



<County: Yorkshire West Riding>  
<Code: L0005>  
<MS reference: London, BL Egerton 927>  
<Text: Myrour of Lewed Men>

<Tranche 1>

<fol. 4v>Al sone he hadde knewe all his wille  
And my<sup>3</sup>t and wald al hit fulfille  
Thai were ay bothe al on substaunce  
And betwix theim was no distaunce  
What as the fader wald haue amendyd  
By his sone godely hit suld be endid  
Four doghters hade this grete kyng  
That fulfillid all his likyng  
Thai were of his substance ilkon  
And all that substance was bot on  
Thai four~ doghters thurgh comune assent  
Performed al his iugement  
Bot if thise four~ vse ay wele thair myght  
May neuer no rewme be rewled right  
The names of thaim w<sup>t</sup>-outen les  
Are . Mercy sothfastnes . Right . & Pes  
Mercy when sho hade perceyued  
How all man-kynde was deceyued  
Thurgh the fende that be foul treson  
Has geten him to his prison  
And euer<sup>m</sup>ore with enuy  
Will torment him as enemy  
<last line ill. due to printout mistake>  
<fol. 5r>Here spak Mercy  
THus til her fader sho began  
To pray him for synful man  
Dere fader kyng of my<sup>3</sup>tes mast  
Thi doghter y am wele thou wast

Ful of myknes swetnes and pite  
 Dere fader all thes haue y of the  
 Now here my praier for this *prisoun*  
 That he may be put til his raunsoun  
 His enemys with thair falshede  
 Has put him to so gret nede  
 That he may *neuer* saued be  
 Bot thurgh mercy and gret pite  
 Thair falshed may gretly letted be  
 And that prison be 3olden to me  
 Dere fader *merciful* is thi name  
 And y thin eldest *doghter* ame  
 That y were thi *doghter* my3t y *neuer* say  
 Bot y wald *euer* for sinful man pray  
 Thi *mercy* thurgh ri3t sall he haue  
 And thi gret *mercy* sal him saue  
 J sal *euer* crie *mercy* to the  
 Til that wreched prison deliuerd be  
 Dere fader my *praier* may no3t be lette  
 <fol. 5v>For y am ouer all thi werkes to sette  
 Here spak sothfastnes .  
 WHen the second sister sothfastnes  
 Hade herd *mercy* thurgh her~ swetnes  
 Wold sone bye the synful *prisoun* agayn  
 That sho hade iugged to ay lastand payne  
 Sho sayde dere fader thi *doghter* am y  
 As ner sib to the as is my sister *mercy*  
 Mercy of no thing may wele gife the dome  
 Bot if y sothfastnes with her come  
 Hir *praier* may no3t be herd of the  
 Bot if hit acordand be with me  
 Jf all hir *prayers* suld ay be herd  
*Neuer* no shrewe for the ful be ferd  
 Ne *neuer* punist no wikkednes  
 That is gretly agayns ri3twisnes  
 For he suld haue no *mercy*  
 That is dampned ri3twysly .  
 Here spak ri3twysnes  
 Then ri3twisnes the third sister sayde

