

<County: Hampshire>

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<MS reference: Oxford, Bodleian Library, Ashmole 750, Hand A>

<Text: Model of exhortation to the dying>

<Tranche 1>

<fol. 11v><line 12><space for initial>mj dere frend thu hyest faste in ~~to~~ the wey to god
 ward . where thu schalt ~~see~~ se alle thi forme faderes
 . aposteles . martres *confessores* *virgines* . and alle men
 and *wymmen* that both saued . and therefore be of goud confort
in god . and þu most legge afton in wal of the cite of
 heuene . with-oute ~~en~~ eny noyse or strife . and ther-fore or
 thu wend out of thys world . thu most mak thy stond redy
 and than thu schalt nouth be let . ¶ This ston is thy soule
 whuche ; þu most make clene . the ~~no~~se noyse whuche þu
 most make here ; is forthyinkyng of thy synne . whuche
 þu moste telle to þi preyst . the stok is penaunce þat þu
 schalt be sory for thy synne . and smyte þi self<?> vpon
 þi brest And whanne þu haste made redy thus þi ston :
 þanne maist þu go thi wey *in* god . & legge þi ston sicurly
 wyth-oute eny noise *in* þe cite of heuene . & þerfore J conseile
 the that þu schriu the clene & mak the redy ¶ This is
~~no3th~~ no3t only to be told to sike . but also to hole . For euery
 day a+man ne3eth his ~~de~~ dyth ner and ner and *scripture*
~~say~~ seith . the ~~may a man~~ more a+man wexit ; the more he
 <fol. 12r>vnwexith . and þerfor seyth þe gospel . awake . awake . for thu wost
 neuere whanne our lord wil come . & þerfor lok and be
 alwey redy Also ~~de~~ere dere frend þu schalt vnderstonde .
 that god visiteth men *dyuersly* for synne . Some with *prisonynge*
 some wip *diuers* siknes ; and if synne were away . than is
 syknes schold aslake as þe gospel beryth wytnes . wher god
~~say~~ seid to ten meseles whan he hadde helid hem of here
 lepre . goth he seide and synneth ~~neuer~~ ne more ; auauntere
 3ow betyde wors . as ho seith ; for 3owr synne 3e hadde thys

syknes . ¶ And ~~th~~ þerfor~ it ordened be lawe that euery leche
 schal 3yue no bodely medycyn to syk man ; tille he be helud
 gostly . and that he haue tak gostly medycyn . þat is to say ;
 schrift and housel . and if be wel schryue & veray repentant
 : J drede no3t that the siknesse schal aslake whuche
 he had for hys synne : or elles it schal turne hym to myche
 blysse after his deth . and þerfor if ~~sek~~ syknes slak no3t ; confort
 hym in ~~this~~ thus maner~ **How þu schalt conforte a syk+man that he gruche no3t nowth**
 <place for initial>frend louest þu thy lord god : he wil sey . 3ey .
 Thanne þus . if þu louest god thu louest that þ^t
 he doth . and he <=> scorgeth the . & þerfore þu schalt gladly
 suffr~ it . Her of speketh salomon & seyth . Sone groche
 no3t a3eyns the chastyng of þi fader . For ~~he~~ ^[he is] no sone ;
 whan the fader chaystyth no3t . & it acordeth with comine
 maner of speche . For if a+ma~ se a-noper mannes chyld do
 schrewidlyche in his fader presence . and þe fader chastith
 hym no3t ; thanne wol the other ma~ sey þat it is no3t his
 chyld . or elles he loueth hym noght . Fo if he were his
 <fol. 12v>child . or if louede hym . he wolde chaste hym . & þerfore be
 no3t euel payd of thy faderes chastynge of heuene . for
 he seþ hym-sulf . whom J loue J chaste ¶ Also siknesse
 of body ; macuþ soule hel . & hel is ony of god . þerfor ~~dis~~
 despise no3t godes scorge . but whanne god punischip the .
 thanke hym & loue hym þat he amendeth the and vndirnemyth
 the & blameþ the & punyschyth the no3t in
 hys wrehte . ne in wodnesse ; but in his grete mercy .
 thank thy god . & þenk þat his mercy passip alle his grete
 wrece . he is þi iuge he wyl no3t dampne the . bute
 he wile haue mercy of the . mercifully he chastyþ þe ; ~~but~~
~~he wile no3t~~ and þar þu haddest deseruyd for haue his
~~ans~~ ueniance & suffriþ of his grete mercy . & punischip
 the here but a while & þer-for despise no3t his 3erd of
 mercy . ne gruche no3t þer a3ene . bute suffr~ hit gladly
 for alle the domes of god buþ ~~rygh~~ ri3ful . ¶ No3
 sipthe sikenesse of body is hele to soule . and wil þu
 or wil þu no3t þu schalt haue it . if þu gruche a3ens
 god ; wyþ thy gruchinge þu makyst thy soule more
 feble . & so þu profitest no3t to thy ~~soule~~ self . gruchyng
 a3ens thy fader . whuche is thy leche ; but greuest

