

—「『バースの女房の話』の序と物語」用語索引（8）—

東 好 男

A Concordance to *The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale*
in *The Canterbury Tales* (8)

AZUMA Yoshio

Geoffrey Chaucer の『カンタベリー物語』は、既に幾つかの用語索引がこれまでに作成されている。J. S. P. Tatlock と A. G. Kennedy による *A Concordance to the Complete Works of Geoffrey Chaucer and to the 'Romount of the Rose'*¹⁾ は A. W. Pollard のテキスト *The Globe Edition*²⁾ を基に作られた労作であるが、その後のテキスト編纂は時代と共に進展し、近年最新のテキスト "*The Riverside Chaucer*", based on *The Works of Geoffrey Chaucer* edited by F. N. Robinson³⁾ が出版され、そしてこれに基づく用語索引が相次いで刊行された。一つは大泉昭夫氏による *A Complete Concordance to the Works of Geoffrey Chaucer*⁴⁾ であり、いまひとつは Larry D. Benson による *A Glossarial Concordance to the Riverside Chaucer*⁵⁾ である。しかしこれらはいずれも『カンタベリー物語』の中で

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大阪産業大学 教養部

- 1) *A Concordance to the Complete Works of Geoffrey Chaucer and to 'the Romount of the Rose'* (Tatlock and Kennedy Concordance) John S. P. Tatlock and Arthur G. Kennedy, Gloucester, Mass., Peter Smith. 1963.
- 2) *The Works of Geoffrey Chaucer*; (The Globe Edition) edited by Alfred W. Pollard, H. Frank Heath, Mark H. Liddell, W. S. McCormick, Macmillan and Co., 1913 (Originally issued in 1898).
- 3) *The Riverside Chaucer*; Third Edition, based on *The Works of Geoffrey Chaucer* edited by F. N. Robinson, Larry D. Benson, General Editor, Oxford University Press, 1988.
- 4) *A Complete Concordance to the Works of Geoffrey Chaucer*, Edited by Akio Oizumi, Programmed by Kunihiro Miki, Olms-Weidmann, Hildesheim, Zurich, New York, 10 vols., 1991.
- 5) *A Glossarial Concordance to The Riverside Chaucer*, Larry D. Benson, Garland Publishing, Inc., New York & London, 2 vols., 1993.

展開する個々の「物語」を、独立させた用語索引として掲載していない。しかし、各「物語」を独立した作品と考え、そこでの使用語彙のより詳細な言葉の環境を捉えるには、それぞれについての用語索引が是非とも必要となる。

『カンタベリー物語』の中で展開する個々の「物語」の中に登場する多様な語彙が、その前後の言語環境を通して作品の中で、どのような語義の広がりや機能を果たしているかを探ることが先ず ‘Concordance’ 作成によって可能となる。又、それぞれの ‘Word List’ 作成によって、如何様な語彙が作品の中で分布しているか、個々の語彙環境を総合的に鳥瞰することが可能となる。Chaucer の『カンタベリー物語』の一部を形成するこの “*The Wife of Bath’s Prologue and Tale*” の文学世界を文体と語彙の面において一層効率的に把握することの助けとなるはずである。

この “*The Wife of Bath’s Prologue and Tale*” の ‘Concordance’ と ‘Word List’ を作成するにあたり、テキストは “*The Riverside Chaucer*” を使用した。又、沖田電子技研(有)の文章解析プログラム・Micro-OCP を使用し、東個人が手で打ち込んだものと、同技研から出されている Electronic Text Library Line-up 中の “Chaucer, Complete Works” を使用した。

“*The Wife of Bath’s Prologue and Tale*” の中に登場する各語彙について、先ず ‘Concordance’ を作成した。次にアルファベット順による ‘Word List(1) (Alphabetical Order)’ と、頻度順による ‘Word List(2) (Sorted by Frequency)’ を作成し、最後に *The Riverside Chaucer* 版の ‘The Text of *The Wife of Bath’s Prologue and Tale*’ を掲載する。Text 作成では、その序、物語のそれぞれ第一行目を 1 として表記し、その右側に ‘*The Riverside Chaucer*’ 版による相当行を記入した。この Concordance, Word List の作成に際しては、総て「序」と「物語」を個別に扱うことにした。

今回は “*The Wife of Bath’s Prologue and Tale*” の用語索引(その8)を作成した。

Word List 2 (Sorted by Frequency) of *The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale* in *The Canterbury Tales* based on *The Riverside Chaucer*

Word List 2 (Sorted by Frequency) of *The Wife of Bath's Tale* (2)

Word List 2 (Sorted by Frequency) of *The Wife of Bath's Tale*
in *The Canterbury Tales* based on *The Riverside Chaucer* (2)

And	137	olde	7	certeyn	3
that	101	queene	7	chees	3
the	77	Sholde	7	come	3
he	66	thanne	7	daunce	3
I	64	thee	7	deed	3
of	59	they	7	eldres	3
to	56	unto	7	ende	3
For	48	wight	7	forth	3
A	46	an	6	fro	3
his	44	at	6	fyr	3
in	44	hadde	6	grante	3
as	42	have	6	grene	3
is	40	Heere	6	hath	3
it	40	hem	6	heed	3
this	38	hous	6	heer	3
she	30	kan	6	heigh	3
was	29	telle	6	hye	3
no	28	thogh	6	koude	3
but	27	Two	6	lenger	3
me	26	Upon	6	lest	3
ye	25	were	6	liketh	3
Be	24	also	5	lye	3
hym	24	am	5	moste	3
knyght	22	answere	5	myght	3
al	21	chese	5	noble	3
my	21	court	5	nolde	3
hir	20	doon	5	oold	3
quod	20	Dooth	5	othere	3
So	20	er	5	Paraventure	3
may	19	go	5	repreve	3
nat	19	grace	5	riche	3
wyf	19	greet	5	richesse	3
thyng	18	herte	5	save	3
we	18	holde	5	seith	3
wol	17	noght	5	sittyng	3
youre	15	out	5	speken	3
yow	15	place	5	synne	3
ne	14	right	5	Taak	3
Ther	14	seyn	5	taketh	3
Thy	14	sire	5	there	3
us	14	tale	5	therfore	3
with	14	thus	5	thynges	3
been	13	up	5	tyme	3
every	13	verray	5	vertuous	3
lyf	13	wise	5	vice	3
which	13	wole	5	vileynye	3
do	12	bothe	4	wedde	3
hire	12	certes	4	wheither	3
if	12	clayme	4	wo	3
man	12	doun	4	woot	3
or	12	fair	4	wydwe	3
povert	12	foul	4	above	2
gentil	11	fynde	4	after	2
Now	11	good	4	Agayn	2
wel	11	goth	4	alle	2
God	10	honour	4	allone	2
moost	10	housbonde	4	although	2
myghte	10	joye	4	answerde	2
swich	10	lady	4	apert	2
wolde	10	lat	4	array	2
by	9	longe	4	asses	2
ful	9	loven	4	auncestres	2
gentillesse	9	many	4	ay	2
han	9	mayde	4	bad	2
seyde	9	mo	4	Bifore	2
Thou	9	myn	4	biquethe	2
Whan	9	nevere	4	bisynesse	2
wommen	9	noon	4	biwreye	2
yet	9	old	4	body	2
love	8	se	4	cause	2
men	8	som	4	certainly	2
on	8	syn	4	comen	2
oure	8	tellen	4	conseil	2
saugh	8	Til	4	coveiteth	2
seye	8	trouthe	4	creature	2
shal	8	under	4	Crist	2
Somme	8	abedde	3	dar	2
What	8	Allas	3	dayes	2
best	7	amended	3	dedes	2
day	7	anon	3	dedis	2
eek	7	any	3	deere	2
kyng	7	Arthour	3	delit	2
nay	7	cam	3	desiren	2

『『パースの女房の話』の序と物語』用語索引 (8) (東 好男)

drede	2	twenty	2	boures	1
evere	2	vertuously	2	branches	1
faire	2	vicious	2	brenne	1
feeste	2	water	2	breſt	1
fey	2	wey	2	breſte	1
fiſte	2	weye	2	Britons	1
folk	2	Wher	2	bryngere	1
folwen	2	Where	2	burghes	1
foule	2	whiche	2	buſſh	1
from	2	wille	2	byde	1
gan	2	Withinne	2	calle	1
geſſe	2	wonder	2	care	1
glad	2	word	2	Caſt	1
Goddes	2	world	2	caſtels	1
grete	2	worldly	2	challenge	1
had	2	worth	2	chambres	1
happed	2	wynne	2	charitee	1
holden	2	yeres	2	chastitee	1
hooly	2	yeve	2	cherl	1
hope	2	yong	2	Cheseth	1
how	2	aboute	1	Citees	1
hymself	2	abyde	1	clamour	1
Jheſu	2	accordynge	1	clawe	1
kanſt	2	afterward	1	clene	1
knowe	2	afyre	1	clepe	1
kynde	2	ago	1	clerkes	1
ladyes	2	alenge	1	cokewold	1
laſte	2	alway	1	comanded	1
lawe	2	Alwey	1	cometh	1
lay	2	amende	1	compaignye	1
leere	2	amendere	1	comth	1
leeve	2	amonges	1	conclude	1
lerne	2	angry	1	Conſtreyned	1
leve	2	annexed	1	contraried	1
lith	2	answeren	1	cooſt	1
Lo	2	appeere	1	cours	1
Looke	2	appetit	1	coverchief	1
loſt	2	a-rewē	1	creatures	1
lyve	2	armes	1	cure	1
lyven	2	arrogance	1	curtyn	1
lyves	2	arryven	1	dampnacioun	1
lyvyng	2	art	1	dampned	1
maſtrie	2	Arthures	1	dangerous	1
make	2	Assay	1	Dant	1
maketh	2	Assembled	1	Dantes	1
mateere	2	asterte	1	Daunced	1
moot	2	atte	1	dayeryes	1
Myda	2	attendance	1	degree	1
namo	2	auctoritee	1	departe	1
nas	2	auctours	1	derkeſte	1
nathelees	2	audience	1	descended	1
nel	2	aunceſtre	1	deſir	1
newe	2	avante	1	deſire	1
nyght	2	aventure	1	deth	1
nys	2	avyſeth	1	devyſe	1
O	2	bachelor	1	deye	1
office	2	bar	1	dide	1
ofte	2	bath	1	diſfigure	1
oother	2	bathed	1	dishonour	1
Ovyde	2	bedde	1	diſparaged	1
owene	2	ben	1	diſpence	1
plesance	2	benedicitee	1	diſpleſe	1
Poſſessioun	2	ber	1	dores	1
povre	2	beres	1	dorſte	1
Pryvee	2	bernes	1	doth	1
redeth	2	bettle	1	doute	1
requere	2	bifel	1	drow	1
ſayde	2	biforn	1	duc	1
ſende	2	bigynne	1	dwelle	1
ſeyden	2	biheſte	1	dyde	1
ſhame	2	biholde	1	dye	1
ſiketh	2	bileeve	1	eelde	1
Sith	2	bitore	1	eke	1
ſmale	2	Bitwix	1	elde	1
ſuretee	2	bitwixe	1	elf	1
take	2	Bleſſynge	1	elf-queene	1
tel	2	blisse	1	elles	1
therby	2	bode	1	elves	1
therto	2	Boece	1	emperice	1
Thiſe	2	bombleth	1	entendeth	1
tho	2	book	1	ere	1
thoughte	2	boren	1	eres	1
thouſand	2	born	1	erl	1
trewe	2	bountee	1	erthe	1

