



<County: Worcestershire>

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<Text: Burgh's Cato, Titus and Vespasian>

<Tranche 1>

<fol. 13r>3if thu aspye and se a forfeiture
a theff a shrew of gret mysghernaunce
Trust well sum tyme þat þer shall com a our~
Whan for his dede he shall suffer penaunce
Cursed dede asketh wreche & . vengeaunce
they3 wykkednes for tyme be kepte secre
3it at the last will hit deskeueryd be

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

Though that sum tyme natur~ hath ben~ vnkynde
And 3eue a man to be of small statur~
3it my child remembre & haue in mynde
þat þu neuer despyse þat creatur~
For god may sende hym fortune & good vre
And ofte they ben with good conceyle allyed
To whom that natur~ hath gret strenght denyed

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

Whan the happeth travers or haue a-do
wyth hym thu knowyst not egall to thy myght
Thyn vtterest power~ shew not such on to
lest þat efte sone he haue the in lyke plyght
For hit is sene in tornement & in fyght
Fortune changeth ofte with-yn an hour~
And he is scomfyte þat 3er~ was victour~

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

<fol. 13v>Off brondes smale buth made these fyres grete

Withdraw the brondes the fyr~ shall dystres

a-3ene the know the eyr~ loke thu not bete

With wordys fele for worde disturbyth pees

the mann is wyse þat can~ of wordys sees

For this is soth as god 3af the ^[thy] lyff

Wordys smale bredeth full muchell stryff

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

Dele not with sorcery ne with syrquydrye

Jn goddys hande ys all thy sorte & fate

be not a-boute to kalke thy destenye

3if thu mysvrouis or fortunate

let god a-lone in hym is all thyn astate

And that hym lyst of the to purpose

With-uten~ the can he full well dyspose

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

be warr~ of Envye with heor~ tecchys fell

with-Jn thyn hert loke þat sheo not rest

For hit is onn of the peynes of hell

whan sheo soiornethe in a mannys brest

than brenneth fenyx ry3t in his own~ nest

And though she may non~ other man~ myscheve

3it Ethna cesyth not heor~-self to greve

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

<fol. 14r>Enforce thyn herte with manly sufferance

Though þat wrang Jugement a-3eynys the *procede*

be not a-basshyd in worde ne contynance

For ofte the oppressur~ fals may rule & lede

The lawe but trust me well with-oute drede

long to reioysen accchewyth hit natte

Which my menys vntrew his goodys gatte

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

Wrath of old þat shuld be out of mynde

be not a-boute to make efte on~ lyve

but the Envyouis hath ay the tecche of kynde

Suche malyce my child loke þu not revyve
 For such yr~ of old maketh a new stryve
 And who þat remembreth old enmyte
 A wykked man my child for-soth is he

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

Thy-self all-so loke þat þu not preyse
 Ne despise but let other men~ a-lon~
 All-wey after prudence thy wordys peyse
 For thyn a-vaunte honour~ shalt thou gete non~
 but haue a mokke as fast as thou art gon~
 A man to preyse hym-self as seyth the scole
 or dispreyse muche is token~ of a fole

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

<fol. 14v>When hit is tyme of cost & gret expence
 be warr~ of wast & spende ay by mesure
 Who that to kepe or spende no dyfference
 Maketh his goodys may not long endure~
 The old saw seyth mesure is tresure
 For in short tyme the good may slyppe a-way
 þat was gotten~ in many a sundry day

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

hit is not wysdom~ all-way to be sage
 but sum tyme to seme nyce & feyn~ foly
 Who that hath thys fete shall fynde a-vauntage
 Whan tyme & thyng desyreth that aspye
 & than dissimule this is polycye
 Sum tyme to ben~ vnwyse in apparence
 A-mong the wyse is clepyd full hye prudence

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

The felthy flesch in mevyng bestyall
 þat fy3teth ay a-3eyns the soule with-In~
 be force of heor~ Entysement sensuall
 Eschew my child & kepe the from heor~ gynne
 that acte & grace ben sett full ferr~ at twynne
 And flee of auaryce the wykked fame

