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de Pierre Troterel

Éditées par Pierre Pasquier
Traduites par Richard Hillman

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The Life and Holy Conversion of Guillaume, Duke of Aquitaine

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The Life
and Holy
Conversion
of Guillaume, Duke
of Aquitaine

Composed in verse and arranged
in acts to be represented
in the theatre

by the Seigneur of Aves

TO THE READER

I have not provided any Argument, since anyone may read this history in the first volume of the lives of the Saints by the Jesuit Father Ribadeneira. I wish only to inform you that I have expanded it somewhat with poetic inventions that greatly embellish it, if it is represented in the theatre.

THE ACTORS

Asmodeus, demon of concupiscence¹
 Guillaume, Duke of Guyenne²
 Dorotée, wife of the Duke's brother
 The waiting women of Dorotée
 Valerian, a virtuous courtier
 The Duke's Council of State [collectively]
 Saint Bernard
 Aristarche, brother of the Duke and husband of Dorotée
 The Duke's Gentlemen³
 Hermit of the forest of Poitiers
 Colonel of the army of the Republic of Lucca
 Captains of Lucca
 Two Angels in human form sent by the Virgin
 Albert, servant of the duke
 Reinald, disciple of the duke
 Driad nymphs, or demons in that form
 The Genius of the forest
 A Councillor of State⁴
 Guards of Dorotée
 Soldiers of Aristarche
 [Armourer]⁵

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- ¹ The demon Asmodeus was regularly associated with lust in demonological lore. Thus, in an anonymous pre-1415 Wycliffite treatise, he is named as “þe seuenþ deuel ... þat leediþ wiþ him þe leccherouse” (*The Lanterne of Lizt...Edited from Ms. Harl. 2324*, ed. Lilian M. Swinburn, Early English Text Society Original Series, 151 [London: K. Paul, Trench, Trübner, and Oxford: Humphrey Milford, for the E.E.T.S., 1917 (for 1915)], p. 60). In the enormously influential *Malleus Maleficarum* of Heinrich Kraemer and Jakob Sprenger (1486), he is termed “the very devil of Fornication, and the chief of that abomination” (trans. Montague Summers [(London): J. Rodker, 1928], p. 30 [Part I, Question 4]). His primary association for contemporaries, however, is likely to have been with the figure of sexualised evil in the *Book of Tobit*; see Introduction to the translations, pp. 15-16.
- ² Pasquier, ed., n. 10, observes that a reference to the province of Guyenne would have been more intelligible for Troterel's public than the original mention of Aquitaine, a region occupying roughly the same territory.
- ³ As is common in the period's dramaturgy (cf. the Priests and the Roman Populace in *The Tragedy of Saint Agnes*), both the Gentlemen and the Council of State are collectively represented by a single speaker, who refers to himself in the plural; this practice is retained in the translation. At times, however, intervention by one or another member of the group is signaled and the group placed in opposition.
- ⁴ A detached member of the Council, who appears in IV.ii.
- ⁵ Non-speaking; appears in IV.i.

Act I

SCENE I⁶

ASMODEUS, *Demon of Concupiscence* [*alone*]

1 From the realm of Satan, where the damned souls are
sent,
2 Condemned, in accord with Heaven's decree, to torment,
3 Here I now transport myself, longing beyond measure
4 To trouble humankind with vexatious displeasure:
5 For such is my natural bent, whose strong desire
6 Is to do ill, ever since I suffered God's ire.
7 On my list is one Guillaume, to whom I'll suggest,
8 By temptation, that he commit abhorrent incest.
9 His sovereign greatness and his power supreme
10 Confer on him, for sinning, a licence extreme.
11 For given the will, he has the power to do it:
12 It wants just a little something to stir him to it.
13 My companions have amply their duties fulfilled,
14 Abominable vices have in him instilled;
15 Now it is the turn of my moral treachery—
16 I, the tempting demon of lawless lechery.
17 A raging flame within his heart I shall enkindle
18 His loyal brother of his wedded wife to swindle—
19 A crime that will render him by everyone hated
20 More than any evil he has yet perpetrated,
21 And which will undoubtedly a quarrel provoke
22 Between the brothers, with each dealt a deadly stroke.
23 That goal I'm pleased to aim at, not being content
24 To plunge him in sin if death-wards he is not sent
25 Before remorse of conscience strikes some counter-blow,
26 So that he may be carried down to our inferno,
27 Where from countless millions of wretched souls arise
28 For all eternity most lamentable cries.
29 Enough of that, now! It's time to make it appear
30 That the art's past-master lurks behind my career.

6 As noted by Pasquier, ed., n. 13, the original text does not number the first scenes of the acts.

31 The outcome will rapidly be seen, for my action
 32 Is quicker than lightning, no sooner glimpsed than gone.
 33 What's more, scarcely any are found, I dare to say,
 34 Able, when I assail them, to stand in my way.

SCENE II

GUILLAUME (*alone*)

35 What more do you want, Love, from one you overcame
 36 So often, not content to set my heart aflame
 37 With the rarest beauties in my power's extent,
 38 Of whom you have granted me the sweetest enjoyment,
 39 But now also making me consumed and obsessed,⁷
 40 By one to be loved honestly but not possessed?
 41 And if you should compel me to attempt the other,
 42 What fault would I be committing against my brother?
 43 The disgrace of a ravisher's name it will draw,
 44 As one who spares not even his sister-in-law;
 45 Everyone will loathe me as worse than pestilential—
 46 And for good reason: O Monarch Celestial,
 47 Who detest all evil, grant that I may withstand
 48 This carnal love that seeks to gain the upper hand.
 49 Otherwise I must yield to its rage, for I lack
 50 Enough inner strength to repel its fierce attack.
 51 Already, I can no more—it must be confessed
 52 I am bound to succumb, so sorely I feel pressed.
 53 But then what—if one were not wholly made of ice—
 54 To resist such a beautiful face would suffice?
 55 How ever to parry these invincible darts
 56 That Love, by way of her brilliant glances, imparts?
 57 As for me, I've no idea—it seems impossible,

7 “[C]onsumed and obsessed”: orig. “me faire consumer”; the translation attempts to round out the double implications of the verb “consumer”/“consommer” in contemporary usage, as noted by Pasquier, ed., n. 18. Cf. below, I.ii.192, 218.

58 Even for a nature like a rock insensible.
 59 I've done all I could do to break the bonds that hold
 me,
 60 Even repeating endlessly what Reason told me;
 61 But I get nowhere: the more I resist my state,
 62 The more Love proves he is able to dominate.
 63 He doubles his blows, and doesn't let pass a moment
 64 Without coming to subject me to still more torment;
 65 So thick and fast (alas!) his persecutions came,
 66 To loose his arrows seemed to be his only aim,
 67 So that my arms I lay down in abject submission—
 68 Not without rancour, for I do not grant permission
 69 Thus, as on former occasions, to lose my freedom,
 70 The more because this heat, which makes my soul succumb,
 71 Compels me to forget what my duty requires.
 72 Now, then, that my power over myself expires,
 73 Wholly at the mercy of him who puts me down,
 74 Let us do as he pleases—to hell with renown!⁸
 75 By those he's caught in his net, I'll hardly be blamed
 76 But glean their compassion in seeing me inflamed
 77 By a torch that burns me with such severity,
 78 Since each as his own case dictates bestows his pity.
 79 Besides, I'm not the first I've seen so dominated,
 80 Reduced beneath Love's yoke, to his law subjugated,⁹
 81 For the love of someone by marriage his relation:
 82 Amnon, who of David was the fortunate son,
 83 In forcing his sister committed sin more grave;¹⁰
 84 She whose love is the only hope my life to save
 85 (Except as my brother's wife) is no part of me;
 86 Well, then, at the worst it is mere adultery.
 87 Some more holy than I (whose names I can't recite)
 88 Have felt their hearts by such fierce blazes set alight

8 “[T]o hell with renown!”: orig. “et deust-ce estre à ma honte” (lit. “even if it must be to my shame”). The translation attempts to combine the notions of military and moral humiliation—and adds an ironic reminder of the spiritual stakes.

9 L. 80: orig. “Reduit à faire ioug à sa forçante loy”; the translation (through “subjugated”) sustains the author’s metaphor.

10 Cf. 2 Samuel 13:1-14.

89 And, with excess far worse than any I intend,
 90 Have driven a wretched spouse to a cruel end¹¹—
 91 A crime I can't even begin to contemplate.
 92 Now, leave long speeches and think how to mitigate
 93 The passionate impulse that ravishes my soul.
 94 First, a seemly prudence must my actions control,
 95 Gently taking her pulse (as one hears it put often);
 96 And if her haughty heart is unable to soften
 97 With abundant prayerful entreaty and complaint,
 98 Then there's no choice: we'll have to fall back on
 constraint.

SCENE III

Dorotée, her Women, Guillaume, his Gentlemen

DOROTÉE

99 Without knowing why, I find myself seized with sorrow,
 100 Which gives me apprehension of some coming blow;
 101 I am sad, yet I cannot, think as I may, say
 102 Why I am now so constantly sighing this way,
 103 Unless Heaven, conceiving against me its ire,
 104 With fear of future misfortune would me inspire.
 105 O great God, turn aside this presage, if you will,
 106 And see me preserved from all injury and ill!
 107 I put my trust in you, alone omnipotent
 108 To think a thing and make it in the self-same moment.

ONE OF HER YOUNG WOMEN

109 Just so does the mariner foreseeing the tempest
 110 Raise his eyes to Heaven, to it makes his request;

11 In keeping with his enlistment of Old Testament precedents as self-justification, Guillaume here evokes, as noted by Pasquier, ed., n. 21, David's devious destruction of his loyal champion, Uriah the Hittite, in order to conceal and confirm his possession of the latter's wife, Bathsheba; see 2 Samuel 11:1-25.

111 Madam, in doing likewise, you do well to call
 112 On Him who can withdraw misfortune from us all.
 113 Nothing, however—thank God!—to my eyes appears
 114 At present in the least to justify your fears.
 115 Everything conspires your content: Fortune smiles;
 116 Heaven treats you gently; your charm the world beguiles.

DOROTÉE

117 It often happens that fair skies without a cloud
 118 Are darkened by a tempest thundering aloud:
 119 The sea may appear dead calm, the waves quite at rest—
 120 One will soon perceive foam flying from every crest.
 121 The uncertainty one sees in human affairs—
 122 That to our happiness succeed a thousand cares—
 123 It makes me fearful, even if until this moment
 124 Nothing I've known (thank God!) has caused me to lament.
 125 But as for the duration of this happiness—
 126 Who knows? Tomorrow it may yield to wretchedness.

THE YOUNG WOMAN

127 O Madam, chase such fear far off—do not succumb!
 128 Wherever could such misfortune suddenly come from?

DOROTÉE

129 I am afraid for my husband, absent from me—
 130 That Fate may have in store for him some injury.

THE YOUNG WOMAN

131 Your anxious mind has no reason on that to dwell,
 132 Having two days ago heard news that he was well.

DOROTÉE

133 An instant suffices for that to change—no more;
 134 And even if I had assurance on that score,
 135 Must I not fear some kind of dismal accident,
 136 Such as may well occur even to those most prudent?
 137 May not a secret enemy devise to kill
 138 In treacherous ambush without one's being ill?

139 Spurred in chase of the deer, a horse may miss its gait,
 140 Fall and overwhelm its own rider with its weight.
 141 I'd never finish if I launched into a tale
 142 Of all that could do us harm in scrupulous detail.

THE YOUNG WOMAN

143 To be afraid of evils before the event
 144 Is to bring on oneself unnecessary torment
 145 Before the time has come. Therefore, my Lady dear,
 146 Banish from your soul, keep distant, those thoughts of
 fear.
 147 And to drive them away with something to divert you,
 148 Let us visit your sister an hour or two,
 149 If you think it good. Her natural pleasantness,
 150 Together with her unparalleled friendliness,
 151 Will instantly dissipate the false fantasy
 152 Imagination gives you of some injury.

DOROTHÉE

153 You and I are in full agreement on that thought.
 154 Let us seek diversion for my soul overwrought
 155 From this nagging distress, whose importunity
 156 Distorts all of my senses to extremity.

THE YOUNG WOMAN

157 Despite the distress that troubles our joy this way,
 158 It will then have to find itself another prey.
 159 We're going where we can expect to be amused,
 160 Where even if by the same ill we were abused,
 161 Her good company is of such a cheerful humour
 162 That one is bound to rejoice and become like her.

GUILLAUME [*entering, with his Gentlemen, armed*]

163 Here now is a perfect occasion ready-made
 164 Without much seeking.

ONE OF THE GENTLEMEN

The amorous plot you've laid
 165 Now put in practice: Fortune favours our success.

GUILLAUME

Before proceeding further in the business,
 166 I'll have with her a little private conversation,
 167 By humble speeches of my flame make revelation.
 168 That done, if her heart resists, and I cannot please
 169 her,
 170 Without more loss of time, we'll simply have to seize
 her
 171 And carry her off by force.

GENTLEMAN

It will be well done:
 172 That's just how a stubborn spirit needs to be won.

GUILLAUME

The rest of you, however, with her women there
 173 Withdraw apart and chat—the way for me prepare
 174 By amusing them. Now come on, no more delay!
 175 Let's get to work and encounter them straightaway.
 176

DOROTÉE [*seeing the others*]

177 What troop of men is this?

THE YOUNG WOMAN

The Duke, your brother-in-law.

DOROTÉE

How his coming vexes! More trouble will he draw?
 178 What does this signify—the fury in his aspect?
 179 And even all armed, moreover—I find that suspect!
 180 I'm afraid. Would that I had the power to flee!
 181

GUILLAUME

182 Where to now, dear sister, with your fair company?

DOROTÉE

183 I am only going to my sister's—that's all.

GUILLAUME

184 I'll bring you there.

DOROTHÉE

185 That such honour on me should fall!
I trust no other business summons you elsewhere.

GUILLAUME

186 Nothing at present—I'm strolling to take the air.
187 But even if I had other business, be sure
188 That I would willingly leave it to have the pleasure
189 Your beautiful presence in that case would have brought,
190 Which is so dear to me I have no other thought,
191 No other object, either by day or by night:
192 To be wholly consumed with love is my sad plight.
193 Therefore, my dear sister, with favour look on me.

DOROTÉE

194 Who do you take me for?

GUILLAUME

195 An amiable lady,
Whose luscious charms have seized my heart with
ravishment.

DOROTÉE

196 You're mocking me.

GUILLAUME

197 Don't imagine it for a moment.
I mean what I say.

DOROTÉE

I can't believe what I hear.

GUILLAUME

198 Never have I spoken anything more sincere.
199 Therefore, without pursuing fruitless indirection,
200 Grant favour to the fervent vows of my affection.

DOROTÉE

201 Next to my dear husband, for you my loving store
202 Is such that no one in the universe loves more.

GUILLAUME

203 Myself, I love you infinitely more than he:
204 Today the practical effect I'll make you see.

DOROTÉE

205 You would oblige me more if this love so extreme
206 Were destined for my husband, and not I its theme.

GUILLAUME

207 I love him as a brother, and you as an object
208 Which, by sweet attractions, has rendered me its
 subject.¹²

DOROTÉE

209 I listen to your words but do not grasp the sense.

GUILLAUME

210 —That love for you inflicts on me a martyrdom.

DOROTÉE

211 Brother, do change your speech—I'd be obliged to you.

GUILLAUME

212 And I, my dear sister, for coming to my rescue.

12 The word-play “obiect/suiect” is in the original and amounts to courtly double-talk, as Dorotée’s reply registers.

DOROTÉE

213 I by no means see you, thank Heaven, in such need.

GUILLAUME

214 No pain for sheer inhumanity could exceed
215 That which I feel, as Love, by means of your great
beauties,
216 Exerts upon my heart his full stock of cruelties.
217 Never did such a fire burn me with such anguish:
218 My body it consumes, condemns my soul to languish.
219 So that there looms for me a truly dismal fate,
220 If pity does not move you to alleviate
221 The pain of love, unparalleled, that tortures me.

