

Anonymous Troubadour/Trobairitz Alba, “En un vergier sotz fuella d’albespi”
(c. 1170)

En un vergier sotz fuella d’albespi
tenc la dompna son amic costa si
tro la gayta crida que l’alba vi,
Oy Dieus! Oy Dieus! de l’alba tan tost ve.

“Plagues a Dieu ia la nueitz non falhis
ni·l mieus amicx lonc de mi no·s partis
ni la gayta iorn ni alba no vis,
Bels dous amicx, baizem nos yeu e vos
aval e·ls pratz on chanto·ls auzellos
tot o fassam en despieg de gilos,
Oy Dieus! Oy Dieus! de l’alba tan tost ve.

Bels dous amicx, fassam un ioc novel
yns el iardi on chanton li auzel
tro la gaita toque son caramelh,
Oy Dieus! Oy Dieus! de l’alba tan tost ve.

Per la doss’aura qu’es venguda de lay
del mieu amic belh e cortes e gay
del sieu alen ai begut un dous ray,
Oy Dieus! Oy Dieus! de l’alba tan tost ve”.

La dompna es agradans e plazens
per sa beutat la gardon mantas gens
et a son cor en amar leyalmens,
Oy Dieus! Oy Dieus! de l’alba tan tost ve.

(Matilda Tomaryn Bruckner, Laurie Shepard,
and Sarah White, eds. *Songs of the Women
Troubadours* (New York: Garland Publishing,
2000), 134.)

In an orchard under leaves of hawthorn
the lady holds her lover beside her
until the watchman cries out the coming of dawn,
O God! O God! the dawn, it comes too soon.

Please God, do not let the night end already
nor let my lover part from my side
nor let the watchman see the dawn,
Fair sweet friend, let us kiss, you and I,
down in the meadow where the songbirds sing,
let us do all this in spite of that jealous man.
O God! O God! the dawn, it comes too soon.

Fair sweet friend, let us play a new game
in the garden where the songbirds sing
until the watchman plays his pipe.
O God! O God! the dawn, it comes too soon.

For the gentle breeze which comes from there
from my lover, beautiful, and courteous, and merry,
of his breath I have drunk a sweet ray of sun.
O God! O God! the dawn, it comes too soon.

The lady is delightful and pleasing
And many admire her for her beauty,
and for her heart which is true in love.
O God! O God! the dawn, it comes too soon.

(Trans. M. Bryson)