

<County: Worcestershire>

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<Text: Piers Plowman C>

<Tranche 1>

<fol. 1r>IN a somur sesoun whan softe was þe sonne
J schop me in-to schrobbes as y a scheperde were
In a-byte as as an Eremite vnto holy werkes
J wente forþ in þe worlde wondres to here .
And sau3 mony selles and selcowthe þynges
And on a May+morwnyns on maruer+hulles
Me by-fel forto slepe for werynesse of wandryng~
And in a launde as y lay lened y and slepte .
And merueylously y mette as J may 3ow telle .
Al þe welþe of þys worlde and the wo boþe .
walkyng~ as hit were wyterly y sau3 hit
Of truþe and of trycherye tresoun and gyle
Al y sau3 slepyng~ as y schal 3ow telle .
Estewarde y behul aftur the sounne
And sau3 a toure as y trowede truþe was þer-ynne .
Westeward y waytede in a whyle aftur .
And sau3 a depe dale deþ as y leone
woned in tho wones and wyckede spyrites
A fair feld ful of folke fond y þer by-twene
Al maner of men þe mene and þe ryche .
worchyng and waundryng~ as þe world askep .
Summe puttem hem to þe plou3 and pleyden ful selde
In setting~ and sowyng swonken ful harde .
And wonnon þe wastorus w^t gloteny destruyen .
Summe putten hem to pruyde and paraylden hem þer-aftur .
In contenance of clopyng in mony maner wyse
Jn preyers and penaunces putten hem monye .
Al for þe loue of oure lord lyueden ful harde

Jn hope to haue good ende and heuen ryche blys .
 As ancre and eremytes þat holdeþ hem in here celles .
 Coueyten nat in contreys to caryen a-bowte .
 For no lycorous lyfuelode here lycame to plese .
 And som chesoun chaffare þey cheuesede þe betere .
 As hit semeþ to oure sy3t þat suche men þryueþ .
 And somme murþes to make as mynistrals conneþ
 þat wyllen neyþer swynke ne suete but suere gret oþus .
 <fol. 1v>And fynden vp foul feyntises and fooles hem maken
 And hauen wyt and wyll to worche 3yf þey wolde
 þat paule precheþ of hem pro-euen hit y my3t .
 <lat><three words></lat> is lucyferes knaue
 Bydderes and beggeres . faste a-bowte 3eeden .
 Tyl here bagge and here bely was bredful J.crammed
 Faytynge for her foode and fou3ten at þe ale
 Jn glotony þe goomes goþ þey to bedde .
 And ryseþ w^t rybaudye þo Robberes knaues .
 Slepe and synful sleuthe duelleþ suche euere
 Pylgryms and palmers ply3ten hem to-gedere
 To seche seynt Jame and seyntus of rome
 wenten forþ in here wey w^t mony vnwyse tales .
 And hauen leue to lye al here lyf tyme .
 Eremytes on an hep w^t hoked staues
 wenten to walsyngham and here wenchis after
 Gret lopers and longe and loþ were to swynke
 Cloped hem in copes to be knowe fram oþer
 And made hem-selue Eremytes her ese to haue
 y fonde þere of freres al þe foure ordres
 Prechyng þe pepul for profyte of þe wombe
 And glosyng~ þe gospel as hem good lyckede
 For couetyse of copes contraryede somme doctours
 Mony of þes maystres of mentynauns frerus
 here money and here marchandyse marchen to-gederes
 Ac seþ charyte haþ be chapmon & chyef to schryue lordes
 Mony ferlys han fallen in a fewe 3eerus
 But holy+chirche chop adoun suche schryuers
 þe most myschyf on molde mounteþ vp faste .
 þer preched a pardonere as he a preste were
 And brou3t forþ a bulle w^t bysschopes seales