DOROTÉE

222 To show you such pity would do me injury.

GUILLAUME

223 And how, I beg you?

DOROTÉE

224 My faith it would violate,
My honour stain, which higher than my life I rate.

GUILLAUME

225 When, together with love, is united due prudence,
226 Honour cannot possibly receive an offence.
227 Risk resides, however, in the indiscreet fashion
228 Of one who does not know how to conceal his passion.
229 For my part, I promise to act in such a way
230 That no sign of passion for you will I betray.

DOROTÉE

231 For as long as may be done, such a vicious deed,
232 Which Heaven's Monarch has against his law decreed,
233 I choose to shun.

GUILLAUME

That lie—are you so innocent?—
 234 Which some jealous old man decided to invent
 235 In olden times (all smoke without a spark of fire)!
 236 Don't fear on that account the celestial ire:
 237 You have my guarantee.

DOROTÉE

I am hardly so mad
 238 I'd take your word as licence to do something bad.
 239 Each person answers for their own actions perverse
 240 When they are judged by the God of the universe.

GUILLAUME

241 I've said love is not sin—why, then, should this
 appal?

DOROTÉE

242 When lawful it is good, when vicious worst of all.

GUILLAUME

243 Be that as it may, forced or in a friendly way,
 244 You must have pity on my pain without delay.

DOROTÉE

245 God, what are you saying? Are you in your right mind?

GUILLAUME

246 No, by a fury extreme I am driven blind.

DOROTÉE

247 For God's sake master it, and gain yourself that glory.

GUILLAUME

248 That's beyond my power—it has the mastery.
 249 And so, resolve yourself without further ado:
 250 Otherwise, you'll see what action you drive me to.

DOROTÉE

251 For me all is resolved. I'll die a thousand times,
 252 But I'll never willingly to your brutal crimes
 253 Abandon my body.

GUILLAUME

Right, then, no time we'll lose:
 254 Let us see whose side, yours or mine, Fortune will
 chose.

DOROTÉE

255 My girls, comme running quickly, my rescue obtain!

ONE OF THE GENTLEMEN

256 Pretty ones, interference will be quite in vain.
 257 Go, then—you'd better back off, and do so in silence.

ONE OF THE YOUNG WOMEN

258 No way will we permit this craven violence.
 259 Courage! Come, this foul ravisher let us prevent!

ONE OF THE GENTLEMEN

260 Trust me, pretty ones, for you it would be more prudent
 261 To withdraw, that is, unless you harbour the wish
 262 To come along with us, to your lives add some relish,
 263 And be by the sweet Cyprian's pastimes delighted.¹³

ONE OF THE YOUNG WOMEN

264 For men of the court, you are woefully benighted!
 265 What lack of *savoir-vivre*,¹⁴ gross immodesty!
 266 Cannot you not address us with decent honesty?
 267 [*looking round*] O God, that says it all! The brigand in his boldness
 268 Is snatching her out of our sight! What wickedness!

[*Exeunt Gentlemen, as Guillaume drags off Dorotée.*]

¹³ "[T]he sweet Cyprian": Venus, as often, the island of Cypris being sacred to her.

¹⁴ Orig.: "Quelle indiscretion".

269 Could a Scythian so humanity debase?¹⁵
 270 O, most criminal member of the mortal race!
 271 May Heaven's King, who avenges all innocents,
 272 Sitting in justice,¹⁶ hear the case our plea presents,
 273 Destroy you together with your impious cohort!
 274 Let's seek, alas, our quarters and the news report.

15 The inhabitants of Scythia, in central Eurasia, had been reputed for barbaric cruelty since ancient times.

16 "Sitting in justice": orig. "De son lit de justice", an expression which, by Troterel's day, had lost its literal association with the royal bedchamber to become metaphorical for the solemn exercise of monarchical justice.

Act II

SCENE I

Valerian, Duc Guillaume

VALERIAN [*alone*]

275 Age which fully deserves of iron to be named,
 276 Since we have seen the virtues by the vices tamed,
 277 And sovereigns, who should subjects illuminate,¹⁷
 278 Allow themselves all licence to degenerate—
 279 Which follows almost as an ordinary thing
 280 From having as a child a libertine's upbringing.¹⁸
 281 So the example here at home confirms to us
 282 Of our Duke, who rules in a manner tyrannous,
 283 Who from his young years made much of that liberty
 284 His father granted to live voluptuously,
 285 Instead of correcting, by wholesome nourishment,
 286 The instinct of his ignoble natural bent,
 287 Which finally to such a high degree now stirs him
 288 That neither extreme heat nor cold from vice deters him:
 289 With taxes and levies his subject he oppresses;
 290 A fondness for cruel homicides he possesses;
 291 And his greatest pleasure is often to provoke
 292 His followers to quarrels with mirrors and smoke,¹⁹
 293 Which we see end in death, or if someone we save,
 294 Badly wounded he is, on the brink of the grave.
 295 Still, of his evils that is not the culmination:
 296 Besides keeping his vassals in rude subjugation,
 297 The ardour of his lascivious flames he douses,
 298 This crude trader in flesh,²⁰ by ravishing their spouses,

17 “[W]ho should subjects illuminate”: orig. “des peuples la lumière”.

18 Troterel clearly uses the term “libertine” (“libertine’s upbringing”/“nourris trop libertinement”) in its primary moral sense, but given the religious context, it would seem to be tinged by the connotations of free-thinking that became attached to it.

19 “[W]ith mirrors and smoke”: the original speaks of “querelles de vent [wind]”, i.e., quarrels over nothing.

20 “This crude trader in flesh”: orig. “Le rufian qu’il est”. Pasquier, ed., n. 35, points out that the term “rufian” is doubly degrading, evoking not only personal depravity but pimping.

299 With no respect for any, whether for their station
 300 Or even for the close degree of their relation.
 301 So he has recently made plain to public sight,
 302 His brother's wife snatching like a wolf in the night,
 303 Whom he maintains with him wholly against her will,
 304 With no one blaming him for committing such evil.
 305 Whether he does not dare or is seeking to please,
 306 Even his brother, who with awe his power sees,
 307 Puts up with this affront, which none would tolerate,
 308 And I, who that sin still more than the others hate,
 309 By righteous indignation am so sorely pained,
 310 And bitterness, they can no longer be contained.
 311 Therefore, to seek him out I'm right now on my way,
 312 And though I cannot hope to keep his wrath at bay,
 313 Without reserve I'll set before him his offence:
 314 May God, protector of the good, be my defence!
 315 Here close to his palace I've arrived with good speed—
 316 And there he comes, by servants unaccompanied;
 317 I'll accost him—a better chance I may not know.
 318 [*to Guillaume, entering*] Lord, may great God his sacred
 peace on you bestow.

GUILLAUME

319 Good to see you. What kind of talk's in circulation?

VALERIAN

320 My lord, the exclusive subject of conversation
 321 Is your own actions, your very nobility.
 322 Pardon me, please, if I have the audacity
 323 To give you warning of this: my honest intention
 324 Is only to demonstrate with how much affection
 325 I am your servant.

GUILLAUME

 With what does their impudence
 326 Reproach me?

VALERIAN

 They condemn you for that violence
 327 With which you have very recently been afflicting

328 Your sister-in-law, the law of God contradicting—
 329 For which I fear you'll be to punishment consigned,
 330 Because the vice is of so horrible a kind,
 331 Which by your outraged self would not be tolerated,
 332 If by another person it were perpetrated.

GUILLAUME

333 To scold me, then, you really have the arrogance?

VALERIAN

334 I only present you humbly with a remonstrance.²¹
 335 Do not for that, please you, my lord, give way to fury,
 336 But take my gift of zeal, inflamed with charity.

GUILLAUME

337 Keep it yourself—I've got lots (as they say) to spare.
 338 But as for coming to rebuke me, don't you dare,
 339 Or you'll find yourself incurring my indignation.

VALERIAN

340 My lord, I don't presume to slight my obligation—
 341 God forbid!

GUILLAUME

So what have you come to say instead?

VALERIAN

342 To beg you to reflect and let yourself be led
 343 By holy Reason, for only under its sway
 344 Are we different from the beasts that we see stray
 345 Across the desert places and the groves at will,
 346 For, ungoverned by it, we are more savage still.

21 The "remonstrance" (identical in the original, sometimes "remontrance" in French) had formal status as an acceptable way of asking for redress from a reasonable ruler. See, e.g., Paul-Alexis Mellet, "Les remontrances: une expression paradoxale de la société politique (xvi^e siècle)", *Forms in Renaissance Conflict and Rivalries*, ed. Marc Laureys, David A. Lines and Jill Kraye (Bonn: V&R Unipress, Bonn University Press, 2015), 247-72.

GUILLAUME

347 Compared to yours, my reason is immensely strong.

VALERIAN

348 Not when against God's holy law you do such wrong.

GUILLAUME

349 Behold the righteous man! O holy without taint!
350 We'll have to pay his virtue homage as a saint!

VALERIAN

351 Far removed am I from feeling such vanity;
352 But thus the matter stands, in plainest verity.
353 So be it: I speak truth; you please to mock me for it;
354 I have done my duty, and that's sufficient comfort.
355 May the Monarch of the Heavens grant you the grace
356 All of your sins with celerity to efface,
357 For fear that death, coming by surprise, should propel
358 You hurtling down into the deepest depths of hell.

GUILLAUME

359 O the venerable man! O doctor of learning,
360 Who would be a saint, all others to virtue turning,
361 Thinking by this means he will rise in estimation,
362 When he himself is not exempt from reprobation.

VALERIAN

363 I do not boast of living in pure innocence,
364 But none would ever impute to me the offence
365 Of ravishment.

GUILLAUME

 If you don't stop such talk—and quick!—
366 To take the measure of your ribs, I'll use this stick.

VALERIAN

367 Were I a flattering buffoon, at whose sweet say

368 Vice met with encouragement in every way,
 369 I'd receive a handsome recompense for my hire,
 370 Instead of which, you turn on me your brutal ire
 371 For speaking out.

GUILLAUME

Take, then, these well-deserved additions
 372 To pay you for such reasonable admonitions:
 373 A few strokes with this stick—just a dozen or ten;
 374 You won't see your shoulders so well massaged again! [*Beats him.*]

VALERIAN

375 Has ever cruelty been seen of such a kind?

GUILLAUME

376 Now get away from here, bold speaker of your mind!
 377 If you don't fancy getting still more of the same,
 378 Learn how another time to play a wiser game:
 379 Govern your speech. And what's more, don't you ever
 venture,
 380 In your rank impertinence, my palace to enter,
 381 Or again before my face yourself to present.
 382 Now away with you, fellow rude and impudent!

VALERIAN (*as he exits*)

383 Even so was Saint John, for rebuking the sin
 384 That the spirit of the tyrant Herod was in
 385 Because of the infamous adulterous life
 386 He flaunted with Herodias, his brother's wife,
 387 Put to the sword as his only payment and wage.
 388 Likewise, for reproaching that reprobate's foul outrage
 389 In payment a volley of cudgel blows I get—
 390 A punishment to teach me henceforth to keep quiet
 391 The actions of great men, who, far too glorious
 392 To hear truth (at least most of them), become furious
 393 When a man of virtue gently gives them advice
 394 To avoid contempt by abandoning their vice.
 395 Rather than reforming, with gratitude and good will,

396 They prefer very often cruelly to kill.
 397 O God, may they be cursed, who have so poorly known
 398 The signs of true affection that to them are shown.

SCENE II

Dorotée, Duke Guillaume

DOROTÉE [*alone*]

399 Great Monarch of the Heavens, whose goodness extreme
 400 As much hates evil as holds justice in esteem,
 401 Why do you not inflict a vengeance truly cruel
 402 Upon this duke, abominable spawn of hell,
 403 Who keeps me in his house, against my will retained,
 404 By his lubricity continually stained?
 405 It so revolts me that, to rid myself of torment,
 406 I would against myself my bloody hands have bent
 407 As did Lucrece, when she her honour lost by force—
 408 Except that by your laws you have ruled out that course.
 409 Yet I do not know—so deeply do I despair
 410 In thinking of my wretched fate—how I may fare,
 411 If you do not soon show some measure of compassion
 412 Upon my too miserable and sad affliction,²²
 413 Which from you alone awaits succour from this hour,
 414 For everyone else has essayed in vain his power
 415 To offer me relief—among others my husband,
 416 Who, justly seized by anger like a burning brand,
 417 To no effect with prayers had begged him to yield,
 418 Then wished to take those arms he knows so well to wield
 419 And so summoned that villain, treacherous and cruel,
 420 To meet him in combat in a fair and frank duel.
 421 But his bold challenge, unanswered, to nothing came:
 422 Not that the other is not valiant, but feels shame,
 423 Perhaps, to fight against all reason in this way.

22 The rhyme “compassion”/“affliction” (original identical) is present in the French text.

424 And meanwhile languishing in prison here I stay,
 425 Where I feel the dread by a criminal incurred
 426 Who seems to hear his mortal sentence in each word.
 427 Alas, alas, my pain stops me from speaking more—
 428 Why cannot it also on my life close the door?

[*Enter Duke Guillaume.*]

GUILLAUME

429 Hearing your cries, which my soul with sorrow acquaint,
 430 I come to discover the cause of your complaint.

DOROTÉE

431 What? Not know, when you are my sole poisonous plant!

GUILLAUME

432 No, surely not! I am too much your humble servant.

DOROTÉE

433 Do you hear? Could bolder lying ever be found?
 434 He is my servant! And yet by him I am drowned
 435 In a sea of miseries with no port in sight,
 436 From which soon I'll rise to that of eternal night.

GUILLAUME

437 Do not speak such words. If Clotho's debt²³ must be paid,
 438 Fair soul of my soul, take it on trust the same blade
 439 Would take me too. I'd leave behind the light above,
 440 My life being as much in you as is my love.

DOROTÉE

441 How I long to do that, ending my martyrdom²⁴
 442 And avenging myself on you, of men the scum:

23 On Clotho (original regularly "Cloton") as metonymic for death, see *The Tragedy of Saint Agnes*, Vi.1759 and n. 140.

24 "[M]artyrdom": orig. "martire"—a term befitting her name. See Introduction, p. 6.

443 I would lay open my heart with the hardest steel,
 444 So that, as I kill myself, your own death you'd feel.

GUILLAUME

445 Fair one, moderate the gushing flood of your ire,
 446 And let us laugh instead, not speak of things so dire,
 447 And cheer ourselves by varying love's sweet delight,
 448 For our years, once flown, forever stay out of sight.
 449 When we are old, we'll have nothing to feel but sadness
 450 At nothing done with our season of youthful gladness.

DOROTÉE

451 On the contrary, we'll be grief-stricken instead
 452 For having into voluptuousness descended.

GUILLAUME

453 Yes—according to certain musty pedants' preachings,
 454 In whom I put no faith, so worthless are their teachings.
 455 But as for daring minds, whose paths I choose to trace,
 456 Such pleasures, instead of blaming them, they embrace.
 457 So let us do, for one who will not go along
 458 With their opinions is despised as wholly wrong
 459 And hopelessly old-fashioned.

DOROTÉE

Which I don't eschew,
 460 Provided I keep up with the paces of virtue.

GUILLAUME

461 Do you think that the pleasures of nature to taste
 462 Is the same thing as merely becoming debased?
 463 Loving pleasure you may indeed lay to my charge,
 464 But my duty to virtue I also discharge.

DOROTÉE

465 Mere words again! For as it cannot be denied
 466 That nothing with its contrary may coincide,
 467 No more a gentle little lamb alone may dare,

468 Encountering two or three wolves, its pasture share—
469 Something I can certainly attest to be true,
470 Having received such a cruel outrage from you.

GUILLAUME

471 Now just see how the ugly slander of that name
472 Is able my heart's pure affection to defame!

DOROTÉE

473 However ugly, the name and the thing agree,
474 Since it is the whole reason for my misery.

GUILLAUME

475 Speak your complaint aloud, in words of
 frankest kind:
476 Where could you possibly better conditions find?
477 Are you not "my lady", my household's only mistress?
478 Are you not also my heart and my precious goddess?
479 What more do you ask for?

