I T falles me here to write of Chastity,
That fairest vertue, farre aboue the rest;
For which what needs me fetch from Faery
Forreine ensamples, it to haue exprest?
Sith it is shrined in my Soueraines brest,
And form'd so liuely in each perfect part
That to all Ladies, which haue it profest,
Need but behold the pourtraict of her hart
If pourtrayd it might be by any liuing art.

But liuing art may not least part expresse,
Nor life-resembling pencill it can paint,
All were it Zeuxis or Praxiteles:
His daedale hand would faile, and greatly faint,
And her perfections with his error taint:
Ne Poets wit, that passeth Painter farre
In picturing the parts of beautie daint,
So hard a workmanship aduenture darre,
For fear through want of words her excellence to marre.

sith: since  My Sovereign: Elizabeth I
Zeuxis and Praxiteles: Famous Greek artists of the 4th century BC.
daedale: skillful
How then shall I, Apprentice of the skill,
That whylome in diuinest wits did raine,
Presume so high to stretch mine humble quill?
Yet now my lucklesse lot doth me constraine
Hereto perforce. But ô dreu Soueraine
Thus farre forth pardon, sith that choicest wit
Cannot your glorious pourtrait figure plaine
That I in colourd showes may shadow it,
And antique praises vnto present persons fit.

whylome: formerly     quill: pen     constrain: force
perforce: of necessity

But if in liuing colours, and right hew,
Your selfe you couet to see pictured,
Who can it doe more liuely, or more trew,
Then that sweet verse, with Nectar sprinckeled,
In which a gracious servant pictured
His Cynthia, his heauens fairest light?
That with his melting sweetnesse rauished,
And with the wonder of her beames bright,
My senses lulled are in slomber of delight.
nectar: food of the gods     servant: i.e. Sir Walter Raleigh
Cynthia: goddess of the moon and chastity, also Diana (Raleigh’s poem Cynthia praises Queen Elizabeth’s virtues.

But let that same delitious Poet lend
A little leaue vnto a rusticke Muse
To sing his mistresse prayse, and let him mend,
If ought amis her liking may abuse:
Ne let his fairest Cynthia refuse,
In mirrours more then one her selfe to see,
But either Gloriana let her chuse,
Or in Belpheobe fashioned to bee:
In th'one her rule, in th'other her rare chastitee.

Gloriana: Queen of Faerieland
Belpheobe: a beautiful woman who will be a character in Canto V

Canto I.

Guyon encountreth Britomart,
faire Florimell is chaced:
Duessaes traines and Malecastaes
chieftains are defaced.

Guyon: The protagonist of Book 2 (He represents Tolerance).
Duessa: a character from Books 1 & 2 who in fact doesn’t appear in this canto.

The famous Briton Prince and Faerie knight,
After long wayes and perilous paines endured,
Hauing their wearie limbes to perfect plight
Restord, and sory wounds right well recured,
Of the faire Alma greatly were procured,
To make there lenger soiourne and abode;
But when thereto they might not be allured,
From seeking praise, and deeds of armes abrode,
They courteous conge tooke, and forth together yode.

Briton Prince: Arthur     Faerie knight: Guyon     plight: condition
Alma: a char. from Bk 2     procured: urged     conge: leave     yode: went

But the captiu'd Acrasia he sent,
Because of trauell long, a nigher way,
With a strong gard, all reskew to preuent,
And her to Faerie court safe to conuay,
That her for witnesse of his hard assay,
Vnto his Faerie Queene he might present:
But he him selfe betooke another way,
To make more triall of his hardiment,
And seeke aduentures, as he with Prince Arthur went.

Acrasia: another character from Book 2     he: Guyon
nigher: nearer     assay: trial     hardiment: hardihood, boldness

Long so they trauelled through wastefull wayes,
Where daungers dwelt, and perils most did wonne,
To hunt for glorie and renowmed praise;
Full many Countries they did ouerronne,
From the vprising to the setting Sunne,
And many hard aduentures did atchieue;
Of all the which they honour euer wonne,
Seeking the weake oppressed to relieue,
And to recouer right for such, as wrong did grieue.

wonne: dwell

At last as through an open plaine they yode,
They spide a knight, that towards pricked faire,
And him beside an aged Squire there rode,
That seem'd to couch vnnder his shield three-square,
As if that age bad him that burden spare,
And yield it those, that stouter could it wield:
He them espying, gan himselfe prepare,
And on his arme adde his goodly shield
That bore a Lion passant in a golden field.

pricked: rode     couch: crouch     bad: told
a Lion passant (walking) in a golden field (background): the image on the shield of Brute, Britomart’s ancestor and the legendary founder of Britain; cf. 9.38-51.
Which seeing good Sir Guyon, deare besought
The Prince of grace, to let him runne that turne.
He graunted: then the Faery quickly raught
His poinant speare, and sharply gan to spurne
His fomy steed, whose fierie feete did burne
The verdant grasse, as he thereon did tread;
Ne did the other backe his foot returne,
But fiercely forward came withouten dread,
And bent his dreadfull speare against the others head.

They bene ymet, and both their points arriued,
But Guyon droue so furious and fell,
That seem'd both shield & plate it would haue riued;
Nathelesse it bore his foe not from his sell,
But made him stagger, as he were not well:
But Guyon selfe, ere well he was aware,
Yet in his fall so well him selfe he bare,
That mischieuous mischance his life & limbes did spare.

Great shame and sorrow of that fall he tooke;
For neuer yet, sith warlike armes he bore,
And shiuering speare in bloudie field first shooke,
He found himselfe dishonored so sore.
Ah gentlest knight, that euer armour bore,
Let not thee grieue dismounted to haue beene,
And brought to ground, that neuer wast before;
For not thy fault, but secret powre vnseene,
That speare enchaunted was, which layd thee on the greene.

By such good meanes he him discounselled,
From prosecuting his reuenging rage;
And eke the Prince like treaty handeled,
His wrathfull will with reason to asswage,
And laid the blame, not to his carriage,
But to his starting steed, that swaru'd asyde,
And to the ill purveyance of his page,
So is his angry courage fairely pacifyde.

Thus reconcilement was betweene them knit,
Through goodly temperance, and affection chaste,
And either vowd with all their power and wit,
To let not others honour be defaste,
Of friend or foe, who euer it embaste,
Ne armes to beare against the others syde:
In which accord the Prince was also plaste,
And with that golden chaine of concord tyde.
So goodly all agreed, they forth yfere did ryde.
O goodly vsage of those antique times,
In which the sword was seruant vnto right;
When not for malice and contentious crimes,
But all for praise, and proofe of manly might,
The martiall brood accustomed to fight:
Then honour was the meed of victorie,
And yet the vanquished had no despight:
Let later age that noble vse enuie,
Vile rancour to auoid, and cruell surquedrie.
martial brood: warlike race
med: reward
despight: scornful defiance
envie: imitate
surquedrie: pride, arrogance

Long they thus trauelled in friendly wise,
Through countries waste, and eke well edifyde,
Seeking aduentures hard, to exercise
Their puissance, whylome full dernely tryde:
At length they came into a forrest wyde,
Whose hideous horror and sad trembling sound
Full griesly seem'd: therein they long did ryde,
Yet tract of liuing creatures none they found,
Saue Beares, Lions, & Buls, which romed them around.
eke: also
edifyde: built up
puissance: power
whylome: in the past
dernely: severely
grisly: horrible
Save: except

All suddenly out of the thickest brush,
Vpon a milk-white Palfrey all alone,
A goodly Ladie did foreby them rush,
Whose face did seeme as cleare as Christall stone,
And eke through feare as white as whales bone:
Her garments all were wrought of beaten gold,
And all her steed with tinsell trappings shone,
Which fled so fast, that nothing mote him hold,
And scarse them leasure gaue, her passing to behold.
palfrey: horse
foreby: past
tinsell: glittering
mote: might

Still as she fled, her eye she backward threw,
As fearing euill, that pursueth her fast;
And her faire yellow locks behind her flew,
Loosely dispersd with puffe of euery blast:
All as a blazing starre doth farre outcast
His hearie beames, and flaming lockes dispred,
At sight whereof the people stand aghast:
But the sage wisard telles, as he has red,
That it importunes death and dolefull drerihed.
blazing star: comet (An ominous sign but also a symbol of love and rarity)
hearie: hairy
sage: wise
red: foreseen
importunes: portends
dolefull drerihed: sorrowful misery

So as they gazed after her a while,
Lo where a grisly Foster forth did rush,
Breathing out beastly lust her to defile:
His tyreling jade he fiercely forth did push,
Through thicke and thin, both ouer banke and bush
In hope her to attaine by hooke or crooke,
That from his gorie sides the bloud did gush:
Large were his limbs, and terrible his looke,
And in his clownish hand a sharp bore speare he shooke.
grisly Foster: horrible forester, woodsman, symbol of lust
tyreling jade: weary horse
clohnish: rustic

Which outrage when those gentle knights did see,
Full of great enuie and fell gealosy,
They stayd not to auise, who first should bee,
But all spurd after fast, as they mote fly,
To reskew her from shamefull villany.
The Prince and Guyon equally bylue
Her selfe pursedw, in hope to win thereby
Most goodly meede, the fairest Dame aliue:
But after the foule foster Timias did striue.
line 2: Full of great indignation and deadly anger
bylue: quickly
Timias: time in Greek means honor.

The whiles faire Britomart, whose constant mind,
Would not so lightly follow beauties chace,
Ne reckt of Ladies Loue, did stay behind,
And them awayted there a certaine space,
To weet if they would turne backe to that place:
But when she saw them gone, she forward went,
As lay her iourney, through that perlous Pace,
With stedfast courage and stout hardiment;
Ne euill thing she fear'd, ne euill thing she ment.
reckt: cared
to weet: to know
perlous Pace: perilous region
ment: meant, intended

At last as nigh out of the wood she came,
A stately Castle farre away she spyde,
To which her steps directly she did frame.
That Castle was most goodly edifyde,
And plaste for pleasure nigh that forest syde:
But faire before the gate a spatiuous plaine,
Mantled with greene, it selfe did spredden wyde,
On which she saw sixe knights, that did darraine
Fiere battell against one, with cruell might and maine.
nigh: nearly, near
edifyde: built
darraine: prepare
maine: force
Mainly they all at once upon him laid,
And sore beset on every side around,
That nigh he breathless grew, yet nought dismayed,
Neuer to them yielded foot of ground
All had he lost much blood through many a wound,
But stoutly dealt his blows, and every way
To which he turned in his wrathfull stound,
Made them recoile, and fly from dread decay,
That none of all the sixe before, him durst assay.

Mainly: violently  atonce: at once  All: although
stound: trouble  decay: destruction  durst assay: dared try to attack

Like dastard Curres, that hauing at a bay
The salvag beast embost in weari chace,
Dare not aduenture on the stubborne prey,
Ne byte before, but rome from place to place,
To get a snatch, when turned is his face.
In such distresse and doubtfull ieopardy,
When Britomart him saw, she ran a pace
Vnto his reskew, and with earnest cry,
Bad those same sixe forbeare that single enimy.

Curres: curs, dogs embost: overwhelmed
a pace: quickly forbear: refrain or desist from

But to her cry they list not lenden eare,
Ne ought the more their mightie strokes surceasse,
But gathering him round about more neare,
Their direfull rancour rather did encreasse;
Till that she rushing through the thickest preasse,
Perforce disparited their compacted gyre,
And soone compeld to hearken vnto peace:
Tho gan she myldly of them to inquyre
The cause of their dissention and outrageous yre.

list no lenden ears: didn’t want to listen surcease: stop
preasse: crowd Perforce: by force gyre: circle hearken: listen
Tho: then gan: began dissention: disagreement yre: ire, anger

Where to that single knight did answere frame;
These sixe would me enforce by oddes of might,
To chaunge my liefe, and loue another Dame,
That death me liefer were, then such despight,
So vnto wrong to yield my wrested right:
For I loue one, the truest one on ground,
Ne list me chaunge; she the Errant Damzel hight,
For whose deare sake full many a bitter stound,
I haue endur’d, and tasted many a bloody wound.

liefe: beloved liefer: preferable Ne list me change: Nor do I want to change hight: named stound: time of trouble

Certes (said she) then bene ye sixe to blame,
To weene your wrong by force to justifie:
For knight to leaue his Ladie were great shame,
That faithfull is, and better were to die.
All losse is lesse, and lesse the infamie,
Then losse of loue to him, that loues but one;
Ne may loue be compeld by maisterie:
For soone as maisterie comes, sweet loue anone
Taketh his nimble wings, and soone away is gone.

Certes: surely weene: think infamie: shame Then: Than compeld by maisterie: forced by mastery anon: at once
Lines 7-9 echo Chaucer's The Franklin's Tale.

Then spake one of those sixe, There dwelleth here
Within this castle wall a Ladie faire,
Whose soueraine beautie hath no liuing pere,
Thereto so bounteous and so debonaire,
That neuer any mote with her compaire.
She hath ordaind this law, which we approue,
That euery knight, which doth this way repaire,
In case he haue no Ladie, nor no loue,
Shall doe vnto her servise neuer to remoue.

pere: peer, equal repaire: travel

But if he haue a Ladie or a Loue,
Then must he her forgoe with foule defame,
Or else with vs by dint of sword approue,
That she is fairer, then our fairest Dame,
As did this knight, before ye hither came.
Perdie (said Britomart) the choise is hard:
But what reward had he, that ouercame?
He should advaunced be to high regard,
(Said they) and haue our Ladies loue for his reward.

forgoe: give up hither: here Perdie: Truly

Therefore aread Sir, if thou haue a loue.
Loure haue I sure, (quoth she) but Lady none;
Yet will I not fro mine owne loue remoue,
Ne to your Lady will I servise done,
But wreake your wrongs wrought to this knight alone,
And proue his cause. With that her mortall speare
She mightily auentred towards one,
And downe him smot, ere well aware he weare,
Then to the next she rode, & downe the next did beare.

aread: tell quoth: said wreake: avenge wrought: done aventred: thrust smot: knocked (past tense of smite) weare: were
Ne did she stay, till three on ground she layd,
That none of them himselfe could reare againe;
The fourth was by that other knight dismayd,
All were he wearie of his former paine,
That now there do but two of six remaine;
Which two did yield, before she did them smight.
Ah (said she then) now may ye all see plaine,
That truth is strong, and trew loue most of might.
All: Although smight: smite, hit

Too well we see, (said they) and proue too well
Our faulty weaknesse, and your matchlesse might:
For thy, faire Sir, yours be the Damozell,
Which by her owne law to your lot doth light,
And we your liege men faith vnto you plight.
So vnderneath her feet their swords they mard,
And after her besought, well as they might,
To enter in, and reape the dew reward:
She graunted, and then in they all together far'd.

The wals were round about apparelled
With costly clothes of Arras and of Toure,
In which with cunning hand was pourtrahed
The loue of Venus and her Paramoure
The faire Adonis, turned to a floure,
A worke of rare deuice, and wondrous wit.
First did it shew the bitter balefull stowre,
Which her assayd with many a feruent fit.

And whilst he slept, she ouer him would spred
Her mantle, colour'd like the starry skyes,
And her soft arme lay vnderneath his hed,
And with ambrosiall kisses bathe his eyes;
And whilst he bath'd, with her two crafty spyes,
She secretly would search each daintie lim,
And throw into the well sweet Rosemaryes,
And fragrant violets, and Pances trim,
And euer with sweet Nectar she did sprinkle him.

Aray: decoration, appearance  bullion: gold  embost: adorned
So did she steale his heedelesse hart away,
And ioyd his loue in secret vnespyde.
But for she saw him bent to cruell play,
To hunt the saluage beast in forrest wyde,
Dreadfull of daunger, that mote him betyde,
She oft and oft aduiz'd him to refraine
From chase of greater beasts, whose brutish pryde
Mote breede him scath vnwares: but all in vaine;
For who can shun the chaunce, that dest'ny doth ordaine?

Thence they were brought to that great Ladies vew,
Whom they found sitting on a sumptuous bed,
As the proud Persian Queenes accustomed:
She seemd a woman of great bountihed,
And of rare beautie, sauing that askaunce
Her wanton eyes, ill signes of womanhed,
Did roll too highly, and too often glaunce,
Without regard of grace, or comely amenaunce.

Long worke it were, and needlesse to deuize
Their goodly entertainement and great glee:
She caused them be led in curteous wize
Into a bowre, disarmed for to bee,
And cheared well with wine and spiceree:
The Redcrosse Knight was soone disarmed there,
But the braue Mayd would not disarmed bee,
But onely vented vp her umbriere,
And so did let her goodly visage to appere.

As when faire Cynthia, in darkesome night,
Is in a noyous cloud enueloped,
Where she may find the substaunce thin and light,
Breakes forth her siluer beames, and her bright hed
Discouers to the world discomfited;
Of the poore traueller, that went astray,
With thousand blessings she is heried;
Such was the beautie and the shining ray,
With which faire Britomart gaue light vnto the day.

Cynthia: goddess of the moon    noyous: annoying, noxious
Discovers: reveals    discomfited: dejected    heried: praised

And eke those six, which lately with her fought,
Now were disarmd, and did them selues present
Vnto her vew, and company vnsoght;
For they all seemed curteous and gent,
And all sixe brethren, borne of one parent,
Which had them traynd in all ciivilitee,
And goodly taught to tilt and turnament;
Now were they liegemen to this Lady free,
And her knights seruice ought, to hold of her in fee.

Gent: gentle    ciivilitee: courtesy    tilt and turnament: joust
The first of them by name Gardante hight,
A iolly person, and of comely view;
The second was Parlante, a bold knight,
And next to him Iocante did enew;
Basciante did him selfe most curteous shew;
But fierce Bacchante seemed too fell and keene;
And yet in armes Noctante greater grew:
All were faire knights, and goodly well beseene,
But to faire Britomart they all but shadowes beene.

The names of the knights who attend on Malecasta represent stages
of lechery: looking, talking, joking, kissing, drinking, night revelry.

For she was full of amiable grace,
And manly terror mixed therewithall,
That as the one stir'd vp affections bace,
So th'other did mens rash desires appl.
As he, that hath espide a vermeill Rose,
To which sharpe thornes and breres the way forstall,
Dare not for dread his hardy hand expose,
But wishing it far off, his idle wish doth lose.

For she was so faire a wight.
All ignoraunt of her contrary sex,
(For she her weend a fresh and lusty knight)
She greatly gan enamoured to wax,
And with vaine thoughts her falsed fancy vex:
Her fickle hart conceiued hasty fire,
Like sparkes of fire, which fall in scelerd flex,
That shortly brent into extreme desire,
And ransackt all her veines with passion entire.

Eftsoones she grew to great impatience
And into termes of open outrage brust,
That plaine discouered her incontinence,
Ne reckt she, who her meaning did mistrust;
For she was giuen all to fleshly lust,
And poured forth in sensuall delight,
That all regard of shame she had discust,
And meet respect of honour put to flight:
So shamelesse beauty soone becomes a loathy sight.

Eftsoones as soon as she
reckt: cared
discust: thrown off
meet: proper

Faire Ladies, that to loue captiued arre,
And chaste desires do nourish in your mind,
Let not her fault your sweet affections marre,
Ne blot the bounty of all womankind;
'Mongst thousands good one wanton Dame to find:
Emongst the Roses grow some wicked weeds;
For this was not to loue, but lust inclind;
For loue does alwayes bring forth bounteous deeds,
And in each gentle hart desire of honour breeds.

bounty: virtue, goodness

Nought so of loue this looser Dame did skill,
But as a coale to kindle fleshly flame,
Giuing the bridle to her wanton will,
And treadung vnder foote her honest name:
Such loue is hate, and such desire is shame.
Still did she roue at her with crafty glaunce
Of her false eyes, that at her hart did ayme,
And told her meaning in her countenaunce;
But Britomart dissembled it with ignorance.

to loue: shoot (as in "shot her a glance")
countenaunce: face

this looser Dame did skill: this too loose woman did understand
roue: shoot (as in "shot her a glance")

dissembled it with ignorance: pretended not to understand her meaning

Supper was shortly dight and downe they sat,
Where they were serued with all sumptuous fare,
While fruitful Ceres, and Lyæus fat
Pourd out their plenty, without spight or spare:
Nought wanted there, that dainty was and rare;
And aye the cups their bancks did ouerflow,
And aye between the cups, she did prepare
Way to her loue, and secret darts did throw;
But Britomart would not such guilfull message know.

dight: set out
Ceres (Demeter) was the goddess of earth and its
fruits; Lyæus (Bacchus), the god of wine; thus (by metonymy), food
and drink were plenteously provided.
aye: always
without spight or spare: without grudge or restraint
darts: glances
And all attonce discouered her desire
With sighes, and sobs, and plaints, & piteous grieue,
The outward sparkes of her in burning fire;
Which spent in vaine, at last she told her briefe,
That but if she did lend her short reliefe,
And do her comfort, she mote algates dye.
But the chaste damzell, that had neuer priefe
Of such malengine and fine forgerie,
Did easily beleue her strong extremitie.
algates: altogether priefe: proof malengine: deceit

Full easie was for her to haue beliefe,
Who by self-feeling of her feeble sexe,
And by long triall of the inward grieue,
Wherewith imperious loue her hart did vexe,
Could iudge what paines do louing harts perplexe.
Who meanes no guile, be guiled soonest shall,
And to faire semblaunce doth light faith annexe;
The bird, that knowes not the false fowlers call,
Into his hidden net full easily doth fall.
guile: trickery semblance: appearance annexe: add

For thy, she would not in discourteise wise,
Scorne the faire offer of good will profest;
For great rebuke it is, loue to despise,
Or rudely sdeigne a gentle harts request;
But with faire countenaunce, as beseemed best,
Her entertaynd; nath'lesse she inly deemed
Her loue too light, to wooe a wandring guest:
Which she misconstruing, thereby esteemd
That from like inward fire that outward smoke had steemd.
For thy: Therefore sdeigne: disdained inly deemed: inwardly thought

Therewith a while she her flit fancy fed,
Till she mote winne fit time for her desire,
But yet her wound still inward freshly bled,
And through her bones the false instilled fire
Did spred it selfe, and venime close inspire.
Tho were the tables taken all away,
And euery knight, and euery gentle Squire
Gan choose his dame with Basciomani gay,
With whom he meant to make his sport & courtly play.
mote: might Tho: then Basciomani: hand kissing

Some fell to daunce, some fell to hazarddry,
Some to make loue, some to make meriment,
As diuere wits to diuers things apply;
And all the while faire Malecasta bent
Her crafty engins to her close intent.
By this th'eternall lampes, wherewith high Ioue
Doth light the lower world, were halfe yspent,
And the moist daughters of huge Atlas stroue
Into the Ocean deepe to drive their weary drove.

High time it seemed then for euery wight
Them to betake vnto their kindly rest;
Eftsoones long waxen torches weren light,
Vnto their bowres to guiden euery guest:
Tho when the Britoness saw all the rest
Auoided quite, she gan her selfe despoile,
And safe commit to her soft fethered nest,
Where through long watch, & late dayes weary toile,
She soundly slept, & carefull thoughts did quite assoile.
wight: person bowres: bedrooms despoile: undress assoile: let loose

Now whenas all the world in silence deepe
Yshrowded was, and euery mortall wight
Was drowned in the depth of deadly sleepe,
Faire Malecasta, whose engrieued spright
Could find no rest in such perplexed plight,
Lightly arose out of her wearie bed,
And vnder the blacke vele of guilty Night,
Her with a scarlot mantle couered,
That was with gold and Ermines faire enueloped.
spright: spirit plight: condition vele: vail mantle: cloak Ermines: fur

Then panting soft, and trembling euerie ioynt,
Her fearfull feete towards the bowre she moued;
Where she for secret purpose did appoynt
To lodge the warlike mayd with whom she loved,
And to her bed approaching, first she prooued,
Whether she slept or wakt, with her soft hand
She softly felt, if any member move,
And lent her wary eare to vnderstand,
If any puffe of breath, or signe of sence she fand.

wight: person bowres: bedrooms despoile: undress
Which whenas none she fond, with easie shift,
For feare least her vnwares she should abrayd,
Th'embroderd quilt she lightly vp did lift,
And by her side her selve she softly layd,
Of euery finest fingers touch affrayd;
Ne any noise she made, ne word she spake,
But inly sigh'd. At last the royall Mayd
Out of her quiet slomber did awake,
And chaungd her weary side, the better ease to take.

abrayd: awake        inly: inwardly

Where feeling one close couched by her side,
She lightly lept out of her filed bed,
And to her weapon ran, in minde to gride
The loathed leachour. But the Dame halfe ded
Through suddein feare and ghastly drea rhed,
Did shrieeke alowd, that through the house it rong,
And the whole family therewith adred,
Rashly out of their rouzed couches sprong,
And to the troubled chamber all in armes did throng.

filed: defiled        gride: pierce        drea rhed: horror        adred: afraid

And those sixe Knights that Ladies Champions,
And eke the Redcrosse knight ran to the stownd,
Halfe armd and halfe vnarmd, with them attons:
Where when confusedly they came, they фотownd
Their Lady lying on the sencelesse grownd;
On th'other side, they saw the warlike Mayd
All in her snow-white smocke, with locks vnbownd,
Threatning the point of her auenging blade,
That with so troublous terrour they were all dismayde.

eke: also        stownd: disturbance        attons: at once

About their Lady first they flockt arownd,
Whom hauing laid in comfortable couch,
Shortly they reard out of her frozen swownd;
And afterwards they gan with fowle reproch
To stirre vp strife, and troublous contecke broch:
But by enasample of the last dayes losse,
None of them rashly durst to her approach,
Ne in so glorious spoile them selves embosse;
Her succourd eke the Champion of the bloody Crosse.

swownd: faint
troublous contecke broch: instigate troublous discord
durst: dared        embosse: cover        succourd: helped

But one of those sixe knights, Gardante hight,
Drew out a deadly bow and arrow keene,
Which forth he sent with felonous despi ght,
And fell intent against the virgin sheene:
The mortall steele stayd not, till it was seen
To gore her side, yet was the wound not deepe,
But lightly rased her soft silken skin,
That drops of purple bloud thereout did weepe,
Which did her lilly smock with staines of vermeil steepe.

hight: named        fell: deadly        sheene: bright        steepe: soak

Wherewith enrag'd she fiercely at them flew,
And with her flaming sword about her layd,
That none of them foule mischiefe could eschew,
But with her dreadfull strokes were all dismayed:
Here, there, and euery where about her swayd
Her wrathfull steele, that none mote it abide;
And eke the Redcrosse knight gaue her good aid,
Ay ioyning foot to foot, and side to side,
That in short space their foes they haue quite terrifide.
eschew: avoid        mote it abide: might withstand it
eke: also        ay: always

Tho whenas all were put to shamefull flight,
The noble Britomartis her arayd,
And her bright armes about her body dight:
For nothing would she lenger there be stayd,
Where so loose life, and so vngentle trade
Was vsd of Knights and Ladies seeming gent,
So earely ere the grosse Earthes gryesy shade
Was all disperst out of the firmament,
They tooke their steeds, & forth vpó their iourney went.

Tho: then        arayd: dressed        dight: put        gent: gentle
eres: before        gryesy: horrible        steeds: horses        vpo: upon

Cant. II.

The Redcrosse knight to Britomart
describeth Artegall:
The wondrous myrrhour, by which she
in loue with him did fall.
Here haue I cause, in men iust blame to find,
That in their proper prayse too partiall bee,
And not indifferent to woman kind,
To whom no share in armes and cheualrie
They do impart, ne maken memorie
Of their braue gestes and prowess martiall;
Scarse do they spare to one or two or three,
Rowme in their writs; yet the same writing small
Does all their deeds defece, and dims their glories all.

But by record of antique times I find,
That women wont in warres to beare most sway,
And to all great exploits selues inclind:
Of which they still the girond bore away,
Till enuious Men fearing their rules decay,
Gan coyne streight lawes to curb their liberty;
Yet sith they warlike armes haue layd away:
They haue exceld in artes and pollicy,
That now we foolish men that prayse gin eke t'enuy.

Of warlike puissaunce in ages spent,
Be thou faire Britomart, whose prayse I write,
But of all wisedome be thou precedent,
O soueraigne Queene, whose prayse I would endite,
Endite I would as dewtie doth excite;
But ah my rimes too rude and rugged arre,
When in so high an obiect they do lite,
And striuing, fit to make, I feare do marre:
Thy selfe thy prayses tell, and make them knowen farre.

She trauelling with Guyon by the way,
Of sundry things faire purpose gan to find,
T'abridg their iourney long, and lingring day;
Mongst which it fell into that Faeries mind,
To aske this Briton Mayd, what uncouth wind,
Brought her into those parts, and what inquest
Made her dissemble her disguised kind:
Faire Lady she him seemd, like Lady drest,
But fairest knight aliue, when armed was her brest.

Thereat she sighing softly, had no powre
To speake a while, ne ready answere make,
But with hart-thrilling throbs and bitter stowre,
As if she had a feuer fit, did quake,
And ery daintie limbe with horroure shake;
And euer and anone the rosy red,
Flasht through her face, as it had been a flake
Of lightning, through bright heauen fulmined;
At last the passion past she thus him answered.

Faire Sir, I let you weete, that from the howre
I taken was from nourses tender pap,
I haue beene trained vp in warlike stowre,
To tossen speare and shield, and to affrap
The warlike ryder to his most mishap;
Sithence I loathed haue my life to lead,
As Ladies wont, in pleasures wanton lap,
To finger the fine needle and nyce thread;
Me leuer were with point of foemans speare be dead.

All my delight on deedes of armes is set,
To hunt out perils and aduentures hard,
By sea, by land, where so they may be met,
Onely for honour and for high regard,
Without respect of richesse or reward.
For such intent into these parts I came,
Withouten compasse, or withouten card,
Far fro my natiue soyle, that is by name
The greater Britaine, here to seeke for prayse and fame.

Fame blazed hath, that here in Faery lond
Do many famous Knightes and Ladies wonne,
And many straunge aduentures to be fond,
Of which great worth and worship may be wonne;
Which I to proue, this voyage haue begonne.
But mote I weet of you, right curteous knight,
Tydings of one, that hath vnto me donne
Late foule dishonour and reprochfull spight,
The which I seeke to wreake, and Arthegall he hight.

Line 1: Apparently a mistake – It’s really Red Cross.

Fame blazed hath: Rumor has proclaimed
mote I weet: might I know
Arthegall, whose name means Arthur’s equal, is the destined mate of Britomart and, as the hero of Book 5 of Faerie Queene, represents Justice.
The word gone out, she backe againe would call,
As her repenting so to haue missayd,
But that he it vp-taking ere the fall,
Her shortly answered; Faire martiall Mayd
Certes ye misauised beene, t’vpbrayd
A gentle knight with so vnknightly blame:
For weet ye well of all, that euer playd
At tilt or tourney, or like warlike game,
The noble Arthegall hath euer borne the name.

erc: before martiall: warlike certes: certainly t’vpbrayd: to reproach, censure weet: know tilt or tourney: jousting

For thy great wonder were it, if such shame
Should euer enter in his bounteous thought,
Or euer do, that mote deseruen blame:
The noble courage neuer weeneth ought,
That man to hard conditions to bind,
Whose prowesse paragon saw nearer liuing wight.

For thy: therefore bounteous: virtuous mote: might courage: spirit weeneth ought: thinks anything aware: wary

Let be therefore my vengeaunce to disswade,
Ah, but if reason faire might you perswade,
To slake your wrath, and mollifie your mind,
(Said he) perhaps ye should it better find:
For hardy thing it is, to weene by might,
That man to hard conditions to bind,
Ou euer hope to match in equall fight.

Let be: Cease read: tell me saytour false may find.
slake your wrath: lessen your anger hardy: foolhardy weene: expect whose prowesse paragon: the equal of whose prowess wight: person

Ne soothlich is it easie for to read,
Where now on earth, or how he may be found;
For he ne wonneth in one certaine stead,
But restlesse walketh all the world around,
Ay doing things, that to his fame redound,
Defending Ladies cause, and Orphans right,
Where so he heares, that any doth confound
Them comfortlesse, through tyranny or might:
So is his soueraine honour raisde to heauens hight.

soothlich: truly read: know wonneth: lives stead: place ay: always that to his fame redound: tht add to his reputation confound: persecute

His feeling words her feeble sense much pleased,
And softly sunk into her molten hart;
Hart that is inly hurt, is greatly eased
With hope of thing, that may allegge his smart;
For pleasing words are like to Magick art,
That doth the charmed Snake in slomber lay:
Such secret ease felt gentle
Britomart,
Yet list the same efforce with faind gainesay;
So dischord oft in Musick makes the sweeter lay.

woxe: grew faind: was eager to

And said, Sir knight, these idle termes forbeare,
And sith it is vneath to find his haunt,
Tell me some markes, by which he may appeare,
If chaunce I him encounter parauaunt;
For perdie one shall other slay, or daunt:
What shape, what shield, what armes, what steed, what sted,
And what so else his person most may vaunt?

All which the Redcrosse knight to point ared,
And him in euery part before her fashioned.

molten: melting alleggee his smart: alleviate its pain line 8: Yet was pleased to intensify that sensation by pretending to disagree. lay: song

And said, Sir knight, these idle termes forbeare,
And sith it is vneath to find his haunt,
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If chaunce I him encounter parauaunt;
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And what so else his person most may vaunt?

