



ī»¿<County: Sussex>
<Code: L5680>
<MS reference: Oxford, University College 142>
<Text: Prick of Conscience>

<Tranche 1>

<fol. 7r>And on hys ende þenke schol<ill></ill> he
And in his laste day þat schal be
He schoulde knowe what þys worlde ys
Ful of pompe and of pryde y-wys
And þenk wysly and lere wyþ alle
What schal after þys lyf falle
For knowynge of alle þes schoulde hym lede
To knowe hys god þour3 loue and drede
And so may he come to good lywyng
and at þ^e laste to good endyng
And whenne he out of þys world schal wende
Be brou3th to blysse þat hath non ende
Al þe bygynnyng of of þys proses
Ry3t knowyng of man hym self ys
Bote some men haueþ moche lettyngge
That letteth hem to haue ry3t knowyng
Of hem self þat they furst schoulde knawe
That hem to mekenysse furst schoulde drawe
And þ^t iiij þynges y fynde
yat makeþ mannys wyttys ofte blynde
And knowyng of hem self letteth
Thoru3 wheche iiij. hym-self he forgateth
Of þis synt bernard bereth wytnesse
As in þys wers hyt wryten ysse
<lat></lat>
<lat></lat>
That ys preysynge of folk . and fayrnesse
And brennyng of 3ouþe . and rychesse

Reuyth mannys sy3th resoun and mende
 Hym-self to knowe what ys hys kynde
 þus þes . iii jy. . lettyth mannys sy3th
 That he knowyth nou3t hym-self a-ry3th
 And maketh hys herte ful hawteyne
 And ful froward to hys sone rayne
 Thes. iiij norschen pompe and pryde
 And oþer vyces þat man can not hyde
 <fol. 7v>For in hym on whom oon of þes iiij ysse
 Is selde y-seye eny meknysse
 Al so hy lettyn a man þat he no3t sees
 The peryles of þys worlde and vanyteys
 Ne þe tyme of deth þ^t ys to come
 He þenkeþ nou3t of þe day of dome
 Ne he can can nou3th vnderstonde ne see
 The peynes þ^t after þys lyf schull~ be
 To synful men þat lyueth in foleye
 Ne þ^e blysse þat god+men ben worthye
 Bote in delytys setteyth hys herte faste
 And fareth as hyt schoulde euere laste
 And 3eueth hym not bote to vanyte
 And to al þat to hym lykyng may be
 Such men beth lad nou3t al in wysdome
 Bote after her oune wyl þey done
 And of nou3t ellys þenkeyth ne takeþ hede
 Bote þat þ^t þey may hem to lykyng lede
 Gret wonder ys 3yf þey drede ou3th
 For what þey schoulde drede þei knoweth nou3th
 That ys þour3 defaute of knowynge
 Of þat my3the hem to drede brynge
 And 3ut some men wole nou3t wnderstonde
 þyng þ^t my3the make hym dredande
 They wole nou3th hyre bote þat hem payes
 Therfor/ þ^e prophete in sauter sayes
 <lat></lat>
 He sayþ he hath no wyl to fele
 Ne vnderstonde to do wele
 Thus by hym may be sayd here
 þat wole nou3t vnderstonde ne lere

