

Dietmar von Aist—"Slâfest du, friedel ziere" (c.1170)

"Slâfest du, friedel ziere
man wecket uns leider schiere:
ein vogellîn sô wol getân
daz ist der linden an daz zwî gegân".
"Ich was vil sanfte entslâfen:
nu rüefestu kint Wâfen.
liep âne leit mac niht gesîn.
swaz du gebiutest, daz leiste ich, freundîn mîn".
Diu frouwe begunde weinen.
"Du rîtest und lâst mich einen.
wenne wilt du wider her zuo mir?
ôwê, du füerest mîn fröude sament dir!"

(Dietmar von Aist. "Slâfest du, friedel ziere". In
Des minnesangs frühling, ed. by Friedrich Vogt
(Leipzig: Verlag von S. Hirzel, 1920), 37.

"Do you sleep still, my dearest love?
Unfortunately, we will both soon awake.
A most beautiful songbird
Has flown into the branches of the tree".
"I slept gently in your arms,
until you called: child, awake!
Love without suffering cannot be:
what you command, I will do, my love".
The Lady began to cry:
"You ride away and leave me alone.
When will you return to me again?
Alas, you take my joy away with you!"

(Trans. M. Bryson)