All which the Redcrosse knight to point ared,
And him in euery part before her fashioned.

forbeare: refrain from sith: since vneath: difficult haunt: abode parauaunt: face-to-face perdie:truly daunt: dismay sted: station, place, situation to point ared: described exactly
Yet him in euery part before she knew,
How euer list her now her knowledge faine,
Sith him whilome in Britaine she did vew,
To her revealed in a mirrhour plaine,
Whereof did grow her first engraffed paine;
Whose root and stalke so bitter yet did tast,
That but the fruit more sweetnesse did containe,
Her wretched dayes in dolour she mote wast,
And yield the pray of loue to lothesome death at last.

By strange occasion she did him behold,
And much more strangely gan to loue his sight,
As it in bookes hath written bene of old.
In Deheubarth that now South-wales is hight,
What time king Ryence raign'd, and dealed right,
The great Magitian Merlin had deuiz'd,
By his deepe science, and hell-dreaded might,
A looking glasse, right wondrously aguiz'd,
Whose vertues through the wyde world soone were solemniz'd.

It vertue had, to shew in perfect sight,
What euer thing was in the world contaynd,
Betwixt the lowest earth and heauens hight,
So that it to the looker appertaynd;
What euer foe had wrought, or frend had faynd,
Therein discouered was, ne ought mote pas,
Ne ought in secret from the same remaynd;
For thy it round and hollow shaped was,
Like to the world it selfe, and seem'd a world of glas.

Who wonders not, that reads so wonderous worke?
But who does wonder, that has red the Towre,
Wherein th'Ægyptian Phao long did lurke
From all mens vew, that none might her discoure,
Yet she might all men vew out of her bowre?
Great Ptolomæe it for his lemans sake
Ybuilded all of glasse, by Magicke powre,
And also it impregnable did make;
Yet when his loue was false, he with a peaze it brake.

Such was the glassie globe that Merlin made,
And gaue vnto king Ryence for his gard,
That neuer foes his kingdome might invade,
But he it knew at home before he hard
Tydings thereof, and so them still debar'd.
It was a famous Present for a Prince,
And worthy worke of infinite reward,
That treasons could bewray, and foes conuince;
Happie this Realme, had it remained euer since.

One day it fortuned, faire Britomart
Into her fathers closet to repayre;
For nothing he from her reseru'd apart,
Being his onely daughter and his hayre;
Where when she had espyde that mirrhour fayre,
Her selfe a while therein she vewd in vaine;
Tho her auizing of the vertues rare,
Which thereof spoken were, she gan againe
Her to bethinke of, that mote to her selfe pertaine.

But as it falleth, in the gentlest harts
Imperious Loue hath highest set his throne,
And tyrannizeth in the bitter smarts
Of them, that to him buxome are and prone:
So thought this Mayd (as maydens vse to done)
Whom fortune for her husband would allot,
Not that she lusted after any one;
For she was pure from blame of sinfull blot,
Yet wist her life at last must lincke in that same knot.

Eftsoones there was presented to her eye
A comely knight, all arm'd in complete wize,
Through whose bright ventayle lifted vp on hye
His manly face, that did his foes agrize,
And friends to termes of gentle truce entize,
Lookt foorth, as Phoebus face out of the east,
Betwixt two shadie mountaines doth arize;
Portly his person was, and much increast
Through his Heroicke grace, and honorable gest.
His crest was couered with a couchant Hound,
And all his armour seem'd of antique mould,
But wondrous massie and assured sound,
And round about yfretted all with gold,
In which there written was with cyphers old,
_Achilles armes, which Arthegall did win._
And on his shield enueloped seuenfold
He bore a crowned little Ermilin,
That deckt the azure field with her faire pouldred skin.

---

The Damzell well did vew his personage,
And liked well, ne further fastned not,
But went her way; ne her unguilty age
Did weene, vnwares, that her unlucky lot
Lay hidden in the bottome of the pot;
Of hurt vnwist most daunger doth redound:
But the false Archer, which that arrow shot
So slyly, that she did not feele the wound,
Did smyle full smoothly at her weetlesse wofull stound.

---

Thenceforth the feather in her loftie crest,
Ruffed of loue, gan lowly to auaile,
And her proud portance, and her princely gest,
With which she earst tryumphed, now did quail.
Sad, solemne, sowre, and full of fancies fraile
She woxe; yet wist she neither how, nor why,
She wist not, silly Mayd, what she did aile,
Yet wist, she was not well at ease perdy,
Yet thought it was not loue, but some melancholy.

---

So soone as Night had with her pallid hew
Defast the beautie of the shining sky,
And ref from men the worlds desired vew,
She with her Nourse adowne to sleepe did lye;
But sleepe full farre away from her did fly:
In stead thereofad sad sighes, and sorrowes deepe
Kept watch and ward about her warily,
That nought she did but wayle, and often steepe
Her daintie couch with teares, which closely she did weepe.

---

And if that any drop of slombring rest
Did chauce to still into her wearie spright,
When feeble nature felt her selfe opprest,
Streight way with dreames, and with fantasticke sight
Of dreadfull things the same was put to flight,
That oft out of her bed she did astart,
As one with vew of ghastly feends affright:
Tho gan she to renew her former smart,
And thinke of that faire visage, written in her hart.

---

One night, when she was tost with such vnrest,
Her aged Nurse, whose name was _Glauce_ hight,
Feeling her leape out of her loathed nest,
Betwixt her feeble armes her quickly keight,
And downe againe in her warme bed her dight;
Ah my deare daughter, ah my dearest dread,
What vncouth fit (said she) what euill plight
Hath thee opprest, and with sad drearyhead
Chaunged thy liuely cheare, and liuing made thee dead?

---

For not of nought these suddeine ghastly feares
All night afflict thy naturall repose,
And all the day, when as thine equall peares,
Their fit disports with faire delight doe choose,
Thou in dull corners doest thy selfe inclose,
Ne tastest Princes pleasures, ne doest spred
Abroad thy fresh youthes fairest flowre, but lose
Both leafe and fruit, both too vntimely shed,
As one in wilfull bale for euer buried.

---

The time, that mortall men their weary cares
Do lay away, and all wilde beastes do rest,
And euer riuers eke his course forbeares
Then doth this wicked euill thee infest,
And rive with thousand throbs thy thrilled brest;
Like an huge _Aetna_ of deepe engulfed griefe,
Sorrow is heaped in thy hollow chest,
Whence forth it breakes in sighes and anguish rife,
As smoke and sulphure mingled with confused strife.
Aye me, how much I feare, least loue it bee;
But if that loue it be, as sure I read
By knownen signes and passions, which I see,
Be it worthy of thy race and royall sead,
Then I auow by this most sacred head
Of my deare foster child, to ease thy griefe
And win thy will: Therefore away doe dread;
For death nor daunger from thy dew reliefe
Shall me debarre, tell me therefore my liefest liefe.

least: lest, for fear that
read: perceive, know
avow: swear
debarre: prevent
my liefest liefe: my dearest darling

So hauing said, her twixt her armes twaine
She straightly straynd, and colled tenderly,
And euery trembling ioynt, and euery vaine
She softly felt, and rubbed busily,
To doe the frozen cold away to fly;
And her faire deawy eies with kisses deare
She oft did bath, and oft againe did dry;
And euer her importund, not to feare
To let the secret of her hart to her apare.
twixt her armes twaine: between her two arms
coll: hugged
importund: pleaded with

The Damzell pauzd, and then thus fearefully;
Ah Nurse, what needeth thee to eke my paine?
Is not enough, that I alone doe dye,
But it must doubled be with death of twaine?
For nought for me but death there doth remaine.
O daughter deare (said she) despaire no whit;
For neuer sore, but might a salue obtaine:
That blinded God, which hath ye blindly smit,
Another arrow hath your louers hart to hit.
eke: add to
whit: bit
smit: hit (with an arrow)

But mine is not (quothe she) like others wound;
For which no reason can find remedy.
Was neuer such, but mote the like be found,
(Said she) and though no reason may apply
Salue to your sore, yet loue can higher styte,
Then reasons reach, and oft hath wonders donne.
But neither God of loue, nor God of sky
Can doe (said she) that, which cannot be donne.
Things oft impossible (quothe she) seeme, ere begonne.

quothe: said
mote: might
stye: mount, exceed
era begonne: before begun

doe nought asswage / My stubborne smart: don't relieve my
unrelenting pain
zeale: passion
reed: declare
pere: peer, companion
grysde: pierced

Nor man it is, nor other liuing wight;
For then some hope I might vnto me draw,
But th'only shade and semblant of a knight,
Whose shape or person yet I neuer saw,
Hath me subiected to loues cruell law:
The same one day, as me misfortune led,
I in my fathers wondrous mirrhour saw,
And pleased with that seeming godly-hed,
Vnwares the hidden hooke with baite I swallowed.
wight: person
godly-hed: godlike appearance

Sithens it hath infixed faster hold
Within my bleeding bowels, and so sore
Now ranckleth in this same fraile fleshly mould,
That all mine entrailes flow with poysnous gore,
And th'vlder growtheth daily more and more;
Ne can my running sore find remedie,
Other then my hard fortune to deplore,
And languish as the leafe falne from the tree,
Till death make one end of my dayes and miserie.
Sithens: since
entrailes: inards
deplore: regret strongly

Daughter (said she) what need ye be dismayd,
Or why make ye such Monster of your mind?
Of much more vncoth thing I was affrayd;
Of filthy lust, contrarie vnto kind:
But this affection nothing straunge I find;
For who with reason can you aye reprowe,
To loue the semblant pleasing most your mind,
And yield your heart, whence ye cannot remoue?
No guilt in you, but in the tyranny of loue.
aye reprowe: ever criticize, chastise
semblant: likeness, appearance
Not so th' Arabian Myrrhe did set her mind; 
Nor so did Biblis spend her pining hart, 
But lou'd their native flesh against all kind, 
And to their purpose vsed wicked art: 
Yet playd Pasiphaë a more monstrous part, 
That lou'd a Bull, and learnt a beast to bee; 
Such shamefull lusts who loaths not, which depart 
From course of nature and of modestie? 
Sweet loue such lewdnes bands from his faire companie.

Myrrhe (mother of Adonis) committed incest with her father, Biblis fell in love with her brother, and Pasiphae’s love of a bull led to the birth of the Minotaur – all from Ovid.

But thine my Deare (welfare thy heart my deare) 
Though strange beginning had, yet fixed is 
On one, that worthy may perhaps appeare; 
And certes seemes bestowed not amis: 
Ioy thereof haue thou and eternall blis.

With that vpleaning on her elbow weake, 
Her alablaster brest she soft did kis, 
Which all that while she felt to pant and quake, 
As it an Earth-quake were; at last she thus bespake.

certes: certainly amis: wrongfully alabaster: white marble

Beldame, your words doe worke me litle ease; 
For though my loue be not so lewdly bent, 
As those ye blame, yet may it nought appease 
My raging smart, ne ought my flame relent, 
But rather doth my helpelesse griefe augment. 
For they, how euer shamefull and vnkind, 
Yet did possesse their horrible intent: 
Short end of sorrowes they thereby did find; 
So was their fortune good, though wicked were their mind.

Beldame: Old woman smart: pain

But wicked fortune mine, though mind be good, 
Can haue no end, nor hope of my desire, 
But feed on shadowes, whiles I die for food, 
And like a shadow wexe, whiles with entire 
Affection, I doe languish and expire. 
I fonder, then Cephisus foolish child, 
Who hauing veued in a fountaine shere 
His face, was with the loue thereof beguil'd; 
I fonder loue a shade, the bodie farre exild.

wexe: grow, increase fonder: more foolish Cephisus: Narcissus, who fell in love with his own reflection, deluded by shadows.

Nought like (quoth she) for that same wretched boy 
Was of himselfe the idle Paramoure; 
Both loue and louver, without hope of ioy, 
For which he faded to a watry flowre. 
But better fortune thine, and better howre, 
Which lou'st the shadow of a warlike knight; 
No shadow, but a bodie hath in powre: 
That bodie, wheresoeuer that it light, 
May learned be by cyphers, or by Magicke might.

Paramoure: lover ciphers: letters

But if thou may with reason yet represse 
The growing euill, ere it strength haue got, 
And thee abandond wholly doe possesse, 
Against it strongly striue, and yield thee not, 
Till thou in open field adowne be smot. 
But if the passion mayster thy fraile might, 
So that needs loue or death must be thy lot, 
Then I auow to thee, by wrong or right 
To compasse thy desire, and find that loued knight.

er: before strive: fight smot: knocked, hit mayster: take control of frail: weak

Her chearefull words much cheard the feeble spright 
Of the sicke virgin, that her downe she layd 
In her warme bed to sleepe, if that she might; 
And the old-woman carefully displayd 
The clothes about her round with busie ayd; 
So that at last a little creeping sleepe 
Surprisd her sense: she therewith well apayd, 
The drunken lampe downe in the oyle did steepe, 
And set her by to watch, and set her by to wepe.

Apayd: pleased, satisfied line 8: She extinguishes the lamp.

Earely the morrow next, before that day 
His ioyous face did to the world reuale, 
They both vprose and tooke their readie way 
Vnto the Church, their prayers to appeale, 
With great deuotion, and with little zeale: 
For the faire Damzell from the holy herse 
Her loue-sicke hart to other thoughts did steale; 
And that old Dame said many an idle verse, 
Out of her daughters hart fond fancies to reuere.

herse: ceremony
Returned home, the royall Infant fell
Into her former fit; for why, no powre
Nor guidance of her selfe in her did dwell.
But th'aged Nurse her calling to her bowre,
Had gathered Rev, and Sauine, and the flowre
Of Camphara, and Calamint, and Dill,
All which she in a earthen Pot did poure,
And to the brim with Colt wood did it fill,
And many drops of milke and bloud through it did spill.

for why: because       bowre: bedroom

Then taking thrise three haires from off her head,
Them trebly breaded in a threefold lace,
And round about the pots mouth, bound the thread,
And after hauing whispered a space
Certaine sad words, with hollow voice and bace,
She to the virgin said, thrise said she it;
Come daughter come, come; spit vpon my face,
Spit thrise vpon me, thrise vpon me spit;
Th'vneuen number for this businesse is most fit.

thrise: three times       base: low       fit: appropriate

That sayd, her round about she from her turnd,
She turned her contrarie to the Sunne,
Thrise she her turnd contrary, and returnd,
All contrary, for she the right did shunne,
And euer what she did, was straight vndone.
So thought she to vnvoie her daughters loue:
But loue, that is in gentle brest begonne,
No idle charmes so lightly may remoue,
That well can witnesse, who by triall it does proue.

shunne: avoid

Ne ought it mote the noble Mayd auayle,
Ne slake the furie of her cruell flame,
But that she still did waste, and still did wayle,
That through long languour, and hart-burning brame
She shortly like a pyned ghost became,
Which long hath waited by the Stygian strond.
That when old Glauce saw, for feare least blame
Of her miscarriage should in her be fond,
She wist not how t'amend, nor how it to withstond.

mote...auayle: might help       slake: lessen, abate
brame: sharp passion
pyned: tormented      Stygian strond: banks of the River Styx (across
which is the Underworld of death)      wist: know

Cant. III.

Merlin bewrayes to Britomart,
the state of Artagell.
And shewes the famous Progeny
which from them springen shall.

bewrays: reveals

Most sacred fire, that burnest mightily
In liuing brests, ykindled first aboue,
Emongst th'eternal spheres and lamping sky,
And thence pourd into men, which men call Loue;
Not that same, which doth base affections moue
In brutish minds, and filthy lust inflame,
But that sweet fit, that doth true beautie loue,
And choseth vertue for his dearest Dame,
Whence spring all noble deeds and neuer dying fame:

Ykindled: kindled, started

Well did Antiquitie a God thee deeme,
That ouer mortall minds hast so great might,
To order them, as best to thee doth seeme,
And all their actions to direct aright;
The fatall purpose of diuine foresight,
Thou doest effect in destined descents,
Through deepe impression of thy secret might,
And stirrdest vp th'Heroes high intents,
Which the late world admires for wondrous moniments.

destined descents: fated lineages       monuments: memorials

But thy dread darts in none doe triumph more,
Ne braver proofe in any, of thy powre
Shew'st thou, then in this royall Maid of yore,
Making her seeke an vnknowne Paramoure,
From the worlds end, through many a bitter stowre:
From whose two loynes thou afterwards did rayse
Most famous fruits of matrimoniall bowre,
Which through the earth haue spred their liuing prayse,
That fame in trompe of gold eternally displayes.

braver: finer       yore: the past       Paramoure: lover
stowre: encounter       bowre: bedroom       trompe: trumpet
Begin then, ô my dearest sacred Dame,
Daughter of Phoebus and of Memorie,
That doest ennoble with immortall name
The warlike Worthies, from antiquitie,
In thy great volume of Eternitie:
Begin, ô Clio, and recount from hence
My glorious Soueraines goodly auncestrie,
Till that by dew degrees and long pretence,
Thou haue it lastly brought vnto her Excellence.

it: Elizabeth I's genealogy (the poem)  Clio: Muse of history

Full many wayes within her troubled mind,
Old Glauce cast, to cure this Ladyes griefe:
Full many waies she sought, but none could find,
Nor herbes, nor charmes, nor counsell, that is chiefe
And choisest med'cine for sicke harts relieve:
For thy great care she tooke, and greater feare,
Least that it should her turne to foule repriefe,
And sore reproch, when so her father deare
Should of his dearest daughters hard misfortune heare.

For thy great care she tooke: Therefore she was much troubled
repriefe: reproof

At last she her auisd, that he, which made
That mirrhour, wherein the sicke Damosell
So straungely vewed her straunge louers shade,
To weet, the learned Merlin, well could tell,
Vnder what coast of heauen the man did dwell,
And by what meanes his loue might best be wrought:
For though beyond the Africk Ismaell,
Or th'Indian Peru he were, she thought
Him forth through infinite endeuour to haue sought.

avisd: recalled  to weet: that is, to wit

Forthwith themselues disguising both in straunge
And base attyre, that none might them bewray,
To Maridunum, that is now by chaunce
Of name Cayr-Merdin cald, they tooke their way:
There the wise Merlin whylome wont (they say)
To make his wonne, low vnderneath the ground,
In a deepe delue, farre from the vew of day,
That of no liuing wight he mote be found,
When so he counseld with his sprights encõpast round.

bewray: reveal, betray  Cayr-Merdin: Carmarthen  whylome wont... / To make his wonne: formerly was accustomed to dwell
delve: valley  wight: person  mote: might with his spirits
encompassed round: surrounded by his spirits

And if thou euer happen that same way
To trauell, goe to see that dreadfull place:
It is an hideous hollow caue (they say)
Vnder a rocke that lyes a little space
From the swift Barry, tumbling downe apace,
Emongst the woodie hilles of Dyneuowre:
But dare thou not, I charge, in any cace,
To enter into that same balefull Bowre,
For fear the cruel Feends should thee vnwares deuowre.

Barry: a river in Wales  baleful Bower: deadly bedroom

But standing high aloft, low lay thine eare,
And there such ghastly noise of yron chaines,
And brasen Caudrons thou shalt robbing heare,
Which thousand sprights with long enduring paines
Doe tosse, that it will stonne thy feeble braines,
And oftentimes great grones, and grievous stounds,
When too huge toile and labour them constraines:
And oftentimes loud strokes, and ringing sounds
From vnder that deepe Rocke most horribly rebounds.

rebounds: echoes

The cause some say is this: A little while
Before that Merlin dyde, he did intend,
A brasen wall in compas to compile
About Cairmardin, and did it commend
Vnto these Sprights, to bring to perfect end.
During which worke the Ladie of the Lake,
Whom long he lou'd, for him in hast did send,
Who thereby forst his workemen to forsake,
Them bound till his returne, their labour not to slake.

brazen: brass  slake: diminish

In the meane time through that false Ladies traine,
He was surprisd, and buried vnder beare,
Ne euer to his worke returnd againe:
Nath'lesse those feends may not their worke forbeare,
So greatly his commaundement they feare,
But there doe toyle and travaell day and night,
Vntill that brasen wall they vp doe reare:
For Merlin had in Magicke more insight,
Then euer him before or after liuing wight.

traine: trickery  beare: bier, tomb  forbeare: cease
trauell: travail, work  brazen: brass  wight: person
For he by words could call out of the sky
Both Sunne and Moone, and make them him obay:
The land to sea, and sea to maineland dry,
And darkesome night he eke could turne to day:
Huge hostes of men he could alone dismay,
And hostes of men of meanest things could frame,
When so him list his enimies to fray:
That to this day for terror of his fame,
The feends do quake, when any him to them does name.

eke: also frame: create list: wish to fray: to scare

And sooth, men say that he was not the sonne
Of mortall Syre, or other liuing wight,
But wondrously begotten, and begonne
By false illusion of a guilefull Spright,
On a faire Ladie Nonne, that whilome hight
Matilda, daughter to Pubidius,
Who was the Lord of Mathrauall by right,
And coosen vnto king Ambrosius:
Whence he indued was with skill so marvellous.

sooth: truly Mathrauall: Powys, a castle in Wales coosen: cousin Ambrosius: Uther’s brother indued: endowed

They here ariving, staid a while without,
Ne durst aduenture rashly in to wend,
But of their first intent gan make new dout
For dread of daunger, which it might portend:
Vntill the hardie Mayd (with loue to frend)
First entering, the dreadfull Mage there found
Deepe busied bout worke of wondrous end,
And writing strange characters in the ground,
With which the stubborn feends he to his seruice bound.

durst: dared wend: go hardie: bold Mage: Magician

He nought was moued at their entrance bold:
For of their comming well he wist afore,
Yet list them bid their businesse to vnfold,
As if ought in this world in secret store
Were from him hidden, or vniknowne of yore.
Then Glauce thus, Let not it thee offend,
That we thus rashly through thy darkesome dore,
Vnwares haue prest: for either fatall end,
Or other mightie cause vs two did hither send.

wist: knew list: desired yore: the past fatall end: purpose ordained by fate hither: here

He bad tell on; and then she thus began.
Now haue three Moones with borrow’d brothers light,
Thrice shined faire, and thrice seem’d dim and wan,
Sith a sore euill, which this virgin bright
Tormenteth, and doth plonge in doleful plight,
First rooting toke; but what thing it mote bee,
Or whence it sprong, I cannot read aright:
But this I read, that but if remedeed
Thou her afford, full shortly I her dead shall see.

bad: said thrice: three times sith: since doleful plight: sorrow read: discover, perceive

Therewith th’Enchaunter softly gan to smyle
At her smooth speeches, weeting inly well,
That she to him dissembled womanish guyle,
And to her said, Beldame, by that ye tell,
More need of leach-craft hath your Damozell,
Then of my skill: who helpe may haue elsewhere,
In vaine seekes wonders out of Magicke spell.
Th’old woman wox half blanck, those words to heare;
And yet was loth to let her purpose plaine appeare.

weeting inly: knowing inwardly dissembled womanish guile: pretended using female trickery Beldame: old woman leach-craft: medicine Damozell: young woman wox half blanck: turned pale loth: reluctant

And to him said, If any leaches skill,
Or other learned meanes could haue redest
This my deare daughters deepe engraffed ill,
Certes I should be loth thee to molest:
But this sad euill, which doth her infest,
Doth course of naturall cause farre exceed,
And housed is within her hollow brest,
That either seemes some cursed witches deed,
Or euill spright, that in her doth such torment breed.

leaches: doctor’s redest: cured engraffed: implanted Certes: certainly loth: reluctant

The wisard could no lenger beare her bord,
But brusting forth in laughter, to her sayd;
Glauce, what needs this colourable word,
To cloke the cause, that hath it selfe bewrayd?
Ne ye faire Britomartis, thus arayd,
More hidden are, then Sunne in cloudy vele;
Whom thy good fortune, hauing fate obayd,
Hath hither brought, for succour to appele;
The which the powres to thee are pleased to reuele.

bord: talk Ne ye: Nor you for succour to appele: to ask for help
The doubtfull Mayd, seeing her selfe descryde,
Was all abasht, and her pure yuory
Into a cleare Carnation suddeine dyde;
As faire Aurora rising hastily,
Doth by her blushing tell, that she did lye
All night in old Tithonus frozen bed,
Whereof she seemes ashamed inwardly.
But her old Nourse was nought dishartened,
But vauntage made of that, which Merlin had ared.

descryde: perceived  abasht: embarrassed
Aurora: goddess of the Dawn  ared: said

And sayd, Sith then thou knowest all our griefe,
(For what doest not thou know?) of grace I pray,
Pitty our plaint, and yield vs meet reliefe.
With that the Prophet still awhile did stay,
And then his spirite thus gan forth display;
Most noble Virgin, that by fatall lore
Hast learn'd to loue, let no whit thee dismay
The hard begin, that meets thee in the dore,
And with sharpe fits thy tender hart oppresseth sore.

meet: appropriate  display: show
fatall lore: fated knowledge  whit: little bit

For so must all things excellent begin,
And eke enrooted deepe must be that Tree,
Whose big embodied braunches shall not lin,
Till they to heauens hight forth stretched bee.
For from thy wombe a famous Progenie
Shall spring, out of the auncient Trojan blood,
Which shall reuiue the sleeping memorie
Of those same antique Peres, the heauens brood,
Which Greece and Asian riuers stained with their blood.

efe: also  Tree: Britomart's family tree, ending in Elizabeth I
lin: cease  Peres: champions

Renowned kings, and sacred Emperours,
Thy fruitfull Ofspring, shall from thee descend;
Braue Captaines, and most mighty warriours,
That shall their conquests through all lands extend,
And their decayed kingdomes shall amend:
The feeble Britons, broken with long warre,
They shall vpreare, and mightily defend
Against their forrein foe, that comes from farre,
Till vniuersall peace compound all ciuill iarre.

amend: restore

It was not, Britomart, thy wandring eye,
Glauncing vnwares in charmed looking glas,
But the streight course of heavenly destiny,
Led with eternall prouidence, that has
Guided thy glaunce, to bring his will to pas:
Ne is thy fate, ne is thy fortune ill,
To loue the prowest knight, that euer was.
Therefore submit thy wayes vnto his will,
And do by all dew meanes thy destiny fulfill.

read: tell  sith: since  partake: accomplish
Merlin speaks from stanza 25 to 50. The information comes from Holinshed and Geoffrey of Monmouth.

The man whom heauens haue ordaynd to bee
The spouse of Britomart, is Arthegall:
He wonneth in the land of Fayeree,
Yet is no Fary borne, ne sib at all
To Elifes, but sprong of seed terrestrial,
And whilome by false Faries stolne away,
Whiles yet in infant cradle he did crall;
Ne other to himselfe is knowne this day,
But that he by an Elfe was gotten of a Fay.

wonneth: lives  sib: sibling
whilome: formerly  was gotten: begot

But sooth he is the sonne of Gorlois,
And brother vnto Cador Cornish king,
And for his warlike feates renowned is,
From where the day out of the sea doth spring,
Vntill the closure of the Euening.
From thence, him firmly bound with faithfull band,
To this his native soyle thou backe shalt bring,
Strongly to aide his countrie, to withstand
The powre of forrein Paynims, which invade thy land.

sooth: truth  Paynims: pagans
Great aid thereto his mighty puissaunce,
And dreaded name shall giue in that sad day:
Where also proofe of thy prow valiaunce
Thou then shalt make, t'incresse thy louers pray.
Long time ye both in armes shall beare great sway,
Till thy wounds burden thee from them do call,
And his last fate him from thee take away,
Too rathe cut off by practise criminally
Of secret foes, that him shall make in mischiefe fall.

puissaunce: power            prow valiaunce: courageous valor
pray: prey                  rathe: soon

Where thee yet shall he leaue for memory
Of his late puissaunce, his Image dead,
That liuing him in all actiuity
To thee shall represent. He from the head
Of his coosin Constantius without dread
Shall take the crowne, that was his fathers right,
And therewith crowne himselfe in th'others stead:
Then shall he issueth forth with dreadfull might,
Against his Saxon foes in bloody field to fight.

his Image dead: his son

Like as a Lyon, that in drowsie caue
Hath long time slept, himselfe so shall he shake,
And comming forth, shall spred his banner braue
Ouer the troubled South, that it shall make
The warlike Mertians for feare to quake:
Thrice shall he fight with them, and twise shall win,
But the third time shall faire accordaunce make:
And if he then with victorie can lin,
He shall his dayes with peace bring to his earthly In.

acordaunce: agreement       lin: cease       In: dwelling

His sonne, hight Vortipore, shall him succeede
In kingdome, but not in felicity;
Yet shall he long time warre with happy speed,
And with great honour many battels try:
But at the last to th'importunity
Of froward fortune shall be forst to yield.
But his sonne Malgo shall full mighty
Auenge his fathers losse, with speare and shield,
And his proud foes discomfit in victorious field.

hight: named          felicity: happiness       speed: success
to th'importunity / Of forward fortune: to the urgings of perverse fortune

Behold the man, and tell me Britomart,
If ay more goodly creature thou didst see;
How like a Gyaunt in each manly part
Beares he himselfe with portly majestee,
That one of th'old Heroes seemes to bee:
He the six Islands, comprouinciall
In auncient times unto great Britainee,
Shall to the same reduce, and to him call
Their sundry kings to do their homage seuerall.

ay: ever          reduce: restore      sundry: various     seuerall: diverse

All which his sonne Careticus awhile
Shall well defend, and Saxons powre suppress,
Vntill a straunger king from vnknowne soyle
Arriuing, him with multitude oppresse;
Great Gormond, hauing with huge mightinesse
Ireland subdewd, and therein fixt his throne,
Like a swift Otter, fell through emptiness,
Shall ouerswim the sea with many one
Of his Norueyses, to assist the Britons fone.
fell through emptiness: fierce because of hunger
Norueyses: Norwegians    fone: foes

He in his furie all shall ouerrunne,
And holy Church with faithlesse hands deface,
That thy sad people utterly fordonne,
Shall to the utmost mountaines fly apace:
Was neuer so great wast in any place,
Nor so fowle outrage doen by liuing men:
For all thy Cities they shall sacke and race,
And the greene grasse, that groweth, they shall bren,
That euen the wild beast shall dy in starued den.

fordonne: ruined       wast: waste, destruction
race: rage, destroy    bren: burn

Whiles thus thy Britons do in languour pine,
Proud Etheldred shall from the North arise,
Seruing th'ambitious will of Augustine,
And passing Dee with hardy enterprise,
Shall backe repulse the valiant Brockwell twice,
And Bangor with massacred Martyrs fill;
But the third time shall rew his foolhardise:
For Cadwan pitying his peoples ill,
Shall stoutly him defeat, and thousand Saxons kill.

pine: sorrow           rew his foolhardise: regret his folly
But after him, Cadwallin mightily
On his sonne Edwin all those wrongs shall wreake;
Ne shall auail the wicked sorcery
Of false Pellite, his purposes to breake,
But him shall slay, and on a gallowes bleake
Shall giue th'enchaunter his vnhappy hire;
Then shall the Britons, late dismayd and weake,
From their long vassalage gin to respire,
And on their Paynim foes auenge their ranckled ire.

wreake: avenge  hire: reward  resipe: rest
Paynim: heathen, non-Christian  ranckled ire: embittered anger

Ne shall he yet his wrath so mitigate,
Till both the sonnes of Edwin he have slaine,
Offricke and Osricke, twinnnes unfortunate,
Both slaine in battell upon Layburne plaine,
Together with the king of Louthiane,
Hight Adin, and the king of Orkeny,
Both ioynt partakers of the fatall paine:
But Penda, fearefull of like desteny,
Shall yield him selfe his liegeman, and sweare fealty.

wreath: ire, anger  fatall: fated  fealty: loyalty

Him shall he make his fatall Instrument,
T'afflict the other Saxons vnsubdewd;
He marching forth with fury insolent
Against the good king Oswald, who indewd
With heauenly powre, and by Angels reskewd,
All holding crosses in their hands on hye,
Shall him defeate withouten bloud imbrewd:
Of which, that field for endlesse memory,
Shall Heuenfield be cald to all posterity.

Indewd: invented  imbrewd: spilt

Where at Cadwallin wroth, shall forth issew,
And an huge hoste into Northumber lead,
With which he godly Oswald shall subdew,
And crowne with martyrdome his sacred head.
Whose brother Oswin, daunted with like dread,
With price of siluer shall his kinglydom buy,
And Penda, seeking him adowne to tread,
Shall tread adowne, and do him fowly dye,
But shall with gifts his Lord Cadwallin pacify.

wroth: angry  buy: ransom
do him fowly dye: put him miserably to death

Then shall Cadwallin dye, and then the raine
Of Britons eke with him atonce shall dye;
Ne shall the good Cadwallader with paine,
Or powre, be hable it to remedy,
When the full time prefixt by destiny,
Shalbe expird of Britons regiment.
For heauen it selfe shall their successse enuy,
And them with plagues and murrins pestilient
Consume, till all their warlike puissaunce be spent.

ekte: also  regiment: rule  murrains: diseases  puissaunce: power

Yet after all these sorrowes, and huge hills
Of dying people, during eight yeares space,
Cadwallader not yielding to his ills,
From Armoricke, where long in wretched cace
He liu'd, returning to his natiue place,
Shalbe by vision staid from his intent:
For th'heauens haue decreed, to displace
The Britons, for their sinnes dew punishment,
And to the Saxons ouer-giue their gouernment.

Armoricke: Brittany  case: state  returning: expecting to return

Then woe, and woe, and euerlasting woe,
Be to the Briton babe, that shalbe borne,
To liue in thraldome of his fathers foe;
Late King, now captiue, late Lord, now forlorne,
The worlds reproch, the cruell victors scorne,
Banisht from Princely bowre to wastfull wood:
O who shall helpe me to lament, and mourne
The royall seed, the antique Trojan blood,
Whose Empire lenger here, then ever any stood.