Dere fader in me is all dome laide  
 J ne may no3t spare to say to the  
 All that sothfastnes telles to me  
 J mot dele to euer-ilk-one  
 <fol. 6r>Gode or ill after thei haue done  
 Thi wikked seruaunt is in prisoun  
 As he was demed w<sup>t</sup> gret resoun  
 J may no3t fro this sentence vary  
 Bot J to ri3t wald be contrary  
 Mercy ne pite is non worthi  
 For that he lost thaim wilfully  
 ¶ Alas catyf prisoun now has thou no frende  
 Bot mercy that praies for a gode ende  
 Sothfastnes has accused the  
 And ri3twisnes has dampned the  
 Thou & all that of the come  
 To helle fire has herd 3our dome  
 Thin enemy gret stired the to trespas  
 And ri3twisnes of the no mercy has  
 And mercy may no3t be herd  
 Ther-for pece may be ferd  
 When no forgifnes may be  
 Thai may no3t dwelle in cuntre  
 All mankynde dyes and is put to payn  
 Bot Enok & Ely that sal come agayn  
 Gret dole is to think on this  
 How al mankinde fordone is  
 Sothfastnes & ri3t has geuen thair iuggement  
 <fol. 6v>Bot mercy & pees were no3t of that assent  
 Jf all go bi reddure of ri3t & sothfastnes  
 How sall mercy & pes shewe the kinges godenes  
 Jf al be thaim one deme sothfastnes & ri3t  
 Mercy pete & pece sal loise al thair my3t  
 ¶ Here spake Pece  
 NOw pece to the king begynnes to say  
 Faire gode dere fader thou has loued me ay  
 Thou art endles of pece prince & also king  
 And euer in pece salt thou be for ther thi dwellyng  
 Jf y for debate suld away fle

Thou suld haue no place lykand to the  
 Mi two dere *susters* now haue thai me forsaken  
 And *mercy* w<sup>t</sup> thaim two 3it haue thai not taken  
 W<sup>t</sup>outen vs thai be thaim self han gyuen a iuggement  
 That suld haue ben gyuen trewly w<sup>t</sup> *come* assent  
 Ther-for~ hit sal no3t ben of recorde  
 Til we four ben all of on acorde  
 All erthly thing is made for gode pece  
 And w<sup>t</sup> . <mrg><1 char lost on copy>uten</mrg> hit may ben non ese  
 Justisry is *neuer*more nedeful  
 Bot when it is to pece spedeful  
 How suld right & sothfastnes auaile  
 When thai wil no3t call me to thair counsaile  
 <fol. 7r>Ne *mercy* my *sister* that ay so gode is  
 That withouten hir no gilt amendid is  
 Therfore out of cuntre wil j fle  
 Til my thre *sisters* acorded be  
 Jf sothfastnes mete w<sup>t</sup> *mercy*  
 Then sall kis ri3twisnes & y  
 The prisoun calles *euer* vppon *mercy*  
 And *mercy* for *him* wil ay to the king cry  
 Til for him be paied al his raunsoun  
 And he be deliuered out of prisoun .  
 ¶ Here spak the kinges sone .  
 NOw the kinges sone has wele sene  
 That debate is his *sisters* betwene  
 And hit may no3t wele be amesed  
 Bot in-to his hande it be sesed  
 He says to that my3ty kyng anoun  
 Dere fader thou and J are all on  
 On substance on wysdam & on powere  
 And god while the holy gast is our~ fere  
 All on in substance if we be  
*Neuer*-the-les in *persons* we are thre  
 Thurgh me the warld thou made of no3t  
 Thurgh me agayn let hit be boght  
*Mercy* has so mekel moued me  
 <fol. 7v>That of that prisoun J haue pite  
 Dere fader J wil don al thi wille

And punysch~ al that is don ill  
 J sal take the clething of that wretchid *prisoun*  
 And *pruilly* for him sal J paye raunsoun  
 Of his kynde wil J become  
 And for him wil y take dome  
 More payn then ri3t & sothfastnes wold~ haue  
 Wil y suffre that *prisoun* for to saue  
 On this maner sothfastnes and *mercy*  
 Sal sone be made gode frendes *verraly*  
 Also pece and ri3twisnes  
 Thai sal kis w<sup>t</sup> gret swetnes  
 ¶ Here spak the *autour* .  
 WHO so redes this romance  
 Trowe in god w<sup>t</sup> on substance  
 Bot on is god & *persons* thre  
 Non othir thing in god may be  
*Fourr* sisters that we before rede  
 Are four~ vertues in in the godhede  
 To four~ *doghters* thai haue lyknyng  
 For thai *perciue* all gode doying  
 Bot all thai are on god of my3tes mast  
 He is fader and sone and haly gast .  
 <fol. 8r>Jf thou trowe this wele & stedfastly  
 Thou may haue mede ay lastanly  
 ¶ Here spak the king .  
 THE kyng has herd his awen sones speche  
 That of all the world is a god leche  
 Dere sone he says thurgh the J made all thing  
 And all the warld hynges in thi keping~  
 Thou & the haly+gast with me  
 Dose all gode dede that done sal be  
 Our~ dede may *neuer* departid be  
 For all on god in kynde are we thre  
 All only thou sal take manhede  
 Bot all we thre sall do the dede  
 Ri3t as two virgyns clethes the third  
 And 3it none of thaim bot on is cled  
 Dere sone this was our~ al thre *purpos* & curage  
 When we made man to our~ liknes & ymage