To drede god and do hys wylle
 Bote her owene lykyng wolen fulfyllen
 Some haueþ vnderstondyng as men telle
 Bote drede in her herte may non dwelle
 And þe defande <?> of þat may be
 <fol. 8r>That þey leueth no þyng bote þat þey see
 Bote grucche whanne þey dredeful þyng hyre
 Therfore ye prophete sayeth on þis manere
 <lat></lat>
 The prophete sayeth þey byleue nou3th
 Bote grucchede and wexen angrey in þou3th
 For many þer beþ þ^t byleueth no þyng
 þat men seyen a3en her lykyng
 Bote gretly grucchen and wexyn froward
 Whanne men seyeth ou3t þ^t þenkyth hym hard
 Some cunne se such þyng and rede
 Bote ly3thnesse of herte reueth hym þ^t drede
 þat hyt may no3t w^t-ynne hym dwelle
 To þes sayth god in þe gospelle
 <lat></lat>
 To a tyme he sayth some byleueth holy prechyng
 and passeth þerfro in tyme of fondyng
 And al so sayth þ^e prophete dauyd
 In a psalm þat a-cordeth þer wyth
 <lat></lat>
 <lat></lat>
 He seyth in hys wordys byleued þey
 And herede hys preysyng as hy cowthe say
 Bote sone þei hadde done and forsake
 Hys workys of mercy and þou3t nomore in þate
 Such men ben euere so vnstedfaste
 þat no drede may w^t hem laste
 Bote who so can no3t drede may lere
 And he þis tretys wyl rede or here
 3yf þei rede or here hyt to þe ende
 And þe materys þat beth þer ynne contende
 And vnderstonde hem alle and byleefe
 Purchaunce her hertys hit wyle meefe
 þour3 drede þat þey schulle conseyue þer-by

To worche gode workys and fle foley
 þer-fore þis book ys in englych drawe
 <fol. 8v>Of manye materys þat ben vnknowe
 To lewede men þat beþ vnkunynge
 Þat of latyn haue noȝt vnderstondynge
 To make hem-self furst to knowe
 And fro synne and vanyte drawe
 And sterve hem to ryȝth drede
 Whanne þei þis tretys hereþ rede
 To prycke her concyens wyth-ynne
 To loue and drede þat may bygynne
 Thoruȝ comfort of heuene and ioies y-fere
 þat man may afterward rede and here
 Thys bok as hym-self bereþ wytnesse
 In seuene partyes departed ysse.
 The furste part to knowe & haue in mynde
 ys of þe wrecchednesse of mannys kynde
 The secunde of þis condycyones sere
 and þe vnstableness of þis world here
 þe thrydde ys in þis boke to rede
 Of þe deth wheche ys to drede
 The ferthe þat ys of purgatorye
 Where soules beþ clensed of her foleye
 The fyfthe ys of þe day of dome
 And þe tokenys þ^t by-fore schul come
 þe syxte ys of þe peynys of helle
 Ther þree dampned soules schulle dwelle
 þe seuende ys of þe joyes of heuene
 Thes ben þes partyes al seuene
 And in alle partyes fynde men may
 Fele materys in þis bok to say
 Go we to þat partye þat furst ysse
 þat spekeþ of mannes wrecchednesse
 For al þ^t þat ys wreten by-fore to loke
 ys bote an entre of þis boke
 <lat><3 lines></lat>
 <fol. 9r>Furst Whanne god made al þyng of nouȝth
 Man of þe fouleste matere he wroȝth
 That was of erthe for tweye skyles y-holde

That on ys for þat god soo wolde
 Of foule matere make man in despyte
 Of lucifer þat down fell fro heuene bry3th
 To helle whanne he hadde synned þour3 pride
 And of alle þo þ^t w^t hym felle þ^t tyde
 þat þei schoulde haue þe more schenschype
 and þe more sorwe whan þey tok kepe
 þat man of so foul matere schoulde dwelle
 In þ^t place fro wheche þey felle
 That oþer skylle ys þis to see
 þat man schoulde her þe mecker bee
 Euere whanne he seeth and þenketh in þou3th
 Of how foul matere he was wrou3th
 For god hys goodnesse and hys my3te
 Wolde þat sy3the þat place in heuen bry3te
 Was mad voyde þour3 synne of pride
 Were fulfylled a3en in eche syde
 Thorw þe vertu of meknesse
 þat euene contrarye to pryde ysse
 For may no+man þedyr come
 Bote he þ^t meke ys and boxome
 þat preueth þe gospel þat techyth vs
 There god to hys dycyplus sayeth þus
 <lat></lat>
 Bote 3e be he sayth ase a chyld
 þat is saye boþe meke and myld
 3e may not entre by no way
 heuene blysse þat lasteth ay
 Thenne by-houeth ech+man here to seke
 What may sonyst make hym meke
 Bote noþyng may meke hym more
 þanne for to þenke ase y sayde ore
 how he was mad of fowl matere
 <fol. 9v>That ys nou3th ell~ bote erthe here
 For þus sayþ a klerk as y 3ow say
 What is a man bote erþe and clay
 And poudre þat wyþ þe wynde brekeþ
 Þer-fore Job þus to god spekeþ
 <lat></lat>