erys	1	hymselfen	1	never	1
esed	1	ilke	1	nexste	1
est	1	incubus	1	noblesse	1
everemo	1	in-feere	1	none	1
expres	1	iren	1	ny	1
fader	1	Jhesus	1	nyce	1
fals	1	joly	1	nygardes	1
fare	1	jolynesse	1	nyste	1
fares	1	justise	1	obeyed	1
Fareth	1	Juvenal	1	often	1
faſte	1	Kaukasous	1	oftetyme	1
favour	1	keep	1	oon	1
fayerye	1	kepe	1	oore	1
fayeryes	1	kept	1	operacioun	1
ferē	1	kichenes	1	opinion	1
filthe	1	kike	1	oppreſſioun	1
flaterye	1	kille	1	other	1
Florence	1	kisse	1	oute	1
force	1	knave	1	over	1
forest	1	konne	1	owle	1
fors	1	Kys	1	pace	1
fouler	1	land	1	pacience	1
foure	1	lesse	1	parage	1
free	1	leyde	1	Pardee	1
freendes	1	lige	1	parfit	1
freres	1	likyng	1	payd	1
fressh	1	list	1	peril	1
fulfild	1	liste	1	perſone	1
fulfille	1	litel	1	peſtilence	1
fully	1	lond	1	pistel	1
fynden	1	looked	1	planted	1
fyne	1	loothly	1	pleye	1
galle	1	lordes	1	Plight	1
generally	1	lough	1	plighte	1
genterye	1	loved	1	poete	1
gentils	1	lowe	1	poore	1
gentrye	1	luſt	1	praye	1
gete	1	luſty	1	prayeres	1
gilt	1	lyk	1	prey	1
gon	1	lymytacioun	1	preye	1
goodneſſe	1	lymytour	1	preyede	1
goost	1	lymytours	1	preyeden	1
goth	1	lynage	1	pris	1
governance	1	lyne	1	prively	1
governe	1	made	1	proprely	1
governed	1	maner	1	proudeſte	1
graunted	1	manere	1	Proweſſe	1
grave	1	manly	1	purpos	1
grettet	1	mannes	1	pursute	1
greve	1	manye	1	purveye	1
Growyngē	1	mareys	1	put	1
halles	1	matyns	1	questioun	1
halt	1	maugree	1	quite	1
hand	1	mayden	1	raffe	1
hastow	1	maydenhed	1	rake-ſtele	1
hateful	1	mayme	1	ran	1
hele	1	mede	1	rede	1
hen	1	meeke	1	redy	1
hente	1	Mercy	1	Reedeth	1
herde	1	metal	1	remanent	1
heres	1	mooder	1	renomee	1
heritage	1	moore	1	repair	1
hertes	1	mooste	1	repreeve	1
hevēne	1	moote	1	requeſte	1
hevynneſſe	1	morwe	1	ridyngē	1
hidde	1	morwenynges	1	riſeth	1
hight	1	motes	1	roos	1
highte	1	mount	1	rowned	1
him	1	mouth	1	rude	1
hirſelf	1	muſche	1	ryde	1
homward	1	muſchel	1	rym	1
honest	1	myne	1	ryſe	1
hool	1	myre	1	ryver	1
hoom	1	myrily	1	sapience	1
hopeth	1	nacioun	1	ſauf	1
Hostillius	1	nam	1	ſaufly	1
hou	1	name	1	ſaved	1
houſbond	1	namoore	1	ſeche	1
Houſbondes	1	natureel	1	ſecree	1
humble	1	naturelly	1	ſee	1
hundred	1	necligence	1	ſeen	1
hurte	1	nedely	1	ſeene	1
hydde	1	nedes	1	ſeken	1
hyde	1	nekke-boon	1	ſeketh	1

『『バースの女房の話』の序と物語』用語索引 (8) (東 好男)

selde	1	Toward	1
seme	1	tree	1
Senec	1	trewely	1
Senek	1	trusted	1
sentence	1	Tullius	1
serchen	1	turneth	1
sey	1	twelf-month	1
seyen	1	tweye	1
seyth	1	undermeles	1
shalt	1	understonde	1
sherte	1	unreste	1
shette	1	unright	1
shipnes	1	Valerius	1
sholden	1	Vanysshed	1
shorte	1	verrailly	1
shortly	1	vileyns	1
shrewe	1	voys	1
shul	1	walken	1
sighte	1	walketh	1
silence	1	walkynge	1
sir	1	walwe	1
smylynge	1	walweth	1
sojourne	1	war	1
sonne	1	wardeyns	1
sonne-beem	1	wedded	1
soone	1	wende	1
soore	1	wendeth	1
sooth	1	wereth	1
sore	1	west	1
sorwe	1	weylawey	1
sorweful	1	weyve	1
sorwefully	1	who	1
sothe	1	whom	1
soun	1	Whoso	1
sovereyn	1	Why	1
sovereynetee	1	wilful	1
spak	1	wisse	1
speche	1	wiste	1
specially	1	wit	1
spectacle	1	withouten	1
speke	1	Witnessse	1
spille	1	wolden	1
stable	1	wont	1
standest	1	wood	1
statut	1	woost	1
stedefastly	1	worthy	1
sterven	1	wrothe	1
stille	1	wynde	1
stirte	1	wysdom	1
stonde	1	wyves	1
stood	1	yaf	1
strange	1	ybroght	1
streem	1	ycalled	1
subtilly	1	yelden	1
suffisant	1	yerne	1
suffiseth	1	yflatered	1
swal	1	ylymed	1
swoor	1	yonge	1
syde	1	you	1
synful	1	youreself	1
synge	1	yourselven	1
syngeth	1	yplested	1
taughte	1		
teche	1		
temporel	1		
Than	1	TOTAL WORDS READ	= 3215
thanketh	1	TOTAL WORDS SELECTED	= 3215
th'array	1	TOTAL WORDS PICKED	= 3215
Thenketh	1	TOTAL WORDS SAMPLED	= 3215
thenne	1	TOTAL WORDS KEPT	= 3215
theves	1	TOTAL VOCABULARY	= 899
thikke	1		
thilke	1		
thoght	1		
th'olde	1		
thre	1		
Thropes	1		
Thurgh	1		
thyne	1		
thynketh	1		
to-morn	1		
toures	1		
tourne	1		
t'overbyde	1		

The Text of *The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale*
in *The Canterbury Tales*
based upon *The Riverside Chaucer*, III (D) 1-856

The Text of *The Wife of Bath's Prologue* in *The Canterbury Tales*
based upon *The Riverside Chaucer*, III (D) 1-856

1	(	1	)	"Experience, though noon auctoritee
2	(	2	)	Were in this world, is right ynogh for me
3	(	3	)	To speke of wo that is in mariage;
4	(	4	)	For, lordynges, sith I twelve yeer was of age,
5	(	5	)	Thonked be God that is eterne on lyve,
6	(	6	)	Housbondes at chirche dore I have had fyve-
7	(	7	)	If I so ofte myghte have ywedded bee-
8	(	8	)	And alle were worthy men in hir degree.
9	(	9	)	But me was toold, certeyn, nat longe agoon is,
10	(	10	)	That sith that Crist ne wente nevere but onis
11	(	11	)	To weddyng, in the Cane of Galilee,
12	(	12	)	That by the same ensample taughte he me
13	(	13	)	That I ne sholde wedded be but ones.
14	(	14	)	Herkne eek, lo, which a sharp word for the nones,
15	(	15	)	Biside a welle, Jhesus, God and man,
16	(	16	)	Spak in repreeve of the Samaritan:
17	(	17	)	'Thou hast yhad fyve housbondes,' quod he,
18	(	18	)	'And that ilke man that now hath thee
19	(	19	)	Is noght thyn housbonde,' thus seyde he certeyn.
20	(	20	)	What that he mente therby, I kan nat seyn;
21	(	21	)	But that I axe, why that the fifthe man
22	(	22	)	Was noon housbonde to the Samaritan?
23	(	23	)	How manye myghte she have in mariage?
24	(	24	)	Yet herde I nevere tellen in myn age
25	(	25	)	Upon this nombre diffinicioun.
26	(	26	)	Men may devyne and glosen, up and doun,
27	(	27	)	But wel I woot, expres, withoute lye,
28	(	28	)	God bad us for to wexe and multiplye;
29	(	29	)	That gentil text kan I wel understonde.
30	(	30	)	Eek wel I woot, he seyde myn housbonde
31	(	31	)	Sholde lete fader and mooder and take to me.
32	(	32	)	But of no nombre mencion made he,
33	(	33	)	Of bigamy, or of octogamy;
34	(	34	)	Why sholde men thanne speke of it vileynye?
35	(	35	)	Lo, heere the wise kyng, daun Salomon;
36	(	36	)	I trowe he hadde wyves mo than oon.
37	(	37	)	As wolde God it leveful were unto me
38	(	38	)	To be refreshed half so ofte as he!
39	(	39	)	Which yifte of God hadde he for alle his wyvys!
40	(	40	)	No man hath swich that in this world alyve is.
41	(	41	)	God woot, this noble kyng, as to my wit,
42	(	42	)	The firste nyght had many a myrie fit
43	(	43	)	With ech of hem, so wel was hym on lyve.
44	(	44	)	Yblessed be God that I have wedded fyve!
44a	(	44a	)	[Of whiche I have pyked out the beste,
44b	(	44b	)	Bothe of here nether purs and of here cheste.
44c	(	44c	)	Diverse scoles maken parfyt clerkes,
44d	(	44d	)	And diverse practyk in many sondry werkes
44e	(	44e	)	Maketh the werkman parfyt sekirly;
44f	(	44f	)	Of fyve husbondes scoleiying am I.]
45	(	45	)	Welcome the sixte, whan that evere he shal.
46	(	46	)	For sothe, I wol nat kepe me chaast in al.
47	(	47	)	Whan myn housbonde is fro the world ygon,
48	(	48	)	Som Cristen man shal wedde me anon,
49	(	49	)	For thanne th' apostle seith that I am free
50	(	50	)	To wedde, a Goddes half, where it liketh me.
51	(	51	)	He seith that to be wedded is no synne;
52	(	52	)	Bet is to be wedded than to brynne.
53	(	53	)	What rekketh me, thogh folk seye vileynye
54	(	54	)	Of shrewed Lameth and his bigamy?
55	(	55	)	I woot wel Abraham was an hooly man,
56	(	56	)	And Jacob eek, as ferforth as I kan;
57	(	57	)	And ech of hem hadde wyves mo than two,
58	(	58	)	And many another holy man also.
59	(	59	)	Wher can ye seye, in any manere age,
60	(	60	)	That hye God defended mariage
61	(	61	)	By expres word? I pray yow, tellethe me.
62	(	62	)	Or where comanded he virginitee?
63	(	63	)	I woot as wel as ye, it is no drede,
64	(	64	)	Th' apostel, whan he speketh of maydenhede,
65	(	65	)	He seyde that precept therof hadde he noon.
66	(	66	)	Men may conseille a womman to been oon,
67	(	67	)	But conseillyng is no comandement.
68	(	68	)	He putte it in oure owene juggement;
69	(	69	)	For hadde God comanded maydenhede,
70	(	70	)	Thanne hadde he dampned weddyng with the dede.
71	(	71	)	And certes, if ther were no seed ysowe,
72	(	72	)	Virginitee, thanne wherof sholde it growe?
73	(	73	)	Poul dorste nat comanden, atte leeste,
74	(	74	)	A thyng of which his maister yaf noon heeste.
75	(	75	)	The dart is set up for virginitee;
76	(	76	)	Cacche whoso may, who renneth best lat see.
77	(	77	)	But this word is nat taken of every wight,