thy self in diuers manere . on is ; þu greuest thy god
 an oper is . þu schalt no3t haue so mucche gostly mede as
 þu schuldest haue if þu suffre it pacientlych . ¶ And
 þu schalt knowe þat almerciful god fader of heuen
 punyschyth no3t o thyng twyies . and þerfor w^t a glad
 herte þu schalt suffre syknes þat god haþ send to þe
 here . for it schal alegge the payne of purgatorie so þat
 þu schalt þe soner come to þe kingdom of heuene
 <fol. 13r>¶ Thenk . þat if þe kyng to ~~wom~~ whom þu hast be
 traytour hadde for3iue þe þi dep . & punischip the bute a+wyle
 in an esy prison . & þu wer mucche by-holde to hym . mucche
 more þu ert by-holde to god . to whom þu hast be traytorir
 and haþ for-3iue the . euerlestynge dep ; and punischip þe
 bute with a+lite sikenes . **Of thu maist no3t for haste
 of deth seie al this befor ; be gyn here**
 <space for initial, with d indicated>Ere frend if þu þo3test and ~~wel~~ wel seie þe
 muscheues of thys world ; þu schuldest desire to
 deie . & be wiþ god . holy ~~wyt~~ writ ~~fe~~ seyb . blessid be þo .
 that deyeth in god . loke the begynnyge of þi lief ; care and
 sorwe ; thi forþ liuinge . trauayl . tene . and desese & so þu ledest
 þi ~~h~~ lief ¶ Now whether is ~~it~~ hit betre to dye wel . or
 liue in ele . sothly to die wel . thu mayst no3t liue fully wel
 by no wey in þis ~~worlde~~ wrecid worlde . for seuen tymes
 on the day ; fallip þe ri3tful+man and caton seyth ; þat no
 ma~ liueth wyth-oute defaute . and þer-fore seint powel
 seith . J desire to be ded . and be wyith god . for the wiccudnisse
 of þis world may no man telle . here is hungur &
 thirst . chele & hete trauail & werinesse . enuye and wrathe
 glotonie & licherye . pride and sleuthe . couetise and falnyse
 mansla3ter & thefthe & many opere . and ~~þ~~ ther is no ma~
 wyth-out alle these . that he ^[ne] hath trespassid in some of þese
 these . for euery man is sinful . and therfor the old filosofere<cropped>
 made euere sorw whan her^[e] children were bore ; and ioy<cropped>
 whan they deide & passed out of this wo of this worlde .
 Seynt austin whanne he scholde be ded ; he spak to deth
 in thys maner~ . O thu deth ende of alle wikkednes and ~~tra~~
 trauayl ; biginnige of esse & of alle ioie . what man may be bithenk<cropped>
 the profites & blisses that thu bringest with the . thu ert desirf<cropped>
 <fol. 13v>to me . for a cristine man may no3t euel ~~de~~ deye .

but wel deye . **Of he to dethe haste ; bigyn her &
 say thus deuouthlych**

<space for initial, with s indicated>Jre ert thu glad that thu schalt deie in cristene

fei3 . R^o . 3e . ¶ knowlechist that thu hast no3t

wel liued as thu scholdest . R^o . 3e . Art thu sori tharfore .

