Jean de la Taille’s Saül le Furieux (1572):  
An English Translation of Act 2

An Honors Thesis (HONRS 499)

by

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Abstract

The translation of literary texts is a task that can seem sometimes daunting when attempting to remain true to the author’s intended meaning. This task is even more difficult when translating a literary piece that employs language and vocabulary that is no longer in use today. The meaning of certain words must be thoughtfully discerned and the syntax and vocabulary is often subject to interpretation. For my thesis, I have translated the second act of Elliott Forsyth’s 1968 edition of Saul le Furieux, written by Jean de la Taille in 1572. In order to provide an accurate and comprehensive translation of the text, I consulted Randle Cotgrave’s online 1611 Dictionarie of the French and English Tongues. I also used Thesaurus.com to provide the most extensive vocabulary possible in my translation. I collaborated with my advisor, Dr. Donald Gilman, a professor of the French department and expert of the French language, in order to provide a more accurate rendition.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Dr. Donald Gilman for advising me through my translation process. He guided me throughout the project to find the most accurate translations and interpretations, and also helped me to understand sentence structures and words with which I was unfamiliar. I would also like to acknowledge Evie Munier, as she worked with me as well to make sure that I stayed on track to the correct interpretations of the text.
Introduction

In the beginning of my endeavor to translate Act II of *Saul le Furieux*, I was uncertain whether my knowledge of the French language would be enough to provide a comprehensive rendition of the text, as I had never before translated a piece that stemmed from outdated language and vocabulary. My mission was to understand as much as possible the rhythm and nuances of 16th Century French language in order to stay as true to La Taille’s meaning as possible and create an accurate English translation of the piece. In my mind, this would allow other English speakers to enjoy his classic work, which is often considered one of the greatest of its time. My difficulties initially lay in familiarizing myself with the vocabulary and verb usage of La Taille, as his style of writing was sometimes long-winded. Once I became acquainted with his style, I was able to follow the flow of his poetic composition and discern textual significance more accurately. I was unsure, however, how difficult it would be to alter the syntax to reflect proper English readability and still maintain those same poetic undertones that make La Taille’s literary work such a masterpiece.

The most difficult part in my translation process was interpreting the textual inversions and change in word order that La Taille employed throughout the play in order to remain true to his rhyme scheme. He often omitted subjects and altered tenses for the sake of a more poetic emphasis. Once I was able to work through the initial confusion of the sentences’ meanings and find a satisfactory interpretation with the help of my advisor and the use of Cotgrave’s dictionary, I struggled to maintain that same sense of flowing vocabulary to impart a more enjoyable read. In this aspect, I must state that the rhyme scheme was not able to be maintained in the English language so that correct interpretation and symmetrical vocabulary could be employed to stay true to the intentions of Jean de la Taille.
Although a reading of the English translation of La Taille’s masterpiece can never provide the same experience that an understanding of his original French rendition would (as is the case with all translated works of art), I attempted to provide a representation of his work that remains as true to his original intentions as possible while still employing accurate English rules of composition. Throughout my translation process, I learned the difficulties of bridging the gap in communication between two languages, or in this case three (English, Modern-Day French, and 16th Century French), and I became familiar with the necessities of rearranging word order and sentence breaks, and changing punctuation to reflect proper fluidity and meaning. Saül le Furieux has its own unique style, and I was able to familiarize myself with it and employ my understanding of this style to finally create the translated version that follows. With the completion of this translation and the future translations and compilation of the play’s remaining acts, Saül le Furieux will become available for the first time to other readers as a literary masterpiece that transcends the language barrier between 16th Century French and Modern-day English.
Works Cited


ACTE DEUXIEME

[LE PREMIER ESCUYER DE SAUL, SAUL, puis LE SECOND ESCUYER]

LE PREMIER ESCUYER DE SAUL

Mon Dieu ! quelle fureur et quelle frenaisie
A n’agueres du Roy la pensee saisie !
O spectacle piteux de voir leans un Roy
Sanglant et furieux forcener hors de soy,
De le voir massacrer en son chemin tout homme !
Il detranche les uns, les autres il assomme,

D’autres fuyes l’horreur de son bras assommant :
Mais or je l’ay laissé de sang tout escumant,
Cheut dans son pavillon, où sa fureur lassee
Luy a quelque relasche à la parfin causee,
Et dort aucunement, d’icy je l’oy ronfler,

Je l’oy bien en resvant sa furie souffler.