These too hit beth that causeth euyl name

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

<fol. 15r>Beleve not in euery wyghtys sawe
 for som reporte thyngys all other wyse
 Than hit was don or any man~ hit saw
 And sum haue hit of custom~ And of gyse
 to fede folke with flaterying & lyse
 3eue lytell trust ther-fore to suche spekyng
 For mony folke speketh many thyng

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

3if thu surfete in drynke for-3ete not that
 A-vyse the efte thu com not in that snar~
 With-draw þyn hond fede not thy throte so fatt
 Drynk þat suffyceth the And ellys spar~
 to muche drynk maketh men~ of wytt full bar~
 And 3it the wyn~ ther~-of is not to blame
 But þat the drynker maketh hym-self lame

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

To thy trusty frende þat is secre
 shew thy conseyle tyll hym thyn hert be wrye
 a trusty frende is cheste of pryvyte
 but hit is hard such frendys to aspye
 Try out on~ a-mong a companye
 And of thy bodye be-take thu the cur~
 to such a leche as ys trusty And sur~

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

<fol. 15v>With-yn thy-self a-greue the nat to sore
 Though thyng amysse sum tyme the mys be-tyde
 Dismay the not in besy wyse ther~-fore
 thyn auentur~ nedys thu muste a-byde
 Fortune may not all-way be on thy syde
 With harmes to greve in a-wayte lyth she
 To reven men Welth & prosperite

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

Jn thy-seluen~ compas a-boute by-fore
 thyng to *perceyve* þat after~ shall be-fall
 hit noyth not ner~ grevyth half so sore
 that is for sayne As other thynges shall
 Sethen chanes deseseth most of all
 hit hurtheth lasse & ys in better plyght
 Wher~-of a man can haue a-for-syght

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

When diuerse thynges trauerse thyn~ entente
 And thu art wrappyd in aduersite
 Weyte for wanhope þu be not shente
 lete not despeyr~ thy wytt be-reven~ the
 A-bye the tyme that the shall better be
 hope is she that shall make the aseth
 hope leuyth not a man~ þau3 ma~ leue þe breth

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

<fol. 16r>Whan men *profer* hit is tyme to resceyue

Take thyngys whylys they ben~ in seson~
 They *profer* now þat efte wyll 3iftys weyve
 plente now will after-ward be geson~
 Take in tyme for so comaundeth reson~
 The balled hed whylom~ full of herys
 Now is bar~ with-outen~ rasour~ or sherys

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

Prouyde thy-self and haue delyuerance
 be lykkely *coniectur*~ what may be-tyde
 Aduertyse my child in thy remembrance
 a-fore a-boute on euery syde
 Folow þat god & let hym be thy gyde
 that hath all thyng in hys govern~ement
 Futur~ & past & that þat is *present*

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

hit is teeth of a devowryng hounde
 To resceyue *superflue* And don~ excesse
 Tyll hys resceyte a-geyn~ from hym rebounde

Content þy natur~ And fle gredynes
 Foule lustys ay kepe vnder and repres
 Fede not thy lyst with all þat sheo wyll crave
 3if that in helth the lyst thy body save
 <lat></lat>
 <lat></lat>
 <fol. 16v>Whan a multitude hath 3eue a decre
 Or concluded aught a-3eyns thyn~ entent
 travers not 3it a-3eyn~ the comynthe
 For 3if thu do þu shalt lyghtely be shente
 dyspyse not a-lone the peplys Jugemente
 In a-ventur~ thu plese not of hem~ on~
 Whylys thu wylt Impugne hem~ Euerchon~
 <lat></lat>
 <lat></lat>
 Take good hede vn-to thyn own~ astate
 to rewle thy body well with good dyete
 but loke with tyme thu be not at debate
 though through thyn own~ mysrewle & ssurfete
 Sekenes or sorow haue 3eue the an~ hete
 The tyme ys good And no dysmale ther~ ys
 but men hit make for þat þey don a-mys
 <lat></lat>
 <lat></lat>
 Drede no dremes so seyth deutronomye
 though þey be caused of complexion~
 Or ellys of eny nysed fantesye
 oft of a superflue replecion~
 For dremes beth but fals illusion~
 When~ men~ ben wakyn~g they desyr~ & thynke
 Vp-on þat thynk they dremen~ whan they wynke
 <lat></lat>
 <lat></lat>
 <fol. 17r>Loo<?> what wyght þat byst for to rede
 In thys my dytee sumwhat shall he fynde
 Wher~ with his sowle he may foster & fede
 With vertu And hit fro vice vnbynde
 Com ner~ my child & haue in mynde
 Such doctrine to ber~ a-way & ler~

