



<County: Yorkshire West Riding>

<Code: L0405>

<MS reference: Oxford, Bodleian Library, Bodley 99>

<Text: Prick of Conscience>

<Tranche 1>

<fol. 3v>For a man excuses not his knawying  
yat his witt vses not in leryng  
Namely in yat him falles to know  
yat myght meke his hert . & make it law  
Bot he yat can not schuld hafe wille  
To lere & know bothe gode & ille  
Ane he yat can oght schulde ler~ more  
To know alle yat him nedeful wore  
For an vnconande man thoro leryng~  
May be broght til vndurstandyng~  
Of many thynges to know & se  
yat has bene & is & schal be  
yat to mekenes myght stirr~ his wille  
And to lofe & drede & lefe alle ille  
Many has likyng~ tryfuls to here  
And vanytees wil gladly to lere  
And ar~ besy in worde & thoght  
To lere at ye saule helpes noght  
Bot yat yat nedeful wer~ to know  
To listen & lere yai ar~ ful slaw  
For yi yai can not kenne ne se  
ye perills yat yai schulde drede & fle  
And whilk way yai schuld take  
And whilk way yai schuld forsake  
Bot no wunder is if yai go wrange  
In merknes of vnknowyng yai gange  
Withouten light of vndurstandyng  
Of yat yat falles to right knawying

Forthi ilk cristen man & woman  
 yat witt & mynde & resoun can  
 yat ye right way can not chese  
 Ne ye perils yat wyse+men flese  
 Schuld be buxome ay & besy  
 To her~ & lere of yaim namely  
 <fol. 4r>yat vndurstandes & knawes be skill  
 Whilk way is gode & whilk is ill  
 He yat ye right+way of lyfyng~ wil loke  
 Schuld yus be+gynne as says ye boke  
 To know furst qwat *him* selfe es  
 So may he tittest come to mekenes  
 yat is ground of alle *vertues* to laste  
 On whilk alle *vertews* may be set faste  
 For he yat knawes wele & can se  
 What he is was & schal be  
 A wyser man he may be tolde  
 Wheyer he be 3onge or olde  
 yen he yat cane alle other thyng  
 And of him selfe has no knawying~  
 For he may noyur se god ne fele  
 Bot he know *him* selfe furst right wele  
 yer-fore a man schulde furst lere  
 To know him selfe *propurly* here  
 For if he know *him* selfe kyndely  
 yen may he know god almyghty  
 And of his endyng thynk schuld he  
 And of ye laste day yat schal be  
 He schuld know qwat yis world is  
 yat is ful of pompe & of lychernes  
 And lere to know & thynke w<sup>t</sup> all  
 What schal after yis lyfe fall  
 For knawying of alle yis schuld *him* lede  
 And mynde with all to mekenes & drede  
 So may he come to gode lyfyng  
 And at ye laste to a gode endyng  
 And qwen he of yis world schal wende  
 Be broght to lyfe with-oute<sup>n</sup> ende  
 ye begynnyng~ of yis process

Right knawying~ of a man selfe es  
 <fol. 4v>Bot some men has grete lettyng  
 yat yai may haue no right knawying  
 Of yaim selfe yat yai schuld furst know  
 yat furste to mekenes schuld yaim draw  
 Yer-of four~ thynges J fynde  
 yat makes a mannes witt oft blynde  
 And knawying~ of him selfe oft lettes  
 Wher yorow he him selfe forgetes  
 Of yis seynt bernard witnes beres  
 And ye four~ ar~ writen in yis vers  
 <lat></lat>  
 <lat></lat>  
 yat is fauour of ye folk & fayr~nes  
 And feruour of 3outh & richenes  
 Reues a+man sight skille & mynde  
 To know qwat him selfe is of kynde  
 yise four~ lettes his Jn+sight  
 yat knawes not him selfe right .  
 And makes his hert ful hawtayne  
 And ful fro-ward til his souerayne  
 yise four~ norissh pompe & pride  
 And oyer vices yat men schuld hide  
 Jn whom so any of yise four~ es  
 Js seldome sene any mekenes  
 yai let a man yat he not ses  
 ye perils of ye world ne vanytes  
 Ne thynkes not on ye tyme to come  
 Of ded ne of ye day of dome  
 Ne he can not vndurstand ne se  
 ye paynes yat after yis lyfe schal be  
 To synful men yat her~ dose foly  
 Ne ye blis yat gode+men ar~ worthy  
 Bot in delytes settes his hert fast  
 Right als yis lyfe schuld euer-more laste  
 <fol. 5r>And gyfes him alle to vanite  
 And nothing yat may his likyng be  
 Swilk men ar~ not led w<sup>t</sup> skille  
 Bor wirkes after yair~ awen wille

