

National University of Ireland, Galway
Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh

2nd ARTS EXAMINATION
Semester 1, 2001
GR 205 (Middle High German I)

Professor D. Tate
Professor E. Bourke
M. Shields

Time allowed: three hours.

Answer questions 1 (40%), 2 (30%) and 3 (30%)

1. The following extract comes from *Der welt lohn* (*The rewards of this world*), a late thirteenth-century novella by Konrad von Würzburg. Read the text through twice quickly, then read the questions before starting to look at it in more detail.

An exemplary knight, Wirnd von Grafenberg, devotes all his energies to knightly amusements. One day he is sitting reading a book of love adventures when a beautiful woman comes before him.

ich spriche daz ûf minen touf
daz si noch verre schoener was
danne Vênus oder Pallas,
und alle die gotinne,

- 5 die wilen pflâgen minne.

ir antlût und ir varwe
diu wâren beidiu garwe
erliuhtet, sam ein spiegellin:
ir schoene gap sô liechten schîn

antlût = NHG Antlitz, face

- 10 und alsô wûnneclîchen glast,
daz der selbe palast
von ir lîbe erliuhtet was.

Fascinated by her beauty, Wirnd leaps to his feet and gives her the prize for greatest beauty, to which she responds by telling him that she is the one he has always served, and for whom he has risked life and limb. Now she has come to show him her true, full beauty and her reward. The young knight is amazed: he cannot remember having seen her before. But he is happy to serve her, and asks from which country she comes. She replies that everything on earth serves and obeys her; only God has power over her.

„diu Werlt bin geheizen ich,
der dû nû lange hâst gegert.

- 15 lônës solt dû sîn gewert

gewern = grant, allow (NHG gewähren)

an mir, als ich dir zeige nû.
nû kumt ez dir. nû schouwe dû!“
sus kêrte si im den rûggen dar.

der was in allen enden gar

- 20 bestocket und behangen
mit ungevüegen slangen,
kroten unde nateren;
ir lîp was voller blateren
und ungevüeger eizen,

ungevüege = huge

krot = NHG Kröte toad, nater = NHG Natter snake

blater = blister

eiz = boil, suppurating sore

- 25 vliegen und âmeizen
ein wunder drinne sâzen.
ir vleisch die maden âzen
unz ûf daz gebeine;
si was sô gar unreine,
30 daz von ir bloeden lîbe wak

3. EITHER:

In *Der arme Heinrich*, it is presented as a sin to live as Heinrich has lived, but it is also wrong to wish not to have been born. What is it exactly that Heinrich does at the end of the story that makes God cure him of leprosy – if anything?
OR:

Does the narrator (the knight Hartmann) think that Heinrich's behaviour towards the young girl is impeccable throughout, or are there indications that he is critical of his hero? Look at the evidence.
OR:

To modern readers, the behaviour of Hartmann's girl heroine seems extraordinary and contrived. Show how she is made to appear in the role of a „saint“-like figure, considering the arguments for and against the idea that Hartmann is critical of her eagerness to die.

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