

Everyman

(John Skot, 1521-1537?)

Here begynneth a treatyse how y^e h^e fader of heuen sendeth dethe to somon euery creature to come and gyue counte of theyr liues in this worlde and is in maner of a morall playe.





Pray you all gyue your audyence
 And here this mater with reuerence
 By fygure a morall playe
 The somonyng of euery man called it is
 That of our lyues and endyng shewes
 How transytory we be all daye

This mater is wonders precypous
 But the entent of it is more gracypous
 And swete to here awaye
 The story sayth man in the begynnynge
 Loke well and take good heed to the endyng
 Be you neuer so gay
 Be thynke synne in the begynnynge full swete
 Whiche in the ende causeth the soule to wepe
 Whan the body lyeth in claye
 Here shall you se how felawshyp and Iolyte
 Bothe strengthe pleasure and beaute
 Wyll fade from the as floure in maye
 For ye shall here how our heuen kynge
 Calleth euery man to a generall rekenynge
 Gyue audyence and here what he doth saye.

God speketh.

I perceyue here in my maieste
 How that all creatures be to me unkynde
 Lyuyng without drede in worldely prosperyte
 Of ghostly syght the people be so blynde
 Drowned in synne they know me not for theyr god
 In worldely ryches is all theyr mynde
 They fere not my ryghtwysnes the sharpe rood
 My lawe that I shewed whan I for them dyed
 They forgete clene and shedynge of my bloderede
 I hanged bytwene two it can not be denyed
 To gete them lyfe I suffred to be deed
 I heled theyr fete with thornes hurt was my heed
 I coulde do nomore than I dyde truely
 And nowe I se the people do clene for sake me
 They vse the seuen deedly synnes dampnable
 As pryde coueteyse wrathe and lechery
 Now in the worlde be made commendable
 And thus they leue of aungelles y^e heuenly company
 Euery man lyueth so after his owne pleasure
 And yet of theyr lyfe they be nothinge sure
 I se the more that I then forbere
 The worse they be fro yere to yere
 All that lyueth appayreth faste
 Therefore I wyll in all the haste
 Haue a rekenynge of euery mannes persone

For and I leue the people thus alone
 In theyr lyfe and wycked tempestes
 Verly they wyll become moche worse than beestes
 For now one wolde by enuy another by ete
 Charyte they do all clene forgete
 I hoped well that euery man
 In my glory shulde make his mansyon
 And therto I had them all electe
 But now I se lyke traytours deiecte
 They thanke me not for y^e pleasure y^e to them ment
 Nor yet for theyr beyng that I them haue lent
 I profered the people grete multytude of mercy
 And fewe there be that asketh it hertly
 They be so combred with worldly ryches
 That nedes on them I must do Iustyce
 On euery man lyuyng without fere
 Where arte thou deth thou myghty messengere

Dethe.

Almyghty god I am here at your wyll
 Your commaundement to fulfyll.

God.

Go thou to euery man
 And shewe hym in my name
 A pylgrymage he must on him take
 Which he in no wyse may escape
 And that he brynge with him a sure rekenyng
 Without delay or ony taryenge.

Dethe.

Lorde I wyll in the worlde go renne ouer all
 And cruelly out searche bothe grete and small
 Euery man wyll I beset that lyueth beestly
 Out of goddes lawes and dredeth not foly
 He that loueth rychesse I wyll stryke wth my darte
 His sight to blynde and for heuen to departe
 Excepte that almes be his good frende
 In hell for to dwell worlde without ende
 Loo yonder I se Euery man walkyng
 Full lytlell he thynketh on my comyng
 His mynde is on flesshely lustes and his treasure
 And grete payne it shall cause hym to endure
 Before the lorde heuen kinge
 Euery man stande styll whyder arte thou goyng
 Thus gaply hast thou thy maker forgete.

Euery man.

Why askest thou
 Woldest thou wete.

Dethe.

Ye syr I wyll shewe you
 In grete haste I am sende to the
 From god out of his mageste

Euery man.

What sente to me.

Dethe.

Ye certaynly.

Thoughe thou haue forgete hym here
He thynketh on the in the heauenly spere
As or we departe thou shalte knowe.

Euery man.

What desyreth god of me.

Dethe.

That shall I shewe the.
A rekenynge he wyl nedes haue
Without ony lenger respite.

Euery man.

To gyue a rekenynge longer layser I craue
This blynde mater troubleth my witte.

Dethe.

On the thou must take a longe Journey
Therefore thy boke of counte w^t the thou brynge
For turne agayne thou can not by no waye
And loke thou be sure of thy rekenynge
For before god thou shalt answeere and shewe
Thy many badde dedes and good but a fewe
How thou hast spente thy lyfe and in what wyse
Before the chefe lorde of paradyse
Haue I do we were in that waye
For wete thou well yⁿ shalt make none attournay.

Euery man.

Full vnredy I am suche rekenynge to gyue
I knowe the not what messenger arte thou.

Dethe.