And to nothyng elles yai take hede  
 What wundur is if yai hafe no drede  
 For qwat yai schuld drede ne know yai noght  
 For thy of drede haue yai no thoght  
 And alle for defawt of knawying  
 Of yat yat myght yaim to drede brynge  
 And some men will not vndurstande  
 ye thynges yat myght make yaim dredand  
 For yai wolde not her~ bot at yaim payes  
 yer-fore ye *prophete* in ye sawter says  
 <lat></lat>

He says he has no will to fele  
 Ne vndurstande to do wele  
 yise wordes be yaim may be sayd here  
 yat will not vndurstande ne lere  
 To drede god & do his wille  
 Bot folow<sup>us</sup> yair~ folies to fulfille  
 Some vndurstandes as yai her~ telle  
 Bot no drede in yair~ hert may dwelle  
 For defawt of trowth may yat well be  
 For yai traw not bot at yai se  
 Bot groches when yai of drede here  
 For yi ye *prophere* sayes on yis maner~  
 <lat></lat>

Ye *prophete* says yai trawed noght  
 Bot groched & wer~ greued in thoght  
 yus ar~ men yat trow nothyng~  
 yat men says agayne yair~ likyng  
 Bot groches & waxes fast froward  
 when men says oght yat yaim thynk harde  
 <fol. 5v>Some can slike thynges in bokes rede  
 Bot lightnes of hert reues yaim drede  
 So yat it may not with yaim dwelle .  
 And of hem spekes god in ye gospelle  
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<lat></lat>

Til a tyme he says some trowes a+thynges  
 And passes yer-fro in tyme of fondynges  
 And also yus says ye *prophete* dauid

Jn a psalme yat cordes *yer*-wid  
 <lat></lat>  
 <lat></lat>  
 Jn his wordes he says trowed yai  
 And louede his los als yai couthe say  
 Bot tyte yai had donn & forgatt  
 His werkes & thoght no more on yatt  
 Swilk men ar~ so vnstedfaste  
 yat no drede may with yaim laste  
 For yai ar~ so wylde qwen yai hafe *conuert*  
 yat yai hade no drede in hert  
 For to haue drede a+man may ler~  
 yat yis tretyce will rede or her~  
 Jf yai rede or her~ til ye ende  
 ye maters yat her~ ar~ contende  
 And vndurstand & in yaim trowe  
 J hope yair~ hert schal *sum*what bowe  
 For drede yat yai schal haue *yer*-by  
 to wirk gode werkes & fle f<ill><1 char?></ill>ly  
*yer*-fore yis boke is on Inglish drawen  
 Of ser~ maters yat ar~ vnknawen  
 To lewed men yat ar~ vnknawand  
 And no latyn can vndurstande  
 For to gar~ yaim yair~ selfe knawe  
 And fro syne & vanytees yaim drawe  
 <fol. 6r>And for to stirre yaim til right crede  
 When yai yis tretyce her~ or rede  
 yat schal prik~ yair~ hertes with-Jn  
 and of yat drede a+lofe begyn  
 Thoro coumfort of ioyes of heuen ser~  
 Als 3e afterward may here  
 Pis boke als yi selfe beres wittnes  
 Jn seuen partyse deuysed es  
 ye furst *part* to hafe in mynde  
 Js of wrechednes of mannes kynde  
 ye secund is of condiciouns sere  
 And of ye vnstabulnes of yis world here  
 ye thrid *pert* is right to rede  
 Of ded & why it is to drede