. R^o . 3e . ¶ Hast thu wil to amende thy lief . if thu haddest space

. R^o . 3e . ¶ Liuest thu in god fader almi3ti maker of heuene

& of erthe . R^o . 3e . ¶ Liuest thu *in* the fader & sone & holy

gost thre *persones* & on god . R^o . 3e . ¶ Liuest thu that oure

lord *ihesuc* crist godis sone of heuene was conceued of the

holy gost . & tok flesch & blod of oure ladi seint marie . &

was bore of hure hue being maide . R^o . 3e . ¶ liuest thu that liing

his body In graue . his soule wente to helle to feche out

tho that were there . and the thred day he rose in verrai

bodi and soule & aftir stei vp to heuene . R^o . 3e . ¶ Liuest

thu that he schal come a3en to deme alle men quike &

deyd. *after* her deseruing . R^o . 3e . ¶ Thankest thu thi god

for alle that hat do for the . R^o . 3e . ¶ liuest thu that

thu maist no3t be sauid bute ~~be~~ bi his deth . R^o . 3e .

<lat>Tunc dicat sacerdos</lat> . ~~wh~~ whil thi soule is *in* thi bodi ;

put al thi trist in his passion & his deth . & thenk holi

þar on . & on non other thing . with his deth medle the

& wrape the ther Jnne . no3t thenkinge on thi wif . ne on

thi child . ne on thi riches but only on the passion of *criste*

And haue the crois to-fore the . & sey thus . J wot wel

thu art no3t my god . but thu art ymagened aftur hym &

makest me haue minde on tho reuful wondes whuche he

<fol. 14r>suffred for mi sake vp-on the crois as is here figured

¶ lord fader of heuene . the deth of oure lord *ihesu* criste

thi sone wyche is here ymagened . J set bi-twene the &

myne euele . dedes . and the deseruing of *ihesu* crist . & offre

for that J schulde haue deseruid & haue no3t . ¶ lord the

deth of oure lord *ihesu* crist thi sone whuche was bore of

seint marie modir & ma^[i]de ; J sette bi-twene me & thi wrathe .

¶ Jn-to ~~thi hond~~ thine hondis lord J tak my soule ; for þu

god of truthe bou3test me Seint austin spak to god in ^{thus manere}

<space for initial, with a indicated> Mi lord god . my *merci* . mi refuit .

the J desire . to the J fle . J hi3e to come to the . lord

despise no3t me tho3 J be wrechud & sinful . bot be to me

myn helpere in these my grete nedes . for J may no3t ~~h~~ helpe
~~and~~ my-self with mi workes . but thu lorde that bo3test
 me ; bring me out of care . & haue mercy on me . J trest no3t on
 my dedis ; bute despere of hem . but 3it merciful god J trest
 more on thy merci ; than j despere of my wiccude dedes . thu
 art my god . thu art my hope . thu art ful of merci . a-3ens the
 j haue sinned thur my grete defaute . j come & knowleche
 to the . j beschehe the of mercy . whyche demest to no man mercy .
 J desire be ded & be wyth the . In to thyne hondis lord J take
 my soule ; for thu bo3test me god of trupe <lat></lat>