As to thy lyff shall be leff & der~

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

The soule resembleth a new pleyn~ table

In which as 3it apperyth no pycture

The philosopher~ seyth with-out fable

So is the soule but a dedly fygur~

Tyl tyme she be reclimed with the lur~

Of doctrine And so gete heor~ a good habyte

to ben experte Jn kunyng And parfyte

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

Emprente my techyng in thy soule stedfaste

And full profytable thu shalt hit fynde

For-sake hit not ne from thyn hert hit caste

Fo 3if that þu exclude out off thy mynde

this lesson thu art full bareyn~ & blynde

From vertu And ther~-of a-wyte not me

Seth the defaute my son~ ys than in the

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

<fol. 17v>3if thu lyve iustely kepyng the vpry3t

Neuer declynyng for mede or favour~

than stondest thu in full holsu~ plyght

Thaugh men~ malygne with wordys of rygour~

3if thu lyve thus thy good lyff is thy tour~

We may not let the pepull gawr~ & crye

but do well 3if they 3if they sey mysse þey lye

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

yf thu be clepyd the soth to testyfy

Ay savyng thy wurshippe And honeste

thy frendes trespas Ay be a-boute to wrye

Wher~-as no shame may ther-of grow to the

thys requireth ay frendlynnesse parde

Jn wele & wo be trew benyuolence

by-twyx folke is frendshippe in existence

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

Make besy wach & kepe thy soule all-gate
 be-hold a-bowte a-spye the couerte treyne
 Whan that fals fauell knokke at the gate
 he meneth gyle though out-warde feyr~ he feyne
 he cann enoynte softly þynn erys tweyn~
 With oyle of plesaunce in full good foison~
 But vnder that kepe the from hys poyson~
 <lat></lat>
 <lat></lat>

<Tranche 2>

<fol. 53r>And out of Syn clene that 3e 3ew kepe
 For the dome shall come with gret yre
 As a thef that stelyth or as a wyld fyr~
 And all they shull to Joy wende
 That truly hem kepyth in-to the ende
 And ther~-for~ by tokenus þat ben~ sen~ be-fore
 Dredeth that that ys to com~ the more
 For heven~ & erth shall passe bothe
 but my wordys shull not passe for-sothe
 And when thus was sayd then~ to þe town~ þey drowh
 And ther~ he wrathyd sum of hem~ J-nowh
 For in the tempull he by-gan~ to be-holde
 how the Juwys they boughten~ & Solde
 And wux wroth then full 3are
 For they sold ther~ heor~ chaffare
 As oxen & kyn~ & other store
 with-yn the tempull with mucche stor~
 And gold & seluer ther~ they sold
 to all men~ that byggen~ hit wold
 And for vsery to make ~~to make~~ chaunce
 to men~ that comen~ out of Fraunce
 Netheles they solden~ non~ othyr thyng
 but that shuld goo vn-to offeryng
 As to pylgrymus sechyng that Cyte
 that come thyder from dyvers contre
 And Jhesuc thou3t hit was a grete dyspayr~
 Jn holy church to make a fayr~