I am dethe that no man dredeth
For euery man I rest and no man spareth
For it is gods commaundement
That all to me shold be obedyent.

Euery man.

O deth thou comest whan I had y^e least in mynde
In thy power it lyeth me to saue
Yet of my good wyl I gyue y^e yf thou wyl be kynde
Ye a thousand pound shalte thou haue
And dyffere this mater tyll an other daye

Dethe.

Euery man it may not be by no waye
I set not by golde syluer nor rychesse
Nor by pope emperour kyng duke ne prynces
For and I wolde receyue gyftes grete
All the worlde I myght gete
But my custome is clene contrary
I gyue the no respyte come hens and not tary.

Euery man.

Alas shall I haue no lenger respyte
 I may saue deth geueth no warnynge
 To thynke on the it maketh my herte seke
 For all vnredy is my boke of rekenynge
 But .xii. yere and I myght haue a bydyng
 My countynge boke I wolde make so clere
 That my rekenynge I sholde not nede to fere
 Wherefore deth I praye the for goddes mercy
 Spare me tyll I be prouyded of remedy.

Dethe.

The auayleth not to crye wepe and praye
 But hast the lyghtly that yⁿ were gone y^e Journaye
 And preue thy frendes yf thou can
 For wete thou well the tyde abydeyth no man
 And in the worlde eche lyuyng creature
 For Adams synne must dye of nature.

Euery man.

Dethe yf I sholde this pylgrymage take
 And my rekenynge suerly make
 Shewe me for saynt charyte
 Sholde I not come agayne shortly.

Dethe.

No euery man and thou be ones there
 Thou mayst neuer more come here
 Trust me verily.

Euery man.

O gracypous god in the hye seat celestyall
 Haue mercy on me in this moost nede
 Shall I haue no company fro this vale terestryall
 Of myne acqueynce that way me to lede.

Dethe.

Ye yf ony be so hardy
 That wolde go with the and bere the company
 Hye the that yⁿ were gone to goddes magnyfyce
 Thy rekenynge to gyue before his presence.
 What weenest thou thy lyue is gyuen the
 And thy worldely goodes also.

Euery man.

I had wende so verelye.

Dethe.

Nay nay it was but lende the
 For as soone as thou arte go
 Another a whyle shall haue it and than go ther fro
 Euen as thou hast done
 Euery man yⁿ arte made thou hast thy wyttes fyue
 And here on erthe wyll not amende thy lyue
 For sodeynly I do come.

Euery man.

O wretched caytyfe wheder shall I flee
 That I myght scape this endles sorowe.

Now gentyll deth spare me tyll to morowe
 That I may amende me
 With good aduysement

Dethe.

Have thereto I wyll not consent
 Nor no man wyll I respyte
 But to the herte sodeynly I shall smyte
 Without ony aduysement
 And now out of thy syght I wyll me hy
 Se thou make the redy shortely
 For thou mayst save this is the daye
 That no man lyuyng may scape a waye

Euery man.

Alas I may well wepe with syghes depe
 Now haue I no maner of company
 To helpe me in my Iourney and me to kepe
 And also my wrptynge is full vnredy
 How shall I do now for to excuse me
 I wolde to god I had neuer begete
 To my soule a full grete profyte it had be
 For now I fere paynes huge and grete
 The tyme passeth lorde helpe that all wrought
 For though I mourne it auayleth nought
 The day passeth and is almoost ago
 I wote not well what for to do
 To whome were I best my complaynt to make
 What and I to felawshyp therof spake
 And shewed hym of this sodeyne chaunce
 For in hym is all myne affyaunce
 We haue in the worlde so many a daye
 Be good frendes in sporte and playe
 I se hym yonder certaynely
 I trust that he wyll bere me company
 Therfore to hym wyll I speke to ese my sorowe
 Well mette good felawshyp and good morowe.

Felawshyp.

Euery man good morowe by this daye
 Syr why lokest thou so pyteously
 If ony thynge be a mysse I praye the me saye
 That I may helpe to remedy.

Euery man.

Be good felawshyp ye
 I am in greate ieoparde.

Felawshyp.

My true frende shewe to me your mynde
 I wyll not forsake the to my lyues ende
 In the waye of good company.

Euery man.

That was well spoken and louyngly.

Felawshyp.

Syr I must nedes knowe your heynesse
 I haue pyte to se you in ony dystresse
 If ony haue you wronged ye shall reuenged be
 Thoughe that I knowe before that I sholde dye.

Every man.

Veryly felawshyp gramercy.

Felawship.

Tusshe by thy thankes I set not a strawe
 Shewe me your grefe and saye no more.

Every man.

If I my herte sholde to you breke
 And than you to tourne your mynde fro me
 And wolde not me comforte whan ye here me speke
 Than sholde I tentymes soryer be.

Felawship.

Syr I saye as I will do in dede.

Every man.

Than be you a good frende at nede
 I haue found you true here before.

Felawship.

And so ye shall euermore
 For in fayth and thou go to hell
 I wyll not forsake the by the waye.