<Tranche 2>

<fol. 15r><line 22><space for initial, with g indicated>Oude men & wymmen . hit is ordered by the
 consail of al holy cherche . Furst of oure
 holy fader the pope of Rome and his cardinales
 and al his consail . sythe of alle archebysschopis
 and bysschopis and alle the clerg^[i]e ; that euerrich man of
 holy cherche that hath soules to kepe . scholde schewe
 among hem foure tymes by the 3er the articles þ^t be
 wryte in ^[pe] general sentence . that is for to saey<?> ; the poyntes
 that longeth to the grete cors . On is . the furste
 Sonday of Aduent . that other is the furst sonday of
 <fol. 15v>lente . the thredde is the nexte sonday after witsonday
 and the furste sonday after the assumpcion
 of oure ladi . Of to maner of cursynge holy church
 telleth <lat></lat>
 Pia . That on is calle<add>i</add>d the lasse curs ; that other
 is calle<add>i</add>d the more curs . And thys moste openlych
 be taught to lewede men . that they may knowe
 perfitlych te myschef ther-of . that no man scholde haue
 mater to excuse hym by . wher-for 3e schul vnderstonde
 at þe be<add>i</add>gynnyng . that this word cursinge ; is thus
 myche to sey . as a+departinge fro god & fro alle goude
 werkes . <lat></lat> That we
 clepith the lasse curs ; is of this strengthe . that euery
 man & womman that falleþ þer-jnne . hit departeth
 hem fro alle the sacramentes þat both ~~don~~ in holy

cherche . that they may non of hem receue ; til they
 be asoild . ¶ The mor curs is myche wors . and is
 of thys strengthe . for it departith a+man fro god & holy
 churche . & also fro the companie of alle cristene folk .
 neuere to be sauid bi the passion of god . ne to be holpe
 bi the sacramentes that be don in holy chirche . ne to
 haue parte in praier wyth no cristene man . as witnesseth
 wel seint austin <lat></lat> ¶ Cleitus
 seith that a Child ere hit be crisned ; hit hath a wicud
 spirit dwelling in the soule . <lat></lat> The
 whiche wiccude spirit is coniured & cast out thoruthe
 praier of the prest bi-fore the churche dore whanne he
 ssal be cristened . the whyche sacrament of bapteme is
 ground & biginninge of alle manere sacramentes . as
 <fol. 16r>was verilych bi-tokned in the passion of oure lord
 ihesu crist bi water that ren out of his syde whanne
 alle his blode was go . so ~~that be sacrament~~ that be
 the sacrament of baptime ; he is made godis childe .
 and he receueth there part of the passion of crist . & part
 of alle sacramentes . & alle praieres ; that buth do in holy
 churche . and also he receueth part of alle goude dedis
 that be don among alle cristene folk . and if he holde
 to god couenant that he macuth ~~her~~ there ; for to haue
 a dwellyng-place for euere in the blisse of heuene . Bute
 what tyme he trespasseth a3ens the lawe of god . that
 he ^[is] worthy to be acursid of ~~at~~ holy churche ; thanne he is
 departed fro god and fro alle goude werkes <lat></lat>
 And he thanne deliuered to the fend of helle . to putte him
 for his synne in to peyne with-oute ende <lat></lat>
 <lat></lat> And ther-for^[e] is no thing in alle this
 worlde that a cristene man ou3te so gretli drede ; as for ^[to] falle
 in eny wei in to the sentence of cursinge . the whiche departeth
 hym fro god . that is ^[his] fader . and fro holy cherche that is
 <mrg>his</mrg> moder <lat></lat> Also cursinge is clepid the
 swerd of holy churche <lat></lat>
 <lat></lat> For ri3t as a+swerd we se that the
 strok of þe werd hit sleth and departeth the lif fro
 the body ; ri3t so the strok of this gostly swerd it departeth
 & doth away god fro man or womma~ whiche is acursid

