

...he was half a giant...

Stanza 7

130 now wyl I of hor seruise say yow no more
131 for vch wy₃e may wel wit no wont þat þer were
132 an oþer noyse ful newe ne₃ed biliue
133 þat þe lude my₃t haf leue liflode to cach
134 for vneþe watz þe noyce not a whyle sesed
135 and þe fyrst cource in þe court kyndely serued
136 þer hales in at þe halle dor an aghlich mayster
137 on þe most on þe molde on mesure hyghe
138 fro þe swyre to þe swange so sware and so þik
139 and his lyndes and his lymes so longe and so grete
[fol. 93r]

140 half etayn in erde I hope þat he were
141 bot mon most I algate mynn hym to bene
142 and þat þe myriest in his muckel þat my₃t ride
143 for of bak and of brest al were his bodi sturne
144 bot his wombe and his wast were worthily smale
145 and alle his fetures fol₃ande in forme þat he hade
[bob]

146 ful clene
[wheel]

147 for wonder of his hwe men hade
148 set in his semblaunt sene
149 he ferde as freke were fade
150 and oueral enker grene

Stanza 8

151 ande al grayped in grene þis gome and his wedes
152 a strayt cote ful stre₃t þat stek on his sides
153 a mere mantile abof mensked with inne
154 with pelure pured apert þe pane ful clene
155 with blyþe blaunner ful bry₃t and his hod boþe
156 þat watz la₃t fro his lokkez and layde on his schulderes
157 heme wel haled hose of þat same grene
158 þat spenet on his sparlyr and clene spures vnder
159 of bry₃t golde vpon silk bordes barred ful ryche
160 and scholes vnder schankes þere þe schalk rides
161 and alle his vesture uerayly watz clene verdure
162 boþe þe barres of his belt and oþer blyþe stones
163 þat were richely rayled in his aray clene
164 aboutte hymself and his sadel vpon silk werkez
165 þat were to tor for to telle of tryfles þe halue
166 þat were enbrauded abof wyth bryddes and fly₃es
167 with gay gaudi of grene þe golde ay inmyddes
168 þe pendauntes of his payttrure pe proude cropure

169 his molaynes and alle þe metail anamayld was þenne
170 þe steropes þat he stod on stayned of þe same
171 and his arsounz al after and his aþel scurtes
172 þat euer glemered and glent al of grene stones
173 þe fole þat he ferkkes on fyn of þat ilke
[bob]
174 sertayn
[wheel]
175 a grene hors gret and þikke
176 a stede ful stif to strayne
177 in brawden brydel quik
[fol. 93]
178 to þe gome he watz ful gayn

The beheading game

Stanza 19

417 þe grene kny₃t vpon grounde grayþely hym dresses
418 a littel lut with þe hede þe lere he discouerez
419 his longe louelych lokkez he layd ouer his croun
420 let þe naked nec to þe note schewe
421 gauan gripped to his ax and gederes hit on hy₃t
422 þe kay fot on þe folde he before sette
423 let him down ly₃tly ly₃t on þe naked
424 þat þe scharp of þe schalk schyndered þe bones
425 and schrank þur₃ þe schyire grece and scade hit in twynne
426 þat þe bit of þe broun stel bot on þe grounde
427 þe fayre hede fro þe halce hit to þe erþe
428 þat fele hit foyned wyth her fete þere hit forth roled
429 þe blod brayd fro þe body þat blykked on þe grene
430 and nawþer faltered ne fel þe freke neuer þe helder
431 bot styþly he start forth vpon styf schonkes
432 and ruyschly he ra₃t out þere as renkkez stoden
433 la₃t to his lufly hed and lyft hit vp sone
434 and syþen bo₃ez to his blonk þe brydel he cachchez
435 steppez into stelbawe and strydez alofte
436 and his hede by þe here in his honde haldez
437 and as sadly þe segge hym in his sadel sette
438 as non vnhap had hym ayled þa₃ hedlez ho we
[bob]
439 in stedde
[wheel]
440 he brayde his bluk aboute
[fol. 97r]
441 þat vgly bodi þat bledde
442 moni on of hym had doute
443 bi þat his resounz were redde

