

TO ROSEMOUNDE

A Balade

Madame, ye ben of al beaute shryne
As fer as cercled is the mapamounde,
For as the cristal glorious ye shyne,
And lyke ruby ben your chekes rounde.
Therwith ye ben so mery and so jocounde 5
That at a revel whan that I see you daunce,
It is an oynement unto my wounde,
Thogh ye to me ne do no daliaunce.

For thogh I wepe of teres ful a tyne,
Yet may that wo myn herte nat confounde; 10
Your semy voys that ye so smal out twyne
Maketh my thocht in joy and blis habounde.
So curtaysly I go with love bounde
That to myself I sey in my penaunce,
“Suffyseth me to love you, Rosemounde, 15
Thogh ye to me ne do no daliaunce.”

Nas never pyk walwed in galauntyne
As I in love am walwed and ywounde,
For which ful ofte I of myself devyne
That I am trewe Tristam the secounde. 20
My love may not refreyde nor affounde,
I brenne ay in an amorous plesaunce.
Do what you lyst, I wyl your thral be founde,
Thogh ye to me ne do no daliaunce.

tregentil—————//—————chaucer

2 **mapamounde**: map of the world

7 **oynement**: ointment, salve

8 **to me ne do no daliaunce**: are not friendly, encouraging, to me

9 **tyne**: barrel

11 **semy**: small, high **out twyne**: twist out

17 **pyk walwed in galauntyne**: pike steeped in galantine, a sauce; see notes.

20 **Tristam**: Tristan, the idealized lover of Isolde in medieval romance

21 **refreyde**: grow cold **affounde**: grow numb, turn cold

tregentil: This, which may be a proper name or an epithet (“very gentle”), has not been explained; it may be merely an imitation of a similar colophon to *Troilus*, which immediately precedes this poem in the manuscript. It is printed here as it is in the manuscript, with a line, or flourish, connecting it with (or separating it from) the word *chaucer*.

Source: *The Riverside Chaucer*, 3rd Ed., ed. Larry D. Benson et al.
Boston: Houghton, 1987. Page 649.