dilecta, uelut uis.
Vmquam si faciam, tibi quae dedero bona perdam,
Istius capitis abscidendique potens sis.”

85 Quae modicum ridens ad eum sesque reuertens
Inquit: “ea lege modo iungamur sine fraude.”

Huius amen dixit procus et sibi basia fixit.
His ita conjunctis aenesis fit maxima plebis,
Laudantes dominum cantizabant hymenaeum.

90 Ruotlieb pellicium dederat bene ualde gulatum
Sponso uel crusinam limbo terrae crepitantem,
Dat et equum celerem sibi compute sat faleratum.
Munerat et sponsae consanguineo sociatae;
Huic tria dat spintra, quae velent pectora pulchra,
Atque dat armillas sibi bis binas operosas
Et pariter sibi tres dat gemmatos digitales
Datque superductam coco crusinam migalinam.
Cetera turba sua sibi dant sponsalia magna.
Qualiter inter se concordent, quid mihi curae?

XV.

Quamuis . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . [senectus
Parcere quae nescit pariter cunctos domi[tuit.
Femina, quae lunae par est in flore iuu[entae,
Par uetulae simiae fit post aetate senectae.
5 Rugis sulcata frons, quae fuit antea pl[ana,
Ante columbini sibi stant oculi te[nebrosi;
Deguttat nasus sordes nimium mucul[entus.
Dependent buccae quondam pinguedine t[ensae.
Dentes oblongi moti stant ut ruitur[i,
10 Per quos lingua foras pellit locutura fa[bellas.

126
While you might spend time with strumpets, would you want me to be such a one in your eyes?
Far be it that I be joined to you under such an agreement; go, farewell, and however much you may wish to fornicate, (do so) but without me.
There are so many men in the world that I (can) marry as well as So speaking, she left the sword and ring to him. [you.
The young man said to her: “Let it be done, dear, as you wish.
If I ever do (wrong), I shall forfeit the possessions I gave you, and you shall have the power to cut off this head of mine.”
Smiling a little, she turned to him and said: “According to that arrangement alone we may be joined [without deceit.”
The suitor said Amen to this and gave her kisses. When they had thus been united, there was loud assent on the part Praising the Lord, they sang the wedding hymn. [of the people.
Ruodlieb gave a trimly red-striped fur to the groom and a pelt whose border rustled on the ground.
He gives him also a fleet, neatly caparisoned horse.
He gives presents also to the bride, now wedded to his kinsman.
To her he gives three brooches to cover her lovely breast, and he gives her twice two artistic bracelets and he gives her also three rings set with precious stones, and besides an ermine coat dyed scarlet.
The rest of the multitude give them lavish wedding gifts.
How they will get along, what care is it to me?

XV.

After the wedding of Ruodlieb’s kinsman, Ruodlieb’s mother reflected how she might best encourage her own son to find himself a wife. In the passage which follows, the beginning of which is missing, she is speaking to him.

Although . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . (old age), which does not know how to spare, has subdued all men alike.
Woman, who is like the moon in the bloom of youth, later becomes like an old ape in old age.
The brow, which at first was smooth, is furrowed with wrinkles.
The eyes, which at first were like a dove’s, are murky.
The nose, which is full of phlegm, drips a filthy mess.
The cheeks, once firm and fleshy, hang down.
The teeth, long, are loose as though about to fall out, through which the tongue lashed out in speaking its pieces
Et uerbum profert, plenum ceu pollinis oruum. 
Vtque recuruatum resupinum stat sibi mentum, 
Os et risibile, quod plures allicit in se, 
Stat semper patulum, populum terrere, uel [antrum]. 
Et prius usque nates [qui] crines auricoline[s 
Pendent discretim dorsum uelando pil(atim, 
Extant horribiles terrentes inspici[entes, 
Per saepem caput ut anuatim sit sibi t[actum; 
Inclinata caput humeris extantibus [umbrat 
Vt tardus uultur, ubi scit iacuisse cad[auer. 
Et quae discincta consueuerat ire iuu[enta, 
Alte succingit tunica[m, ne sordifica[ret, 
Calcatura fabas ueluti pultem coquitu[ra. 
Calciamenta sua, quae iam fuerant nim[is arta, 
Cum soccis laxa, ligo ceu, stant, ante sup[ina, 
Sustollunt luti nimium calcando limo[si. 
Et graciles digiti, quondam pinguedine pl[eni, 
Nunc super ossa cutem, sucosi, carne care[n]tem 
Sordent rugosis ex fuligine nod[is, 
Vagibus incisis longis squalore nigel[lis. 
Sic agilem iuuenem senium donat ut mu[lierem.