Il repaist maintenant son ame d’un vain songe,
Ores ses bras en l’air et ses pieds il allonge,
Ores en souspirant resve je ne sçay quoy :

Second Act

[SAUL’S FIRST SQUIRE, SAUL, and THE SECOND SQUIRE]

SAUL’S FIRST SQUIRE

My God! What fury and what frenzy
Have at length seized the king’s mind!
Oh, what a pathetic sight to see within a king
Raging beside himself, bloody and furious,
To see him massacring every man in his path!
He cuts to pieces some of them, others he strikes down,
Others fleeing the horror of his brandishing arm:
But I have now left him totally foaming with blood,
Thrown into his tent, where his abated fury
Has at long last offered him some relief,
And he is barely sleeping, I can hear him snore from here,
Indeed, I hear him as he dreams about unleashing his fury.
He now feeds his soul with an empty dream,
He now extends his arms and legs into the air,
Now, sighing, he dreams of that which I do not
Par ainsi son esprit de sa fureur n’est coy.
Ores sur un costé, or sur l’autre il se vire,
Pendant que le sommeil luy digere son ire :
Mais comme l’Ocean du vent D’ou-est soufflé
Se tempeste long temps et devient tout enflé,
Et jaçoit que du vent cesse la rage horrible,
Son flot n’est pas pourtant si tost calme et paisible,
Ainsi de son esprit la tourmente, et les flots
Qu’esmouvoit sa fureur, ne sont or en repos :
Car tantost estendu, gisant comme une beste,
Il regimboit du pied et demenoit la teste.

Mais le voicy levé, voyez comme ces yeux
Estincellent encor’ d’un regard furieux !

SAUL ET L’ESCUYER

[SAUL]
Voyla le jour venu, ja l’aurore vermeille
A bigarré les cieux : ça, ça, qu’on m’appareille
Mon arc, que je decoche à ces monstres cornus
Qui dans ces nues-là se combattent tous nus.

know:
Thus, his soul, filled with madness, is not at peace.
Now on one side, then on the other, he tosses and turns,
While sleep bears his anger:
But like the ocean blown by a western wind,
He rages for a long time and swells,
And though the terrifying fury of the wind ceases,
Its surge is not however so calm and quiet,
So too, the torment of his mind, and the turmoil
That his madness was inciting are not now at rest:
For, immediately heard resting like a beast,
He would kick up his feet and his head would quake.
But here he is arisen, see now how his eyes
Still glare with a mad stare!

SAUL AND THE SQUIRE

[SAUL]
The day has come, already the crimson dawn
Has colored the skies: Here, here, may my bow be readied –
My bow, that I aim at these horned monsters
That fight each other, completely bare in those clouds.
L’ESC

Hé ! quelle resverie a troublé sa cervelle !

SAUL

Je veux monter au ciel, que mon char on attelle,

Et comme les Geants entassants monts sur monts,

Je feray trebuscher les Anges et Daemons,

Et seray Roy des Cieux, puis que j’ay mis en fuite

Mes ennemis, dont j’ay la semence destruite.

L’ESCUYER

Mais que regarde-t-il ? helas, qu’est-ce qu’il fait ?

Je le voy tout tremblant, tout pensif, et deffaict.

O quelle face ardente ! ô Dieu, je te supplie

Qu’avecques son sommeil s’en aille sa follie.

SAUL, revenant à soy.

Mais quel mont est-ce icy ? suis-je soubs le réveil

THE SQUIRE

Ha! What imagination has disturbed his mind!

SAUL

I want to ascend to heaven; let my chariot be harnessed,

And like the giants piling mountains upon mountains,

I would have Angels and Demons overthrown,

And I will be King of the Heavens, since I have put to flight

My enemies, whose offspring I have destroyed.

THE SQUIRE

But what is he looking at? Alas, what is he doing?

I see him trembling all over, entirely pensive, and completely unraveled.

Oh, what a blazing face! Oh God, I beg of you

That his madness passes away in his sleep.