He sayþ lord as þ^u madyst me
 Of foul erþe and clay here to be
 Ryȝth so þou schalt turne me agayn
 To erþe and powdere þis ys certayn
 Thenne seyþ oure lord god almyȝthy
 Agayn to man þus sothly
 <lat></lat>
 Thenk man he seyþ assches art þ^u now
 And to assches aȝen turne schalt þow
 þenne man ys not ell~ to say
 Bote axen powdre erthe and clay
 Of þys schoulde eche man haue mende
 And knowe þe wrecchednyse of hys kynde
 þat may be seen as y ȝow schewe can
 In alle partyes of þe lyf of man
 Alle mannys lyf þ-cast may be
 Pryncypally in partyes þre .
 That beþ þes iij to vnderstandyng~
 Bygynnyng~ mydward and endyng~
 þes iij partyes ben spacys tolde
 Of þe lyf of echman ȝung and olde
 <lat></lat>
 Bygynnyng~ of mannys lyf þ^t furst ysse
 Conteyned in moche wrechednesse

<Tranche 2>

<fol. 10r><line 28> For þanne noþer may he stonde ne crepe
 Bote lygge and spescyaly crye and wepe
 For vnneþe ys a chyld y-bore fully
 þat hyt ne wole wepe and cry
 And by þat cry may man wete þanne
 Wheþer hit be man oþer wommanne
 Whanne hit ys born and cryeth whaa
 ȝyf hit be a man hit cryeth a a
 þe wheche þe furste lettere ys of þe name
 <fol. 10v>Of oure former fadere adame
 And ȝif þat chyld a wwomman be
 Whenne hit ys born hyt sayeth . e . e

þat ys þe furste lettere as *scripture* seyth
 Of eues name þ^t by-gan oure d^[e]leth
 Therfore a clerk made in þys manere
 As hit is sayd in latyn here
 <lat></lat>
 Al þes he seyth þat comeþ of adam & of eue
 That beþ alle men þ^t here been a lyue
 Whanne þey beþ born what so þey be
 þey schullen sey a . a . or . e . e
 Thus ys here þe bygynnyng
 Of owre lyf sorwe and wepyng
 To wheche oure wrecchednesse stereth vs
 And þerfore Innocent sayþ þus
 <lat></lat>
 He sayþ alle we be bore wepyng
 and makynge sorowful semblyng
 For to schewe gret wrecchednyss
 Of oure kynde þat in vs ysse
 Thus whanne þe tyme ys of oure burthe
 Alle we maekþ sorwe and no murthe
 naked we comeþ hyder and bare
 And powre so schulle we hennys fare
 On þis in ech tyme we schoulde þenke+þanne
 For þus sayþ Job þe holy manne
 <lat></lat>
 Naked he sayþ furst y come hyder
 Owt of ye wombe of my moder
 And naked y schal turne a-way
 So schulle we alle at þ^e laste day
 þus a man at þe furste comyng
 ys naked and bryngeth wiþ hym noþyng
 Bote a skyn þat ys foul and lothsome
 That ys his clopyng al and some
 <fol. 11r>That ys nou3t ellys bote a bloody skynne
 yat he by-fore was wrapped ynne
 Whyle he in hys moder wombe lay
 That ys foul þyng for to say
 And fouler to here as sayþ þe booke
 And alþer+foulest on to loke