35 . . . . . . . . . . . s sibi celsior est ubi tellus 
. . . . . . . . . . . at quis crus sellam super ipsam 
. . . . . . . . . . . m suspendat se socialem 
. . . . . . . . . . . et girans si sella uacillet 
40 . . . . . . . . . . . netum fuerit si forte iumentum 
. . . . . . . . . . . dum latum saliens super annem 
. . . . . . . . . . . conatur b[aculo sese sustollere crebro 
. . . . . . . . . . . no]n post multa leuamina tandem 
. . . . . . . . . . . s post se transit tussi quatiente 
45 . . . . . . . . . . . eas cernit girare choreas 
. . . . . . . . . . . us iuuenis fugitabit amarus 
. . . . . . . . . . . bunt cuncti uel ei maledicunt

128
but now brings forth its words as though it were an egg full of flour. The chin is curved and bent downward, and the mouth, given to laughing, which used to entice many men is always open, and a cave to frighten the people. The once graceful neck is like one of a plucked magpie. The breasts which projected, round like tops are soft and hang down like mushrooms emptied of moisture. And the golden-colored locks which formerly hung down modestly to the buttocks, covering the back in braids, stand out terribly and frighten those who see them, as though her head had been drawn through a fence, backside first. Bowing her head, she covers it with shoulders that stand out, like a deliberate vulture when it knows that a cadaver has fallen. And accustomed to go in her youth with free flowing skirt, she now pulls up her cloak high, lest she dirty it, as though about to trample beans for cooking porridge. Her shoes, which used to be very tight, are now loose, with scoks, and point upward in front like a mattock, taking along much claylike dirt with every step. Her graceful fingers, once fleshy and full and rich in sap, now have skin over bones, and lack flesh, and are dirty with soot, and wrinkled and gnarled, her finger nails long and not cut, and black with dirt. Thus old age tames also the agile young man, as it does a woman. Lines 35–70 which follow are badly mutilated. Only a general idea of the effect of old age on a man can be gathered from them. As a youth he climbs the highest mountain, rides spirited horses, leaps over wide streams, but in old age he needs a staff, has a bad cough, and passively watches others dance and cavort, while being shunned by the younger set. Often he thinks of his better days and wishes he were dead.

. . . . . . . . where the land is higher . . . . . . whose shin . . . . over his saddle . . . . . . hangs him, the comrade . . . . . . and turning if the seat (saddle) wobbles . . . . . . . if perchance the beast of burden was . . . . . . leaping across the broad stream

He tries to support himself often with a cane . . . . . . . . at length after many alleviations . . . . . . . . after him he goes with a racking cough . . . . . . . . sees the dance turning . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . unfriendly youth will flee . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . and they all curse him
uel in his iuuenilis ouabat
idit quid cantent aure notabit
uit digitis neunas agitabit
meros huc huc uertens hilarescens
os ad sese respicientes
es optant redilisse priores
fieri si posset eundem
let dum sponte libens obisset
do suspirans intime flendo
um dicens saepissime secum:
Mors humanorum] finis tu sola malorum
Cur mihi ser]a uenis? cur non me carcere soluis?
Mors, o solue me ui[li languore dolore
Quos tolerare debet] licet id sibi uiuere mors sit
Donec quando] iubet deus, eius spiritus exit;
Is nam termi]nat omne, quod est, uolet, ambulet aut net:
Principium quod] habet non quodam fine carebit.’’
Non cessat ma[ter Ruotlieb mitinitare frequenter
Quae sic languis]et et id effugitare nequisset
et alius nil habuerunt
quicquam tractare suarum
fili, tua magna sophia.

