

Orientis Partibus

From: BL MS Egerton 2615, Beauvais c.1227–c.1234

*Orientis partibus
Adventavit asinus
Pulcher et fortissimus
Sarcinis aptissimus*

From eastern lands,
The ass arrives,
Lovely and strong,
Fit for burden.

Hez, sire asne, Hez

Hup, Sir Ass, hup!

*Hic in collibus Sychen
Iam nutritus sub Ruben
Transiit per Jordanem
Saliit in Bethlehem*

Here in the hills of Sychen,
Fed by the Ruben,
He crosses the Jordan;
And enters Bethlehem.

*Dum trahit vehicula
Multa cum sarcinula
Illius mandibula
Dura terit pabula*

While he pulls carts,
Many with heavy loads,
His jaws
Grind tough fodder.

*Cum aristis, hordeum
Comedit et carduum
Triticum ex palea
Segregat in area*

He eats barley, even the beards,
And the spiny thistles.
Separates wheat from chaff
On the threshing floor.

*Amen dicas, asine
Iam satur ex gramine
Amen, amen itera
Aspernare vetera*

You say "amen", ass,
All filled with grass,
"Amen", "amen" once again,
Spurning the past.