A chepyng place he seyð is nouȝt to be thus
 For an hows of prayer~ hit shuld ben~ J-wys
 A pece of a rope þen sone he founde
 With mony knottys hit toke hit in his hounde
 <fol. 53v>He droff out all that ther~ stode
 And they flowen for drede as þey wer~ wode
 For hem thought his lokyng was as fyr~
 & thus he seyð to hem with yr~
 ye maketh of thys hous a thevys den~
 That furst was ordeyned for cristen~ men~
 And an hous of preyour~ dyght hit ys
 And non other J woll þat hit be J-wys
 And the bestys from hym by-gan~ to fle
 And fellen a-down~ the bordys with the mone
 And other thynges þat stodyn~ ther~ to syll
 Ther~ durst þey byde no lengor~ to dwell
 & ther~ full feyr~ he hem techyd
 And seth well offten~ he hem prechyd
 vn-tyll they token to hym~ envye
 And speken his deth with felonye
 And aftur that þey hym toke
 & as we fynde wryten~ in boke
 and fyfty knyȝtys þen~ with Judas came~
 With heor~ meynye when~ they hym name
 & much for the cause þat he hem~ vchon~
 Out of the tempull droff a-non~
 Netheles when they hym toke
 For his wordys So sore the quoke
 That þey fellen~ all A-down~
 as they had be all in a sown~
 And then he raysed hem vp As the hende
 for his passyon most be brouȝt to the ende
 As for to saven~ monkynde
 As we Jn prophecyes hit J-fynde
 And good men~ vnderstondeth now
 J shall sikerly tellen hit to ȝew
 <fol. 54r>Of the Juwys that deden~ Jhesuc to the ded
 Throw febull consell & fals rede
 They weren in so grett comberaunce

And also eke in so gret grevaunce
 That of that he had be-foren~ hem hyght
 Euer-mor~ they token~ hit full lyght
 And Seth hit fell all in heor~ nekke
 For by-cause þey wold not þer~-of rekke
 And 3it fourty 3er~ he 3aff hem space
 to loke where they wold seke grace
 For And they wolden~ hem~ haue mendyd
 On hem he nold not haue ben~ vengyd
 And thre thynges then ther~ wer~ in ysraell
 What þey wor~ J woll 3ew tell
 As we in story rede & fynde
 That be-fellen~ ther~ of the Juwys kynde
 The furst was called pylgrimage
 the seconde thraldam~ & servage
 And dispercion~ the thryd was told
 & that ys to-dreuyng~ of 3onge & old
 Ans thus by-gane heor~ pylgrimage
 when Jacob went ~~went~~ with his lynage
 Jn-to Egypt for mykell nede
 And lyved there long in gret drede
 And when Jacob most no lengor ther~ lyven
 hys kynd was out of that lond dryven~
 Even throw the reed see as 3e han~ hard
 For kyng pharao & his folk for ferd
 and Moyses was heor~ ledar þan
 Jn-to the londe of chanaan~
 And in-to þat <gap> lond he hem hyght
 <fol. 54v>Ther~ as he kepte hem well a-ply3t
 And with Angelus mete he fed hem
 And heor~ clothys laste euur with-uten~ wem~
 And that fourty wyntur ther~ in that desert
 And there he shewed hem myraclys a-pert
 And 3it for all his curtasye
 they gruy3ten~ a-3ene hym with foly
 For they maden~ hem goddys of Metall
 and honowred hem with gret reverens at all
 And thus 3elden~ they Jhesuc for his goodnes
 Full mykell & gret vnkyndens

And now wull J tell of heor~ seruage
 þat euur shall last all the worldys Age
 they shull neuur dwellen in twon~
 with-outen~ truage or raunsom~
 And in babyloyn~ furst this thraldam~
 On heor~ forn~faders furst hit cam~
 For there they dwellyd fyfty 3er~
 Or they must gon~ quyte & sker~
 The fyftyth 3ere was all heor~ solas
 that was for hem the 3er~ of grace
 For they were then~ let out of preson~
 And so is the 3er~ of oure gret pardon~
 That is J-graunted at the court of rome
 to all maner men~ of cristendom~
 And dispersion~ was the thryd thyng~
 Of Jewys kynd the dreuyng
 And that by-fell all in thys cas
 throw vaspasyan~ & tytus þat was
 As Jhesu by-fore throw prophecye
 J shall delyver hem for heor~ Envye
 <fol. 55r>To ben vnder lordship And such honde
 That they shull dwell J vnderstonde
 With-outen scapyng out of preson~
 For gold or Fer or any raunson~
 ne they shull not quyte for mersy wende
 hethen vn-to the worldys ende
 For mesure nor mersy was non~ w^t hem
 & such shall ben~ on heor~ barntem~
 And also for they mary sone for-soke
 that was ry3t eyr~ as seyth the boke
 For mary come of that lynage
 So that he shold ber~ the herytage
 And of this case was spoken & founde
 Or then hit by-fell a long stonde
 And the nobull clerk mayster Josephus
 A-mong the Juwys he seyde thus
 The day woll com this town~ woll fall
 And the Jewys ben~ confounded all
 And this Cyte shall ben~ ouer-throw

