

## THE COMPLAINT OF CHAUCER TO HIS PURSE

To yow, my purse, and to noon other wight  
Complayne I, for ye be my lady dere.  
I am so sory, now that ye been lyght;  
For certes but yf ye make me hevy chere,  
Me were as leef be layd upon my bere; 5  
For which unto your mercy thus I crye,  
Beth hevy ageyn, or elles mot I dye.

Now voucheth sauf this day or hyt be nyght  
That I of yow the blisful soun may here  
Or see your colour lyk the sonne bright 10  
That of yelownesse hadde never pere.  
Ye be my lyf, ye be myn hertes stere.  
Quene of comfort and of good companye,  
Beth hevy ageyn, or elles moot I dye.

Now purse that ben to me my lyves lyght 15  
And saveour as down in this world here,  
Out of this toune helpe me thurgh your myght,  
Syn that ye wole nat ben my tresorere;  
For I am shave as nye as any frere.  
But yet I pray unto your curtesye, 20  
Beth hevy agen, or elles moot I dye.

### *Lenvoy de Chaucer*

O conquerour of Brutes Albyon,  
Which that by lyne and free eleccion  
Been verray kyng, this song to yow I sende,  
And ye, that mowen alle oure harmes amende,  
Have mynde upon my supplicacion. 26

- 3 **lyght**: light in weight, merry, wanton  
4 **but yf ye make me hevy chere**: unless you look gravely at me, take me seriously  
7 **hevy**: heavy in weight, serious, pregnant  
12 **stere**: rudder, guide  
19 **shave as nye as any frere**: as bare of money as a friar's tonsure is of hair  
22 **conquerour**: Henry IV **Brutes Albyon**: the Albion (Britain) of Brutus  
23 **lyne**: lineage, descent  
26 **Have mynde upon**: be mindful of

Source: *The Riverside Chaucer, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.*, ed. Larry D. Benson et al.  
Boston: Houghton, 1987. Page 656