

Alysoun

ANONYMOUS (1100-1945)

- 00000001 An hendy hap ichabbe yhent ;
00000002 Ichot, from hevене it is me sent;
00000003 From alle wymmen mi loue is lent,
00000004 And lyght on Alysoun.
- 00000005 Bytuen{.e} Mersh and Averil,
00000006 When spray biginneth to spring{.e},
00000007 The lutel foul hath hir{.e} wyl
00000008 On hyr{.e} lud to syng{.e}.
00000009 Ich libbe in love longing{.e}
00000010 For semlokest of all{.e} thing{.e}.
00000011 He may me bliss{.e} bring{.e};
00000012 Icham in hire baundoun.
- 00000013 On heu hire her is fayr ynoh,
00000014 Hire brow{.e} broune, hire ey{.e} blak{.e};
00000015 With lossum chere he on me loh;
00000016 With middel smal, and wel ymak{.e}.
00000017 Bote he me woll{.e} to hire tak{.e},
00000018 Fort{.e} buen hire owen mak{.e},
00000019 Longe to lyven ichulle forsak{.e},
00000020 And fey{.e} fallen adoun.
- 00000021 Niht{.e}s when y wende and wak{.e},
00000022 Forthi myn wong{.e}s waxeth won;
00000023 Levedi, al for thin{.e} sak{.e}
00000024 Longinge is ylent me on.
00000025 In world nis non so wyter mon,
00000026 That al hire bounté tell{.e} con.
00000027 Hire swyre is whittore then the swon,
00000028 And feyrest may in toune.
- 00000029 Icham for wowyng al forwake,
00000030 Wery so water in wor{.e}.
00000031 Lest eny rev{.e} me my mak{.e},
00000032 Ychabbe y-yern{.e}d yor{.e}.
00000033 Betere is tholien whyl{.e} sor{.e}
00000034 Then mournen evermor{.e}.
00000035 Geynest under gor{.e},
00000036 Herkn{.e} to my roun.

Notes

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|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | A fair fortune have I won. | 21 | wende: turn, toss about. |
| 2 | Ichot: I know. | 22 | forthi: therefore. |
| 3 | lent: departed. | | wonges: cheeks. |
| 4 | lyght: alighted. | | won: wan. |
| 8 | lud: language. | 23 | levedi: lady. |
| 9 | libbe: live. | 24 | is ylent me on: has come upon me. |
| 10 | semlokest: comeliest. | 25 | nis non so wyter mon: there is no
man so wise. |
| 11 | he: she. | 27 | swyre: neck. |
| 12 | Icham: I am. | 28 | may: maid. |
| | baundoun: power. | 29 | forwake: worn out by loss of sleep |
| 13 | on heu: in colour, complexion. | 30 | weary as water in a pool (stagnant
water). |
| | her; hair. | 31 | reve me my make: steal my mate
from me. |
| | ynoh: enough. | 32 | y-yerned yore: yearned, mourned,
for a long time. |
| 15 | lossum chere: loving look. | 33-34 | It is better to endure hurt for a
while than to mourn always. |
| | he on me loh: she laughed at me. | 35 | geynest under gore: most
gracious, fairest under gown. |
| 16 | ymake: made. | 36 | roun: song. |
| 17 | bote: unless. | | |
| 18 | forte: (for) to. | | |
| | buen: be. | | |
| | make: mate. | | |
| 19 | ichulle: I will. | | |
| 20 | feye: doomed to die
(Old English <i>fæge</i> ; Scotch <i>fey</i>). | | |

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