DOROTÉE

 To live in liberty
480 And see my husband again, whose absence afflicts me,
481 As well as my little children, my cherished offspring,
482 Whom I miss with anguish especially tormenting.

GUILLAUME

483 Your husband you must for the present time forgo.
484 Instead, on me your caresses you may bestow;
485 Now kiss me, come here and be kissed, my lovely one.
486 Later I'll give order your little ones to summon,
487 Should you want to see them.

DOROTÉE

 Just such is my desire,

488 But that I tremble to think of their father's ire;²⁵
 489 So better leave them.

GUILLAUME

If, my life, such are your wishes,
 490 Dear object of my vows, she who my soul ravishes;
 491 The more I'm with you, the more love my spirits feel,
 492 Drawn to your perfections like a magnet to steel,
 493 And that is why I promise you, my soul's delight,
 494 That shortly you will accede to a spouse's right.

DOROTÉE

495 Alas, that cannot be! Never could I reject
 496 The one who remains my desire's only object.

GUILLAUME

I shall so cherish you that your heart in the end
 497 Will accord me the grant of marriage I intend.
 498 Until that hour, with affliction call a truce:
 499 Stop your sighs and those superfluous tears reduce;
 500 And, to divert you from that melancholy mind,
 501 Let us go for a walk, leave solitude behind.
 502

DOROTÉE

As for a change of scene and going for a walk,
 503 The devastation and anguish which with me stalk
 504 Will not leave me; we must be inseparable,
 505 Until the last moment of death the terrible—
 506 Unless compassion, banishing your cruelty,
 507 Does not make you restore me to full liberty.
 508

25 The evocation of paternity, hence of legitimate descent, would be a particular sore point in the period, as is perhaps touched on by Guillaume's reference to her children in l. 486 above as "vostre petite race".

SCENE III

VALERIAN (*alone*)

509 This order is aimed at me—"pack your bags and leave"—
 510 And at my dear expense, as some might well conceive.
 511 To leave the court, where the bloom of my youthful
 flowers
 512 Was wasted in the midst of courtiers' vain hours.
 513 Ah well, I am resolved, and go without constraint,
 514 And no one will hear from me the slightest complaint.
 515 It is not just today that I find myself ready
 516 For all that may happen; my mind, assured and steady
 517 Beyond the normal state, has like the palm become:
 518 The more bent down, the less easily overcome.
 519 My consolation is this—that my prince one day,
 520 When love no longer holds him in such abject sway,
 521 Or any other passion full of violence,
 522 Will feel regret to have treated my innocence
 523 With such fury. I know well that the law's full might
 524 Accords him over my person every right,
 525 But for doing my duty (if he has a conscience)
 526 He should not be taking advantage of such licence.
 527 The power of sovereignty should be contained:
 528 It must not be permitted to go unrestrained.
 529 Crowns are not merely the gift of Heaven to princes
 530 To grant them power over far-flung provinces;
 531 To govern them with due justice is the condition,
 532 And not by any means to lead them to perdition.
 533 If coward flatterers with their bobbing and weaving
 534 (The object of whose speech is nothing but deceiving)
 535 Did not before their eyes the sacred truth deform,
 536 We would see them their duty much better perform.
 537 The better part are well born, but being seduced
 538 By bad men, indeed to dependency reduced
 539 And led by the nose, they fall into shameful actions
 540 Disgracefully unworthy of their high conditions.
 541 Now, if ever were to be seen, in this world's state,
 542 A wretched court made by such means degenerate,

543 It is that of Aquitaine, whose virtues displayed
 544 Exceeded once those that virtuous kings conveyed:
 545 One saw nobles who came there from every nation
 546 For their lessons in virtue and civilisation.
 547 Now one who would receive instruction in all vice
 548 May there regale himself—all's there that may entice.
 549 As for me, on whom most fortunate stars have poured
 550 Chiefly a love of honour, if the Duke, our lord,
 551 Had not turned me out of my lofty seat of power,
 552 The plan has been in my mind for many an hour,
 553 Weary of living longer this way, to withdraw
 554 From serving great men's appetites, whose will is law.
 555 Now that I am freed from that yoke of great duress,
 556 Home I will return to fulfil in happiness
 557 The remainder of my days, where with peace of mind
 558 I will make it my whole study and care to find
 559 Favour with a Great One whose principality
 560 Spans the whole universe with full authority.
 561 Loving and serving him is a sure way to double,
 562 By reward from him, the expense of all my trouble:
 563 Human beings change in their treatment of a friend;
 564 His favour lasts eternally—it has no end.
 565 Often one is deceived by those whom one holds dear,
 566 But with him (so good is he) one need never fear:
 567 When we offer him our heart without reservation,
 568 We have no reason to suspect his vacillation.
 569 And thus it happens that (a miracle not strange)
 570 I profit by loss of my lord in this exchange,
 571 Encountering another one whose majesty
 572 Can do all he pleases and nothing find contrary.
 573 Adieu, then, to the court of manners spurious,²⁶
 574 A hundred times more changeable than Proteus;
 575 Escaping as I have its many hooks and snares,
 576 I shall make no account of all its faithless airs.

26 One of the pointed forerunners of the "adieux" of the converted courtiers at the conclusion (V.vii.1970 ff.). Cf. also Viii.1571-72.

Act III

SCENE I

Duke Guillaume, his Council of State

GUILLAUME

577 Let the king of the French, besides the English king
578 And all the potentates upon the earth now ruling,
579 Take Innocent as head of Christianity.
580 As for me, I'll have no other authority
581 But that of Anaclet, the Church's rightful head—
582 It's he that I prize, esteem and honour instead.

COUNCIL OF STATE

583 Yet the right of Innocent is by all accepted,
584 Only Gerard of Angoulême and you excepted,
585 Who have with contempt his supreme power denounced,
586 For which anathema against you he pronounced,
587 After you in a brutal encounter berated
588 Those emissaries he to you had delegated.

GUILLAUME

589 He's nothing to me—crass thunderbolts let him shower!
590 I have no fear of them.

COUNCIL OF STATE

God gives him sacred power
591 To sanction sinners or, absolving, set them free,
592 And even as it pleases him he may decree.
593 The keys of Heaven's kingdom are by him disposed:
594 He opens wide the gate, or instead keeps it closed,
595 As the lieutenant in this world of earthly kind
596 Of God's one and only Son, Saviour of mankind.

GUILLAUME

597 If his election were not illegitimate,
598 To disobey I'd count a crime deserving hate,
599 Worthy of hell's flames.

COUNCIL OF STATE

600 The Council deliberated
And recently judged him rightly as Pope instated.²⁷

GUILLAUME

601 But I have appealed against its decree unjust.

COUNCIL OF STATE

602 Nevertheless, stand as canonical it must,
603 And that other be considered as a usurper,
604 Whom you must discredit, as well as an imposter:
605 His ambition makes a schism that is damnable.

GUILLAUME

606 To bold advice like yours I am not amenable.

COUNCIL OF STATE

607 Still, my lord, your reflection must now be intense,
608 Judging our intention without taking offence,
609 Which is to give you counsel that is salutary,
610 Advising what we see for you as necessary.

GUILLAUME

611 Yet I do not think I'm in such extremity
612 That I have to give way to that necessity.

COUNCIL OF STATE

613 What against countless can you two do all alone,
614 When they count Innocent just claimant to the throne?²⁸

27 Evoked is the 1130 Council of French bishops at Étampes under the auspices of Louis VI. See Pasquier, ed., n. 54, and, on the history of the schism generally and the role of Saint Bernard, Pasquier, Introduction to *Guillaume duc d'Aquitaine*, pp. 9-12.

28 The "two" are Guillaume and Gerard of Angoulême, as already mentioned. The play on "countless" and "count" dimly reflects the original's "nombre innombrable".

GUILLAUME

615 We have the Roman nation favouring our side.²⁹

COUNCIL OF STATE

616 With little useful aid from there you'll be supplied.

GUILLAUME

617 What impediment will there be?

COUNCIL OF STATE

Too great a distance.

618 Furthermore, your enemy now resides in France,
619 Loved by all.

GUILLAUME

Anaclet is not so far away

620 That I can't, if I must, have his aid when I say.
621 Can he not send me a fleet, ready to make war,
622 Which only a few days will carry to our shore?

COUNCIL OF STATE

623 You speak of it as if already potent fate
624 Simply anchored it in port, your will to await.
625 But do you think that God, who the righteous redeems,
626 Will favour, as you wish, the success of your schemes?
627 Not a chance, being with anger at you suffused,
628 Since his prelates against all justice you abused—
629 Some dispossessing from their sacrosanct domains,
630 While banishing the others to add to their pains.

GUILLAUME

631 What arrogance you dare flaunt to speak to me so!
632 Show greater respect, or I give you leave to go.
633 If not, you'll feel what it means to make anger seize me,
634 When anyone has the evil grace to displease me.

29 Guillaume refers to the elite class of Romans, who supported the cause of Anaclet; see Pasquier, ed., n. 56.

COUNCIL OF STATE

635 Be assured, my lord, that such was not our intent:
 636 We benefit, thanks to God, from much sounder judgement.
 637 But, as much for your own good as stirred by our
 conscience,
 638 Freely we speak, and say what to our heart makes sense,
 639 Certain that advice must be unadorned and true,
 640 Like the words that good Father Bernard spoke to you
 641 When he came seeking you on this same business—
 642 A mission from which he returned quite comfortless,
 643 Instead of your judging his worth with a kind eye
 644 And hastening his wholesome counsel to apply.

GUILLAUME

645 Since he was sent by Innocent, whom I abhor,
 646 I rated him as nothing: now I do no more.

COUNCIL OF STATE

647 My God, what are you saying? His high sanctity
 648 Gains him the utmost respect universally:
 649 There exists no living prince in royal estate
 650 Whose affection for him is not extremely great.

GUILLAUME

651 I will not in the slightest defer in that way,
 652 As long as his leanings the antipope obey.

COUNCIL OF STATE

653 My lord, you may believe us, that great personage
 654 To Innocent as pope would never render homage
 655 Were he not inspired by the Divinity.

GUILLAUME

656 Still, it's with Anaclet I feel affinity.

COUNCIL OF STATE

657 How you can think that way, my lord, is hard to see,
 658 Even after the sacrosanct Council's decree,
 659 When, at Étampes convened, it formed its position
 660 On Innocent's election by ancient tradition.
 661 And at those councils, you've heard, is known to preside
 662 The Holy Spirit, which serves those present as guide.

GUILLAUME

663 You come to tell me this? Have I not sought redress
 664 Against that very Council, which I account worthless?

COUNCIL OF STATE

665 Believe us, my lord, your appeal is ludicrous.

GUILLAUME

666 I will not tolerate speech that is so outrageous!
 667 Go on, get out of here now; I give you no credence.

[*Exit Council.*]

668 They place in this Bernard enormous confidence.
 669 I do not know what to think. I feel myself stirred
 670 To go and visit him: his good life is averred
 671 By all, and praised; and that is why from all around
 672 Religious men he draws,³⁰ who with him may be found
 673 And have so fully learnt his statutes to apply
 674 That one would think them angels, come down from on
 high.
 675 Yes, I'll go see him—it's no more to be debated;
 676 Perhaps his severity will have moderated.

30 An anticipation of Guillaume's own future measure of sanctity.

SCENE II

A COUNCILLOR OF STATE [*alone*]

677 Surely, the more I think of it, the more I marvel
 678 That the greater part of great ones wish to have counsel
 679 When their necessities command, but on condition
 680 That the advice should not be put in execution:
 681 Why they should adopt this humour I cannot see,
 682 Shunning in their troubles a useful remedy
 683 And choosing to pursue instead their brainsick passion,
 684 Which only leads them in the end to their perdition.
 685 You'd think, to see them with the anger in their
 features,
 686 That they had lost all claim as reasonable creatures.
 687 When I reflect on such surging brutality,
 688 I think they would deem it strange infidelity,
 689 Should they be reasonable, to their princely state,
 690 And so from us themselves would differentiate,
 691 Instead of, as they ought to do, by their perfections,
 692 By their exceeding virtues and their splendid actions.³¹
 693 In what a miserable age ourselves we find,
 694 When beasts in authority control humankind!
 695 One sees not men but rather foxes, tigers, lions,
 696 Wolves and fat buffalo ruling in many regions,
 697 So that, viewing such things with equanimity,
 698 I say Ovid dreamt not such mutability.³²
 699 O blessèd are those peoples in the government
 700 Of princes surpassing all in noble descent,
 701 Who so well know how their passions to countermand
 702 That reason always has in them the upper hand.
 703 For none deserves the right to exercise his rule
 704 On others without first setting himself to school:

31 The rhyme "perfections/actions" is present in the original.

32 Ovid's *Metamorphoses* provided examples of fantastic transformations which attracted Christian allegorical readings, notably in the *Ovide Moralisé*. Part of the point here, therefore, is that such degrading mutability reverts to paganism and renounces Christian truth. Cf. Saint Bernard's soliloquy in the following scene.

705 That virtue constitutes the only certain mark
 706 Of one whose noble nature makes him a fit monarch,
 707 Not of a kingdom only, but rather of all
 708 That is to be found on this terrestrial ball.

SCENE III

SAINT BERNARD (*alone*)

709 Ever since man of pleasures made himself the prey,
 710 To Paradise's blessings he has lost the way,
 711 And, taking on the likeness of some forest beast,
 712 Only forehead³³ and voice are human in the least.
 713 Quite unable to use the reason he was given,
 714 He becomes wholly savage and by fury driven;
 715 God he ignores, and is ignored by him in turn,
 716 And for his salvation lacks the slightest concern.
 717 Surely of this I have just had convincing witness
 718 In that unhappy Duke, with rage become quite senseless,
 719 Who did not find to his liking my exhortation,
 720 Nor of this world's gross vanity my demonstration,
 721 Showing our life is short, most uncertain its state;
 722 This so disgruntled him, he turned on me his hate,
 723 And on doing me injury he was quite set,
 724 And doubtless would have done, according to his threat,
 725 If the sacred asylum of our monastery
 726 Had not thwarted his anger with a force contrary.
 727 He warns that if anywhere else he should me spy,
 728 With abundance of deaths he will cause me to die.
 729 But, thanks to Jesus, source of veritable aid,
 730 His fearful anger does not make me much afraid.
 731 Now, since to his wickedness he is firmly wed,

33 "[F]orehead": orig. "front", considered as that part of the face where emotions and thoughts are reflected and will ("volonté") and dignity ("dignité") are located. (See *Trésor de la langue française informatisé*, s.v. "front".)

732 And the more one dissuades him, the more he is led
 733 To support that tyrannical Anaclet's faction,
 734 And daily his mind is in continual action
 735 Only to seek means of oppressing Innocent
 736 (Who is too good, however, his ploys to resent)—
 737 The time has now arrived, without further ado,
 738 To leave off idle talking and results pursue.
 739 Of a certain truth, I have just become aware,
 740 Which I will go and with the legate Godefroy³⁴ share.
 741 I believe that in this our Lord inspires me
 742 To finish this evil, which worse with age we see.
 743 May God give me assistance, and be pleased to shock
 744 The inmost heart of the Duke, as hard as a rock.
 745 To see him yielding then would give me more content
 746 Than if he endured a rigorous punishment:
 747 Thus the holy angels in their heavenly height
 748 Are seen rejoicing when a sinner is contrite.

