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| L'autrier jost' una sebissa      trobei pastora mestissa,      de joi e de sen massissa,      si cum filla de vilana,   5  ap' e gonel' e pelissa      vest e camiza treslissa,      sotlars e caussas de lana.       Ves lieis vinc per la planissa:      "Toza, fi’m ieu, res faitissa, 10  dol ai car lo freitz fos fissa."      "Seigner, so’m dis la vilana,      merce Dieu e ma noirissa,      pauc m'o pretz si l vens m'erissa,      qu'alegreta sui e sana."  15  "Toza, fi’m ieu, cauza pia,      destors me sui de la via      per far a vos compaignia;      quar aitals toza vilana      no deu ses pareill paria 20  pastorgar tanta bestia      en aital terra, soldana."  Don, fetz ela, qui que’m sia,      ben conosc sen e folia;      la vostra pareillaria, 25  Seigner, so’m dis la vilana      lai on se tang si s'estia,      que tals la cuid' en bailia      tener, no’n a mas l'ufana."       "Toza de gentil afaire, 30  cavaliers fon vostre paire      que us engenret en la maire,      car fon corteza vilana.      Con plus vos gart, m'etz belaire,      e per vostre joi m'esclaire, 35  si m fossetz un pauc humana!"       "Don, tot mon ling e mon aire      vei revertir e retriare      al vezoig et a l'araire,      Seigner, so m dis la vilana; 40  mas tals se fai cavalgaire      c'atrestal deuria faire      los seis jorns de la setmana."       "Toza, ri m ieu, gentils fada,      vos adastret, quan fos nada,  d'una beutat esmerada      sobre tot' autra vilana;      e seria us ben doblada,      si m vezi' una vegada,      sobira e vos sotrana."  50  "Seigner, tan m'avetz lauzada,      que tota n seri' enveiada;      opos en pretz m'avetz levada,      Seigner, so m dis la vilana,      per so n'auretz per soudada 55  al partir: bada, fols, bada,      e la muz' a meliana."       "Toz', estraing cor e salvatge      adomesg' om per uzatge.      Ben conosc al trespassatge 60  qu'ab aital toza vilana      pot hom far ric compaignatge      ab amistat de coratege,      si l'us l'autre non engana."       Don, hom coitatz de follatge 65  jur' e pliu e promet gatge:      si m fariatz homenatge,      Seigner, so m dis la vilana;      mas ieu, per un pauc d'intratge,      non vuoil ges mon piucellatge, 70  camjar per nom de putana."       Toza, tota creatura      revertis a sa naturaA:      pareillar pareilladura      devem, ieu e vos, vilana, 75  a l'abric lonc la pastura,      car plus n'estaretz segura      per far la cauza dousanna."       "Don, oc; mas segon dreitura      cerca fols sa follatura, 80  cortes cortez' aventura,      e il vilans ab la vilana;      en tal loc fai sens fraitura      on hom non garda mezura,      so ditz la gens anciana." | The other day, beside a row of hedges, I found a shepherdess of lowly birth, full of joy and common sense. And, like the daughter of a woman of the fields, she wore cape and cloak and fur, and a shift of drill, and shoes, and wollen stockings.  I came to her across the level ground. "Girl," I said, "beautiful, I am unhappy because the cold is piercing you." "Lord," this peasant's child said to me, "thanks be to God and the woman who nursed me, it's nothing to me if the wind ruffles my hair, because I feel good, and I'm healthy."  "Girl," I said, "you're sweet and innocent, I came out of my way to keep you company; for a peasant girl like you should not, without a comrade near by, pasture so many cattle all alone in such a place."  "Master," she said, "whatever I may be, I can tell sense from foolishness. Your comradeship, Lord," said this girl of the fields and pastures, "let it stay where it belongs, for such as I, when she thinks she has it for herself, has nothing but the look of it."  "O you are a girl of noble quality, your father was a knight who got your mother with you because she was a courtly peasant. The more I look at you, the more beautiful you are to me, and I am lit up by your joy, or would be if you had some humanity."  "Master, my whole lineage and descent I trace all the way back to the sickle and the plow, my Lord," said this peasant girl to me; "and such as calls himself a knight would do better to work, like them, six days every week."  "Girl," I said, "a gentle fairy endowed you at birth with your beauty, which is pure beyond every other peasant girl. And yet you would be twice as beautiful if once I saw you underneath and me on top."  "Lord, you have praised me so high, how everyone would envy me! Since you have driven up my worth, my Lord," said this peasant girl, "for that you will have as your reward: 'Gape, fool, gape,' as we part, and waiting and waiting the whole afternoon."  "Girl, every shy and wild heart grows tame with a little getting used to, and I know that, passing by, a man can offer a peasant girl like you a fine cash companionship, with reall affection in his heart, if one doesn't cheat on the other."  "Master, a man hounded by madness promises and pledges and puts up security: that's how you would do homage to me, Lord,: said this peasant girl; "but I am not willing, for a little entrance fee, to cash in my virginity for the fame of a whore."  "Girl, every creature reverts to its nature: let us become a copule of equals, you and I, my peasant girl, in the cover there, by the pasture, you will feel more at ease there while we do the sweet you know what."  "Master, yes; but, as it is right, the fool seeks out his foolishness, a man of the court, his courtly adventure; and let the peasant be with his peasant girl. 'Good sense suffers from disease where men do not observe degrees': that's what the ancients say." |