

CAP. XXXV.—HOW AN HUNTER
SHULD SEKE AND FYNDE THE
HARE WITH RENNYNG HOUNDES
AND SLEE HERE WITH STRENGTH

*OR I speke how þe hare shal be huntid it is to wete þat þe hare is kyng of alle venery,¹ for al blowyng and þe faire termys of kuntyng comen of þe sechyng and fyndyng of þe hare for certayn it is þe merveiloust beast, þ' is for euere she fumep or crotep and roungep and berep talow and grete. And þough men say þat she fumythe in also moche as she berep talow zil þ' comyth fro hure is not callid fumes but croteis, And she hath teep aboue in þe same wise as bineth. It is alle so to witte þat þe hare is oþer while male and oþerwhile female.² And whan she is female somtyme she kyndelet in iii degrees, ii rough and ii smoth and also ii knottes þat afterward shal be kyndels but þis happeth but seeld. Now for to speke of þe hare how he shalle be sougth and ifounde and enchaced with houndes. It is to wete þat þe first wurde þ' the hunter shuld speke to his houndes whan he shall late hem of þe kenel. Whan þe door is oppenede he shalle say loude, *Ho ho arere,*³ for cause þ' his houndis wold come out to hastely, and whan he vncoupleþ his houndis he shal say to hem in to þe tyme þat he is comyn in to the felde, *Sto moun amy sto atrete.*⁴ And whan he is comen forþ in to þe felde he shalle blow iii moot and vncouple his houndis. Than shalle he twyes speke to his houndes in þis wise, *Hors de couple auaunt cy auaunt,*⁵ and þus shal he shay thries, *So how,* and no moor. And afterward he shall saye lowde, *Sa say cy auaunt, and thann, Sa cy auaunt sa cy auaunt sohow,* and if he se his houndes drawe fast fro hym and wolden fayn renne he shalle say þus to hem here, *How amy how amy,* and þus he shal say, *Sweþ moun amy Sweþ,*⁶ for to make hem goo softly, and ay amonge blowe iii moot and if eny of his houndes fynde and grete⁷ of þe hare where he hap be, he shalle say to hem in þis wise, *Oiez a beamond la vailaunt, or what þe hounde highte. And if he se þat the hare hath be atte pasture in grene corn or in eny oþer plek, and his houndes fynde of hire and þat þei falle wel in, enquest⁸ and chace it wel ech at**

CHAP. 35.—HOW AN HUNTER
SHOULD SEEK AND FIND THE
HARE WITH RUNNING HOUNDS
AND SLAY HER WITH STRENGTH

ERE I speak how the hare should be hunted, it is to be known that the hare is king of all venery, for all blowing and the fair terms of hunting cometh of the seeking and the finding of the hare. For certain it is the most marvellous beast that is,¹ for evermore she fumeth or croteth and roungeth and beareth tallow and grease. And though men say that she fumeth inasmuch as she beareth tallow, yet that which cometh from her is not called fumes but croteys. And she hath teeth above in the same wise as beneath. It is also to be known that the hare is at one time male and another time female.² When she is female sometimes she kindles in three degrees, two rough, two smooth and two knots that afterwards should be kindles, but this happeneth but seldom. Now for to speak of the hare how he shall be sought and found and chased with hounds. It is to be known what the first word (should be) that the hunter should speak to his hounds when he lets them out of the kennel. When the door is opened he shall say loud: "*Ho ho arere,*"³ because that his hounds will come out too hastily. And when he uncoupleth his hounds, he shall say to them when he comes into the field: "*Sto mon amy sto atrete,*"⁴ but when he is come forth into the field he shall blow three motes and uncouple the hounds, then he shall speak twice to his hounds in this wise, "*Hors de couple, auaunt cy auaunt*"⁵ and then he shall say thrice "*So how*" and no more; afterward he shall say loud "*Sa say cy auaunt*" and then "*Sa cy auaunt, sa cy auaunt so how,*" and if he see the hounds draw fast from him and would fain run, he shall say thus to them here: "*How amy—how amy,*" and then shall he say "*Sweþ mon amy sweþ*"⁶ for to make them go softly, and between always blow three motes. And if any of his hounds find and own to⁷ the hare where he hath been, he shall say to them in this wise: "*Oyez a Beaumont le vaillant,*" or what the hound is called. And if he seeth that the hare hath been at pasture in green corn or in any other place and his hounds find of her and that they fall well in, hunt⁸ and chase it well,

¹ See Appendix: Hare. ² "Back there!" from the Fr. *arrière*. ³ See Appendix: Hunting Cries.
⁴ "Out of couples, forward there, forward!" (Precisely the same instructions are given by the later Twety and Giffard.
⁵ "Gently, my friend, gently!"
⁶ Own to, or challenge the scent of the hare.
⁷ Quest, hunt, seek, also challenge.