Line 1: See Rev. 8:13.  Line 9 refers to the period from Brute (1132 B.C.) to the death of Cadwallader (690 CE).

The Damzell was full deepe empassioned,
Both for his grieve, and for her peoples sake,
Whose future woes so plaine he fashioned,
And sighing sore, at length him thus bespake;
Ah but will heauens fury neuer slake,
Nor vengeance huge relent it selfe at last?
Will not long misery late mercy make,
But shall their name for euer be defast,
And quite from of th'earth their memory be rast?

slake: lessen  late: at length  rast: erased
Nay but the terme (said he) is limited,
That in this thraldome Britons shall abide,
And the iust revolution measured,
That they as Straungers shalbe notifide:
For twise foure hundreth yeares shalbe supplide,
Ere they to former rule restor’d shalbee,
And their importune fates all satisfide:
Yet during this their most obscuritee,
Their beames shall oft breake forth, that men them faire may see.

thraldome: slavery      notified: known
line 5: i.e., at the reign of Henry VII, beginning in 1485, almost 400 years after Cadwallader’s death importune: grievous

For Rhodoricke, whose surname shalbe Great,
Shall of him selfe a braue ensample shew,
That Saxon kings his friendship shall intreat;
And Howell Dha shall goodly well indew
The saluage minds with skill of iust and trew;
Then Griffithy Conan also shall vp reare
His dreaded head, and the old sparkes renew
Of natieue courage, that his foes shall feare,
Least backe againe the kingdome he from them should beare.

beare: take
The Welsh rulers of this stanza reigned from the 9th to the 12th century.

Thenceforth eternall vnion shall be made
Betweene the nations different afore,
And sacred Peace shall louingly perswade
The warlike minds, to learne her goodly lore,
And ciuile armes to exercise no more:
Then shall a royall virgin raine, which shall Stretch her white rod ouer the Belgicke shore,
And the great Castle smite so sore with all,
That it shall make him shake, and shortly learne to fall.

a royall virgin raine: Elizabeth reign

But yet the end is not. There Merlin stayd,
As ouercomen of the spirites powre,
Or other ghastly spectacle dismayd,
That secretly he saw, yet note discoure:
Which suddein fit, and halfe extatick stoure
When the two fearefull women saw, they grew Greatly confused in behauioure;
At last the fury past, to former hew
Hee turnd againe, and chearefull looks as earst did shew.

stayed: ceased           As: as if          stoure: agitation
fury: seizure   hew: appearance earst: before

Then, when them selves they well instructed had
Of all, that needed them to be inquird,
They both conceiuing hope of comfort glad,
With lighter hearts vnto their home retird;
Where they in secret counsell close conspird,
How to effect so hard an enterprize,
And to possesse the purpose they desirid,
Now this, now that twixt them they did devise,
And diuerse plots did frame, to maske in strange disguise.
At last the Nourse in her foolhardy wit
Conceiu'd a bold deuise, and thus bespake;
Daughter, I deeme that counsell aye most fit,
That of the time doth dew aduauntage take;
Ye see that good king Vther now doth make
Strong warre upon the Paynim brethren, hight
Octa and Oza, whom he lately brake
Beside Cayr Verolame, in victorious fight,
That now all Britanie doth burne in armes bright.

deuise: plan            deeme: think            aye: always
Paynim brethren: Pagan brothers        hight: named

That therefore nought our passage may empeach,
Let us in feigned armes our selves disguize,
And our weake hands (whom need new strength shall teach)
The dreadfull speare and shield to exercize:
Ne certes daughter that same warlike wize
I weene, would you misseeme; for ye bene tall,
And large of limbe, t'atchieue an hard emprize,
Ne ought ye want, but skill, which practize small
Will bring, and shortly make you a mayd Martiall.

empeach: hinder          wize: manner          Ne…would you
misseeeme: wouldn't be unfitting for you  emprise: enterprise
Ne ought ye want: You lack nothing        a mayd Martiall: a warlike maid

And sooth, it ought your courage much inflame,
To heare so often, in that royall hous,
From whence to none inferior ye came,
Bards tell of many women valorous
Which have full many feats adventurous
Perfomrd, in paragone of proudest men:
The bold Bunduca, whose victorious
Exploits made Rome to quake, stout Guendolen,
Renowned Martia, and redoubted Emmilen.

sooth: truly          Bards: poets          paragone: emulation

And that, which more then all the rest may sway,
Late dayes ensample, which these eyes beheld,
In the last field before Meneuia
Which Vther with those forrein Pagans held,
I saw a Saxon Virgin, the which feld
Great Vlfin thrise vpon the bloody plaine,
And had not Carados her hand withheld
From rash reuenge, she had him surely slaine,
Yet Carados himselfe from her escaet with paine.

paine: difficulty

Ah read, (quoth Britomart) how is she hight?
Faire Angela (quoth she) men do her call,
No whit lesse faire, then terrible in fight:
She hath the leading of a Martiall
And mighty people, dreaded more then all
The other Saxons, which do for her sake
And loue, themselves of her name Angles call.
Therefore faire Infant her ensample make
Unto thy selfe, and equall courage to thee take.

read: tell           hight: named
Angela: Saxon queen for whom England was named

Her harty words so deepe into the mynd
Of the young Damzell sunke, that great desire
Of warlike armes in her forwith they tynd,
And generous stout courage did inspire,
That she resolu'd, vnweeting to her Sire,
Aduent'rous knighthood on her selfe to don,
And counseld with her Nourse, her Maides attire
To turne into a massy habergeon,
And bad her all things put in readinesse anon.

tynd: kindled       unweeting: unknown    habergeon: coat of armor
bad: told             anon: immediately

Th'old woman nought, that needed, did omit;
But all things did conueniently puruay:
It fortuned (so time their turne did fit)
A band of Britons ryding on forray
Few dayes before, had gotten a great pray
Of Saxon goods, emongst the which was seene
A goodly Armour, and full rich aray,
Which long'd to Angela, the Saxon Queene,
All fretted round with gold, and goodly well beseene.

puruay: provide         forray: a raid        pray: prey, booty
array: equipment       fretted: adorned

The same, with all the other ornaments,
King Ryence caused to be hanged hy
In his chiefe Church, for endlesse moniments
Of his successe and gladfull victory:
Of which her selfe auising readily,
In the euening late old Glauce thither led
Faire Britomart, and that same Armory
Downe taking, her therein appareled,
Well as she might, and with braue bauldrick garnished.

moniments: memorials   auising: calling to mind  thither: there
Armory: armor           bauldrick: shoulder belt
Beside those armes there stood a mighty speare,
Which Bladud made by Magick art of yore,
And vsd the same in battell aye to beare;
Sith which it had bin here preseru'd in store,
For his great vertues proued long afore:
For neuer wight so fast in sell could sit,
But him perforce vnto the ground it bore:
Both speare she tooke, and shield, which hong by it:
Both speare & shield of great powre, for her purpose fit.

Thus when she had the virgin all arayd,
Another harnesse, which did hang thereby,
About her selfe she dight, that the young Mayd
She might in equall armes accompany,
And as her Squire attend her carefully:
Tho to their ready Steeds they clombe full light,
And through back wayes, that none might them espy,
Couered with secret cloud of silent night,
Themselues they forth conuayd, & passed forward right.

Ne rested they, till that to Faery lond
They came, as Merlin them directed late:
Where meeting with this Redcrosse knight, she fond
Of diuerse things discourses to dilate,
But most of Arthegall, and his estate.
At last their wayes so fell, that they mote part
Then each to other well affectionate,
Friendship professed with unfained hart,
The Redcrosse knight diuerst, but forth rode
Britomart.

Who when through speaches with the Redcrosse knight,
She learned had th'estate of Arthegall,
And in each point her selfe informed aight,
A friendly league of loue perpetuall
She with him bound, and Congé tooke withall.
Then he forth on his iourney did proceede,
To seeke adventures, which mote him befall,
And win him worship through his warlike deed,
Which alwayes of his paines he made the chiefest meed.

Cant. IIII.

Bold Marinell of Britomart,
Is throwne on the Rich strond:
Faire Florimell of Arthur is
Long followed, but not fond.

Where is the Antique glory now become,
That whilome wont in women to appeare?
Where be the braue atchieuements doen by some?
Where be the battels, where the shield and speare,
And all the conquests, which them high did reare,
That matter made for famous Poets verse,
And boastfull men so oft abasht to heare?
Bene they all dead, and laid in dolefull herse?
Or doen they onely sleepe, and shall againe reverse?

If they be dead, then woe is me therefore:
But if they sleepe, ô let them soone awake:
For all too long I burne with enuy sore,
To heare the warlike feates, which Homere spake
Of bold Penthesilee, which made a lake
Of Greekish bloud so oft in Troian plaine;
But when I read, how stout Debora strake
Proud Sisera, and how Camill' hath slaine
The huge Orsilochus, I swell with great disdaine.

The Aeneid tells the stories of Panthesilea, Queen of the Amagons,
and of Camilla. Deborah’s story is in Judges 6.
But Britomart kept on her former course,  
Ne euer dofte her armes, but all the way  
Grew pensiue through that amorous discourse,  
By which the Redcrosse knight did earst display  
Her louers shape, and cheualrous aray;  
A thousand thoughts she fashioned in her mind,  
And in her feigning fancie did pourtray  
Him such, as fittest she for loue could find,  
Wise, warlike, personable, curteous, and kind.  
dofte: past tense of doff (to take off – the opposite of don)

With such selfe-pleasing thoughts her wound she fed,  
And thought so to beguile her grievous smart;  
But so her smart was much more grievous bred,  
And the deepe wound more deepe engord her hart,  
That nought but death her dolour mote depart.  
So forth she rode without repose or rest,  
Searching all lands and each remotest part,  
Following the guidaunce of her blinded guest,  
Till that to the sea-coast at length she her addrest.  
her dolour mote depart: might remove her sadness

There she alighted from her light-foot beast,  
And sitting downe vpon the rocky shore,  
Bad her old Squire vnlace her lofty creast;  
Tho hauing vewd a while the surges hore,  
That gainst the craggy clifts did loudly rore,  
And in their raging surquedry disdaynd,  
That the fast earth affronted them so sore,  
Thereat she sighed deepe, and after thus complaynd.  
bad: past tense of bid (to tell, order) creast: helmet hore: white surquedry: pride couretize: greed

Huge sea of sorrow, and tempestuous griefe,  
Wherein my feeble barke is tossed long,  
Far from the hoped hauen of reliefe,  
Why do thy cruel billowes beat so strong,  
And thy moyst mountaines each on others throng,  
Threatning to swallow vp my fearefull life?  
O do thy cruel wrath and spightfull wrong  
At length allay, and stint thy stormy strife,  
Which in these troubled bowels raignes, & rageth rife.  
barke: ship rife: much, abundantly

For else my feeble vessell crazd, and crackt  
Through thy strong buffets and outrageous blowes,  
Cannot endure, but needs it must be wrackt  
On the rough rocks, or on the sandy shallowes,  
The whiles that loue it steres, and fortune rowes;  
Loue my lewd Pilot hath a restlesse mind  
And fortune Boteswaie no assurance knowes,  
But saile withouten starres gainst tide and wind:  
How can they other do, sith both are bold and blind?  
lewd: unskillful

Thou God of winds, that raignest in the seas,  
That raignest also in the Continent,  
At last blow vp some gentle gale of ease,  
The which may bring my ship, ere it be rent,  
Vnto the gladsome port of her intent:  
Then when I shall my selfe in safety see,  
A table for eternall moniment  
Of thy great grace, and my great ieopardee,  
Great Neptune, I auow to hallow vnto thee.  
the continent: land rent: split apart table: votive tablet

Then sighing softly sore, and inly deepe,  
She shut vp all her plaint in priuy griefe;  
For her great courage would not let her weepe,  
Till that old Glauce gan with sharpe repriefe,  
Her to restraine, and giue her good reliefe,  
Through hope of those, which Merlin had her told  
Should of her name and nation be chiefe,  
And fetch their being from the sacred mould  
Of her immortall wombe, to be in heauen enrold.  
privy: secret courage: spirit repriefe: reproof

Thus as she her recomforted, she spyde,  
Where farre away one all in armour bright,  
With hastie gallop towards her did ryde;  
Her dolour soone she ceast, and on her dight  
Her Helmet, to her Courser mounting light:  
Her former sorrow into suddein wrath,  
Both coosen passions of distroubled spright,  
Conuerting, forth she beates the dustie path;  
Louve and despight attonce her courage kindled hath.  
dight: put courser: horse coosen: kindred despight: defiance
As when a foggy mist hath ouercast
The face of heauen, and the cleare aire engrost,
The world in darkenesse dwels, till that at last
The watry Southwinde from the seabord cost
Upblowing, doth disperse the vapour los't,
And poures it selfe forth in a stormy showre;
So the faire Britomart having disclo'st
Her clowdy care into a wrathfull storwre,
The mist of griefe dissolu'd, did into vengeance powre.

lines 7-9: Britomart changed from being depressed to angry.

Eftsoones her goodly shield addressing faire,
That mortall speare she in her hand did take,
And vnto battell did her selfe prepaire.
The knight approching, sternely her bespake;
Sir knight, that doest thy voyage rashly make
By this forbidden way in my despight,
Ne doest by others death ensample take,
I read thee soone retyre, whiles thou hast might,
Least afterwards it be too late to take thy flight.
in my despight: in scorn of me

Ythrild with deepe disdaine of his proud threat,
She shortly thus; Fly they, that need to fly;
Words fearen babes. I meane not thee entreat
To passe; but maugre thee will passe or dy.
Ne lenger stayd for th'other to reply,
But with sharpe speare the rest made dearly knowne.
Strongly the straunge knight ran, and sturdily
Strooke her full on the brest, that made her downe
Decline her head, & touch her crouper with her crowne.
maugre: in spite of
dearly: resolutely
line 9: forced her backwards so far that her head touched her horse's back (or crupper)

But she againe him in the shield did smite,
With so fierce furie and great puissaunce,
That through his threesquare scuchin percing quite,
And through his mayled hauberque, by mischaunce
The wicked steele through his left side did glaunce;
Him so transfixed she before her bore
Beyond his croupe, the length of all her launce,
Till sadly soucing on the sandie shore,
He tombled on an heape, and wallowd in his gore.
suchin: shield
hauberque: coat of mail
soucing: falling

Like as the sacred Oxe, that carelesse stands,
With gilden hornes, and flowry girlonds crownd,
Proud of his dying honor and deare bands,
Whiles th'altars fume with frankincense around,
All suddenly with mortall stroke astownd,
Doth groueling fall, and with his streaming gore
Distaines the pillours, and the holy grownd,
And the faire flowres, that decked him afor;
So fell proud Marinell vpon the pretious shore.

astowned: stunned

Marinell – a Narcissus and an Adonis figure, associated with the sea [mare (Fr) means sea] and also reluctant to marry [mari (Fr) means husband; nolle (Lt) means unwilling].
An hundred knights of honorable name
He had subdued and them his vassals made,
That through all Farie land his noble fame
Now blazed was, and fear did all invade,
That none durst pass through that perilous glade.
And to advance his name and glory more,
Her Sea-god sire she dearly did persuade,
To endow her son with treasure and rich store,
Boue all the sons, that were of earthly wombs ybore.

The God did grant his daughters dear demand,
To do his Nephew in all riches flow;
Eftsoones his heaped waues he did command,
Out of their hollow bosom forth to throw
All the huge treasure, which the sea below
Had in his greedy gulf devoured deep,
And him enriched through the overthrow
And wreckes of many wretches, which did weep,
And often waile their wealth, which he from them did keepe.

Shortly upon that shore there heaped was,
Exceeding riches and all precious things,
The spoil of all the world, that it did pass
The wealth of th'East, and pomp of Persian kings;
Gold, amber, yuorie, perles, owches, rings,
And all that else was precious and dear,
The sea unto him voluntary brings,
That shortly he a great Lord did appear,
As was in all the land of Faery, or elsewhere.

Thereto he was a doughtie dreaded knight,
Tryde often to the scath of many deare,
That none in equall arms him matchen might,
The which his mother seeing, gan to feare
Least his too haughty hardines might raise
Some hard mishap, in hazard of his life:
For thy she oft him counsel'd to forbear
The bloudie battell, and to stirr vp strife,
But after all his warre, to rest his weary knife.

And for his more assurance, she inquir'd
One day of Proteus by his mightie spell,
(For Proteus was with prophecy inspir'd)
Her deare sonnes destinie to her to tell,
And the sad end of her sweet Marinell.
Who through foresight of his eternall skill,
Bad her from womankind to kepe him well:
For of a woman he should have much ill,
A virgin strange and stout him should dismay, or kill.

For thy she gaue him warning euery day,
The loue of women not to entertain;
A lesson too too hard for living clay,
From loue in course of nature to refrain:
Yet he his mothers lore did well retain,
And ever from faire Ladies loue did fly;
Yet many Ladies faire did oft complain,
That they for loue of him would algates dye:
Dy, who so list for him, he was loues enemy.

But ah, who can deceive his destiny,
Or weene by warning to avoid his fate?
That when he sleepes in most security,
And safest seemes, him soonest doth amate,
And findeth dew effect or soone or late.
So feeble is the power of fleshly arm.
His mother bad him womens loue to hate,
For she of womans force did fear no harme;
So weening to haue arm'd him, she did quite disarme.

This was that woman, this that deadly wound,
That Proteus prophecide should him dismay,
The which his mother vainly did expound,
To bring her sonne unto his last decay.
So tickle be the termes of mortal state,
And full of subtle sophisms, which do play
With double senses, and with false debate,
Tapproue the unknowen purpose of eternall fate.
Too true the famous Marinell it fownd,
Who through late triall, on that wealthy Strond
Inglorious now lies in senselesse swownd,
Through heauy stroke of Britomartis hond.
Which when his mother deare did vnderstond,
And heauy tydings heard, whereas she playd
Amongst her watry sisters by a pond,
Gathering sweet daffadillyes, to haue made
Gay girldons, from the Sun their forheads faire to shade.

daffadillyes: signify grief because Proserpina was gathering them when she was abduced into the underworld (Winter’s Tale 4.4.116ff)

Eftsoones both flowres and girldons farre away
She flong, and her faire deawy lockes yrent,
To sorrow huge she turnd her former play,
And gamesom merth to grieuous dreriment:
She threw her selfe downe on the Continent,
Ne word did speake, but lay as in a swowne,
Whiles all her sisters did for her lament,
With yelling outcries, and with shrieking sowne;
And euery one did teare her girldon from her crowne.

yrent: tore  the Continent: the ground  sowne: sound

Soone as she vp out of her deadly fit
Arose, she bad her charret to be brought,
And all her sisters, that with her did sit,
Bad eke attonce their charrets to be sought;
Tho full of bitter grieve and pensiue thought,
She to her wagon clombe; clombe all the rest,
And forth together went, with sorrow fraught.
The waues obedient to their beheast,
Them yielded readie passage, and their rage surceast.

fit: swoon  charret: chariot  clombe: climbed  beheast: bidding

Great Neptune stood amazed at their sight,
While on his broad round backe they softly slid
And eke himselfe mournd at their mournfull plight,
Yet wist not what their wailing ment, yet did
For great compassion of their sorrow, bid
His mightie waters to them buxome bee;
Eftsoones the roaring billowes still abid,
And all the griesly Monsters of the Sea
Stood gaping at their gate, and woundred them to see.

buxome: yielding  abide: remained

A teme of Dolphins raunged in aray,
Drew the smooth charet of sad Cymoent;
They were all taught by Triton, to obey
To the long raynes, at her commandement:
As swift as swallows, on the waues they went,
That their broad flaggie finnes no fome did reare,
Ne bubbling roundell they behind them sent;
The rest of other fishes drawn weare,
Which with their finny oars the swelling sea did sheare.

Dolphins: symbols of love and salvation  Triton: Neptune’s son who controls sea creatures  flaggie: dropping

Soone as they bene arriu’d vpon the brim
Of the Rich strond, their charrets they forlore,
And let their temed fishes softly swim
Along the margent of the fomy shore,
Least they their finnes should bruze, and surbate sore
Their tender feet vnpon the stony ground:
And comming to the place, where all in gore
And cruddy bloud enwallowed they found
The lucklesse Marinell, lying in deadly swound;

brim: edge  forlore: left  surbate: chafe

His mother swowned thrise, and the third time
Could scarce recouered be out of her paine;
Had she not bene deuoyd of mortall slime,
She should not then haue bene reliu'd againe,
But soone as life recouered had the raine,
She made so piteous mone and deare wayment,
That the hard rocks could scarse from teares refraine,
And all her sister Nymphes with one consent
Supplide her sobbing breaches with sad complement.

slime: clay  wayment: lamentation  consent: harmony
breaches: intervals between fits of sobbing

Deare image of my selfe (she said) that is,
The wretched sonne of wretched mother borne,
Is this thine high aduauncement, ô is this
Th’immortall name, with which thee yet vnborne
Thy Gransire Nereus promist to adorne?
Now lyest thou of life and honor reft;
Now lyest thou a lumpe of earth forlorne,
Ne of thy late life memory is left,
Ne can thy irreuocable destiny be weft?
Fond Proteus, father of false prophecis,  
And they more fond, that credit to thee giue,  
Not this the worke of womans hand ywis,  
That so deepe wound through these deare members driue.  
I feared loue: but they that loue do liue,  
But they that die, doe neither loue nor hate.  
Nath'lesse to thee thy folly I forgiue,  
And to my selfe, and to accursed fate  
The guilt I doe ascribe: deare wisedome bought too late.

Fond: foolish ywis: certainly

O what auailes it of immortall seed  
To beene ybred and neuer borne to die?  
Farre better I it deeme to die with speed,  
Then waste in woe and wailefull miserie.  
Who dyes the vtmost dolour doth abye,  
But who that liues, is left to waile his losse:  
So life is losse, and death felicitie.  
Sad life worse then glad death: and greater crosse  
To see friends graue, then dead the graue selfe to engrosse.

deeme: think the vtmost dolour doth abye: suffers the most sorrow felicitie: happiness crosse: burden engross: fill

But if the heauens did his dayes enuie,  
And my short blisse maligne, yet mote they well  
Thus much afford me, ere that he did die  
That the dim eyes of my deare Marinell  
I mote haue closed, and him bed farewell,  
Sith other offices for mother meet  
They would not graunt.  
Yet maulgre them farewell, my sweetest sweet;  
Farewell my sweetest sonne, sith we no more shall meet.

maligne: grudge mote: might ere: before bed: bade, told sith: since meet: appropriate malgre: in spite of

Thus when they all had sorrowed their fill,  
They softly gan to search his griesly wound:  
And that they might him handle more at will,  
They him disar'md, and spredding on the ground  
Their watchet mantles frindgd with siluer round,  
They softly wipt away the gelly blood  
From th'orifice; which hauing well vpbound,  
They pourd in soueraine balme, and Nectar good,  
Good both for earthly med'cine, and for heauenly food.

watchet mantles: pale blue cloaks gelly: clotted

Tho when the lilly handed Liagore,  
(This Liagore whylome had learned skill  
In leaches craft, by great Appoloes lore,  
Sith her whylome vpon high Pindus hill,  
He loued, and at last her wombe did fill  
With heavenly seed, whereof wise Paeon sprong)  
Did feele his pulse, she knew their staied still  
Some little life his feeble sprites emong;  
Which to his mother told, despeire she from her flong.

Tho: then whylome: formerly leaches: doctor’s Apollo: god of healing lore: teaching Paeon: physician to the gods

Tho up him taking in their tender hands,  
They easily unto her charet beare:  
Her teme at her commaundement quiet stands,  
Whiles they the corse into her wagon reare,  
And strow with flowres the lamentable beare:  
Then all the rest into their coches clim,  
And through the brackish waues their passage sheare;  
Vpon great Neptunes necke they softly swim,  
And to her watry chamberswiftly carry him.

charet: chariot corse: corpse reare: raise beare: coffin sheare: cut

Deepe in the bottome of the sea, her bowre  
Is built of hollow billowes heaped hye,  
Like to thicke cloudes, that threat a stormy showre,  
And vauted all within, like to the sky,  
In which the Gods do dwell eternally:  
There they him laid in easie couch well dight;  
And sent in haste for Tryphon, to apply  
Salues to his wounds, and medicines of might:  
For Tryphon of sea gods the soueraine leach is hight.

dight: placed the soueraine leach is hight: the foremost doctor is called

The whiles the Nymphes sit all about him round,  
Lamenting his mishap and heauy plight;  
And oft his mother vewing his wide wound,  
Cursed the hand, that did so deadly smight  
Her dearest sonne, her dearest harts delight.  
But none of all those curses ouertooke  
The warlike Maid, th'ensample of that might,  
But fairely well she thriu'd, and well did brooke  
Her noble deeds, ne her right course for ought forsooke.

heauy: sad brooke: persist in
Yet did false Archimage her still pursew,
To bring to passe his mischievous intent,
Now that he had her singled from the crew
Of courteous knights, the Prince, and Faery gent,
Whom late in chase of beautie excellent
She left, pursewing that same foster strong;
Of whose foule outrage they impatient,
And full of fiery zeale, him followed long,
To reskew her from shame, and to reuenge her wrong.

Archimage: a character from Books 1 and 2 whom Spenser mentions here but then drops. Line 4 refers to Arthur and Guyon from Canto 1.

Through thick and thin, through mountaines & through plains,
Those two great chapions did attonce pursew
The fearefull damzell, with incessant paines:
Who from them fled, as light-foot hare from vew
Of hunter swift, and sent of houndes trew.
At last they came vnto a double way,
Where, doubtfull which to take, her to reskew,
Themselues they did dispart, each to assay,
Whether more happie were, to win so goodly pray.

attonce: together

But Timias, the Princes gentle Squire,
That Ladies loue vnto his Lord forlent,
And with proud enuy, and indignant ire,
After that wicked foster fiercely went.
So beene they three three sundry wayes ybent.
But fairest fortune to the Prince befell,
Whose chaunce it was, that soone he did repent,
To take that way, in which that Damozell
Was fled afore, affraid of him, as feend of hell.

forlent: relinquished       envy: indignation       ire: anger
ybent: turned       the Prince: Arthur       feend: devil

All suddenly dim woxe the dampish ayre,
And griesly shadowes couered heauen bright,
That now with thousand starres was decked fayre;
Which when the Prince beheld, a lothfull sight,
And that perforce, for want of lenger light,
He mote surcease his suit, and lose the hope
Of his long labour, he gan fowly wyte
His wicked fortune, that had turnd aslope,
And cursed night, that reft from him so goodly scope.

Woxe: became       perforce: of necessity       want: lack
He mote surcease his suit: He might sotp his pursuit       wyte: chide, blame
aslope: awry       reft: deprived       scope: accomplishment
Tho when her wayes he could no more descry,
But to and fro at disadventure strayd;
Like as a ship, whose Lodestarre suddenly
Couered with cloudes, her Pilot hath dismayd;
His wearisome pursuit perforce he stayed,
And from his loftie steed dismounting low,
Did let him forage. Downe himselfe he layd
Vpon the grassie ground, to sleepe a throw;
The cold earth was his couch, the hard steele his pillow.

descry: see, perceive  
disadventure: random  
perforce he stayed: of necessity he stopped  
throw: awhile

But gentle Sleepe enuyde him any rest;
In stead thereof sad sorrow, and disdaine
Of his hard hap did veixe his noble brest,
And thousand fancies bet his idle braine
With their light wings, the sights of semblants vaine:
Oft did he wish, that Lady faire mote bee
Or that his Faery Queene were such, as shee:
And euer hastie Night he blamed bitterlie.

enuyde: grudged  
hap: lot  
sembleants: illusions  
mote: might  
complain: lament

Night thou foule Mother of annoyance sad,
Sister of heauie death, and nourse of woe,
Which wast begot in heauen, but for thy bad
And brutish shape thrust downe to hell below,
Where by the grim floud of Cocytus slow
Thy dwelling is, in Herebus blacke hous,
(Blacke Herebus thy husband is the foe
Of all the Gods) where thou vngratious,
Halfe of thy dayes doest lead in horrour hideous.

annoyance: grief

What had th'eternall Maker need of thee,
The world in his continuall course to keepe,
That doest all things deface, ne lettest see
The beautie of his worke? Indeed in sleepe
The slouthfull bodie, that doth louse to steepe
His lustlesse limbes, and drowne his baser mind,
Doth praise thee oft, and oft from Stygian deepe
Calles thee, his goddesse in his error blind,
And great Dame Natures handmaide, chearing every kind.

deface: obscure  
slouthfull: lazy  
to steep / His lustlesse limbes: to soak his feeble limbs  
baser: too base, low  
Stygian deepe: hell  
chearing: cheering up

But well I wote, that to an heauy hart
Thou art the root and nurse of bitter cares,
Breeder of new, renewer of old smarts:
In stead of rest thou lendest rayling teares,
In stead of sleepe thou sendest troublous feares,
And dreadfull visions, in the which alioe
The drearie image of sad death appeares:
So from the wearie spirit thou doest drive
Desired rest, and men of happinesse deprive.

wote: know  
smarts: pains  
rayling: bitter

Vnder thy mantle blacke there hidden lye,
Light-shonning theft, and traiterous intent,
Abhorred bloudshed, and vile felony,
Shamefull deceipt, and daunger imminent;
Foule horror, and eke hellish dreriment:
All these I wote in thy protection bee,
And light doe shonne, for feare of being shent:
For light ylike is loth'd of them and thee,
And all that lewdnesse loue, doe hate the light to see.

shone: shun  
shent: put to shame  
ylike: alike  
lewdness: wickedness

For day discouers all dishonest wayes,
And sheweth each thing, as it is indeed:
The prayses of high God he faire displayes,
And his large bountie rightly doth areed.
Dayes dearest children be the blessed seed,
Which darknesse shall subdew, and heauen win;
Truth is his daughter; he her first did breed,
Most sacred virgin, without spot of sin.
Our life is day, but death with darknesse doth begin.

areed: show

O when will day then turne to me againe,
And bring with him his long expected light?
O Titan, haste to reare thy ioysome waine:
Speed thee to spred abroad thy beames bright?
And chase away this too long lingering night,
Chase her away, from whence she came, to hell.
She, she it is, that hath me done despight:
There let her with the damned spirits dwell,
And yeeld her roome to day, that can it governe well.

Titan: God of the Sun  
waine: chariot  
despight: wrong
Thus did the Prince that wearie night outweare,
In restlesse anguish and vnquiet paine:
And earely, ere the morrow did vpreare
His deawy head out of the Ocean maine,
He vp arose, as halfe in great disdaine,
And clombe vnto his steed. So forth he went,
With heauie looke and lumpish pace, that plaine
In him bewraid great grudge and maltalent:
His steed eke seem'd t'apply his steps to his intent.

outweare: spend maltalent: ill will

Cant. V.

Prince Arthur heares of Florimell:
three fosters Timias wound,
Belphebe finds him almost dead,
and reareth out of sownd.

VVonder it is to see, in diuerse minds,
How diuersly loue doth his pageants play,
And shewes his powre in variable kinds:
The baser wit, whose idle thoughts alway
Are wont to cleave vnto the lowly clay,
It stirreth vp to sensuall desire,
And in lewd slouth to wast his carelesse day:
But in braue sprite it kindles goodly fire,
That to all high desert and honour doth aspire.
diuerse: various “baser wit” vs “brave sprite”: a person of lower character & intelligence vs a brave person won’t to cleave: accustomed to cling line 7: [Love causes a person of “baser wit”] to waste his day in laziness.

