

[Dit ist] Veronica*

1

Dat di wilde man gedihtet hat.
der heilige geist gab im den rat,
da alle duget ane gescit.
allein inkan er der buche nit,
5 iz nemeistiret di godis craft,
di giveth di wisheit unde maht.
so wer einir dugede wil biginnen,
he sal is an den heiligen geist gesinnen,
so machet he dat ende guot,
10 also wærliche so he Moiseuse sterkete sinen muot
inde wisede alliz was her sprach,
do er in <in> dem vure sach.
he leste och Kidionis bete
di luzel gudes durch in dete.
15 idoch so gab er ime di maht
dat er wider Philisteum vaht.

2

Her lerte den esel dat er sprach
und och dat er den engel sach.
maniger dugende hat er me,
do er uppe Davidin virze,
5 unde virgab ime sine missetat;
unde wiste Salome den rat,
daz he screif di wisheit allin sinen lif
idoch he <hadde> me dan dusint wif;
und Austri machede wis unde riche,

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Veronica

This is the history of Veronica¹⁴²

1

that the *Wilder Mann* has composed.

The Holy Spirit, who grants all virtues,
gave him the wisdom.

5 He does not have this understanding of the Book by nature,¹⁴³
unless the divine power comes to his aid
that gives him the wisdom and the ability [to write].

Whoever wishes to lead a virtuous life,
he must seek advice from the Holy Spirit,
and He will bring relief

10 in the same way He has indeed strengthened Moses' mind
and has guided him in everything he said
when he looked into the fire.¹⁴⁴

He also met Gideon's request
who did not do much good for His sake.

15 Yet He gave him the power
to fight the Philistines.¹⁴⁵

2

He taught the donkey how to speak
and him [Balaam] to see the angel.¹⁴⁶

5 He had yet more virtues,
[for instance] when He granted David forgiveness
and absolved him of his sin.¹⁴⁷

He also inspired Solomon,
so that he could preach wisdom his entire life.¹⁴⁸

Even though he had more than a thousand wives,¹⁴⁹
and He made Austri¹⁵⁰ wise and powerful,¹⁵¹

10 ir nemohte nit sin geliche;
unde Susannen irloste
unde Danielelem getroste
mit Abacucges spise.
di musse her uns ouch giwisen
15 di in disme enlende sint.
noch irloste he dru kint
di in den ovin sint gesat.
her horthen ouch daz in Ezechias bat,
durch den he di sunnen dede sten
20 undi wider an den osten of gen,
do he ime vunfzihen jar hatte gigeven,
damitte lengite ime sin leben.

3

He gab allen propheten di wisheit
unde Sibillen alliz dat da giscriven steit.
doch inhadde he di minner nit,
sint alliz dit wunder ist gescit
5 mit siner manicvaldicheit.
di himel unde erde ummeveit,
des meres vluz bikennit he wale,
ouch weiz he der sterren zale.
wi wol ich im getruwen,
10 dat he mit mir sulle buwen.
des wil ich an in gesinnen,
swan ich einir rede biginnen,
dat si gode ze love wolle kume
und aller cristenheide vrume.
15 wi wol ich arme des bidarf,
wand ich nach idilkeide i warf.
wolde mich got so vile leren,
dat ich einen menschen mohte bikeren,
so kond ich harte wol di buoch.
20 so weme do gnuoget di hat ginuoch,
unde swer sich mit rehter maze treget,
dem inwirt niht widersaget.
wan got alliz mit der maze vollebrahte
dat uns di propheten voresahten.

10 although she could never be his equal.
 And He saved Susanna¹⁵²
 and He came to Daniel's aid
 with Habakkuk's food.¹⁵³
 May He also grant this to us
15 who have to live this earthly life.
 Furthermore, He delivered three young men¹⁵⁴
 who were cast into the furnace.
 He also heard Hezekiah's prayer,
 for whom He made the sun stand still
20 and let it rise in the east again,
 when He added fifteen years to his life,
 and so an extension of life was granted to him.¹⁵⁵

3

 He gave all the prophets their wisdom,
 and the Sybils¹⁵⁶ all that has been written,
 yet He lost nothing of His wisdom¹⁵⁷
 since all these miracles happened
5 through His wealth.
 He, who comprises heaven and earth,¹⁵⁸
 knows perfectly well the course of the waters
 and the number of the stars.¹⁵⁹
 Oh, how much I trust
10 that He should help me.
 That is why I want to think of Him
 when I begin a poem,
 that it will be in God's honor
 and shall be to the benefit of the whole of Christendom.
15 Oh, how much I, poor man, need this,
 because I have always striven after vanities.
 If God would teach me so many things
 that I could convert just one man,
 then I should know Holy Scripture very well.
20 He who has sufficient of this [knowledge], has much,
 and he who lives in proper moderation,
 will not be denied anything,
 for God has accomplished everything just right,
 which the prophets have foretold us.¹⁶⁰

4

Du alle die prophetie vorequam,
du man von aniginne virnam,
unde die wissagen waren dot,
ir sele hadden groze not.

5 ir e inmohten nit gevrumen,
e der godes <sun> wolde kumen.
do was der heilige geist heimlich gisant,
den ouch Daniel hadde bikant,
da er Nabuchodonosor irscein.
10 dat was die driechete stein,
den er in sime slafe gesach,
unde dat groze bilde zebrach,
dem dat howet an den himel ginc.
der stein al ertriche bivinc.
15 dat was di wisheit undi gedanc,
di von himile in ertriche spranc
unde von der megide wart giborn
zerlosene di da waren virhorn.
der hellen clage he virhorte,
20 al unreith he zustorte.
di wil he in der werlde ginc,
vil maniger gnade von im inphinc.
di masilsutige machede he gesunt
unde heilite di da waren wunt.
25 den doden teth he upsten,
den blinden teth er sinde gen.

5

Ein wif hiez Veronica
di volgiti im durch live na.
swan su sin antlizze an gesach,
si vrowete sich allen den dach.
5 want si zu im groze minne druch.
Lucase brahte si ein duch.
si vleide beide unde bat,
dat ir drane wurde gesat
das antlizze des heilæris:
10 “want du der meister einir bis

Veronica

4

When all the prophecies had been revealed
that had been told from the beginning,
and the prophets had died,
their souls were in torment.¹⁶¹

5

Their covenant could not help them
until the Son of God should come.
Then, in secret, the Holy Spirit was sent,
whom Daniel had recognised as well
when he appeared before Nebuchadnezzar.

10

This was the triangular stone
that he saw in his sleep
which destroyed the huge statue
of which the head touched the sky.¹⁶²
That stone filled the whole Earth.¹⁶³

15

That was the wisdom and the thought
that leapt down from heaven to Earth
and was born from the Virgin¹⁶⁴
to save all those that were lost.
He heard the lamentation from hell¹⁶⁵

20

and undid all wrong.
During his stay on Earth,
many received His grace.
He healed the lepers,
and cured all those that were infirm.

25

He raised the dead
and He made the blind see again.¹⁶⁶

5

There was a woman who was called Veronica,
who followed Him out of love.

When she saw His face
she was very happy the whole day,
for she loved Him greatly.

5

She brought Luke a cloth¹⁶⁷
She begged and urged him
that on the cloth should appear for her
the Savior's face.

10

“Because you are one of the disciples