Every man.

Ye speke lyke a good frende I byleue you well
 I shall deserue it and I may.

Felawship.

I speke of no deseruyng by this daye
 For he that wyll saye and nothyng do
 Is not worthy with good company to go
 Therfore shewe me the grefe of your mynde
 As to your frende most louynge and kynde.

Every man.

I shall shewe you how it is
 Commaunded I am to go on a iournaye
 A longe waye harde and daungerous
 And gyue a strayte counte without delaye
 Before the hye Iuge adonay
 Wherfore I pray you bere me company
 As ye haue promysed in this iournaye.

Felawship.

That is mater in dede promyse is duty
 But and I sholde take suche a vyage on me
 I knowe it well it shulde be to my payne
 Also it make me aferde certayne
 But let vs take counsell here as well as we can
 For your wordes wolde fere a stronge man.

Every man.

Why ye sayd yf I had nede
 Ye wolde me neuer forsake quycke ne deed

Thoughe it were to hell truely.

Felawship.

So I sayd certaynely
But such pleasures be set a syde the sothe to saye
And also yf we toke suche a iournaye
Whan sholde we come agayne.

Every man.

Have neuer agayne tyll the dave of dome.

Felawship.

In fayth than wyll not I come there
who hath you these tydynges brought.

Every man.

In dede death was with me here.

Felawship.

Now by god that all hathe bought
If deth were the messenger
For no man that is lyuyng to dave
I wyll not go that loth iournaye
Not for the fader that bygate me.

Every man.

We promysed other wyse parde.

Felawship.

I wote well I say so truely
And yet yf y^m wylte ete & drynke & make good chere
Or haunt to women the lusty company
I wolde not forsake you whyle the dave is clere
Truste me veryly

Every man.

We therto ye wolde be redy
To go to myrthe solas and playe
Our mynde wyll soner apply
Than to bere me company in my longe iournaye.

Felawship.

Now in good fayth I wyll not that waye
But and thou wyll murder or ony man kyl
In that I wyll helpe the with a good wyll.

Every man.

O that is a symple aduypse in dede
Gentyll felawe helpe me in my necessyte
We haue loued longe and now I nede
And gentyll felawshyp remembre me.

Felawship.

Wheder ye haue loued me or no
By saynt John I wyll not with the go.

Every man.

Yet I pray the take y^e labour & do so moche for me
To brynge me forward for saynt charyte
And comforte me tyll I come without the towne.

Felawship.

Nay and thou wolde gyue me a newe gowne

I wyll not a fote with the go
 But and y^e had tarped I wolde not haue lefte the so
 And as now god spede the in thy Journaye
 For from the I wyll departe as fast as I maye.

Every man.

Wheder a waye felawshyp wyll y^e forsake me.

Felawshyp.

Ye by my faye to god I be take the.

Every man.

Farewell good felawshyp for y^e my herte is sore
 A dewe for euer I shall se the no more

Felawshyp.

In fayth euery man fare well now at the ende
 For you I wyll remembre y^eptynge is mournynge.

Every man.

A lacke shall we this departe in dede
 A lady helpe without ony more comforte
 Lo felawshyp forsaketh me in my most nede
 For helpe in this worlde wheder shall I resorte
 Felawshyp here before with me wolde mery make
 And now lytell sorowe for me dooth he take
 It is sayd in prosperyte men frendes may fynde
 Whiche in aduersyte be full unkynde
 Now wheder for socoure shall I flee
 Syth that felawshyp hath forsaken me
 To my kynnesman I wyll truely
 Prayenge them to helpe me in my necessyte
 I byleue that they wyll do so
 For kynde wyll crepe where it may not go
 I wyll go save for yonder I se them go
 Where be ye now my frendes and kynnesmen.

Kynrede.

Here we be now at your commaundement
 Cosyn I praye you shewe vs your entent
 In ony wise and not spare.

Cosyn.

Ye euery man and to vs declare
 Of ye be dysposed to go ony whyder
 For wete you well wyll lyue and dye to gyder.

Kynrede.

In welth and wo we wyll with you bolde
 For ouer his kynne a man may be holde.

Every man.

Gramercy my frendes and kynnesmen kynde
 Now shall I shewe you the grefe of my mynde
 I was commaunded by a messenger
 That is a hye kynges chefe offycer
 He bad me go a pylgrymage to my payne
 And I knowe well I shall neuer come agayne
 Also I must gyue a rekenynge strayte

For I haue a grete enemy that hath me in wayte
Whiche entendeth me for to hynder.

Kynrede.

What a counte is that which ye must render
That wolde I knowe.

Euery man.

Of all my workes I must shewe
How I haue lyued and my dayes spent
Also of yll dedes that I haue vsed
In my tyme syth lyfe was me lent
And of all vertues that I haue refused
Therfore I praye you go thyder with me
To helpe to make myn accounte for saynt charyte.

Cosyn.

What to go thyder is that the mater
Nay euery man I had leuer fast brede and water
All this fyue yere and more.