Ne suffereth it vncomely idlenesse,
In his free thought to build her sluggish nest:
Ne suffereth it thought of vngentlenesse,
Euer to creepe into his noble brest,
But to the highest and the worthiest
Lifeth it vp, that else would lowly fall:
It lets not fall, it lets it not to rest:
It lets not scarce this Prince to breath at all,
But to his first pursuit him forward still doth call.

mote: might out of hand: at once

What mister wight (said he) and how arayd?
Royally clad (quoth he) in cloth of gold,
As meetest may beseeme a noble mayd;
Her faire lockes in rich circlet be enrold,
A fairer wight did neuer Sunne behold,
Yet she her selfe is whiter manifold:
The surest signe, whereby ye may her know,
Is, that she is the fairest wight aliue, I trow.
mister: kind of wight: person

Now certes swaine (said he) such one I weene,
Fast flying through this forest from her fo,
A foule ill fauoured foster, I haue seene;
Her selve, well as I might, I reskewd tho,
But could not stay; so fast she did foregoe,
Carried away with wings of speedy feare.
Ah dearest God (quoth he) that is great woe,
And wondrous ruth to all, that shall it heare.
But can ye read Sir, how I may her find, or where.
weene: know foster: forester ruth: pity read: tell, advise
Perdy me leuer were to weeten that,
(Said he) then ransome of the richest knight,
Or all the good that euer yet I gat:
But froward fortune, and too forward Night
Such happinesse did, maulgre, to me spight,
And fro me reft both life and light attone.
But Dwarfe aread, what is that Lady bright,
That through this forest wandreth thus alone;
For her errour straunge I haue great ruth and mone.

line 1: Truly I'd rather know that froward: perverse
maulgre: in spite of reft: took away attone: at once
aread: listen ruth: pity

That Lady is (quoth he) where so she bee,
The bountiest virgin, and most debonaire,
That euer liuing eye I weene did see;
Liues none this day, that may with her compare
In stedfast chastitie and vertue rare,
The goodly ornaments of beautie bright;
And is ycleped Florimell the faire,
Faire Florimell belou'd of many a knight,
Yet she loues none but one, that Marinell is hight.
bountiest: most virtuous weene: th ink ycleped: called
hight: named

A Sea-nymphes sonne, that Marinell is hight,
Of my deare Dame is loued dearely well;
In other none, but him, she sets delight,
All her delight is set on Marinell;
But he sets nought at all by Florimell:
For Ladies loue his mother long ygoe
Did him, they say, forwarne through sacred spell.
But fame now flies, that of a forreine foe
He is yslaine, which is the ground of all our woe.
fame: rumor

Fiue dayes there be, since he (they say) was slaine,
And four, since Florimell the Court for-went,
And vowed neuer to returne againe,
Till him alie or dead she did inuent.
Therefore, faire Sir, for loue of knighthood gent,
And honour of trew Ladies, if ye may
By your good counsell, or bold hardiment,
Or succour her, or me direct the way;
Do one, or other good, I you most humbly pray.
inuent: find

So may ye gaine to you full great renoume,
Of all good Ladies through the world so wide,
And haply in her hart find highest rowme,
Of whom ye seeke to be most magnifie:
At least eternall meede shall you abide.
To whom the Prince; Dwarfe, comfort to thee take,
For till thou tidings learne, what her betide,
I here auow thee neuer to forsake.
Ill weares he armes, that nill them vse for Ladies sake.

meede: reward tidings: news
what her betide: what happened to her

So with the Dwarfe he backe return'd againe,
To seeke his Lady, where he mote her find;
But by the way he greatly gan complaine
The want of his good Squire late left behind,
For whom he wondrous pensiue grew in mind,
For doubt of daunger, which mote him betide;
For him he loued aboue all mankind,
Hauing him trew and faithfull euer tride,
And bold, as euer Squire that waited by knights side.
mote: might gan: began want: lack, absence

Who all this while full hardly was assayd
Of deadly daunger, which to him betid;
For whiles his Lord pursewd that noble Mayd,
After that foster fowle he fiercely rid,
To bene auenged of the shame, he did
To that faire Damzell: Him he chaced long
Through the thicke woods, wherein he would haue hid
His shamefull head from his auengement strong.
And oft him threatned death for his outrageous wrong.

Lines 1-2: (about Timias) Who meanwhile was severely tested by the deadly danger that happened to him

Nathlesse the villen sped him selfe so well,
Whether through swiftnesse of his speedy beast,
Or knowledge of those woods, where he did dwell,
That shortly he from daunger was releast,
And out of sight escaped at the least;
Yet not escaped from the dew reward
Of his bad deeds, which dayly he increast,
Ne ceased not, till him oppressed hard
The heauy plague, that for such leachours is prepaed.
Nathlesse: nevertheless
For soone as he was vanisht out of sight,  
His coward courage gan emboldned bee,  
And cast t'auenge him of that fowle despight,  
Which he had borne of his bold enimee.  
Tho to his brethren came: for they were three  
Vngratious children of one gracelesse sire,  
And vnto them complained, how that he  
Had vsed bene of that fooliehardy Squire;  
So them with bitter words he stird to bloody ire.

ire: anger

Forthwith themselues with their sad instruments  
Of spoyle and murder they gan arme byliue,  
And with him forth into the forest went,  
To wreae the wrath, which he did earst reuiue  
In their sterne brests, on him which late did driue  
Their brother to reproch and shamefull flight:  
For they had vow'd, that neuer he aliue  
Out of that forest should escape their might;  
Vile rancour their rude harts had fild with such despight.

byliue: quickly

Within that wood there was a couert glade,  
Foreby a narrow foord, to them well knowne,  
Through which it was vneath for wight to wade;  
And now by fortune it was ouerflowne:  
By that same way they knew that Squire vnknowne  
Mote algates passe; for thy, themselues they set  
There in await, with thicke woods ouer growne,  
And all the while their malice they did whet  
With cruell threats, his passage through the ford to let.

a couert glade / Foreby a narrow ford: a secret valley beside a narrow ford (i.e. a place to cross a river)  
vneath: difficult
algates: necessarily  
let: prevent

It fortuned, as they deuzied had,  
The gentle Squire came ryding that same way,  
Vnweeting of their wile and treason bad,  
And through the ford to passen did assay;  
But that fierce foster, which late fled away,  
Stoutly forth stepping on the further shore,  
Him boldly bad his passage there to stay,  
Till he had made amends, and full restore  
For all the damage, which he had him doen afore.

bad: ordered  
baleful: hurtful  
Tho gan: Then began
nathemore: never  
blin: cease  
attonce: at once
bestad: beset

With that at him a quiu'ring dart he threw,  
With so fell force and vilieinous despighte,  
That through his haberieon the forkehead flew,  
And through the linked mayles empierced quite,  
But had no powre in his soft flesh to bite:  
That stroke the hardy Squire did sore displease,  
But more that him he could not come to smite;  
For by no means the high banke he could sease,  
But labour'd long in that deepe ford with vaine disease.

fell: deadly  
haberieon & linked mayles: armor  
smite: hit

And still the foster with his long bore-speare  
Him kept from landing at his wished will;  
Anone one sent out of the thicket neare  
A cruell shaft, headed with deadly ill,  
And fethered with an vnlucky quill;  
The wicked steele stayd not, till it did light  
In his left thigh, and deepely did it thrill:  
Exceeding griece that wound in him empight,  
But more that with his foes he could not come to fight.

anone: suddenly  
thrill: pierce  
empight: cause

At last through wrath and vengeaunce making way,  
He on the bancke arriu'd with mickle paine,  
Where the third brother him did sore assay,  
And droue at him with all his might and maine  
A forrest bill, which both his hands did straine;  
But warily he did auoide the blow,  
And with his speare requited him againe,  
That both his sides were thrilled with the throw,  
And a large stremme of bloud out of the wound did flow.

wrath: anger  
mickle: much  
bill: battle ax

He tombling downe, with gnashing teeth did bite  
The bitter earth, and bad to let him in  
Into the balefull house of endlessse night,  
Where wicked ghosts do waile their former sin.  
Tho gan the battell freshly to begin;  
For nathemore for that spectacle bad,  
Did th'other two their cruell vengeaunce blin,  
But both attonce on both sides him bestad,  
And load vpon him layd, his life for to haue had.
Tho when that villain he auiz’d, which late
Affrighted had the fairest Florimell,
Full of fiers fury, and indignant hate,
To him he turned, and with rigour fell
Smote him so rudely on the Pannikell,
That to the chin he cleft his head in twaine:
Downe on the ground his carkas groueling fell;
His sinfull soule with desperate disdaine,
Out of her fleshly ferme fled to the place of paine.

Tho: then auiz’d: noticed smote: hit
Pannikell: helmet cleft his head in twain: cut his head in two
ferme: lodging (his body)

That seeing now the onely last of three,
Who with that wicked shaft him wounded had,
Trembling with horrour, as that did foresee
The fearefull end of his auengement sad,
Through which he follow should his brethren bad,
His bootelesse bow in feeble hand vpcaught,
And therewith shot an arrow at the lad;
Which faintly fluttring, scarce his helmet raught,
And glauncing fell to ground, but him annoyed naught.

Brethren: brothers bootless: futile naught: not at all

With that he would haue fled into the wood;
But Timias him lightly ouerhent,
Right as he entring was into the flood,
And strooke at him with force so violent,
That headlesse him into the foord he sent:
The carkas with the streame was carried downe,
But th’head fell backeward on the continent.

sterne: stern overhent: overtook the flood: the river
meaners: the 3 “low” brothers

He liues, but takes small ioy of his renowne;
For of that cruell wound he bled so sore,
That from his steed he fell in deadly swownd;
Yet still the bloud forth gusht in so great store,
That he lay wallowed all in his owne gore.
Now God thee keepe, thou gentlest Squire aliue,
Else shall thy louing Lord thee see no more,
But both of comfort him thou shalt depreiu,
And eke thy selfe of honour, which thou didst atchiue.

Line 3: He fell off his horse in a deadly faint eke: also

Prouidence heauenly passeth liuing thought,
And doth for wretched mens reliefe make way;
For loe great grace or fortune thither brought
Comfort to him, that comfortlesse now lay.
In those same woods, ye well remember may,
How that a noble hunteresse did wonne,
She, that base Braggadochio did affray,
And made him fast out of the forrest runne;
Belpheobe was her name, as faire as Phoebus sunne.

thither: to that place wonne: live affray: frighten

She on a day, as she pursed the chace
Of some wild beast, which with her arrowes keene
She wounded had, the same along did trace
By tract of bloud, which she had freshly seene,
To haue besprinckled all the grassy greene;
By the great persue, which she there perceau’d,
Well hoped she the beast engor’d had beene,
And made more hast, the life to haue bereau’d:
But ah, her expectation greatly was deceau’d.

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Of some wild beast, which with her arrowes keene
She wounded had, the same along did trace
By tract of bloud, which she had freshly seene,
To haue besprinckled all the grassy greene;
By the great persue, which she there perceau’d,
Well hoped she the beast engor’d had beene,
And made more hast, the life to haue bereau’d:
But ah, her expectation greatly was deceau’d.

Shortly she came, whereas that woefull Squire
With bloud deformed, lay in deadly swownd:
In whose faire eyes, like lamps of quenched fire,
The Christall humour stood congealed round;
His locks, like faded leaues fallen to grownd,
Knotted with bloud, in bounches rudely ran,
And his sweete lips, on which before that stownd
The bud of youth to blossome faire began,
Spoild of their rosie red, were woxen pale and wan.

stownd: stunned state were woxen: had become

Saw neuer liuing eye more heauy sight,
That could haue made a rocke of stone to rew,
Or rie in twaine: which when that Lady bright
Besides all hope with melting eyes did vew,
All suddeinly abasht she chaunged hew,
And with sterne horrour backward gan to start:
But when she better him beheld, she grew
Full of soft passion and vnwonted smart:
The point of pity perceiued through her tender hart.

Line 3: he saw the sad sight could have made a stone rock
feel pity or break in two unwonted smart: unaccustomed pain
Meekely she bowed downe, to weete if life yet in his frozen members did remaine, and feeling by his pulses beating rife, that the weake soule her seat did yet retaine, she cast to comfort him with busie paine: his double folded necke she reard vpright, and rubd his temples, and each trembling vaine; his mayled haberieon she did vndight, and from his head his heauy burganet did light.

Meekely she bowed downe, to weete if life
Yet in his frozen members did remaine,
And feeling by his pulses beating rife,
That the weake soule her seat did yet retaine,
She cast to comfort him with busie paine:
His double folded necke she reard vpright,
And rubd his temples, and each trembling vaine;
His mayled haberieon she did vndight,
And from his head his heauy burganet did light.

Mercy deare Lord (said he) what grace is this,
That thou hast shewed to me sinfull wight,
To send thine Angell from her bowre of blis,
To comfort me in my distressed plight?
Angell, or Goddesse do I call thee right?
What seruice may I do vnto thee meete,
That hast from darkenesse me returnd to light,
And with thy heavenly salues and med’cines sweete,
Hast drest my sinfull wounds? I kisse thy blessed feete.

Thereat she blushing said, Ah gentle Squire,
Nor Goddesse I, nor Angell, but the Mayd,
And daughter of a woody Nymphe, desire
No seruice, bu thy safety and ayd;
Which if thou gaine, I shalbe well apayd.
We mortall wights, whose liues and fortunes bee
To commun accidents still open layd,
Are bound with commun bond of frailtee,
To succour wretched wights, whom we captiued see.

By this he had sweete life recur’d againe,
And groning inly deepe, at last his eyes,
His watry eyes, drizling like deawy raine,
He vp gan lift toward the azure skies,
From whence descend all hopelesse remedies:
Therewith he sigh’d, and turning him aside,
The goodly Mayd full of divinitie,
And gifts of heavenly grace he by him spide,
Her bow and golden quier lying him beside.

Where when they saw that goodly boy, with blood
Defowled, and their Lady dresse his wownd,
They wondred much, and shortly vnderstood,
How him in deadly case their Lady fownd,
And reskewed out of the heauy stownd.
Eftsoones his warlike courser, which was strayd
Farre in the woods, whiles that he lay in swownd,
She made those Damzels search, which being stayd,
They did him set thereon, and forthwith them conuayd.
Into that forest farre they thence him led,
Where was their dwelling, in a pleasant glade,
With mountains round about enuironed,
And mighty woods, which did the valley shade,
And like a stately Theatre it made,
Spreading it selfe into a spatious plaine.
And in the midst a little riuver plaide

glade: valley  pumy: pumice  slaine: complain

Beside the same a dainty place there lay,
Planted with mirtle trees and laurels greene,
In which the birds song many a louely lay
Of gods high prayse, and of their loues sweet teene,
As it an earthly Paradize had beene:
In whose enclosed shadow there was pight
A faire Pavilion, scarcely to be seene,
The which was all within most richly dight,
That greatest Princes liuing it mote well delight.

lay: song  teene: sorrow  pight: placed
dight: arranged  mote: might

Thither they brought that wounded Squire, and layd
In easie couch his feeble limbes to rest,
He rested him a while, and then the Mayd
His ready wound with better salues new drest;
Dayly she dressed him, and did the best
His grieuous hurt to garish, that she might,
That shortly she his dolour hath redrest,
And his foule sore reduced to faire plight:
It she reduced, but himselfe destroyed quight.

she his dolour hath redrest: she had cured his sorrow
faire plight: good condition

O foolish Physick, and vnfruitfull paine,
That heals vp one and makes another wound:
She his hurt thigh to him recur'd againe,
But hurt his hart, the which before was sound,
Through an vnwary dart, which did rebound
From her faire eyes and gracious countenaunce.
What bootes it him from death to be vnbound,
To be captiuied in endlesse durauce
Of sorrow and despare without aleggeaunce?

Physick: medicine  sound: healthy  countenaunce: face
bootes: avails  durance: prison  aleggeaunce: alleviation

Still as his wound did gather, and grow hole,
So still his hart woxe sore, and health decayd:
Madnesse to saue a part, and lose the whole.
Still whenas he beheld the heauenly Mayd,
Whiles dayly plaisters to his wound she layd,
So still his Malady the more increast,
The whiles her matchlesse beautey him dismayd.
Ah God, what other could he do at least,
But loue so faire a Lady, that his life releast?

woxe sore: became hurt  malady: love sickness

Long while he stroue in his courageous brest,
With reason dew the passion to subdew,
And loue for to dislodge out of his nest:
Still when her excellencies he did vew,
Her soueraigne bounty, and celestiall hew,
The same to loue he strongly was constraind:
But when his meane estate he did reuew,
He from such hardy boldnesse was restraind,
And of his lucklesse lot and cruel loue thus plaind.

his meane estate: his low birth

Vnthankfull wretch (said he) is this the meed,
With which her soueraigne mercy thou doest quight?
Thy life she saued by her gracious deed,
But thou doest weene with vileinious despight,
To blot her honour, and her heauenly light.
Dye rather, dye, then so disloyally
Deeme of her high desert, or seeme so light:
Faire death it is to shonne more shame, to dy:
Dye rather, dy, then euer loue disloyally.

deeme: think  shone: shun
But foolish boy, what bootes thy service base
To her, to whom the heavens do serve and seue?
Thou a meane Squire, of meeke and lowly place,
She heauenly borne, and of celestiall Hew.
How then? of all loue taketh equall view:
And doth not highest God vouchsafe to take
The loue and service of the basest crew?
If she will not, dye meekly for her sake;
Dye rather, dye, then euer so faire loue forsake.

That dainty Rose, the daughter of her Morne,
More deare then life she tendered, whose flowre
The girlond of her honour did adorne:
Ne suffred she the Middayes scorching powre,
Ne the sharp Northerne wind thereon to showre,
But lapped vp her silken leaues most chaire,
When so the froward skye began to lowre:
But soone as calmed was the Christall aire,
She did it faire dispred, and let to florish faire.

Thus warried he long time against his will,
Till that through weaknesse he was forst at last,
To yield himselfe vnto the mighty ill:
Which as a victour proud, gan ransack fast
His inward parts, and all his entrayles wast,
That neither bloud in face, nor life in hart
It left, but both did quite drye vp, and blast;
As percing leuin, which the inner part
Of every thing consumes, and calcineth by art.

Eternall God in his almighty powre,
To make ensample of his heauenly grace,
In Paradize whilome did plant this flowre,
Whence he it fetcht out of her natiue place,
And did in stocke of earthly flesh enrace,
That mortall men her glory should admire
In gentle Ladies brest, and bounteous race
Of woman kind it fairest flowre doth spire,
And beareth fruit of honour and all chast desire.

Which seeing faire Belphoebe, gan to feare,
Least that his wound were inly well not healed,
Or that the wicked steele empoyysed were:
Litle she weend, that loue he close concealed;
Yet still he wasted, as the snow congealed,
When the bright sunne his beams thereon doth beat;
Yet neuer he his hart to her reuealed,
But rather chose to dye for sorrow great,
Then with dishonorable termes her to entreat.

Faire ympes of beautie, whose bright shining beames
Adorne the world with like to heauenly light,
And to your willes both royalties and Realmes
Subdew, through conquest of your wondrous might,
With this faire flowre your goodly girlonds dight,
Of chastity and vertue virginall,
That shall embellish more your beautie bright,
And crowne your heades with heauenly coronall,
Such as the Angels weare before Gods tribunall.

To youre faire selues a faire ensample frame,
Of this faire virgin, this Belphoebe faire,
To whom in perfect loue, and spotlesse fame,
Of chastitie, none liuing may compaire:
Ne poysnous Enuy iustly can empair
The praye of her fresh flowring Maidenhead;
For thy, she standeth on the highest staire
Of th'honorable stage of womanhead,
That Ladies all may follow her ensample dead.
In so great prayse of stedfast chastity,  
Nathlesse she was so curteous and kind,  
Tempred with grace, and goodly modesty,  
That seemed those two vertues stroue to find  
The higher place in her Heroick mind:  
So striuing each did other more augment,  
And both encreast the prayse of woman kind,  
And both encreast her beautie excellent;  
So all did make in her a perfect complement.

Cant. VI.

The birth of faire Belphoebe and  
Of Amoret is told.  
The Gardins of Adonis fraught  
With pleasures manifold.

1

VVEll may I weene, faire Ladies, all this while  
Ye wonder, how this noble Damozell  
So great perfections did in her compile,  
Sith that in saluage forests she did dwell,  
So farre from court and royall Citadell,  
The great schoolmistresse of all curtesy:  
Seemeth that such wild woods should far expell  
All ciuill vsage and gentility,  
And gentle sprite deforme with rude rusticity.

wene: know  
Sith: Since

2

But to this faire Belphoebe in her berth  
The heauens so fauourable were and free,  
Looking with myld aspect vpon the earth,  
In th'Horoscope of her nativitye,  
That all the gifts of grace and chastitie  
On her they poured forth of plenteous horne;  
Ioue laught on Venus from his soueraigne see,  
And Phoebus with faire beames did her adorne,  
And all the Graces rockt her cradle being borne.

soueraigne see: supreme seat

3

Her berth was of the wombe of Morning dew,  
And her conception of the ioyous Prime,  
And all her whole creation did her shew  
Pure and unsyttted from all loathly crime,  
That is ingenerate in fleshly slime.  
So was this virgin borne, so was she bred,  
So was she trayned vp from time to time,  
In all chast vertue, and true bounti-hed  
Till to her dew perfection she was ripened.

bounty-hed: generosity

4

Her mother was the faire Chrysogonee,  
The daughter of Amphisa, who by race  
A Faerie was, yborne of high degree,  
She bore Belphoebe, she bore in like cace  
Faire Amoretta in the second place:  
These two were twinnes, & twixt them two did share  
The heritage of all celestiall grace.  
That all the rest it seem'd they robbed bare  
Of bountie, and of beautie, and all vertues rare.

5

It were a goodly storie, to declare,  
By what straunge accident faire Chrysogone  
Conceu'd these infants, and how them she bare,  
In this wild forest wandring all alone,  
After she had nine moneths fulfild and gone:  
For not as other wemens commune brood,  
They were enwombed in the sacred throne  
Of her chaste bodie, nor with commune food,  
As other wemens babes, they sucked vitall blood.

bare: bore, carried

6

But wondrously they were begot, and bred  
Through influence of th'heauens fruitfull ray,  
As it in antique bookes is mentioned.  
It was vpon a Sommers shynie day,  
When Titan faire his beames did display,  
In a fresh fountaine, farre from all mens vew,  
She bath'd her brest, the boyling heat t'allay;  
She bath'd with roses red, and violets blew,  
And all the sweetest flowres, that in the forrest grew.

t'allay: lessen
Till faint through irksome weariness, adowne
Vpon the grassie ground her selfe she layd
To sleepe, the whiles a gentle slombring swowne
Vpon her fell all naked bare displayd;
The sunne-beames bright vpon her body playd,
Being through former bathing mollifide,
And piers into her wombe, where they embayd
With so sweet sence and secret power vnspide,
That in her pregnant flesh they shortly fructifide.

embayd: bathed fructified: conceived

Miraculous may seeme to him, that reades
So strange example of conception;
But reason teacheth that the fruitfull seades
Of all things liuing, through impression
Of the sunbeames in moyst complexion,
Doe life conceiue and quickned are by kynd:
So after Nilus invndation,
Infinite shapes of creatures men do fynd,
Informed in the mud, on which the Sunne hath shaynd.

Great father he of generation
Is rightly cald, th'author of life and light;
And his faire sister for creation
Ministreth matter fit, which tempred right
With heate and humour, breedes the liuing wight.
So sprong these twinnes in wombe of Chrysogone,
Yet wist she nought thereof, but very afraid;
Wondred to see her belly so upblone,
Which still increast, till she her terme had full outgone.

Line 7: Yet she knew nothing (of her progeny), but very afraid

Whereof conceuing shame and foule disgrace,
Albe her guiltlesse conscience her clerd,
She fled into the wilderness a space,
Till that vnweeldy burden she had reard,
And shund dishonor, which as death she feard:
Where wareie of long trauell, downe to rest
Her selfe she set, and comfortably cheard;
There a sad cloud of sleepe her overkest,
And seized euery sense with sorrow sore opprest.

Albe: although The story resumes at stanza 26.

It fortuned, faire Venus hauing lost
Her little sonne, the winged god of loue,
Who for some light displeasure, which him crost,
Was from her fled, as flit as ayerie Doue,
And left her blisfull bowre of ioy aboue,
(So from her often he had fled away,
When she for ought him sharply did reproue,
And wondred in the world in strange aray,
Disguiz'd in thousand shapes, that none might him bewray.)

As flit as ayerie Doue: as fast as a dove
aray: clothes bewray: reveal

Him for to seeke, she left her heauenly hous,
The house of goodly formes and faire aspects,
Whence all the world deriues the glorious
Features of beautie, and all shapes select,
With which high God his workmanship hath deckt;
And searched euery way, through which his wings
Had borne him, or his tract she mote detect:
She promist kisses sweet, and sweeter things
Vnto the man, that of him tydings to her brings.
mote: might tidings: news

First she him sought in Court, where most he vsed
Whylome to haunt, but there she found him not;
But many there she found, which sore accused
His falsehood, and with foule infamous blot
His cruell deedses and wicked wyles did spot:
Ladies and Lords she euery where mote heare
Complayning, how with his empoyesned shot
Their wofull harts he wounded had whyleare,
And so had left them languishing twixt hope and feare.

Whylome: formerly wyles: tricks whyleare: lately

She then the Citties sought from gate to gate,
And euery one did aske, did he him see;
And euery one her answered, that too late
He had him seene, and felt the crueltie
Of his sharpe darts and whot artillerie;
And euery one threw forth reproches rife
Of his mischieuous deedses, and said, that hee
Was the disturber of all ciuill life,
The enmy of peace, and author of all strife.

reproaches rife: numerous criticisms
Then in the countrey she abroad him sought,  
And in the rurall cottages inquired,  
Where also many plaints to her were brought,  
How he their heedlesse harts with loue had fyred,  
And his false venim through their veines inspyred;  
And eke the gentle shepheard swaynes, which sat  
Keeping their fleecie flockes, as they were hyred,  
She sweetly heard complains, both how and what  
Her sonne had to them doen; yet she did smile thereat.  

plaints: complaints  
heedlesse: careless  
eke: also  

But when in none of all these she him got,  
She gan auize, where else he mote him hyde:  
At last she her bethought, that she had not  
Yet sought the saluage woods and forrests wyde,  
In which full many louely Nymphes abyde,  
Mongst whom might be, that he did closely lye,  
Or that the loue of some of them him tyde:  
For thy, she thither cast her course t'apply,  
To search the secret haunts of Dianes company.  

mote: might  
Nymphes abyde: girls live  
For thy: therefore  

Shortly vnto the wasteful woods she came,  
Whereas she found the Goddesse with her crew,  
After late chace of their embrewed game,  
Sitting beside a fountaine in a rew,  
Some of them washing with the liquid dew  
From off their dainty limbes the dustie sweat,  
And soyle which did deforme their liuely hew;  
Others lay shaded from the scorching heat;  
The rest vpon her person gaue attendance great.  

Shortly vnto the wasteful woods she came,  
Whereas she found the Goddesse with her crew,  
After late chace of their embrewed game,  
Sitting beside a fountaine in a rew,  
Some of them washing with the liquid dew  
From off their dainty limbes the dustie sweat,  
And soyle which did deforme their liuely hew;  
Others lay shaded from the scorching heat;  
The rest vpon her person gaue attendance great.  

Soone as she Venus saw behind her backe,  
She was asham'd to be so loose surprized,  
And woxe halfe wroth against her damzels slacke,  
That had not her thereof before auized,  
But suffred her so carelesly disguizd  
Be ouertaken. Soone her garments loose  
Vpgath'ring, in her bosome she comprized,  
Well as she might, and to the Goddesse rose,  
Whiles all her Nymphes did like a girlond her enclose.  

woxe halfe wroth: became somewhat angry  
girlond: victory wreath  

Goodly she gan faire Cytherea greet,  
And shortly asked her, what cause her brought  
Into that wildernesse for her vnmeet,  
From her sweet bowres, and beds with pleasures fraught:  
That suddein change she strange aduenture thought.  
To whom halfe weeping, she thus answered,  
That she her dearest sonne Cupido sought,  
Who in his frowardnesse from her was fled;  
That she repented sore, to haue him angered.  

vnmeet: inappropriate  
bowres: bedrooms  
braught: full  
frowardnesse: disobedience  

Thereat Diana gan to smile, in scorne  
Of her vaine plaint, and to her scoffing sayd;  
Great pittie sure, that ye be so forlorne  
Of your gay sonne, that giues ye so good ayd  
To your disports: ill mote ye bene apayd.  
But she was more engriued, and replide;  
Faire sister, ill beseemes it to vpbrayd  
A dolefull heart with so disdainfull pride;  
The like that mine, may be your paine another tide.  
apayd: pleased, satisfied  
vpthrayd: fuss at  
dolefull: sorrowful  
tide: time  

As you in woods and wanton wildernesse  
Your glory set, to chace the saluage beasts,  
So my delight is all in ioyfulnesse,  
In beds, in bowres, in banckets, and in feasts:  
And ill becomes you with your loftie creasts,  
To scorne the ioy, that Ioue is glad to seeke;  
We both are bound to follow heauens beheasts,  
And tend our charges with obeisance meke:  
Spare, gentle sister, with reproch my paine to eke.  

beheasts: orders  
obeiisance: deference, obedience  
eke: increase
And tell me, if that ye my sonne haue heard,
To lurke amongst your Nymphes in secret wize;
Or keepe their cabins: much I am affeard,
Least he like one of them him selfe disguize,
And turne his arrowes to their exercize:
So may he long himselfe full easie hide:
For he is faire and fresh in face and guize,
As any Nymph (let not it be enuyde,)
So saying euery Nymph full narrowly she eyde.

Least: lest, for fear that guize: appearance

But Phoebe therewith sore was angered,
And sharply said; Goe Dame, goe seeke your boy,
Where you him lately left, in Mars his bed;
He comes not here, we scorne his idle toy:
Ne lend we leisure to his idle toy:
But if I catch him in this company,
By Stygian lake I vow, whose sad annoy
The Gods doe dread, he dearely shall abye:
Ile clip his wanton wings, that he no more shall fly.

abye: pay the penalty of, suffer for
wanton: undisciplined, sensual

Whom when as Venus saw so sore displeased,
She inly sory was, and gan relent,
What she had said: so her she soon appeased,
With sugred words and gentle blandishment,
Which as a fountaine from her sweet lips went,
And welled goodly forth, that in short space
She was well pleasd, and forth her damzels sent,
Through all the woods, to search from place to place,
If any tract of him or tydings they mote trace.

blandishment: coaxing words
line 9: If they might find any trace or news of him

To search the God of loue, her Nymphes she sent
Throughout the wandring forrest euery where:
And after them her selfe eke with her went
To seeke the fugitiue, both farre and nere,
So long they sought, till they arrived were
In that same shadie couert, whereas lay
Faire Crysogone in slombry traunce whilere:
Who in her sleepe (a wondrous thing to say)
Vnwares had borne two babes, as faire as springing day.

eke: also shadie couert: hidden spot in the woods
whilere: earlier

Vnwares she them conceiu'd, vnwares she bore:
She bore withouten paine, that she conceiued
Withouten pleasure: ne her need implore
Lucinaes aide: which when they both perceiued,
They were through wonder nigh of sense bereaued,
And gazing each on other, nought bespake:
At last they both agreed, her seeming grieued
Out of her heavy sowone not to awake,
But from her louing side the tender babes to take.

Lucinaes: the goddess of childbirth nigh of sense bereaued:
nearly senseless nought bespake: said nothing

Vp they them tooke, each one a babe vptooke,
And with them carried, to be fostered;
Dame Phoebe to a Nymph her babe betooke,
To be vpbrught in perfect Maydenhed,
And of her selfe her name belphoebe red:
But Venus hers thence farre away conuayd,
To be vpbrught in goodly womanhed,
And in her little loues stead, which was strayd,
Her Amoretta cald, to comfort her dismayd.

red: declared Amoretta means “Little Love.”

She brought her to her ioyous Paradize,
Where most she wonnes, when she on earth does dwel.
So faire a place, as Nature can deuize:
Whether in Paphos, or Cytheron hill,
Or it in Gnidus be, I wote not well;
But well I wote by tryall, that this same
All other pleasant places doth excell,
And called is by her lost louers name,
The Gardin of Adonis, farre renownd by fame.

wonnes: lives I wote not well: I don’t know [where the place was] farre renownd by fame: widely known

In that same Gardin all the goodly flowres,
Wherewith dame Nature doth her beautifie,
And decks the girlonds of her paramoures,
Are fetcht: there is the first seminarie
Of all things, that are borne to liue and die,
According to their kindes. Long worke it were,
Here to account the endlesse progenie
Of all the weedes, that bud and blossome there;
But so much as doth need, must needs be counted here.

seminarie: seed progenie: offspring
It sited was in fruitfull soyle of old,
And girt in with two walles on either side;
The one of yron, the other of bright gold,
That none might thorough breake, nor ouer-stride:
And double gates it had, which opened wide,
By which both in and out men moten pas;
Th’one faire and fresh, the other old and dride:
Old Genius the porter of them was,
Old Genius, the which a double nature has.

He letteth in, he letteth out to wend,
All that to come into the world desire;
A thousand thousand naked babes attend
About him day and night, which doe require,
Such as him list, such as eternall fate
Ordained hath, he clothes with sinfull mire,
And sendeth forth to liue in mortall state,
Till they againe returne backe by the hinder gate.

After that they againe returned beene,
They in that Gardin planted be againe;
And grow afresh, as they had neuer seene
Fleshly corruption, nor mortall paine.
Some thousand yeares so doen they there remaine;
And then of him are clad with other hew,
Or sent into the chaungefull world againe,
Till thither they returne, where first they grew:
So like a wheele around they runne from old to new.

All things from thence doe their first being fetch,
And borrow matter, whereof they are made,
Which when as forme and feature it does ketch,
Becomes a bodie, and doth then inuade
The state of life, out of the griesly shade.
That substance is eterne, and bideth so,
Ne when the life decayes, and forme does fade,
Doth it consume, and into nothing go,
But chaunged is, and often altred to and fro.

The substance is not chaunged, nor altered,
But th’only forme and outward fashion;
For evey substance is conditioned
To change her hew, and sundry formes to don,
Meet for her temper and complexion:
For formes are variable and decay,
By course of kind, and by occasion;
And that faire flowre of beautie fades away,
As doth the lilly fresh before the sunny ray.

Infinite shapes of creatures there are bred,
And vncoouth formes, which none yet euer knew,
And euer sort is in a sundry bed
Set by it selfe, and ranckt in comely rew:
Some fit for reasonable soules t’indew,
Some made for beasts, some made for birds to weare,
And all the fruitfull spawn of fishes hew
In endlesse rancks along enraunged were,
That seem’d the Ocean could not containe them there.

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Some made for beasts, some made for birds to weare,
And all the fruitfull spawn of fishes hew
In endlesse rancks along enraunged were,
That seem’d the Ocean could not containe them there.

Daily they grow, and daily forth are sent
Into the world, it to replenish more;
Yet is the stocke not lessened, nor spent,
But still remaines in euerlasting store,
As it at first created was of yore.
For in the wide wombe of the world there lyes,
In hatefull darkenesse and in deepe horrore,
An huge eternall Chaos, which supplyes
The substances of natures fruitfull progenyes.