ye furth *pert* is of purgatory  
 yer saules ar~ clensed of alle yair~ foly  
 ye fyft is of ye day of dome  
 And of tokenes yat be-fore schal come  
 ye sext is of ye paynes of helle  
 yer dampned saules schal euer duelle  
 ye seuent is of ye ioyes of heuen  
 yus is yis boke in *pertyse* seuen  
 And in ilk *perty* fynde men may  
 Ser~ maters for to say  
 Go we now to ye *perte* yat furst is  
 yat spekes of mannes wrechednes  
 For alle yat is writen be-fore to loke  
 Js bot als an entre of yis boke  
**Her begynnes ye furst *perty* yat is of  
 ye wrechednes of mannes kynde**  
 Furst when god made alle thyng of noght  
 Of ye foulest mater~ man he wroght  
 yat is of erthe tuo skilles to holde  
 ye one is for yi yat god wolde  
 <fol. 6v>Of foule mater~ make man in dispite  
 Os lucifer yat fell als tye  
 Til helle for he had synned in pryde  
 And of alle yat fell with him yat tide  
 For yai schulde hafe ye more schenschip  
 And ye more sorow qwen yai toke lepe  
 yat man of slike foule mater~ schulde dwelle  
 Jn yat place fro qwilk yai felle  
 ye toy<sup>ur</sup> skill is yis to se  
 For man schulde her~ ye meker be  
 Ay qwen he sese or thynkes in thoght  
 Of how foule mater~ he is wroght  
 God thoro his godenes & his myght  
 wolde seen yat place in heuen bright  
 Was made voyde there ye syn of pryde  
 yat it wer~ filled on ilk a side  
 Thoro ye vertew of mekenes  
 yat euen contrary to pryde es  
 yen may no man yider come

Bot he yat is meke & buxome  
 yat schewes ye gospell til vs  
 How god says vntil his discipuls yus

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

He says bot 3e be als a chi<sup>ll</sup>de  
 yat is to say bothe meke & mylde  
 3e schal not entur be no way  
 heuen riche yat lastes ay  
 yen be-hofes a man her~ seke  
 What thyng may tittest make *him* meke  
 And nothing yen may meke *him* more  
 yen to yenke in hert als J sayde ore  
 How he was made of a fowle mater~  
 And is not elles bot erthe her~

## <Tranche 2>

<fol. 16v>For god of heuen *yer* alle gode es  
 yai schulde hafe alle yat gode is yore  
 yat *neuer* schal fayle bot laste *euermore*  
 ye worlde yat her~ is is noght elles  
 Bot *maner* of men yat *yer-in* dwelles  
 For yis worlde men may not kenne  
 Bot be condiciouns of worldys+men  
 What myght men be yis worlde vndurstande  
 Jf no worldys+men wer~ *yer-in* dwelland  
 Alle yose men yat+ye worlde moste dauntes  
 Moste besily yis worlde her~ hauntes  
 And yai yat ye worlde moste lofes  
 Serues ye deuel als ye boke profes  
 For yis worlde is ye deuels *seruaund*  
 yat bringes his *seruauntes* til his hand  
 For thy god him prynce of ye world calles  
 yat is of worldly men yat til *him* falles  
 For thy yis worlde is ille to lofe  
 Be many skilles als clerkes profe  
 Ye worlde is fyail & disseyuabull