This hight y to abraham and to dauid  
 And my *prophetes* acorded ther-with  
 Jf mankynd sal out of his *prison* wyne  
 A man mot for him dye that has no *maner* synne  
 That is of my3t to ryse fro dede to the lyue  
 And his w<sup>t</sup> him out of *prison* ryue  
 And siche my3t ther be *neuer* non  
 <fol. 8v>Bot he were bothe god & man  
 Dere sone if thou wil dye & suffre payne  
 Bothe aungel & mankynde may be ful fayne  
 That souerayne *grace* and meknes  
 Sall be so ful of swetnes  
 That *neuer* may man wele haue in his mynnyng  
 Bot he be sterid to loue the ouer al thing  
 And titter be resoun his *hert* suld brest  
 Then he for any thing suld breken thi hest  
 ¶ Of ysaies *prophecies* .  
 OF ihesu crist telles ysay  
 To all mankynde *verrayly*  
 How a child is born til vs  
 And a sone is gyuen til vs  
 His name sal be+callid wonderful  
 Counsellour & god & strenghtful  
 Fader of the world that sal come  
 And prince of pece sal be his nome  
 Here spake the *autour* .  
 Jf any best in shap passed cours of kynde  
 A wonder in that wald many man fynde  
 Bot if a *perfit* man were a *perfit* as  
 Mikel more meruayl wald man say it was  
 Bot more maruayl may who-so can

## <Tranche 2>

<fol. 15r>Ri3t as the bri3t sonne beme comes & goos thurgh the glas  
 Al that man nede has of in this ilk castell  
 He that help has of hit has ynogh of wele  
 ¶ Here spak the *autour* .

GEntil lady of this castell  
 let me my myscheue to the telle  
 Moder of *mercy* & qwene of pite  
 To synful man thou art ay avowe  
 Ther .<sup>[for]</sup> at thi 3ates now y lye  
 Thi help and *mercy* for to crye  
 Mercy sal y fast crie befor this louely *tour*  
 Euer til J fynde sum of thi *socour*  
 Hope of help me made hider for to fle  
 When thre gret enemys fast *pursued* me  
 On is the foule fende w<sup>t</sup> al his *companie*  
 That puttes forth pride & wrath & *gret* enuye  
 The secund is the fals world w<sup>t</sup> many schrewed gyse  
 That shotes ay at me sha.<sup>[r]</sup>ply w<sup>t</sup> all couetise  
 The third is myn awne flesch to me a *gret* enemy  
 That prickes me w<sup>t</sup> lecherie sleuth & glotony  
 Welle of *mercy* J be ded & sone al fordoun  
 Bot a streme of thi *grace* come to me sone  
 Lady let me lye in thi castel dyke  
 And wasch me wele *ther* to thi seruant like  
 <fol. 15v>Then if myn enemys wil me assaile  
 Jn traist of thi gode help y tak that bataile  
 Jn this castil ihesu crist tok of the mankynd  
 Ther-for hope y euer hir *socour* for to fynde  
 Here hid~ god his gret power in mannes liknes  
 & laide enbuschement for the fend~ & al his wilkednes  
 Thou art the 3eit of aaron that bar the faire flour  
 When thou in clene maydenhede bar thi creatour  
 Thou art the stegh~ of iacob thurgh wham is gate to heuen  
 He may hope wele of help th<sup>t</sup> deuoutly wil the neuen  
 The kinges sone of al this world ligh the w<sup>t</sup>-ynne  
 For to saue & *socour* wel al synful man of synne  
 Now he has acorded alle his sisters foure  
 And pece is cryed for man . heghe vp in the toure  
 Now god & man are to-geder both~ in O . *persoun*  
 Now has man y-nogh whar w<sup>t</sup> to bye him fro *prisoun*  
 Now on man more *parfit* & withouten la<sup>k</sup>  
 Than euer was Adam . ar he goddis biddying brak  
 He is fre to plede for vs & al our~ ri3t dereigne