XVI.

"Haeres tunc ualeat, si filius haut tibi fiat!
Si sine, dic, liberis, quid erit, fili, morieris?
De nostris rebus erit altercatio grandis.
Deficiunt uires omnino mihi iuueni[les;
Nam denos annos, quos tu fueras apud [Afros,
Cottidie curis angebar in omnibus hor[is
Post te maerendo pro nostra reque tuenda,
Nique reuertisses, citius iam caeca fuisse[m.
Sed iuuenescebam, cum te remeare scieb[am,
Contineo melius et me modo quam mea sit u[is.
Velem, si uelles, quo nostros congenerales
Et nobis fidos nunc conueniamus amicos,
Quorum consilio quorumque iuuisse fido
Possis in uxorem reperire tibi muliere[m,
Esse parentelae quam noris talis utrimque,
Claudicet ut neutrim uestri genitura u[icissim,
... ... ... ... and in these the youthful set cheered
... ... ... ... he will note with his ear what they sing
... ... ... ... he will beat the rhythms with his fingers
... ... ... ... turning here and there in exultation
... ... ... ... looking back to them
... ... ... ... wish that the former had returned
... ... ... ... if it is possible that the same be done
... ... ... ... when willingly he would have died of his own
... ... ... ... sighing intensely and weeping [accord
... ... ... ... often saying to himself:
'Death, you sole end of human evils,
why do you come to me late, why do you not release me from my
Death, release me from vile exhaustion and grief,' [prison?
which he must endure, although living is death for him,
until his spirit leaves when God commands.
For He puts an end to all that exists, flies, walks and swims:
What has a beginning will not lack a certain end.’
The mother does not hesitate to admonish Ruodlieb often,
for she herself was growing old and could not escape it
... ... ... ... and they had nothing else
... ... ... ... to treat anything of his
... ... ... ... son, your great wisdom
... ... ... ... more than clear up ...

XVI.

The mother appealed to his wisdom and entreated him:

"Goodbye, then, heir, if there should be no son for you!
Tell me, son, if you should die without children, what will be?
There will be a great quarrel about our affairs.
The strength I had in my youth fails me entirely.
For ten years while you were among the Africans
I was troubled daily at all hours by cares,
mourning for you and looking after our interests,
and unless you had returned, I would long ago have been blind.
But I was rejuvenated when I knew that you were coming back,
and I hold myself better now than my strength warrants.
I should wish, if you do, that we now call together
our relatives and the friends loyal to us,
by whose advice and faithful help
you can find a woman as a wife for yourself
whom you would know to be of such family on both sides
that your offspring would not be lame (i.e. defective in pedigree)
[on either side,
Per cuius mores tibi nec minuantur hono[res,  
Quam tibi demonstrat clemens deus ac tibi iungat."
Ruodlieb respondit, matri placidissime [dixit:  
"Cras demandemus consanguineis et ami[cis,  
Vt nos conueniant quam uelocissime possi[nt.  
Quod mihi consilium dant, si censes id agendum,  
Non praeter silium dant, si censes id agendum,  
"Missis legatis et amicis conglomera[tis,  

20 Ad se dum ueniant bene suscepti[ nimium sunt,  
Ruotlieb disposit sedilia, ceu bene n[ouit,  
In quo quisque loco sedeat sibi certificato,  
Dans geminis unam mensam dominis ad habendum,  
Et matri solium fieri iubet altius un[um,  
Vt super aspereret cunctos, ibi qui res[derent,  
Solaque manducet, hera cerni sic fore [posset.  
Sic et honorando matrem dominam uel habendo  
A populis laudem sed ab omnipotente coronam  
Atque diuturnam uitam meruit ue bea[am.