- 78 (78) But ther as God lust gyve it of his myght.
79 (79) I woot wel that th' apostel was a mayde;
80 (80) But nathelees, thogh that he wroot and sayde
81 (81) He wolde that every wight were swich as he,
82 (82) Al nys but conseil to virginitee.
83 (83) And for to been a wyf he yaf me leve
84 (84) Of indulgence; so nys it no reprove
85 (85) To wedde me, if that my make dye,
86 (86) Withouten excepcion of bigamy.
87 (87) Al were it good no womman for to touche--
88 (88) He mente as in his bed or in his couche,
89 (89) For peril is bothe fyr and tow t' assemble;
90 (90) Ye knowe what this ensample may resemble.
91 (91) This is al and som: he heeld virginitee
92 (92) Moore parfit than weddyng in freletee.
93 (93) Freletee clepe I, but if that he and she
94 (94) Wolde leden al hir lyf in chastitee.
95 (95) I graunte it wel; I have noon envie,
96 (96) Thogh maydenhede preferre bigamy.
97 (97) It liketh hem to be clene, body and goost;
98 (98) Of myn estaat I nyl nat make no boost,
99 (99) For wel ye knowe, a lord in his houshold,
100 (100) He nath nat every vessel al of gold;
101 (101) Somme been of tree, and doon hir lord servyse.
102 (102) God clepeth folk to hym in sondry wyse,
103 (103) And everich hath of God a propre yifte--
104 (104) Som this, som that, as hym liketh shifte.
105 (105) Virginitee is greet perfeccion,
106 (106) And continence eek with devocion,
107 (107) But Crist, that of perfeccion is welle,
108 (108) Bad nat every wight he sholde go selle
109 (109) Al that he hadde, and gyve it to the poore,
110 (110) And in swich wise folwe hym and his foore.
111 (111) He spak to hem that wolde lyve parfitly;
112 (112) And lordynges, by youre leve, that am nat I.
113 (113) I wol bistowe the flour of al myn age
114 (114) In the actes and in fruyt of mariage.
115 (115) Telle me also, to what conclusion
116 (116) Were membres maad of generacion,
117 (117) And of so parfit wys a [wright] ywrought?
118 (118) Trusteth right wel, they were nat maad for noght.
119 (119) Glose whoso wole, and seye bothe up and doun
120 (120) That they were maked for purgacioun
121 (121) Of uryne, and oure bothe thynges smale
122 (122) Were eek to knowe a femele from a male,
123 (123) And for noon oother cause-- say ye no?
124 (124) The experience woot wel it is noght so.
125 (125) So that the clerkes be nat with me wrothe,
126 (126) I sey this: that they maked ben for bothe;
127 (127) That is to seye, for office and for ese
128 (128) Of engendrure, ther we nat God displese.
129 (129) Why sholde men elles in hir bookes sette
130 (130) That man shal yelde to his wyf hire dette?
131 (131) Now wherwith sholde he make his paiement,
132 (132) If he ne used his sely instrument?
133 (133) Thanne were they maad upon a creature
134 (134) To purge uryne, and eek for engendrure.
135 (135) But I seye noght that every wight is holde,
136 (136) That hath swich harneys as I to yow tolde,
137 (137) To goon and usen hem in engendrure.
138 (138) Thanne sholde men take of chastitee no cure.
139 (139) Crist was a mayde and shapen as a man,
140 (140) And many a seint, sith that the world bigan;
141 (141) Yet lyved they evere in parfit chastitee.
142 (142) I nyl envye no virginitee.
143 (143) Lat hem be breed of pured whete-seed,
144 (144) And lat us wyves hoten barly-breed;
145 (145) And yet with barly-breed, Mark telle kan,
146 (146) Oure Lord Jhesu refreshed many a man.
147 (147) In swich estaat as God hath cleped us
148 (148) I wol persevere; I nam nat precius.
149 (149) In wyfod I wol use myn instrument
150 (150) As frely as my Makere hath it sent.
151 (151) If I be dangerous, God yeve me sorwe!
152 (152) Myn housbonde shal it have bothe eve and morwe,
153 (153) Whan that hym list come forth and paye his dette.
154 (154) An housbonde I wol have-- I wol nat lette--
155 (155) Which shal be bothe my dettour and my thral,
156 (156) And have his tribulacion withal
157 (157) Upon his flessch, whil that I am his wyf.
158 (158) I have the power durynge al my lyf
159 (159) Upon his propre body, and noght he.
160 (160) Right thus the Apostel tolde it unto me,
161 (161) And bad oure housbondes for to love us weel.

162	(162)	Al this sentence me liketh every deel!" --
163	(163)	Up stirte the Pardoner, and that anon;
164	(164)	"Now, dame," quod he, "by God and by Seint John!
165	(165)	Ye been a noble prechour in this cas.
166	(166)	I was aboute to wedde a wyf; allas!
167	(167)	What sholde I bye it on my flessch so deere?
168	(168)	Yet hadde I levere wedde no wyf to-yeere!"
169	(169)	"Abyde!" quod she, "my tale is nat bigonne.
170	(170)	Nay, thou shalt drynken of another tonne,
171	(171)	Er that I go, shal savoure wors than ale.
172	(172)	And whan that I have toold thee forth my tale
173	(173)	Of tribulacion in mariage,
174	(174)	Of which I am expert in al myn age--
175	(175)	This is to seyn, myself have been the whippe--
176	(176)	Than maystow chese wheither thou wolt sippe
177	(177)	Of thilke tonne that I shal abroche.
178	(178)	Be war of it, er thou to ny approche;
179	(179)	For I shal telle ensamples mo than ten.
180	(180)	"Whoso that nyl be war by othere men,
181	(181)	By hym shul othere men corrected be."
182	(182)	The same wordes writeth Ptholomee;
183	(183)	Rede in his Almageste, and take it there."
184	(184)	"Dame, I wolde praye yow, if youre wyl it were,"
185	(185)	Seyde this Pardoner, "as ye bigan,
186	(186)	Telle forth youre tale, spareth for no man,
187	(187)	And teche us yonge men of youre praktike."
188	(188)	"Gladly," quod she, "sith it may yow like;
189	(189)	But yet I praye to al this compaignye,
190	(190)	If that I speke after my fantasye,
191	(191)	As taketh not agrief of that I seye,
192	(192)	For myn entente nys but for to pleye.
193	(193)	Now, sire, now wol I telle forth my tale.
194	(194)	As evere moote I drynken wyn or ale,
195	(195)	I shal seye sooth; tho housbondes that I hadde,
196	(196)	As thre of hem were goode, and two were badde.
197	(197)	The thre were goode men, and riche, and olde;
198	(198)	Unnethe myghte they the statut holde
199	(199)	In which that they were bounden unto me.
200	(200)	Ye woot wel what I meene of this, pardee!
201	(201)	As help me God, I laughe whan I thynke
202	(202)	How pitously a-nyght I made hem swynke!
203	(203)	And, by my fey, I tolde of it no stoor.
204	(204)	They had me yeven hir lond and hir tresoor;
205	(205)	Me neded nat do lenger diligence
206	(206)	To wyne hir love, or doon hem reverence.
207	(207)	They loved me so wel, by God above,
208	(208)	That I ne tolde no deyntee of hir love!
209	(209)	A wys womman wol bisye hire evere in oon
210	(210)	To gete hire love, ye, ther as she hath noon.
211	(211)	But sith I hadde hem hoolly in myn hond,
212	(212)	And sith they hadde me yeven al hir lond,
213	(213)	What sholde I taken keep hem for to plese,
214	(214)	But it were for my profit and myn ese?
215	(215)	I sette hem so a-werke, by my fey,
216	(216)	That many a nyght they songen "Weilaway!"
217	(217)	The bacon was nat fet for hem, I trowe,
218	(218)	That som men han in Essex at Dunmowe.
219	(219)	I governed hem so wel, after my lawe,
220	(220)	That ech of hem ful blisful was and fawe
221	(221)	To brynge me gaye thynges fro the fayre.
222	(222)	They were ful glad whan I spak to hem faire,
223	(223)	For, God it woot, I chidde hem spitously.
224	(224)	Now herkneth hou I baar me proprely,
225	(225)	Ye wise wyves, that kan understonde.
226	(226)	Thus shulde ye speke and bere hem wrong on honde,
227	(227)	For half so boldely kan ther no man
228	(228)	Swere and lyen, as a womman kan.
229	(229)	I sey nat this by wyves that been wyse,
230	(230)	But if it be whan they hem mysavyse.
231	(231)	A wys wyf, if that she kan hir good,
232	(232)	Shal beren hym on honde the cow is wood,
233	(233)	And take witnessse of hir owene mayde
234	(234)	Of hir assent. But herkneth how I sayde:
235	(235)	"Sire olde kaynard, is this thyn array?
236	(236)	Why is my neigbebores wyf so gay?
237	(237)	She is honoured overal ther she gooth;
238	(238)	I sitte at hoom; I have no thrifty clooth.
239	(239)	What dostow at my neigbebores hous?
240	(240)	Is she so fair? Artow so amorous?
241	(241)	What rowne ye withoure mayde? Benedicite!
242	(242)	Sire olde lecchour, lat thy japes be!
243	(243)	And if I have a gossib or a freend,
244	(244)	Withouten gilt, thou chidest as a feend,
245	(245)	If that I walke or pleye unto his hous!