And no creature may haue cause vp on *him* to pleyn  
 In token of the *prince* of pees when he til vs come  
 Pees was ouer al in the world & reuling was in rome  
 Joye is sungen now to god vpon hegh~ in heuen  
 And pes in erthe til al man that are of gode wil euen  
 <fol. 16r>Til thi sone out of helle haue al his chosen bro3t  
 Fro he dyed til he rose that my3t him se  
 Alle the trewth~ of hali+kerk was stedfast in the  
 Alle his awen disciples of *him* thai wer~ dredand  
 Bot the faith in+thi *hert* ay it was lastand  
 Dere lady succour vs of dedly synnyng  
 For the ioye that thou hade of his vprising  
 ¶ How *ihesuc* is almy3ti .  
 HE rose by his awne my3t & that *verraily*  
 And shewed so that he was *ihesuc* almyghti  
 He that al this world made first of ri3t no3t  
 Man dampned . agayn w<sup>t</sup> his blode he bo3t  
 Thus has he gyuen vs a gode counsail  
 And thurgh ri3t venquist the fend in batail  
 His lyf has shewed vs a ful redy gate  
 For to entre if we will in w<sup>t</sup> heuen 3ate  
 For we sul traist on *him* in al our~ nede  
 He shewed vs the my3t of god in his manhede  
 Power of god and man was mellid in his dedis  
 And that to stablenes of our~ treuth gretly spedis  
 Ri3t as a sharp swerd of the fire al glowand  
 The egge kerues if he smyte the hete is brennand  
 So godhede & manhede in o *persoun*  
 Shewed thair kyndnes to mannes resoun  
 <fol. 16v>We rede when he was called til a weddyng  
 Whan thaim failed wyne sone at his bydding  
 Thai filled pottes of clene *water* in the stede of wyne  
 And thai wer~ *turned* in-to wyne & that gode & fyne  
 When he had fette *water* he shewed his manhed  
 And when he *turned* hit to wyne he shewed his godhed  
 For he my3t haue made wyne w<sup>t</sup>-outen *water* bro3t  
 Ri3t as he made when he wald al the world a no3t  
 Also w<sup>t</sup> fyue loues & only fisches two  
 He fedde as we rede fyue thousand & mo