SAUL, returning to himself

But what mountain is this here? Am I under the
| Ou bien soubs le coucher du journalier Soleil ? | rising |
| Est-ce mon Escuyer, et la trouppe Levite | Or the setting of this circling sun? |
| Que je voy ? Qu’ay-je fait, qu’on prend pour moy la fuite ? | Is this my squire, and the Levite troupe |
| Mais qui m’a tout le corps saigneusement noircy ? | That I see? What have I done, that they see me as fleeing? |
| D’où sont ces paullions ? quel pais est-ce icy ? | But who has blackened my body with blood? |
| Mais dy-moy où je suis, mon Escuyer fidele ! | Where do these tents come from? What country is this here? |
| **L’ESCUYER** | **THE SQUIRE** |
| Ne vous souvient-il plus, ô Sire, qu’on appelle Ce mont-cy Gelboé, où vous avez assis | Do you no longer recall, my Lord, that one calls This mountain Gelboé, where you have set up |
| Vostre Camp d’Israël pour marcher contre Achis, Qui a campé cy-pres sa force Philistine, Pour du tout renverser vostre Armee voisine, | Your Israeli camp to march against Achis, Who has encamped his Philistine forces so near, In order to completely overturn your neighboring army, |
| Contre qui ja vos Fils avec une grand’part Du peuple sont allez hors de nostre rampart, Pour donner la bataille ? or qu’on se delibere, Ou d’y pourvoir bien tost, ou d’avoir mort amere. | Against whom already your sons, with a large portion Of the people, have already gone outside our defenses, In order to go into battle? Now as one considers it, Either we provide for them very soon, or have them undergo a bitter death. |
| Reprenez vostre force et vostre sens rassis, A fin que ne soyons proye aux Incirconcis. | Restore your strength and your good senses, So that we do not fall prey to the Uncircumsized. |
Mais vous estes muet et devenez tout blesme !

But you are speechless and become totally pallid!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>SAUL</strong></th>
<th><strong>SAUL</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ha, ha, je sens, je sens au plus creux de moy mesme</td>
<td>Oh, Oh, I feel... I feel at my very core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramper le souvenir de mes cuisans ennuis,</td>
<td>The memories of my brooding concerns creeping up,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qui rafreschit les maux où abismé je suis,</td>
<td>That renew the troubles that engulf me,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Je sens dedans le cœur des pensers qui me rongent,</td>
<td>I feel at the heart of my thoughts that gnaw at me,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Et qui dans une mer de tristesses me plongent :</td>
<td>And that plunge me into a sea of sadness:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Au moins en sommeillant poussé de ma fureur</td>
<td>At least by sleeping, freed from my madness,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Je trompois mes ennuis par une douce erreur.</td>
<td>I tricked my concerns through a sweet wandering.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mais or’ que feray-je ? une fois Dieu me chasse,</td>
<td>But what will I do now? Once God hunts me down,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Me bannit et forclôt de sa premiere grace.</td>
<td>He banishes and closes me off from his great grace.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helas, toujours l’hyver ne dure, et l’air toujours ne pleut.</td>
<td>Alas, the winter does not last forever, and in the sky it does not always rain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tout prend fin. Faut-il donc que ta longue cholere,</td>
<td>Everything has an end. Is it necessary then that your long-lasting rage,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O grand Dieu, dessus moy sans cesse persevere ?</td>
<td>Oh God, persevere against me unrelentingly?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Je suis hay de toy, et des hommes aussi :</td>
<td>I am hated by You, and also by men:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J’ay cent mille soucis, nul n’a de moy soucy :</td>
<td>I have one hundred thousand cares, but nobody cares for me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mais d’y l’occasion d’une si grande haine,</td>
<td>But tell me the reason for such a great hatred,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dy la raison pourquoi j’endure telle peine !</td>
<td>Disclose the reason why I am enduring such pain!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mais, helas, qu’ay-je fait, qu’ay-je las mérité,
Que tu doives ainsi toujours estre irrité ?

L'ESCUYER

Ne vous souvient-il plus que Dieu par son Prophète
Vous commanda un jour de faire une défaite
Sur tous ceulx d’Amalec, qui nous feirent arrests

Quand nous veinsmes d’Egypte, et qu’il voulut expres
Qu’on n’espargnast aucun, mais quand vous ruinastes
Ce bourg, vous et vos gents de malheur pardonnastes
Au bestail le plus gras, et contre le vouloir Que Dieu par Samuel vous fit ainsi sçavoir,

Tout ne fut mis à sac, ains par grand courtoisie

Au triste Roy Agag vous laissastes la vie,
Plustost que de souiller dedans son sang vos mains ?

SAUL

« O que sa Providence est cachee aux humains !

But what have I done, alas, what have I done to deserve this,
That you must thus always be so provoked?

THE SQUIRE

Do you no longer remember that God, through His Prophet,
Commanded you one day to destroy
Everything in the kingdom of Amalec, who enslaved us
When we came from Egypt, and that He expressly wanted
Us to spare not one single soul. But when you devastated
This city, you and your unfortunate people spared
The fattest cattle, and against the wishes Of God, who had thus informed you through Samuel,
You sacked everything. And so through great mercy
You spared the life of the sad King Agag,
Rather than defiling your hands with his blood?