And fals vnsiker & vnstabull  
 Many+men ye worlde her~ fraystes  
 Bot he is not wyse yat *yer*-in traystes  
 For it lawghes on *him* & smyles  
 And at ye laste hit *him* begyles  
 For thy yat man is not witty  
 yat aboute ye worlde is euer besy  
 For a man may not goddus *seruaunt* be  
 Bot he ye maners of ye worlde fle  
 Ne lofe god bot he ye worlde dispysse  
 Forthy ye gospell says on yis wyse  
 <lat><3 lines></lat>  
 <fol. 17r>He says no+man may *serue* rightly  
 Tuo lordes to-gedur yat ar~ *contrary*  
 For awther he schal ye tone hate  
 And lofe ye *toyur* after~ his state  
 Or elles he schall ye one mayntene  
 And dispice ye *toyur* yus is it sene  
 ye worlde is goddes enmy be skille  
 And *contrary* vnto goddes wille  
 And so is alle yat yis worlde loues  
 Als ye appostul says & proues  
 <lat></lat>  
 <lat></lat>  
 Who so frende to yis worlde will be  
 Enmy vnto god is he  
 yen schulde we noght assent *yer*-to  
 Ne noght at ye world likes schulde we do  
 For worldys+men her~ god mispayes  
 And *yerfore* ye appostel says  
 <lat></lat>  
 Lofes noght ye worlde her~ *yus* says he  
 Ne thynges yat yai *yer*-in se  
 For all y<sup>t</sup> men in ye world telle can  
 Js awther 3ernynge of flessch of man  
 Or 3ernyng of *eien* yat may loke  
 Or pryde of lyfe so says ye boke  
 <lat></lat>  
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3ernyng of flessch is on thyng~  
 Yat falles vnto flessch likyng~  
 3ernyng~ of eie als J can gess  
 Falles vnto worlde's richness  
 Pryde of lyfe yat *sum* men kepes  
 Falles to honours & wirschypes  
 Lust & likyng yat is fleshly  
 Engendurs ye synne of lechery  
 <fol. 17v>Worlde's riches of grete pryse  
 Gendurs ye synne of couetyse  
 Honours norisshes als men may se  
 Vayne glorie vayne thynges & vanyte  
 Syn god made ye worlde als says holy writt  
 To serue to man & man noght it  
 Whi serues man ye world yan  
 And makes *him* til ye worlde bonde+man  
 When he may *serue* god & be fre  
 And oute of seruage of ye worlde be  
 Bot and a man wolde know & fele  
 What ye worlde is & behalde it wele  
 Him schuld not liste vnderstande  
 To make ye worlde ne gladde semblande  
 For lo qwat says bartilmew  
 yat spekes of ye worlde als J wil schewe  
 <1 blank line>  
 He says ye worlde is nothing~ elles  
 Bot a harde exill in whom man dwelles  
 And als a dym doleful dale  
 Yat is ful of sorow & bale  
 And a stede of Wretchednes  
 Of *trauayls* & angurs yat her~ ay es  
 Of payne of synne & of foly  
 Of schenschip & of vylanye  
 Of lettyng & of taryng~  
 Of frowardnes & of stryuyng~  
 Of fylthe & of corrupcioun  
 Of violence & of oppressioun  
 Of gylery & of falshede  
 Of tresou@ discorde & of drede

Of pompe & pride & couetyse  
 Of vayn+sleght & of queyntise  
 In worlde he says noght elles we se  
 <fol. 18r>Bot wrechednes and vanite  
 ye worlde he says vnto him drawes  
 And tils & lofes yaim yat him knawes  
 And many he noyes & sone avayles  
 His lofers he dissayues & fayles  
 His dispisers he waytes ay  
 Als ye seydwse to take yaim to his pray  
 Bot alle yat will folow him he ledes  
 And scornes and tarys yaim in his nedes  
 ye whilk a+while he her~ socours  
 And heghes yaim w<sup>t</sup> riches & honours  
 & waytes & begyles yaim at ye last  
 And in-to pouert agayne yaim cast  
 For ye worldes wirschips may be calde  
 Noght elles bot vanye to halde  
 And worldes riches how so yai come  
 Js not elles bot filthe & fantome  
 ye worlde has many w<sup>t</sup> fantome filled  
 And at ye laste yai ar~ begyled  
 Forthy a+holy+man als 3e may here  
 Spekes to ye worlde on yis maner~  
 yis is on Englissh yus to be mene  
 A yow worlde he says vnclene  
 Why ne myght you so clene be  
 yat yow ne schulde neuer negh me  
 Or elles so clene & noght vyle  
 yat y<sup>u</sup> schuldes neuer negh me ne fyle  
 yis worlde her~ qwo so will  
 Four~ thynges may be likkend be skill  
 Furst ye worlde may likkend be  
 Moste *propurly* vn-to ye se  
 For ye see after te tyde certayn  
 Ebbes & flowes & falles agayn  
 And waxes ful kene w<sup>t</sup> *stourmes* yat blawes  
 <fol. 18v>And castes vp & Doun many grete wawes  
 So castes ye worlde thoro fauour