When thai hade eten ynogh all that ther were  
 Twelf lepes of relef ful away thei bere  
 His manhed to thaim all delt bret & fische  
 Bot his godhed ther multiplied al this  
 3it we rede that lazar hade four dayes in his *graue*  
 when ihesu crist fro ded to lyue wald *him* vp haue  
 First he grette & sithen he cryed to lazar  
 That shewed that he was *verray* man thar  
 When lazar~ rose fro the ded & died mannes dede  
 Then was shewed that in crist was *verray* godhede  
 ¶ Of the sacrament of the auter .  
 GOd of all his *meruailes* made vs a gode mynd~  
 When he wold in forme of brede dwell w<sup>t</sup> mankin<rest missing on copy>  
 Thurgh the *vertue* of *cristes* wordes of the sacrament  
 <fol. 17r>That the prest reherces at his messe w<sup>t</sup> gode entent  
 Brede in-to *cristes* flesch~ & wyne in-to his blode  
 Sudanly is *turned* for mannes gastly fode  
 Nother brede ne wyne is after sacryng in the messe  
 Bot *verray* goddes flesch & blode in thair liknes  
 Ther is of brede & wyne sauour colour & figure .  
 Lastand thurgh~ goddes wil agayn *cours* of nature  
 But vnder this liknes is non other substance  
 Bot goddes body & his blode w<sup>t</sup> thair purtenance  
 In crist god & man saul & body flesch & blode  
 Are so fast knyt to-geder w<sup>t</sup> kynde & loue gode  
 That whar that is any *party* of *cristes* awen body  
 Ther will god be & thai all *verraily*  
 Therfor vndir liknes both~ of *wynn* & brede  
 Js *verray* both god & man that for vs was dede  
 This is goddes dede & passes mannes wit  
 He has mekel mede that trewly trowes hit  
 In this liknes gyues hit vs god that is so gode  
 For we wald be escheu of rawe flesch~ & of blode  
 Brede & wyne in the stomak taken to mete  
 Turnes in-to flesch & blode thurgh~ kyndly hete  
 Whi may no3t god then that al thing made of no3t  
 And as haly writ sais many wonder wro3t  
 Turne sone in-to flesch & blode both~ brede & wyne  
 <fol. 17v>For to be to cristen man gastly medicine

If thou receyue his flesch & blode worthily  
 Thou sal be as quik lym of his body  
 And if thou kepe the so out of dedly synne  
 As a cosyn of his thou sal heuen wynne  
 The pask lambe in the ald lawe that al *men* suld ete  
 And man that god send fro heuen til his folk mete  
 & blod that was *euer* offrid for clensyng of synne  
 Was taken of his sacrament that our~ help is ynne  
 All the tokens of this sacrament that we ay can fynd~  
 In the old lawe trugh trowth of this come<sup>s</sup> til our~ mynd~  
 & all the maruailes that god ar he man ware  
 & of that clene mayden & modir that *him* bare  
 If man wil w<sup>t</sup> al his my3t loue this sacrament  
 & vse hit out of dedly synne ay w<sup>t</sup> gode entent  
 Nother tunge may wel telle ne *hert* may wel think  
 The noble and gastly *profit* of this mete & drink  
 ¶ How *ihesuc* is al strenghty .  
 NOw hast thou herd wele how *ihesuc* is almy3ty  
 Here now how he is ouer al *other* strenghty  
 This name of *ihesuc* has so gret in *him vertu* & my3t  
 That all in heuen erth~ & helle suld til *him* loue w<sup>t</sup> ri3t  
 Oft in this name god mannes *prayer* spedes  
 Agayn the fend that hit ful mekil dredes  
 <fol. 18r>This name is mirthe in hering & comfort in si3t  
 Triacle in mouth & in *hert* that is of mekil my3t  
 Socour til all synful men & to seke solace  
 To *him* that is repentant ay ful of grace  
 The fend was prince of this world & hade *man* in *prisoun*  
 Ay til our *ihesu crist* hade suffred *passioun*  
 Ther was non so hely that my3t in erth dwell  
 Bot his saule qwen he died suld go to hell  
 Hely men wer~ in merknes ther thai no payn feld~  
 Bot the fend fro thair ioye agayn thair wil *thaim* held  
 And the 3ate of paradys was agayn *thaim* stoken  
 Til *ihesuc* w<sup>t</sup> his *passioun* hade made it open  
 When the fende sagh *him* wele on the crois hyngand  
 He wend to haue made *him* forth ay in hell lengand  
 Bot sone the saul w<sup>t</sup> the godhede as a fer~ lyon  
 And a kyng of al the world & no3t as a *prisoun*



Come to hell & brast thair banes w<sup>t</sup> his will fre  
And toke out all anon w<sup>t</sup> *him* that dyed in charite  
Him calles men a+lord strong and my3ty  
That has ay when he wil in batail the maistry  
Sone he venquist the fend & cuttyd his power  
That he suld no3t tempt vs more then we mi3t ber~  
Thus is *ihesuc* our refut strenght & socour  
Our help & our hele our ioye & our honour