SAUL

Oh, His Providence is hidden from humans!
<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pour estre donc humain j'esprouve sa cholere,</td>
<td>Thus, in being human I deserve His wrath,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Et pour estre cruel il m'est donc debonnaire !</td>
<td>And by being cruel He is then merciful to me!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hé Sire, Sire làs ! fault-il donc qu'un vainqueur</td>
<td>Oh my Lord, you Lord! Must a conqueror, then,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plustost que de pitié use fier de rigueur,</td>
<td>Be proud of his severity more so than his pity,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Et que sans regarder qu'une telle fortune</td>
<td>And must he slit the throats of so many people without seeing such a fortune that is as common to him as it is to those whom he has vanquished? Is it not better to heed some honor than to heed our great power?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Est aussi bien à luy qu'à ses vaincus commune,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egorge tant de gents ? vault-il pas mieux avoir</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esgard à quelque honneur, qu'à nostre grand pouvoir ?</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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**L'ESCUYER**

<table>
<thead>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gardez de parler, Sire, ainsi sans reverence</td>
<td>Cease speaking, my lord, in such a way without respect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Du destin de la haut, et par inadvertance</td>
<td>For divine destiny; and through thoughtlessness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Un plus grand chastiment du Seigneur n'accroissez,</td>
<td>Do not accrue a greater punishment from the Lord.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mais plustost sa Justice humble recoignissez,</td>
<td>But rather recognize His humble justice,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sans accuser ainsi vostre celeste Maistre :</td>
<td>Without so blaming your heavenly Master:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ne vous souvient-il plus de vostre premier estre ?</td>
<td>Do you not remember your first days of life?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Songez en premier lieu que vous estes le fils</td>
<td>First, keep in mind that you are the son</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D'un simple homme des champs qui estoit ;</td>
<td>Of a simple man of the fields that was;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Songez doncques au temps</td>
<td>Keep in mind, then,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Que l'un de ses troupeaux s'esgara par les champs,</td>
<td>That one of your herds wandered through the fields,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>En revenant au soir sans aucune conduitte,</td>
<td>Returning in the evening without any shepherd,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Et qu’il vous commanda d’aller à la poursuite ;</td>
<td>And that He ordered you to go in search.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Songez qu’’aient long temps par monts, par bois erré,</td>
<td>Keep in mind that wandering for a long time through the mountains and woods,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sans pouvoir rencontrer le bestail adiré,</td>
<td>Without being able to find the abandoned herd,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>En fin il vous advint l’adventure fatale</td>
<td>At last there came upon you the fatal happening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qui vous a fait avoir la dignité Royalle,</td>
<td>That caused you to attain Royal dignity;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car le grand Samuël Prophete et Gouverneur</td>
<td>For the great Prophet and Governor Samuel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D’Israël estoit lors atiltré du Seigneur</td>
<td>Of Israel was then appointed by the Lord</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A espier le temps que vous estiez en questes,</td>
<td>To spy upon you during the times that you were doing your duty,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A fin que vous aiant dit nouvelles des bestes,</td>
<td>So that, in having told you news of the herd,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Il vous sacras le Roy des hommes Hebrieux,</td>
<td>He anointed you King of the Jews,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Le premier, et plus grand qui fut jamais sur eux ;</td>
<td>The first, and greatest ever among them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Songez qu’’aient le regne il vous a fait acquerre</td>
<td>Keep in mind that having the power, he had you attain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La victoire en tout lieu qu’ayez mené la guerre.</td>
<td>Victory everywhere you have waged war.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Songez premièremment que des le premier an</td>
<td>First, keep in mind that from the first year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entra dans vos pais un merveilleux tyran,</td>
<td>An incredible tyrant entered your country,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C’est à sçavoir Naasés le Roy des Ammonites,</td>
<td>That is to say Naasés, the king of the Amonnites,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qui bravant fourrageoit vos bourgs Israë lit es.</td>
<td>Who bravely ransacked your Israelite towns.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Il estoit si cruel et fier, qu’aux Hebrieux</td>
<td>He was so cruel and proud, that to the Hebrews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qui se rendoient à luy il crevoit l’un des yeux,</td>
<td>Who approached him, he plucked out one of their eyes,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Et vouloit tout expres n’arracher que l’œil dextre,</td>
<td>And in particular wanted to tear out only the right eye,</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Afin que la rondelle empeschant la senestre,
Ils n’eussent plus d’adresse aux armes pour servir
A la chose publique : il vous doit souvenir
Qu’il veint assiéger la ville renommée
De Jabes, qu’un herault apres l’avoir sommee,
Pressa les Citoiens d’adviser promptement,
Ou de se rendre serfs, perdant l’œil seulement,
Ou d’attendre le sac ou la mort douloureuse,
Et qu’’iceux estonnez d’offre si rigoureuse,
Tost despescherent gents vous requerir secours,
Aiant pour cest effect eu tresves pour sept jours :