Thus ys a man y-gete as 3e mowe se
 In wrecchednysse and caytyfte
 Al for to leue here a fewe dayes
 And þerfore Job here opynly sayes
 <lat></lat>
 He sayth man þat born of womman
 Lyuynge schort tyme fulfyllyd ys þan
 Of many manerys of wrecchydnesse
 So sayþ Job and soþ hyt ysse
 And also a man ys born to nou3th ellys
 Bote for to trauayle as Job tellys
 <lat></lat>
 as a foul here ys to fly3th
 For lytel reste in hys lyf ysse
 Bote gret trauayl and buseynesse
 3ut a man ys whanne he ys born
 Þe fendys sone and for-lorn
 Euere bote he to *grace* may come
 To baptysme and to crystendome
 þus may man hys bygynnyng se
 Ful of wrecchednysse and caytyfte
 The oþer part of þe lyf men calleth
 þe mydward aftyr whanne hit falleth
 The whyche recheth fro þe bygynnyng
 Of mannys lyf to þe endynge
 þe bygynnyng of man as y tolde
 ys fooul an wrecchede to by-holde
 Bote how fooul hit ys afterward
 Telleþ þus openly seynt bernard
 <fol. 11v><lat></lat>
 <lat></lat>
 Seynt bernard seyth as þe bok tellys
 That a man here ys nou3th ellys
 Bote a foul lothsom slyym to men
 And a sak foul of stynkyng fen
 And wormys fode þat þei wole haue
 Whenne he ys ded and leyd in graue
 Bote some men and womman fayre semeth
 To þe sy3th wiþoute as men demeth

Bote manye þat seen þ^t whythe skyn
 My³the þei seen what ys þer in
 Fouler careyne my³the neuere non be
 Than þei schoulde þanne in hem se
 þer-fore he þat hadde as scharp sy³th
 And as cler e³en and as bry³th
 As haþ a best þat men lunx calles
 þat may seen þoru³ harde walles
 Lytel lykyng schoulde man haue þanne
 To by-holde eny fayr wommanne
 For þenne he my³the her~ se wiþ-oute dowte
 As wel wyþ-ynne as wyth-oute
 And 3yf he wiþ-ynne say hyre a-ry³th
 Sche were wel lothsom to hys sy³th
 þus foul w^t-ynne ech man ys
 As þe bok sayþ and bereth wytnys
 þan may we se in þis manere
 How foul þe kynde of man ys here
 Wher-fore y holde a man nou³th wytty
 That here ys prout or joly
 Whanne he may eche day hyre and se
 What he ys was and schal be
 Bote a prowte man of þis takeþ nonhede
 For hym fayleþ reson þat hym schoulde lede
 Whenne he ys 3ong~ and loueth pleyying
 And ese and welthe and lykyng
 <fol. 12r><lat></lat>
 He sayþ in fower score 3ere who so in helpe lyueþ
 Trauayl and sorwe hym afþer sore greueþ
 For may no man þat haþ þat elde
 Wel goueren hym-self and welde
 Bote now wel schorter falleþ mannys dayes
 Þer-for Job þe holy man sayes
 <lat></lat>
 Now he sayþ my fewe dayes here
 Schal ben schorted in þis manere
 Fewe may now fourty wynter passe
 And fewer fyfty as soum tyme was
 þanne ys hys kynde feble and cold