And the hye palys shall ben~ full low
 For Messyas shall send 3ew a-mong
 Sorow & shame & werr~ stronge
 From Rome shall com prynsys two
 bothen the fader & the son~ all-so
 that shull dystruy all that they fynde
 this town~ with all the Juwys kynde
 And this shall fall for heor~ cursyd werkys
 Take they neuer so well heor~ merkys
 For they slown Jhesu crist J-wys
 þat bothen goddys sone & maryes ys
 And this ys ry3tful Jugement
 <fol. 55v>But yf they com to A-mendement
 And thylke princes shull her~ geten~ gret honour~
 And that on~ shall of Rome ben~ Emperour~
 And a-nother tyme thys wytnesse 3e
 When that 3e her~-of doth see
 And thus wrotte he In the Juwys boke
 That they my3t hit all-wey loke
 And aftur Jhesuc deth ther~ fellen~ wondyrs thykke
 bothe feyr~ & foule goode & wykke
 And sethen~ they slown~ the 3ong seynt Jame
 For þat he prechyd in cristus name
 And Seven 3ere aftur that Jhesuc was dede
 dyed Seynt Jamys all in that stede
 For whos deth god was wroth all-so
 For hem to a-mend he was sent too
 With concell of ~~prechyng~~ bedys & of prechyng
 All in token of the furst warnyng
 To a-mende hem þat maden~ Jhesuc dye
 And thus me thynketh was a gret curtasye
 For hit was the hyst trespas
 that euer in erth J-don~ was
 ther~-fore hit ys not skylle rou3th to haue
 Of hem þat nold not hem-selff saue
 But euer maden~ murth Joy & game
 tyll hem by-fell sorow & shame
 Now Jhesuc þat is so full of my3t & of mercy
 graunt þe synful grace to be war~ her~-by

And þus god send Jamys vn-to Jerusalem
 as J seyð 3er for to prechen~ hem
 3if they wold repent of heor~ syn~
 That þey wer~ all a-combred yn~
 <fol. 56r>And So he dede *prechen* all-wey
 And Spered not the Soth to sey
 And he wox so gret of renoun~
 They made hym Byshop of the town~
 But he was a man of gret penawnce
 And dede his body full gret grevaunce
 he wered neuer wollen~ ne lynyn~ cloth
 ny ete bryd ne flesh ne fysch that goth
 ner~ vsted bathyng nere washyng
 bot a gown~ of herr~ to hys clothyng~
 he knelyd so to god all-way
 For the pepyll both ny3t & day
 with his knes hard a-pon~ the bar~ ston~
 þat þe hyde was hardende hem~ on~
 That hit semyd his knes by-forn~
 As Camels knes þat ben~ of horn~
 And thus com hym of full hy charyte
 3if they my3t *euer* the *bettur* have be
 but wykked they weren~ ay & wykked than~
 And that kydden~ they *aftur* on~ þat good man~
 hit fell a-pon a 3estur-day
 The Juwys weren~ gedered in gret a-ray
 And Seyden~ thus to seynt Jame
 All with 3erdest and with no game
 Oute of this contre fayr~ & hende
 Mykell pepull with the wull wende
 For to heren of thy prechyng
 And we bydden~ the speke no thyng
 A-geynus our~ lawe with Jhesuc
 3if thu wolt haue thonk of vs
 For 3if þat pepull *aftur* thy sawe