Vous, inspiré de Dieu, levastes une Armee
Comme vous de vengeance et d’ardeur enflammee,
Et vinstes courageux delivrer la Cité
D’un siège, d’un sac, et d’une cruauté ;
Vous surpristes Naasés, vous fistes un carnage
De luy, de tout son camp, et de tout son bagage,
Ce qui vous donna lors grand’ reputation,
Et grand’ authorité vers toute nation.

Songez apres au temps que ces Philistins mesme
Armerent contre vous une puissance extrême,
Qui en nombre sembloit le grand sable des mers,

So that the iron shield hindering the left hand,
They would no longer have recourse to serve
Their public duty. You should remember
That he came to conquer the great city
Of Jabes, that a herald, after sizing up the situation,
Urged the citizens to be readily wary,
Either to return to serfdom, leaving only the eye,
Or to wait for the ransacking or a painful death,
And that those astonished by such a harsh proposal,
Quickly dispatched people to request your help,
Having had from the effect of this situation a truce for seven days.
You, inspired by God, raised an army
Like you, from vengeance and enflamed burning,
And came courageously to free the city
From siege, from ransacking, and from cruelty.
You surprised Naasés, you destroyed
Him, his entire camp, and his belongings,
Which gave you then a great reputation,
And great authority over every nation.
Next, keep in mind the time that these same Philistines
Even armed themselves against you a powerful force,
Which in number seemed like the numerous sands
Et que malicieux destournèrent nos fers,  
Mesmes nos armuriers, à fin que n’ayant lance  
Ny armes, ne peussions leur faire resistance.  
Songez qu’en tel estat, n’estant accompagné  
Que d’un camp desarmé et d’un peuple estonné,  
Vostre seul fils Jonathe avecques son adresse  
Hardy vous delivra d’une telle destresse,  
Nayant qu’un escuyer surprit les ennemis,  
Dont il en tua vingt qu’il trouva endormis,  
Et leur fit tel effroy, que tous prindrent la fuitte,  
Jettans leurs armes bas : vous donc à la poursuite  
Accreustes le desordre, et avec leurs cousteaux  
Vous les fistes servir de charongne aux corbeaux :  
Mais au lieu d’honorer Jonathe et sa vaillance,  
Il eut presque de vous la mort en recompense,  
A cause de ce miel qu’il mangea, sans sçavoir  
L’edict qui defendoit de ne manger qu’au soir.  
Et bref, songez un peu à tant d’autres victoires  
Que Dieu vous fit avoir, et qui sont prou notoires.

Of the sea  
And which maliciously diverted our weapons  
Even our armament, until not having even lances  
Or arms, we would not be able to resist them.  
Keep in mind that in such a state, being accompanied  
By only an unarmed camp and an astonished people,  
Your only son Jonathan, with his prowess,  
Boldly freed you from such a distress,  
Only having a squire, and surprised the enemies,  
Of whom he killed twenty whom he found asleep,  
And made them so scared that they all fled,  
Throwing down their arms. Thus, you in pursuit  
Aggravated the disorder, and with their knives  
Served their carcasses up to the ravens:  
But instead of honoring Jonathan and his valor,  
He had almost died at your hands in recompense,  
Because of this honey that he ate, without knowing  
The edict that maintained only to eat at night.  
And briefly, keep in mind so many of the other victories  
Which God has granted you, and which are greatly renowned.
Doncques pour tant d’honneurs ce bon Dieu merciez,
Et pour si peu de mal point ne l’injuriez,
Qui vous a pourchassé de sa benigne grace
Les sceptres que par fer et par feu l’on pourchassee.

**SAUL**

Je scay bien qu’aux mortels appeler il ne faut
De son Arrest fatal decide de la-haut,
Mais il a maintenant esmeu la Palestine,
A fin d’executer l’Arrest de ma ruine,
Donc je veux assouvir sa rigueur, et suis prest

De mourir maintenant, puis que ma mort luy plaist.

**L’ESCUYER**

Ne vous desesperez, mais avecques fiance
Et bon espoir prenez vos maux en patience,
Et vous ramentevez la haine qu’à grand tort
Vous portez à David d’avoir fait mettre à mort
Avec toute sa race Achimelec Prophete,
A cause que David fit chez luy sa retraicte,
Et d’avoir deuil dequoy David et Jonathas
S’ayment fidellement.

