Peire Cardenal

Ar me puesc ieu lauzar d'Amor

I can now speak well of love,
For it doesn't keep me from eating or sleeping;
I don't feel cold or hot for it
Or yawn or sigh for it
   Or wander about at night for it.
I'm not conquered or coerced by it,
Or saddened or angered by it
   I don't hire a messenger for it;
I'm not tricked or deceived by it,
For I've parted from it with my dice.

I have another greater pleasure in it,
For I don't deceive or cause to be deceived in it,
Or fear a traitress or traitor in it
Or a brutal jealous one who would hate me for it;
   I don't accomplish foolish vassalage for it,
I'm not beaten or destroyed by it
Or captured or disrobed for it;
   I don't make long stares,
Or say I'm dependent on love
Or my heart has been stolen.

Or say I die for the most noble
Or her beauty makes me weak,
I don't pray to her or adore her
Or demand her or desire her.
   I don't do her homage
I neither grant myself to her nor am given to her;
I'm not her servant
   Nor does she have my heart in pledge,
I'm not her captive or bound to her
On the contrary I say I've escaped from her.

One ought rather to praise the conqueror
Than the conquered, if one wishes to tell the truth,
For the conqueror carries the flower
And the conquered a man goes to bury;
   And he who conquers his heart
From disloyal desires
From which come forth the unruly deed
   And other outrages,
From such a conquest he is more honored
Than if he had conquered a hundred cities.

I hold less clever the prayer of a lover,
When he believes that she, whom he seeks to convert,
Turns her valor toward a vile desire,
For which the righteous ought to do harm at parting;
   If he follows his savage sense,
Soon he will be distanced shamefully from his great praise.
I think more praiseworthy than those praised:
   He holds hospitality too close
The righteous lover wounded with the dart of love.
I value less the prize, the more the prize is paid for.

   I don't want a flying desire
That tosses and turns my will
Except there where my desire has flown.