25 [Dum manducauit, mensas remouere rogauit]  
Claudunturque fores, quos obseruant duo fortes,  
Qui non ire sinunt intro quem neue foras quem,  
Donec consilium diffiniretur id ipsum.  
Tunc Ruodlieb] surgens modicum sileant, rogat omnes,  
Quo sibi ntit[et, propter quod eos glomeraret.  
Cum sileant, dixit, genitrix sua ceu sibi suasit:  
"Nunc audi, mi consanguini ux amici!  
Quanto maerore mea mater quo ue labore  
Pertulerit multa, patris atque mei uudata,  

30 Curando cun[cta, ubois in re patet ipsa.  
Nunc se deficiunt uires et membra fatiscunt  
Nec quidquam facere] ualet amodo, quiiit ut ante,  
Quod mihi uel crebro narrat uel id ipse uidebo.  
Hinc mihi sponsa] ri non cessat consiliari.  
Quare nunc ad u]os misi me conveniendo,  
Vt reputare qu]eat sibi quisque uel hoc mihi dicat;  
Nam ninium paucae] mulieres sunt mihi notae  
Nec uale] scire, quo me uertam mihi fauste;  
Vos mihi dicatis, super hac re qui faciatis,  

35 Vxorem nobis] si quam reperire queatis,  
Quae non indecor]et nostrum genus, id sed inauret  
Moribus ingen[jita uel uita nobilitate."
Respondent pariter: "id quam faciemus ouanter,  
Vt natum carum d[e te uideamus obortum  
Nee scire quomod[et,  
Heredem morum], uirtutum siue honorum,
and through their manners your honor would not be diminished,  
— a woman whom the benign Lord may show you and join to you.’"  
Ruodlieb replied and said to his mother most gently:  
“Tomorrow we shall enjoin our relatives and friends  
to come to us as quickly as they can.  
If you think that what they advise me should be carried out,  
I will not fail (omit) to do what you wish.”.  
When the messengers had been sent out and the friends had  
gathered,  
and when they came to him they were very well received by him;  
Ruodlieb arranged the seats, as he well knew how,  
in which place, designated for him, each one was to sit,  
giving one table for each two lords to have,  
and had the mother take the only higher seat,  
so that she might look over all the men who sat there,  
and eat alone, and that thus she could be seen to be the mistress.  
Thus by honoring his mother and treating her like the mistress,  
he earned praise from the people, but from the Omnipotent  
the crown and long lasting, blessed life.  
After he had eaten he asked that the tables be removed  
and the doors closed, these being watched by two strong men,  
who did not allow anyone to go in or out  
until that deliberation was ended.  
Then Ruodlieb, rising, asked all to be silent for a while,  
that he might inform them for what he had assembled them.  
When they were hushed, he spoke as his mother had urged him:  
“Now hear, my relatives and friends!  
With how much grief and toil my mother  
endured many sufferings when bereft of my father and me,  
and when she took care of everything — that is clear to you on the  
Now her strength is failing and her limbs grow tired,  
and she cannot do anything from now on as she used to.  
This she often tells me, and I see it myself.  
Hence she does not cease advising me to marry.  
For that reason I have sent for you to meet with me,  
that each one may be able to reflect and tell me this,  
for too few women are known to me,  
and I cannot know whither I should turn auspiciously for myself:  
now tell me what you can do in this matter,  
Whether you can find any wife for us  
who will not disgrace our family, but will add luster to it  
with her character and with the inborn nobility of her way of life.”  
They reply as of one accord: “That we will gladly do,  
so that we may see a dear child born from you,  
an heir of your character, virtues and possessions
Quis locupleta]uit te Christ et honorificauit."
Adnuerat quis]que, se spondens haec agitare.
Vnus at exsur]gens, cui notae sunt regiones
Et noti domini bene], qui fuerant ibi summi,
Is "dominam" dixit] "unam scio, quae tibi par fit
Moris honestate] uirtute ue nobilitate.
Hanc uellem ut]deas, cum uideris ut fatearis,
In mundo] nullam quod uidisses dominellam
Omnem uirtu]em tam strenuiter facientem,
Talis quae fuer]it, ut quemque uirum decuisset."