**SAUL**

Mon Fils ne doit-il pas

Thus, for all of these honors thank this gracious God,
And for so little evil do Him no injury,
He who has endowed you from his benign grace
With crowns that one pursues with fire and arms.

**SAUL**

I indeed know that it is not necessary to recall to mortals
Of his fatal order decided from on high,
But he has now incited Palestine,
To execute the edict of my destruction.
Thus, I want to assuage his harshness, and I am ready
To die now, since he seeks my death.

**THE SQUIRE**

Do not despair, but with confidence
And good hope endure your ordeal patiently,
And you remember the hatred that you wrongly
Bear toward David for having put to death
The Prophet Achimelec along with all his people,
Because David found refuge at his house,
And for having caused grief through the faithful friendship of David and Jonathan.

**SAUL**

Must my son not also
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acevedo 16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Hair aussi celui qu'à bon droit je soupçonne
Qu'il ne luy osté un jour l'estat de ma Couronne?

**L'ESCUYER**
Mais sans tant desguiser les maux qu'avez commis,
Priez Dieu qu'ils vous soient par sa bonté remis,
« L' invoquant de bon cœur : à l'heure qu'on l'invoque
« On gaigne sa faveur : mais lors on le provoque
« Au juste accroissement de sa punition,
Quand on se justifie avec presumption.

**SAUL**
Hâ, ne m'en parle plus, c'est folie d'attendre
Que le Seigneur daignast seulement me defendre,
Veu qu'ores il me hait, car si j'estois aymé
De luy comme devant, il m'eust or informé
De ce que ferois : mais ny par aucuns presages
Ny par les visions qu'on voit à son sommeil,
Il ne m'en donné response ny conseil.
Samuel, Samuel, veritable Prophetee,
Qu'ores n'es-tu vivant ! las, que je te regrette,
Car tu me dirois bien ce que faire il me faut.

**THE SQUIRE**
But without so disguising so much the evil that you have committed,
Pray God that they may be pardoned by your kindness,
Earnestly invoking Him: At the moment when one invokes Him,
He wins His favor: but then one provokes Him,
To justly increase his punishment,
When one justifies himself presumptuously.

**SAUL**
Aha! No longer speak to me about it. It is madness to wait
For the Lord to deign me worthy of defense,
Seen that now He hates me; for if I were loved
By Him before, He would have then informed me
Of what I would do: But neither through any omens
Nor through the visions that one sees while asleep,
He did not give me any answer or advice.
Samuel... Samuel, true prophet,
Why are you not alive now! Alas, I miss you,
For you would indeed tell me what I must do.
Mais toy mesmes, Seigneur, repons-moy de là-haut :
Dois-je aller contre Achis ? dois-je les armes prendre ?
Le vaincrai-je ou non ? ou si je me dois rendre ?
Que de grace ta voix m’annonce l’un des deux.
Mais puis qu’en te taisant respondre ne me veux,
Je ne puis qu’esperer la victoire certaine
Qu’aurorent tant d’ennemis, et ma honte prochaine.
Je suis tout espeurd pensant qu’ils sont si forts,
Et qu’on ne vitera l’horreur de cent mil’ morts.
Las, depuis que j’ay pris le Royal Diadesme
Le Soleil est venu en son cours quarantiesme,
Et dois-je désormais me r’empestrer au soing
D’une sur l’aage, où j’ay plus de besoing
De paix et de repos ?

L’ESCUYER
Mais laissons ce langage,
Qu’il ne face faillir à nos gents le courage.

But you yourself, Lord, answer me from above:
Must I go against Achis? Must I take up arms?
Will I vainquish him or not? Or, if not, should I surrender?
Through grace, may your voice tell me one of the two choices.
But since, in being silent, you do not want to answer me,
I can only hope for certain victory
That will claim so many enemies, and my next shame.
I am totally forlorn thinking that they are so strong,
And that one cannot evade the horror of 100,000 deaths.
Alas, ever since I assumed the royal crown,
The sun has revolved for the fortieth time,
And must I, from this time forward, become involved in caring
For one of this age, when I need more rest and peace?