246 (246) Thou comest hoom as dronken as a mous,
 247 (247) And prechest on thy bench, with yvel preef!
 248 (248) Thou seist to me it is a greet meschief
 249 (249) To wedde a povre womman, for costage;
 250 (250) And if that she be riche, of heigh parage,
 251 (251) Thanne seistow that it is a tormentrie
 252 (252) To soffre hire pride and hire malencolie.
 253 (253) And if that she be fair, thou verray knave,
 254 (254) Thou seyst that every holour wol hire have;
 255 (255) She may no while in chastitee abyde,
 256 (256) That is assailed upon ech a syde.
 257 (257) Thou seyst som folk desiren us for richesse,
 258 (258) Somme for oure shap, and somme for oure fairnesse,
 259 (259) And som for she kan outhr synge or daunce,
 260 (260) And som for gentillesse and daliaunce;
 261 (261) Som for hir handes and hir armes smale;
 262 (262) Thus goth al to the devel, by thy tale.
 263 (263) Thou seyst men may nat kepe a castel wal,
 264 (264) It may so longe assailed been overal.
 265 (265) And if that she be foul, thou seist that she
 266 (266) Coveiteth every man that she may se,
 267 (267) For as a spanyel she wol on hym lepe,
 268 (268) Til that she fynde som man hire to chepe.
 269 (269) Ne noon so grey goos gooth ther in the lake
 270 (270) As, seistow, wol been withoute make.
 271 (271) And seyst it is an hard thyng for to welde
 272 (272) A thyng that no man wole, his thankes, helde.
 273 (273) Thus seistow, lorel, whan thou goost to bedde,
 274 (274) And that no wys man nedeth for to wedde,
 275 (275) Ne no man that entendeth unto hevене.
 276 (276) With wilde thonder-dynt and firy levēne
 277 (277) Moote thy welked nekke be tobroke!
 278 (278) Thow seyst that droppynge houses, and eek smoke,
 279 (279) And chiding wyves maken men to flee
 280 (280) Out of hir owene houses; a, benedicitee!
 281 (281) What eyleth swich an old man for to chide?
 282 (282) Thow seyst we wyves wol oure vices hide
 283 (283) Til we be fast, and thanne we wol hem shewe-
 284 (284) Wel may that be a proverbe of a shrewel!
 285 (285) Thou seist that oxen, asses, hors, and houndes,
 286 (286) They been assayed at diverse stoundes;
 287 (287) Bacyns, lavours, er that men hem bye,
 288 (288) Spoons and stooles, and al swich housbondrye,
 289 (289) And so been pottes, clothes, and array;
 290 (290) But folk of wyves maken noon assay,
 291 (291) Til they be wedded- olde dotard shrewel-
 292 (292) And thanne, seistow, we wol oure vices shewe.
 293 (293) Thou seist also that it displeth me
 294 (294) But if that thou wolt preyse my beautee,
 295 (295) And but thou poure alwey upon my face,
 296 (296) And clepe me "faire dame" in every place.
 297 (297) And but thou make a feeste on thilke day
 298 (298) That I was born, and make me fressh and gay;
 299 (299) And but thou do to my norice honour,
 300 (300) And to my chamberere withinne my bour,
 301 (301) And to my fadres folk and his allies-
 302 (302) Thus seistow, olde barel-ful of lyes!
 303 (303) And yet of oure apprentice Janekyn,
 304 (304) For his crispe heer, shynynge as gold so fyn,
 305 (305) And for he squiereth me bothe up and down,
 306 (306) Yet hastow caught a fals suspecioun.
 307 (307) I wol hym noght, thogh thou were deed tomorwe!
 308 (308) But tel me this: why hydestow, with sorwe,
 309 (309) The keyes of thy cheste away fro me?
 310 (310) It is my good as wel as thyn, pardee!
 311 (311) What, wenestow make an ydiot of oure dame?
 312 (312) Now by that lord that called is Seint Jame,
 313 (313) Thou shalt nat bothe, thogh that thou were wood,
 314 (314) Be maister of my body and of my good;
 315 (315) That oon thou shalt forgo, maugree thyn yē.
 316 (316) What helpith it of me to enquere or spyen?
 317 (317) I trowe thou woldest loke me in thy chiste!
 318 (318) Thou sholdest seye, "Wyf, go wher thee list;
 319 (319) Taak youre disport; I wol nat leve no talys.
 320 (320) I knowe yow for a trewe wyf, dame Alys."
 321 (321) We love no man that taketh kep or charge
 322 (322) Wher that we goon; we wol ben at oure large.
 323 (323) Of alle men yblessed moot he be,
 324 (324) The wise astrologien, Daun Ptholome,
 325 (325) That seith this proverbe in his Almageste:
 326 (326) "Of alle men his wysdom is the hyste
 327 (327) That rekketh nevere who hath the world in honde."
 328 (328) By this proverbe thou shalt understonde,
 329 (329) Have thou ynogh, what thar thee recche or care

330	(330)	How myrily that othere folkes fare?
331	(331)	For, certeyn, olde dotard, by youre leve,
332	(332)	We shul have queynte right ynogh at eve.
333	(333)	He is to greet a nygard that wolde werne
334	(334)	A man to lighte a candle at his lanterne;
335	(335)	He shal have never the lasse light, pardee.
336	(336)	Have thou ynogh, thee thar nat pleyne thee.
337	(337)	Thou seyst also, that if we make us gay
338	(338)	With clothyng, and with precious array,
339	(339)	That it is peril of oure chastitee;
340	(340)	And yet- with sorwe!- thou most enforce thee,
341	(341)	And seye these wordes in the Apostles name:
342	(342)	"In habit maad with chastitee and shame
343	(343)	Ye wommen shul apparaille yow," quod he,
344	(344)	"And noght in tressed heer and gay perree,
345	(345)	As perles, ne with gold, ne clothes riche."
346	(346)	After thy text, ne after thy rubriche,
347	(347)	I wol nat wirche as muchel as a gnat.
348	(348)	Thou seydest this, that I was lyk a cat;
349	(349)	For whoso wolde senge a cattes skyn,
350	(350)	Thanne wolde the cat wel dwellen in his in;
351	(351)	And if the cattes skyn be slyk and gay,
352	(352)	She wol nat dwelle in house half a day,
353	(353)	But forth she wole, er any day be dawed,
354	(354)	To shewe hir skyn and goon a-caterwawed.
355	(355)	This is to seye, if I be gay, sire shrewe,
356	(356)	I wol renne out my borel for to shewe.
357	(357)	Sire olde fool, what helpeth thee to spyen?
358	(358)	Thogh thou preyne Argus with his hundred yen
359	(359)	To be my warde-cors, as he kan best,
360	(360)	In feith, he shal nat kepe me but me lest;
361	(361)	Yet koude I make his berd, so moot I thee!
362	(362)	Thou seydest eek that ther been thynges thre,
363	(363)	The whiche thynges troublen al this erthe,
364	(364)	And that no wight may endure the ferthe.
365	(365)	O leeve sire shrewe, Jhesu shorte thy lyf!
366	(366)	Yet prechestow and seyst an hateful wyf
367	(367)	Yrekened is for oon of these meschances.
368	(368)	Been ther none othere maner resemblances
369	(369)	That ye may likne youre parables to,
370	(370)	But if a sely wyf be oon of tho?
371	(371)	Thou liknest eek wommenes love to helle,
372	(372)	To bareyne lond, ther water may nat dwelle.
373	(373)	Thou liknest it also to wilde fyr;
374	(374)	The moore it brenneth, the moore it hath desir
375	(375)	To consume every thyng that brent wole be.
376	(376)	Thou seyest, right as wormes shende a tree,
377	(377)	Right so a wyf destroyeth hire housbonde;
378	(378)	This knowe they that been to wyves bonde."
379	(379)	Lordynges, right thus, as ye have understonde,
380	(380)	Baar I stifly myne olde housbondes on honde
381	(381)	That thus they seyden in hir dronkenesse;
382	(382)	And al was fals, but that I took witesse
383	(383)	On Janekyn, and on my nece also.
384	(384)	O Lord! The peyne I dide hem and the wo,
385	(385)	Ful giltelees, by Goddes sweete pyne!
386	(386)	For as an hors I koude byte and whyne.
387	(387)	I koude pleyne, and yit was in the gilt,
388	(388)	Or elles often tyme hadde I been spilt.
389	(389)	Whoso that first to mille comth, first grynt;
390	(390)	I pleynd first, so was oure werre ystynt.
391	(391)	They were ful glade to excuse hem blyve
392	(392)	Of thyng of which they nevere agilte hir lyve.
393	(393)	Of wences wolde I beren hem on honde,
394	(394)	Whan that for syk unnethes myghte they stonde.
395	(395)	Yet tikled I his herte, for that he
396	(396)	Wende that I hadde of hym so greet chiertee!
397	(397)	I swoor that al my walkynge out by nyghte
398	(398)	Was for t'espye wences that he dighte;
399	(399)	Under that colour hadde I many a myrthe.
400	(400)	For al swich wit is yeven us in oure byrthe;
401	(401)	Deceite, wepyng, spynnyng God hath yive
402	(402)	To wommen kyndely, whil that they may lyve.
403	(403)	And thus of o thyng I avaunte me:
404	(404)	Atte ende I hadde the bettre in ech degree,
405	(405)	By sleighte, or force, or by som maner thyng,
406	(406)	As by continueel murmur or grucchyng.
407	(407)	Namely abedde hadden they meschaunce:
408	(408)	Ther wolde I chide and do hem no plesaunce;
409	(409)	I wolde no lenger in the bed abyde,
410	(410)	If that I felte his arm over my syde,
411	(411)	Til he had maad his raunson unto me;
412	(412)	Thanne wolde I suffre hym do his nycetee.
413	(413)	And therfore every man this tale I telle,

414 (414) Wynne whoso may, for al is for to selle;
415 (415) With empty hand men may none haukes lure
416 (416) For wynnynge wolde I al his lust endure,
417 (417) And make me a feyned appetit;
418 (418) And yet in bacon hadde I nevere delit.
419 (419) That made me that evere I wolde hem chide,
420 (420) For thogh the pope hadde seten hem biside,
421 (421) I wolde nat spare hem at hir owene bord,
422 (422) For, by my trouthe, I quitte hem word for word.
423 (423) As helpe me verray God omnipotent,
424 (424) Though I right now sholde make my testament,
425 (425) I ne owe hem nat a word that it nys quit.
426 (426) I broghte it so aboute by my wit
427 (427) That they moste yeve it up, as for the beste,
428 (428) Or elles hadde we nevere been in reste;
429 (429) For thogh he looked as a wood leon,
430 (430) Yet sholde he faille of his conclusion.
431 (431) Thanne wolde I seye, "Goode lief, task keep
432 (432) How mekely looketh Wilkyn, oure sheep!
433 (433) Com neer, my spouse, lat me ba thy cheke!
434 (434) Ye sholde been al pacient and meke,
435 (435) And han a sweete spiced conscience,
436 (436) Sith ye so preche of Jobes pacience.
437 (437) Suffreth alwey, syn ye so wel kan preche;
438 (438) And but ye do, certein we shal yow teche
439 (439) That it is fair to have a wyf in pees.
440 (440) Oon of us two moste bowen, doutelees,
441 (441) And sith a man is moore resonable
442 (442) Than womman is, ye moste been suffrable.
443 (443) What eyleth yow to grucche thus and grone?
444 (444) Is it for ye wolde have my queynte allone?
445 (445) Wy, taak it al! Lo, have it every deel!
446 (446) Peter! I shrewe yow, but ye love it weel;
447 (447) For if I wolde selle my bele chose
448 (448) I koude wake as fressh as is a rose;
449 (449) But I wol kepe it for youre owene tooth.
450 (450) Ye be to blame, by God! I sey yow sooth."
451 (451) Swiche manere wordes hadde we on honde.
452 (452) Now wol I speken of my fourthe housbonde.
453 (453) My fourthe housbonde was a revelour-
454 (454) This is to seyn, he hadde a paramour-
455 (455) And I was yong and ful of ragerye,
456 (456) Stibourn and strong, and joly as a pye.
457 (457) How koude I daunce to an harpe smale,
458 (458) And synge, ywis, as any nyghtyngale,
459 (459) Whan I had dronke a draughte of sweete wyn!
460 (460) Metellius, the foule cherl, the swyn,
461 (461) That with a staf birafte his wyf hir lyf,
462 (462) For she drank wyn, thogh I hadde been his wyf,
463 (463) He sholde nat han daunted me fro drynke!
464 (464) And after wyn on Venus moste I thynke,
465 (465) For al so siker as cold engendreth hayl,
466 (466) A likerous mouth moste han a likerous tayl.
467 (467) In wommen vinolent is no defence-
468 (468) This knowen lecchours by experience.
469 (469) But- Lord Crist!- whan that it remembreth me
470 (470) Upon my yowthe, and on my jolitee,
471 (471) It tikleth me aboute myn herte roote.
472 (472) Unto this day it dooth myn herte boote
473 (473) That I have had my world as in my tyme.
474 (474) But age, allas, that al wole envenyme,
475 (475) Hath me biraft my beautee and my pith.
476 (476) Lat go. Farewel! The devel go therwith!
477 (477) The flour is goon; ther is namoore to telle;
478 (478) The bren, as I best kan, now moste I selle;
479 (479) But yet to be right myrie wol I fonde.
480 (480) Now wol I tellen of my fourthe housbonde.
481 (481) I seye, I hadde in herte greet despit
482 (482) That he of any oother had delit.
483 (483) But he was quit, by God and by Seint Joce!
484 (484) I made hym of the same wode a croce;
485 (485) Nat of my body, in no foul manere,
486 (486) But certeinly, I made folk swich cheere
487 (487) That in his owene grece I made hym frye
488 (488) For angre, and for verray jalousye.
489 (489) By God, in erthe I was his purgatorie,
490 (490) For which I hope his soule be in glorie.
491 (491) For, God it woot, he sat ful ofte and song,
492 (492) Whan that his shoo ful bitterly hym wrong.
493 (493) Ther was no wight, save God and he, that wiste,
494 (494) In many wise, how soore I hym twiste.
495 (495) He deyde whan I cam fro Jerusalem,
496 (496) And lith ygrave under the roode beam,
497 (497) Al is his tombe noight so curyus

