

125 Ick heb ghehoert in ware tale,  
 Dat coninghen van Portingale  
 In horen jonghen daghen storven,  
 Entie nae hem stat verworven,  
 Die voeren mede den selven voy.  
 130 Dus claechden sy dicke mit vernoy,  
 Die dit spel voer oghen saghen,  
 Dat si in horen jonghen daghen  
 Mosten lijff ende goet verliesen,  
 Ende haestelijck dat sterven kiesien.  
 135 Dit was een harde bitter lot.  
 Ander coninghen spaerde God,  
 Die leefden langhe ende worden oudt.  
 Also als mijn materi hout,  
 Soe quam daer een vanden jonghen,  
 140 Die hadde gheerne den doot ontdronghen  
 Off vorste ghenomen by naturen,  
 Ghelyken sine naegheburen.  
 Des nam hi raedt mit sinen lieden,  
 Die hem naestelyken rieden,  
 145 Dat hi voer te Spanghen waert:  
 Daer woende een coninc out vermaert  
 Ende hadde in eren langh gheleeft:  
*"Alsulken raedt als hi ons gheeft,  
 Dien suldi doen, al wats gheschiet."*  
 150 Die coninc en merrede langher niet,  
 Hy en toech aldaer sonder vertreck  
 Om te claghen sijn ghebreck,  
 Ende rade te soecken tsinen vromen.  
 Ende als die reyse was volcomen,  
 155 Ende sy nakeden sconincx hove,  
 Hy hadse ontfanghen mit groten love,  
 Den jonghen coninc entie sijn.  
 Dierbaer spise ende edelen wijn  
 Sachmen daer ter tafel draghen;  
 160 Scoen berechten ende edel vraghen  
 Die hoerdmien daer in reynre tucht;  
 Mar hi die hadde groten ducht  
 Voer den doet ende voer sulc scheiden,  
 Die maecte node langhe beyden,  
 165 Ende leyde vast den coninc an,  
 Om dat hi was soe ouden man,  
 Starc, ghesont, van goeden zeden,  
 Off hy mit enigherhande reden  
 Hem leren mochte enighen raet;  
 170 Want hoer coninlijcke staet  
 Wilde God niet langher sparen  
 Dan binnen horen XXX jaren:  
 Dan mosten sijt rumen onvoersien.  
*"Dit mach by reden al gheschien,"*  
 175 Dat sprack die coninc totten heren,

I have heard as a true tale  
 that former kings of Portugale  
 died very young, and not alone:  
 those who succeeded on the throne  
 followed the same and mortal course.  
 So all complained, with much remorse,  
 who witnessed these dramatic plays,  
 that all of them in their young days  
 were losing life and property,  
 and moribund too hastily.  
 This fate was really much too sore.  
 God favoured other kings. And more:  
 they aged and became very old.  
 But then, as by my sources I am told,  
 one of a younger generation  
 wanted to change this situation,  
 avoid the cold of deadly labours,  
 just like so many of his neighbours.  
 Among his vassals he sought advice;  
 they told him honestly and wise  
 to travel to the Spanish throne:  
 there ruled an king, of much renown  
 who lived in honour in his lands:  
*"Every advice he recommends,  
 You have to follow, come what may."*  
 The king accepted no delay  
 and travelled thither without faint  
 to express his sad complaint,  
 and find there what could serve him best.  
 When they finished their long quest,  
 and approached the royal residence,  
 they were received with praise immense,  
 the youthful king and baronets.  
 Costly dishes and noble clarets  
 one could see served there to the guests;  
 fair judgments and noble requests  
 were issued there in a pure queue;  
 but he thought of that frightening view  
 of death, and of such a deceasing,  
 and found a long delay displeasing,  
 insisting therefore upon his host,  
 since of all kings, he grew old most,  
 yet strong and healthy, of good moral  
 that he would reasonably tell  
 him any counsel, sound and good;  
 since God, our lord, no longer would  
 spare their high and royal state  
 than within their third decade:  
 then they had to leave unforeseen.  
*"This all may happen for a reason",*  
 the king spoke to his noble guests.