THE SQUIRE
But let’s put aside this discussion
That only robs our people of courage.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>SAUL</strong></th>
<th><strong>SAUL</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J’ay l’esprit si confus d’horreur, de soing, d’effroy,</td>
<td>I have a mind so racked with horror, concern, and dread,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Que je ne puis resoudre aucun advis en moy :</td>
<td>That I cannot resolve a single thought within myself:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voila pourquoy je veux soigneusement m’enquerre</td>
<td>That is why I carefully want to seek out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>De ce qu’il adviendra de la presente guerre,</td>
<td>That which will be the outcome of the present war,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pour voir à nous sauver ou par honneste accord,</td>
<td>To see us saved either through an honorable agreement,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ou par mort violente, ou par un grand effort.</td>
<td>Or through violent death, or through great effort.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>L’ESCUYER</strong></td>
<td><strong>THE SQUIRE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vous voulez donc sçavoir une chose future ?</td>
<td>You therefore want to know what will happen?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>« Mais on peche en voulant sçavoir son adventure.</td>
<td>But one sins in want to know his fortune.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SAUL</strong></td>
<td><strong>SAUL</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La sçachant on voit comme il s’y fault gouverner.</td>
<td>Knowing it, one sees how he must govern.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>L’ESCUYER</strong></td>
<td><strong>THE SQUIRE</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
La sçachant pensez-vous la pouvoir destourner ?

SAUL

« Le prudent peut fuir sa fortune maligne.

L'ESCUYER

« L’homme ne peut fuir ce que le ciel destine.

SAUL

« le malheur nuit plus fort venant à despourveu.

L'ESCUYER

« Mais il cuit d’avantage après qu’on l’a preveu.

SAUL

Bref, je sçauray mon sort par l’art de Negromance.

L'ESCUYER

Mais DIEU l’a defendu : mesme aiez souvenance

D’avoir meurtry tous ceux qui sçavoient ces

secrets.

Knowing it, do you think you can alter it?

SAUL

The wise one can flee his spiteful fortune.

THE SQUIRE

Man cannot flee what Heaven destines.

SAUL

Misfortune hurts more strongly when it comes unexpectedly.

THE SQUIRE

But he seethes even more after it has been foreseen.

SAUL

And in short, I will know my fate through necromancy.

THE SQUIRE

But God has forbidden it: Even recall

Having slain all those who knew those secrets.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>SAUL</strong></th>
<th><strong>SAUL</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hier je despechay un escuyer expres,</td>
<td>Yesterday I directly dispatched a squire,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pour sonder finement si en quelque village...</td>
<td>To detect discreetly if in some village...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Entre le Second Escuyer</strong></td>
<td><strong>The Second Squire Enters</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mais le voicy desja qui a fait son message.</td>
<td>But here he is who has already run his errand.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LE SECOND ESCUYER</strong></td>
<td><strong>THE SECOND SQUIRE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On m'a, Sire, adverty qu'icy pres est encor'</td>
<td>I have been informed, Sir, that nearby there is still</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Une Dame sorciere au lieu qu'on dit Endor,</td>
<td>A sorceress at the place called Endor,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qui sc;ait transfigurer son corps en mille formes,</td>
<td>Who knows how to change her body into a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qui des monts les plus hauts fait devaller les</td>
<td>thousand forms,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ormes,</td>
<td>Who from the tallest mountains causes elms to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elle arreste le cours des celestes flambeaux,</td>
<td>tumble.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elle fait les esprits errer hors des tombeaux,</td>
<td>She stops the course of the flaming heavens,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elle vous sc;ait tirer l'escume de la Lune,</td>
<td>She causes spirits to wander outside their tombs,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elle rend du Soleil la clarté tantost brune</td>
<td>She knows how to draw the tides of the moon,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Et tantost toute noire en murmurant ses vers,</td>
<td>She renders the brightness of the sun like evening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>twilight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>And sometimes like the complete darkness of</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bref, elle fait trembler, s’elle veut, l’univers.

In short, she causes the universe to tremble if she so desires.

**SAUL**

Allons nous trois chez elle, et faut, quoy qu’il advienne,

Let’s go, all three of us, to her house, and whatever may happen,

Que je conduise à chef ceste entreprise mienne.

Instill in her mind this undertaking of mine.

Puis que j’ay par son art à me rendre advise,

Since her art is to advise me,

Allons pour l’asseurer en habit desguise.

Let’s go in disguise in order to confirm it.

