

### Translation Exercise

**Content:** pick a 30-line passage from a Chaucer text of your choice on the syllabus and translate the passage into idiomatic prose English; you might most likely pick one we have read by the deadline. Furthermore, write a 2-page evaluative commentary on your own translation, noting especially linguistic difficulties you have encountered, such as semantic or lexical tough spots. Justify why you translated certain things the way you did. Pay special attention to linguistic and poetic detail, meter and verse, literary effect, and larger poetic context. This assignment is designed to make you interact with Chaucer's Middle English more in depth and to hone your close reading skills. You might want to use the Chaucer glossary online or the *Middle English Dictionary*.

I understand that modern English translations of Chaucer's works exist and I have even linked some on the website. While you can check translations to assist you, be forewarned that they are not always very accurate or too superficial. Any translation implies an interpretation and so will yours. I am interested in your take on it, not one that already exists.

**Format:** In order to foster crosspollination, I am asking that you pick a partner for this assignment and thus you turn in one paper for the two of you, with both your names on it. I will then assign one grade for both of you.

Please follow the guidelines outlined in the *Guide to Style* containing the format guidelines of the *MLA* (online on the class website). Double-space the paper, identify the text passage you are working from, and supply a works cited of all materials used or consulted. Review documentation procedures and follow the distinctions outlined for poetry as well as shorter and longer quotations. Failure to provide the correct format will result in lower grades. An explanation of grade rubrics can be found on my website under Engl. 351.

I encourage you to edit, revise, and proofread your papers, striving for coherence, grammatical correctness, and good transitions.

**Due Date:** Thursday, 10.2.2008.