XVII.

Apportans patera nunc ipsamet optima uina
Auratis uasis dulcorem saepe medonis,
Stans de uirginibus rogitabat compatrioti[s,
Cuius sint famae, formosae sint an honestae.
Subridens ille: "scio, quod, minime, rogitas me.
Nil minus intromisi me, quam tale notare,
Quid facerent dominae; morem talem sino scurr[ae.
Sicubi praetereo, dominas ubi stare uidebo,
Illis inclino, quo mens est ire uel ibo.
Quid responder[e Ruotlieb nunc uis, hera, per m[e?"
Dixit: "dic illi nunc de me corde fidel
Tantundem liebes, ueniat quantum modo loub[es,
Et uolucrum vvunna quot sint, tot dic sibi m[inna,
Graminis et florum quantum sit, dic et honor[um."
Qui dubitans minime, huic illam nubere p[osse,
Dum se dimitti petit, ut mutus subito fit,
Et ueluti stupidus loquitur uix ut gemeb[undus:
"Qualiter acciderit mihi quam male quam vici[ose,
Me pudet id fari; peius non contigit ulli.
Nam sigillata misit tibi xenia parua."
Pixiden e caliga trahit, in qua sunt ea dona.
with which Christ has enriched and honored you.”
Everyone agreed, pledging that he would set it in motion.
But one, rising, who knew well the country
and the lords who were the highest here,
said: “I know one lady who is your peer
in honorable character, virtue, and nobility.
I wish you would look at her; so that when you lay eyes on her you
that you have seen no young lady on earth [may confess
who exemplifies all virtue so actively,
who has proved herself such that she would be an adornment for
[any man.”

XVII.

The assemblage applauded. Ruodlieb followed the man’s advice
but ascertained after some time that the lady was having a love affair with a cleric. As evidence he was given a headdress and knee garters that she had left behind after such a tryst. Ruodlieb shrewdly sent a messenger to her to extend his official offer of marriage, giving him a little box for her in which these objects were neatly packed, but not telling him the contents. He was instructed to hand the parcel over to her only after the suit had been pressed and her answer given. The messenger, after being joyfully received, stated his mission.