**LE CHŒUR DES LEVITES**

O Dieu qui francs nous rendis

Oh God who delivered us

Du penible joug d’Egypte,

From the painful yolk of Egypt,

Et qui aux deserts jadis

And who guided us to deserts of old,

Nous as servy de conduitte

Having engulfed in the wave

Aiant dans l’onde abismee

The wrath and army of a tyrant:

D’un tyran l’ire, et l’armee :

Deliver your faithful people from these

Or de ces incirconcis

uncircumsized men;

Delivre ta gent fidelle ;
Icy leur camp ont assis
Pour nous mettre à mort cruelle :
Ce sera une grand’ honte
Si leur force nous surmonte.
Ils publieront en tous lieux
Que ta force est bien petite,
Puis que sauver tu ne peux
Ton cher peuple Israélite,
Et d’une telle victoire
Ils se donneront la gloire.
Mais nostre punition
En un autre temps diffère,
Car la grand’ subjection
Nous donne assez de misere,
Estant subjects d’un fol Prince
Qui regit mal sa Province.
Israël donc est lassé
De ses premières demandes,
They have set up their camp here
To inflict upon us a cruel death:
There will be great shame
If their strength overcomes us.
They will spread word to every place
That your strength is very weak,
And that you cannot save us,
Your dear Israelite people,
And they will obtain for themselves
The glory of such a victory.
But at another time
Our punishment changes,
For great servitude
Gives us enough misery,
Being subjects of a mad Prince
Who poorly governs his state.
Israel is therefore bound
By his first demands,
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French Text</th>
<th>English Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Puis que tu es insensé,</td>
<td>Since you are mad,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O toy, qui premier commandes,</td>
<td>Oh you, who is the first to command,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Et qui encore appliques</td>
<td>And whose mind is still disposed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ton esprit aux arts magiques.</td>
<td>To the arts of magic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Que maudit soit l'inventeur</td>
<td>May the inventor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>De la Magie premiere,</td>
<td>Of the first art of magic be cursed,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Et qui premier Enchanteur</td>
<td>And who, as the first sorcerer,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trouva premier la manière</td>
<td>First found the way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D'ouvrir les portes aux choses</td>
<td>To open the door to the things</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Que le Seigneur tenoit closes.</td>
<td>That the Lord held secret.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car vrayemment non moins nuit</td>
<td>Because truly this ancient practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceste Avant-science à l'homme,</td>
<td>Harms man no less,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Que le pernicieux fruict</td>
<td>Than the pernicious fruit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>De l'abominable Pomme.</td>
<td>From the hateful apple.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garde, ô Roy, qu'il ne te nuise</td>
<td>Keep him, oh King, from impeding you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>De parfaire ton emprise</td>
<td>From completing your duty.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maudictes soient les Negromans,</td>
<td>Cursed be the necromancers,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French Text</td>
<td>English Translation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maudictes soient les Sorcieres,</td>
<td>Cursed be the sorcerers,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qui s’en vont desendormans</td>
<td>Who depart, awakening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Les umbres aux cymetieres,</td>
<td>The shades at cemeteries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violant les choses sainctes</td>
<td>Violating sacred things</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pour venir à leurs attaintes.</td>
<td>To achieve their own purpose.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Que la curiosité</td>
<td>May the curiosity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>De ces Devins soit maudicte</td>
<td>Of these soothsayers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qui à tort la dignité</td>
<td>Which wrongly counterfeits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Des Prophetes contr’imite,</td>
<td>The dignity of the Prophets be cursed,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>En pippant les ames folles</td>
<td>By calling forth mad souls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>De leurs vanitez frivolles</td>
<td>From their meaningless vanity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soit qu’ils devinent par l’air,</td>
<td>Whether they foretell by air,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Par feu, par terre, ou fumiere,</td>
<td>Fire, earth, or smoke,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ou par l’eau d’un bassin clair,</td>
<td>Or by the water of a clear basin,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ou dedans une verriere,</td>
<td>Or inside a glass,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ou par les lignes des paumes,</td>
<td>Or by the lines in the palms of hands,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ou par mil autres fantaumes.</td>
<td>Or by a thousand other ghosts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tels furent les Enchanteurs
Que l'Egypte encore prise,
Et qui vains imitateurs
De ce que faisoit Moyse,
Par leurs arts pleins de blasphemes
Faisoient ses miracles mesmes.
Tels furent ceulx que Saul
Fit mettre au fil de l'espee.
Et dont il n'eschappa nul
Qui n'eust la teste couppee :
Mais luymesme (ô grand' follie !)
Il croit ore à la Magie.

Such were the magicians
That Egypt still respects,
And who, as vain imitators
Of what Moses did,
Through their art replete with blasphemy
Were accomplishing his same miracles.
Such were those that Saul
Put to death by the stroke of a sword.
And from which no one escaped
Who didn't have his head lopped off:
But he himself (oh great madness!),
Now he believes in magic.