*"Als u ghenoecht van hier te keren,  
 Ende ghy coemt binnen uwen palen,  
 So laet ghetrouwe boden halen  
 Ende doet besoecken ende bevraghen,  
 180 Off die luden hem yet beclaghen  
 Van uwen ouders hier te voren,  
 Dat sy tonrecht sijn beschoren,  
 Off hoir goedekijn offghebroken,  
 Dat an u ouders is ghevroken  
 185 Off an u te wreken staet;  
 Ende ymmer neemt alsulken raedt,  
 Dat ghijt weder doet verclaren,  
 Ende pijnt in uwen jonghen jaren  
 Wel te doen ende Gode tontsien:  
 190 Ju sel te beter heil gheschien.  
 Al schijn ic oudt, ten is gheen wonder:  
 Mijn luden bidden elck bysonder,  
 Vroech ende spade, ist man off wijff,  
 Altoes om mijn langhe lijff;  
 195 Ende God die heeft haer bede ghehoert  
 Van tyde tot tyde dus vaste voert,  
 Dat ic oudt worde ende grijs;  
 Mar doch ick bin der saken wijs:  
 Men mach der doot hier niet ontwencken,  
 200 Mar die hoer sterven overdencken  
 Die vresen Goods gherechticheit."  
 Ende als die coninc hadde gheseit  
 Alsulke woird int openbaer,  
 Doe dochte die jonghe: "Tis al waer,  
 205 Tmoet aldair by comen toe,  
 Dat mijn ouders storven vroe,  
 Ende ic die reyse moet bestaen.  
 Si hebben veel onrechts ghedaen:  
 Die wrake comt van onsen sonden."  
 210 Doe namen si oerloff daer ten stonden,  
 Ende neghen den coninc totter eerden,  
 Ende toghen thuus mit snelre vaerden.  
 Teerst dat sy te lande quamen,  
 Doe dede hi soecken alte samen  
 215 Hantvesten ende brieven goet,  
 Daer haer luden recht in stoet,  
 Dat harde qualijck was ghehouden.  
 Dat heeft die coninc sint vergouden,  
 Ende dede den luden goet bescheit;  
 220 Ende God doer sine ontfarmicheit  
 Ende om der gueder lude bede,  
 Soe wart hi out ende hadde vrede,  
 Ende starff daer nae een salich sterven.  
 Die heren, die hoer volck verderven,  
 225 Die moghen hier in proeven dit,  
 Wat ghebet datmen hem bidt.*

*"If it pleases you to return west,  
 and you arrive within your borders,  
 call faithful messengers and give orders  
 to stroll the lands and ask around  
 if for whatever cause or ground  
 people are holding plaint or grudge  
 for wrongs your parents did, as such,  
 or when their belongings were torn down  
 and they took vengeance on the crown  
 or want to do it now to you;  
 and always take this advice too:  
 try to reinforce the truth  
 and endeavour in your youth  
 to be God-fearing and do well:  
 Receive better fate, you shall.  
 No miracle explains my old appearance:  
 all people pray to my assistance,  
 early and late, husband and wife,  
 that I may longer stay alive;  
 and God, he answered to their praying  
 till day and age, as goes the saying,  
 when I turned wrinkled, old and grey;  
 but in control I always stay:  
 to flee our death is beyond powers  
 so contemplate the end of ours  
 and fear the justice of our Lord."  
 And when the king had marked this word  
 and gave advice all publicly,  
 the young king thought: "Much right is he,  
 the reason why ancestors died  
 and I had many miles to ride,  
 is without doubt fully related  
 to the crimes they perpetrated:  
 this is the vengeance for our sins."  
 Therefore they took their leave at once,  
 saluted the king in genuflection,  
 and hurried home in rapid action.  
 When entering their territory  
 he made collect immediately  
 deeds and charters of the crown  
 in which the rights were written down  
 that frequently were violated.  
 The king, since, had them compensated,  
 returned them in their right and place;  
 thus granted God in all his grace  
 at peoples prayers a long life  
 as monarch without war and strife,  
 who finally obtained salvation.  
 Those wicked lords who ruin their nation  
 should by this story be aware,  
 what will be prayed in many a prayer.*

Machmen trecht van hande wisen,  
Entie ziele daer mede spisen,  
Dat kent hi wel die al sal weten.  
230 Ick en wilre niet nae meten,  
Mar ghi, die meters sijt op eerden,  
Draghet u maten in sulker waerden,  
Dat ghi den meter dort verbeiden,  
Die alle mate sal bescheiden.

Is it allowed to refuse justice  
feed the soul with what earthly dust is?  
He only knows, who knows it all.  
I cannot measure tax or toll,  
but ye, our rulers here below  
respect the measure such and so  
that you dare to wait the measurer  
who acts as heaven's treasurer.