Now bringing the best wines in a bowl
and in golden vessels the sweetness of mead,
she stood and asked him about the girls in his homeland,
what was their reputation, their beauty and their character.
He smiled and said: “What you ask me I do not know.
With nothing have I occupied myself less than to note such things
as what our ladies do. I leave such habits to the rake.
Where I see ladies standing I pass by,
bow to them, and go to where I have a mind to go.
What do you now wish, lady, to reply to Ruodlieb through me?”
She said: “Tell him now from me with a loyal heart
so much of affection as there is of foliage,
and tell him so much of love as there are delights in birds,
and tell him so much of honors as there is of grass and flowers.”
He did not doubt at all that she would marry him.
When he asks to be dismissed, he suddenly becomes as though mute,
and, as if dazed, he can scarcely utter a sigh:
“What has happened to me, how bad, how terrible,
I am ashamed to say: a worse thing can happen to no one.
For he has sent you small gifts under seal.”
From his boot he pulls the little box in which those gifts are.
Quam dum suscepit, ab eo properando recedit
Adque fenestellam stans soluit pixiden [illum,
In qua subtilem dum cernebat fore pan[um
25 Sigilliis cum bis binis suimet digitalis
Tam bene munitum, quid sit, mirans ea [multum,
Sigilliis fractis panni nodisque solutis,
Dum tam praeclarum conuinctum uiderat ostr[um,
Id pandens cydarim reperit ut ligam[ina crurum,
30 Quae cecidere sibi, dum clericus iungitur i[lli.
In qua subtilem dum cernebat fore
Sigillis cum bis binis suimet digitalis
Tam bene munitum, quid sit, mirans ea [multum,
Sigilliis fractis panni nodisque solutis,
Dum tam praeclarum conuinctum uiderat ostr[um,
Id pandens cydarim reperit ut ligam[ina crurum,
30 Quae cecidere sibi, dum clericus iungitur i[lli.
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Dum tam praeclarum conuinctum uiderat ostr[um,
Id pandens cydarim reperit ut ligam[ina crurum,
30 Quae cecidere sibi, dum clericus iungitur i[lli.
In qua subtilem dum cernebat fore
Sigillis cum bis binis suimet digitalis
Tam bene munitum, quid sit, mirans ea [multum,
Sigilliis fractis panni nodisque solutis,
Dum tam praeclarum conuinctum uiderat ostr[um,
Id pandens cydarim reperit ut ligam[ina crurum,
30 Quae cecidere sibi, dum clericus iungitur i[lli.
In qua subtilem dum cernebat fore
Sigillis cum bis binis suimet digitalis
Tam bene munitum, quid sit, mirans ea [multum,
Sigilliis fractis panni nodisque solutis,
Dum tam praeclarum conuinctum uiderat ostr[um,
Id pandens cydarim reperit ut ligam[ina crurum,
When she takes them, she leaves him in haste, and standing at the window, she opens that box, while in it, she saw, was a delicate kerchief so well fastened with twice two seals of his ring that she wondered much what it was. She breaks the seals of the kerchief and unties the knots, until she sees a beautiful scarlet cloth tied together. Opening it, she finds the headdress and the knee garters which had fallen off of her while the cleric was in her embrace. When she saw these and remembered where she had lost them, she trembled all over, paled, and felt a chill and she does not doubt that he is truthful who was feigning, except that she sees that he is acting quite innocent. “The people have always considered me chaste,” she thought; then courage of her spirit began to return with new she goes back to the messenger and asks him if he knew [strength, what the gifts were that were thus sealed, and whether he was present when he packed them in the box. He swears by Him whom nothing escapes that he does not know the gifts, whatever that may be, and he wonders why she asked that because what was sent to her was sealed. Then she says: “Tell your relative or friend: If no other man were left except him alone, and he should give me the whole world as a dowry, I do not want to marry him: tell him that truly.” The messenger, saddened by this turn, said to the lady: “I wonder why I have come under that suspicion; I feel certain that I can solve the misunderstanding for you.” She said: “Now hush at once, and without farewell just go” The messenger departs and hastens back to Ruodlieb. As soon as he saw the messenger, he smiled and said to him: “That you have been well treated and sated with drink, I know. Tell me, how has my petition been accepted; were my gifts well received? Don’t hesitate!” So speaking, he exults, shaking with loud laughter. The messenger says to him that he would lose a friend if he should request him again and then make him his messenger. Spurning such jokes, Ruodlieb said to him in seriousness: “Tell me now, kinsman, what that lady said when you told her of my great love.” “When I had fully described what you asked of her, she was completely silent and prepared lavish dishes for me, bringing enough and more wine and mead. And when I asked what she wished to reply to you, she said: ‘Tell him from me with a loyal heart.
Tantundem liebes, quantum ueniatis modo loubes, 
Et uolucrum vvunna quot sunt, sibi dic mea minna, 
Graminis et florum quantum sit, dic et honorum.'

Quando licentia quo detur mihi uel rogitaui,
Obmutui subito uel ei, quid sit mihi, dico, 
Oblitum simulans, tua non sibi dona dedisse. 
Quae dum suscipit, de me iubilando recessit.
Post modicum reedit nimis indignanter 
"Dic mihi, si nosti, quid sint quae dona tulisti!" 
Iuraui per eum, qui cuncta scit, omnipotentem, 
Numquam uidisse penitus, quid sint ea, scire;

Nam sigillatum patuit mihi scire negatum. 
Tunc ait illa: "tuo dic contribuli uel amico,
Vsquam si nullus uir plus foret, is nisi solus,
Ille uel in dotem mihi mundum si darem omnem, 
Nubere nolo sibi, dic tu ueraciter illi."
Ruo. "Nunc opus est aliam, reor ut, mihi poscere sponsam, 
Quae non furtuue quem suescat amare super me."