All things from thence doe their first being fetch,
And borrow matter, whereof they are made,
Which when as forme and feature it does ketch,
Becomes a bodie, and doth then inuade
The state of life, out of the griesly shade.
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Meet for her temper and complexion:
For formes are variable and decay,
By course of kind, and by occasion;
And that faire flowre of beautie fades away,
As doth the lilly fresh before the sunny ray.
Great enimy to it, and to all the rest,
That in the Garden of Adonis springs,
Is wicked Time, who with his scythe address,
Does mow the flowring herbes and goodly things,
And all their glory to the ground downe flings,
Where they doe wither, and are fowly mard:
He flyes about, and with his flaggy wings
Beates downe both leaues and buds without regard,
Ne euer pittie may relent his malice hard.

Yet pittie often did the gods relent,
To see so faire things mard, and spoyled quight:
And their great mother Venus did lament
The losse of her deare brood, her deare delight:
Her hart was pierst with pittie at the sight,
When walking through the Gardin, them she spyde,
Yet no'te she find redresse for such despight.
All things decay in time, and to their end do draw.

But were it not, that Time their troubler is,
All that in this delightfull Gardin growes,
Should happie be, and haue immortall blis:
For here all plentie, and all pleasure flowes,
And sweet loue gentle fits emongst them throwes,
Without fell rancor, or fond gealosie;
Franckly each paramour his leman knowes,
Each bird his mate, ne any does enuie
Their goodly meriment, and gay felicitie.

There is continuall spring, and haruest there
Continuall, both meeting at one time:
For both the boughes doe laughing blossomes beare,
And with fresh colours decke the wanton Prime,
And eke attonce the heauiy trees they clime,
Which seeme to labour vnder their fruits lode:
The whiles the ioyous birds make their pastime
Emongst the shadie leaues, their sweet abode,
And their true loues without suspition tell abrode.

Right in the middest of that Paradise,
There stood a stately Mount, on whose round top
A gloomy groue of mirtle trees did rise,
Whose shadie boughes sharpe steele did neuer lop,
But like a girlond compassed the hight,
And from their fruitfull sides sweet gum did drop,
That all the ground with precious deaw bedight,
Threw forth most dainty odours, & most sweet delight.

And in the thickest couert of that shade,
There was a pleasant arbour, not by art,
But of the trees owne inclination made,
Which knitting their rancke braunches part to part,
With wanton yuie twyne entrayld athwart,
And Eglantine, and Caprifole emong,
Fashiond aboue within their inmost part,
That nether Phoebus beams could through them throng.

And all about grew euery sort of flowre,
To which sad louers were transformd of yore;
Fresh Hyacinthus, Phoebus paramoure,
And dearest loue:
Foolish Narcisse, that likes the watry shore,
Sad Amaranthus, made a flowre but late,
Sad Amaranthus, in whose purple gore
Me seemes I see Amintas wretched fate,
To whom sweet Poets verse hath giuen endlesse date.

There wont faire Venus often to enioy
Her deare Adonis ioyous company,
And reape sweet pleasure of the wanton boy;
There yet, some say, in secret he does ly,
Lapped in flowres and pretious spycery,
By her hid from the world, and from the skill
Of Stygian Gods, which doe her loue enuy;
But she her selfe, when euer that she will,
Possesseth him, and of his sweetnesse takes her fill.

wont: was accustomed
And sooth it seemes they say: for he may not
For euer die, and euer buried bee
In balefull night, where all things are forgot;
All be he subiect to mortalitie,
Yet is eterne in mutabilitie,
And by succession made perpetuall,
Transformed oft, and chaunged diuerslie:
For him the Father of all formes they call;
Therefore needs mote he liue, that liuing giues to all.

Hither great Venus brought this infant faire,
The younger daughter of Chrysogonee,
And vnto Psyche with great trust and care
Committed her, yfostered to bee,
And trained vp in true feminitee:
Who no lesse carefully her tendered,
Then her owne daughter Pleasure, to whom shee
Made her companion, and her lessoned
In all the lore of loue, and goodly womanhead.

In which when she to perfect ripenesse grew,
Of grace and beautie noble Paragone,
She brought her forth into the worldes vew,
To be th'ensample of true loue alone,
To all faire Ladies, that doe liue on ground.
To Faery court she came, where many one
Admyrd her goodly haueour, and found
His feeble hart wide launched with loues cruell wound.

But she to none of them her loue did cast,
Saue to the noble knight Sir Scudamore,
To whom her louing hart she linked fast
In faithfull loue, t'abide for euer more,
And for his dearest sake endured sore
Sore trouble of an hainous enimy;
Who her would forced haue to haue forlore
Her former loue, and stedfast loialty,
As ye may elsewhere read that ruefull history.

But well I weene, ye first desire to learne,
What end vnto that fearefull Damozell,
Which fled so fast from that same foster stearne,
Whom with his brethren Timias slew,
That was to weet, the goodly Florimell;
Who wandring for to seeke her louer deare,
As ye did heare, And from Prince Arthur fled with wings of idle feare.
Cant. VII.

The witches sonne loues Florimell:
she flyes, he faines to die.
Satyrane saues the Squire of Dames from Gyants tyrannie.

faines: pretends

1

I. Ike as an Hynd forth singled from the heard,
That hath escaped from a rauenous beast,
Yet flyes away of her owne feet affeard,
And euery leafe, that shaketh with the least
Murmure of winde, her terror hath encreast;
So fled faire Florimell from her vaine feare,
Long after she from perill was releast:
Each shade she saw, and each noyse she did heare,
Did seeme to be the same, which she escapt whyleare.

Hynd: deer
whyyleare: earlier

2

All that same euening she in flying spent,
And all that night her course continewed:
Ne did she let dull sleepe once to relent,
Nor wearinesse to slacke her hast, but fled
Euer alike, as if her former dred
Were hard behind, her readie to arrest:
The maistring raines out of her weary wrest,
Perforce her carried, where euer he thought best.

Palfrey: horse
line 8: the controlling reins out of her exhausted wrist
Perforce: necessarily

3

So long as breath, and hable puissance
Did natie courage vnto him supply,
His pace he freshly forward did aduaunce,
And carried her beyond all ieiurny,
But nought that wanteth rest, can long aby.
He haunging through incessant trauell spent
His force, at last perforce a downe did ly,
Ne foot could further moue: the Lady gent
Thenat was suddein strooke with great astonishment.

hable puissance: able power
nought that wanteth rest: nothing that lacks rest
aby: continue
the Lady gent: the gentle lady
spent: exhausted

4

And forst t'alight, on foot mot algates fare,
A traueller vnwonted to such way:
Need teacheth her this lesson hard and rare,
That fortune all in equall launce doth sway,
And mortall miseries doth make her play.
So long she trauelled, till at length she came
To an hilles side, which did to her bewray
A little valley, subject to the same,
All couerd with thick woods, that quite it ouercame.

algates: altogether
vnwonted: unaccustomed
launces: balance
bewray: reveal

5

Through the tops of the high trees she did descry
A little smoke, whose vapour thin and light,
Reeking aloft, vprolled to the sky:
Which, chearefull signe did send vnto her sight,
That in the same did wonne some liuing wight.
Eftsoones her steps she thereunto applyde,
And came at last in weary wretched plight
Vnto the place, to which her hope did guyde,
To find some refuge there, and rest her weary syde.

descry: make out
reeking: floating
woone: live
Eftsoones: soon after
plight: condition

6

There in a gloomy hollow glen she found
A little cottage, built of stickes and reedes
In homely wize, and wald with sods around,
In which a witch did dwell, in loathly weedes,
And wilfull want, all carelesse of her needes;
So choosing solitarie to abide,
Far from all neighbours, that her deuilish deedes
And hellish arts from people she might hide,
And hurt far off vnknowne, whom euer she enuide.

glen: valley
loathly weeds: loathsome clothes
willful want: deliberate poverty
line 9: She hurts from afar whoever she envies without their knowing it.

7

The Damzell there arriuing entred in;
Where sitting on the flore the Hag she found,
Busie (as seem'd) about some wicked gin:
Who soone as she beheld that suddein stound,
Lightly vpstarted from the dustie ground,
And with fell looke and hollow deadly gaze
Stared on her awhile, as one astound,
Ne had one word to speake, for great amaze,
But shewd by outward signes, that dread her sence did daze.

gin: trick
stound: danger
fell: deadly
astound: astonished
At last turning her fear to foolish wrath,
   She askt, what deuill had her thither brought,
   And who she was, and what vnwonted path
   Had guided her, vnwelcomed, vnsought?
   To which the Damzell full of doubtfull thought,
   Her mildly answer'd; Beldame be not wroth
   With silly Virgin by aduenture brought
   Vnto your dwelling, ignorant and loth,
   That craue but rowme to rest, while tempest ouerblo'th.

With that adowne out of her Christall eyne
   Few trickling teares she softly forth let fall,
   That like two Orient pearles, did purely shyne
   Vpon her snowy cheeke; and therewithall
   She sighed soft, that none so bestiall,
   Nor saluage hart, but ruth of her sad plight
   Would make to melt, or pitteously appall;
   And that vile Hag, all were her whole delight
   In mischiefe, was much moused at so pitteous sight.

This wicked woman had a wicked sonne,
   The comfort of her age and weary dayes,
   A laesie lord, for nothing good to donne,
   But stretched forth in idlenesse alwayes,
   Ne euer cast his mind to couet prayse,
   Or ply him selfe to any honest trade,
   But all the day before the sunny rayes
   He vs'd to slug, or sleepe in slothfull shade:
   Such laesinesse both lewd and poore attonce him made.

And gan recomfort her in her rude wyse,
   With womanish compassion of her plaint,
   Wiping the teares from her suffused eyes,
   And bidding her sit downe, to rest her faint
   And wearie limbs a while. She nothing quaint
   Nor s'deignfull of so homely fashion,
   Sith brought she was now to so hard constraint,
   Sate downe vpon the dusty ground anon,
   As glad of that small rest, as Bird of tempest gon.

But the faire Virgin was so meeke and mild,
   That she to them vouchsafed to embace
   Her goodly port, and to their senses vild,
   That in so straunge disguised there did maske,
   And by what accident she there arriued:
   But she, as one nigh of her wits depriued,
   With nought but ghastly lookes him answered,
   Like to a ghost, that lately is reuiued
   From Stygian shores, where late it wandered;
   So both at her, and each at other wondered.

But the faire Virgin was so meeke and mild,
   That she to them vouchsafed to embace
   Her goodly port, and to their senses vild,
   Her gentle speach applide, that in short space
   She grew familiare in that desert place.
   During which time, the Chorle through her so kind
   And curteise vse conceiu'd affection bace,
   And cast to loue her in his brutish mind;
   No loue, but brutish lust, that was so beastly tind.
Closely the wicked flame his bowels brent,
And shortly grew into outrageous fire;
Yet had he not the hart, nor hardiment,
As vnto her to vther his desire;
His caytiue thought durst not so high aspire,
But with soft sighes, and louely semblaunces,
He ween’d that his affection entire
She should aread; many resemblaunces
To her he made, and many kind remembraunces.

brent: burned         hardiment: bravery     caytiue: cowardly
durst: dared       semblances: entertainment    ween’d: thought
aread: detect      resemblances: looks

Oft from the forrest wildings he did bring,
Whose sides empurpled were with smiling red,
And oft young birds, which he had taught to sing
His mistresse prayses, sweetly caroled,
Girlonds of flowres sometimes for her faire hed
He fine would dight; sometimes the squirell wild
He brought to her in bands, as conquered
To be her thrall, his fellow seruant vild;
All which, she of him tooke with countenance meeke
and mild.

wildings: animals     dight: put, placed     thrall: servant
countenance: face

But past awhile, when she fit season saw
To leaue that desert mansion, she cast
In secret wize her selfe thence to withdraw,
For feare of mischiefe, which she did forecast
Might by the witch or by her sonne compast:
Her wearie Palfrey closely, as she might,
Now well recouered after long repast,
In his proud furnitures she freshly dight,
His late miswandred wayes now to remeasure right.
Palfrey: horse  repast: rest & relaxation
furnitures: equipment

But that lewd louer did the most lament
For her depart, that euer man did heare;
He knockt his brest with desperate intent,
And scratcht his face, and with his teeth did teare
His rugged flesh, and rent his ragged heare:
That his sad mother seeing his sore plight,
Was greatly woe begon, and gan to feare,
Least his fraile senses were emperisht quight,
And loue to frenzy turnd, sith loue is frantickie hight.

rent: tear       plight: situation
loue is frantickie hight: love is called madness

All wayes she sought, him to restore to plight,
With herbs, with charms, with counsell, & with teares,
But tears, nor charms, nor herbs, nor counsell might
Asswage the fury, which his entrails teares:
So strong is passion, that no reason heares.
Tho when all other helps she saw to faile,
She turnd her selfe backe to her wicked leares
And by her deulish arts thought to preuaile,
To bring her backe againe, or worke her finall bale.

plight: his proper condition     asswage: alleviate
entrails: inwards    Thu: then     leares: lessons     bale: evil

Eftsoones out of her hidden caue she cald
An hideous beast, of horrible aspect,
That could the stoutest courage haue appald;
Monstrous mishapt, and all his backe was spect
With thousand spots of colours queint elect,
Thereto so swift, that it all beasts did pas:
Like neuer yet did liuing eye detect;
But likest it to an Hyena was,
That feeds on womens flesh, as others feede on gras.

Eftsoones: soon after    appald: dismayed   spect: speckled
queint: quenched

It forth she cald, and gaue it streight in charge,
Through thicke and thin her to pursewe apace,
Ne once to stay to rest, or breath at large,
Till her he had attaind, and brought in place,
Or quite deuourd her beauties scornefull grace.
The Monster swift as word, that from her went,
Went forth in hast, and did her footing trace
So sure and swiftly, through his perfect scent,
And passing speedee, that shortly he her ouerhent.
apace: fast
Whom when the fearefull Damzell nigh espide,
No need to bid her fast away to flie;
That vgly shape so sore her terrifide,
That it she shund no lesse, then dread to die,
And her flit Palfrey did so well apply
His nimble feet to her conceiued feare,
That whilest his breath did strength to him supply,
From perill free he her away did beare:
But when his force gan faile, his pace gan wex areare.

flit Palfrey: fast horse  wex areare: become slow

Which whenas she perceiu'd, she was dismayd
At that same last extremitie full sore,
And of her safetie greatly grew afrayd;
And now she gan approch to the sea shore,
As it befell, that she could flie no more,
But yield her selfe to spoile of greedinesse.
Lightly she leaped, as a wight forlore,
From her dull horse, in desperate distresse,
And to her feet betooke her doubtfull sickernesse.
sore: grievous  a wight forlore: a hopeless person  sickernesse: safety

Not halfe so fast the wicked Myrrha fled
From dread of her reuenging fathers hond:
Nor halfe so fast to saue her maidenhed,
Fled fearefull Daphne on th'Ægæan strond,
As Florimell fled from that Monster yond,
To reach the sea, ere she of him were raught:
For in the sea to drowne her selfe she fond,
Rather then of the tyrant to be caught:
Thereto feare gaue her wings, and neede her courage taught.
era: before  raught: reached

It fortuned (high God did so ordaine)
As she arriued on the roring shore,
In minde to leape into the mighty maine,
A little boate lay houing her before,
In which there slept a fisher old and pore,
The whiles his nets were drying on the sand:
Into the same she leapt, and with the ore
Did thrust the shallop from the floting strand:
So safetie found at sea, which she found not at land.
maine: ocean  shallop: boast  strand: beach

The Monster ready on the pray to sease,
Was of his forward hope deceiued quight;
Ne durst assay to wade the perlous seas,
But greedily long gaping at the sight,
At last in vaine was forst to turne his flight,
And tell the idle tidings to his Dame:
Yet to auenge his deuilish despight,
He set vpon her Palfrey tired lame,
And slew him cruelly, ere any reskew came.
durst assay: dared try  idle tidings: futile news  ere: before

And after hauing him embowelled,
To fill his hellish gorge, it chaunst a knight
To passe that way, as forth he trauelled;
It was a goodly Swaine, and of great might,
As euer man that bloudy field did fight;
But in vaine shows, that wont yongknights bewitch,
And courtly seruices tooke no delight,
But rather ioyd to be, then seemen sich:
For both to be and seeme to him was labour lich.
gorge: throat  swaine: young men  wont: used
line 8: he preferred to be than to seem such  lich: alike, similar

It was to weete the good Sir Satyrane,
That raungd abroad to seeke aduentures wilde,
As was his wont in forrest, and in plaine;
He was all armd in rugged steele vnfilde,
As in the smoky forge it was compilde,
And in his Scutchin bore a Satyres hed:
He comming present, where the Monster vilde
Vpon that milke-white Palfreyes carkas fed,
Vnto his reskew ran, and greedily him sped.
to weete: namely  his wont: his habit  Scutchin: shield  a Satyre: half man/half goat  greedily: eagerly

There well perceiu'd he, that it was the horse,
Whereon faire Florimell was wont to ride,
That of that feend was rent without remorse:
Much feared he, least ought did ill betide
To that faire Mayd, the flowre of womens pride;
For her he dearely louved, and in all
His famous conquests highly magnifide:
Besides her golden girdle, which did fall
From her in flight, he found, that did him sore apall.
wont: accustomed  rent: ripped up  least ought: least something bad happened  girdle: belt  sore appall: grievously dismay
Full of sad fear, and doubtfull agony,
Fiercely he flew upon that wicked feend,
And with huge strokes, and cruel battery
Him forst to leaue his pray, for to attend
Him selfe from deadly daunger to defend:
Full many wounds in his corrupted flesh
He did engrave, and muchell bloud did spend,
Yet might not do him dye, but aye more fresh
And fierce he still appeared, the more he did him thresh.

He wist not, how him to despoile of life,
Ne how to win the wished victory,
Sith him he saw still stronger grow through strife,
And him selfe weaker through infirmity;
Greatly he grew enrag'd, and furiously
Hurling his sword away, he lightly lept
Vpon the beast, that with great cruelty
Rored, and raged to be under-kept:
Yet he perforce him held, and strokes vpon him hept.

As he that striues to stop a suddein flood,
And in strong banckes his violence enclose,
Forceth it swell aboue his wonted mood,
And largely ouerflow the fruitfull plaine,
That all the countrey seemes to be a Maine,
The wofull husbandman doth lowd complaine,
To see his whole yeares labour lost so soone,
For which to God he made so many an idle boone.

So him he held, and did through might amate:
So long he held him, and him bet so long,
That at the last his fiercenesse gan abate,
And meekely stoup vnto the victour strong:
Who to auenge the implacable wrong,
Which he supposed done to Florimell,
Sought by all meanes his dolour to prolong,
Sith dint of steele his carcas could not quell:
His maker with her charmes had framed him so well.

The golden ribband, which that virgin wore
About her sclender wast, he tooke in hand,
And with it bound the beast, that lowd did rore
For great despight of that vnwonted band,
Yet dared not his victour to withstand,
But trembled like a lambe, fled from the pray,
And all the way him followed on the strand,
As he had long bene learned to obey;
Yet neuer learned he such service, till that day.

Thus as he led the Beast along the way,
He spide far off a mighty Giauntesse,
Fast flying on a Courser dappled gray,
From a bold knight, that with great hardinesse
Her hard pursewed, and sought for to suppress;
She bore before her lap a dolefull Squire,
Lying athwart her horse in great distresse,
Fast bounden hand and foote with cords of wire,
Whom she did meane to make the thrall of her desire.

Like as a Goshauke, that in footo doth beare
A trembling Culuer, hauing spide on hight
An Egle, that with plumy wings doth sheare
The subtile ayre, stouping with all his might,
The quarrey throwes to ground with fell despight,
And to the battell doth her selfe prepare:
So ran the Geauntesse vnto the fight;
Her firie eyes with furious sparkes did stare,
And with blasphemous bannes high God in peeces tare.
She caught in hand an huge great yron mace,
Wherewith she many had of life deprivèd,
But ere the stroke could seize his aymed place,
His speare amids her sun-broad shield arriued;
Yet nathemore the steele a sunder riued,
All were the beame in bignesse like a mast,
Ne her out of the stedfast sadle driued,
But glauncing on the tempred mettal, brast
In thousand shiuers, and so forth beside her past.

mace: scepter, ceremonial staff     ere: before
line 5: yet nevertheless the steel broke into pieces        brast: broke

Her Steed did stagger with that puissaunt strooke;
But she no more was moued with that might,
Then it had lighted on an aged Oke;
Or on the marble Pillour, that is pight
Vpon the top of Mount Olympus hight,
For the braue youthly Champions to assay,
With burning charet wheeles it nigh to smite:
But who that smites it, mars his ioyous play,
And is the spectacle of ruinous decay.

Steed: horse         puissaunt: powerful         pight: placed
chariot     it nigh to smite: to come close to hitting it

Yet therewith sore enrag'd, with sterne regard
Her dreadfull weapon she to him addrest,
Which on his helmet martelled so hard,
That made him low incline his lofty crest,
And bowd his battred visour to his brest:
Wherewith he was so stund, that he n’ote ryde,
But reeled to and fro from East to West:
Which when his cruell enimy espyde,
She lightly vnto him adioyned side to syde;

sore: very     martelled: hammered     n’ote ryde: might not ride

And on his collar laying puissant hand,
Out of his wauering seat him pluckt perforse,
Perforse him pluckt, vnable to withstand,
Or helpe himselfe, and laying thwart her horse,
In loathly wise like to a carion corse,
She bore him fast away. Which when the knight,
That her pursewed, saw with great remorse,
He neare was touched in his noble spright,
And gan encrease his speed, as she encreast her flight.

perforce: of necessity     thwart: across     loathly: repulsive
carion corse: decaying corpse

To whom approching, well he mote perceiue
In that foule plight a comely personage,
And louely face, made fit for to deceiue
Fraile Ladies hart with loues consuming rage,
Now in the blossome of his freshest age:
He reard him vp, and loosd his yron bands,
And after gan inquire his parentage,
And how he fell into that Gyaunts hands,
And who that was, which chaced her along the lands.

mote: might       gan: began

Then trembling yet through feare, the Squire bespake,
That Geauntesse Argante is behight,
A daughter of the Titans which did make
Warre against heauen, and heaped hils on hight,
To scale the skyes, and put Ioue from his right:
Her sire Typhoeus was, who mad through merth,
And drunkne with bloud of men, slaine by his might,
Through incest, her of his owne mother Earth
Whilome begot, being but halfe twin of that berth.

beught: named         sire: father         mirth: mirth, revelling
Whilome: formerly
For at that berth another Babe she bore,
   To weet the mighty Ollyphant, that wrought
   Great wreake to many errant knights of yore,
   And many hath to foule confusion brought.
These twinnes, men say, (a thing far passing thought)
   Whiles in their mothers wombe enclosd they were,
   Ere they into the lightsome world were brought,
   In fleshly lust were mingled both yfere,
   And in that monstrous wise did to the world appere.

To weet: namely errant knights of yore: wandering knights in the
   past ere: before yfere: together

So liu'd they euer after in like sin,
   Gainst natures law, and good behauioure:
   But greatest shame was to that maiden twin,
   Who not content so fowly to deuoure
   Her natiue flesh, and staine her brothers bowre,
   Did wallow in all other fleshly myre,
   And suffred beasts her body to deflowre:
   So whot she burned in that lustfull fyre,
   Yet all that might not slake her sensuall desyre.
bowre: bedroom fleshly myre: sensual muck slake: lessen

But ouer all the countrey she did raunge,
   To seeke young men, to quench her flaming thurst,
   And feed her fancy with delightfull chaunge:
   Whom so she fittest finds to serue her lust,
   Through her maine strength, in which she most doth trust,
   She with her brings into a secret Ile,
   Where in eternall bondage dye he must,
   Or be the vassall of her pleasures vile,
   And in all shamefull sort him selfe with her defile.
her fancy: her desires Ile: island vassal: slave defile: debase

Me seely wretch she so at vauntage caught,
   After she long in waite for me did lye,
   And meant vnto her prison to haue brought,
   That thousand deathes me leuer were to dye,
   Then breake the vow, that to faire Columbell
   I plighted haue, and yet keepe stedfastly:
   As for my name, it mistreth not to tell;
   Call me the Squyre of Dames that me beseemeth well.
seely: simple, innocent me leuer were: I’d rather Then: than
plighted: pledged mistreth: signifies, matters me beseemeth well: suits me well

But that bold knight, whom ye pursuing saw
   That Geauntesse, is not such, as she seemed,
   But a faire virgin, that in martiall law,
   And deedes of armes aboue all Dames is deemed,
   For her great worth; she Palladine is hight:
   That shall I you recount (quoth he) ywis,
   So be ye pleasd to pardon all amis.
beseemes: fits read: tell recount (quoth he) ywis: tell (he said) truly amis: wrongs

I glad by any meanes her grace to gaine,
   Bad her commaund my life to saue, or spill.
Eftsoones she bad me, with incessaunt paine
   To wander through the world abroad at will,
   And ev ery where, where with my power or skill
   I might do seruice vnto gentle Dames,
   That I the same should faithfully fulfill,
   And at the twelve monethes end should bring their names
   And pledges; as the spoiles of my victorious games.
Bad: told Eftsoones: soon

So well I to faire Ladies seruice did,
   And found such fauour in their louing hartes,
   That ere the yeare his course had compassid,
   Three hundred pledges for my good desartes,
   And thrise three hundred thanks for my good partes
   I with me brought, and did to her present:
   Which when she saw, more bent to eke my smartses,
   Then to reward my trusty true intent,
   She gan for me devise a grieuous punishment.
ere: before thrise: three times eke my smartses: increase my pains gan: began
To weet, that I my trauell should resume,
And with like labour walke the world around,
Ne euer to her presence should presume,
Till I so many other Dames had found,
The which, for all the suit I could propound,
Would me refuse their pledges to afford,
But did abide for euer chast and sound.
Ah gentle Squire (quoth he) tell at one word,
How many foundst thou such to put in thy record?

To weet: namely their pledges: their promises of love
abide: remain

In deed Sir knight (said he) one word may tell
All, that I euer found so wisely stayd;
For onely three they were disposd so well,
And yet three yeares I now abroad haue strayd,
To find them out. Mote I (then laughing sayd
The knight) inquire of thee, what were those three,
The which thy proffred curtesie denayd?
Or ill they seemed sure auizd to bee,
Or brutishly brought vp, that neu'r did fashions see.
The first which then refused me (said hee)
Certes was but a common Courtisane,
Yet flat refusd to haue a do with mee,
Because I could not giue her many a Iane.
(Thereat full hartely laughed Satyrane.)
The second was an holy Nunne to chose,
Which would not let me be her Chappellane,
Because she knew, she said, I would disclose
Her counsell, if she should her trust in me repose.
The third a Damzell was of low degree,
Whom I in countrey cottage found by chaunce;
Full little weened I, that chastitee
Had lodging in so meane a maintenaunce,
Yet was she faire, and in her countenance
Dwelt simple truth in seemely fashion.
Long thus I woo'd her with dew obseruance,
In hope vnto my pleasure to haue won;
But was as farre at last, as when I first begon.

The Witch creates a snowy Lady,
Like to Florimell,
Who wrongd by Carle by Proteus sau'd,
Is sought by Paridell.

Carle: churl, rude person

Cant. VIII.

So oft as I this history record,
My hart doth melt with meere compassion,
To thinke, how causelesse of her owne accord
This gentle Damzell, whom I wrote vpon,
Should plonged be in such affliction,
Without all hope of comfort or reliefe,
That sure I weene, the hardest hart of stone,
Would hardly find to aggrauate her grievance;
For misery craues rather mercie, then repriewe.

repriewe: reproof, shame
But that accursed Hag, her hostesse late,
    Had so enrankled her malitious hart,
That she desyrd th'abridgement of her fate,
Or long enlargement of her painefull smart.
Now when the Beast, which by her wicked art
Late forth she sent, she backe returning spyde,
Tyde with her broken girdle, it a part
Of her rich spoiles, whom he had earst destroyd,
She weend, and wondrous gladnesse to her hart applyde.

Line 3-4: she desired to kill her or increase her pain

And with it running hast'ly to her sonne,
    Thought with that sight him much to haue reliued;
Who thereby deeming sure the thing as donne,
His former grieve with furie fresh reuiued,
    Much more then earst, and would haue algates riued
The hart out of his brest: for sith her ded
He surely dempt, himselfe he thought depruied
Quite of all hope, wherewith he long had fed
His foolish maladie, and long time had misled.

algates: altogether   riued: tom   dempt: thought

With thought whereof, exceeding mad he grew,
    And in his rage his mother would haue slaine,
Had she not fled into a secret mew,
Where she was wont her Sprights to entertaine
The maisters of her art: there was she faine
To call them all in order to her ayde,
And them coniure vpon eternall paine,
To counsell her so carefully dismayd,
How she might heale her sonne, whose senses were decayd.

mew: den   faine: eager

counterfeisance: deception   wyles: tricks

By their aduise, and her owne wicked wit,
She there deuiz'd a wondrous worke to frame,
Whose like on earth was neuer framed yit,
That cuen Nature selfe enuide the same,
And grudg'd to see the counterfet should shame
The thing it selfe. In hand she boldly tooke
To make another like the former Dame,
Another Florimell, in shape and looke
So liuely and so like, that many it mistooke.

ought algate: anything altogether
Tho fast her clipping twixt his armes twaine,
Extremely joyed in so happie sight,
And soone forgot his former sickly paine;
But she, the more to seeme such as she hight,
Coyly rebutted his embracement light;
Yet still with gentle countenaunce retained,
Enough to hold a foole in vaine delight:
As her Creatresse had in charge to her ordained.

Tho: then her clipping twixt his armes twaine: holding her between his two arms
hight: was named
coyly: flirtatiously
countenaunce: face

Till on a day, as he disposed was
To walke the woods with that his Idole faire,
Her to disport, and idle time to pas,
In th'open freshnesse of the gentle aire,
A knight that way there chaunced to repaire;
Yet knight he was not, but a boastfull swaine,
That deedes of armes had euer in despaire,
Proud Braggadocchio, that in vaunting vaine
His glory did repose, and credit did maintaine.

disport: play, sport
swain: person
vaunting: boasting

He seeing with that Chorle so faire a wight,
Decked with many a costly ornament,
Much merueiled thereat, as well he might,
And thought that match a fowle disparagement:
His bloudie speare eftsoones he boldly bent
Against the silly clowne, who dead through feare,
Fell streight to ground in great astonishment;
Villein (said he) this Ladie is my deare,
Dy, if thou it gainesay: I will away her beare.

Chorle: churl, rude person
wight: person
efsoones: soon after
silly clowne: foolish boy
gainesay: contradict

Fiercely that stranger forward came, and nigh
Approching, with bold words and bitter threat,
Bad that same boaster, as he mote, on high
To leaue to him that Lady for excheat,
Or bide him battell without further treat.
That challenge did too peremptory seeme,
And fild his senses with abashment great;
Yet seeing nigh him ieopardy extreme,
He it dissembled well, and light seem'd to esteeme.

Bad: arured
excheat: gain, profit
bide: endure
treat: discourse
peremptory: bossy, commanding
abashment: fear
ieopardy: danger
line 9: He pretended the threat was nothing.

Saying, Thou foolish knight, that weenst with words
To steale away, that I with blowes haue wonne,
And brought through points of many perilous swords:
But if thee list to see thy Courser ronne,
Or proue thy selfe, this sad encounter shonne,
And seeke else without hazard of thy hed.
At those proud words that other knight begonne
To wexe exceeding wroth, and him ared
To turne his steede about, or sure he should be ded.

weenst: thinks
list: want
Courser: horse
shonne: shun, avoid
To wexe exceedingly wroth: to become really mad
ared: advised
steede: horse
Sith then (said Braggadocchio) needes thou wilt
Thy dayes abridge, through proofe of puissane,
Turne we our steedes, that both in equall tilt
May meet againe, and each take hapie chance.
This said, they both a furlongs mountenance
Retyrd their steeds, to ronne in euen race:
But Braggadocchio with his bloudie lance
Once hauing turnd, no more returnd his face,
But left his loue to losse, and fled himselfe apace.

Sith...abridge: Since you insist on ending your life
puissance: power  furlong: length of a football field  apace: fast

The knight him seeing fly, had no regard
Him to poursue, but to the Ladie rode,
And hauing her from Trompart lightly reard,
Vpon his Courser set the louely lode,
And with her fled away without abode.
Well weened he, that fairest Florimell
It was, with whom in company he yode,
And so her selfe did alwaies to him tell;
So made him thinke him selfe in heauen, that was in hell.

reared: taken away  abode: delay  weened: knew  yode: went

But Florimell her selfe was farre away,
Driuen to great distresse by Fortune straunge,
And taught the carefull Mariner to play,
Sith late mischaunce had her compeld to chaunge
The land for sea, at randon there to raunge:
Yet there that cruell Queene auengeresse,
Not satisfide so farre her to estraunge
From courtly blisse and wonted happinesse,
Did heape on her new waues of weary wretchednesse.