Euery man.

Alas that euer I was bore
For now shall I neuer be mery
If that you forsake me.

Kynrede.

A syr what ye be a mery man
Take good herte to you and make no mone
But one thynge I warne you by saynt Anne
As for me ye shall go alone.

Euery man.

My cosyn wyll you not with me go.

Cosyn.

No by our lady I haue the cramp in my to
Trust not to me for so god me spede
I wyll deceyue you in your moost nede.

Kynrede.

It auayleth not vs to tyse
Ye shall haue my mayde with all my herte
She loueth to go to festes there to be nyse
And to daunce and a brode to sterte
I wyll gyue her leue to helpe you in that Journey
If that you and she may a gree.

Euery man.

Now shewe me the very effecte of your mynde
Wyll you go with me or abyde be hynde.

Kynrede.

Abide behynde ye that wyll I and maye
Therfore farewell tyll another dawe.

Euery man.

Howe sholde I be mery or gladde
For fayre promyses men to me make
But whan I haue moost nede they me forsake
I am deceyued that maketh me sadde.

Cosyn.

Cosyn euery man farewell now
 For verely I wyl not go with you
 Also of myne owne an vnyredy rekenyng
 I haue to accounte therfore I make taryenge
 Now god kepe the for now I go.

Euery man.

A Iesus is all come here to
 To fayre wordes maketh fooles fayne
 They promyse and nothyng wyl do certayne
 My kynnesmen promysed me faythfully
 For to a hyde with me stedfastly
 And now fast a waye do they flee
 Euen so felawshyp promysed me
 What frende were best me of to prouyde
 I lose my tyme here longer to abyde
 Yet in my lyfe I haue loued ryches
 If that my good now helpe me myght
 He wolde make my herte full lyght
 I wyl speke to hym in this dystresse
 Where arte thou my gooddes and ryches.

Goodes.

Who calleth me euery man what hast thou haste
 I lye here in corners trussed and pyled so hye
 And in chestes I am locked so fast
 Also sacked in bagges thou mayst se with thyn eye
 I can not styre in packes lowe I lye
 What wolde ye haue lyghtly me saye.

Euery man.

Come hyder good in al the hast thou may
 For of counseyll I must desyre the.

Goodes.

Syr & ye in the worlde haue sorowe or aduersyte
 That can I helpe you to remedy shortly.

Euery man.

It is another dysease that greueth me
 In this worlde it is not I tell the so
 I am sent for an other way to go
 To gyue a strayte counte generall
 Before the hyst Jupyter of all
 And all my lyfe I haue had Joye & pleasure in the
 Therefore I pray the go with me
 For parauenture thou mayst before god almyghty
 My rekenyng helpe to clene and puryfy
 For it is sayd euer amonge
 That money maketh all ryght that is wronge.

Goodes.

Nay euery man I synge an other songe
 I folowe no man in suche vyages
 For and I wente with the

Thou sholdes fare moche the worse for me
 For bycause on me thou dyd set thy mynde
 Thy rekenynge I haue made blotted and blynde
 That thyne accounte thou can not make truly
 And that hast thou for the loue of me.

Euery man.

That wolde greue me full sore
 Whan I sholde come to that ferefull answere
 Vp let vs go thyther to gyder.

Goodes.

Nay not so I am to brytell I may not endure
 I wpll folowe man one fote be ye sure.

Euery man.

Alas I haue the loued and had grete pleasure
 All my lyfe dayes on good and treasure.

Goodes.

That is to thy dampnacyon without lesynge
 For my loue is contrary to the loue euerlastynge
 But yf thou had me loued moderately durynge
 As to the poore gyue parte of me
 Than sholdest thou not in this dolour be
 Nor in this grote sorowe and care.

Euery man.

Lo now was I deceyued or I was ware
 And all I may wyte my spendynge of tyme.

Goodes.

What wenest thou that I am thyne.

Euery man.

I had went so.

Goodes.

Naye euery man I saye no
 As for a whyle I was lente the
 A season thou hast had me in prosperyte
 My condycyon is mannes soule to kyll
 Vt I saue one a thousande I do spyll
 Wenest thou that I wpll folowe the
 Nay fro this worlde not beryle.

Euery man.

I had wende otherwyse.

Goodes.

Therefore to thy soule good is a thefe
 For whan thou arte deed this is my gyse
 Another to deceyue in this same wyse
 As I haue done the and all to his soules represe.

Euery man.

O false good cursed thou hast deceyued me
 And caught me in thy snare.

Goodes.

Mary thou brought thy selfe in care
 Wherof I am gladde

I must nedes laugh I can not be sadde.

Euery man.

A good thou hast had longe my hertely loue
I gaue the that whiche sholde be the lordes aboue
But wylte thou not go with me in dede
I praye the trouth to saye.

Goodes.

No so god me spede
Therfore fare well and haue good daye.

Euery man.