498	(498)	As was the sepulcre of hym Daryus,
499	(499)	Which that Appelles wroghte subtilly;
500	(500)	It nys but wast to burye hym preciously.
501	(501)	Lat hym fare wel; God yeve his soule reste!
502	(502)	He is now in his grave and in his cheste.
503	(503)	Now of my fifthe housbonde wol I telle.
504	(504)	God lete his soule nevere come in helle!
505	(505)	And yet was he to me the mooste shrewe;
506	(506)	That feele I on my ribbes al by rewe,
507	(507)	And evere shal unto myn endyng day.
508	(508)	But in oure bed he was so fressh and gay,
509	(509)	And therwithal so wel koude he me glose,
510	(510)	Whan that he wolde han my bele chose;
511	(511)	That thogh he hadde me bete on every bon,
512	(512)	He koude wynne agayn my love anon.
513	(513)	I trowe I loved hym best, for that he
514	(514)	Was of his love daungerous to me.
515	(515)	We wommen han, if that I shal nat lye,
516	(516)	In this matere a queynte fantasye:
517	(517)	Wayte what thyng we may nat lightly have,
518	(518)	Therafter wol we crie al day and crave.
519	(519)	Forbede us thyng, and that desiren we;
520	(520)	Preesse on us faste, and thanne wol we fle.
521	(521)	With daunger oute we al oure chaffare;
522	(522)	Greet prees at market maketh deere ware,
523	(523)	And to greet cheep is holde at litel prys:
524	(524)	This knoweth every womman that is wys.
525	(525)	My fifthe housbonde- God his soule blesse!
526	(526)	Which that I took for love, and no richesse,
527	(527)	He som tyme was a clerk of Oxenford,
528	(528)	And hadde left scole, and wente at hom to bord
529	(529)	With my gossib, dwellynge in oure toun;
530	(530)	God have hir soule! Hir name was Alisoun.
531	(531)	She knew myn herte, and eek my privetee,
532	(532)	Bet than oure parisshe preest, so moot I thee!
533	(533)	To hire biwreyed I my conseil al.
534	(534)	For hadde myn housbonde pissed on a wal,
535	(535)	Or doon a thyng that sholde han cost his lyf,
536	(536)	To hire, and to another worthy wyf,
537	(537)	And to my nece, which that I loved weel,
538	(538)	I wolde han toold his conseil every deel.
539	(539)	And so I dide ful often, God it woot,
540	(540)	That made his face often reed and hoot
541	(541)	For verray shame, and blamed hymself for he
542	(542)	Had toold to me so greet a pryvetee.
543	(543)	And so bifel that ones in a Lente-
544	(544)	So often tymes I to my gossyb wente,
545	(545)	For evere yet I loved to be gay,
546	(546)	Ful by And for to walke in March, Averill, and May,
547	(547)	Fro hous to hous, to heere sondry talys-
548	(548)	That lankyn clerk, and my gossyb dame Alys,
549	(549)	And I myself, into the feeldes wente.
550	(550)	Myn housbonde was at Londoun al that Lente;
551	(551)	I hadde the bettre leyser for to pleye,
552	(552)	And for to se, and eek for to be seye
553	(553)	Of lusty folk. What wiste I wher my grace
554	(554)	Was shapen for to be, or in what place?
555	(555)	Therefore I made my visitaciouns,
556	(556)	To vigilies and to processiouns,
557	(557)	To prechyng eek, and to these pilgrimages,
558	(558)	To pleyes of myracles, and to mariages,
559	(559)	And wered upon my gaye scarlet gytes.
560	(560)	These wormes, ne these mothes, ne these mytes,
561	(561)	Upon my peril, frete hem never a deel;
562	(562)	And wostow why? For they were used weel.
563	(563)	Now wol I tellen forth what happed me.
564	(564)	I seye that in the feeldes walked we,
565	(565)	Til trewely we hadde swich daliance,
566	(566)	This clerk and I, that of my purveiance
567	(567)	I spak to hym and seyde hym how that he,
568	(568)	If I were wydwe, sholde wedde me.
569	(569)	For certeinly- I sey for no bobance-
570	(570)	Yet was I nevere withouten purveiance
571	(571)	Of mariage, n' of othere thynges eek.
572	(572)	I holde a mouses herte nat worth a leek
573	(573)	That hath but oon hole for to sterte to,
574	(574)	And if that faille, thanne is al ydo.
575	(575)	I bar hym on bonde he hadde enchanted me-
576	(576)	My dame taughte me that soutiltee-
577	(577)	And eek I seyde I mette of hym al nyght,
578	(578)	He wolde han slayn me as I lay upright,
579	(579)	And al my bed was ful of verray blood;
580	(580)	"But yet I hope that ye shal do me good,
581	(581)	For blood bitokeneth gold, as me was taught."

582 (582) And al was fals; I dremed of it right naught,
 583 (583) But as I folwed ay my dames loore,
 584 (584) As wel of this as of othere thynges moore.
 585 (585) But now, sire, lat me se what I shal seyn.
 586 (586) A ha! By God, I have my tale ageyn.
 587 (587) Whan that my fourthe housbonde was on beere,
 588 (588) I weep algate, and made sory cheere,
 589 (589) As wyves mooten, for it is usage,
 590 (590) And with my coverchief covered my visage,
 591 (591) But for that I was purveyed of a make,
 592 (592) I wepte but smal, and that I undertake.
 593 (593) To chirche was myn housbonde born a-morwe
 594 (594) With neighebores, that for hym maden sorwe;
 595 (595) And Jankyn,oure clerk, was oon of tho.
 596 (596) As help me God, whan that I saugh hym go
 597 (597) After the beere, me thoughte he hadde a paire
 598 (598) Of legges and of feet so clene and faire
 599 (599) That al myn herte I yaf unto his hood.
 600 (600) He was, I trowe, twenty wynter oold,
 601 (601) And I was fourty, if I shal seye sooth;
 602 (602) But yet I hadde alwey a coltes tooth.
 603 (603) Gat-tothed I was, and that bicam me weel;
 604 (604) I hadde the prente of seinte Venus seel.
 605 (605) As help me God, I was a lusty oon,
 606 (606) And faire, and riche, and yong, and wel bigon,
 607 (607) And trewely, as myne housbondes tolde me,
 608 (608) I hadde the beste quoniam myghte be.
 609 (609) For certes, I am al Venerien
 610 (610) In feelynge, and myn herte is Marciën.
 611 (611) Venus me yaf my lust, my likerousnesse,
 612 (612) And Mars yaf me my sturdy hardynesse;
 613 (613) Myn ascendent was Taur, and Mars therinne.
 614 (614) Allas, allas! That evere love was synne!
 615 (615) I folwed ay myn inclinacioun
 616 (616) By vertu of my constellacioun;
 617 (617) That made me I koude noght withdrawe
 618 (618) My chambre of Venus from a good felawe.
 619 (619) Yet have I Martes mark upon my face,
 620 (620) And also in another privee place.
 621 (621) For God so wys be my savacioun,
 622 (622) I ne loved nevere by no discrecioun,
 623 (623) But evere folwede myn appetit,
 624 (624) Al were he short, or long, or blak, or whit;
 625 (625) I took no kep, so that he liked me,
 626 (626) How poore he was, ne eek of what degree.
 627 (627) What sholde I seye but, at the monthes ende,
 628 (628) This joly clerk, Jankyn, that was so hende,
 629 (629) Hath wedded me with greet solempnytee,
 630 (630) And to hym yaf I al the lond and fee
 631 (631) That evere was me yeven therbifooore.
 632 (632) But afterward repented me ful soore;
 633 (633) He nolde suffre nothyng of my list.
 634 (634) By God, he smoot me ones on the lyst,
 635 (635) For that I rente out of his book a leef,
 636 (636) That of the strook myn ere wax al deef.
 637 (637) Stibourn I was as is a leonesse,
 638 (638) And of my tonge a verray jangleresse,
 639 (639) And walke I wolde, as I had doon biforn,
 640 (640) From hous to hous, although he had it sworn;
 641 (641) For which he often tymes wolde preche,
 642 (642) And me of olde Romayn geestes teche;
 643 (643) How he Symplicius Gallus lefte his wyf,
 644 (644) And hire forsook for terme of al his lyf,
 645 (645) Noght but for open-heveded he hir say
 646 (646) Lookynge out at his dore upon a day.
 647 (647) Another Romayn tolde he me by name,
 648 (648) That, for his wyf was at a someres game
 649 (649) Withouten his wityng, he forsook hire eke.
 650 (650) And thanne wolde he upon his Bible seke
 651 (651) That ilke proverbe of Ecclesiaste
 652 (652) Where he comandeth and forbedeth faste
 653 (653) Man shal nat suffre his wyf go roule aboute.
 654 (654) Thanne wolde he seye right thus, withouten doute:
 655 (655) 'Whoso that buyldeth his hous al of salwes,
 656 (656) And priketh his blynde hors over the falwes,
 657 (657) And suffreth his wyf to go seken halwes,
 658 (658) Is worthy to been hanged on the galwes!
 659 (659) But al for noght, I sette noght an hawe
 660 (660) Of his proverbes n'of his olde sawe,
 661 (661) Ne I wolde nat of hym corrected be,
 662 (662) I hate hym that my vices telleth me,
 663 (663) And so doo mo, God woot, of us than I.
 664 (664) This made hym with me wood al outrely;
 665 (665) I nolde noght forbere hym in no cas.