he seyde þat hym-self myȝt assoylen hem alle
 Of falnesse of fastynge of vowes to-broke
 lewede men leuede hym wel and lyked his wordes
 Comen and kneleden to kyssen his bulles
 he blessedde hem w^t his bulles and blered here ye
 And rauȝt w^t his ragemon rynges broches .
 <fol. 2r>þus 3e 3euen 3owir gold glotenus to helpe .
 And leneþ hit to lorelles þat lechery haunten .
 were þe bysschop blessud or worþ boþe his eren
 his seal schuld nat be sent in deseyt of þe peple
 Ac hit is nat by þe bysschop þat þe boye precheþ .
 þe parysseþ prest & þe pardoner parten þe seluer
 þat poure pepul in parysshes schold haue ȝyf þey ne were
 Persones and paryssh+prestus pleyned to þe bysschop .
 þat here parysshes ben poure seþ þe pestylens tyme .
 To haue lycense and leue in london to duelle .
 And synge þer for symonye whil seluer is swete .
 Bysshopes and bachilers boþe maystirs and doctours
 þat han cure vnder criste and crownynge in tokene
 beþ charged w^t holy chirche charyte to tulye
 þat is leel loue and lyf amonge lered and lewed .
 þey lyen in londoun in lenton and elles .
 Somme seruen þe kynge and his seluer tellen .
 In þe cheker and chauncellerye chalenge his dettes .
 Of wardes and wardemotes waynes and straynes .
 Somme aren as seneschalles and seruen <ill><1 word></ill> lordes .
 And ben in stede of stewardes and sitton and demen<?> .
 Conscience cam and acusede hem and þe co<ill><....></ill> herde hit
 And seyde ydolatrie 3e soffren in sondry <ill><two words></ill>
 And boxes ben set forþ bo<ill><..></ill>den with jren
 To vndurtake þe tol of vntrewe sacrificise
 In menyng of myracles <ill><four words></ill>
 Al þe world wot wel <ill><rest of line></ill>
 Ac for hit profyteþ <ill><rest of line></ill>
 þat lewede men in <ill><rest of line></ill>
 J leue wel by oure lord for loue <ill><two words></ill>
 þat al þe world be þe wors as holy wryt telleþ
 what cheste<?> and <ill><five? words></ill>
 Ful <ill><5 words?></ill> þorow to false prestes

For þe <ill><1 word></ill> of Ophyn . and fynes his broþer
 þey were <ill><2 words></ill> batail and loften archa dei .
 And for <ill><4 words></ill> and soffred hem <ill><two words></ill>
 And not <ill><5 words></ill> rebuke hem .
 <fol. 2v>Anonn as hit was told hym þat þe children of israel
 weren dyscomfyt in batayle and **archa dei** . y-lore
 And his sones slayn anon he ful for sorwe
 Fro his chayer þer he sat & brak his necke a-tweyne
 And al was for veniaunce þat he beted not his children .
 And for þey weren prestes and menne of holy chirche
 God was wel þe wroþer and toke þe raþer veniaunce
 For-py J say 3e prestes and men of holy chirche
 þat suffren men do sacryfice & worschypen mawmetes
 And 3e shuld be here fadres and teche hem betre
 God schal take veniaunce on alle suche prestus
 wel hardur and gretture on suche schrewede fadres
 þe euer he dede on **Ophyn** and **Fynees** or on here fader
 for 3oure schrewede suffraunce and 3oure owne synne .
 3oure masse & 3oure matyns & mony of 3oure owres
 Aren donn vndeouolyche drede is at þe laste
 leste criste in his constory of 3ow a-corse monye
 J parceyuede of þe power þat **petur** hadde to kepe .
 To bynde and to vnbynde as þe book telluþ .
 how he is loste w^t loue as oure lord wolde .
 Amonnges four vertues moste vertues of vertues .
 þat cardynals ben ycalde and closynge 3atus
 þer criste is in kyndam to close w^t heuene .
 Ac of þe cardynals at court þat cau3te han suche a+name
 And power presumen *in* hem-self a pope to make
 To haue þe powere þat **petur** hadde jngunen<?> y nelle
 For in loue and lecture lyþe þe grete eleconn .