Mariner: sailor  sith: since  that cruell Queene auengeresse: the goddess Fortuna (Fortune)
wonted: accustomed

For being fled into the fishers bote,
For refuge from the Monsters crueltie,
Long so she on the mightie maine did flote,
And with the tide droue forward careleslie;
For th'aire was mildre, and cleared was the skie,
And all his windes Dan Aeolus did keepe,
From stirring vp their stormy enmitie,
As pitying to see her waile and weeppe;
But all the while the fisher did securely sleepe.

maine: ocean  enmitie: hatred  waile: lament

At last when droncke with drowsinesse, he woke,
And saw his drouer driue along the streame,
He was dismayd, and thrise his breast he stroke,
For maruell of that accident extreame;
But when he saw that blazing beauties beame,
Which with rare light his bote did beautifie,
He marueild more, and thought he yet did dreame
Not well awakt, or that some extasie
Assotted had his sense, or dazed was his eie.
drouer: a boat  thrise: three times
assotted: befooled, beguiled, bewildered

But when her well auizing, he perceiued
To be no vision, nor fantastick sight,
Great comfort of her presence he conceiued,
And felt in his old courage new delight
To gin awake, and stirre his frozen spright:
Tho rudely askt her, how she thither came.
Ah (said she) father, I note read aright,
What hard misfortune brought me to the same;
Yet am I glad that here I now in safety am.
auzing: viewing  gin: began  spright: spirit  Tho: then  note read: can’t tell

But thou good man, sith farre in sea we bee,
And the great waters gin apace to swell,
That now no more we can the maine-land see,
Haue care, I pray, to guide the cock-bote well,
Least worse on sea then vs on land befell.
Thereat th'old man did nought but fondly grin,
And said, his boat the way could wisely tell:
But his deceitfull eyes did neuer lin,
To looke on her faire face, and marke her snowy skin.
cock-bote: skiff  least: lest, for fear that  befell: happened
naught: nothing  lin: cease

The sight whereof in his congealed flesh,
Infixt such secret sting of greedy lust,
That the driest wood is soonest burnt to dust.
Rudely to her he lept, and his rough hand
Where ill became him, rashly would haue thrust,
But she with angry scorne him did withstond,
And shamefully reproued for his rudenesse fond.
reprooued for his rudenesse fond: rebuked (disapproved of) for his foolish forwardness
But he, that neuer good nor maners knew,  
Her sharpe rebuke full litle did esteeme;  
Hard is to teach an old horse amble trew.  
The inward smoke, that did before but steeme,  
Broke into open fire and rage extreme,  
And now he strength gan adde vnto his will,  
Forcing to doe, that did him fowle misseeme:  
Beastly he threw her downe, ne car'd to spill  
Her garments gay with scales of fish, that all did fill.

rage: passion     gan: began    misseeme: misbecome

The silly virgin stroue him to withstand,  
All that she might, and him in vaine reuild:  
She struggled strongly both with foot and hand,  
To saue her honor from that villaine vild,  
And cride to heauen, from humane helpe exild.  
O ye braue knights, that boast this Ladies loue,  
Where be ye now, when she is nigh defild  
Of filthy wretch? well may shee you reproue  
Of falshood or of slouth, when most it may behoue.

silly: innocent, naïve    reprove: accuse    slouth: laziness    behoue: be fitting

But if that thou, Sir Satyran, didst weete,  
Or thou, Sir Peridure, her sorie state,  
How soone would yee assemble many a fleete,  
To fetch from sea, that ye at land lost late;  
Towres, Cities, Kingdomes ye would ruinate,  
In your auengement and dispiteous rage,  
Ne ought your burning fury mote abate;  
But if Sir Calidore could it presage,  
No liuing creature could his cruelty asswage.

weete: know    ought: anything    mote abate: might lessen    presage: foresee

But sith that none of all her knights is nye,  
See how the heauens of voluntary grace,  
And soueraine fauour towards chastity,  
Doe succour send to her distressed cace:  
So much high God doth innocence embrace.  
It fortuned, whilst thoo she stilly stroue,  
And the wide sea importuned long space  
With shrilling shriekes, Proteus abroad did roue,  
Along the fomy waues driving his finny droue.

sith: since    nye: near    soccour: aid    importuned: begged

Proteus is Shepheard of the seas of yore,  
And hath the charge of Neptunes mightie heard;  
An aged sire with head all frory hore,  
And sprinckled frost vpon his deawy beard:  
Who when those pittifull outcries he heard,  
Through all the seas so ruefully resound,  
His charet swift in haste he thither steard,  
Which with a teeme of scaly Phocas bound  
Was drawne vpon the waues, that fomed him around.

yore: the past    hore: white    charet: chariot

And comming to that Fishers wandring bote,  
That went at will, withouten carde or sayle,  
He therein saw that yrkesome sight, which smote  
Depee indignation and compassIon frayle  
Into his hart attonce: streight did he hayle  
The greedy villein from his hoped pray,  
Of which he now did very litle fayle,  
And with his staffe, that drives his Heard astray,  
Him bet so sore, that life and sense did much dismay.

carde: map    smote: cause    attonce: at once    hayle: drag    bet: beat

The whiles the pitteous Ladie vp did ryse,  
Ruffled and fowly raid with filthy soyle,  
And blubbred face with teares of her faire eyes:  
Her heart nigh broken was with weary toyle,  
To saue her selfe from that outrageous spoyle,  
But when she looked vp, to weet, what wight  
Had her from so infamous fact assoyld,  
For shame, but more for feare of his grim sight,  
Downe in her lap she hid her face, and loudly shright.

raid: covered    to weet: to know    wight: person    assoyled: set free    shright: shrieked

Her selfe not saued yet from daunger dred  
She thought, but chaung'd from one to other feare;  
Like as a fearefull Partridge, that is fled  
From the sharpe Hauke, which her attached neare,  
And fals to ground, to seeke for succour theare,  
Whereas the hungry Spaniels she does spy,  
With greedy iawes her readie for to teare;  
In such distresse and sad perplexity  
Was Florimell, when Proteus she did see thereby.
But he endeavoured with speeches milde
   Her to recomfort, and accourage bold,
   Bidding her feare no more her foeman wild,
   Nor doubt himselfe; and who he was, her told.
   Yet all that could not from affright her hold,
   Ne to recomfort her at all preuayled;
   For her faint heart was with the frozen cold
   Benumbd so inly, that her wits nigh fayld,
   And all her senses with abashment quite were quayld.

endeavoured: tried     accourage: encourage     bidding: telling
foeman wild: wild enemy

Her vp betwixt his rugged hands he reard,
   And with his frory lips full softly kist,
   Whiles the cold ystickles from his rough beard,
   Dropped adowne vpon her yuorie brest:
   Yet he himselfe so busily addrest,
   That her out of astonishment he wrought,
   And out of that same fishers filthy nest
   Remouing her, into his charret brought,
   And there with many gentle termes her faire besought.

addrest: applied          astonishment: insensibility     charret: chariot

But that old leachour, which with bold assault
   That beautie durst presume to violate,
   He cast to punish for his hainous fault;
   Then tooke he him yet trembling Sith of late,
   And tyde behind his charret, to aggrate
   The virgin, whom he hadabusde so sore:
   So drag'd him through the wauues in scornewfull state,
   And after cast him vp, vpon the shore;
   But Florimell with him vnto his bowre he bore.

durst: dared     aggrate: to please    bowre: bedroom

His bowre is in the bottome of the maine,
   Vnder a mightie rocke, gainst which do raue
   The roaring billowes in their proud disdaine,
   That with the angry working of the waue,
   Therein is eaten out an hollow caue,
   That semes rough Masons hand with engines keene
   Had long while laboured it to engrave:
   There was his wonne, ne liuing wight was seene,
   Saue one old Nymph, hight Panope to keepe it cleane.

maine: ocean     wonne: house     saue: except
Eternall thraldome was to her more liefe,
Then losse of chastitie, or chaunge of loue:
Die had she rather in tormenting griefe,
Then any should of falsenesse her reproue,
Or loosenesse, that she lightly did remoue.
Most vertuous virgin, glory be thy meed,
And crowne of heauenly praise with Saints aboue,
Where most sweet hymmes of this thy famous deed
Are still emongst them song, that far my rymes exceed.

Fit song of Angels caroled to bee;
But yet what so my feeble Muse can frame,
Shall be t'aduance thy goodly chastitee,
And to enroll thy memorable name,
In th'heart of euery honourable Dame,
That they thy vertuous deedes may imitate,
And be partakers of thy endlesse fame.
To tell of Satyrane, where I him left of late.

Who hauing ended with that Squire of Dames
A long discourse of his aduentures vaine,
The which himselfe, then Ladies more defames,
And finding not th'Hyena to be slaine,
With that same Squyre, returned backe againe
To his first way. And as they forward went,
They spyde a knight faire pricking on the plaine,
As if he were on some aduenture bent,
And in his port appeared manly hardiment.

Ah gentle knight (said then Sir Satyrane)
Thy labour all is lost, I greatly dread,
That hast a thanklesse seruice on thee ta'ne,
And offrest sacrifice vnto the dead:
For dead, I surely doubt, thou maist aread
Henceforth for euer Florimell to be.
That all the noble knights of Maydenhead,
Which her ador'd, may sore repent with me,
And all faire Ladies may for euer sory be.

Which words when Paridell had heard, his hew
Gan greatly chaunge, and seem'd dismayd to bee;
Then said, Faire Sir, how may I weene it trew,
That ye doe tell in such vncertaintee?
Or speake ye of report, or did ye see
Iust cause of dread, that makes ye doubt so sore?
For perdie else how mote it euer bee,
That euer hand should dare for to engore
Her noble bloud? the heauens such crueltie abhore.

These eyes did see, that they will euer rew
Thaue seene, (quoth he) when as a monstrous beast
The Palfrey, whereon she did trauell, slew,
And of his bowels made his bloudie feast:
Which speaking token sheweth at the least
Her certaine losse, if not her sure decay:
Besides, that more suspition encreast,
I found her golden girdle cast astray,
Distaynd with durt and bloud, as relique of the pray.
Aye me, (said Paridell) the signes be sad,  
And but God turne the same to good soothsay,  
That Ladies safetie is sore to be drad:  
Yet will I not forsake my forward way,  
Till triall doe more certaine truth bewray.  
Faire Sir (quoth he) well may it you succeed,  
Ne long shall Satyrane behind you stay,  
But to the rest, which in this Quest proceed  
My labour adde, and be partaker of their speed.

Ye noble knights (said then the Squire of Dames)  
Well may ye speed in so praiseworthy paine:  
But sith the Sunne now ginnes to slake his beames,  
And lose the teme out of his weary waine,  
Mote not mislike you also to abate  
Your zealous hast, till morrow next againe  
Both light of heauen, and strength of men relate:  
Which if ye please, to yonder castle turne your gate.

That counsell pleased well; so all yfere  
Forth marched to a Castle them before,  
Where soone arriuing, they restrained were  
Of readie entrance, which ought euermore  
To errant knights be commun: wondrous sore  
Theyreat displeasid they were, till that young Squire  
Gan them informe the cause, why that same dore  
Was shut to all, which lodging did desire:  
The which to let you weet, will further time require.

Malbecco will no straunge knights host,  
For peeuish gealosie:  
Paridell giusts with Britomart:  
Both shew their auncestrie.

cant. IX.
But he is old, and withered like hay,  
Vnfit faire Ladies seruice to supply;  
The priuie guilt whereof makes him alway  
Suspect her truth, and keepe continuall spy  
Vpon her with his other blincked eye;  
Ne suffreth he resort of liuing wight  
Approch to her, ne keepe her company,  
But in close bowre her mewes from all mens sight,  
Depriu'd of kindly ioy and naturall delight.  

triuie: hidden, secret  
blincked: dim  
suffreth: allows  
bowre: bedroom  
her mewes: pens her up  

Malbecco he, and Hellenore she hight,  
Vnfitly yokt together in one teeme,  
That is the cause, why neuer any knight  
Is suffred here to enter, but he seeme  
Such, as no doubt of him he neede misdeeme.  
Thereat Sir Satyrane gan smile, and say;  
Extremely mad the man I surely deeme,  
That weenes with watch and hard restraint to stay  
A womans will, which is disposd to go astray.  
Miseeme: suspect  
mad: crazed  
deen: think  
weenes: supposes  
stay: restrain  

In vaine he feares that, which he cannot shonne:  
For who wotes not, that womans subtiltyes  
Can guilen Argus, when she list misdonne?  
It is not yron bandes, nor hundred eyes,  
Nor brassen walls, nor many wakefull spyes,  
That can withhold her wilfull wandring feet;  
But fast good will with gentle curtesyes,  
And timely seruice to her pleasures meet  
May her perhaps containe, that else would algates fleet.  
shone: shun, prevent  
lines 2-3: For who knows not, that woman’s subtlety can trick Argus [of the 100 eyes], when she wants to misbehave?  
brazen: brass  
meet: fitting  
algate fleet: altogether fly  

Then is he not more mad (said Paridell)  
That hath himselfe vnto such seruice sold,  
In dolefull thraldome all his dayes to dwell?  
For sure a foole I do him firmly hold,  
That loues his fetters, though they were of gold.  
But why do we deuise of others ill,  
Whiles thus we suffer this same dotard old,  
To keepe vs out, in scorne of his owne will,  
And rather do not ransack all, and him selfe kill?  
Dolefull thraldome: sad slavery  
fetters: chains  
dotard: old man  

Nay let vs first (said Satyrane[]) entreat  
The man by gentle meanes, to let vs in,  
And afterwardes affray with cruell threat,  
Ere that we to efforce it do begin:  
Then if all fayle, we will by force it win,  
And eke reward the wretch for his mesprise,  
As may be worthy of his haynous sin.  
That counsell pleased: then Paridell did rise,  
And to the Castle gate approcht in quiet wise.  
entreat: request  
affray: scare  
Ere: Before  
eke: also  
mesprise: insolence  
haynous: heinous, hateful  

durst: dared  

Whereat soft knocking, entrance he desyrd.  
The good man selfe, which then the Porter playd,  
Him answered, that all were now retyrd  
Vnto their rest, and all the keyes conuayd  
Vnto their maister, who in bed was layd,  
That none him durst awake out of his dreme;  
And therefore them of patience gently prayd.  
Then Paridell began to change his theme,  
And threatened him with force & punishment extreme.  

But all in vaine; for nothing mote him relent,  
And now so long before the wicket fast  
They wayted, that the night was forward spent,  
And the faire welkin fowly ouercast,  
Gan blowen vp a bitter stormy blast,  
With shoure and hayle so horrible and dred,  
That this faire many were compeld at last,  
To fly for succour to a little shed,  
The which beside the gate for swine was ordered.  
Nought mote: nothing might  
wicket fast: closed gate  
welkin: sky  
succour: protection, comfort  

It fortuned, soone after they were gone,  
Another knight, whom tempest thither brought,  
Came to that Castle, and with earnest mone,  
Like as the rest, late entrance deare besought;  
But like so as the rest he prayed for nought,  
For flatly he of entrance was refusd,  
Sorely thereof he was displeasd, and thought  
How to auenge himselfe so sore abused,  
And euermore the Carle of curtesie accusd.  
tempest: storm  
besought: requested  
Carle: brutish man
But to auyoyde th'intollerable stowre,
He was compeld to seeke some refuge neare,
And to that shed, to shrowd him from the showre,
He came, which full of guests he found whyleare,
So as he was not let to enter there:
Whereat he gan to wex exceeding wroth,
And swore, that he would lodge with them yfere,
Or them dislodge, all were they liefe or loth;
And so defide them each, and so defide them both.

Both were full loth to leaue that needfull tent,
And both full loth in darkenesse to debate;
Yet both full liefe him lodging to haue lent,
And both full liefe his boasting to abate;
But chiefly Paridell his hart did grate,
To heare him threaten so despightfully.
As if he did a dogge to kenell rate,
That durst not barke; and rather had he dy,
Then when he was defide, in coward corner ly.

Malbecco seeing them resolu'd in deed
To flame the gates, and hearing them to call
For fire in earnest, ran with fearefull speed,
And to them calling from the castle wall,
Besought them humbly, him to beare withal,
As ignoraunt of servaunts bad abuse,
And slacke attendaunce vnto straugers call.
The knights were willing all things to excuse,
Though nought beleu'd, & entrance late did not refuse.

They bene ybrought into a comely bowre,
And seru'd of all things that mote needfull bee;
Yet secretly their hoste did on them lowre,
And welcomde more for feare, then charitee;
But they dissembled, what they did not see,
To dry them selues by Vulcanes flaming light,
And eke their lately bruzed parts to bring in plight.

And eke that straunger knight emongst the rest;
Was for like need enforst to disaray:
Tho whenas vailed was her loftie crest,
And shut vp fast within her prisons blind,
Vntill that it an issew forth may find;
Then forth it breakes, and with his furious blast
Confounds both land & seas, and skyes doth ouercast.

And that vncurteous Carle their commune foe
To do fowle death to dye, or wrap in grieuous woe.

Stay: hold up, stop 
Ire: anger 
Fray: fight, row
Carle: boorish man

Malbecco
To flame the gates, and hearing them to call
For fire in earnest, ran with fearfull speed,
And to them calling from the castle wall,
Besought them humbly, him to beare withal,
As ignorant of servants bad abuse,
And slack attendance unto strangers call.
The knights were willing all things to excuse,
Though nought believed, and entrance late did not refuse.

Their steel-hed speares they strongly couched, and met
Together with impetuous rage and forse,
That with the terour of their fierce affret,
They rudely droue to ground both man and horse,
That each awhile lay like a senselesse corse.
But *Paridell* sore brused with the blow,
Could not arise, the counterchaunge to scorce,
Till that young Squire him reared from below;
Then drew he his bright sword, & gan about him throw.

And eke that straunger knight amongst the rest;
Was for like need enforst to disarray:
Tho whenas vailed was her loftie crest,
Her golden locks, that were in tramel's gay
Vpbounden, did them selues adowne display,
And raught vnto her heele; like sunny beamis,
That in a cloud their light did long time stay,
Their vapour vaded, shew their golden gleames,
And through the persant aire shoothe forth their azure streams.
She also dofte her heauy haberieon,
Which the faire feature of her limbs did hyde,
And her well plighted frock, which she did won
To tucke about her short, when she did ryde,
She low let fall, that flowd from her lanck syde
Downe to her foot, with careless modestee.
Then of them all she plainly was espyde,
To be a woman wight, vnwist to bee,
The fairest woman wight, that euer eye did see.

And Paridell though partly discontent
With his late fall, and fowle indignity,
Yet was soone wonne his malice to relent,
Through gracious regard of her faire eye,
And knightly worth, which he too late did try,
Yet tried did adore. Supper was dight;
Then they Malbecco prayd of curtesy,
That of his Lady they might haue the sight,
And company at meat, to do them more delight.

But he to shift their curious request,
Gan causen, why she could not come in place;
Her crased health, her late recourse to rest,
And humid euening ill for sicke folkes cace:
But none of those excuses could take place;
Ne would they eate, till she in presence came.
She came in presence with right comely grace,
And fairely them saluted, as became,
And shewd her selfe in all a gentle curteous Dame.

They sate to meat, and Satyrane his chaunce
Was her before, and Paridell byside;
But he him selfe sate looking still askaunce,
Gainst Britomart, and euer closely eyde
Sir Satyrane, that glaunces might not glyde:
But his blind eye, that syded Paridell,
All his demeanure from his sight did hyde:
On her faire face so did he feede his fill,
And sent close messages of loue to her at will.

And euer and anone, when none was ware,
With speaking lookes, that close embassage bore,
He rou'd at her, and told his secret care:
For all that art he learned had of yore.
Ne was she ignoraunt of that lewd lore,
But in his eye his meaning wisely red,
And with the like him answerd euermore:
She sent at him one firie dart, whose hed
Empoised was with priuy lust, and jealous dred.
He from that deadly throw made no defence,
But to the wound his weake hart opened wyde;
The wicked engine through false influence,
Past through his eyes, and secretly did glyde
Into his hart, which it did sorely gryde.
But nothing new to him was that same paine,
Ne paine at all; for he so oft had tryde
The powre thereof, and lou'd so oft in vaine,
That thing of course he counted, loue to entertaine.
gryde: pierced

Thenceforth to her he sought to intimate
His inward griefe, by meanes to him well knowne,
Now Bacchus fruit out of the siluer plate
He on the table dasht, as ouerthrowne,
Or of the fruitfull liquor ouerflowne,
And by the dauncing bubbles did diuine,
Or therein write to let his loue be showne;
Which well she red out of the learned line,
A sacrament prophane in mistery of wine.

And when so of his hand the pledge she raught,
The guilty cup she fained to mistake,
And in her lap did shed her idle draught,
Shewing desire her inward flame to slake:
By such close signes they secret way did make
Vnto their wils, and one eyes watch escape;
Who louers will deceiue. Thus was the ape,
By their faire handling, put into Malbeccoes cape.

Now when of meats and drinks they had their fill,
Purpose was moued by that gentle Dame,
Vnto those knights adventurous, to tell
Of deeds of armes, which vnto them became,
And euery one his kindred, and his name.
Then Paridell, in whom a kindly pryde
Of gracious speach, and skill his words to frame
Abounded, being glad of so fit tyde
Him to commend to her, thus spake, of all well eyde.
tyde: occasion

Troy, that art now nought, but an idle name,
And in thine ashes buried low dost lie,
Though whilome far much greater then thy fame,
Before that angry Gods, and cruell skye
Vpon thee heapt a direfull destinie,
What boots it boast thy glorious descent,
And fetch from heauen thy great Genealogie,
Sith all thy worthy prayses being blent,
Their of-spring hath embaste, and later glory shent.

Most famous Worthy of the world, by whome
That warre was kindled, which did Troy inflame,
And stately towres of Ilion whilome
Brought vnto balefull ruine, was by name
Sir Paris far renowned through noble fame,
Who through great prouesse and bold hardinesse,
From Lacedemon fetched the fairest Dame,
That euer Greece did boast, or knight possesse,
Whom Venus to him gaue for meed of worthinesse.
baleful: deadly meed: reward

Faire Helene, flowre of beautie excellent,
And girlond of the mighty Conquerours,
That madest many Ladies deare lament
The heauie losse of their braue Paramours,
With carcases of noble warrioures,
Whose fruitlesse liues were vnder furrow sowne,
And Xanthus sandy bankes with bloud all ouerflowne.

From him my linage I deriue aright,
Who long before the ten yeares siege of Troy,
Whilest yet on Ida he a shepheard hight,
On faire Oenone got a louely boy,
She of his Father Paris did name;
Who, after Greekes did Priams realme destroy,
Gathred the Trojan reliques sau’d from flame,
And with them saying thence, to th’Isle of Paros came.
hight: was called
That was by him call'd Paros, which before
Hight Nausa, there he many yeares did raine,
And built Nausicle by the Pontick shore,
The which he dying left next in remaine
To Paridas his sonne.
From whom I Paridell by kin descend;
But for faire Ladies loue, and glories gaine,
My natuie soile haue left, my dayes to spend
In sewing deeds of armes, my liues and labours end.

Whenas the noble Britomart heard tell
Of Troian warres, and Priams Citie sackt,
The ruefull story of Sir Paridell,
She was empassiond at that piteous act,
With zelous enuy of Greekes cruell fact,
Against that nation, from whose race of old
She heard, that she was lineally extract:
For noble Britons sprong from Troians bold,
And Troyouant was built of old Troyes ashes cold.

Troynouant: New Troy, an early name for London

Then sighing soft awhile, at last she thus:
O lamentable fall of famous towne,
Which raignd so many yeares victorious,
And of all Asie bore the soueraigne crowne,
In one sad night consumd, and throwen downe:
What stony hart, that heares thy haplesse fate,
Is not empierst with deepe compassiowne,
And makes ensample of mans wretched state,
That floures so fresh at morne, and fades at euening late?
soueraigne: supreme      haplesse: unlucky      empierst: pierced

Behold, Sir, how your pitifull complaint
Hath found another partner of your payne:
For nothing may impresse so deare constraint,
As countries cause, and commune foes disdayne.
But if it should not grieue you, backe agayne
To turne your course, I would to heare desyre,
What to Aeneas fell; sith that men sayne
He was not in the Cities wofull fyre
Consum'd, but did him selfe to safetie retyre.
complaint: lament      constraint: distress

Anchyses sonne begot of Venus faire,
(Said he,) out of the flames for safegard fled,
And with a remnant did to sea repair,
Where he through fatall error long was led
Full many yeares, and weetlesse wandered
From shore to shore, amongst the Lybicke sands,
Ere rest he found. Much there he suffered,
And many perils past in forreine lands,
To saue his people sad from victours vengefull hands.

Anchyses sonne: Aeneas      fatall error: fated wandering
weetlesse: ignorantly      Lybicke: Lybian      Ere: Before

At last in Latium he did arriuie,
Where he with cruell warre was entertaind
Of th'inland folke, which sought him backe to driue,
Till he with old Latinus was constraind,
To contract wedlock: (so the fates ordaind.)
Wedlock contract in bloud, and eke in blood
Accomplished, that many deare complaind:
The riual slaine, the victour through the flood
Escaped hardly, hardly praisd his wedlock good.
eke: also

Yet after all, he victour did suruiue,
And with Latinus did the kingdome part.
But after when both nations gan to striue,
Into their names the title to conuart,
His sonne Iulus did from thence depart,
With all the warlike youth of Troians bloud,
And in long Alba plast his throne apart,
Where faire it florished, and long time it stoud,
Till Romulus renewing it, to Rome remoud.
part: divide      line 4: to claim sole power

There there (said Britomart) a fresh appeard
The glory of the later world to spring,
And Troy againe out of her dust was reard,
To sit in second seat of soueraigne king,
Of all the world vnder her gouerning.
But a third kingdome yet is to arise,
Out of the Troians scattered of-spring,
That in all glory and great enterprise,
Both first and second Troy shall dare to equalise.
It *Troynouant* is hight, that with the waues
Of wealthy *Thamis* washed is along,
Vpon whose stubborne neck, whereat he raues
With roring rage, and sore him selfe does throng,
That all men feare to tempt his billowes strong,
She fastned hath her foot, which standes so hy,
That it a wonder of the world is song
In forreine landes, and all which passen by,
Beholding it from far, do thinke it threates the skye.

*Troynouant*: original name for London  
*Thamis*: the river Thames, spanned by London Bridge

The *Troian Brute* did first that Citie found,
And Hygate made the meare thereof by West,
And Ouert gate by North: that is the bound
Toward the land; two riuers bound the rest.
So huge a scope at first him seemed best,
To be the compasse of his kingdomes seat:
So huge a mind could not in lesser rest,
Ne in small meares containe his glory great,
That *Albion* had conquered first by wartlike feat.

*meare*: boundary  
*Albion*: name for England when Brute arrived there

Ah fairest Lady knight, (said *Paridell*)
Pardon I pray my heedlesse oversight,
Who had forgot, that whilome I heard tell
From aged *Mnemon*; for my wits bene light.
Indeed he said (if I remember right,)  
That of the antique *Troian* stocke, there grew
Another plant, that raught to wondrous hight,
And far abroad his mighty branches throw,
Into the vtmost Angle of the world he knew.

*heedlesse*: careless  
*whilome*: formerly

For that same *Brute*, whom much he did adauncse
In all his speach, was *Syluius* his sonne,
Whom hauing slaine, through luckles arrows glance
He fled for feare of that he had miseadone,
Or else for shame, so fowle reproch to shonne,
And with him led to sea an youthful trayne,
Where weare wandring they long time did wonne,
And many fortunes prou'd in th'Ocean mayne,
And great adventures found, that now were lôg to sayne.

*wonne*: live  
*prou'd*: experienced

At last by fatall course they driuen were
Into an Island spatious and brode,
The furthest North, that did to them appeare:
Which after rest they seeking far abrode,
Found it the fittest soyle for their abode,
Fruitfull of all things fit for liuing foode,
But wholy wast, and void of peoples trode,
Saue an huge nation of the Geaunts broode,
That fed on liuing flesh, & druncke mens vitall blood.

*fatall*: fated  
*trode*: footstep  
*saue*: except for

Whom he through wearie wars and labours long,
Subdewd with losse of many *Britons* bold:
In which the great *Goemagot* of strong
*Corineus*, and *Coulin* of *Debon* old
Were ouerthrown and layd on th'earth full cold,
Which quaked vnder their so hideous masse,
A famous history to be enrold
In everlasting moniments of brasse,
That all the antique Worthies merits far did passe.

His worke great *Troynouant*, his worke is eke
Faire *Lincolne*, both renowned far away,
That who from East to West will endlong secke,
Cannot two fairer Cities find this day,
Except *Cleopolis*: so heard I say
Old *Mnemon*. Therefore Sir, I greet you well
Your countrey kin, and you entirely pray
Of pardon for the strife, which late befell
Bewixt vs both vnknowne. So ended *Paridell*.

*endlong*: from end to end  
*Cleopolis*: the capital of Faerieland

But all the while, that he these speaches spent,
Vpon his lips hong faire Dame *Hellenore*,
With vigilant regard, and dew attent,
Fashioning worlds of fancies euermore
In her fraile wit, that now her quite forlore:
The whiles vnwares away her wondring eye,
And greedy eares her weake hart from her bore:
Which he perceiuing, euer priuily
In speaking, many false belgardes at her let fly.

*attent*: attention  
*forlore*: deserted  
*priuily*: secretly

*belgardes*: loving looks
So long these knights discoursed diversly,
Of straunge affaires, and noble hardiment,
Which they had past with mickle jeopardy,
That now the humid night was farforth spent,
And heavenly lampes were halfendeale ybrent:
Which th'old man seeing well, who too long thought
Euery discourse and euery argument,
Which by the houres he measured, besought
Them go to rest. So all vnto their bowres were brought.

mickle jeopardy: much danger  
halfendeale ybrent: half consumed
besought: asked  
bowres: bedrooms

Cant. X.

Paridell rapeth Hellenore:
Malbecco her pursewes:
Findes emongst Satyres, whence with him
To turne she doth refuse.

1

The morow next, so soone as
Phoebus Lamp
Bewrayed had the world with early light,
And fresh Aurora had the shady damp
Out of the goodly heauen amoued quight,
Faire Britomart and that same Faerie knight
Vprose, forth on their iourney for to wend:
But Paridell complaynd, that his late fight
With Britomart, so sore did him offend,
That ryde he could not, till his hurts he did amend.

Maulgre: in spite  
line 5: Strength lacking restraint creates pride.

2

So forth they far'd, but he behind them stayd,
Maulgre his host, who grudged grievously,
To house a guest, that would be needes obayd,
And of his owne him left not liberty:
Might wanting measure moueth surquedry.
Two things he feared, but the third was death;
That fierce young mans vnruely maistery;
His money, which he lou'd as liuing breath;
And his faire wife, whom honest long he kept vnneath.

Maulgre: in spite  
line 5: Strength lacking restraint creates pride.

3

But patience perforce he must abie,
What fortune and his fate on him will lay,
Fond is the feare, that findes no remedie;
Yet warily he watcheth euery way,
By which he feareth euill happen may:
So th'euill thinkes by watching to preuent;
Ne doth he suffer her, nor night, nor day,
Out of his sight her selfe once to absent.
So doth he punish her and eke himselfe torment.

perforce: of necessity  
abie: abide by  
Fond: foolish

4

But Paridell kept better watch, then hee,
A fit occasion for his turne to find:
False loue, why do men say, thou canst not see,
And in their foolish fancie feigne thee blind,
That with thy charmes the sharpest sight doest bind,
And to thy will abuse? Thou walkest free,
And seest euery secret of the mind;
Thou seest all, yet none at all sees thee;
All that is by the working of thy Deitee.

feigne: pretend

5

So perfect in that art was Paridell,
That he Malbeccoes halfen eye did wyle,
His halfen eye he wiled wondrous well,
Both eyes did eke beguyle,
Both eyes and hart attonece, during the whyle
That he there soiourned his wounds to heale;
That Cupid selfe it seeing, close did smyle,
To weet how he her loue away did steale,
And bad, that none their ioyous treason should reueale.

halfen eye: imperfect sight  
wyle: trick  
eke beguyle: also trick  
attonece: at the same time
soiourned: visited  
weet: know  
bad: ordered

6

The learned louer lost no time nor tyde,
That least auantage mote to him afford,
Yet bore so faire a saile, that none espysde
His secret drift, till he her layd abord.
When so in open place, and commune bord,
He fortun’d her to meet, with commune speach
He courted her, yet bayted euery word,
That his vngentle hoste n’ote him appeach
Of vile vngentlenesse, or hospitages breach.

note: might  
fortun’d: happened  
bayted: calculated
n’ote him appeach: might not accuse him
hospitages breach: conduct unbecoming to a guest, a breach of hospitality
But when apart (if euer her apart)
He found, then his false engins fast he plyde,
And all the sleights vnbosomd in his hart;
He sigh'd, he sobd, he swownd, he perdy dyde,
And cast himselfe on ground her fast besyde:
Tho when againe he him bethought to liue,
He wept, and wayld, and false laments belyde,
Saying, but if she Mercie would him giue
That he mote algates dye, yet did his death forgive.

And otherwhiles with amorous delights,
And pleasing toyes he would her entertaine,
Now singing sweetly, to surprise her sprights,
Now making layes of loue and louers paine,
Bransles, Ballads, virelayes, and verses vaine;
Oft purposes, oft riddles he deuysd,
And thousands like, which flowed in his braine,
With which he fed her fancie, and entysd
To take to his new loue, and leaue her old despysd.

And euer where he might, and euer while
He did her seruice dewtifull, and sewed
At hand with humble pride, and pleasing guile,
So closely yet, that none but she it vewed,
Who well perceiued all, and all indewed.
Thus finely did he his false nets dispred,
With which he many weake harts had subdewed
Of yore, and many had ylike misled:
What wonder then, if she were likewise carried?

No fort so fensible, no wals so strong,
But that continuall battery will riue,
Or daily siege through dispuruayance long,
And lacke of reskewes will to parley dyeriue;
And Peece, that vnto parley eare will giue,
Will shortly yeed it selfe, and will be made
The vassall of the victors will byliue:
That stratageme had oftentimes assayd
This crafty Paramoure, and now it plaine displayd.