A+man to riches & honour  
 And fro yat sithen he castes him doune  
 To pouert & to tribulacioun  
 And yo ar~ ye grete stourmes kene  
 & ye wawes yat in ye worlde ar~ sene  
 Also ye worlde her~ yat wylde es  
 May be likkend to a wyldurnes  
 yat full of wylde bestes is sene  
 Als leberds & lyouns & wulfes kene  
 yat wolde wery men blyue  
 And russh yaim in smidur sonn & ryue  
 So is ye worlde ful of misdoers  
 And of tyraunts yat man oft deres  
 ye whilk ar~ besy nyght & day  
 To noy men alle yat yai may  
 ye worlde also may likkend be  
 Til a forest in a wylde cuntre  
 Full of theues & of outlawes  
 yat comynly to ye forest drawes  
 yat haldes pathes & robbes & reues  
 And takes men gode & noght leues  
 So is ye worlde her~ qwer~ we duelle  
 Ful of theues yat ar~ ye deuels of helle  
 yat ay vs waytes & ar~ besy  
 To robb vs of our~ gode gostely  
 ye worlde may 3itt als 3e may her~  
 Be likkend on ye furthe maner~  
 Til a+felde ful of batayles  
 With enmyes yat ilk day man assayles  
 For we ar~ her~ on many wyse  
 Alle vmbysett w<sup>t</sup> ser~ enmyse  
 And specially w<sup>t</sup> enmys thre  
 <fol. 19r>Agayne Whome vs Bode armed Be  
 yoo ar~ ye worlde ye fende & our~ flesh  
 yat to assayle vs ar~ euer mor~ fressh  
 yer-fore be-hofes vs bothe day & nyght  
 whils we ar~ her~ agayns yaim fight  
 ye worlde als clerkes vndurstandes  
 Fightes agaynes+vs w<sup>t</sup> tuo handes

With ye righthande & w<sup>t</sup> ye lift also  
 yat may be-token bothe wele & wo  
 ye right+hande worldes welthe J halde  
 And ye lift is angurs calde  
 For ye world assayles *sum*+man a qwyle  
 With ye right+hande yai to be-gyle  
 For yat is welthe als J sayde be-fore  
 Of worldes riches & tresore  
 And he assayles men nyght & day  
 With ye lift+hande yaim to flay  
 yat is with angurs & tribulacioun  
 With *pouert* & *persecucioun*  
 And yat yise clerkes ye lift-hande calles  
 Of ye worlde yat oft sithe falles  
 Bot with ye worlde comes dame fortune  
 yat ayther hande chaunges sone  
 For scho turnes aboute ay hir whele  
 vp & doun als men may fele  
 When scho her whele aboute gares go  
 Scho turnes some doun fro wele to wo  
 And oft agayne fro woo to wele  
 yus *turnes* scho oft aboute her qwele  
 ye qwilk yise clerkes noght elles calles  
 Bot happ or chaunce yat sodaynli falles  
 And yat men haldes her~ noght elles  
 Bot wethe & angur~ yat man in duelles  
 For ye worldly hap is ay in doute  
 Whils dame fortune *turnes* her qwele aboute  
 <fol. 19v>Angurs & deres men Wolde fayne fle  
 And in welthe men wolde ay be  
 Bot men yat yair~ lyfe right ledes  
 Welthe of yis worlde ay fles & dredes  
 For welthe drawes men fro ye right way  
 yat ledes to blis yat lastes ay  
 vs aght to drede ye worldes welth yan  
 Als says seynt Jerome y<sup>t</sup> holy man  
 <lat></lat>  
 <lat></lat>  
 Ye more he says we wax vp-right



Jn welthes & in worldly myght  
ye more we schulde hafe drede in thocht  
yat we fro ye hegher fall noght  
Til yise acordes ye wordes of seneke  
yat says als 3e schal her~ me speke  
<lat></lat>  
<lat></lat>  
Senek on yis maner says  
When welth of yis worlde w<sup>t</sup> ye plays  
Seke yow yen gode counsayle w<sup>t</sup> all  
For welthes makes a man to falle  
yen is worldes welthe to dr~de yer~fore  
Als says ye grete clerk~ seynt gregore  
<lat></lat>  
<lat></lat>  
Saynt gregor~ says on yis maner~  
Jf alle auntours be to drede her~  
Happ of welthe is to drede more  
Yen cas of angur yat smertes sore  
For angurs mannes lyfe clenses & proues  
And welthes mannes saule droblys & droues  
ye saule of man may lightly spille  
For welthes y<sup>t</sup> man has her~ at wille