Stanza 20

444 for þe hede in his honde he haldez vp euen
445 toward þe derrest on þe dece he dressez þe face
446 and hit lyfte vp þe y₃e lyddez and loked ful brode
447 and meled þus much with his muthe as ₃e may now here
448 loke gawan þou be grayþe to go as þou hettez
449 and layte as lelly til þou me lude fynde
450 as þou hatz hette in þis halle herande þise kny₃tes
451 to þe grene chapel þou chose I charge þe to fotte
452 such a dunt as þou hatz dalt disserued þou habbez
453 to be ₃ederly ₃olden on nw ₃eres morn
454 þe kny₃t of þe grene chapel men knowen me mony
455 forþi me for to fynde if þou fraystezy faylez þou neuer
456 þerfore com oþer recreaunt be calde þe behoueus

457 with a runisch rout þe raynez he tornez
458 halled out at þe hal dor his hed in his hande
459 þat þe fyr of þe flynt fla₃e fro fole houes
460 to quat kyth he becom knwe non þere
461 neuer more þen þay wyste from queþen he watz wonnen

[bob]

462 what þenne

[wheel]

463 þe kyng and gawen þare
464 at þat grene þay la₃e and grenne
465 3et breued watz hit ful bare
466 a meruayl among þo menne

Back to the castle

Stanza 100

2479 wylde wayez in þe worlde wowen now rydez
2480 on gryngolet þat þe grace hade geten of his lyue
2481 ofte he herbered in house and ofte al þeroute
2482 and mony aventure in vale and venquyst ofte
2483 þat I ne ty₃t at þis tyme in tale to remene
2484 þe hurt watz hole þat he hade hent in his nek
2485 and þe blykkande belt he bere þeraboute
2486 abelef as a bauderyk bounden bi his syde
2487 loken vnder his lyfte arme þe lace with a knot
2488 in tokenyng he watz tane in tech of a faute
2489 and þus he commes to þe court kny₃t al in sounde
2490 þer wakned wele in þat wone when wyst þe grete
2491 þat gode gawayn watz commen gayn hit hym þo₃t
2492 þe kyng kyssez þe kny₃t and þe whene alce
2493 and syþen mony syker kny₃t þat so₃t hym to haylce
2494 of his fare þat hym frayned and ferlyly he telles
2495 biknowez alle þe costes of care þat he hade
2496 þe chaunce of þe chapel þe chere of þe kny₃t [fol. 124]
2497 þe luf of þe ladi þe lace at þe last
2498 þe nirt in þe nek he naked hem schewed
2499 þat he la₃t for his vnleute at þe leudes hondes

[bob]

2500 for blame

[wheel]

2501 he tened quen he schulde telle
2502 he groned for gref and grame
2503 þe blod in his face con melle
2504 when he hit schulde schewe for schame

Stanza 101

2505 lo lorde quop þe leude and þe lace hondeled
2506 þis is þe bende of þis blame I bere my nek
2507 þis is þe laþe and þe losse þat I la₃t haue
2508 of couardise and couetyse þat I haf ca₃t þare
2509 þis is þe token of vntrawþe þat I am tan inne
2510 and I mot nedez hit were wyle I may last
2511 for non may hyden his harme bot vnhap ne may hit
2512 for þer hit onez is tachched twynne wil hit neuer
2513 þe kyng confortez þe kny₃t and alle þe court als
2514 la₃en loude þerat and luflyly acorden
2515 þat lordes and ladis þat longed to þe table
2516 vche burne of þe broþerhede a bauderyk schulde haue
2517 a bende abelef hym aboute of a bry₃t grene
2518 and þat for sake of þat segge in swete to were
2519 for þat watz acorded þe renoun of þe rounde table
2520 and he honoured þat hit hade euermore after

2521 as hit is breued in þe best boke of romaunce
2522 þus in arthurus day þis aunter bitidde
2523 þe brutus bokez þerof beres wyttensesse
2524 syþen brutus þe bolde burne bo₃ed hider fyrst
2525 after þe segge and þe asaute watz sesed at troye

[bob]

2526 iwysse

[wheel]

2527 mony aunterez here biforne
2528 haf fallen suche er þis
2529 now þat here þe croun of þorne
2530 he bryng vus to his blysse amen

[motto]

HONY SOYT QUI MAL [Y] PENCE
“Shame be to him who thinks evil of it”