Sed ruodlieb mater, quodcumque potest, operatur
In Christi miseris uiduas orbos peregrinos.
Inde merebatur, quod ruodlieb ualde beatur.
Namque reuelat ei, uelit hunc quam glorificare.
In sommis geminos uice quadam uiderat apros,
Hos grandisque suum comitatur dente minacum

Turba uelut bellum cum Ruodlieb inire minantum. 
Ille sed utrique caput apro diripit ense, 
Quodque suum fuerat ferientum, strage cadebat.
Post mater tiliam latam uidet et nimis altam,
In cuius summo residere cacumine fulchro
Ruodlieb cernebat, circa quem plurima stabant
In ramis turba ueluti bellare parata.
Post modicum niuea uenit speciosa columba
Rostro gemmatam preciosam fertque coronam,
Inponens capiti Ruodlieb mox assidet illi
Sauia figendo, recipit quae non ruenudo.
In iuisu mater haec cernens praemeditatur, 
Quid queat hoc omne, quod vidit, significare, 
Et quamuis sciret, quod honorem praetitularet,
Inde superbior haut ea fit, sed humillima mansit, 
Nil sibi sed domini dans gratuitae pietati,
Quicquid tantorum Ruodlieb concedat honorum.
Post triduum narrat, deus illi quaeque reuelat, 
De suibus, capita quibus abscedit truculenta,
so much of affection as there is of foliage,
and tell him so much of love as there are delights in birds,
and tell him so much of honors as there is of grass and flowers.'
When I asked that leave be given me to go,
I was suddenly silent and told her what was wrong with me,
feigning that I had forgotten and not given her your gifts.
She took these and departed from me in high spirits.
After a short time she returned very indignantly and said:
'Tell me if you know the nature of the gifts you have brought.'
I swore by that all-powerful Lord who knows all
that I never looked into the box and did not know what these things
[were, for it was clear to me that it was denied me to know what was under
Then she said: "Tell your relative or friend:
If no man were left except him alone,
and he should give me the whole world as dowry,
I do not want to marry him: tell him that truly."
Ruo.: "Now I think I must seek another bride for myself
who will not have the habit of stealthily loving anyone beside me."
But Ruodlieb's mother performs as many philanthropic deeds as
for Christ's unfortunates, widows, orphans, and pilgrims. [she can
Thus she earned great blessings for Ruodlieb.
For He reveals to her that He wishes to glorify him.
At a certain turn she saw in her sleep two boars,
and a great host of sows threatening her with their teeth and ac-
companying them, as though threatening to join in war against Ruodlieb.
But he cut off the heads of both boars with his sword,
and what there was of charging sows fell in the carnage.
Later his mother sees a spreading and very high linden,
in whose highest top she discovered Ruodlieb sitting
as though in a bedstead, and around him was a numerous
host in the branches, as though ready to fight.
After a little while a beautiful snow-white dove comes
and bears a precious gem-studded crown in its beak,
and placing it on Ruodlieb's head, soon perches on him,
giving him kisses, which he does not refuse to take.
Seeing this in her dream, she reflects
what all that which she saw may mean.
And although she knows that it foreboded honor,
she did not become prouder as a result, but remained most humble,
attributing not to herself but to the unselfish kindness of the Lord
whatever great honors He may grant to Ruodlieb.
After three days she tells him what God had revealed to her,
about the boars, whose ferocious heads he cut off,
Exiliens et abire ulens salit undique clamans,
Dum lassus cecidit uix spiramenque recepit.
Cui uigor ut rediet, ad Ruodlieb humillime dixit:
"Parce mihi misero, scio quod gratum tibi dico.
Si me non occideris atque manus mihi solues,
Monstro tibi censum binorum denique regum,
Et patris et nati, qui tecum praeliaturi
(Nomen habet genitor Immunch, sed filius hartunch)
A te vincuntur ambo per te perimentur.
Filia sed regis haeres tunc sola superstes
Regni totius heriburg, pulcherrima uirgo,
Est tibi lucranda, sed non sine sanguine magno,
Ni quod consiliar, facias, ego quando resoluar."
Ruodlieb ait nano: "non occidendus es a me.
Te cito soluissem, tibi si confidere possem;
Si me non fallis, a me sanus remeabis.
Quando potens fueris tuimet, nil post mihi dices."