O to whome shall I make my mone
For to go with me in that heuy Journaye
Fyrst felawshyp sayd he wolde with me gone
His wordes were very plesaunte and gaye
But afterwarde he lefte me alone
Than spake I to my kynnesmen all in despayre
An also they gaue me wordes fayre
They lacked no fayre spekyng
But all forsake me in the endynge
Then wente I to my goodes that I loued best
In hope to haue comforte but there had I leest
For my goodes sharpely dyd me tell
That he bryngeth many in to hell
Than of my selfe I was ashamed
And so I am worthy to be blamed
Thus may I wel my selfe hate
Of whome shall I now counsell take
I thynke that I shall neuer spede
Tyll that I go to my good dede
But alas she is so weke
That she can neuer go nor speke
Yet wyl I venter on her now
My good dedes where be you.

Good dedes.

Here I lye colde in the grounde
Thy synnes hath me sore bounde
That I can not stere.

Euery man.

O good dedes I stand in fere
I must you pray of counseyll
For helpe now sholde come ryght well.

Good dedes.

Euery man I haue vnderstandynge
That ye be somoned of a counte to make
Before Myssyas of Iherusalem kyng
And you do by me y^e Journay w^h you wyl I take.

Euery man.

Therfor I come to you my moone to make
I praye you that ye wyl go with me.

Good dedes.

I wolde full fayne but I can not stande verply.

Euery man.

Why is there ony thyng on you fall.

Good dedes.

Ye syr I may thanke you of all
 Of ye had parfytely chered me
 Your boke of counte full redy had be
 Loke how the bokes of your workes and dedes eke
 Ase how they lye vnder the fete
 To your soules heuynes.

Euery man.

Our lorde Iesus helpe me
 For one letter here I can not se.

Good dedes.

There is a blynde rekenynge in tyme of dystres.

Euery man.

Good dedes I praye you helpe me in this nede
 Or elles I am for euer dampned in dede
 Therefore helpe me to make rekenynge
 Before the redemer of all thyng
 That kynge is and was and euer shall.

Good dedes.

Euery man I am sory of your fall
 And fayne wolde I helpe you and I were able.

Euery man.

Good dedes your counseyll I pray you gyue me.

Good dedes.

That shall I do verply
 Thoughe that on my fete I may not go
 I haue a syster that shall with you also
 Called knowledge whiche shall with you abyde
 To helpe you to make that dredefull rekenynge

Knowlege.

Euery man I wyll go with the and be thy gyde
 In thy moost nede to go by thy syde.

Euery man.

In good condycyon I am now in euery thyng
 And am hole content with this good thyng
 Thanked by god my creature.

Good dedes.

And whan he hath brought you there
 Where thou shalte hele the of thy smarte
 Than go you w' your rekenynge & your good dedes togyder
 For to make you Joyfull at herte
 Before the blessed trynyte.

Euery man.

My good dedes gramercy
 I am well content certaynly
 With your wordes swete.

Knowlege.

Now go we togyder loungly
To confessyon that clensyng ryuere.

Euery man.

For Joy I wepe I wolde we were there
But I pray you gyue me cognycyon
Where dwelleth that holy man confessyon.

Knowlege.

In the hous of saluacyon
We shall fynde hym in that place
That shall vs comforte by goddes grace
Lo this is confessyon knele downe & aske mercy
For he is in good conceyte with god almyghty.

Euery man.

O glorious fountayne y' all unclennes doth claryfy
Wasshe from me the spottes of vyce unclene
That on me no synne may be sene
I come with knowlege for my redempcyon
Redempte with herte and full contrycyon
For I am commaunded a pylgrymage to take
And grete accountes before god to make
Now I praye you shryfte moder of saluacyon
Helpe my good dedes for my pyteous exclamacyon.

Confessyon.

I knowe your sorowe well euery man
Bycause with knowlege ye came to me
I wyll you comforte as well as I can
And a precyous Jewell I will gyue the
Called penaunce boyce boyder of aduersyte
therwith shall your body chastysed be
With abstynence & perseueraunce in goddes seruyce
Here shall you receyue that scourge of me
Whiche is penaunce stronge that ye must endure
To remembre thy sauour was scourged for the
With sharpe scourges and suffred it pacyently
So must y" or thou scape that paynful pylgrymage
Knowlege kepe hym in this vyage
And hy tyme good dedes wyll be with the
But in ony wyse be seker of mercy
For your tyme draweth fast and ye wyll saued be
Aske god mercy and he wyll graunte truely
Whan w' the scourge of penaunce man doth hym bynde
The oyle of forgyuenes than shall he fynde.

Euery man.

Thanked be god for his gracypous werke
For now I wyll my penaunce begyn
This hath reioysed and lyghted my herte
Though the knottes be paynfull and harde within

Knowlege.

Euery man loke your penaunce that ye fulfyll
What payne that euer it to you be

And knowledge shall gyue you counseyll at wyll
How your accounte ye shall make clerely.

Euery man.