Conturplede hit nau3t quap **Conscience** for holy chirches sake
 þen kam þer a kynge kny3thod hym ladde
 þe meche my3t of þo men made hym to regne .
 þan come kynde wyt and kny3thod to-gederes
 Casten þat þe comune contreouede alle craftes
 And for most *profytable* to poeple a plou3 þey gunne make .
 with lel labour to lyue wel lef and lond lasteþ .

þenne kynde+wyt to þe kyng~ and to þe comune seyde
 Criste kepe þe kyng and þy kynde ryche
 And loue þe lede so þy londe þ^t leaute þe louye .
 <fol. 3r>And for þy ry3tful rulyng be rewarded in heuene
 Conscience to clergye and to þe kyng seyde

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

Consciencie and þe kyng in-to courte wenten .

wher houed an hundred in houes of selke
 Sergauns hit semeden þat seruen atte barre
 To plede for penyes and poundes þe lawe
 And nou3t for oure lordes loue vnlose here lyp ones
 þow my3test beter mete þe myst on maluerne hulles
 þan gete a+mom of here mouþ tyl monye be schewed .
 þenne ranne þer a rowe of ratones as hit were
 and smale Muys w^t hem mo þen ten þowsand
 Comen to a counsayl for here comune profit .
 For a Cat of a Cote cam whan hym lyket
 And ouer-hopped hem ly3tliche & lau3t hem at wylle
 And pleyde w^t summe perylously & put hem þer hym liked
 And 3if we grucche of his gamen he wol greue vs sarrur
 To his cleos clawon vs and in his cloches holde
 þat vs loþeþ þe lyf er he lete vs passe .
 My3t we w^t eny wit his wil to w^t-sette
 we my3t be lordes of loft and lyuen as vs lusten .
 þo seyde a ratoun of renoun most resonable of tonge
 y haue seye gret sires in cyteus and in townes
 Bere byes of bry3t gold al a-boute here neckes
 And colers of crafty werkes boþe kny3tes & squyers
 were þere a belle on here by3e by ihesu me þynkeþ
 Men my3t wyte were þey wente and here way rowme
 Ry3t so quap þe ratoun resoun me þynkeþ
 A belle to buggen of bras or of bry3t seluer
 And knutte hit on a coler for oure comune profit
 And hange a-bowte þe cattes necke þan here we mowe

And a-pere in his presence whil hym pleye lykep .

<Tranche 2>

<fol. 83r><line 33>Wel wery & wetschod went y forþ aftur
 As recheles renk þ^t reccheþ nat of sorowe
 A 3eede forþ like a lorel al my lyf tyme
 Tyl y wexe wery of þis world and wilned efte slepe
 Of gurles and of **gloria laus** gretliche me dremede .
 <fol. 83v>And how **osanna** by orgen olde men songen
 On was semblable to þe **samaritan** & somdel to pers plouhman .
 Barfot on an asse bak botles cam prykyng
 w^t-oute spores oþur spere ac braglyche he lokede
 As is þe kynde of a kny3t þat comeþ to beo dobet .
 To getom his gult spores and galeges y-coped
 þenne was **faith** in a fenestre and cryde <lat>**fili dauid**</lat>
 As doþ an heraud of armes when auntres comedþ to iouste .
 Olde iewes of **ierusalem** . for ioie þey songen .
 þan y frayned at **faith** what al þat fare by-mente
 and ho scholde iousten in **ierusalem ihesuc** he seyde
 And fecche þat þe feond cleymeþ **peres** fruyte þe ploulman .
 Js peres in þis place qd y & he pryked vp-on me
 <lat>**liberum dei arbitrium**</lat> qd he for loue haþ vndurtake
 þat þes **ihesuc** of is gentrye schal iouste in **peres** armes
 In his helm & in his hauberioun <lat>**humana natura**</lat>
 þat **criste** be not y-knowe for <lat>**consummatus deus** . </lat>
 In peres plates þe plouhman þeos prykyere schal ryde
 For no dynt schal hym dere as in<lat><two words></lat>
 ho schal iouste w^t **ihesus** qd y iewes or scribes
 Nay quap **fayþ** but þe feonde & fals dom to dye
 Deþ seyþ he wol fordo and adoun brynge
 Al þat lyueþ or lokeþ a lounde & in watere
 Lyf seyþ he lyep and haþ leyd his lyf to wedde
 þ^t for al þat deþ can do with-in þre dayes
 To walke & fecche fro þe feond peres fruyt þe plouhman
 And legge hit þer hym lykep and **lucifer** bynde
 And for-byte adoun and brynge bale deþ for euere
 þenne can **pilatus** with mucche poeple
 To seo heu dou3tyliche deþ schold do & deme her breþ ry3te