. for ri3t as the soule is þe lif of mannes body . so is god
 the lif of mannes soule . so J sey . that they & alle her werkes
 be euere more dede after . but if they haue speciel *grace*
 of god for to amende hem here . For as clercur preueþ . that
 at the day of dome . wolde oure lady seynt marie . & Jon the
 baptist and alle that both ^[in] heuene knele adoun at ones ;
 <fol. 16v>bi-fore the face of god ; they scholde no3t mowe in that tymme
 thuru praier of hem alle . deliuer~ the soule of o man or of womman
 that dey^[e]th in eny dedly synne <lat></lat>
 <lat></lat> For it wer euen a3ens the holy gospel wher
 crist seith him-self that he schal truelich 3eue eche man
 there ; ri3t as ^[he] hath deseruid her and if the day of dome schal
 be so hard with alle tho that deieth *in* eny dedly synne ;
 what schal that time by-tide of hem . in that same tyme
 that both founde openliche acursid of god and of holy cherche
 In this grete *parles* ^[of] dampnacion of soule . beth alle tho men
 & wymmen ; that J scal spek of ¶ So that furst and formest
 we denunce acursid alle tho that holy cherche falslyche
 depriueþ of eny rich or profit . that ~~hit~~ ^[it] langeth to
 haue eiper by lawe write ; or by goud custom whych that
 hath be holden . & vsid of old time . And in thys point fallyþ
 thre maner of folk . First alle tho ; that steleth holy cherche
 goudes *in* what place that they be do to kepe . or ellis that
 stelith thinges that both nout halwed out of places that
 both halwed . or ellis thinges that both halwed out of
 places that be no3t halwed . And alle tho that wytinglych
 brecuth & destruyeth eny ~~point~~ poynt of fredom that
 longeth to holy cherche . and this is no3t al only vnderstonde
 of the fredomes that longeth to holy cherche generally
 ; but also of other special fredomes that sum cherche
 hath more and some of temperal & of spiritual whether
 it be . The thride poynt is . Al tho be acursed ; that *purchaceth*
 writes or letteres of eny lewed curt for to lette
 the prosces of the lawe of holy churce of causes þat longeth
 skylfully to cristene court ; the whiche schulde
 nout be demed bi non other lawe . And alle tho þat
 letteth archebisschop or bisschop . archedekne . or official
 or eny other that hath Juridiccion & power of the lawe
 <fol. 17r>of holy cherche . that they mow nout visite here suggetes

or dur nout vse here lawe . for to amende the soules of hem
 that they haue to kepe . And alle tho that falslych fleth
 a-wey fro o place to an other that holy cherche may no3t
chaisti hem . ne ~~reul~~ rule hem as it scholde ^[do] <lat></lat>
 <lat></lat> Also
 god and holy churche acurseth alle tho that leith hond
 in violence on prest or clerk or on eny man or womman of
 religion ; but if it be <exp>his</exp> that thei mow nout saue himself
 . or elles þat it be in certain poyntes . that ^[be] lawe 3euith
 lyue . <lat></lat>
 <lat></lat>
 <lat></lat>
 <lat></lat>
 <lat></lat> And alle that mentayn~
 suche doeres bi conseil or bi strenghte <lat></lat>
 <lat></lat>
 <lat></lat>
 Also we denunce alle tho acursed that malicioslych stele
 or destruye goudes that longeth to maneres or to granges
 of eny men or wymmen of religion . or of eny other places
 of mennes of holy cherche wyth-oute special leue of
 hem that hauith tho goudes to kepe <lat></lat>
 <lat></lat> Also al þo that falslych aresteth or
 bi eny wey taketh or enprison . or destresse men of holy cherche
 . wher-thurw they for-saketh her benefices for mischef .
 or whanne they haue apolid to the court of Rome . or elles
 to sum other court alle tho be acursed that letteth hem
 to pursewe her ry3t . and alle that þer-to 3iueth help or
 eny manere consayl <lat></lat>
 <lat></lat>
 <lat></lat>
 ¶ Also alle tho be acursed be they neuere so grete þat
 <fol. 17v>procureth . or commaundeth eny other to sle or mayme .
 or to bete . or bi eny other way to greue eny ordinarie or
 Juge of the lawe of holy churche in body or in catel . for as