SCENE IV

Aristarche, Dorotée, the Guards and Soldiers of Aristarche

ARISTARCHE [*alone*]

749 By tyranny like this is our age still defiled?
 750 Is there no more Justice? Where has she been exiled?
 751 Of the infinite number of princes and kings,
 752 Whose authority laws to the universe brings,
 753 Is there not a soul with enough kind sympathy
 754 To have compassion on my sorry misery?
 755 Alas, not one! All in vain. The age is so marred
 756 That a poor wretch cannot attract the least regard:
 757 As from famine or the plague men flee from his sight,
 758 And his approach inspires still more deadly fright.
 759 But those that Fortune to high honours has erected

34 I.e., Geoffroy de Lèves, the legate of Pope Innocent for Aquitaine (Pasquier, ed., n. 67).

760 Are sought out by everyone, well liked and respected.
 761 So there it is—the reason why I find no one
 762 Willing to offer me succour in my affliction,
 763 And help me to recover my spouse from the hands
 764 Of one whose evil outside humanity stands,
 765 Whom I no longer call by a brother's fair name,
 766 Since, as my enemy, he has lost every claim—
 767 An enemy whose cruelty exceeds belief,
 768 With frustrated vengeance giving me deadly grief.
 769 I challenged him to combat,³⁵ hoping by the sword
 770 To cancel our quarrel—my wife usurped, dishonoured.
 771 But I wasted my time: as fits his perfidy,
 772 He would have none, to that duel would not agree,
 773 Although at all other times it was his delight
 774 To encounter anyone, spoiling for a fight.
 775 Now, having vainly tried a thousand strategies,
 776 Which had no success—there were such difficulties—
 777 I still have one remaining I can put in play,
 778 For which it serves me well that he is now away:
 779 One of his men I've suborned, who has promised me
 780 My wife today to me, and me from care, to free.
 781 It's for this that I've come here to hide in this notch
 782 Of his palace's walls. Now to consult my watch:
 783 What time is it? The hand is close upon the hour.
 784 My people are not far: they'll soon lend me their power;
 785 It will take only a sign. [*Dorotée appears above.*³⁶]
 Adorable window!
 786 Is it not my darling half-self that you now show?
 787 It's she! O dear object, for whom my being longs,
 788 Am I sure the sight of you to this world belongs?
 789 I am wholly transported! With joy my heart bounds!

35 Cf. Dorotée's earlier account of her husband's futile challenge of Guillaume at II.ii.415-23; the latter's refusal carries a suggestion of a guilty conscience, despite himself.

36 Pasquier, ed., n. 71, calls attention to the dramaturgical topos typical of the period's tragicomedy, with its interaction between characters on the lower and upper stage levels, usually masculine and feminine respectively.

DOROTÉE

790 Dear friend, speak low, for fear someone may hear these
 sounds.
791 The pleasure that I rejoice in beyond compare
792 Like an idle dream would soon pass into thin air.

ARISTARCHE

793 I hope to relieve you of that fear before long,
794 Unless some false trick has been played to do me wrong.
795 But at worst I'll either take the castle by force
796 Or in a tomb forlorn before it end my course.

DOROTÉE

797 Enough love even now would your soul still possess
798 To risk yourself for a woman in wretchedness,
799 Whose honour is lost? No, don't even think of trying!

ARISTARCHE

800 For me to hear you say that is the same as dying.
801 I love you no less than I did that very day
802 When we two were united under Hymen's sway,
803 Being wholly assured that your chastity still
804 Remains intact—that is, as measured by your will.

DOROTÉE

805 I swear by the Eternal, who knows my true thought:
806 He enjoyed me only when force me to it brought,
807 Which gives me such pain that often myself I see
808 About to rush to death, which looms so fearfully,
809 And without the fears I have of infernal pains,
810 A knife in many places would have pierced my veins.

ARISTARCHE

811 Such discourses my hearing with horror amaze:
812 Believe me, despair would put an end to my days
813 The instant I were to hear of your woeful ending,
814 The mere thought of which is unbearably heart-rending.

DOROTÉE

815 I render thanks to Heaven that in my distress
 816 It deigns with such a precious favour me to bless
 817 As your affection is, which alone gives me strength,
 818 After my sad fortune, to add to my life's length.

ARISTARCHE

819 But not to lose time, enough of civility,³⁷
 820 And let us think of setting you at liberty.

DOROTÉE

821 Alas, you are deceived, by that villain abused:
 822 Just now he came to me to beg to be excused,
 823 Telling me that, having well the affair considered,
 824 When he made you that promise he had been too forward;
 825 But if you can accept five or six days of waiting,
 826 He'll attempt for you to effect my liberating.

ARISTARCHE

827 The traitor counts on doing me a nasty turn,
 828 Hoping he will be seeing his master return³⁸
 829 Before that time.

DOROTÉE

Unable to do otherwise,
 830 We must be patient. That great God in whose hands lies
 831 The destiny of humankind will have compassion,
 832 After so many torments felt, on our affliction:³⁹
 833 My heart tells me that shortly his merciful goodness
 834 Will free me from this horrible tyrant's duress.
 835 However, my dear heart, you should in safety leave,
 836 For from the palace you are easy to perceive.
 837 I will greatly regret your absence from my eyes,

37 "[C]ivility": orig. "honnesteté"; for the older sense of polite formality/ies, see *Trésor de la langue française informatisé*, s.v., déf. B.2.

38 The rhyme "turn [tour]"/"return [retour]" is in the original.

39 The rhyme "compassion"/"affliction" (identical in French) is in the original.

838 But I fear you will fall victim to some surprise;
 839 Farewell, withdraw from here, and constant still
 continue.

ARISTARCHE

840 What? Shall I depart from here and abandon you
 841 Without taking you from that raging monster's chains?
 842 No, I will show all the strength my courage sustains
 843 And to what extremes my love for you now presses me.

DOROTÉE

844 More-than-belovèd, no doubt of that possesses me.
 845 But even if your forces numbered four times more,
 846 It would not suffice to get you close to the door.
 847 Therefore, withdraw yourself, and do not be so stubborn.
 848 Farewell, dear husband.

ARISTARCHE

I am not so lowly born

849 As to desert you thus: I'd have a coward's heart
 850 And show small love.

DOROTÉE

Such talk gives me an angry start.

851 You have enough, as well as valour in abundance,
 852 But what if fortune should assume an adverse stance?

ARISTARCHE

853 I will oppose against it courage invincible:
 854 Virtue⁴⁰ often makes the impossible possible.
 855 That's enough talk—let fate disclose its verity:⁴¹
 856 It's high time for action!

40 "[V]irtue": orig. "vertu"—here with strong overtones of manly strength.

41 "[L]et fate disclose its verity": orig. "le sort en est ietté" ("the outcome is fated"), with an echo of Caesar's famous declaration, "*alea iacta est*" ("The die is cast").

DOROTÉE

What rash temerity!

ARISTARCHE

857 See, here come my men, who, valiant and keen to follow,
858 The posted guards and sentinels will overthrow.

DOROTÉE

859 You've been discovered: now go! Withdraw, for God's sake!

(One of the Guards cries out.)

GUARD

860 To arms now, companions!

ARISTARCHE

861 Give mighty blows to break
That gate with the battering ram! Now, there it lies!

ONE OF THE GUARDS

862 To arms, companions! They've taken us by surprise!

ARISTARCHE

863 Have at them, get inside!

THE GUARDS

864 No—better stay outside,
Or else you'll feel our ample well-bred strength applied!

ARISTARCHE

865 Courage, my friends! Let's give their resistance a
jolt:
866 Let each hurl himself on them like a thunderbolt!

(COMBAT.)

867 O my God, I'm wounded. I feel my spirits fail.
868 But don't cease the assault—continue to assail.

A SOLDIER OF ARISTARCHE (*after having fought again*)

869 It's all over, my lord. The gate is shut again:
 870 To force it once more would take an army of men.
 871 Now our most expedient course is to retire,
 872 To get out of the way of the arrows they fire.

ARISTARCHE

873 I too am of that same opinion. Mistress Fortune
 874 Never favours those who too boldly importune.
 875 Moreover, from further combat I must refrain:
 876 So much I feel my forces weakened by my pain.
 877 I do not believe, however, my wound is mortal,
 878 And I am well assured that the Essence Eternal,
 879 Who maintains all innocence and detests false dealing,
 880 Will grant me the benefit of a speedy healing,
 881 So I may avenge the barbarous injury
 882 Dealt by that horror of perverse monstrosity.

SCENE V

SAINT BERNARD (*alone*)

883 Thanks to the Almighty, the Duke has seen the light:
 884 He has returned, abandoning the schism quite,
 885 To the Church's bosom; he agrees to obey
 886 Pope Innocent, submitting duly to his sway.
 887 He has even restored each bishop to his place.
 888 But still his Christianity has not kept pace:
 889 He has not ceased his way of living to pollute;
 890 We see that filthy pleasures are still his pursuit.
 891 For this I have great pity, moved by charity,
 892 And will pray to the goodness of Divinity
 893 To work his conversion, for it is sure and certain
 894 That without such aid, one's efforts will be in vain,
 895 When it is a question of abandoning sin.

896 So said David, by adultery stained within:
 897 “Convert me, O Lord, for by myself, in my weakness,
 898 I cannot arrive at such boundless happiness.
 899 Yet I will not resist if your succour is lent,
 900 But will conduct myself as a true penitent.”⁴²
 901 Now, imitating that king as a perfect model,
 902 I will make my way at once to our holy temple,
 903 The Eternal for that vile duke to supplicate,
 904 And will with me my pious monks associate.

SCENE VI

DOROTÉE (*alone*)

905 You sovereign Monarch, who rule this earthly round,
 906 How your Providence in miracles is profound!
 907 He who would fathom it is bound too far to dare,
 908 If his mind, O Lord, is not guided by your care:
 909 It makes no sense the impossible to attempt,
 910 Or speak of things that from expression are exempt.
 911 When I come to think of so many happenings
 912 Strange and diverse, of so many disruptive things
 913 Which one sees occur, and of which one cannot learn,
 914 With certain reasoning, the causes to discern,
 915 I am struck with wonder, and with wonder replete,
 916 Most humbly I must lower my head to your feet—
 917 Even in those events affecting my own person
 918 And my beloved husband, whom all men abandon
 919 In our affliction, except for some serving-men
 920 Who only recently accompanied him when,
 921 With laudable intent, he would have had me freed—

42 As observed by Pasquier, ed., n. 79, a distillation of the penitential Psalms 6, 25, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, 143 (Authorised Version). This amounts, then, to a virtual refutation of the sinful David implicitly evoked by Guillaume (“whose names I can’t recite”) at the outset as a justificatory model; see above, I.ii.87-90 and n. 11.

922 If you, Almighty, with his purpose had agreed.
 923 But that did not form part of your sacred design,
 924 To which, from now on, my desire I resign,
 925 Myself to conduct as your creature ought to do.
 926 However, good God, with the courage me imbue
 927 To endure with all constancy my tribulation,
 928 Denying our foe any chance of exultation,
 929 Supposing that my great weakness and my impatience
 930 May have caused me to think ill of your Providence—
 931 Before which I am moved once again to bow low,
 932 Professing my intention its dictates to follow,
 933 And, faced with adversity's worst stinging or torture,
 934 To adore it, and not let forth the slightest murmur,
 935 Since to dispute it is futile for one who tries:
 936 In shaping our will to its own our true peace lies.

SCENE VII

Guillaume, Dorotée, [Female Attendants]⁴³

GUILLAUME [*alone*]

937 O vanity of the world! O supreme delusion!
 938 See how the great God strikes you with humbling
 confusion!
 939 You thought you would mount resistance to his intent:
 940 Well, just look at you now, and see how you relent!
 941 He breaks your arrogance, just as with that proud ass
 942 Whom, for such a long time, he caused to feed on grass.⁴⁴
 943 So, you're vanquished—but happy a hundred times more
 944 Than if you were triumphing over an emperor.
 945 O marvellous case! O remarkable adventure!⁴⁵

⁴³ Non-speaking, presumably entering at l. 1057. It would make dramatic (if not logical) sense if these were the same young waiting-women who tried to defend Dorotée in l.iii.

⁴⁴ I.e., Nebuchodonosor; see Daniel 4. Guillaume's new submissive humility is epitomised in the comparison, which implies, as with fate of the biblical *exemplum*, the madness of his previous state.

⁴⁵ "[A]dventure": orig. "adventure", which, if used primarily in the neutral sense of "occurrence", is

946 You receive the profit of your discomfiture:
 947 Your generous conqueror wished to have you bend,
 948 Just to make you one day to greater joy ascend—
 949 Far from behaving like those who proceed to pillage
 950 Our riches and ourselves when they hold the advantage.
 951 For that you must henceforth treat him with veneration;
 952 For that you must henceforth have him in adoration,
 953 Love him with all your heart, and to please in his sight,
 954 From now on as the pattern of virtues shine bright.
 955 Those sins, for your reformation, you must abandon:
 956 Start by asking with humility for a pardon
 957 From her you keep palace-bound in durance unjust,
 958 Withering her honour with the flames of your lust.
 959 About it, quick: this crime is provoking remorse
 960 Within you more painful than the most deadly force.

DOROTÉE [*entering*]

961 Since I fell under an abusive tyrant's sway,
 962 The sun has never brought to birth a single day
 963 When two flowing rivers of tears I did not weep,
 964 Because of my sorrowful pains, which cut so deep.
 965 But at present that torrent at its source has dried,
 966 And my heart has taken truce with the grief inside—
 967 A presage that my troubles will come to an end,
 968 And that Heaven will shortly its aid to me send.
 969 Hush!—the sound of someone: [*spying Guillaume*] my
 shameless one it brings.

GUILLAUME [*entering*]

970 Troubled within my heart by a remorse that stings,
 971 I hope, dear sister, that to my plea you'll give ear:
 972 Forgive the wrong I've done in confining you here;
 973 I frankly confess how far I am culpable,
 974 And that my offence is most abominable.
 975 But alas! I repent, and go down on my knees,
 976 In order your wholly just anger to appease—

nevertheless infused with the sense of the extraordinary conveyed by the English word.

977 “Appease” am I saying? No, no, revenge on me
 978 My cowardly crime—you have the ability.⁴⁶
 979 I do not deserve your forgiveness to obtain:
 980 A cruel death is the reward I ought to gain.

DOROTÉE

981 O Saviour of Mankind, what miracle—breath-taking—
 982 Meets my eyes? Am I sleeping, or, if I am waking,
 983 Is it just in my mind?⁴⁷ Hah, no!—more probably
 984 This is a false pretence to make a fool of me.

GUILLAUME

985 Not at all, not at all: my words are truly meant;
 986 God has touched my heart.

DOROTÉE

Hah!—I’m struck with wonderment.
 987 The ravishing wolf—I’ll believe it from now on—
 988 Will no more choose innocent flocks to feed upon;

46 “You have the ability”: “vous en avez puissance”. It is tempting to posit a staging whereby the kneeling duke, with some sort of gesture, offers her his sword. Cf. the offer of Shakespeare’s Richard III—actually hypocritical and manipulative in his case—as he woos Lady Anne, whose husband and father-in-law he has killed:

If thy revengeful heart cannot forgive,
 Lo here I lend thee this sharp-pointed sword,
 Which if thou please to hide in this true breast,
 And let the soul forth that adareth thee,
 I lay it naked to the deadly stroke,
 And humbly beg the death upon my knee. (R3, Iii.177-82)

That the motif was well adapted to tragicomedy is confirmed by its deployment by Pierre Corneille in *Le Cid* (1637), III.iv. It also figures in its classical neo-Senecan form, with a grieving victim begging for death, elsewhere in Shakespeare and in Simon Belyard’s tragedy *Le Guysien* (1592). See Simon Belyard, *The Guisian (Le Guysien)*, trans. with Introduction and Notes by Richard Hillman, publication online, Centre d’Études Supérieures de la Renaissance, Scène Européenne, Traductions Introuvables (Tours, 2019; <<https://sceneeuropeenne.univ-tours.fr/traductions/guisian>>), Introduction, p. 15-16.

47 As pointed out by Pasquier, ed., n. 84, such doubting of one’s senses is a commonplace gambit in French tragicomedies and comedies of the 1630s. One may trace it back at least as far as Nicolas de Montreux, *Diane* (1594), trans. with Introduction and Notes by Richard Hillman, with an Edition of the French Text, Scène Européenne—Traductions Introuvables (Tours: Presses Universitaires François-Rabelais, 2019), ll. 3236 ff. Dorotée’s “Hah” (orig. “Hâ”) in this line seemingly marks her (supposed) realisation of the truth; cf. l. 986 below, where it expresses astonishment, tinged with doubt.