O eternall god O heuenly fygure
O way of ryghtwysnes O goodly byspon
Whiche descended downe in a byrgyn pure
Bycause he wolde euery man redeme
Whiche Adam forfayted by his dysobedyence
O blessyd god heed electe and hye deuyne
Forgybe my greuous offence
Here I crye the mercy in this presence
O ghostly treasure. O ransomer and redemer
Of all the worlde hope and conduyter
Myrrour of Joye foundatour of mercy
Whiche enlumyneth heuen and erth therby
Here my clamorous complaynt though it late be
Receyue my prayers vntworthy in this heuy lyfe
Though I be a synner moost abhomynable
Yet let my name be wryten in moyses table
O mary praye to the maker of all thynge
Me for to helpe at my endynge
And saue me fro the power of my enemy
For deth assayleth me strongly
And lady that I may by meane of thy prayer
Of your sones glory to be partynere
By the meanes of his passyon I it craue
I beseeche you helpe my soule to saue
Knowlege gyue me the scourge of penaunce
My flesshe therwith shall gyue acqueyntaunce
I wyll now begyn yf god gyue me grace.

Knowlege.

Euery man god gyue you tyme and space
Thus I bequeth you in y^e handes of our sauour
Now may you make your rekenynge sure

Euery man.

In the name of the holy trynpte
My body sore punysshyd shall be
Take this body for the synne of the flesse
Also thou delytest to go gay and fresshe
And in the way of dampnacyon y^e dyd me brynge
Therefore suffre now strokes of punysshynge
Now of penaunce I wyll wade the water clere
To saue me from purgatory that sharp fyre.

Good dedes.

I thanke god now I can walke and go
And am delyuered of my sykennesse and wo
Therefore with euery man I wyll go and not spare
His good workes I wyll helpe hym to declare.

Knowlege.

Now euery man be mery and glad

Now good dedes cometh now ye may not be sad
 Now is your good dedes hole and sounde
 Goynge vpryght vpon the grounde.

Euery man.

My herte is lyght and shalbe euermore
 Now will I smite faster than I dyde before.

Good dedes.

Euery man pylgryme my specyall frende
 Blessed be thou without ende
 For the is preparate the eternall glory
 He haue me made hole and sounde
 Therefore I wyll hyde by the in euery stounde.

Euery man.

Welcome my good dedes now I here thy voyce
 I wepe for very swetenes of loue.

Knowlege.

Be no more sad but euer reioyce
 God seeth thy luyng in his trone aboue
 Put on this garment to thy behoue
 Whiche is wette with your teres
 Or elles before god you may it mysse
 Whan ye to your iourneys ende come shall.

Euery man.

Gentyll knowlege what do ye it call.

Knowlege.

It is a garmente of sorowe
 Fro payne it wyll you borowe
 Contrycyon it is
 That getteth forgyuenes
 He pleasyth god passynge well.

Good dedes.

Euery man wyll you were it for your hele.

Euery man.

Now blessyd be Jesu maryes sone
 For now haue I on true contrycyon
 And lette vs go now without taryenge
 Good dedes haue we clere our rekenynge.

Good dedes.

He in dede I haue here.

Euery man.

Than I trust we nede not fere
 Now frendes let vs not parte in twayne.

Kynrede.

Ray euery man that wyll we not certayne.

Good dedes.

Yet must thou led with the
 Three persones of grete myght.

Euery man.

Who sholde they be.

Good dedes.

Dyscrecyon and strength they hyght
And thy beaute may not abyde behynde.

Knowlege.

Also ye must call to mynde
Your fyue wyttes as for your counseylours.

Good dedes.

You must haue them redy at all houres.

Euery man.

How shall I get them hyder.

Kynrede.

You must call them all togyder
And they wyll here you in contynent.

Euery man.

My frendes come hyder and be present
Dyscrecyon strengthe my fyue wyttes and beaute.

Beaute.

Here at your wyll we be all redy
What wyll ye that we sholde do.

Good dedes.

That ye wolde with euery man go
And helpe hym in his pylgrymage
Aduyse you wyll ye with him or not in that byage.

Strength.

We wyll brynge hym all thyder
To his helpe and comforte ye may beleue me.

Discrecion.

So wyll we go with him all togyder.

Euery man.

Almyghty god loued myght thou be
I gyue the laude that I haue hyder brought
Strength dyscrecyon beaute & .v. wyttes lack I nought
And my good dedes with knowlege clere
All be in my company at my wyll here
I desyre no more to my besynes.

Strengthe.

And I strength wyll by you stande in dystres
Though thou wolde I batayle fyght in the grounde.

V. wyttes

And though it were through the worlde rounde
We wyll not departe for swete ne soure.

Beaute.

No more wyll I vnto dethes houre
What so euer therof befall.

Discrecion.

Euery man aduyse you fyrst of all
Go with a good aduysment and delyberacyon
We all gyue you vertuous monycon
That all shall be well.

Euery man.