"Absit, ut inter nos umquam regnauerit haec fraus;
Non tam longaeui tunc essemus neque sani.

XVIII.
and about the killing of the sows that accompanied the two boars; how she saw him sitting in the top of the linden and in the branches under him his retainers, and how a dove flew to him and brought a crown and perched on his hands and gave him sweet kisses.

“‘When I saw this, I suddenly awakened, and it vexed me that I awakened thus. I know (the meaning of) that awakening, because it signifies that I before the end of these matters occurs. Child, recall how often through His kindness God has helped you and redeemed you from death itself, and that by helping you much in your exile He granted that safe and wealthy you have found your fatherland. Now I know that you will find greater honors, again. And I fear very much (to state) that the Lord has thus requited us two if ever we did anything that pleased Him; beware saying that, my son!

For what can we do who have nothing, except what He gives?

But whether good or evil befalls you, give Him thanks.’’

XVIII.

The mother’s dream is fulfilled. In front of a cave Ruodlieb takes a dwarf by surprise and throws him in bonds.

Jumping up and wishing to escape, he leaps to and fro and shouts, until exhausted he collapsed and gasped for air. When his strength returned, he said most submissively to Ruodlieb: “Spare me, the wretch, I will tell you what I know will be welcome if you do not kill me and release my hands, [to you.]

I will show you the treasure of two kings, both father and son, who are about to battle with you (the father has the name Immunch, the son Hartunch). Both will be conquered and killed by you. But the daughter of the king will then be his sole surviving heir, Heriburg, the most beautiful maiden in the whole realm. She is to be won by you, but not without great bloodshed, unless you do what I advise when I am freed.’’ Ruodlieb said to the dwarf: “You will not be killed by me. I will release you promptly if I can trust you. If you do not deceive me you will go away from me unharmed. But once you have power over yourself (i.e. once you are free), [you will thereafter (perhaps) say nothing to me.’’

“Far be it that this deceit should ever prevail between us. We (dwarves) would then not live so long nor in such good health.
Among you (men) no one speaks otherwise than from a deceptive
For that reason you will not reach a mature age. [heart.
The length of each man's life depends upon his good faith.
We do not speak otherwise than as we bear it in our own hearts (i.e.
[than our heart dictates),
nor do we eat various foods that breed illnesses.
Therefore we will endure unscathed longer than you.
Do not distrust me, I will act in such a way that you may well have
[faith in me,
but if you distrust me none the less, my wife shall be a hostage.''
He calls her from the cave, and she comes out promptly,
small, quite beautiful and even decked out in gold and raiments.
She rushed before Ruodlieb's feet and poured forth lamentations:
"O best man of all, release my husband from chains
and hold me for him until he has paid off his whole debt."
Inter uos nemo loquitur, nisi corde doloso.
Hinc nec ad aetatem maturam peruenietis;
Pro cuiusque fide sunt eius tempora uitae.
Non aliter loquimur, nisi sicut corde tenemus,

Neue cibos uarios edimus morbos generantes,
Longius incolomes hinc nos durabimus ac uos.
Non mihi diffidas, faciam, mihi quod bene credas.

Si mihi diffidas, mea coniunx sit tamen obses.’’
Hanc uocat ex antro, quae mox processerat illo,
Parua, nimis pulchra sed et auro uesteque compta.

Quae ruit ante pedes ruodlieb fundendo querelas:
“Optime cunctorum, uinclis mihi solue maritum
Meque tene pro se, donec persolerit omne.’’