989 From now on I'll believe that tigers, from horrific,
 990 Like our gentle lambs will now show themselves pacific;
 991 From now on I'll believe the leopard's kind become,
 992 And the fierce basilisk to be lacking in venom.
 993 If God indeed has touched you...⁴⁸

GUILLAUME

Do not find it strange:

994 The hardest sinners, when he pleases, he will change,
 995 Their conversion, for him, a moment's occupation.

DOROTÉE

996 Your case, to convince me, calls for strong
 confirmation.⁴⁹
 997 Not that I would doubt that Jesus, whom I adore,
 998 Could work miracles that would astound even more,
 999 But such as I know you—hardened, that is to say—
 1000 I do not think he would reform you in that way.

GUILLAUME

1001 As in my evil I met with no obstacle,
 1002 By my conversion he performed a miracle.
 1003 Listen, if you please—I will tell you what occurred,
 1004 To ensure that henceforth you cannot doubt my word.
 1005 At the assembly of the great prelates of France,
 1006 Gathered to decide an issue of great importance:
 1007 Whether to confirm as sovereign Innocent,
 1008 When Anaclet, the antipope, had Rome's assent.
 1009 Innocent having been declared canonical,
 1010 Holy father Bernard, with speech angelical,

48 The original absence of punctuation at the end of this half-line (orig. "Que Dieu vous ait touché") does not help with interpretation. The translation proposes the option that Dorotée is doubtfully raising his affirmation of conversion as a possibility, hence attracting his rejoinder.

49 The touch of ironic flippancy in the couplet ll. 995-96 is present in the original ("Et ne veut qu'un moment pour leur conversion." / "Pour la vostre il faudroit me donner caution") and is not inconsistent with Dorotée's near-comic discourse in the preceding lines, which suggests a reversal in the balance of power.

1043 To all he wished he made me grant my approbation,
 1044 And by the same means advanced me towards salvation—
 1045 Which without slacking with fervour I will pursue,
 1046 Wherefore from my prison I now deliver you,
 1047 Asking your pardon.

DOROTÉE

Miracle without parallel!
 1048 Oh, how God knows with humility pride to quell!
 1049 Even though you have so extremely me distressed,
 1050 Seeing that remorse is keeping your soul oppressed,
 1051 Not to chafe at all against the sacred commandment,
 1052 I pardon your offences with my whole intent,
 1053 Supplicating Jesus's clemency benign
 1054 To vouchsafe you a remission better than mine.

GUILLAUME

1055 I will supplicate him for it. Go, my dear sister;
 1056 Permit me to kiss your hands as a final favour.

[Enter young women.]

1057 All these girls whom you see here will
 companion you
 1058 As far as your home. Go with God's blessing on you:
 1059 Wherever in the world I find myself straying,
 1060 For you I will constantly to Heaven be praying. *[Exit.]*

DOROTÉE

1061 Adieu—live happily. Oh, how I am content,
 1062 Freed when I had all but despaired of the event.
 1063 May Jesus Christ be praised, who out of his great
 goodness
 1064 Has seen fit to liberate me from my duress.
 1065 Come, then, let me go—now by ill-fortune so blighted—
 1066 To see him again to whom Hymen me united.

Act IV

SCENE I

The Hermit, Duke Guillaume, [the Armourer]⁵²

THE HERMIT [*alone*]

1067 When I consider how much the world is perverted,
 1068 And how far from the virtues one sees it diverted,
 1069 Behaving such that each passing fancy is followed,
 1070 Which leads it at every turn by vice to be swallowed,
 1071 I render due thanks to God, by whose inspiration
 1072 I was delivered from any worldly affection⁵³
 1073 And made to leave it for the study I've pursued
 1074 Of love and service to him in this solitude,
 1075 Where I live in repose, exempt from all the passions
 1076 Which bring to worldlings a myriad of afflictions—
 1077 These amongst others: avarice, more execrable
 1078 Because never content—it is insatiable,
 1079 And has made in this age more souls themselves submerge
 1080 In the gulf infernal than one sees in the sea-surge
 1081 Fish abounding; and the other, intolerable,
 1082 Is pride, which makes thought of a rival unthinkable,⁵⁴
 1083 Seeks deference from all, and that one should bow low,
 1084 And (being deprived of reason) seems not to know
 1085 It was the object at which heaven's Father first
 1086 Directed his anger in a violent outburst.
 1087 O good God, what does one see in mortals today—
 1088 And chiefly in the Great—who are under Pride's sway?
 1089 In these woods I hear news of them—it gets this far—

52 Non-speaking, not listed among characters here or among the *dramatis personae*. Given the heavy Christian symbolism of his function, the character takes on indefinite supernatural overtones, and his silence arguably enhances this effect. See my Introduction, pp. 13-14.

53 The near-rhyme “inspiration”/“affection” (identical in French) exists in the original.

54 “[W]hich makes thought of a rival unthinkable”: orig. “qui ne croid auoir aucun semblable”—lit. “who/which does not believe it/he has any likeness”. The syntactic ambiguity of the original supports a virtual transition from pride as an abstract concept to pride as personified allegory by evoking a person exemplifying the vice; the following two lines sustain the effect, which recalls traditional portraits of the Seven Deadly Sins, as the translation attempts to indicate.

1090 And know how barbarous and cruel their deeds are.
 1091 Know yourselves, wretches, sunk in your illusions' mire!
 1092 Extenuate by your humility the ire
 1093 Of your Creator, lest his justice, in its rigour,
 1094 Prepare for you in hell an everlasting torture.
 1095 Have a tear in your eye, your heart in contrite state.
 1096 One prince among you you ought now to imitate,
 1097 Who recently to my hermitage chose to come
 1098 To consult me on his conversion with great wisdom.
 1099 He is supposed to come again to see me shortly,
 1100 And if I am right, he is not far: [*spying Guillaume*] it is he,
 1101 Soon close at hand. His downcast look⁵⁵ has much to tell:
 1102 Surely I believe he persists in living well.

[*Enter Guillaume.*]

GUILLAUME

1103 Having done everything exactly as you said,
 1104 And widely my wealth among the poor distributed,
 1105 Leaving my followers and those of my lineage,
 1106 I come again to find you in your hermitage.
 1107 In the name of Jesus Christ, our heavenly Sun,⁵⁶
 1108 Lend me your sacred counsel, father, holy one.
 1109 Miserable sinner, what is it I must do
 1110 Of my offence to purify me through and through?
 1111 Why do I say offence? For rather in battalions⁵⁷
 1112 The vices have been to me familiar companions,
 1113 So that now my life without hope must be endured,
 1114 Unable to save myself, unless well assured,
 1115 As I have been by you, it is not God's volition
 1116 To condemn the penitent sinner to perdition.⁵⁸

55 "[D]owncast look": orig. "façon triste"—presumably a reflection of his well-justified remorse.

56 "Sun": orig. "Soleil"; English cannot help introducing the widespread play on "Son".

57 "[I]n battalions": orig. "à milliers" (lit. "by thousands").

58 "[P]erdition": orig. "funèbre trespas" (lit. "gloomy death").

THE HERMIT

1117 That is the truth indeed, but his Justice divine
 1118 Pardons no vice without satisfaction condign.
 1119 Now, you know well to what degree you have transgressed
 1120 His statutes, and to what degree you have oppressed
 1121 Your wretched people; how often by violence
 1122 You have pampered with indulgence your concupiscence;⁵⁹
 1123 How much human blood it has suited you to shed;
 1124 And how far your spirit remains to this day tainted
 1125 For taking the part of that schism detestable,
 1126 Which, more than the rest, makes you to God accountable.
 1127 Therefore, that these hateful sins you may expiate,
 1128 Which would keep shut to you the Realm of Heaven's gate,
 1129 Your body needs by fasting to be mortified;
 1130 A hair-shirt must upon it every day be tied;
 1131 You must go armed, wearing always a martial garment,
 1132 As looking to break lances in a tournament—
 1133 For which I caused to come to this stark wilderness
 1134 A good armourer:⁶⁰ to serve you in this business,
 1135 He recently forged this armour that here you see,
 1136 Which you will need now to put on. Do you agree?

GUILLAUME

1137 I will willingly with my clothes make the exchange.

THE HERMIT

1138 If I treat you harshly, you must not find it strange.
 1139 It is not that I wish cruel pains to apply,
 1140 But rather the wrath of Heaven to satisfy,
 1141 Which requires punishment matching the offence.

GUILLAUME

1142 I could not suffer pain sufficiently intense:

59 "[C]oncupiscence" (identical in original): the key vice represented by Asmodius; on the implications, see my Introduction, pp. 12-15.

60 It seems probable that the Armourer enters here with the armour, which the Hermit takes from him, but that he remains in the background until l. 1159. Alternatively, he may enter at that point, but the armour is obviously available as of now.

1143 I've so offended God, and have so little worth,
 1144 I don't see how he lets me walk upon the earth
 1145 And does not sink me in that darkness underground
 1146 Where nothing but lugubrious laments resound.

THE HERMIT

1147 By this you ought to recognise that his great goodness
 1148 Does not punish according to our wickedness:
 1149 Therefore your thanks to him must be most humbly stated,
 1150 Because he was willing until now to await
 1151 Your conversion, not requiring you to die
 1152 So he might at once hell's torments to you apply.
 1153 Now come: we're wasting time; let me see you in arms.⁶¹

GUILLAUME

1154 Good—give me that; there, it's done! Thus, during
 alarms,⁶²
 1155 I appeared when I marched my enemies to fight,
 1156 Who by my manly strength were often put to flight.
 1157 Now by quite different means I go to repel
 1158 In combat assaults by the warriors of hell.⁶³

THE HERMIT

1159 Approach, armourer, adjust this harness's springs,
 1160 To ensure that to his body it always clings.

GUILLAUME

1161 Until my final hour, so do I intend.

THE HERMIT

1162 Your course now from this habitation you must bend,

61 "[I]n arms": orig. "endosse-moy ces armes" (lit. "put on these arms for me"). The sense of "armour" for "arms" was also current in English; cf. Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, "My father's spirit—in arms!" (I.ii.254).

62 "[D]uring alarms": orig. "aux alarmes", with the word used metonymically, as often, for combat.

63 See my Introduction, p. 13.

1163 And go present yourself before his Holiness,⁶⁴
 1164 In order to beg him, with great humility,
 1165 That it might be his pleasure to grant absolution
 1166 For what merits swift destruction: your foul pollution.
 1167 Besides, from now on you must go and beg your bread,
 1168 Trusting that God each day will see it is provided.

GUILLAUME

1169 O charitable father, you shall be obeyed,
 1170 But alas, what if Death—of this I am afraid!—
 1171 Raising my affliction to the highest degree,
 1172 Before my absolution should come and take me?
 1173 Ah, I would be lost, that anathema so fearful
 1174 Remaining in force.

THE HERMIT

The Eternal, merciful,
 1175 Who knows the return to him at work in your heart,
 1176 Whatever occurs, will give succour that is stalwart.
 1177 Therefore, do not fear in the least its deadly sting:
 1178 He will preserve you from any such dire thing.
 1179 That he may grant you his protection I will pray.
 1180 Adieu, no tarrying: you must be on your way.

GUILLAUME

1181 Adieu, father, adieu. Your pure and holy discourse
 1182 Has now chased far from me all fears, which lack all
 force.

64 I.e., Pope Innocent.

SCENE II

The Council of State, the Gentlemen of Duke Guillaume

COUNCIL

1183 Like a helpless ship driven wherever winds blew,⁶⁵
 1184 No longer piloted, with only a scant crew,
 1185 Who, as they hear the winds growl and the tempest
 thunder,
 1186 Fear at every moment it will be torn asunder—
 1187 Likewise, lacking the Duke our lord to navigate,
 1188 Established as the firm governor of our state,
 1189 We live in the constant fear that unseeing Fortune⁶⁶,
 1190 Making us feel her tempest, may us importune.
 1191 To provide, if possible, for such change in weather,
 1192 Gentlemen, we find ourselves here with you together
 1193 In deliberation: let each pronounce his view,
 1194 Without dissimulation, on what we should do.

GENTLEMEN

1195 As to our elders, the honour to you we cede,
 1196 And our own relief must wholly from you proceed.
 1197 Since we know in public affairs your expertise,
 1198 And you are familiar with all wise policies.
 1199 Therefore, the most suitable course to us propose
 1200 That is expedient for the common repose;
 1201 Then, if there is a need to act in some affair,
 1202 Command us: there is nothing our zeal will not dare.

COUNCIL

1203 Thank you for the honour you have on us conferred.
 1204 Now, having beforehand among ourselves considered
 1205 Some important points that to our affair pertain,

65 The Council's initial speech adapts the commonplace notion of the "ship of state" to the imagery commonly used in the period by characters wavering between contrary impulses. In general, his discourse in this scene is notably varied and colourful, combining bureaucratic and homely language.

66 Fortune was traditionally portrayed as blind (orig. "aueugle").

1206 This seemed to us a priority to retain:
 1207 Take a number, orderly, with good mounts to ride,
 1208 And go in search of our Duke on every side;
 1209 And if our good fortune is such that you should meet him,
 1210 Let someone among you with forthright speech entreat him,
 1211 Stress how his leaving is to himself injurious
 1212 And try above all to get him to come back to us.
 1213 Meanwhile, for our part, we undertake to prevent
 1214 Whatever may entail the common detriment.
 1215 Now go at once, for fear that if you should delay,
 1216 Already distant, he will be too far away.
 1217 Thus it is needful to employ much diligence,
 1218 More so because the stakes are of great consequence.
 1219 You can well imagine it is a source of fear
 1220 That our neighbouring kings may try to engineer
 1221 The usurpation of our land, for their quaint habit,⁶⁷
 1222 When they see a troubled realm, is quickly to grab it,
 1223 Whether divisions weaken it, or a like fate
 1224 To that which plunges us into our mournful state.

GENTLEMEN

1225 In order such a catastrophe to forestall—
 1226 May he protect us from it who rules over all!—
 1227 We shall promptly go and search in every place
 1228 For him whose bravery all dangers could outface,
 1229 Our noble Duke, and we solemnly promise you
 1230 That, whatever weary travelling we must do,
 1231 We will not return without bringing him at last,
 1232 Provided that a tomb does not yet hold him fast.

COUNCIL

1233 May God, who over the affairs of humans reigns,
 1234 Ensure that not for nothing will you take these pains.

67 “[Q]uaint habit”: orig. “belle maxime”, an expression rich with sardonic irony.

SCENE III

Asmodeus, the Gentlemen of Duke Guillaume

ASMODEUS [*alone*]

1235 Wholly in vain my power I will have exerted
 1236 And far from heaven that unholy duke diverted,
 1237 If now, distressed by the evils he has committed,
 1238 He seeks to obligate⁶⁸ Christ to have them remitted.
 1239 So he is going, impelled by true piety,
 1240 To find the holy pontiff in his splendid city;
 1241 But I will block him, as he tries to reach that place,
 1242 To prevent him from receiving such precious grace.
 1243 I'll make use of his men, who follow on his track,
 1244 For on my information they will bring him back
 1245 Before completion of the long road he pursues—
 1246 And here they come now: for me that's excellent news!
 1247 The better to bring it off, and prevent their fright,
 1248 I took a human body to deceive their sight.
 1249 Otherwise my essence, being imperceptible,
 1250 To the most far-seeing eyes would not be visible.
 1251 Such is the nature of us spirits, and quite normal—
 1252 But soft, not a word more! I hear them to me call.

GENTLEMEN [*entering*]

1253 Tell us, my good friend, have you not seen anyone
 1254 Passing along this road?

ASMODEUS

In fact, this information
 1255 I'll give you: our Duke, on foot, is going this way.