666	(666)	Now wol I seye yow sooth, by Seint Thomas,
667	(667)	Why that I rente out of his book a leef,
668	(668)	For which he smoot me so that I was deaf.
669	(669)	He hadde a book that gladly, nyght and day,
670	(670)	For his desport he wolde rede alway;
671	(671)	He cleped it Valerie and Theofraste,
672	(672)	At which book he lough alwey ful faste.
673	(673)	And eek ther was somtyme a clerk at Rome,
674	(674)	A cardinal, that highte Seint Jerome,
675	(675)	That made a book agayn Jovinian;
676	(676)	In which book eek ther was Tertulan,
677	(677)	Crisippus, Trotula, and Helowys,
678	(678)	That was abbese nat fer fro Parys,
679	(679)	And eek the Parables of Salomon,
680	(680)	Ovides Art, and bookes many on,
681	(681)	And alle these were bounden in o volume.
682	(682)	And every nyght and day was his custume,
683	(683)	Whan he hadde leysur and vacacioun
684	(684)	From oother worldly occupacioun,
685	(685)	To reden on this book of wikked wyves.
686	(686)	He knew of hem mo legendes and lyves
687	(687)	Than been of goode wyves in the Bible.
688	(688)	For trusteth wel, it is an impossible
689	(689)	That any clerk wol speke good of wyves,
690	(690)	But if it be of hooly seintes lyves,
691	(691)	Ne of noon oother womman never the mo.
692	(692)	Who peyntede the leon, tel me who?
693	(693)	By God, if wommen hadde writen stories,
694	(694)	As clerkes han withinne hire oratories,
695	(695)	They wolde han writen of men moore wikkednesse
696	(696)	Than al the mark of Adam may redesse.
697	(697)	The children of Mercurie and of Venus
698	(698)	Been in hir wirkyng ful contrarius;
699	(699)	Mercurie loveth wysdam and science,
700	(700)	And Venus loveth ryot and dispence.
701	(701)	And, for hire diverse disposicioun,
702	(702)	Ech falleth in otheres exaltacioun.
703	(703)	And thus, God woot, Mercurie is desolat
704	(704)	In Pisces, wher Venus is exaltat,
705	(705)	And Venus falleth ther Mercurie is reysed.
706	(706)	Therefore no womman of no clerk is preyed.
707	(707)	The clerk, whan he is oold, and may noight do
708	(708)	Of Venus werkes worth his olde sho,
709	(709)	Thanne sit he doun, and writ in his dotage
710	(710)	That wommen kan nat kepe hir mariage!
711	(711)	But now to purpos, why I tolde thee
712	(712)	That I was beten for a book, pardee!
713	(713)	Upon a nyght Jankyn, that was oure sire,
714	(714)	Redde on his book, as he sat by the fire,
715	(715)	Of Eva first, that for hir wikkednesse
716	(716)	Was al mankynde brought to wrecchednesse,
717	(717)	For which that Jhesu Crist hymself was slayn,
718	(718)	That boghte us with his herte blood agayn.
719	(719)	Lo, heere expres of womman may ye fynde
720	(720)	That womman was the los of al mankynde.
721	(721)	Tho redde he me how Sampson loste his heres:
722	(722)	Slepyng, his lemman kitte it with hir sheres;
723	(723)	Thurgh which treson loste he bothe his yen.
724	(724)	Tho redde he me, if that I shal nat lyen,
725	(725)	Of Hercules and of his Dianyre,
726	(726)	That caused hym to sette hymself afyre.
727	(727)	No thyng forgat he the care and the wo
728	(728)	That Socrates hadde with his wyves two,
729	(729)	How Xantippa caste pisse upon his heed.
730	(730)	This sely man sat stille as he were deed;
731	(731)	He wiped his heed, namoore dorste he seyn,
732	(732)	But "Er that thonder stynte, comth a reyn!"
733	(733)	Of Phasipha, that was the queene of Crete,
734	(734)	For shrewednesse, hym thoughte the tale swete;
735	(735)	Fy! Spek namoore- it is a grisly thyng-
736	(736)	Of hire horrible lust and hir likyng.
737	(737)	Of Clitermystra, for hire lecherye,
738	(738)	That falsly made hire housbonde for to dye,
739	(739)	He redde it with ful good devocioun.
740	(740)	He tolde me eek for what occasioun
741	(741)	Amphiorax at Thebes loste his lyf.
742	(742)	Myn housbonde hadde a legende of his wyf,
743	(743)	Eriphilem, that for an ouche of gold
744	(744)	Hath prively unto the Grekes told
745	(745)	Wher that hir housbonde hidde hym in a place,
746	(746)	For which he hadde at Thebes sory grace.
747	(747)	Of Lyvia tolde he me, and of Lucye:
748	(748)	They bothe made hir housbondes for to dye,
749	(749)	That oon for love, that oother was for hate.

- 750 (750) Lyvia hir housbonde, on an even late,
 751 (751) Empoysoned hath, for that she was his fo;
 752 (752) Lucia, likerous, loved hire housbonde so
 753 (753) That, for he sholde alwey upon hire thynke,
 754 (754) She yaf hym swich a manere love-drynke
 755 (755) That he was deed er it were by the morwe;
 756 (756) And thus algates housbondes han sorwe.
 757 (757) Thanne tolde he me how oon Latumyus
 758 (758) Compleyned unto his felawe Arrius
 759 (759) That in his gardyn growed swich a tree
 760 (760) On which he seyde how that his wyves thre
 761 (761) Hanged himself for herte despitus.
 762 (762) "O leeve brother," quod this Arrius,
 763 (763) "Yif me a plante of thilke blissed tree,
 764 (764) And in my gardyn planted shal it bee."
 765 (765) Of latter date, of wyves hath he red
 766 (766) That somme han slayn hir housbondes in hir bed,
 767 (767) And lete hir lecchour dighte hire al the nyght,
 768 (768) Whan that the corps lay in the floor upright.
 769 (769) And somme han dryve nayles in hir brayn,
 770 (770) Whil that they slepte, and thus they had hem slayn.
 771 (771) Somme han hem yeve poysoun in hire drynke.
 772 (772) He spak moore harm than herte may bithynke,
 773 (773) And therwithal he knew of mo proverbes
 774 (774) Than in this world ther grown gras or herbes.
 775 (775) 'Bet is,' quod he, 'thyn habitacioun
 776 (776) Be with a leon or a foul dragoun,
 777 (777) Than with a womman usynge for to chyde.
 778 (778) Bet is,' quod he, 'hye in the roof abyde,
 779 (779) Than with an angry wyf doun in the hous;
 780 (780) They been so wikked and contrarious,
 781 (781) They haten that hir housbondes loven ay.'
 782 (782) He seyde, 'A womman cast hir shame away,
 783 (783) Whan she cast of hir smok' and forthermo,
 784 (784) 'A fair womman, but she be chaast also,
 785 (785) Is lyk a gold ryng in a sowes nose.'
 786 (786) Who wolde wene, or who wolde suppose,
 787 (787) The wo that in myn herte was, and pyne?
 788 (788) And whan I saugh he wolde nevere fyne
 789 (789) To reden on this cursed book al nyght,
 790 (790) Al sodeynly thre leves have I plyght
 791 (791) Out of his book, right as he radde, and eke
 792 (792) I with my fest so took hym on the cheke
 793 (793) That in oure fyr he fil bakward adoun.
 794 (794) And he up stirte as dooth a wood leoun,
 795 (795) And with his fest he smoot me on the heed
 796 (796) That in the floor I lay as I were deed.
 797 (797) And whan he saugh how stille that I lay,
 798 (798) He was agast and wolde han fled his way,
 799 (799) Til atte laste out of my swogh I breyde.
 800 (800) 'O! hastow slayn me, false theef?' I seyde,
 801 (801) 'And for my land thus hastow mordred me?
 802 (802) Er I be deed, yet wol I kisse thee.'
 803 (803) And neer he cam, and kneled faire adoun,
 804 (804) And seyde, 'Deere suster Alisoun,
 805 (805) As help me God, I shal thee nevere smyte!
 806 (806) That I have doon, it is thyself to wyte.
 807 (807) Foryeve it me, and that I thee biseke!'
 808 (808) And yet eftssoones I hitte hym on the cheke,
 809 (809) And seyde, 'Theef, thus muchel am I wreke;
 810 (810) Now wol I dye, I may no lenger speke.'
 811 (811) But atte laste, with muchel care and wo,
 812 (812) We fille acorded by us selven two.
 813 (813) He yaf me al the bridel in myn hond,
 814 (814) To han the governance of hous and lond,
 815 (815) And of his tonge, and of his hond also;
 816 (816) And made hym brenne his book anon right tho.
 817 (817) And whan that I hadde geten unto me,
 818 (818) By maistrice, al the soveraynetee,
 819 (819) And that he seyde, 'Myn owene trewe wyf,
 820 (820) Do as thee lust the terme of al thy lyf;
 821 (821) Keep thyn honour, and keep eek myn estaat!
 822 (822) After that day we hadden never debaat.
 823 (823) God helpe me so, I was to hym as kynde
 824 (824) As any wyf from Denmark unto Ynde,
 825 (825) And also trewe, and so was he to me.
 826 (826) I prey to God, that sit in magestee,
 827 (827) So blesse his soule for his mercy deere.
 828 (828) Now wol I seye my tale, if ye wol heere."
- Biholde the wordes bitwene the Somonour and the Frere
- 829 (829) The Frere lough, whan he hadde herd al this;
 830 (830) "Now dame," quod he, "so have I joye or blis,

『『バースの女房の話』の序と物語』用語索引 (8) (東 好男)

831	(	831	)	This is a long preamble of a tale!"
832	(	832	)	And whan the Somonour herde the Frere gale,
833	(	833	)	"Lo," quod the Somonour, "Goddess armes two!
834	(	834	)	A frere wol entremette hym everemo.
835	(	835	)	Lo, goode men, a flye and eek a frere
836	(	836	)	Wol falle in every dyssh and eek mateere.
837	(	837	)	What spekestow of preambulacioun?
838	(	838	)	What! amble, or trotte, or pees, or go sit doun!
839	(	839	)	Thou lettest oure disport in this manere."
840	(	840	)	"Ye, woltow so, sire Somonour?" quod the Frere;
841	(	841	)	"Now, by my feith I shal, er that I go,
842	(	842	)	Telle of a somonour swich a tale or two
843	(	843	)	That alle the folk shal laughen in this place."
844	(	844	)	"Now elles, Frere, I bishrewe thy face,"
845	(	845	)	Quod this Somonour, "and I bishrewe me,
846	(	846	)	But if I telle tales two or thre
847	(	847	)	Of freres er I come to Sidyngborne
848	(	848	)	That I shal make thyn herte for to morne,
849	(	849	)	For wel I woot thy pacience is gon."
850	(	850	)	Oure Hooste cride "Pees! And that anon!"
851	(	851	)	And seyde, "Lat the womman telle hire tale.
852	(	852	)	Ye fare as folk that dronken ben of ale.
853	(	853	)	Do, dame, telle forth youre tale, and that is best."
854	(	854	)	"Al reddy, sire," quod she, "right as yow lest,
855	(	855	)	If I have licence of this worthy Frere."
856	(	856	)	"Yis, dame," quod he, "tel forth, and I wol heere."