My frendes harken what what I wyll tell

I praye god rewarde you in his heuen spere
 Now herken all that be here
 For I wyll make my testament
 Here before you all present
 In almes halfe my good I wyll gyue w^t my handes twayne
 In the way of charyte w^t good entent
 And the other halfe styll shall remayne
 In queth to be retourned there it ought to be
 This I do in despyte of the fende of hell
 To go quyte out of his perell
 Euer after and this daye.

Knowlege.

Euery man herken what I saye
 Go to presthode I you aduyse
 And receyue of him in ony wyse
 The holy sacrament and oymtement togyder
 Than shortly se ye tourne agayne hyder
 We wyll all abyde you here.

V. wittes.

Ye euery man hye you that ye redy were
 There is no Emperour Kinge Duke ne Baron
 That of god hath commycyon
 As hath the leest preest in the worlde beyng
 For of the blessyd sacramentes pure and benygne
 He bereth the keyes and therof hath the cure
 For mannes redempcyon it is euer sure
 Whiche god for our soules medycyne
 Gaue vs out of his herte with grete payne
 Here in this transytory lyfe for the and me
 The blessed sacramentes .vii. there be
 Baptye confyrmacyon with preesthode good
 And y^e sacrament of goddes precyous flesshe & blod
 Maryage the holy extreme vnccyon and penaunce
 These seuen be good to haue in remembraunce
 Gracyous sacramentes of hye deuy[n]yte.

Euery man.

Fayne wolde I receyue that holy body
 And mekely to my ghostly fader I wyll go.

V. wittes.

Euery man that is the best that ye can do
 God wyll you to saluacyon bryng
 For preesthode exceedeth all other thyng
 To vs holy scrypture they do teche
 And conuerteth man fro synne heuen to reche
 God hath to them more power gyuen
 Than to ony aungell that is in heuen
 With .v. wordes he may consecrate
 Goddes body in flesse and blode to make
 And handleth his maker bytwene his hande
 The preest byndeth and vnbyndeth all bandes

Both in erthe and in heuen
 Thou mynystres all the sacramentes seuen
 Though we kysse thy fete thou were worthy
 Thou arte surgyon that cureth synne deedly
 No remedy we fynde vnder god
 Bute all onely preesthode
 Euery man god gaue preest that dygnyte
 And setteth them in his stede amonge vs to be
 Thus be they aboue aungelles in degree.

Knowlege.

If preestes be good it is so surely
 But whan Jesu hanged on y^r crosse w^t grete smarte
 There he gaue out of his blessyd herte
 The same sacrament in grete tourment
 He solde them not to vs that lorde omnytpotent
 Therefore saynt peter the apostell dothe saye
 That Jesus curse hath all they
 Whiche god theyr sauour do by or sell
 Or they for ony money do take or tell
 Synfull preeste gyueth the synners example bad
 Theyr chyldren sytteth by other mennes fyres I haue harde
 And some haunteth womens company
 With vnclene lyfe as lustes of lechery
 These be with synne made blynde.

V. wittes.

I trust to god no suche may we fynde
 Therfore let vs preesthode honour
 And followe theyr doctryne for our soules socoure
 We be theyr shepe and they shepherdes be
 By whome we all be kepte in suerte
 Deas for yonder I se euery man come
 Whiche hath made true satysfaccyon.

Good dedes.

Alle thynke it is he in dede.

Every man.

Now Jesu be your alder spede
 I haue receyued the sacrament for my redemcyon
 And than myne extreme unccyon
 Blessyd be all they that counseyled me to take it
 And now frendes let vs go with out longer respyte
 I thanke god that ye haue tarped so longe
 Now set eche of you on this rodde your honde
 And shortely folowe me
 I go before there I wolde be [] God be your gyde.

Strength.

Euery man we wyll not fro you go
 Tyll ye haue done this vpage longe.

Dyscrecion.

I dyscrecyon wyll byde by you also.

Knowlege.

And though this pylgrymage be neuer so stronge
 I wyll neuer parte you fro
 Euery man I wyll be as sure by the
 As euer I dyde by Judas MACHABEE.

Euery man.

Alas I am so faynt I may not stande
 My lymmes vnder me doth folde
 Frendes let vs not tourne agayne to this lande
 Not for all the worldes golde
 For in this caue must I crepe
 And tourne to erth and there to slepe.

Beaute.

What in this graue alas.

Euery man.

Ye there shall ye consume more and lesse.

Beaute.

And what sholde I smoder here.

Euery man.

Ye by my fayth and neuer more appere
 In this worlde lyue no more we shall
 But in heuen before the hyst lord of all.

Beaute.

I crosse out all this adewe by saynt Iohan
 I take my tappe in my lappe and am gone.

Euery man.

What beaute whyder wyll ye.

Beaute.

Peas I am dese I loke not behynde me
 Not & thou woldest gyue me all y^e golde in thy chest.

Euery man.

Alas wherto may I truste
 Beaute gothe fast awaye from me
 She promysed with me to lyue and dye.

Strength.

Euery man I wyll the also forsake and denye
 Thy game lyketh me not at all.

Euery man.

Why than ye wyll forsake me all
 Swete strength tary a lytell space.