GENTLEMEN

1256 Hah! My God, it's for him this search is underway!
 1257 Could he be far off?

68 “[O]bligate”: orig. “contraindre”—seemingly suggestive of a theological blind-spot on the demon’s part.

ASMODEUS

Without great rapidity
 1258 You won't catch up.

GENTLEMEN

Come on—take the same road as he.

ASMODEUS

Gentlemen, wait for me: I can serve as your guide—
 1259
 1260 Even, as needed, most valuable aid provide.

GENTLEMEN

Your kind offer of help we could not see rejected,
 1261
 1262 Nor will its recompense in future be neglected.

ASMODEUS

I ask for nothing at all: I will be content
 1263
 1264 When once the Duke is found;⁶⁹ my wish no further went.

GENTLEMEN

On your honesty and good nature we can count,
 1265
 1266 But how will you keep up with us without a mount?

ASMODEUS

Don't worry about that—with the best I keep pace,
 1267
 1268 And so I promise to lead you to every place
 1269 You want to go: in travelling I am well versed,
 1270 For many a road in my youth I long traversed;
 1271 Moreover, a most particular art I know
 1272 By means of which one is informed where persons go
 1273 Whom one seeks: that shall be a beacon on our way,
 1274 And never fear that I may make you go astray.
 1275 What's more, still further ease of travel you'll acquire:

69 From this point on, the spectators, who know the demon's true identity, will register ironic double meanings in the exchange.

1276 I'll cause your horses to gallop and never tire—
1277 But you haven't any.

GENTLEMEN

As guide we have a man
1278 Who leads them along and follows as best he can;
1279 He'll soon be seen. We had left our horses behind,
1280 Better assurance in a tricky spot to find,
1281 And I believe that Heaven's gracious influence
1282 So wished it, in order that we might have your presence:
1283 Such a happy chance when most troubled in our course
1284 Could never emanate from any other source.

ASMODEUS

1285 Come, sirs, come! For my part, it's simply not my usage
1286 To engage in compliments, so let's drop such language!

GENTLEMEN

1287 Then take the lead, my great friend—those words are not
hollow!
1288 Since you are willing to guide us, it's you we'll follow.

Act V

SCENE I

Duke Guillaume, the Gentlemen

GUILLAUME

1289 Thanks to the Eternal, I have experience
 1290 To prove felicity is found within one's conscience—
 1291 To have nothing on it to make us feel distress
 1292 From a woeful repentance's sharp bitterness.
 1293 Great kings' diversions in comfort do not approach
 1294 That of one who has no feelings of self-reproach—
 1295 Which causes me to judge that true felicities
 1296 Do not at all consist in lofty dignities,
 1297 Nor in possession of most rare and precious things,
 1298 Or of the metal that such toil to misers brings.
 1299 When I was lord of the people of Aquitaine,
 1300 All the delights that I was able to obtain
 1301 Bear no comparison with the ultimate pleasure
 1302 Of renouncing vice—that is bliss beyond all measure!—
 1303 And receiving, by absolution, my purgation,
 1304 Granted by the holy Patriarch of that nation,⁷⁰
 1305 To whom I had been sent by him whose potent sway
 1306 Controls the clergy, when in France he made his stay,⁷¹
 1307 And him in the city of Reims I went to see
 1308 To procure a pardon for my debauchery.
 1309 My suit caused him to rebuff me with rude rejection,
 1310 At which I felt in my heart such anguished dejection
 1311 That at once I was seen to weep with bitterness,
 1312 As my sins I was moved before all to confess,

70 The translation follows the original literally. One would have expected the identity of “that nation” to be specified, but the reference is clearly to the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, where, according to the narrative of Du Val, Guillaume lived penitentially for nine years (see below, ll. 1324-30). It remains less clear why he is now supposed to be journeying to Rome for a papal remission, according to Asmodeus (IV.iii.1239-40). This does not figure in Du Val's or Guillaume's own account.

71 I.e., Pope Innocent, during his exile from Rome because of the schism involving Anaclet, which is thus evoked yet again.

1313 To the point where I touched his pity with keen sense.
 1314 So he presented me a brief⁷² to lift the sentence
 1315 That held me in a state of absolute subjection
 1316 To the angel whose fall was due to his ambition.
 1317 With this in hand, by swift stages I made my way
 1318 To embark at the port in Provence of Marseille.
 1319 From there the swelling sea-flood with a rapid pace
 1320 Carried me to Jaffa in twice thirty days' space;
 1321 From there I made a journey to that blessed city
 1322 Where my Saviour was killed with great ferocity.
 1323 Since I was so happy as to make my sejour,
 1324 Fully nine times the sun has run through its grand tour
 1325 Of signs celestial,⁷³ and my wish is intense
 1326 (God willing) to finish my austere penitence
 1327 In this hole in the wall, where I feel more at ease
 1328 Than in palaces with everything to please,
 1329 As I made evident to that good Patriarch
 1330 Whose banner proclaims him of Palestine the monarch,
 1331 When I refused the offer that to me he made
 1332 To dwell in his own, with gleaming splendour arrayed.
 1333 And surely for just cause does my soul such abhor,
 1334 Since so many of the crimes that I now deplore
 1335 Were committed in them, serving as instruments,
 1336 Together with my riches, of my vile intents,
 1337 The thought of which afflicts me with a thousand
 torments:
 1338 Thus night and day I weep, rend the air with laments.
 1339 Happy, too happy, if only I might obtain
 1340 The grace of my God before my end I attain!
 1341 [*seeing the Gentlemen*] But what are they doing here?
 Their fair countenance
 1342 And the accents I hear suggest they come from France.
 1343 I am deeply touched—good God, they are known to me!
 1344 O my Saviour, here comes all that I sought to flee!

72 “[B]rief”: orig. “bref”—in English, as in French, a term referring to an official Papal document less formal than a bull. See *OED*, *s.v.*, def. 2.a.

73 I.e., nine years have passed.

GENTLEMEN [*entering*]

1345 In what now meets our sight can our eyes be mistaken?
 1346 Might we, unhappy, for nothing our pains have taken?
 1347 Is it really you, my lord, whom for nine years quite
 1348 We've sought throughout the universe without respite?
 1349 How you are changed! Yet the thing is perfectly plain:
 1350 You are the lord of the Dukedom of Aquitaine.

GUILLAUME

1351 Gentlemen, I have never had such dignity:
 1352 I am nothing but a poor wretch of low degree.
 1353 You are deceived.

GENTLEMEN

 Oh, it's our good master indeed:
 1354 His voice and manner prove it—of more there's no need.
 1355 Let us show him due honour. [*They kneel.*]

GUILLAUME

 I have not deserved
 1356 Such respect, to be with lowly bent knee observed.
 1357 Stand up, my friends, I beg you with humility:
 1358 Such homage irks me; it feels like idolatry;
 1359 It is God that you ought in that way to adore.

GENTLEMEN

1360 Ah, have we not then the right thus to do you honour
 1361 As our good master and our lord legitimate?

GUILLAUME

1362 Those are all things I now esteem as of no rate.
 1363 Having put behind me the world and its possessions,
 1364 Likewise I renounce all its meaningless submissions.⁷⁴

74 The near-rhyme “possessions/submissions” (identical words in French) is present in the original

GENTLEMEN

1365 Since you abandoned that—at least until the present—
 1366 Regarding what took place, let your soul be content.
 1367 Now it behoves you to return to your own land,
 1368 So as to govern it well and take it in hand.
 1369 Your merit will be all the greater in that case
 1370 Than by living like a wretch in a narrow space.
 1371 You would offend God by longer remaining there—
 1372 He who has entrusted a people to your care,
 1373 To reign on his behalf, justice for him dispensing,
 1374 The vices punishing and virtues recompensing.
 1375 And rest assured that, if your part you do not play,
 1376 You will have to give account on the Judgement Day.
 1377 For just as a shepherd, leading his ewes to graze,
 1378 Must give the count to his master one of these days,
 1379 The very same is true for princes and for kings,
 1380 To whom Heaven has made whole peoples underlings.

GUILLAUME

1381 During all the time that I reigned over your province,
 1382 I so badly fulfilled the charge of a good prince
 1383 That rightfully henceforth resign from it I must.
 1384 Thus to your magistrates all its care I entrust,
 1385 To be no longer liable to render account
 1386 Of a great burden bound my forces to surmount.

GENTLEMEN

1387 As for the time past, if it truly is your thought
 1388 That you did not rule over your state as you ought,
 1389 Let that in your mind the fault of young age become,
 1390 Which follows its passions without counsel or wisdom.

and seems worth preserving. "Submissions" in the sense of demonstrations of homage is rare in English but certainly attested (*OED*, *s.v.* "submission", def. II.3.b).

GUILLAUME

1391 Alas, at my own expense I have learnt that well,
 1392 And I weep and repent when my thoughts on it dwell.
 1393 But I also complain of you of my household,
 1394 Willing onlookers at my evil deeds untold.
 1395 And what is even more, as cowardly flatterers,
 1396 Of those acts you were often prompt executors,⁷⁵
 1397 Instead of, as you should, dissuading me with protest;
 1398 Then, if your reasons inadequate force possessed
 1399 To prevent what I proposed, you should have declined
 1400 To aid me, or rather from my service resigned.
 1401 Had you behaved that way, it is incontestable
 1402 I would have committed fewer crimes detestable.
 1403 For a prince never, or but rarely, will consent
 1404 To dirty his own hands: he needs an instrument—
 1405 Whom often, after reason once more dominates,
 1406 As a mortal foe at last he exterminates.⁷⁶
 1407 Now, it is not my intent to grant you such guerdon,
 1408 But to supplicate God to vouchsafe you his pardon
 1409 And with such potent repentance your hearts to seize
 1410 That him at last by your penitence you appease.
 1411 In the meanwhile, you will much oblige me, my friends,
 1412 Home to return. Myself, until death my life ends,
 1413 I wish here to remain, to sigh and to complain—
 1414 Remorse for my evils causes my heart such pain.

GENTLEMEN

1415 By no means, my lord—our resolution is fast
 1416 Not to leave you: that particular die is cast.⁷⁷
 1417 And we've promised, whatever occurs, to again
 1418 Cause you to be seen by the people of Guyenne,
 1419 Who are desirous of you, by affection pressed,
 1420 More than a spent traveller of a place of rest.

75 Guillaume's accusations match the Gentlemen's conduct in I.iii.

76 Cf. *The Tragedy of Saint Agnes*, I.i.13-14, and n. 3.

77 "[T]hat particular die is cast": orig. "Le sort en est ietté". Obviously evoked is Caesar's, "*alea jacta est*", which resounds with flagrant irony in the context, given the discredited speakers.

GUILLAUME

1421 All right, then, my friends, not to disappoint your care,
 1422 In the hands of Jesus I will place the affair.
 1423 Meanwhile, leave me solitary until tomorrow,
 1424 When together our points of view we'll lend and borrow.

GENTLEMEN

1425 We'll obey you, and, not nettled but cheerfully,
 1426 We'll go to seek a lodging in some hostelry.
[*Exeunt Gentlemen.*]

GUILLAUME

1427 How contented I am—my lot's a blessèd one.
 1428 Tomorrow in early morning I will be gone!
 1429 And I will put such distance between them and me
 1430 That to close the gap they'll lack the ability.
 1431 I've discovered their ruse: they are planning to snatch
 me;
 1432 But that just makes me laugh—I'll flee so they won't
 catch me,
 1433 As I direct my course towards Italian ground,
 1434 Where I hope a peaceful resting place⁷⁸ will be found.

78 “[A] peaceful resting place”: orig. “un sejour pacifique”—an ironic wish, given the warlike and grueling sequel, but again there is no mention of a papal remission.

SCENE II

Colonel of the army of Lucca, Captain[s]⁷⁹ of Lucca, Duke Guillaume*[Enter Colonel and Captains.]*

COLONEL

1435 It has resisted too long. Whatever's at fault,
 1436 We must take it shortly, by ruse or by assault.
 1437 Two months have passed since our siege engines were
 assigned
 1438 To attack on this flank and the other was mined.
 1439 But we are getting nowhere; for surely these walls
 1440 And foundations are harder than the hardest metals.⁸⁰
 1441 In spite of such strength, it cannot be impregnable
 1442 For soldiers like us, with hearts indefatigable.
 1443 How is it going, men?

CAPTAINS

 Certainly, mighty hero,
 1444 Even if a triple moat surrounded this chateau,
 1445 We would by your courageous skill achieve success,
 1446 And by your magnificent proofs of dauntlessness,
 1447 Before which everything gives way, as frequently
 1448 You have caused your companions of Lucca to see,
 1449 Who above all soldiers in the world are glorious
 1450 In serving a chief incomparably valorous.

COLONEL

1451 Dear comrades, if valour some deeds of mine shines
 through,
 1452 It's you who inspire me—to you it is due.

GUILLAUME [*entering*]

1453 I am filled with rejoicing at this army's sight,
 1454 And my soul with ardent feelings is set alight

79 The original speech headings vary between “Le Capitaine” and “Les Capitaines”; the plural is preferred here, since the familiar technique of presenting a spokesman for a group is employed.

80 “[H]ardest metals”: orig. “fer” (“iron”).

1455 With the same martial fire, now burning again,
 1456 As when I struck fear into the boldest of men.
 1457 A strange thing—yet not for a marvel⁸¹ to be taken:
 1458 Nature can in objects such forces reawaken.

COLONEL

1459 Now, without more indulging in diverting chatter,
 1460 Concerning this siege, give me your view of the matter.

CAPTAINS

1461 Magnanimous hero, our only contribution
 1462 To your own prudent counsel is its execution,
 1463 For which we are quite ready with a noble ardour,
 1464 Each to deploy his rage for the sake of your honour.

GUILLAUME

1465 The view of these soldiers and the sound of their drums
 1466 Are urging me to break free at once of the doldrums
 1467 Of my austerity. Come—this armour strip off:
 1468 Of heaving sighs and of tears I have had enough.
 1469 The Monarch of Heaven must surely be contented
 1470 With my having nine full years my body tormented
 1471 By fasting and labour, no means it to refresh,
 1472 And wearing this chafing cilice⁸² against my flesh,
 1473 Which I will now get rid of. How I am relieved!
 1474 And now I feel regret at having so aggrieved
 1475 My tall and strong body, fit for a soldier's state,
 1476 Not to follow the rule of a novitiate.
 1477 Come on, let us put the harness back in its place
 1478 And march to the chief with a brisk and eager pace.

81 "[M]arvel": orig. "merueille". Ironically, he speaks more truly than he knows, as will be shown by the supernatural marvel that affects him.

82 "[C]ilice": orig. "silice", now spelt as in English—the penitential hair-shirt referred to in IV.i.1130.

COLONEL [*seeing Guillaume*]

1479 What second Rodomont,⁸³ with giant-like display,
1480 Is this, soldiers, who to us is making his way?

CAPTAINS

1481 He isn't known to us—we had better arrest him.
1482 He may try something—who knows? It's prudent to test
 him.
1483 What flesh-and-blood Colossus! Regard his expression:
1484 You would say it is Mars in some furor's possession.
1485 He's coming too close. [*to Guillaume*] Remain where you are, remain!

GUILLAUME

1486 Don't be afraid, soldiers, and from anger refrain.
1487 I come not to do you harm but to serve your need.
1488 My lord, if you are willing, allow me to lead
1489 Two of your regiments in close combat well trained.
1490 Tomorrow, or sooner, this place I'll have obtained.

COLONEL

1491 From that majesty whose glow in your face we see,
1492 I'd judge that Mars vouchsafes you the audacity
1493 Of a peerless hero; and yet when you pretend
1494 You can quickly by force bring this siege to an end,
1495 When the place has resisted us for two months now—
1496 For me that beggars all credence, I must avow,
1497 Unless almighty Heaven brings an alteration.

GUILLAUME

1498 Let's put it to the proof with no more hesitation.

COLONEL

1499 All right.

83 "Rodomont": the name, taken from the character in the romantic epics *Rolando Innamorato* of Boiardo and *Orlando Furioso* of Ariosto, carried associations of ridiculous pretension and braggartism which prove to be to the point here.