The Text of *The Wife of Bath's Tale* in *The Canterbury Tales*
based upon *The Riverside Chaucer*, III (D) 857-1264

1	(	857	)	In th'olde dayes of the Kyng Arthour,
2	(	858	)	Of which that Britons speken greet honour,
3	(	859	)	Al was this land fulfilled of fayerye.
4	(	860	)	The elf-queene, with hir joly compaignye,
5	(	861	)	Daunced ful ofte in many a grene mede.
6	(	862	)	This was the olde opinion, as I rede;
7	(	863	)	I speke of manye hundred yeres ago.
8	(	864	)	But now kan no man se none elves mo,
9	(	865	)	For now the grete charitee and prayeres
10	(	866	)	Of lymytours and othere hooly freres,
11	(	867	)	That serchen every lond and every stream,
12	(	868	)	As thikke as motes in the sonne-beem,
13	(	869	)	Blessynge halles, chambres, kichenes, boures,
14	(	870	)	Citees, burghes, castels, hye toures,
15	(	871	)	Thropes, bernes, shipnes, dayeryes--
16	(	872	)	This maketh that ther ben no fayeryes.
17	(	873	)	For ther as wont to walken was an elf
18	(	874	)	Ther walketh now the lymytour hymself
19	(	875	)	In undermeles and in morwenynges,
20	(	876	)	And seyth his matyns and his hooly thynges
21	(	877	)	As he gooth in his lymytacioun.
22	(	878	)	Wommen may go saufully up and doun.
23	(	879	)	In every bussh or under every tree
24	(	880	)	Ther is noon oother incubus but he,
25	(	881	)	And he ne wol doon hem but dishonour.
26	(	882	)	And so bifel that this kyng Arthour
27	(	883	)	Hadde in his hous a lusty bachelor,
28	(	884	)	That on a day cam ridynge fro ryver,
29	(	885	)	And happed that, allone as he was born,
30	(	886	)	He saugh a mayde walkynge hym biforn,
31	(	887	)	Of which mayde anon, maugree hir heed,
32	(	888	)	By verray force, he rafte hire maydenhed;
33	(	889	)	For which oppressioun was swich clamour
34	(	890	)	And swich pursute unto the kyng Arthour
35	(	891	)	That dampned was this knyght for to be deed,
36	(	892	)	By cours of lawe, and sholde han lost his heed--
37	(	893	)	Paraventure swich was the statut tho--
38	(	894	)	But that the queene and other ladyes mo
39	(	895	)	So longe preyeden the kyng of grace
40	(	896	)	Til he his lyf hym graunted in the place,
41	(	897	)	And yaf hym to the queene, al at hir wille,
42	(	898	)	To chese whether she wolde hym save or spille.
43	(	899	)	The queene thanketh the kyng with al hir myght,
44	(	900	)	And after this thus spak she to the knyght,
45	(	901	)	Whan that she saugh hir tyme, upon a day:
46	(	902	)	"Thou standest yet," quod she, "in swich array
47	(	903	)	That of thy lyf yet hastow no suretee.
48	(	904	)	I grante thee lyf, if thou kanst tellen me
49	(	905	)	What thyng is it that wommen moost desiren.
50	(	906	)	Be war, and keep thy nekke-boon from iren!
51	(	907	)	And if thou kanst nat tellen it anon,
52	(	908	)	Yet wol I yeve thee leve for to gon

- 53 (909) A twelf-month and a day, to seche and leere
 54 (910) An answee suffisant in this mateere;
 55 (911) And suretee wol I han, er that thou pace,
 56 (912) Thy body for to yelden in this place."
 57 (913) Wo was this knyght, and sorwefully he siketh;
 58 (914) But what! He may nat do al as hym liketh.
 59 (915) And at the laste he chees hym for to wende
 60 (916) And come agayn, right at the yeres ende,
 61 (917) With swich answee as God wolde hym purveye;
 62 (918) And taketh his leve, and wendeth forth his weye.
 63 (919) He seketh every hous and every place
 64 (920) Where as he hopeth for to fynde grace
 65 (921) To lerne what thyng wommen loven moost,
 66 (922) But he ne koude arryven in no coost
 67 (923) Wher as he myghte fynde in this mateere
 68 (924) Two creatures accordynge in-feere.
 69 (925) Somme seyde wommen loven best richesse,
 70 (926) Somme seyde honour, somme seyde jolynesse,
 71 (927) Somme riche array, somme seyden lust abedde,
 72 (928) And oftetyme to be wydwe and wedde.
 73 (929) Somme seyde that oure hertes been moost esed
 74 (930) Whan that we been yflatered and yplesed.
 75 (931) He gooth ful ny the sothe, I wol nat lye.
 76 (932) A man shal wynne us best with flaterye,
 77 (933) And with attendance and with bisynesse
 78 (934) Been we ylymed, bothe moore and lesse.
 79 (935) And somme seyen that we loven best
 80 (936) For to be free and do right as us lest,
 81 (937) And that no man repreve us of oure vice,
 82 (938) But seye that we be wise and no thyng nyce.
 83 (939) For trewely ther is noon of us alle,
 84 (940) If any wight wol clawe us on the galle,
 85 (941) That we nel kike, for he seith us sooth.
 86 (942) Assay, and he shal fynde it that so dooth;
 87 (943) For, be we never so vicious withinne,
 88 (944) We wol been holden wise and clene of synne.
 89 (945) And somme seyn that greet delit han we
 90 (946) For to been holden stable, and eek secree,
 91 (947) And in o purpos stedefastly to dwelle,
 92 (948) And nat biwreye thyng that men us telle.
 93 (949) But that tale is nat worth a rake-stele.
 94 (950) Pardee, we wommen konne no thyng hele;
 95 (951) Witnesse on Myda- wol ye heere the tale?
 96 (952) Ovyde, amonges othere thynges smale,
 97 (953) Seyde Myda hadde, under his longe heres,
 98 (954) Growynge upon his heed two asses eres,
 99 (955) The whiche vice he hydde as he best myghte
 100 (956) Ful subtilly from every mannes sighte,
 101 (957) That, save his wyf, ther wiste of it namo.
 102 (958) He loved hire moost, and trusted hire also;
 103 (959) He preyede hire that to no creature
 104 (960) She sholde tellen of his disfigure.
 105 (961) She swoor him, "Nay" for al this world to wynne,
 106 (962) She nolde do that vileynye or synne,
 107 (963) To make hir housbonde han so foul a name.
 108 (964) She nolde nat telle it for hir owene shame.
 109 (965) But nathelees, hir thoughte that she dyde
 110 (966) That she so longe sholde a conseil byde;
 111 (967) Hir thoughte it swal so soore aboute hir herte
 112 (968) That nedely som word hire moste asterte;
 113 (969) And sith she dorste telle it to no man,
 114 (970) Doun to a mareys faste by she ran-
 115 (971) Til she cam there hir herte was afyre--
 116 (972) And as a bitore bombleth in the myre,
 117 (973) She leyde hir mouth unto the water doun:
 118 (974) "Biwreye me nat, thou water, with thy soun,"
 119 (975) Quod she; "to thee I telle it and namo;
 120 (976) Myn housbonde hath longe asses erys two!
 121 (977) Now is myn herte al hool; now is it oute.
 122 (978) I myghte no lenger kepe it, out of doute."
 123 (979) Heere may ye se, thogh we a tyme abyde,
 124 (980) Yet out it moot; we kan no conseil hyde.
 125 (981) The remenant of the tale if ye wol heere,
 126 (982) Redeth Ovyde, and ther ye may it leere.
 127 (983) This knyght, of which my tale is specially,
 128 (984) Whan that he saugh he myghte nat come therby--
 129 (985) This is to seye, what wommen love moost--
 130 (986) Withinne his brest ful sorweful was the goost.
 131 (987) But hoom he gooth; he myghte nat sojourne;
 132 (988) The day was come that homward moste he tourne.
 133 (989) And in his wey it happed hym to ryde,
 134 (990) In al this care, under a forest syde,
 135 (991) Wher as he saugh upon a daunce go
 136 (992) Of ladyes foure and twenty, and yet mo;

137	(993)	Toward the whiche daunce he drow ful yerne,
138	(994)	In hope that som wysdom sholde he lerne.
139	(995)	But certainly, er he cam fully there,
140	(996)	Vanysshed was this daunce, he nyste where.
141	(997)	No creature saugh he that bar lyf,
142	(998)	Save on the grene he saugh sittynge a wyf-
143	(999)	A fouler wight ther may no man devyse.
144	(1000)	Agayn the knyght this olde wyf gan ryse,
145	(1001)	And seyde, "Sire knyght, heer forth ne lith no wey.
146	(1002)	Tel me what that ye seken, by youre fey!
147	(1003)	Paraventure it may the bettre be;
148	(1004)	Thise olde folk kan muchel thyng," quod she.
149	(1005)	"My leewe mooder," quod this knyght, "certeyn
150	(1006)	I nam but deed but if that I kan seyn
151	(1007)	What thyng it is that wommen moost desire.
152	(1008)	Koude ye me wisse, I wolde wel quite youre hire."
153	(1009)	"Plight me thy trouthe heere in myn hand," quod she,
154	(1010)	"The nexte thyng that I requere thee,
155	(1011)	Thou shalt it do, if it lye in thy myght,
156	(1012)	And I wol telle it yow er it be nyght."
157	(1013)	"Have heer my trouthe," quod the knyght, "I grante."
158	(1014)	"Thanne," quod she, "I dar me wel avante
159	(1015)	Thy lyf is sauf, for I wol stonde therby;
160	(1016)	Upon my lyf, the queene wol seye as I.
161	(1017)	Lat se which is the proudeste of hem alle
162	(1018)	That wereth on a coverchief or a calle
163	(1019)	That dar seye nay of that I shal thee teche.
164	(1020)	Lat us go forth withouten lenger speche."
165	(1021)	Tho rowned she a pistel in his ere,
166	(1022)	And bad hym to be glad and have no fere.
167	(1023)	Whan they be comen to the court, this knyght
168	(1024)	Seyde he had holde his day, as he hadde hight,
169	(1025)	And redy was his answer, as he sayde.
170	(1026)	Ful many a noble wyf, and many a mayde,
171	(1027)	And many a wydwe, for that they been wise,
172	(1028)	The queene hirself sittynge as a justise,
173	(1029)	Assembled been, his answer for to heere;
174	(1030)	And afterward this knyght was bode appeere.
175	(1031)	To every wight comanded was silence,
176	(1032)	And that the knyght sholde telle in audience
177	(1033)	What thyng that worldly wommen loven best.
178	(1034)	This knyght ne stood nat stille as doth a best,
179	(1035)	But to his questioun anon answerde
180	(1036)	With manly voys, that al the court it herde:
181	(1037)	"My lige lady, generally," quod he,
182	(1038)	"Wommen desiren to have sovereynetee
183	(1039)	As wel over hir housbond as hir love,
184	(1040)	And for to been in maistrise hym above.
185	(1041)	This is youre mooste desir, thogh ye me kille.
186	(1042)	Dooth as yow list; I am heer at youre wille."
187	(1043)	In al the court ne was ther wyf, ne mayde,
188	(1044)	Ne wydwe that contraried that he sayde,
189	(1045)	But seyden he was worthy han his lyf.
190	(1046)	And with that word up stirte the olde wyf,
191	(1047)	Which that the knyght saugh sittynge on the grene:
192	(1048)	"Mercy," quod she, "my sovereyn lady queene!
193	(1049)	Er that youre court departe, do me right.
194	(1050)	I taughte this answer unto the knyght;
195	(1051)	For which he plighte me his trouthe there,
196	(1052)	The firste thyng that I wolde hym requere
197	(1053)	He wolde it do, if it lay in his myghte.
198	(1054)	Bifore the court thanne preye I thee, sir knyght,"
199	(1055)	Quod she, "that thou me take unto thy wyf,
200	(1056)	For wel thou woost that I have kept thy lyf.
201	(1057)	If I seye fals, sey nay, upon thy fey!"
202	(1058)	This knyght answerde, "Allas and weylawey!
203	(1059)	I woot right wel that swich was my biheste.
204	(1060)	For Goddes love, as chees a newe requeste!
205	(1061)	Taak al my good and lat my body go."
206	(1062)	"Nay, thanne," quod she, "I shrewe us bothe two!
207	(1063)	For thogh that I be foul, and oold, and poore
208	(1064)	I nolde for al the metal, ne for oore
209	(1065)	That under erthe is grave or lith above,
210	(1066)	But if thy wyf I were, and eek thy love."
211	(1067)	"My love?" quod he, "nay, my dampnacioun!
212	(1068)	Allas, that any of my nacioun
213	(1069)	Sholde evere so foule disparaged be!"
214	(1070)	But al for noght; the ende is this, that he
215	(1071)	Constreyned was; he nedes moste hire wedde,
216	(1072)	And taketh his olde wyf, and gooth to bedde.
217	(1073)	Now wolden som men seye, paraventure,
218	(1074)	That for my negligence I do no cure
219	(1075)	To tellen yow the joye and al th'array
220	(1076)	That at the feeste was that ilke day.