For through his traines he her intrapped hath,
That she her loue and hart hath wholly sold
To him, without regard of gaine, or scath,
Or care of credite, or of husband old,
Whom she hath vow'd to dub a faire Cucquold.
Nought wants but time and place, which shortly shee
Deuized hath, and to her louer told.
It pleased well. So well they both agree;
So readie rype to ill, ill wemens counsels bee.

Darke was the Euening, fit for louers stealth,
When chaunst Malbecco busie be elsewhere,
She to his closet went, where all his wealth
Lay hid: thereof she countlesse summes did reare,
The which she meant away with her to beare;
The rest she fyr'd for sport, or for despight;
As Hellen, when she saw aloft appeare
The Troiane flames, and reach to heauens hight
Did clap her hands, and ioyed at that dolefull sight.

This second Hellen, faire Dame Hellenore,
The whiles her husband ranne with sory haste,
To quench the flames, which she had tyn'd before,
Laught at his foolish labour spent in waste;
And ranne into her louers armes right fast;
Where streight embraced, she to him did cry,
And call aloud for helpe, ere helpe were past;
For loe that Guest would beare her forcibly,
And meant to rauish her, that rather had to dy.

The wretched man hearing her call for ayd,
And readie seeing him with her to fly,
In his disquiet mind was much dismayd:
But when againe he backward cast his eye,
And saw the wicked fire so furiously
Consume his hart, and scorch his Idoles face,
He was therewith distressed diuersly,
Ne wist he how to turne, nor to what place;
Was neuer wretched man in such a wofull cace.
Ay when to him she cryde, to her he turnd,
And left the fire; loue money ouercame:
But when he marked, how his money burnd,
He left his wife; money did loue disclame:
Both was he loth to loose his loued Dame,
And loth to leaue his liefest pelfe behind,
Yet sith he n'ote saue both, he sau'd that same,
Which was the dearest to his donghill mind,
The God of his desire, the ioy of misers blind.

loth: reluctant  liefest: most beloved  pelft: money, riches
sith he n'ote: since he might not  dunghill: dirty, shitty

Thus whilst all things in troublous vprore were,
And all men busie to suppresse the flame,
The louing couple need no reskew feare,
But leasure had, and libertie to frame
Their purpos flight, free from all mens reclame;
And Night, the patronesse of loue-stealth faire,
Gaue them safe conduct, till to end they came:
So bene they gone yfeare, a wanton paire
Of louers loosely knit, where list them to repaire.

yfeare: together  where list them to repaire: whenever they wished to go

Soone as the cruell flames yslaked were,
Malbecco seeing, how his losse did lye,
Out of the flames, which he had quencht whylere
Into huge waues of griefe and gealosye
Full deepe emplonged was, and drowned nye,
Twixt inward doole and felonous despight;
He rau'd, he wept, he stampt, he lowd did cry,
And all the passions, that in man may light,
Did him attonce oppresse, and vex his caytiue spright.
yslaked: diminished  whylere: earlier  doole: sorrow
despight: malice  his caytiue spright: his vile, base spirit

Long thus he chawd the cud of inward griefe,
And did consume his gall with anguish sore,
Still when he mused on his late mischiefe,
Then still the smart thereof increased more,
And seen'd more grievous, then it was before:
At last when sorrow he saw booted nought,
Ne griefe might not his loue to him restore,
He gan deuise, how her he reskew mought,
Ten thousand wayes he cast in his confused thought.
mused: thought  smart: pain  then: than
booted nought: accomplished nothing  mought: might

At last resoluing, like a pilgrim pore,
To sea[r]ch her forth, where so she might be fond,
And bearing with him treasure in close store,
The rest he leaues in ground: so takes in hond
To seeke her endlong, both by sea and lond.
Long he her sought, he sought her farre and nere,
And euer where that he mote vnderstond,
Of knights and ladies any meetings were,
And of eacheone he met, he tydings did inquere.

endlong: continuously  tydings: news

Well weened he, that those the same mote bee,
And as he better did their shape auize,
Him seemed more their manner did agree;
For th'one was armed all in warlike wize,
Whom, to be Paridell, he did deuize;
And th'other all yclad in garments light,
Discolour'd like to womanish disguise,
He did resemble to his Ladie bright;
And euer his faint hart much earned at the sight.

weened: thought  mote: might  auize: consider
yclad: dressed  earned: was grieved

And euer faine he towards them would goe,
But yet durst not for dread approchen nie,
But stood aloofe, vnweeting what to doe;
Till that prickt forth with loues extremitee,
That is the father of fowle gealosy,
He closely nearer crept, the truth to weet:
But, as he nigher drew, he easily
Might scerne, that it was not his sweetest sweet,
Ne yet her Belamour, the partner of his sheet.
faine: eagerly  durst: dared  nie: nigh, near
unweeting: not knowing  scerne: discern, see  prickt: spurred
But it was scornful 
Braggadocchio,
That with his servant Trompart hoourd there,
Sith late he fled from his too earnest foe:
Whom such when as Malbecco spyed clere,
He turned backe, and would have fled arere;
Till Trompart running hastily, him did stay,
And bad before his soueraine Lord appere:
That was him loth, yet durst he not gainsay,
And comming him before, low louted on the lay.

Sith: since
arere: back
bad: ordered
line 8: He was reluctant to do what Trompart said, yet he didn’t argue.
low louted on the lay: bowed low in the meadow

The Boaster at him sternely bent his browe,
As if he could have kild him with his looke,
That to the ground him meekely made to bowe,
And awfull terror deepe into him strooke,
That euery member of his bodie quooke.
Said he, thou man of nought, what doest thou here,
Vnfitly furnisht with thy bag and booke,
Where I expected one with shield and spere,
To proue some deedes of armes vpon an equall pere.
nought: nothing

The wretched man at his imperious speach,
Was all abasht, and low prostrating, said;
Good Sir, let not my rudenesse be no breach
Vnto your patience, ne be ill ypaid;
For I vnwares this way by fortune straid,
A silly Pilgrim druen to distresse,
That seeke a Lady,---There he suddein staid,
And did the rest with grieuous sighes suppresse,
While teares stood in his eies, few drops of bitternesse.
imperious: lordly
abasht: embarrassed
silly: innocent

What Ladie, man? (said Trompart) take good hart,
And tell thy grieve, if any hidden lye;
Was neuer better time to shew thy smart,
Then now, that noble succour is thee by,
That is the whole worlds commune remedy.
That cheareful word his weake hart much did cheare,
And with vaine hope his spirits faint supply,
That bold he said; ô most redoubted Pere,
Vouchsafe with mild regard a wretches cace to heare.
smart: pain
succour: assistance
redoubted Pere: noble father
vouchsafe: condescend

Then sighing sore, It is not long (said he)
Sith I enjoyed the gentlest Dame aliue;
Of whom a knight, no knight at all perdee,
But shame of all, that doe for honor strue,
By treacherous deceipt did me depreiue;
Through open outrage he her bore away,
And with fowle force vnto his will did drive,
Which all good knights, that armes do beare this day,
Are bound for to reuenge, and punish if they may.
sore: grievously
perdee: truly

And you most noble Lord, that can and dare
Redresse the wrong of miserable wight,
Cannot employ your most victorious speare
In better quarrell, then defence of right,
And for a Ladie aginst a faithlesse knight;
So shall your glory be aduaunced much,
And all faire Ladies magnifie your might,
And eke my selfe, albe I simple such,
Your worthy paine shall well reward with guerdon rich.
redresse: rectify
wight: person
albe: although
guerdon: reward

With that out of his bouget forth he drew
Great store of treasure, therewith him to tempt;
But he on it lookt scornfully askew,
As much disdeigning to be so misdempt,
Or a war-monger to be basely nempt;
And said; Thy offers base I greatly loth,
And eke thy words vncourteous and vnkempt;
I tread in dust thee and thy money both,
That, were it not for shame,---So turned from him wroth.
bouget: wallet
askew: at an angle
misdempt: misjudged
loth: loath
wroth: angrily

But Trompart, that his maisters humor knew,
In lofty lookes to hide an humble mind,
Was inly tickled with that golden vew,
And in his eare him rounded close behind:
Yet stoupt he not, but lay still in the wind,
Waiting aduaantage on the pray to sease;
Till Trompart lowly to the ground inclind,
Besought him his great courage to appease,
And pardon simple man, that rash did him displease.
appease: cease from
Bigge looking like a doughtie Doucepere,
At last he thus; Thou clod of vilest clay,
I pardon yield, and with thy rudenesse beare;
But weete henceforth, that all that golden pray,
And all that else the vaine world vaunten may,
I loath as doung, ne deeme my dew reward:
Fame is my meed, and glory vertues pray.

But minds of mortall men are muchell mard,
And mou'd amisse with massie mucks vnmeet regard.

And more, I graunt to thy great miserie
Gratious respect, thy wife shall backe be sent,
And that vile knight, who euer that he bee,
Which hath thy Lady reft, and knighthood shent,
By Sanglamort my sword, whose deadly dent
The bloud hath of so many thousands shed,
I sweare, ere long shall dearely it repent;
Ne he twixt heauen and earth shall hide his hed,
But soone he shall be found, and shortly doen be ded.

The foolish man thereat woxe wondrous blith,
As if the word so spoken, were halfe donne,
And humbly thanked him a thousand sith,
That had from death to life him newly wonne.
Tho forth the Boaster marching, braue begonne
His stolen steed to thunder furiously,
As if he heauen and hell would ouerronne,
And all the world confound with cruelty,
That much Malbecco ioyed in his iollity.

Thus long they three together traueiled,
Through many a wood, and many an vncouth way,
To seeke his wife, that was farre wandered:
But those two sought nought, but the present pray,
To weete the treasure, which he did bewray,
On which their eies and harts were wholly set,
With purpose, how they might it best betray;
For sith the houre, that first he did them let
The same behold, therewith their keene desires were whet.

It fortuned as they together far'd,
They spide, where Paridell came pricking fast
Vpon the plaine, the which himselfe prepar'd
To giust with that braue straunger knight a cast,
As on adventure by the way he past:
Alone he rode without his Paragone;
For haung flicht her bels, her vp he cast
To the wide world, and let her fly alone,
He nould be clogd. So had he serued many one.

The gentle Lady, loose at randon left,
The greene-wood long did walke, and wander wide
At wilde adventure, like a forlorne weft,
Till on a day the Satyres her espide
Straying alone withouten groome or guide;
Her vp they tooke, and with them home her led,
With them as housewife euer to abide,
To milk their gotes, and make them cheese and bred,
And euery one as commune good her handeled.

That shortly she Malbecco has forgot,
And eke Sir Paridell, all were he deare;
Who from her went to seeke another lot,
And now by fortune was arriued here,
Where those two guilers with Malbecco were:
Soone as the old man saw Sir Paridell,
He fainted, and was almost dead with feare,
Ne word he had to speake, his griefe to tell,
But to him louted low, and greeted goodly well.

And after asked him for Hellenore,
I take no keepe of her (said Paridell)
She wonneth in the forrest there before.
So forth he rode, as his adventure fell;
The whiles the Boaster from his loftie sell
Faynd to alight, something amisse to mend;
But the fresh Swayne would not his leasure dwell,
But went his way; whom when he passed kend,
He vp remounted light, and after faind to wend.
Perdy nay (said Malbecco) shall ye not:
But let him passe as lightly, as he came:
For little good of him is to be got,
And mickle perill to be put to shame.
But let vs go to seeke my dearest Dame,
Whom he hath left in yonder forrest wyld:
For of her safety in great doubt I am,
Least saluage beastes her person haue despoyl'd:
Then all the world is lost, and we in vainpe haue toyled.

erdy: Truly mickle: much

They all agree, and forward them addrest:
Ah but (said craftie Trompart) weete ye well,
That yonder in that wastefull wildernesse
Huge monsters haunt, and many dangers dwell;
Dragons, and Minotaures, and feendes of hell,
And many wilde woodmen, which robbe and rend
All trauellers; therefore aduise ye well,
Before ye enterprise that way to wend:
One may his iourney bring too soone to euill end.

weet: know rend: tear apart enterprise: try wend: go

Malbecco stopt in great astonishment,
And with pale eyes fast fixed on the rest,
Their counsell crau'd, in daunger imminent.
Said Trompart, You that are the most opprest
With burden of great treasure, I thinke best
Here for to stay in safetie behind;
My Lord and I will search the wide forrest.
That counsell pleased not Malbeccoes mind;
For he was much affraid, himselfe alone to find.

The silly man that in the thicket lay
Saw all this goodly sport, and grieued sore,
Yet durst he not against it doe or say,
But did his hart with bitter thoughts engore,
To see th'vnkindnesse of his Hellenore.
All day they daunced with great lustihed,
The whiles their Gotes vpon the brouzes fed,
Till drouping Phoebus gan to hide his golden hed.

silly: simple sore: much durst: dared brogues: twigs

Tho vp they gan their merry pypes to trusse,
And all their goodly heards did gather round,
But evry Satyre first did giue a busse
To Hellenore: so busses did abound.
Now gan the humid vapour shed the ground
With perly deaw, and th'Earthes gloomy shade
Did dim the brightnesse of the welkin round,
That evry bird and beast awarned made,
To shrowd themselues, whiles sleepe their senses did inuade.

Tho: then trusse: pack up a busse: a kiss wellkin: sky
Which when Malbecco saw, out of his bush
Vpon his hands and feete he crept full light,
And like a Gote amongst the Gore did rush,
That through the helpe of his faire hornes on hight,
And misty dampe of misconceiuing night,
And eke through likenesse of his gotish beard,
He did the better counterfeite aright:
So home he marcht amongst the horned heard,
That none of all the Satyres him espyde or heard.

At night, when all they went to sleepe, he vewd,
Whereas his louely wife amongst them lay,
Embraced of a Satyre rough and rude,
Who all the night did minde his ioyous play:
Nine times he heard him come aloft ere day,
That all his hart with gealosie did swell;
But yet that nights ensample did bewray,
That not for nought his wife them loued so well,
When one so oft a night did ring his matins bell.

So closely as he could, he to them crept,
When wearie of their sport to sleepe they fell,
And to his wife, that now full soundly slept,
He whispered in her eare, and did her tell,
That it was he, which by her side did dwell,
And therefore prayd her wake, to heare him plaine.
As one out of a dreame not waked well,
She turned her, and returned backe againe:
Yet her for to awake he did the more constraine.

At last with irkesome trouble she abrayd;
And then perceiuing, that it was indeed
Her old Malbecco, which did her vpbrayd,
With loosenesse of her loue, and loathly deed,
She was astonisht with exceeding deed,
And would haue wakt the Satyre by her syde;
But he her prayd, for mercy, or for meed,
To saue his life, ne let him be descryde,
But hearken to his lore, and all his counsell hyde.

Tho gan he her perswade, to leaue that lewd
And loathsome life, of God and man abhord,
And home returne, where all should be renewed
With perfect peace, and bandes of fresh accord,
And she receiued againe to bed and bord,
As if no trespass euer had bene done:
But she it all refused at one word,
And by no meane would to his will be wonne,
But chose amongst the iolly Satyres still to wonne.

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With lessenesse of her loue, and loathly deed,
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To saue his life, ne let him be descryde,
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As if no trespass euer had bene done:
But she it all refused at one word,
And by no meane would to his will be wonne,
But chose amongst the iolly Satyres still to wonne.
High ouer hilles and ouer dales he fled,  
As if the wind him on his winges had borne,  
Ne banck nor bush could stay him, when he sped  
His nimble feet, as treading still on thorne:  
Griefe, and despiught, and gealosie, and scorne  
Did all the way him follow hard behind,  
And he himselfe himselfe loath'd so forlorne,  
So shamefully forlorne of womankind;  
That as a Snake, still lurked in his wounded mind.

dailes: valleys    despiught: malice    forlorne: abandoned

Still fled he forward, looking backward still,  
Ne stayd his flight, nor fearefull agony,  
Till that he came vnto a rockie hill,  
Ouer the sea, suspended dreadfully,  
That liuing creature it would terrify,  
To looke adowne, or vpward to the hight:  
From thence he threw himselfe dispieteously,  
All desperate of his fore-damned spright,  
That seem'd no helpe for him was left in liuing sight.

fore-damned spright: utterly damned spirit

But through long anguish, and selfe-murdring thought  
He was so wasted and forpined quight,  
That all his substance was consum'd to nought,  
And nothing left, but like an aery Spright,  
That on the rockes he fell so flit and light,  
That he thereby receiu'd no hurt at all,  
But chaunced on a craggy cliff to light;  
Whence he with crooked clawes so long did crall,  
That at the last he found a caue with entrance small.

forpined: pined away    nought: nothing    flit: fast

Into the same he creepes, and thenceforth there  
Resolu'd to build his balefull mansion,  
In drery darkenesse, and continuall feare  
Of that rockes fall, which euer and anon  
Threates with huge ruine him to fall vpon,  
That he dare neuer sleepe, but that one eye  
Still ope he keepes for that occasion;  
Ne euer rests he in tranquility,  
The roring billowes beat his bowre so boystrously.

baleful: evil

Ne euer is he wont on ought to feed,  
But toades and frogs, his pasture poysounous,  
Which in his cold complexion do breed  
A filthy bloud, or humour rancorous,  
Matter of doubt and dread suspitious,  
That doth with curelesse care consume the hart,  
Corrupts the stomacke with gall vitious,  
Croscuts the liuer with internall smart,  
And doth transfixe the soule with deaths eternall dart.

wont: accustomed

Yet can he neuer dye, but dying liues,  
And doth himselfe with sorrow new sustaine,  
That death and life attonce vnto him giues.  
And painefull pleasure turnes to pleasing paine.  
There dwels he euer, miserable swaine,  
Hatefull both to him selfe, and euery wight;  
Where he through priuy grieue, and horrour vaine,  
Is woxen so deform'd, that he has quight  
Forgot he was a man, and Gealosie is hight.

swaine/wight: person    privy: secret, private    woxen: became    hight: named

**Cant. XI.**

**Britomart chaceth Ollyphant,**  
**findes Scudamour distrest:**  
**Assayes the house of Busyrane,**  
**where Loues spoyles are exprest.**

O Hatefull hellish Snake, what furie furst  
Brought thee from balefull house of Proserpine,  
Where in her bosome she thee long had nurst,  
And fostred vp with bitter milke of tine,  
Fowle Gealosie, that turnest loue diuine  
To ioylesse dread, and mak'st the louing hart  
With hatefull thoughts to languish and to pine,  
And feed it selfe with selfe-consuming smarrt?  
Of all the passions in the mind thou vilest art.

baleful: deadly    tine: affliction
O let him far be banished away,
And in his stead let Loue for euer dwell,
Sweet Loue, that doth his golding wings embay
In blessed Nectar, and pure Pleasures well,
Vntroubled of vile feare, or bitter fell.
And ye faire Ladies, that your kingdomes make
In th'harts of men, them gouerne wisely well,
And of faire Britomart ensample take,
That was as trew in loue, as Turtle to her make.

embay: bathe                fell: gall  make: mate

Who with Sir Satyrane, as earst ye red,
Forth ryding from Malbeccoes hostlesse hous,
Far off aspyde a young man, the which fled
From an huge Geaunt, that with hideous
And hatefull outrage long him chaced thus;
It was that Ollyphant, the brother deare
Of that Argante vile and vitious,
From whom the Squire of Dames was reft whylere;
This all as bad as she, and worse, if worse ought were.

earst ye red: earlier you saw  reft whylere: cut off earlier
ought: anything

For as the sister did in feminine
And filthy lust exceede all woman kind,
So he surpassed his sex masculine,
In beastly vse that I did euer find;
Whom when as Britomart beheld behind
The fearefull boy so greedily pursew,
She was emmoued in her noble mind,
T'employ her puissaunce to his reskew,
And pricked fiercely forward, where she him did vew.

puissanunce: power pricked: rode

Ne was Sir Satyrane her far behinde,
But with like fierenesse did ensew the chace:
Whom when the Gyaunt saw, he soone resinde
His former suit, and from them fled apace;
They after both, and boldly bad him bace,
And each did striue the other to out-goe,
But he them both outran a wondrous space,
For he was long, and swift as any Roe,
And now made better speed, t'escape his feared foe.

ensew: pursue apace: fast
bad him bace: challenged him Roe: type of deer

It was not Satyrane, whom he did feare,
But Britomart the flowre of chastity;
For he the powre of chast hands might not beare,
But alaways did their dread encounter fly:
And now so fast his feet he did apply,
That he has gotten to a forest neare,
Where he is shrowded in security.
The wood they enter, and search euery where,
They searched diversely, so both diuided were.

Faire Britomart so long him followed,
That she at last came to a fountaine sheare,
By which there lay a knight all wallowed
Vpon the grassy ground, and by him neare
His haberieon, his helmet, and his speare;
A little off, his shield was rudely throwne,
On which the winged boy in colours cleare
Depeincted was, full easie to be knowne,
And he thereby, where euer it in field was showne.

sheare: bright, clear haberion: armor

His face vpon the ground did groueling ly,
As if he had bene slombring in the shade,
That the braue Mayd would not for courtesy,
Out of his quiet slomber him abrade,
Nor seeme too suddeinly him to inuade:
Still as she stood, she heard with grieuous throb
Him grone, as if his hart were peeces made,
And with most painefull pangs to sigh and sob,
That pitty did the Virgins hart of patience rob.

abrode: awake

At last forth breaking into bitter plainantes
He said; ô soueraigne Lord that sit'st on hye,
And raignst in blis emongst thy blessed Saintes,
How suffrest thou such shamefull cruelty,
So long unwreaked of thine enimy?
Or hast thou, Lord, of good mens cause no heed?
Or doth thy iustice sleepe, and silent ly?
What booteth then the good and righteous deed,
If goodnesse find no grace, nor righteousnesse no meed?

soveraigne: supreme unwreaked: unrevenged
heed: attention booteth: avails
If good find grace, and righteousnesse reward,
Why then is Amoret in caytue band,
Sith that more bounteous creature neuer far’d
On foot, vpon the face of living land?
Or if that heavenly justice may withstand
The wrongfull outrage of vnrighteous men,
Why then is Busirane with wicked hand
Suffred, these seuen monethes day in secret den
My Lady and my loue so cruelly to pen?

caytive: captive      sith: since      to pen: to imprison

My Lady and my loue is cruelly pend
In dolefull darkenesse from the vew of day,
Whilst deadly torments do her chast brest rend,
And the sharpe steele doth rieue her hart in tway,
All for she Scudamore will not deny.
Yet thou vile man, vile Scudamore art sound,
Ne canst her ayde, ne canst her foe dismay:
Vnworthy wretch to tread vpon the ground,
For whom so faire a Lady feeles so sore a wound.

doleful: sorrowful      rend: tear apart      tway: two
sound: hale and healthy

There an huge heape of singulfes did oppresse
His strugling soule, and swelling throbs empeach
His foltring toung with pangs of drerinesse,
Choking the remnant of his plaintive speach,
As if his dayes were come to their last reach.
Which when she heard, and saw the ghastly fit,
Threatning into his life to make a breach,
Both with great ruth and terour she was smit,
Fearing least from her cage the wearie soule would flit.

singulfes: sighs      empeach: hinder
ruth: pity      smit: hit
least: for fear that

Tho stooping downe she him amoued light;
Who therewith somewhat starting, vp gan looke,
And seeing him behind a straunger knight,
Whereas no liuing creature he mistooke,
With great indignaunce he that sight forsooke,
And downe againe himselfe disdainfully
Abiecting, th’earth with his faire forhead strooke:
Which the bold Virgin seeing, gan apply
Fit medicine to his griefe, and spake thus courtefully.

Tho: then      mistooke: suspected      spake: spoke

Ah gentle knight, whose deepe conceiued griefe
Well seemes t’exceede the powre of patience,
Yet if that heavenly grace some good reliefe
You send, submit you to high prouidence,
And euer in your noble hart prepense,
That all the sorrow in the world is lesse,
Then vertues might, and values confidence,
For who nill bide the burden of distresse,
Must not here thinke to liue: for life is wretchednesse.

prepense: consider      nill hide: will not hide, endure

Therefore, faire Sir, do comfort to you take,
And freely read, what wicked felon so
Hath outrag’d you, and thrald your gentle make.
Perhaps this hand may helpe to ease your woe,
And wreake your sorrow on your cruell foe,
At least it faire endeuour will apply.
Those feeling wordes so neare the quicke did goe,
That vp his head he reared easily,
And leaning on his elbow, these few wordes let fly.

read: tell      felon: thief
thrald: imprisoned      make: mate
wreake: take vengeance
endeavour: attempt
quicke: his life

What boots it plaine, that cannot be redrest,
And sow vaine sorrow in a fruitlesse eare,
Sith powre of hand, nor skill of learned brest,
Ne worldly price cannot redeeme my deare,
Out of her thraldome and continuall feare?
For he the tyraunt, which her hath in ward
By strong enchantments and blacke Magicke leare,
Hath in a dungeon deepe her close embard,
And many dreadfull feends hath pointed to her gard.

what boots it plaine: what good does it do to complain
redrest: corrected
redeeme: get back
leare: lore, lessons
embard: imprisoned

There he tormenteth her most terribly,
And day and night afflicts with mortall paine,
Because to yield him loue she doth deny,
Once to me yold, not to be yold againe:
But yet by torture he would her constrain
Loue to conceiue in her disdainfull brest;
Till so she do, she must in doole remaine,
Ne may by liuing meanes be thence relest:
What boots it then to plaine, that cannot be redrest?

yold: yielded, given      constrain: force
doole: sorrow
With this sad hersall of his heavy stresse,
The warlike Damzell was empassiond sore,
And said; Sir knight, your cause is nothing lesse,
Then is your sorrow, certes if not more;
For nothing so much pitty doth implore,
As gentle Ladies helplesse misery.

But yet, if please ye listen to my lore,
I will with prove of last extremity,
Delier her fro thence, or with her for you dy.

Ah gentlest knight alius, (said Scudamore)
What huge heroicke magnanimity
Dwels in thy bounteous brest? what couldst thou more,
If she were thine, and thou as now am I?
O spare thy happy dayes, and them apply
To better boot, but let me dye, that ought;
More is more losse: one is enough to dy.
Life is not lost, (said she) for which is bought
Endlesse renown, that more then death is to be sought.

Thus she at length perswaded him to rise,
And with her wend, to see what new successe
Mote him befall vpon new enterprise;
His armes, which he had vowed to disprofesse,
She gathered vp and did about him dresse,
And his forwandred steed vnto him got:
So forth they both yfere make their progresse,
And march not past the mountenaunce of a shot.

Greatly thereat was Britomart dismayd,
Ne in that stownd wist, how her selfe to beare;
For daunger vaine it were, to haue assayd
That cruell element, which all things feare,
Ne none can suffer to approchen neare:
And turning backe to Scudamour, thus sayd;
What monstrous enmity prouoke we heare,
Foolhardy as th’Earthes children, the which made
Battell against the Gods? so we a God inuaue.

Daunger without discretion to attempt,
Inglorious and beastlike is: therefore Sir knight,
Aread what course of you is safest dempt,
And how we with our foe may come to fight.
This is (quoth he) the dolorous despight,
Which earst to you I playnd: for neither may
This fire be quencht by any wit or might,
Ne yet by any meanes remou’d away,
So mighty be th’enchantaunts, which the same do stay.

What is there else, but cease these fruitlesse paines,
And leaue me to my former languishing;
Faire Amoret must dwell in wicked chaines,
And Scudamore here dye with sorrowing.
Perdy not so; (said she) for shamefull thing
It were t’abandon noble cheuisaunce,
For shew of perill, without venturing:
Rather let try extremeties of chaunce,
Then enterprised prayse for dread to disauaunce.

Therewith resolu’d to proue her vtmost might,
There they dismounting, drew their weapons bold
And stoutly came vnto the Castle gate;
Whereas no gate they found, them to withhold,
Nor ward to wait at morne and euening late,
But in the Porch, that did them sore amate,
A flaming fire, ymixt with smouldry smoke,
And stinking Sulphure, that with griesly hate
And dreadfull horrour did all entraunce choke,
Enforced them their forward footing to reuoke.

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And stinking Sulphure, that with griesly hate
And dreadfull horrour did all entraunce choke,
Enforced them their forward footing to reuoke.
Whom whenas Scudamour saw past the fire,
Safe and untoucht, he likewise gan assay,
With greedy will, and enuious desire,
And bad the stubborne flames to yield him way:
But cruell Mulciber would not obey
His threatfull pride, but did the more augment
His mighty rage, and with imperious sway
Him forst (maulgre) his fiercenesse to relent,
And backe retire, all scorcht and pitifully brent.

With huge impatience he inly swelt,
More for great sorrow, that he could not pas,
Then for the burning torment, which he felt,
That with fell woodnesse he effierced was,
And wilfully him throwing on the gras,
Did beat and bounse his head and brest full sore;
The whiles the Championesse now entred has
The vtmost rowme, and past the formest dore,
The vtmost rowme, abounding with all precious store.

And in those Tapets weren fashioned
Many faire pourtraict, and many a faire feate,
And all of loue, and all of lusty-hed,
As seemed by their semblaunt did entreat;
And eke all Cupids warres they did repeate,
And cruell battels, which he whilome fought
Gainst all the Gods, to make his empire great;
Besides the huge massacres, which he wrought
On mighty kings and kesars, into thraldome brought.

Therein was writ, how often thundring Ioue
Had felt the point of his hart-percing dart,
And leauing heauens kingdome, here did roue
In straunge disguize, to slake his scalding smart;
Now like a Ram, faire Helle to peruart,
Now like a Bull, Europa to withdraw:
Ah, how the fearefull Ladies tender hart
Did liuely seeme to tremble, wheh she saw
The huge seas vnder her t’obay her seruaunts law.

For round about, the wals yclothed were
With goodly arras of great maiesty,
Wouen with gold and silke so close and nere,
That the rich metall lurked priuily,
As faining to be hid from enuious eye;
Yet here, and there, and euery where vnwares
It shewd it selfe, and shone vnwillingly;
Like a discolourd Snake, whose hidden snares
Through the greene gras his long bright burnisht backe declares.

Soone after that into a golden showre
Him selfe he chaung’d faire Danae to vew,
And through the roofe of her strong brasen towre
Did raine into her lap an hony dew,
The whiles her foolish garde, that little knew
Of such deceipt, kept th’yron dore fast bard,
And watcht, that none should enter nor issew;
Vaine was the watch, and bootlesse all the ward,
Whenas the God to golden hew him selfe transfard.

Then was he turnd into a snowy Swan,
To win faire Leda to his louely trade:
O wondrous skill, and sweet wit of the man,
That her in daffadillies sleeping made,
From scorching heat her daintie limbes to shade:
Whiles the proud Bird ruffing his fethers wyde,
And brushing his faire brest, did her inuade;
She slept, yet twixt her eyelids closely spyde,
How towards her he rusht, and smiled at his pryde.

Then shewd it, how the Thebane Semelee
Deceiu’d of gealous Iuno, did require
To see him in his soueraigne maiestee,
Armd with his thunderbolts and lightning fire,
Whene dearly she with death bought her desire.
But faire Alcmena better match did make,
Ioying his loue in likenesse more entire;
Three nights in one, they say, that for her sake
He then did put, her pleasures lenger to partake.

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Had felt the point of his hart-percing dart,
And leauing heauens kingdome, here did roue
In straunge disguize, to slake his scalding smart;
Now like a Ram, faire Helle to peruart,
Now like a Bull, Europa to withdraw:
Ah, how the fearefull Ladies tender hart
Did liuely seeme to tremble, wheh she saw
The huge seas vnder her t’obay her seruaunts law.

With huge impatience he inly swelt,
More for great sorrow, that he could not pas,
Then for the burning torment, which he felt,
That with fell woodnesse he effierced was,
And wilfully him throwing on the gras,
Did beat and bounse his head and brest full sore;
The whiles the Championesse now entred has
The vtmost rowme, and past the formest dore,
The vtmost rowme, abounding with all precious store.

For round about, the wals yclothed were
With goodly arras of great maiesty,
Wouen with gold and silke so close and nere,
That the rich metall lurked priuily,
As faining to be hid from enuious eye;
Yet here, and there, and euery where vnwares
It shewd it selfe, and shone vnwillingly;
Like a discolourd Snake, whose hidden snares
Through the greene gras his long bright burnisht backe declares.

And in those Tapets weren fashioned
Many faire pourtraict, and many a faire feate,
And all of loue, and all of lusty-hed,
As seemed by their semblaunt did entreat;
And eke all Cupids warres they did repeate,
And cruell battels, which he whilome fought
Gainst all the Gods, to make his empire great;
Besides the huge massacres, which he wrought
On mighty kings and kesars, into thraldome brought.

Therein was writ, how often thundring Ioue
Had felt the point of his hart-percing dart,
And leauing heauens kingdome, here did roue
In straunge disguize, to slake his scalding smart;
Now like a Ram, faire Helle to peruart,
Now like a Bull, Europa to withdraw:
Ah, how the fearefull Ladies tender hart
Did liuely seeme to tremble, wheh she saw
The huge seas vnder her t’obay her seruaunts law.
Twise was he seene in soaring Eagles shape,
And with wide wings to beat the buxome ayre,
Once, when he with Asterie did scape,
Againe, when as the Troiane boy so faire
He snatcht from Ida hill, and with him bare:
Wondrous delight it was, there to behould,
How the rude Shepheards after him did stare,
Trembling through feare, least down he fallen should,
And often to him calling, to take surer hould.