GUILLAUME

1509 Assist me, my friends; assist me to walk, I pray.
 1510 For my great error, alas, now dearly I pay!

COLONEL

1511 What has caused this misfortune—or stroke from the
 skies?

GUILLAUME

1512 It is my Saviour Jesus, my faults to chastise.
 1513 I have transgressed the vow that I made solemnly
 1514 To live in his service with full integrity.
 1515 Pardon, good God, pardon me, wretch, in humble sadness!
 1516 Alas, do not remember my benighted madness:⁸⁵
 1517 Now I take again to the road from which I strayed.
 1518 [*as his sight returns*] O great God, all mercy, you have
 your grace displayed
 1519 To me, miserable sinner. A dusky light
 1520 Appeared to my eyes, like a shadow in my sight;
 1521 Now I see clearly: the Eternal infinite
 1522 And my Lord his Son—let them be blessed without limit!
 1523 Know, mighty colonel, and you, formidable army,
 1524 That after having made the King of Heaven angry
 1525 For my abominable sins, I travelled long,
 1526 Wandering through the universe to purge my wrong,
 1527 To all the world's holy places taking my course,
 1528 Having both heart and soul oppressed by true remorse,
 1529 When a wicked demon to this place introduced me
 1530 And by my ambition unhappily seduced me,
 1531 As you have seen—a memorable spectacle,
 1532 Which may do you good. Adieu, honourable colonel.

COLONEL

1533 May the good angels of the heavens you protect,

85 “[B]enighted madness”: orig. “noire folie” (lit. “black madness”); the word-play alluding to his blindness is evident.

1534 And every sinister danger from you deflect.
 1535 Now let's go, companions, and our assault⁸⁶ pursue,
 1536 For which to all in common glory will be due.

SCENE III

REINALD (*alone*)

1537 Worldlings, whose minds are occupied exclusively
 1538 With pleasure such as they enjoy deceptively,
 1539 How little you realise where you originate!
 1540 That permits your senses strongly to dominate:
 1541 You are held enslaved by bestial appetite,
 1542 So that you never raise yourselves to that great height,
 1543 On the wing of thought, where the adorable Essence
 1544 Lends the saints a joy incomparably intense.
 1545 Alas, what misery! What blind predicament,
 1546 Composed of deceitful errors, confounds your judgement!
 1547 That your will might be able the good to elect
 1548 And in spite of that, wretches, the worst you select—
 1549 Of an addled brain is that not the surest sign,
 1550 To prefer the terrestrial to the divine,
 1551 Gold and silver, and other such material
 1552 To those treasures whose duration will be eternal?
 1553 Myself, God giving me a sentiment more just,
 1554 For all things here below I have such deep disgust
 1555 I leave them here and seek those Jesus Christ reserves
 1556 For one of his elect who faithfully him serves.
 1557 Night and day by that thought I am wholly possessed,
 1558 But having still not yet sufficiently progressed
 1559 In what I must do in such a high enterprise,
 1560 I need to find a father who will me advise,

86 “[A]ssault”: orig. “pointe”; for this meaning, see *Dictionnaire du moyen français (1330-1500)*, online at <<http://zeus.atilf.fr/>> (accessed 4 April 2022), *s.v.*, def. B.2.

1561 Some worthy director,⁸⁷ whom to seek I now turn
 1562 In the forest shadows, in the depths of a cavern.
 1563 The rumour that through the air from realm to realm
 glides
 1564 Tells me in such places one Saint Guillaume resides,
 1565 Who has no equal whatever for his perfection,
 1566 Living all his days as he does in contemplation,⁸⁸
 1567 Like an angel from Heaven, and so charitable
 1568 That one could not find a man more approachable.
 1569 To him with willing heart I will myself confide,
 1570 And let his holy statutes be my only guide.
 1571 Adieu, false world, where those destinies most enjoyed
 1572 For us are precipices by which we're destroyed.

SCENE IV

Duke Guillaume, invisible demons,
 Asmodeus (*taking the shape of the Duke's father*), [Two Angels]⁸⁹

GUILLAUME

1573 Pleasurable forests, where the animals dwell,
 1574 I think that Heaven, after all my latest trouble,
 1575 Wills that I should in you the rest of my life finish.
 1576 And to tell the truth, that would indeed be my wish.
 1577 Here I'd find more that tastes sweet than bitter to me,
 1578 After having escaped from the pirates at sea,
 1579 By whom I was seized with rough and rigorous hand
 1580 When I was voyaging back to the Holy Land

87 “[D]irector”: orig. “directeur”, i.e., “director of conscience” or “spiritual director”—a role of notable importance in the devout Counter-Reformation milieu. As pointed out by Pasquier, Introduction to *La Tragédie de Sainte Agnès*, p. 6, François de Sales ranked obedience to one’s director of conscience on a par with humility as an essential virtue.

88 Ll. 1565-66: the imperfect rhyme “perfection”/“contemplation” follows the original (identical in French).

89 These figures are designated as Saints in the original speech-headings but are clearly to be identified with the Angels specified in the *dramatis personae*, as seems somewhat more consistent with their role (although the categories could be slippery ones in popular theology). See Pasquier, ed., nn. 11 and 129.

1581 After Italy and the camp of Lucca's men,
 1582 Where God corrected me, seeing⁹⁰ I'd lapsed again.
 1583 Beneath this vaulted rock, to which I am quite used,⁹¹
 1584 My body will be restored, weary and abused,
 1585 Having just visited the temple which contains
 1586 Of the great Saint James the venerable remains.⁹²
 1587 But what madness I talk! Some demon seeks control!
 1588 What, then? Seek to live here with a contented soul?
 1589 To give up the travail that I so well deserve,
 1590 And which to expiate my wicked acts must serve?
 1591 No, no, start again. [*taking his whip*] There, my
 discipline⁹³ apply;
 1592 This stubborn flesh that mutinies now mortify!

(Here the invisible demons yell horribly.)

1593 What outburst of frightening noise do I now hear?
 1594 O cursèd ones, don't think you'll strike me thus with
 fear!
 1595 Yell and roar all you please, you noxious spawn of
 hell!
 1596 Hiss horribly, like snakes that in Africa dwell.
 1597 I am steadfast—I have a guardian indeed:
 1598 Jesus Christ, whom I serve, will help me in my need.

ASMODEUS (*entering in the form of the Duke's father*)

1599 You, who live like a saint in this cavern obscure,
 1600 Of your dead father recognise in me the figure,
 1601 Who comes to inform you from the Divinity
 1602 That you have lived enough apart and solitary.

90 "[S]eeing": if a punning allusion to his blindness is intended (as seems doubtful), it is present in the original ("voyant").

91 "I am quite used": orig. "ma petite habitude" (lit. "my little custom"). Although the line is elliptical, it seems possible that he speaks of taking his usual nap.

92 Guillaume has made the most common of medieval pilgrimages, to the shrine of Saint James the Great of Compostella in Spain.

93 "[D]iscipline" (original identical) here refers to the instrument of penitential self-flagellation; see *OED*, *s.v.*, def. 3.

1603 God through me the message of his great mercy gives you,
 1604 With a general pardon for your faults forgives you.
 1605 So let your poor body no longer be tormented;
 1606 Return to your homeland, since Jesus has relented.
 1607 Leave right away, as befits your obedience,
 1608 On pain of suffering a dire consequence.
 1609 Rash fool, if for your austerity you must pay
 1610 By forfeiting the pleasure of the light of day,
 1611 Instead of raising yourself to heavenly bliss,
 1612 You will descend below into death's dark abyss.

GUILLAUME

1613 O spectre of Satan, by ruse will you entrap me,
 1614 And in your subtle nets by that means try to wrap me?
 1615 No, you have not got me—I've discovered your game.
 1616 By that false voice, hyena, at my loss you aim,
 1617 But your labour is in vain: go return to hell;
 1618 My gentle Jesus aiding me, I shall you quell.

ASMODEUS

1619 We'll see about that—but first, I shall beat you,
 knave!

GUILLAUME

1620 For fear of being beaten, I'll flee to my cave.
 1621 I will bar the door behind me most solidly.
 1622 Yell and roar all you please—you can't discomfit me.

(Asmodeus with numerous demons breaks down the door.)

GUILLAUME

1623 Come to my aid, good Jesus. Gentle Virgin Mary,
 1624 Come, I have need of you: they're entering in fury;
 1625 My door has been beaten down—Holy Virgin, rescue!
 1626 Faced with these mad devils, I put my faith in you.

[The demons depart.]

1627 Praised be Jesus Christ, and his blessed mother praised,
 1628 Whose name invoked has freed me, my enemies dazed!
 1629 The tigers, the lions, have now all fled away:
 1630 There were more than two million of them, I would say.
 1631 Alas, how they beat me—the pain clouds over all:
 1632 I can no longer walk, I stagger, I will fall...

TWO ANGELS (*[entering]*, *sent by the Virgin to heal the Duke*)

1633 Take courage—you will certainly, and soon, be healed.
 1634 To your fervent prayer, the Virgin was pleased to yield,
 1635 While those cursed beings considered you their prey:
 1636 She sends us to you, your suffering to allay.
 1637 You'll be cured when by simple touch of our hands blessed,
 1638 Even if the dart of Clotho⁹⁴ had pierced your breast.

GUILLAUME

1639 O virtue divine! The violent suffering
 1640 That tormented me is made a trivial thing.
 1641 Behold me now, thank God, back in a healthy state,
 1642 In spite of the demons and all their cruel hate.
 1643 Praised be Jesus Christ, and his Virgin Mother praised!

TWO ANGELS

1644 Having well begun, continue with courage high-raised,
 1645 And we promise you that for all eternity
 1646 In Heaven you'll enjoy deserved felicity:
 1647 This pledge as Jesus's promise you may enrol.
 1648 Adieu, we mount again to the vaults of the pole.

[*Exeunt Angels.*]

GUILLAUME

1649 If I have the succour of my beloved Saviour,
 1650 I will still more and more intensify my fervour:
 1651 Yes, I will keep adding to my prayer and my fasts,
 1652 Which shall have no ending as long as my life lasts.

94 Clotho: cf. above, II.ii.437, and n., and below, V.vi.1776.

SCENE V

Albert, Duke Guillaume

ALBERT [*alone*]

1653 Drawn by the rumour that announces the perfection
 1654 Of a hermit living a life of meditation
 1655 In a rocky cavern deep in the forest's darkness,
 1656 To which day after day there come a number countless
 1657 Of disciples, to whom the pious man will show
 1658 The road that to arrive at Heaven we must follow,
 1659 I will go to find him, so that his frank and ample
 1660 Devotion may instruct me, too, by his example.
 1661 I have learnt that there are obstacles seldom tamed
 1662 To being in this world with holy love inflamed,
 1663 Given that the objects which our senses perceive,
 1664 When we wish to do well, at once will us deceive,
 1665 And whatever the mind may do or might invent,
 1666 To resist, it must sustain the strongest intent.
 1667 To be more sure, I will quit the world on those grounds,
 1668 Better to serve Jesus, in whom all good abounds,
 1669 [*seeing Guillaume*] Who, approving of my design, now, as a
 token,
 1670 Makes me find this good father as my words are spoken.
 1671 There he is—all by himself, out early walking;
 1672 I will let him know what brings me, without much talking.
 1673 Good father, may the Eternal, who made me spare
 1674 No effort to find you here, keep you in his care.

GUILLAUME

1675 Amen, my son, and may His holy Providence
 1676 Grant you likewise protection against all offence.

ALBERT

1677 Father, desirous of rejecting vanity,
 1678 And vowing myself all to the Divinity,
 1679 I come to beg that it may please you to instruct me,
 1680 And by your holy pathways towards him conduct me.

GUILLAUME

1681 My son, I myself, too, of someone would have need
 1682 To show me what lonely road to Heaven may lead!
 1683 But since you have made the effort to come here now,
 1684 As far as our human frailty will allow,
 1685 I will teach you willingly, so that you may go
 1686 Along the identical road that I will follow.

ALBERT

1687 Good father, such charity, performed in his sight,
 1688 His ineffable glory will surely requite.

GUILLAUME

1689 My son, I can only praise your pious intent,
 1690 Which none but Jesus Christ into your heart has sent.
 1691 It is well done to leave this mortal world behind,
 1692 In order lasting treasure in Heaven to find,
 1693 Which by the greedy, with appetite ever swollen,
 1694 Or else by the furtive thief, can never be stolen.

ALBERT

1695 It is for that I have sought out this solitude,
 1696 Where I shall never find austerity too rude,
 1697 In order to gain it.

GUILLAUME

Many men have come here,
 1698 Like you, to find me, with such words have pleased my
 ear.
 1699 But soon, to their shame, they proved to be less
 courageous,
 1700 And, as they left, to me were insolent, outrageous.

ALBERT

1701 Such cowardice as that I will never commit—
 1702 I feel myself more constant—and, if tempted by it,
 1703 I'll have recourse to God, who never does desert
 1704 Someone who prays to him in the depth of his hurt.

GUILLAUME

1705 May Jesus, our Lord, be pleased to strengthen your will
 1706 And touch your heart with constancy to love him still.
 1707 If I am not deceived, I think you hear his call
 1708 To enter into possession of life eternal.
 1709 But come now, to my cave nearby let us withdraw,
 1710 Where I'll instruct you in the details of our law.

ALBERT

1711 Let us go, father. I follow, ravished with joy,
 1712 And I could not with more pleasure myself employ.
 1713 Praise be to my Saviour, who serves me as a guide
 1714 And draws me out of the world, where I would have died—
 1715 Pernicious world, where often the most circumspect,
 1716 Believing themselves safe in port, are sadly shipwrecked.

SCENE VI

Asmodeus, the Duke's Gentlemen (singly and collectively), Nymphs of the forest
 (or demons in that form), the Genius of the forest of the Duke's hermitage

ASMODEUS [*alone*]

1717 These courtiers, then, will they be able to claim
 1718 That my power was never able them to tame?
 1719 Will they soon be seen at their journey's final stage
 1720 Without being felled by my overflowing rage?
 1721 What, will they escape me, just as their lord has done,
 1722 Who now a saint's honour has actually won,
 1723 And who is living near here in a hermitage,
 1724 Where all come to see him and render humble homage?
 1725 No, no, by no means! I must not let them arrive
 1726 As far as his dwelling-place, and myself deprive
 1727 Of my objective, which is their ruin entire,
 1728 And to lead them, in the end, to our hell-fire.
 1729 For his exhortation of those sons of perdition

1730 Might serve to awaken in their hearts a contrition
 1731 For their foul sins, and after they do penitence,
 1732 God might be willing to retract their mortal sentence—
 1733 An outcome which would cause me infinite torture.⁹⁵
 1734 Steal a march on them, quick, for their discomfiture:
 1735 We'll to the forest, there contrive so fine a trap
 1736 That any trying to escape will find no gap.
 1737 First, to charm them with myriad sensualities,
 1738 I will cause to appear to them ravishing beauties,
 1739 Who will seem to emerge through the bark of the trees;
 1740 And if such attractions their marble hearts can't please,
 1741 At once I'll cause to be displayed, full of horror,
 1742 Some enormous giants all running mad with furor,
 1743 And hideous serpents that will be spouting flame
 1744 And able the most valiant hearts with fear to tame.
 1745 Now, enough's been said—lets pass to implementation
 1746 Of our bold design without further hesitation.
 1747 The time is short: already I spy them apace
 1748 Approaching the forest—let's seek our hiding-place.

[*Exit.*]

[*Enter Gentlemen.*]

ONE OF THE GENTLEMEN

1749 I have no doubt at all that here it's situated,
 1750 The wood set apart that to us was indicated.
 1751 Let's enter and search these wildest haunts without fear—
 1752 But what are these I see through the shadow appear?
 1753 Oh, what objects divine to us present their face?

