

Long has my love been lost to me,
Parted for these seven long year.
My only company is tears
On each day my love I don't see.
My love has left me by myself
In this unjust isolation.
Worth lessened by sad frustration,
Unwanted treasure on a shelf.

There is no joy without my love.
All food is ashes on my tongue.
To my ear all music is wrong.
Touch is no pleasure to speak of.
Alone my dance steps are off beat.
Singing solo lacks harmony.
Silk on me, alone, feels itchy.
No hearth warms me without their heat.

I feel so empty without them.
None of my wishes are fulfilled.
My dreams and passions are now stilled.
Where there was fire, there is now phlegm.
Gelos has taken all from me,
Stealing my sources of delight.
More unsatisfied every night
Spent without my love I will be.

My lips crave the taste of my love.
The sound of their name burns my ears.
My view is blurred with constant tears
As I look on them from above.
I crave their warm touch on my skin,
Their odor like home in my nose.
The comfort they brought my repose
Cured my ennui for hours therein.

I look with jealousy at those
On whom my love daily awaits.
Joining them each night at their plates,
Delighting all from heads to toes.
How I despise the lucky ones
Who get to enjoy their presence.
While they ignore my existence,
Punishing me in all seasons.

Oh my swarthy, sweet and decadent love,
The first one I ever learned the name of,
You were in my life for times high and low.
Oh! How I yearn for you, chocolate gateau.

ARTISAN'S NAME: Lady Jeane Kilmeny (MKA Dominica Campbell)

Include both your SCA name and mundane name.

TITLE OF PROJECT: My First Love - A Troubadour Poem for 12th Night

What is this item? Is it related to a particular time period, culture, or geographical area?

HISTORICAL BASIS: Poem written in style favored by troubadours, 11-13th centuries

What is this based on, or inspired by? (Give the name of or information about the an artifact, illustration or painting, or historical document.)

TOOLS & MATERIALS:

What did you use to make this item? If it's different from what would have been used to produce this sort of item in the Middle Ages or Renaissance, explain why you've chosen to use the tools materials you've used.

This poem is written in a form created and popularized by the troubadours and trobairitz of the Levant (southern France, northern Spain, parts of Italy) in the 11th-13th centuries. My more direct language style is not similar to that used by the male troubadours, but does reflect the styling favored by the extant poems known to be written by the female trobairitz.

PROCEDURE:

As you describe how you made this item, consider answering some of these additional questions. How did you come up with the techniques you used to make it? Why did you use this particular procedure? Are there any particular steps you would change if you were to do this project again?

This poem is written as a "canso", a "song" of courtly love regarding a real or metaphorical subject. Cansos typically consist of 5-6 stanzas that often have equal numbers of metrical syllables or rhyming schemes. The cansos typically end as mine does, with a "tornada" that reveals the identity of the poem's subject. Each of my 5 main stanzas consist of 8 lines of 8 syllables. I used the "coblas singulares" form of canso, in which each stanza follows the same rhyming scheme but has different rhyming sounds ending each line. The tornada has 4 lines of 10 syllables each and a slightly different rhyming scheme for emphasis.

SOURCES:

Provide a bibliography or list of the books, websites, and other sources you have used for researching this project, getting guidance on how to make it, and so on.

My primary source of information on the technical aspects of this poetry style were internet resources linked to the Jocs Floral poetry contest announcement provided by Lady Talia de Morales, Poeta Atlantiae. I also researched period examples of trobairitz poems and information on their styling from the book on "The Women Troubadours" (1980) by Meg Bogin. The poem's subject again is drawn from my personal experiences. Master James of Middle Aston was my reviewer and mentor in writing this poem.

Feel free to attach additional information, including printouts or photocopies of images, articles or other resources that you have found useful in researching and creating your work!