Strengthe.

Nay syr by the rode of grace
 I will hye me from the fast
 Though thou wepe to thy herte to brast.

Euery man.

Ye wolde euer hyde by me ye sayd.

Strength.

Ye I haue you ferre ynoughe conueyde
 Ye be olde ynoughe I vnderstande
 Your pylgrymage to take on hande
 I repent me that I hyder came.

Euery man.

Strength you to dyspleas I am to blame
 Wyl ye breke promyse that is dette.

Strength.

In fayth I care not
 Thou arte but a foole to complayne
 Thou spende your speche and wast your brayne
 Go thyrst the in to the grounde.

Euery man.

I had wende surer I shulde you haue founde
 He that trusteth in his strength
 She hym deceyueth at the length
 Bothe strength and beaute forsaketh me
 Yet they promysed me fayre and louyngly.

Dyscrecion.

Euery man I will after strength be gone
 As for me I will leue you alone.

Euery man.

Why dyscrecyon wyl ye forsake me.

Dyscrecion.

He in fayth I wyl go fro the
 For whan strength goth before
 I folowe after euer more.

Euery man.

Yet I pray the for the loue of the trynpte
 Loke in my graue ones pyteously.

Dyscrecyon.

Ray so nye wyl I not come
 Fare well euerychone.

Euery man.

O all thynge fayleth saue god alone
 Beaute strength and dyscrecyon
 For whan deth bloweth his blast
 They all renne fro me full fast.

V. wittes.

Euery man my leue now of the I take
 I wyl folowe the other for here I the forsake.

Euery man.

Alas than may I wayle and wepe
 For I took you for my best frende.

V. wittes.

I wyl no lenger the kepe
 Now fare well and there an ende.

Euery man.

O Jesu helpe all hath forsaken me.

Good dedes.

Ray euey man I will byde with the
 I wyl not forsake the in dede
 Thou shalte fynde me a good frende at nede.

Euery man.

Gramercy good dedes now may I true frendes se
 They haue forsaken me euerychone
 I loued them better than my good dedes alone
 Knowlege wyll ye forsake me also.

Knowlege.

Ye euery man whan ye to deth shall go
 But not yet for no maner of daunger.

Euery man.

Gramercy knowlege with all my herte.

Knowlege.

Nay yet I wyll not from hens departe
 Tyll I se where ye shall be come.

Euery man.

Me thynke alas that I must be gone
 To make my rekenynge and my dettes paye
 For I se my tyme is nye spent awaye
 Take example all ye that this do here or se
 How they that I loue best do forsake me
 Excepte my good dedes that bydeth truely.

Good dedes.

All ertly thynges is but vanyte
 Beaute strength and dyscrecyon do man forsake
 Folysshe frendes and kynnesmen that fayre spake
 All fleeth saue good dedes and that am I.

Euery man.

Haue mercy on me god moost myghty
 And stande by me thou moder & mayde holy Mary

Good dedes.

Fere not I wyll speke for the.

Euery man.

Here I crye god mercy.

Good dedes.

Shorte oure ende and mynysshe our payne
 Let vs go and neuer come agayne.

Euery man.

In to thy handes lorde my soule I commende
 Receyue it lorde that it be not lost
 As thou me boughtest so me defende
 And saue me from the fendes boost
 That I may appere with that blessyd hoost
 That shall be saued at the day of dome
 (in manus tuas) of myghtes moost
 For euer (Commendo spiritum meum.)

Knowlege.

Now hath he suffred that we all shall endure
 The good dedes shall make all sure
 Now hath he made endynge
 Me thynketh that I here aungelles synge
 And make grete Joy and melody
 Where euery mannes soule recyued shall be.

The aungell.

Come excellent electe spouse to Iesu
 Here aboute thou shalte go
 Bycause of thy syngular vertue
 Now the soule is taken the body fro
 Thy rekenynge is crystall clere
 Now shalte thou in to the heuenly spere
 Vnto the whiche all ye shall come
 That lyueth well before the daye of dome.

Doctour.

This morall men may haue in mynde
 Ye hearers take it of worth olde and yonge
 And forsake pryde for he deceyueth you in the ende
 And remembre beaute .v. wyttes strength & dy[s]crecion
 They all at the last do euery man forsake
 Saue his good dedes there dothe he take
 But be ware and they be small
 Before god he hath no helpe at all
 None excuse may be there for euery man
 Alas how shall he do than
 For after dethe amendes may no man make
 For than mercy and pyte doth hym forsake
 If his rekenynge be not clere whan he doth come
 God wyll saye (ite maledicti in ignem eternum)
 And he that hath his accounte hole and sounde
 Hye in heuen he shall be crounde
 Vnto whiche place god brynge vs all thyder
 That we may lyue body and soule togyder
 Therto helpe the trynyte
 Amen saye ye for saynt charyte.

F I N I S.

Thus endeth this morall playe of euery man.
 Imprynted at London in Poules
 Chyrche yarde by me
 Iohn Skot.

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