Ase hit ys in þis boke told
 That chaungeþ his manerys and condycoun
 His strengthe and his complexoun
 þanne wexyt his berd hard and his feet heuy
 And his heued feble and downward and desy
 His face reueleth more and more
 And his lymes beþ seke and sore
 His mende ys schort whanne he ou3t þenkeþ
 His nose ofte droppeþ his breth stynkeþ
 His sy3tes wexeþ dymme þat he haþ
 His bak wexeþ crokyde stowpyng he goþ
 Wyth fyngerys and toon fot and hond
 And wyth al his body tremelend
 His workis forworueþ þat he bygynneþ
 His heer mounteþ his eyen renneth
 His erys wexeth deue and hard to here
 His tonge fayleþ his speche ys not clere
 His mouþ slaueryþ his teth roteth
 His wyttes fayleth and ofte he doteth
 He is ethe to wrethe & wexyþ froward
 For to turne hym fro wretthe his ys ful hard
 He þenketh and troweþ sone euery-þyng
 And hard hit ys to bryng fro hym þ^t trowyng
 <fol. 12v>He ys couetus and hard holdyng
 His chere ys drery and his semblyng
 He is swyft to speke in his manere
 And heuey and froward for to here
 He preyseth olde men and holdeþ hem wyse
 And 3unge men hyn luste to dyspyse
 He priseth olde men þ^t by-fore hym he haþ seen
 And bakbyttheþ 3unge men þat now been
 He ys ofte syk and euere gronyng
 And ofte angry and playnyng
 Alle þes of kynde to an olde men falleth
 That clerkys *properteys* on olde men calleth
 3ut beþ þer mo þan J haue told
 þat falleþ to a man whanne he ys old
 Thus man may se who so can
 What þe concydyones beþ of olde men

The laste ende of mannys lyf ys hard
 þat is whanne he draweþ to þe ende ward
 For whanne he ys syk and bedrede lyeth
 and so feble þ^t he for peyne sore cryeth
 Thanne ben men in dowte and vncertayn
 Wheþer he schal euere keuery a-3eyn
 Bote 3ut conne some þ^t ben slye
 Wete wheþer he schal on þ^t euel deyere
 By certeyn tokuys in pows and breþ
 þat man hath þat ys nu3 þe deþ
 Thanne by-gynneþ hys heed downward to falle
 And his briwes by-cometh heuþ wyþalle
 The lyft eye of hym schal seme lasse
 And lower þan þat oþer or he passe
 The nose ate poynt ys scharp and smal
 And bygynneth hys skyn to fal
 His pows ys styлле w^t-oute steryng
 His feet wexeþ colde his wombe clyngyng
 And 3if hit be a 3oung man
 He euere wakeþ and sclepeþ nou3th þan
 <fol. 13r> And 3if an old man be to þe dethe drawyng~
 He may nou3t wake bote be scleping~
 Men sayn alle þes toknes sere
 Ben to a man þat deth~ ys nere
 Whyle a man leueth he ys lych a man
 Whanne he is ded wham is lych þan
 Chaungyd ase hyt neuere hadde ben he
 Thanne may a man þer hys lyknesse y-se
 And whanne hys lyf is brou3th to þe ende
 þanne schal he on þe same wyse hennys wende
 Powre and naked ase he com furst
 Or he sook on his moderys brest
 For brou3t he nobyng wyþ hym þat day
 Ne nou3t schal he bere w^t hym a-way
 Bote hit be a wyndryng cloth namly
 þat schal be wrapped aboute his body
 Thus wrecchedly endyth þe lyf of a man
 And 3if we byholde what he is þan
 Whanne þe lyf is passed a-way



Thanne is he nou3t bote erþe and clay
þat turnet to more corrupcyoun
þan eny careyue in erþe doun
For þe corrupcyoun of his body
3if hit schoulde longe a-boue þe erþe ly
Hit my3t þe erþe so corupte make
þat men þer of her deth my3the take
So vyle hit is and so violent
þer-fore þe grede clerk seyth Jnnocent
<lat></lat>
<lat></lat>
He seyth what stench may fouler be
þan mennys careyne ys for to se
And what is more horrybiliar in eny stede
þan man ys whan he is dede
Al-so no þyng is so grysly
Ase here is a mannys ded body