þe iewes & þe iustices a3eyns ihesuc þey were
 And alle þe court cryede <lat>crucifige</lat> looude
 þenne putte hym a pelour by-fore pilat and seyde
 þes ihesuc of oure iewene temple iapede & despisede
 To for-doun hit on a day & in þre dayes after
 Edifyen hit eft newe her he stant þat seyde hit
 And 3ut maken hit as muche in alle manere poyntes
 <fol. 84r>Boþe as longe & as large a loft and a grounde
 And as wyde as hit euer was þis we witnes alle
 <lat>crucifige</lat> qd a kachepol he can of wicche-crafte
 tolle tolle quap anoper and tok of kene þornes
 And bygan of grene þorne a garlaunde to make
 And sette hit sore on his heued and seþ seyde in enuye .
 Aue rabby qd þat rybaud & reodes schotte at his yen
 And nayled hym w^t yre nayles naked on þe roode
 And w^t a pole poyson putten to his lippes
 And bede hym drynke his deþe to lette & his dayes lengþen
 And seyde yf he soþfaste beo he wol hym-selue helpon
 And now 3yf þow be criste criste godes sone
 Com adoun of þis roode and þen wol we leue
 þat lyf þe louyep and wol nat let þe dye
 <lat>Consummatum est</lat> quap criste & comsed for to swouene
 Pytousliche & pale as prysoun þat dyep
 þe lord of lyf & of ly3t þo leyd is yen to-gederes
 þe day for drede þerof withdrou3 & derke by-cam þe sonne
 þe wal of þe temple to-clef euyn a tw peces
 þe hard roche al to-ref & ritht deorke ny3t hit semed
 þe erþe quok & quakede as hit quycke wore
 And dede men for þat deone comen out of deop graues
 And tolde why þat tempest so longe tyme durede
 For a bittur batayle þe dede body sayde
 Lyf & deep in þis derknesse here oun fordop þat oper
 Ac schal no why3te wite witturly ho shal haue þe maistrie
 Or sonne-day a-boute þe sonne rysynge & sank w^t þ^t til eorþe
 Summe sayde he was godes sone þat so fayr deyde
 Sum sayde he can of sorcerye good is þat we assaye
 wher he beo ded or nat ded doun or he beo take
 þo þeues þer were þoleden deþ þat tyme .
 vpon croys by-sydes criste so was þe comune lawe

Quyclyche cam a kachepol & craked a two here legges
 And here armes after of eueryche of þo þeues
 Ac þer was no boy so bolde godes body to touche
 For he was kny3t & kynges sone kynde for3at þ^t tyme
 þat no boy hadde hardynesse hym touche in dyinge .
 <fol. 84r>Ac þer cam forþ a blynt kny3t with kene spere y-grounde

