



SOLIVAGUS

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ELISABETH MARTSCHINI (EDITION AND TRANSLATION)

Reinfried of Braunschweig.

Middle High German text reproduced by Karl Bartsch.

INCLUDES THE FIRST TRANSLATION FROM MIDDLE HIGH GERMAN.

“Reinfried von Braunschweig” is both a verse novel, courtly love, and an adventure story. It was written shortly after the fall of Akon 1291 by an anonymous author in Middle High German. As no title was handed down, it is commonly named after its protagonist. “Reinfried von Braunschweig” consists of two essentially separate parts, the first telling the story of courtship, the second recounting the travels and return of its hero. Only one script of the text exists today, which is a fragment, breaking off in the middle of a sentence.

VOL. I (VERSES 1-6.834): In search of glory and honour, Reinfried von Braunschweig rides to the Danish town of Linion. Celebrated champion in the fights with lance and sword, he receives a kiss by Yrkane, the most beautiful daughter of the king – a kiss which leads to a momentously romance.

VOL. II (VERSES 6.835 – 17.980): As the honour of his beloved Yrkane is at stake, Reinfried hurries to the court in Denmark. In a bitter fight he defeats his challenger and marries Yrkane. However, their happiness proves not to be a lasting one, as the young couple waits in vain for the birth of a long-desired child. As a solution to that problem, Reinfried vows to participate in a crusade to the Holy Land.

VOL. III (VERSES 17.981 – 27.627): The muslims in the Holy Land have turned to friends and Reinfried could make his way back to Saxonia. However, he is drawn to foreign lands with the legendary magnet mountain and the by no means less dangerous chant of the sirene. Only after a magnificent Hoftag in Askalon Reinfried finally embarks upon his journey back home but is left at an unknown shore by his comrades.

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DR ELISABETH MARTSCHINI, born in 1981 in Baden near Vienna, studied German literature, German as a foreign language, Spanish and Slovenian at the University of Vienna. She worked as a lector in Prague until 2017.

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