



The frankleyns Tale

And wele beloued and holden in grete pryce
 And shortly if I the soth tel schalle
 In wyttynng of this Doxygme at alle
 This lusty squyer seruaunt ^{hennus}
 whiche that clepyd was aurelius
 hath loued her best of any creature
 Two yere and moze as was his aventure
 But neuir durst he telle her his greuaunce
 Withoute the cuppe dranke he alle his penaunce
 He was despeyred nothynng durst he say
 Saue in his songes somdele woerde he wrey
 His wo as in a general compleynng
 He sayde he louyd and was beloued nothynng
 Of suche mater made he many layes
 Songes compleyntes roundels virelayes
 How that he durst nat his sorowe tel
 But languyng as a fury doth in helle
 And dye he sayde he must as dyd Echo
 For Narcisus that durst nat telle his woo
 In othez maner than ye here now say
 Ne durst he nat his wo to her be wray
 Saue paraventure at festes and at daunses
 There ponyt folke hepyng theire obseruaunses
 It may wele been he loked in her face
 In suche a wise as men that a shen grace
 But nothynng wylt she of his entent
 Neir thelesse it happed or they thens went
 Bicause that he was her nyghboure
 And was a man of worshipp and honoure
 And hadde knowen him of tymes pore
 They fallen in speche and so moze and moze
 In to his purpos drewe Aurilius
 And whan he sawe his tyne he sayde thus