Hy3t **longius** as þe lettre telluþ & lonnge had lore his sy3t
 Byfore **pilat** & oþer poeple in þe place he houede
 Maugrey his mony teþ he was mad þat tyme
 To iouste with **ihesuc** þis blynde iewe **longius** .
 For alle hy weren vnhardy þ^t houeden þer or stode
 To touche hym or to tryne hym or to taken hym doun or graue hym .
 But þis blynde bacheler þ^t bar hym þorow þe herte
 þe blood sprand doun by þe spere & vnsperred þe kny3tes yen .
 þo ful þe kny3t vpon kneos & cryede **ihesu** mercy
 A3eyns my wil hit was quap he þat y 3ow wounde made
 he sy3ed & seyde sore hit me for-þynkeþ
 Of þe dede þat y haue donn y do me in 3owre grace
 My lond & my lycame at 3oure lykyng takeþ hit
 And haue mercy on me ry3tful **ihesu** ry3t w^t þat he wepte
 þenne gan **fayþ** foully þe false iewes to despysen
 And calde hem caytyf acorsed for þis was a+vyle vylanye
 veniaunce is to 3ow falle þat makede þe blynde
 Beten hym þat was ded hit was a+boyes dede
 Corsed caityf kny3thod was hit neuere
 To bete a body bounde w^t eny bry3t wepene
 þe gree 3it hap he getorn for alle his grete woundes
 For 3oure chaumpyon chyualer chyef kny3t of 3ow alle
 3elt hym recreaunt remynge ry3t at ihesu wil
 For beo þis dernesse y-do deþ worþ y-venkysed
 And 3ee lordynges han lost for lyf schal haue þe maistrie .
 And 3owre fraunchyse þ^t freo was fallen is to þrالدome
 And al 3oure children cherles cheuen schul þey neuer
 Ne haue lordschipe in londe noþur lond tulye
 And as barayne bee by vsure lybbe
 þe whiche is lyf þat our lorde in alle lawes defendeþ
 Now beoþ 3oure good dayes donn as **daniel**
 when crite with croys ouercam 3oure kyndom schal to-cleue

what for fere of þis ferly & of þis false iuwes
 J drow in þat derkenesse to <lat>descendit ad inferna .</lat>
 And þer y sayh soply <lat></lat>
 Out of þe west as hit were a wenche as me þouhte
 <fol. 85r>Cam walkynge in þe way to helle ward he lokede
 Mercy hihte þat mayde a mylde þynge with alle
 And ful benygne burde and buxom of speche
 Heore suster as hit semede cam softly walkynge
 Euene out of þe est & westwarde he þoupte
 A comely creature & clene trewþe scheo hyhte
 For þe vertu þat heore folowede aferd was scheo neuer
 when þis mayden metten mercy and treuþe
 Ayþur axede of oþer of þis grete wondur
 Of þe dene and derknesse & how þe day roued
 And whiche a ly3t & leem lay by-fore helle
 J haue ferly of þis fare in fayþ seyde treuþe
 And y am wendynge to wyte what þis wonder menep
 Haue no meruayle þer-of quap **mercy** murþe hit bytoknep
 A+mayde þat hatte **marie** & moder w^t-oute velynge
 Of eny kynde of creature conceyued þorow speche
 And grace of þe holy gost wax gret with childe
 w^t-oute wommone wem in-to þis world brou3t hym
 And þat my tale is trewe y take god to witnese
 Syþen þis barn was y-bore beoþ þrytty wynter passed
 Deyde & deþ polede þis day a-boute mydday
 þat is þe cause of þis eclipse þ^t ouerclose now þe sonne
 Jn menynges þ^t man schal fro merkenesse beo drawe
 þe while þis ly3t & þis leom schal **lucifer** ablynde
 For **patriarkes** & **prophetes** han *preched* her-of ofte
 þat þynge þat tynt was with treo . treo schal hit wynne
 And þat þ^t deþ doʒn brou3te del schal releue
 þat þ^t þow tellest quap **treuþe** is but a tale of walterot
 For **adam** and **eue** and **abraham** with oþere
patriarkes & **prophetes** þat in þe peyne lyggen
 Leef hit neuere þat 3eon liht hem alofte brynge
 Ne haue hem out of helle hold þy tonge **mercy**
 It is trufle þat þow tellest y **treuþe** wot þe soþe
 þat þynge þat ones is in helle out comeþ hit neuere
 for+**iob** þe parfit patriarke repreoueþ þy saweþ



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<lat><one line></lat>

þen **mercy** ful myldeliche mouþede þeos wordes .