- 221 (1077) To which thyng shortly answeren I shal:
 222 (1078) I seye ther nas no joye ne feeste at al;
 223 (1079) Ther nas but hevynesse and muche sorwe.
 224 (1080) For prively he wedded hire on morwe,
 225 (1081) And al day after hidde hym as an owle,
 226 (1082) So wo was hym, his wyf looked so foule.
 227 (1083) Greet was the wo the knyght hadde in his thoght,
 228 (1084) Whan he was with his wyf abedde ybroght;
 229 (1085) He walweth and he turneth to and fro.
 230 (1086) His olde wyf lay smyllynge everemo,
 231 (1087) And seyde, &dq;O deere housbonde, benedicitee!
 232 (1088) Fareth every knyght thus with his wyf as ye?
 233 (1089) Is this the lawe of kyng Arthures hous?
 234 (1090) Is every knyght of his so dangerous?
 235 (1091) I am youre owene love and youre wyf
 236 (1092) I am she which that saved hath youre lyf
 237 (1093) And, certes, yet ne dide I yow nevere unright;
 238 (1094) Why fare ye thus with me this firste nyght?
 239 (1095) Ye faren lyk a man had lost his wit.
 240 (1096) What is my gilt? For Goddes love, tel it,
 241 (1097) And it shal been amended, if I may."
 242 (1098) "Amended?" quod this knyght, "Allas, nay, nay!
 243 (1099) It wol nat been amended nevere mo.
 244 (1100) Thou art so loothly, and so oold also,
 245 (1101) And therto comen of so lough a kynde,
 246 (1102) That litel wonder is thogh I walwe and wynde.
 247 (1103) So wolde God myn herte wolde breste!"
 248 (1104) "Is this," quod she, "the cause of youre unreste?"
 249 (1105) "Ye, certainly," quod he, "no wonder is."
 250 (1106) "Now, sire," quod she, "I koude amende al this,
 251 (1107) If that me liste, er it were dayes thre,
 252 (1108) So wel ye myghte bere yow unto me.
 253 (1109) "But, for ye speken of swich gentillesse
 254 (1110) As is descended out of old richesse,
 255 (1111) That therfore sholden ye be gentil men,
 256 (1112) Swich arrogance is nat worth an hen.
 257 (1113) Looke who that is moost vertuous alway,
 258 (1114) Pryvee and apert, and moost entendeth ay
 259 (1115) To do the gentil dedes that he kan;
 260 (1116) Taak hym for the grettest gentil man.
 261 (1117) Crist wole we clayme of hym oure gentillesse,
 262 (1118) Nat of oure eldres for hire old richesse.
 263 (1119) For thogh they yeve us al hir heritage,
 264 (1120) For which we clayme to been of heigh parage,
 265 (1121) Yet may they nat biquethe for no thyng
 266 (1122) To noon of us hir vertuous lvyng,
 267 (1123) That made hem gentil men ycalled be,
 268 (1124) And bad us folwen hem in swich degree.
 269 (1125) "Wel kan the wise poete of Florence,
 270 (1126) That highte Dant, speken in this sentence.
 271 (1127) Lo, in swich maner rym is Dantes tale:
 272 (1128) "Ful selde up riseth by his branches smale
 273 (1129) Prowesse of man, for God, of his goodnesse,
 274 (1130) Wole that of hym we clayme oure gentillesse";
 275 (1131) For of oure eldres may we no thyng clayme
 276 (1132) But temporel thyng, that man may hurte and mayme.
 277 (1133) "Eek every wight woot this as wel as I,
 278 (1134) If gentillesse were planted natureelly
 279 (1135) Unto a certeyn lynage doun the lyne,
 280 (1136) Pryvee and apert thanne wolde they nevere fyne
 281 (1137) To doon of gentillesse the faire office;
 282 (1138) They myghte do no vileynye or vice.
 283 (1139) "Taak fyr and ber it in the derkeste hous
 284 (1140) Bitwix this and the mount of Kaukasous,
 285 (1141) And lat men shette the dores and go thenne;
 286 (1142) Yet wole the fyr as faire lye and brenne
 287 (1143) As twenty thousand men myghte it biholde;
 288 (1144) His office natureel ay wol it holde,
 289 (1145) Up peril of my lyf, til that it dye.
 290 (1146) "Heere may ye se wel how that genterye
 291 (1147) Is nat annexed to possessioun,
 292 (1148) Sith folk ne doon hir operacioun
 293 (1149) Alwey, as dooth the fyr, lo, in his kynde.
 294 (1150) For, God it woot, men may wel often fynde
 295 (1151) A lordes sone do shame and vileynye;
 296 (1152) And he that wole han pris of his gentrye,
 297 (1153) For he was boren of a gentil hous
 298 (1154) And hadde his eldres noble and vertuous,
 299 (1155) And nel hymselfen do no gentil dedis
 300 (1156) Ne folwen his gentil auncestre that deed is,
 301 (1157) He nys nat gentil, be he duc or erl,
 302 (1158) For vileyns synful dedes make a cherl.
 303 (1159) For gentillesse nys but renomee
 304 (1160) Of thyne auncestres, for hire heigh bountee,

305	(1161)	Which is a strange thyng to thy persone.
306	(1162)	Thy gentillesse cometh fro God allone.
307	(1163)	Thanne comth oure verray gentillesse of grace;
308	(1164)	It was no thyng biquethe us with oure place.
309	(1165)	"Thinketh hou noble, as seith Valerius,
310	(1166)	Was thilke Tullius Hostillius,
311	(1167)	That out of poverte roos to heigh noblesse.
312	(1168)	Reedeth Senek, and redeth eek Boece;
313	(1169)	Ther shul ye seen expres that it no drede is
314	(1170)	That he is gentil that dooth gentil dedis.
315	(1171)	And therfore, leeve housbonde, I thus conclude:
316	(1172)	Al were it that myne auncestres were rude,
317	(1173)	Yet may the hye God, and so hope I,
318	(1174)	Grante me grace to lyven vertuously.
319	(1175)	Thanne am I gentil, whan that I bigynne
320	(1176)	To lyven vertuously and weyve synne.
321	(1177)	"And ther as ye of poverte me repreeve,
322	(1178)	The hye God, on whom that we bileeve,
323	(1179)	In wilful poverte chees to lyve his lyf.
324	(1180)	And certes every man, mayden, or wyf
325	(1181)	May understonde that Jhesus, hevене kyng,
326	(1182)	Ne wolde nat chese a vicious lyvyng.
327	(1183)	Glad poverte is an honest thyng, certeyn;
328	(1184)	This wole Senec and othere clerkes seyn.
329	(1185)	Whoso that halt hym payd of his poverte,
330	(1186)	I holde hym riche, al hadde he nat a sherte.
331	(1187)	He that coveiteth is a povre wight,
332	(1188)	For he wolde han that is nat in his myght;
333	(1189)	But he that noght hath, ne coveiteth have,
334	(1190)	Is riche, although ye holde hym but a knave.
335	(1191)	Verray poverte, it syngeth proprely;
336	(1192)	Juvenal seith of poverte myrily:
337	(1193)	"The povre man, whan he goth by the weye,
338	(1194)	Bifore the theves he may syng and pleye."
339	(1195)	Poverte is hateful good and, as I gesse,
340	(1196)	A ful greet bryngere out of bisynesse;
341	(1197)	A greet amendere eek of sapience
342	(1198)	To hym that taketh it in pacience.
343	(1199)	Poverte is this, although it seme alenge:
344	(1200)	Possessioun that no wight wol chalenge.
345	(1201)	Poverte ful ofte, whan a man is lowe,
346	(1202)	Maketh his God and eek hymself to knowe.
347	(1203)	Poverte a spectacle is, as thynketh me,
348	(1204)	Thurgh which he may his verray freendes see.
349	(1205)	And therfore, sire, syn that I noght yow greve,
350	(1206)	Of my poverte namoore ye me repreve.
351	(1207)	"Now, sire, of elde ye repreve me;
352	(1208)	And certes, sire, thogh noon auctoritee
353	(1209)	Were in no book, ye gentils of honour
354	(1210)	Seyn that men sholde an oold wight doon favour
355	(1211)	And clepe hym fader, for youre gentillesse:
356	(1212)	And auctours shal I fynden, as I gesse.
357	(1213)	"Now ther ye seye that I am foul and old,
358	(1214)	Than drede you noght to been a cokewold;
359	(1215)	For filthe and eelde, also moot I thee,
360	(1216)	Been grete wardeyns upon chastitee.
361	(1217)	But nathelees, syn I knowe youre delit,
362	(1218)	I shal fulfille youre worldly appetit.
363	(1219)	"Chese now," quod she, "oon of these thynges tweye:
364	(1220)	To han me foul and old til that I deye,
365	(1221)	And be to yow a trewe, humble wyf,
366	(1222)	And nevere yow displese in al my lyf,
367	(1223)	Or elles ye wol han me yong and fair,
368	(1224)	And take youre aventure of the repair
369	(1225)	That shal be to youre hous by cause of me,
370	(1226)	Or in som oother place, may wel be.
371	(1227)	Now chese yourselven, wheither that yow liketh."
372	(1228)	This knyght avyseth hym and sore siketh,
373	(1229)	But atte laste he seyde in this manere:
374	(1230)	"My lady and my love, and wyf so deere,
375	(1231)	I put me in youre wise governance;
376	(1232)	Cheseth youreself which may be moost plesance
377	(1233)	And moost honour to yow and me also.
378	(1234)	I do no fors the wheither of the two,
379	(1235)	For as yow liketh, it suffiseth me."
380	(1236)	"Thanne have I gete of yow maistrie," quod she,
381	(1237)	"Syn I may chese and governe as me lest?"
382	(1238)	"Ye, certes, wyf," quod he, "I holde it best."
383	(1239)	"Kys me," quod she, "we be no lenger wrothe,
384	(1240)	For, by my trouthe, I wol be to yow bothe--
385	(1241)	This is to seyn, ye, bothe fair and good.
386	(1242)	I prey to God that I moote sterven wood,
387	(1243)	But I to yow be also good and trewe
388	(1244)	As evere was wyf, syn that the world was newe.

389 (1245) And but I be to-morn as fair to seene
 390 (1246) As any lady, emperice, or queene,
 391 (1247) That is bitwixe the est and eke the west,
 392 (1248) Dooth with my lyf and deth right as yow lest.
 393 (1249) Cast up the curtyn, looke how that it is."
 394 (1250) And whan the knyght saugh verrailly al this,
 395 (1251) That she so fair was, and so yong therto,
 396 (1252) For joye he hente hire in his armes two.
 397 (1253) His herte bathed in a bath of blisse.
 398 (1254) A thousand tyme a-rewe he gan hire kisse,
 399 (1255) And she obeyed hym in every thyng
 400 (1256) That myghte doon hym plesance or likyng.
 401 (1257) And thus they lyve unto hir lyves ende
 402 (1258) In parfit joye; and Jhesu Crist us sende
 403 (1259) Housbondes meeke, yonge, and fressh abedde,
 404 (1260) And grace t'overbyde hem that we wedde;
 405 (1261) And eek I praye Jhesu shorte hir lyves
 406 (1262) That nought wol be governed by hir wyves;
 407 (1263) And olde and angry nygardes of dispence,
 408 (1264) God sende hem soone verray pestilence!