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Gianni Quel Guido Salute

Guido Cavalcanti

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Gianni Quel Guido Salute ·
Guido Cavalcanti

In your gentle salute,
Sent in rhymed sonnet
To boot,
You say the young lady said: "Please
Make of me
What to thee
Give in ease.
Well, here am I
Ready and sly,
Obedient and equipted,
And Andrea, with his arrows tipped,
Bow in hand.
But have a care where you stand;
God's church
Wills not
That justice be left in the lurch."
(Meaning perhaps: this prize is mine.
You pay the fine.)

(from the Italian, ca. 1927-1934)