

La Sestina

*Lo ferm voler qu'el còr m'intra
no'm pòt ges bècs escoissendre ni onglà
de lausengièr, qui pèrd per mal dir s'arma;
e car non l'aus batr amb ram ni amb verja,
sivals a frau, lai ont non aurai oncle,
jausirai jòi, en vergièr o dinz chambra.*

*Qan mi soven de la chambra
ont a mon dam sai que nulhs òm non intra
ans me son tuch plus que fraire ni oncle,
non ai membre no'm fremisca, neis l'ongla,
aissi cum fai l'énfans denant la verja :
tal paor ai no'l sia tròp de l'arma.*

*Del còr li fos, non de l'arma,
e consentís m'a celat dinz sa chambra !
Que plus mi nafra'l cor que còps de verja
car lo sieus sèrvs lai onilh es non intra;
tots temps serai amb lièis com charns et onglà,
e non creirai chastic d'amic ni d'oncle.*

*Puèis florit la secha verja
ni d'en Adam mògron nebot ni oncle
tant fina amors com cela qu'el còr m'intra
non cug fos anc en còrs, ni eis en arma;
ont qu'ilh estei, fòrs en plaça, o dins chambra,
mos còrs no's part de lièis tan com ten l'ongla.*

*Qu'aissi s'enpren e s'enongla
mos còrs en lièis com l'escòrça en la verja;
qu'ilh m'es de jòi tors e palatz e chambra,
e non am tant fraire, parent ni oncle :
q'en paradís n'aurà doble jòi m'arma
si ja nulhs òm per ben amar lai intra.*

*The firm desire that into my heart enters
cannot be torn out either by beak or claw (nail)
by a scandalmonger, who with slander damns his soul
and since I dare not strike back with switch or stick,
secretly at least, where I have no uncle,
I shall delight in joy, in orchard or in bedchamber.*

*When I remember the bedchamber
where to my loss I know that no-one enters,
and that all frustrate me more than brother or uncle,
not one part of me does not tremble, even down to my
fingernails
like the child before the stick
so I fear I may be hers too much in soul.*

*I want to be hers in body, not in soul,
and that she should allow me secretly into her
bedchamber !
for more than being beaten by the stick,
it pains my heart that I cannot enter where she is;
I shall always be with her, just as flesh and nail are
close
I won't take notice of the rebukes of friends or uncle.*

*Since the dry rod flowered
and nephew and uncle issued from Adam
such noble love as in my body enters
never was I think in body or in soul;
wherever she may be, in the square or in her room
my heart is with her as tenacious as a fingernail.*

*For I insert my heart into her
just as the bark clings around the branch ;
for she is my tower and palace and chamber of joy
I love not brother, parent or uncle so much
for in paradise my soul's joy shall be doubled
if ever man enters therein from loving well.*