In Satyres shape Antiope he snatcht:
And like a fire, when he Aegin’ assayd:
A shepheard, when Mnemosyne he catcht:
And like a Serpent to the Thracian mayd.
Whiles thus on earth great Ioue these pageaunts playd,
The winged boy did thrust into his throne,
And scoffing, thus vnto his mother sayd,
Lo now the heauens obey to me alone,
And take me for their Ioue, whiles Ioue to earth is gone.

And thou, faire Phoebus, in thy colours bright
Wast there enwouen, and the sad distresse,
In which that boy thee plonged, for despight,
That thou bewray’dst his mothers wantonnesse,
When she with Mars was meynt in ioyfulnesse:
For thy, he thrild thee with a leaden dart,
To loue faire Daphne, which thee loued lesse:
Lesse she thee lou’d, then was thy iust desart,
Yet was thy loue her death, & her death was thy smart.

So louedst thou the lusty Hyacinct,
So louedst thou the faire Coronis deare:
Yet both are of thy haplesse hand extinct,
Yet both in flowres do liue, and loue thee beare,
The one a Paunce, the other a sweet breare:
For grieve whereof, ye mote haue liuely seene
The God himselfe rending his golden heare,
And breaking quite his gyrlond euer greene,
With other signes of sorrow and impatient teene.

Both for those two, and for his owne deare sonne,
The sonne of Climene he did repent,
Who bold to guide the charret of the Sunne,
Himselfe in thousand peeces fondly rent,
And all the world with flashing fier brent;
So like, that all the walles did seeme to flame.
Yet cruell Cupid, not herewith content,
Forst him eftsoones to follow other game,
And loue a Shepheards daughter for his dearest Dame.

And thou, faire Phoebus, in thy colours bright
Wast there enwouen, and the sad distresse,
In which that boy thee plonged, for despight,
That thou bewray’dst his mothers wantonnesse,
When she with Mars was meynt in ioyfulnesse:
For thy, he thrild thee with a leaden dart,
To loue faire Daphne, which thee loued lesse:
Lesse she thee lou’d, then was thy iust desart,
Yet was thy loue her death, & her death was thy smart.

Next vnto him was Neptune pictured,
In his diuine resemblance wondrous lyke:
His face was rugged, and his hoarie hed
Dropped with brackish deaw; his three-forkt Pyke
He stearnly shooke, and therewith fierce did stryke
The raging billowes, that on euery syde
They trembling stood, and made a long broad dyke,
That his swift charet might haue passage wyde,
Which foure great Hippodames did draw in temewise tyde.

His sea-horses did seeme to sport amayne,
And from their nosethrilles blow the brynie streame,
That made the sparckling waues to smoke agayne,
And flame with gold, but the white fomy creame,
Did shine with siluer, and shoot forth his beame.
The God himselfe did pensiue seeme and sad,
And hong adowne his head, as he did dreame:
For priuy loue his brest empierced had,
Ne ought but deare Bisaltis ay could make him glad.

haplesse: unlucky  Pounce: pansy  sweet breare: sweet briar
rending:tearing  teene: sorrow  amayne: violently  pensive: thoughtful  privy: secret
empierced: pierced  charet: chariot  rent: destroyed  Brent: burned  eftsoones: soon after
hoarie: white  spray: bridge  Hippodames: sea-horses
in temewise tyde: as a team
He loued eke Iphimedia deare, 
And Aeolus faire daughter Arne hight.
For whom he turnd him selfe into a Steare, 
And fed on fodder, to beguile her sight.
Also to win Deucalions daughter bright, 
He turnd him selfe into a Dolphin fayre;
And like a winged horse he tooke his flight, 
To snaky-locke Medusa to repayre,
On whom he got faire Pegasus, that flitteth in the ayre.

got: begot flitteth: flies

Next Saturne was, (but who would euer weene, 
That sullein Saturne euer weend to loue? 
Yet loue is sullein, and Saturnlike seene, 
As he did for Erigone it proue,)
That to a Centaure did him selfe transmoue. 
So prou’d it eke that gracious God of wine, 
When for to compasse Philliras hard loue, 
He turnd himselfe into a fruitfull vine, 
And into her faire bosome made his grapes decline.

weene: suppose transmoue: transform eke: also

Long were to tell the amorous assayes, 
And gentle pangues, with which he maked meeke 
The mighty Mars, to learne his wanton playes: 
How oft for Venus, and how often eek 
For many other Nymphes he sore did shreek, 
With womanish teares, and with vnwarlike smarts, 
Priuily moistening his horrid cheek. 
There was he painted full of burning darts, 
And many wide woundes launched through his inner parts.

priuily: secretly

Ne did he spare (so cruell was the Elfe) 
His owne deare mother, (ah why should he so?) 
Ne did he spare sometime to pricke himselfe, 
That he might taste the sweet consuming woe, 
Which he had wrought to many others moe. 
But to declare the mournfull Tragedyes, 
And spoiles, wherewith he all the ground did strow, 
More eath to number, with how many eyes 
High heauen beholds sad louers nightly theeueryes.

eath: easy theeueryes: thieveries

Kings Queenes, Lords Ladies, Knights & Damzels gent 
Were heap’d together with the vulgar sort, 
And mingled with the raskall rablement, 
Without respect of person or of port, 
To shew Dan Cupids powre and great effort: 
And round about a border was entrayld, 
Of broken bowes and arrowes shiuered short, 
And a long bloudy riuer through them rayld, 
So liuely and so like, that liuing sence it rayld.

the vulgar sort: regular people rablement: crowd port: demeanor, bearing rayld: intertwined

And at the vpper end of that faire rowme, 
There was an Altar built of pretious stone, 
Of passing valew, and of great renowne, 
On which there stood an Image all alone, 
Of massy gold, which with his owne light shone; 
And wings it had with sundry colours dight, 
More sundry colours, then the proud Pauone Beares in his boasted fan, or Iris bright, 
When her discolord bow she spreds through heauens hight.
sundry: various dight: marked Pauone: peacock Iris: goddess of the rainbow

Blindfold he was, and in his cruell fist 
A mortall bow and arrowes keene did hold, 
With which he shot at randon, when him list, 
Some headed with sad lead, some with pure gold; 
(Ah man beware, how thou those darts behold) 
A wounded Dragon vnder him did ly, 
Whose hideous tayle his left foot did enfold, 
And with a shaft was shot through either eye, 
That no man forth might draw, ne no man remedye.

list: wanted

And vnderneath his feet was written thus, 
Vnto the Victor of the Gods this bee: 
And all the people in that ample hous 
Did to that image bow their humble knee, 
And oft committed fowle Idolatree. 
That wondrous sight faire Britomart amazed, 
Ne seeing could her wonder satisfie, 
But euermore and more vpon it gazed, 
The whiles the passing brightnes her fraile sences dazed.
Tho as she backward cast her busie eye,
To search each secret of that goodly sted,
Ouer the dore thus written she did spy
\textit{Be bold}: she oft and oft it ouer-red,
Yet could not find what sence it figured:
But what so were therein or writ or ment,
She was no whit thereby discouraged
From prosecuting of her first intent,
But forward with bold steps into the next roome went.
\textit{tho}: then \quad \textit{sted}: place

Much fairer, then the former, was that roome,
And richlier by many partes arayd:
For not with arras made in painefull loome,
But with pure gold it all was ouerlayd,
Wrought with wilde Antickes, which their follies playd,
In the rich metall, as they liuing were:
A thousand monstrous formes therein were made,
Such as false loue doth oft vpon him weare:
For loue in thousand monstrous formes doth oft appeare.
\textit{arayd}: ornamented \quad \textit{Antickes}: ancient or fantastic figures \quad \textit{oft}: often

And all about, the glistring walles were hong
With warlike spoiles, and with victorious prayes,
Of mighty Conquerours and Captaines strong,
Which were whilome captiued in their dayes
To cruell loue, and wrought their owne decayes:
Their swerds & speres were broke, & hauberques rent;
And their proud girlonds of tryumphant bayes
Troden in dust with fury insolent,
To shew the victors might and mercilesse intent.
\textit{prayes}: preys, victims \quad \textit{whilome}: formerly
\textit{hauberques rent}: armor destroyed \quad \textit{bayes}: laurels

The warlike Mayde beholding earnestly
The goodly ordinance of this rich place,
Did greatly wonder, ne could satisfie
Her greedy eyes with gazing a long space:
But more she meruaild that no footings trace,
Nor wight appear’d, but wastefull emptinesse,
And solemne silence ouer all that place:
Strauge thing it seem’d, that none was to possessse
So rich purveyance, ne them keepe with carefulnessse.
\textit{ordinance}: arrangement \quad \textit{trace}: walk \quad \textit{wight}: person
\textit{purveyance}: provision

And as she lookt about, she did behold,
How ouer that same dore was likewise writ,
\textit{Be bold, be bold,} and euery where \textit{Be bold,}
That much she muz’d, yet could not construe it
By any ridling skill, or commune wit.
At last she spyde at that roomes vpper end,
Another yron dore, on which was writ,
\textit{Be not too bold}; whereto though she did bend
Her earnest mind, yet wist not what it might intend.
\textit{muz’d}: thought \quad \textit{construe}: understand \quad \textit{wist}: knew

Thus she there waited vntill euentyde,
Yet liuing creature none she saw appeare:
And now sad shadowes gan the world to hyde,
From mortall vew, and wrap in darkenesse dreare;
Yet nould she d’off her weary armes, for feare
Of secret daunger, ne let sleepe oppresse
Her heauey eyes with natures burdein deare,
But drew her selfe aside in sickernesse,
And her welpointed weapons did about her dresse.
\textit{nould she d’off}: she wouldn’t take off \quad \textit{sickernesse}: safety

\textbf{Cant. XII.}

\textit{The maske of Cupid, and th’enchanted Chamber are displayd,}
\textit{Whence Britomart redeemes faire Amoret, through charmes decayd.}

Tho when as chearlesse Night ycouered had
Faire heauen with an vniuersall cloud,
That every wight dismayd with darknesse sad,
In silence and in sleepe themselues did shroud,
She heard a shrilling Trompet sound aloud,
Signe of nigh battell, or got victory;
Nought therewith daunted was her courage proud,
But rather stird to cruell enmity,
Expecting euer, when some foe she might descry.
\textit{Tho: Then} \quad \textit{wight}: person \quad \textit{nigh}: near \quad \textit{nought}: not at all
\textit{enmity}: hostility \quad \textit{desery}: percieve
With that, an hideous storme of winde arose,
\hspace{1em} With dreadfull thunder and lightning atwixt,
\hspace{1em} And an earth-quake, as if it streight would lose
\hspace{1em} The worlds foundations from his centre fixt;
\hspace{1em} A direfull stench of smoke and sulphure mixt
\hspace{1em} Ensewed, whose noyance fild the fearefull sted,
\hspace{1em} From the fourth houre of night vntill the sixt;
\hspace{1em} Yet the bold Britonesse was nought ydred,
\hspace{1em} Though much emmou’d, but stedfast still perseuered.

ensewed: followed
sted: place

All suddenly a stormy whirlwind blew
\hspace{1em} Throughout the house, that clapped euery dore,
\hspace{1em} With which that yron wicket open flew,
\hspace{1em} As it with mightie leuers had bene tore:
\hspace{1em} And forth issewd, as on the ready flore
\hspace{1em} Of some Theatre, a graue personage,
\hspace{1em} That in his hand a branch of laurell bore,
\hspace{1em} With comely haueour and count’nance sage,
\hspace{1em} Yclad in costly garments, fit for tragicke Stage.

collapsed: slammed
wicket: gate
count’nance sage: wise face
yclad: dressed

Proceeding to the midst, he still did stand,
\hspace{1em} As if in mind he somewhat had to say,
\hspace{1em} And to the vulgar beckning with his hand,
\hspace{1em} In signe of silence, as to heare a play,
\hspace{1em} By liuely actions he gan bewray
\hspace{1em} Some argument of matter passioned;
\hspace{1em} Which doen, he backe retyred soft away,
\hspace{1em} And passing by, his name discouered,
\hspace{1em} Ease, on his robe in golden letters cyphered.
vulgar: common people
gan bewray: began to reveal
cyphered: written

The noble Mayd, still standing all this vewd,
\hspace{1em} And merueild at his strange intendiment;
\hspace{1em} With that a joyous fellowship issewed
\hspace{1em} Of Minstrals, making goodly meriment,
\hspace{1em} With wanton Bardes, and Rymers impudent,
\hspace{1em} All which together sung full chearefully
\hspace{1em} A lay of loues delight, with sweet consent:
\hspace{1em} After whom marcht a jolly company,
\hspace{1em} In manner of a maske, enraged orderly.
intendiment: knowledge, intention
minstrals: musicians
Bardes: poets
lay: song
jolly: lively

The whiles a most delitious harmony,
\hspace{1em} In full straunge notes was sweetly heard to sound,
\hspace{1em} That the rare sweetnesse of the melody
\hspace{1em} The feeble senses wholly did confound,
\hspace{1em} And the fraile soule in deepe delight nigh dround:
\hspace{1em} And when it ceast, shrill trompets loud did bray,
\hspace{1em} That their report did farre away rebound,
\hspace{1em} And when they ceast, it gan againe to play,
\hspace{1em} The whiles the maskers marched forth in trim aray.

confound: confuse
nigh: nearly
rebound: echo
aray: order

The first was Fancy, like a louely boy,
\hspace{1em} Of rare aspect, and beautie without peare,
\hspace{1em} Matchable either to that ympe of Troy,
\hspace{1em} Whom Ioue did loue, and chose his cup to beare,
\hspace{1em} Or that same daintie lad, which was so deare
\hspace{1em} To great Alcides, that when as he dyde,
\hspace{1em} He wailed womanlike with many a teare,
\hspace{1em} And euery wood, and euery valley wyde
\hspace{1em} He fild with Hylas name; the Nymphes eke Hylas cryde.
without peare: unparalleled
ek: also

His garment neither was of silke nor say,
\hspace{1em} But painted plumes, in goodly order dight,
\hspace{1em} Like as the sunburnt Indians do aray
\hspace{1em} Their tawney bodies, in their proudest plight:
\hspace{1em} As those same plumes, so seemd he vaine and light,
\hspace{1em} That by his gate might easily appeare;
\hspace{1em} For still he far’d as dauncing in delight,
\hspace{1em} And in his hand a windy fan did beare,
\hspace{1em} That in the idle aire he mou’d still here and there.
say: a thin material, for cloaks
plumes: feathers
dight: arranged
gate: movement
plight: condition

And him beside marcht amorous Desyre,
\hspace{1em} Who seemd of riper yeares, than th’other Swaine,
\hspace{1em} Yet was that other swayne this elders syre,
\hspace{1em} And gaue him being, commune to them twaine:
\hspace{1em} His garment was disguised very vaine,
\hspace{1em} And his embroidered Bonet sat awry;
\hspace{1em} Twixt both his hands few sparkes he close did straine,
\hspace{1em} Which still he blew, and kindled busily,
\hspace{1em} That soone they life conceiu’d, & forth in flames did fly.
swaine: person
twaine: two
awry: off-center
Next after him went \textit{Doubt}, who was \textit{yclad}. In a discolour’d cote, of straunge disguysye, That at his backe a brode Capuccio had, And sleeues dependant \textit{Albanese}-wyse: He lookt askew with his mistrustfull eyes, And nicely trode, as thornes lay in his way, Or that the flore to shrinke he did auyse, And on a broken reed he still did stay His feeble steps, which shrunke, when hard theron he lay.

\textit{yclad}: dressed \hspace{1em} \textit{Capuccio}: hood of a cloak \hspace{1em} \textit{askew}: sideways \hspace{1em} \textit{trode}: stepped \hspace{1em} \textit{auyse}: perceive \hspace{1em} \textit{reed}: cane \hspace{1em} \textit{stay}: support

With him went \textit{Daunger}, cloth’d in ragged weed, Made of Beares skin, that him more dreadfull made, Yet his owne face was dreadfull, ne did need Straunge horrour, to deforme his griesly shade; A net in th’one hand, and a rustie blade In th’other was, this Mischiefe, that Mishap; With th’one his foes he threatned to inuade, With th’other he his friends ment to enwrap: For whom he could not kill, he practizd to entrap.

\textit{weed}: clothes \hspace{1em} \textit{griesly shade}: horrible shadow

Next him was \textit{Feare}, all arm’d from top to toe, Yet thought himselfe not safe enough thereby, But feard each shadow mouing to and fro, And his owne armes when glittering he did spy, Or clashing heard, he fast away did fly, As ashes pale of hew, and wingyheeld; And euermore on daunger fixt his eye, Gainst whom he alwaies bent a brasen shield, Which his right hand vnarmed fearefully did wield.

\textit{wingyheeld}: with wings on his heels \hspace{1em} \textit{brasen}: brass

With him went \textit{Hope} in rancke, a handsome Mayd, Of chearefull looke and louely to behold; In silken samite she was light arayd, And her faire lockes were wouen vp in gold; She alway smyld, and in her hand did hold An holy water Sprinkle, dipt in deowe, With which she sprinkled fauours manifold, On whom she list, and did great liking sheowe, Great liking vnto many, but true loue to feowe.

\textit{samite}: silk stuff \hspace{1em} \textit{arayd}: dressed \hspace{1em} \textit{deowe}: dew \hspace{1em} \textit{manifold}: numerous \hspace{1em} \textit{list}: wanted \hspace{1em} \textit{feowe}: few

And after them \textit{Dissemblance}, and \textit{Suspect} Marcht in one rancke, yet an vnequall paire: For she was gentle, and of milde aspect, Courteous to all, and seeming debonaire, Goodly adorned, and exceeding faire: Yet was that all but painted, and purloynd, And her bright browes were deckt with borrowed haire: Her deedes were forged, and her words false coynd, And alwaies in her hand two clewes of silke she twynd.

\textit{purloined}: stolen \hspace{1em} \textit{forged}: made up \hspace{1em} \textit{clewes}: hanks of thread

But he was foule, ill fauoured, and grim, Vnder his eyebrowes looking still askaunce; And euer as \textit{Dissemblance} laught on him, He lowrd on her with daungerous eyeglaunce; Shewing his nature in his countenance; His rolling eyes did neuer rest in place, But walkt each where, for feare of hid mischaunce, Holding a lattice still before his face, Through which he still did peepe, as forward he did pace.

\textit{askaunce}: sideways \hspace{1em} \textit{lowrd}: frowned \hspace{1em} \textit{countenance}: face \hspace{1em} \textit{mischaunce}: bad luck \hspace{1em} \textit{lattice}: screen

Next him went \textit{Griefe}, and \textit{Fury} matcht yfere; \textit{Griefe} all in sable sorrowfully clad, Downe hanging his dull head, with heauy chere, Yet inly being more, then seeming sad: A paire of Pincers in his hand he had, With which he pinched people to the hart, That from thenceforth a wretched life they lad, In wilfull languor and consuming smart, Dying each day with inward wounds of dolours dart.

\textit{yfere}: together \hspace{1em} \textit{sable}: black \hspace{1em} \textit{clad}: dressed \hspace{1em} \textit{chere}: expression \hspace{1em} \textit{inly}: inwardly \hspace{1em} \textit{lad}: led \hspace{1em} \textit{languor}: depression \hspace{1em} \textit{smart}: pain \hspace{1em} \textit{dolours}: sorrows

But \textit{Fury} was full ill appareiled In rags, that naked nigh she did appeare, With ghastly lookes and dreadfull derrihed; For from her backe her garments she did teare, And from her head oft rent her snarled heare: In her right hand a firebrand she did tosse About her head, still roming here and there; As a dismayed Deare in chace embost, Forgetfull of his safety, hath his right way lost.
After them went Displeasure and Pleasance,
He looking lumpish and full sullein sad,
And hanging downe his heauy countenance;
She chearefull fresh and full of ioyance glad,
As if no sorrow she ne felt ne drad;
That euill matched paire they seemd to bee:
An angry Waspe th’one in a viall had
Th’other in hers an hony-lady Bee;
Thus marched these sixe couples forth in faire degree.

lumpish: dull, slow  countenance: face

After all these there marcht a most faire Dame,
Led of two grysie villeins, th’one Despight,
The other cleped Cruelty by name:
She dolefull Lady, like a dreary Spright,
Cald by strong charmes out of eternall night,
Had deathes owne image figurd in her face,
Full of sad signes, fearefull to liuing sight;
Yet in that horror shewd a seemely grace,
And with her feeble feet did moue a comely pace.
grysie: squalid  cleped: named  doleful: sorrowful
spright: spirit

Her brest all naked, as net iuory,
Without adorne of gold or siluer bright,
Wherewith the Craftsman wonts it beautify,
Of her dew honour was despoyled quight,
And a wide wound therein (O ruefull sight)
Entrenched deepe with knife accursed keene,
Yet freshly bleeding forth her fainting spright,
(The worke of cruell hand) was to be seene,
That dye in sanguine red her skin all snowy cleene.
wonts: habitually  despoiled: unrobed  sanguine: bloody

At that wide orifice her trembling hart
Was drawne forth, and in siluer basin layd,
Quite through transfixed with a deadly dart,
And in her bloud yet steeming fresh embayd:
And those two villeins, which her steps vpstayed,
When her weake feete could scarcely her sustaine,
And fading vitall powers gan to fade,
Her forward still with torture did constraine,
And euermore encreased her consuming paine.

embayd: bathed  vpstayed: supported  constrained: force

Next after her the winged God himselfe
Came riding on a Lion rauenous,
Taught to obay the menage of that Elfe,
That man and beast with powre imperious
Subdeweth to his kingdome tyrannous:
His blindfold eyes he bad a while vnbind,
That his proud spoyle of that same dolorous
Faire Dame he might behold in perfect kind;
Which scene, he much rejoyced in his cruell mind.

menage: household followers  bad: ordered
dolorous: sorrowful

Of which full proud, himselfe vp rearing hye,
He looked round about with sterne disdaine;
And did suruay his goodly company:
And marshalling the euill ordered traine,
With that the darts which his right hand did straine,
Full dreadfully he shooke that all did quake,
And clapt on hie his coulourd winges twaine,
That all his many it affraide did make:
Tho blinding him againe, his way he forth did take.

vp rearing: raising up  marshalling: ushering, leading ceremoniously
twaine: two  tho: then

Behinde him was Reproch, Repentance, Shame;
Reproch the first, Shame next, Repent behind:
Repentance feele, sorrowfull, and lame:
Reproch despightfull, carelesse, and vnkind;
Shame most ill fauourd, bestiall, and blind:
Shame lowrd, Repentance sigh’d, Reproch did scould;
Reproch sharpe stings, Repentance whips entwind,
Shame burning brond-yrons in her hand did hold:
All three to each vnlike, yet all made in one mould.
lowrd: frowned

And after them a rude confused rout
Of persons flockt, whose names is hard to read:
Emongst them was sterne Strife, and Anger stout,
Vnquiet Care, and fond Vnthsrithead,
Lewd Losse of Time, and Sorrow seeming dead,
Inconstant Chaunge, and false Disloyaltie,
Consuming Riotise, and guilty Dread
Of heauenly vengeance, fain Infirmitie,
Vile Pouertie, and lastly Death with infamie.
rout: crowd, troop  read: explain  fond: foolish
infamie: shame
There were full many moe like maladies,
   Whose names and natures I note readen well;
So many moe, as there be phantasies
   In wauering wemens wit, that none can tell,
Or paines in loue, or punishments in hell;
   All which disguized marcht in masking wise,
About the chamber with that Damozell,
   And then returned, hauing marched thrise,
Into the inner roome, from whence they first did rise.

maladies: diseases              I note readen: I can’t explain
thrise: three times

So soone as they were in, the dore streight way
   Fast locked, driuen with that stormy blast,
Which first it opened; and bore all away.
Then the braue Maid, which all this while was plast,
   In secret shade, and saw both first and last,
Issewed forth, and went vnto the dore,
   To enter in, but found it locked fast:
   It vaine she thought with rigorous vprore
For to efforce, when charmes had closed it afore.

sleights: tricks         cast: resolved
emprise: undertaking
cheare: demeanor, being
for thy: therefore

Where force might not auaile, their sleights and art
   She cast to vse, both fit for hard emprize;
For thy, from that same roome not to depart
   Till morrow next, she did her selfe auize,
When that same Maske againe should forth arize.
   Then she, as morrow fresh, her selfe did reare
Out of her secret stand, that day for to out weare.

wrate: wrote           perforce: of necessity
steadfast: constant, consistant

All that day she outwore in wandering,
   And gazing on that Chambers ornament,
Till that againe the second euening
   Her couered with her sable vestiment,
Wherewith the worlds faire beautie she hath blent:
   Then when the second watch was almost past,
   That brasen dore flew open, and in went
   Bold Britomart, as she had late forecast,
Neither of idle shewes, nor of false charmes aghast.

sable vestiment: black clothes           blent: blinded
brazen: brass                         aghast: afraid

So soone as she was entred, round about
   She cast her eies, to see what was become
Of all those persons, which she saw without:
But lo, they streight were vanisht all and some
Ne liuing wight she saw in all that roome,
   Saue that same woefull Ladie, both whose hands
Were bounden fast, that did her ill become,
   And her small wast girt round with yron bands,
Vnto a brasen pillour, by the which she stands.

Lo: expression of wonder or surprise         saue: except

And her before the vile Enchaunter sate,
   Figuring straunge characters of his art,
With liuing bloud he those characters wrate,
Dreadfully dropping from her dying hart,
   Seeming transfixed with a cruell dart,
And all perforce to make her him to loue.
Ah who can loue the worker of her smart?
   A thousand charmes he formerly did proue;
Yet thousand charmes could not her stedfast heart remoue.

wrote: wrote           perforce: of necessity
smart: pain
steadfast: constant, consistant

Soone as that virgin knight he saw in place,
   His wicked bookest in hast he ouerthrew,
Not caring his long labours to deface,
   And fiercely ronning to that Lady trew,
   A murdrous knife out of his pocket drew,
   The which he thought, for vileinious despight,
In her tormented bodie to embrew:
But the stout Damzell to him leaping light,
   His cursed hand withheld, and maistered his might.

despight: ill will    embrow: stain with blood

From her, to whom his fury first he ment,
   The wicked weapon rashly he did wrest,
   And turning to her selfe his fell intent,
   Vnwares it strooke into her snowie chest,
   That little drops empurpled her faire brest.
   Exceeding wroth therewith the virgin grew,
Albe the wound were nothing deepe imprest,
And fiercely forth her mortall blade she drew,
   To giue him the reward for such vile outrage dew.

fell: deadly          wroth: angry            albe: although
So mightily she smote him, that to ground
He fell halfe dead; next stroke him should have slaine,
Had not the Lady, which by him stood bound,
Dernely unto her called to abstaine,
From doing him to dy. For else her paine
Should be remediless, sith none but hee,
Which wrought it, could the same recure againe.
Therewith she stayd her hand, loth stayd to bee;
For life she him enuyde, and long’d reuenge to see.

smote: hit sternly: severely sith: since loth: reluctant

And to him said, Thou wicked man, whose meed
For so huge mischiefe, and vile villany
Is death, or if that ought do death exceed,
Be sure, that nought may saue thee from to dy,
But if that thou this Dame doe presently
Restore vnto her health, and former state;
This doe and liue, else die vndoubtedly.
He glad of life, that lookt for death but late,
Did yield himselfe right willing to prolong his date.

meed: reward

And rising vp, gan streight to ouerlooke,
Those cursed leaues, his charmes backe to reuerse;
Full dreadfull things out of that balefull booke
He red, and measur’d many a sad verse,
That horror gan the virgins hart to perse,
And her faire locks vp stared stiffe on end,
Hearing him those same bloudy lines reherse;
And all the while he red, she did extend
Her sword high ouer him, if ought he did offend.

leaves: pages of his magic books baleful: evil perse: pierce vp stared: stood up

Anon she gan perceiue the house to quake,
And all the dores to rattle round about;
Yet all that did not her dismaied make,
Nor slacke her threatfull hand for daungers dout,
But still with stedfast eye and courage stout
Abode, to weet what end would come of all.
At last that mightie chaine, which round about
Her tender waste was wound, adowne gan fall,
And that great brasen pillour broke in peeces small.

anon: immediately slacke: lesser dout: fear abode: remained to weet: to know brasen: brass

The cruell steele, which thrild her dying hart,
Fell softly forth, as of his owne accord,
And the wyde wound, which lately did disparth
Her bleeding brest, and riven bowels gor’d,
Was closed vp, as it had not bene bor’d,
And every part to safety full sound,
As she were neuer hurt, was soone restor’d:
Tho when she felt her selfe to be vnbound,
And perfect hole, prostrate she fell vnto the ground.

thrild: pierced disparth: divide riven: split sound: healthy tho: then hole: whole

Before faire Britomart, she fell prostrate,
Saying, Ah noble knight, what worthy meed
Can wretched Lady, quit from wofull state,
Yield you in liew of this your gratious deed?
Your vertue selfe her owne reward shall breed,
Euen immortall praise, and glory wyde,
Which I your vassall, by your prowesse freed,
Shall through the world make to be notifyde,
And goodly well aduance, that goodly well was tryde.
in liew of: in recompense for vassall: servant prowesse: bravery tryde: attempted

But Britomart vprearing her from ground,
Said, Gentle Dame, reward enough I wee nee
For many labours more, then I haue found,
This, that in safety now I haue you seene,
And meane of your deliuerance haue beene:
Henceforth faire Lady comfort to you take,
And put away remembrance of late teene;
In stead thereof know, that your louing Make,
Hath no lesse griefe endured for your gentle sake.
weene: know teene: sorrow make: mate

She much was cheard to heare him mentiond,
Whom of all liuing wights she loued best.
Then laid the noble Championesse strong hond
Vpon th’enchaunter, which had her distrest
So sore, and with foule outrages opprest:
With that great chaine, wherewith not long ygo
He bound that pitteous Lady prisoner, now relest,
Himselfe she bound, more worthy to be so,
And captiue with her led to wretchednesse and wo.

wights: men sore: grievously
Returning backe, those goodly roomes, which erst
She saw so rich and royally arayd,
Now vanisht utterly, and cleane subuerst
She found, and all their glory quite decayd,
That sight of such a change her much dismayd.
Thence forth descending to that perlous Porch,
Those dreadfull flames she also found delayd,
And quenched quite, like a consumed torch,
That erst all enterers wont so cruelly to scorch.

ert: before        arayd: decorated    subverst: subverted, undermined
perlous: perilous            delayd: stopped
line 9: That befoe was accustomed so cruelly to scorch all enterers

More easie issew now, then entrance late
She found: for now that fained dreadfull flame,
Which chokt the porch of that enchanted gate,
And passage bard to all, that thither came,
Was vanisht quite, as it were not the same,
And gaue her leave at pleasure forth to passe.
Th’Enchaunter selfe, which all that fraud did frame,
To have efforst the love of that faire lasse,
Seeing his worke now wasted deepe engrieued was.
isses: exit         fained: pretended

But when the victoresse arriued there,
Where late she left the pensife Scudamore,
With her owne trusty Squire, both full of feare,
Neither of them she found where she them lore:
Thereat her noble hart was stonisht sore;
But most faire Amoret, whose gentle spright
Now gan to feede on hope, which she before
Conceiued had, to see her owne dear knight,
Being thereof beguyld was filld with new affright.
pensife: thoughtful      lore: left        spright: spirit
peguyld: tricked

But he sad man, when he had long in drede
Awayted there for Britomarts retorne,
Yet saw her not nor signe of her good speed,
His expectation to despaire did turne,
Misdeeming sure that her those flames did burne;
And therefore gan aduize with her old Squire,
Who her deare nourslings losse no lesse did mourne,
Thence to depart for further aide t’enquire:
Where let them wend at will, whilst here I doe respire.
good speed: success       misdeeming: misjudging
advize: consult            wend: go

Original 1590 ending, revised for the 1596 version

At last she came vnto the place, where late
She left Sir Scudamour in great distresse,
Twixt dolor and despiught halfe desperate,
Of his loues succour, of his owne redresse,
And of the hardie Britomarts success:
There on the cold earth him now thrown she found,
In wilfull anguish, and dead heauinesse,
And to him cold; whose voices knownen sound
Soone as he heard, himself he reared light from ground.

There did he see, that most on earth him ioyd,
His dearest loue, the comfort of his dayes,
Whose too long absence him had sore annoyd,
And wearied his life with dull delayes:
Straight he vpstarted from the loathed layes,
And to her ran with hasty egernesse,
In the coole soile, after long thirstinesse,
Which he in chace endured hath, now nigh breathlesse.

Lightly he clipt her twixt his armes twaine,
And streightly did embrace her body bright,
Her body, late the prison of sad paine,
Now the sweet lodge of loue and deare delight:
But she faire Lady ouercommen quight
Of huge affection, did in pleasure melt,
And in sweete rauishment pourd out her spright:
No word they spake, nor earthly thing they felt,
But like two senceles stocks in long embracement dwelt.

Had ye them seene, ye would haue surely thought,
That they had beene that faire Hermaphrodite,
Which that rich Romane of white marble wrought,
And in his costly Bath causd to bee site:
So seemd those two, as growne together quite,
That Britomart halfe enuying their b[ll]esse,
Was much empassiond in her gentle sprite,
And to her selfe oft wisht like happinesse,
In vaine she wisht, that fate n’ould let her yet possesse.

Thus doe those louers with sweet counteruayle,
Each other of loues bitter fruit despole.
But now my teme begins to faint and fayle,
All waxen weary of their journall toyle:
Therefore I will their sweatie yokes assoyle,
At this same furrowes end, till a new day:
And ye faire swayns, after your long tumoyle,
Now cease your worke, and at your pleasure play:
Now cease your worke; to morrow is an holy day.