THE NYMPHS

(*which Asmodeus causes to appear*)

1754 You whom a happy fortune has brought to this place,
 1755 You are extremely welcome. For many a day
 1756 For this joyful hour we have been sighing away

95 L. 1733: The irony at the expense of demonic blindness to the divine power is especially strong here, since "infinite torture" is precisely the condition of their existence.

1757 That was going to bring you to this seat of pleasure,
 1758 Where the sweet delights of Love are practised at
 leisure.
 1759 It is here that Venus proffers her tastes delicious;
 1760 It is here that the stars of heaven are propitious.
 1761 Enter, our belovèd guests, and approach us boldly:
 1762 You are destined for us, I know assuredly.

ONE OF THE GENTLEMEN

1763 What prodigy is this, what outlandish adventure?

THE NYMPH-DRYADS

1764 Why such surprise? Are you astonished, as if Nature
 1765 Were making you see here some monsters odious?
 1766 No, you needn't be afraid of creatures⁹⁶ so gracious.
 1767 Within whose hearts one animal impulse⁹⁷ is rife:
 1768 Hand-in-hand with you to lead an amorous life.

ANOTHER GENTLEMAN

1769 I cannot resist the call of creatures so sweet.
 1770 Let's go accost them—why are we dragging our feet?
 1771 Disdain might bring about in them a change of heart.

GENTLEMEN

1772 Where do you think you're going? This is far from smart.
 1773 These cute little beauties, decked out with gorgeous
 baits,
 1774 Might well be hiding from us funereal fates.

THE OTHER GENTLEMAN

1775 After taking my pleasure with just one of those,
 1776 I will not be afraid of Clotho's mortal blows.
 1777 I will speak to them: Nymphs, who wrap me in your charms
 1778 And set my heart ablaze with a thousand alarms—

96 "[C]reatures": the term in the text is invariably "obiects". "Creatures", which ironically suggests the divine Creation, points up the ambiguity of the demons' identity.

97 "[A]nimal impulse": orig. "brutal envie".

GENTLEMEN

1779 Madman, get back, shake off this folly's domination!
 1780 Let's stop him before he runs to his ruination!

THE OTHER GENTLEMAN

1781 Let me go, I beg you, and your anger restrain,
 1782 If these beautiful creatures my spirits attain.

NYMPHS

1783 Stoney-hearted spirits, or rather hearts of ice,
 1784 Which a fair face cannot to melting warmth entice,
 1785 Is it not enough to be without sentiment
 1786 Regarding natural pleasures, the sweet content
 1787 That Love makes us taste, without wishing the distraction
 1788 Of that practised lover who seeks our satisfaction?
 1789 Come here, dear friend, spurn those dreamers that would
 contrive
 1790 Of all our delicious favours you to deprive.

THE GENTLEMAN

1791 They're holding me so tight that it's impossible
 1792 To escape their arms. Why is it not allowable
 1793 With this cutlass of mine to strike them to the heart?
 1794 Come to my rescue, beauties—hurry, do your part!

THE NYMPHS

1795 Free him to come to us without further delay:
 1796 If not, be warned, you'll see there will be hell to pay.⁹⁸

GENTLEMEN

1797 Come on, with sword in hand charge them with all
 our might.
 1798 They are nothing but thieves, disguised to fool our
 sight,
 1799 To rob passers-by of their money and their goods.

98 “[T]here will be hell to pay: orig. “quel est nostre courage”. The translator takes the liberty of adding the spiritual insinuation.

(Combat, after which one of the Gentlemen speaks.)

GENTLEMAN

1800 They turn their backs on us and flee back to the woods.
1801 Fly, cowards, fly! But what turmoil is this that tells
1802 Of new combatants coming to dispute our laurels?
1803 Giants, it seems! We'll teach them not to be audacious!

(Combat, after which one of the Gentlemen speaks.)

GENTLEMEN

1804 They have turned tail and abandoned the field to us.
1805 Praised be the great God, who, by our hearts'
 strengthening,
1806 Has seen to it we have the honour of vanquishing.
1807 Oh, what is coming here? What beast inspiring dread
1808 Now shows itself to us? What a hideous head,
1809 Both yellow and green! Oh, what prodigy most dire!
1810 From its gullet and its eyes it is spuing fire.
1811 It's a terrible dragon! Let us show our valiance,
1812 And to God entrust our entire esperance.

(Third combat, after which a Gentleman speaks.)

GENTLEMAN

1813 It flees the combat, already is far away.
1814 We surely needed Heaven's aid as our mainstay.
1815 No doubt but that Satan, that great serpent antique,
1816 Caused to come against us here his troop diabolic,
1817 Horror to instill so deeply into our breast
1818 That we would give over our lengthy pious quest
1819 To find our Duke, who is now dwelling in this forest.
1820 Come on, continue, and of routes find out the fastest!

VOICE OF THE GENIUS OF THE FOREST

1821 Stop right there, my friends, and go no further ahead;
1822 Otherwise you all are certain to end up dead.

1823 This enormous forest, obscure and solitary,
1824 Of cruel animals is the haunt ordinary.
1825 If you enter in it, trust me, you may be sure
1826 That very rough treatment from them you will endure.

GENTLEMEN

1827 Whoever you may be whose speaking we now hear,
1828 Appear before us, so your features will be clear.

VOICE OF THE GENIUS

1829 Here I am, but not able to be seen by you,
1830 Because my body is of air, which you look through.

GENTLEMEN

1831 Are you a spirit?

VOICE OF THE GENIUS

 Yes, I am the Genius
1832 Guarding these woods.

ONE OF THE GENTLEMEN

 O Power ruling all, and us,
1833 I tremble with fear—I'm for leaving with all speed.

GENTLEMEN

1834 What, then, does your courage fail you in time of need?
1835 Nothing can harm us—let your minds be fortified,
1836 Since God, our protector, will serve us as our guide.
1837 We have escaped from many dangers much more fearful.

VOICE OF THE GENIUS

1838 You have never made your way through strange regions full
1839 Of similar perils, for you must understand
1840 That on entering these woods, your death is at hand.

GENTLEMEN

1841 No apprehension has power to interfere
1842 With our intent. Let's enter.

VOICE OF THE GENIUS

What do you seek here?

GENTLEMEN

1843 The Duke of Aquitaine, our liege and sovereign prince.

VOICE OF THE GENIUS

1844 He is no longer resident within this province.
1845 He has gone back to his natural place of sojourn,
1846 And you will find him there at your happy return.

GENTLEMEN

1847 Try others, imposter—we know too well your ruses:
1848 Be subtler, if you'd have us fall for your abuses!⁹⁹
1849 Enter, plunge in, without further being prevented.

ONE OF THE GENTLEMEN

1850 What new spectacle is this I now see presented?
1851 The wood is on fire—let us flee from this blaze!

GENTLEMEN

1852 What is this, dear friend, is your soul all in a daze?
1853 It is merely an illusion, which will not last:
1854 Employ some blows of our hands, and it will be past.

(They strike at the fire, which is extinguished, then one of them speaks.)

ONE OF THE GENTLEMEN

1855 So now will you believe me? The flames are put out:
1856 I told you that they were mere feigning, us to flout.
1857 From now on it's finished—we will see nothing more
1858 Appear to obstruct the goal we are aiming for.
1859 The trees have again put on their welcoming verdure;
1860 No other sound is heard but the brook's gentle murmur,

99 L. 1848: orig. "Tu seras bien subtil, si tu nous abuses" (lit. "You will be subtle indeed, if you abuse us"). The translation strays from the literal to avoid ambiguity.

1861 Which seems to accord in natural harmonies
 1862 With the birds in these bushes warbling melodies.
 1863 The brightening sun chases the air's sombreness;
 1864 Let's enter the forest, and fear no more distress.

SCENE VII (AND LAST)

Reinald, the Duke's Gentlemen, the Duke

REINALD [*alone*]

1865 That God the universe did instantly create
 1866 From nothing showed his power infinitely great.
 1867 But, as once said a prophet most honourable,
 1868 In his blessed saints it is more admirable.¹⁰⁰
 1869 For four or five months, such is my experience,
 1870 Since inspiration led me to these woods so dense,
 1871 Where at present resides the pious Duke Guillaume:
 1872 A dwelling more dear to him than his paltry fiefdom,
 1873 Which he gave up in order better him to serve
 1874 Who daily makes us miracles through him observe—
 1875 Jesus, I mean, who by Duke Guillaume sets such store
 1876 That one sees at all hours arrive at the door¹⁰¹
 1877 Of his isolated cave religious men, full
 1878 Of piety, thus adding to his flock of faithful.

[*Sees the Duke's Gentlemen.*]

1879 And I think that here come more who are likewise prone:
 1880 Great God be praised, who honours himself through his
 own!

100 L. 1868: orig. "En ses bienheureux saints il est plus admirable". Pasquier, ed., n. 145, aptly compares Psalm 67:36, which, in the Vulgate, declares, "*Mirabilis Deus in sanctis suis*" (Douai-Reims translation: "God is maruelous in his saintes"). The affirmation is absent from the (Protestant) Geneva and Authorised versions (where the Psalm is numbered 68).

101 To the nice point that caves do not normally have doors may be objected Viv.1620 ff. above.

THE DUKE'S GENTLEMEN (*seeking the Duke*)

1881 Wandering through the universe for fifteen seasons,
 1882 And having passed by almost all of its horizons
 1883 In search of the lord of the land of Aquitaine,
 1884 Here we arrive, weary from such effort in vain,
 1885 Being told that here in Sienna's territory
 1886 He haunts a hollow where his holy oratory
 1887 Has tamed many a beast into docility,
 1888 So that one can now dwell there in security.
 1889 And to describe him, he is tall with a broad back,
 1890 Always in armour, as if marching to attack.
 1891 Good father, can you give us news of him? Please
 speak.

REINALD

1892 First tell me, please, what it is that from him you seek.
 1893 Then after, you shall know (if your reason is good)
 1894 In what happy place he lives at peace in this wood.

ONE OF THE GENTLEMEN (*speaking for all*)¹⁰²

1895 We desire to see him—let that be sufficient.

REINALD

1896 Excuse me, sirs, if in politeness I'm deficient.
 1897 What country are you from?

THE GENTLEMAN

 That which under his sway
 1898 The Duke we're seeking once ruled for many a day.
 1899 But this delay our suspense only further feeds.
 1900 Show to us the road which to the hermitage leads
 1901 Where now he lives quite exempt from every care.

REINALD

1902 Wait for me, Gentlemen, and do not stir from there.

102 S.D.: a rare confirmation of the dramatic technique often used for collective characters and choruses.

1903 I'll find you again. A certain brother of mine
 1904 Will have information regarding your design.
 1905 I will go speak to him.

THE GENTLEMAN

Don't be too long about it.

[*Exit Reinald.*]

1906 While we wait for his return, let us rest a bit.

[*Reinald goes to see the Duke.*]

REINALD (*to the Duke*)

1907 Father, close by here I left resting in the shade
 1908 Certain men, ten or twelve in number, and well made,
 1909 Who wish to see you. They come, one told me already,
 1910 From your fair country, but not being all that ready
 1911 Lightly to believe them, I preferred not to speak
 1912 Of where you are, fearing that they your harm might seek.
 1913 For they said they'd looked all over by every light:
 1914 And then they are armed, like men preparing to fight.¹⁰³

GUILLAUME

1915 Have no fear. The great God who gives me inspiration
 1916 Brings them to us to effect their edification,
 1917 Though to take me back with them was their true intent.
 1918 But that God will, in the blink of an eye,¹⁰⁴ prevent.
 1919 Go back and find them, and with an affable air
 1920 Say my palace of pleasure is this rustic lair,¹⁰⁵
 1921 And that I'm at home at present if convenient.

103 "[L]ike men preparing to fight": orig. "comme des gens de Mars".

104 "[I]n the blink of an eye": orig. "en moins d'un tour de main" (lit. "in less than one turn of the hand").

105 L. 1920: orig. "Dittes-leur que cet antre est mon Palais aimable". The passage conveys an ironic echo of courtly politeness, which will be part of the "world" renounced at the conclusion.

REINALD [*returning to the Gentlemen*]

1922 Gentlemen, here is where the Duke is resident
 1923 At this time—enter without waiting any more.

GENTLEMEN

1924 Here is the greatest good luck that we could have hoped
 for.
 1925 May the great God be praised, our most assured support,
 1926 Who has made us arrive at last at the right port.
 1927 Too long we have strayed across the sea of this world:
 1928 It's here we must cast anchor and our sails be furled,
 1929 Following our master in his holy conversion,
 1930 And indeed submitting ourselves to his direction.¹⁰⁶

REINALD

1931 In that you will do well—the Saviour you inspires.
 1932 Blessèd is he who¹⁰⁷ far from wickedness retires,
 1933 Not waiting until the hour when, old and grey,
 1934 We find spirit from mortal prison flown away—
 1935 A most uncertain time, and it is to be feared
 1936 That death before then will have suddenly appeared
 1937 To force the spirit out, just as one often sees.
 1938 And that is why our lord, who the future foresees,
 1939 Counsels us well to spend our waking time in prayer,
 1940 Lest we be surprised to find our last hour there.

GUILLAUME (*having heard them, alone*)

1941 I thank God, who by his touch was able to win
 1942 Them away from any more desire to sin.
 1943 I will receive them. [*addressing them*] I find myself
 full of joy
 1944 That Jesus now allows me your sight to enjoy.

106 “[D]irection” (orig. identical): cf. above, Viii.1561 and n. 87. The Gentlemen’s profession of obedience to the Duke thus shifts from the secular to the spiritual realm.

107 “Blessèd is he who...”: orig. “Bienheureux est celui qui...”. Notable is the echo of Christ’s words in the Beatitudes (Matt. 5:3-12).

1945 There—let me embrace you. Oh, how it gives a thrill
1946 To see you here, for such indeed has been my will!¹⁰⁸

GENTLEMEN

1947 Great Duke, we are here to render you any service
1948 With all our respect.

GUILLAUME

 By far the most precious office
1949 You may perform for me is to become converted,
1950 Having for your sins acute¹⁰⁹ repentance asserted.

GENTLEMEN

1951 So may it please you, each one of us here protests
1952 That he will obey you in all, and so before the great God
 attests.

GUILLAUME

1953 Friends, having set you, on occasions more than ample,
1954 Of a sinner the abominable example,
1955 Cast off from grace, since then, with hands joined for
 prayer's sake,
1956 I have begged Jesus, afflicted with stinging heartache
1957 Causing great suffering, that his all-hallowed goodness
1958 Might be willing to change to good your wickedness.
1959 Now I am well assured that his misericord
1960 For your egregious sins does your pardon accord—
1961 But on condition of living in time to come,
1962 Whatever happens, by the pure laws of his kingdom;
1963 Also that you will humbly perform penitence—
1964 So his justice insists—to punish your offence,
1965 Having decreed that never one tainted by vice
1966 (Unless purified) shall come into Paradise.

108 “[I]n conformity with my will”: orig. “selon ma volonté”—with a strong suggestion of their meeting with him now on his own terms.

109 “[A]cute”: orig. “poignant”; the word is strong, evocative of physical pain.

1967 Now come, my dear friends, and begin to live so well
1968 That there will be joy in Heaven, envy in hell.¹¹⁰

GENTLEMEN

1969 Let us go, good father—how your words do us please!
1970 Adieu, world of illusion! Adieu, vanities!
1971 Adieu, the courts of princes, where one lives in
 pleasure;
1972 Adieu, you courtiers, spreading vice beyond measure
1973 (At least most of you); adieu, women fair and young,
1974 Who whole troops of adoring lovers string along,
1975 Making them consume the best years that they are sent,
1976 Which in service to Jesus would be better spent.
1977 Above all, adieu to all you objects diverse
1978 That claim our attention in this great universe.
1979 With all such frivolous love we part company,
1980 Which caused our souls in folly you to accompany:
1981 For to love you we cannot from this danger sever—
1982 Of falling in the gulf where fire burns forever.

END

110 Envy of human happiness is traditionally presented, of course, as the root of diabolical enmity towards mankind.