



<County: Warwickshire>

<Code: L4680>

<MS reference: London, BL Harley 875, Hand A>

<Text: Piers Plowman A>

<Tranche 1>

<fol. 1r>JN a somer seson when soft was þe sonne .  
J schope me undure a schrowde as j a schepe were  
Jn an abyte of an hermyt vnhoonly of warkus  
J wente wyde in þis worlde wondris to here .  
But on a mayes mornynge on maluerne hullis  
Me bifel a farly of Feyrye me thoughte  
J was wery of wandrynge went me to reste  
Vndur a brode banke by a boorne syde .  
And as j lay & leoned & loked in þe watres  
J slombred in a slepynge it sowned so myrye  
þen can j mete a meruelous sweuene  
þat j was in a wyldurnes j wiste neuer where  
As j byheld in-to þe est an hiȝe to þe sonne  
J sawe a tour on a tofte wondurly maked  
A deop dale bynethen & a dongen þer ynne  
With deop diche & darke þ<sup>t</sup> dredeful was of syghte  
A feyre feeld ful of folke j fonde þere bitwene  
Of alle maner of men þe meene & þe ryche  
But *somme* putten hem to þe plowgh & pleyden but seelde  
Jn erylde & sowynge & swonken ful sore  
þat mony of þese waistours in glotonye distroyen  
& *somme* putten hem to pryde & aparayleden hem *þer-aftur*  
Jn quoyntyse of cloþinge þei conen hem disgyse .  
Jn prayers & penaunce putten hem many  
For þe loue of oure lorde lyueden ful strayte  
Jn hope for to haue heuen-riche blysse  
<add><different hand> As *ancres* & *Heremytes* þ<sup>t</sup> hold<sup>t</sup> hem *in* her cellis  
Coueit not *in* cuntre to carien aboute</add>

For no lycorous lyuelode her lycam to plese  
 And somme chosen chaffare to preue þe bettere  
 as it semeth in oure sight þat þei so schulden  
 And somme myrthes to make as mynstrals kunne  
 þat geten gold wiþ her gleo synles j trowe  
 But japers & ianglers <exp>ben</exp> judas children  
 þa feynen hem fantasyes & foolis hem maken  
 & han witte at her wille to worche <add><different hand>3if þei wolde</add>  
 <fol. 1v>What poul preche<sup>t</sup> of hem j dar not sey here  
 <lat></lat> is lucyfers hyne .  
 Bydders & beggers faste abowte 3eden  
 Til her bagges & her balyes weren faste crommed  
 Fayteden for her foode & foughten at þe naale .  
 In glotonye god wote gon þei to bedde  
 an rysen vp wiþ rybaudy þese robberdys knaues  
 Sleep & slewþe seweth hem euere  
 Pylgrymers & palmers pyghten hem to-gydres  
 For to seche seynte jame & seyntes at rome  
 Wenten forthe in her waye with many vayn taales  
 And hadden leue for to lye al her lyf aftur  
 Grete loburs & longe þat lothe weren to swynke  
 Clotheden hem in Copes to be knowen for bretheren  
 And schopen hem to hermytes her eese for to haue  
 J fonde there þe freeris alle the four orders  
 Prechyng þe pepule for profyt of her wombys  
 Glosyng þe gospel as hem-silf lyketh  
 For couetise of coopis construen it ful yuel  
 For mony of þese maysturs mowen be clothed the better  
 For money & her marchaundise metten <add><different hand>to-gedyr</add>  
 Sith Freeris han ben chapmen & cheef to schryue lordys  
 many farlyes han bifallen in a fewe 3eeris  
 An but hooly churche bygynne þe better to holde togedre  
 the moost myscheef upon moolde is mowntynge up <add><different hand>>w<?>l</add> faste  
 Ther preched a pardener a prest as it were  
 and browght forth a bulle with bysschopus sealys  
 and seyð þat hym-silf myght assoylen hem alle  
 of falsenesse of fastyngus & of vowys broken  
 These lewyd men leued hym wel & lykeden hi<add><different hand>s speche</add>  
 & comen vp kneolyng & kysseden his bulles

He <add><different hand>blessud</add> hem wiþ his breuett & bleryd her y3en  
 and raughte wiþ his ragman ryngus & broches  
 Thus 3e 3yuen 3oure goodus glotons to helpe .  
 & leuen hyt<?> to losels þat lechories hawnten  
 But were þe bisschop blessid & worth bothe hise eares  
 þei schulden not be so hardy to bigyle so þe peple  
 It is not al by þe bischop þat þe boye prechep  
 <add><different hand>but þe</add> persche prest & þe perdyner parten þe syluer  
 <fol. 2r>þat þe poore of þe perysche schuld haue if þei ne were .  
 Parsowns & prouenders han playned to her bisschoppus  
 þat her perischens han ben poore sith pestylence tyme  
 And han leue & lycence at london to dwelle  
 to synge þere for symonye for syluer is swete  
 Ther houed a hondred in howues of sylke  
 Sariawntis it semed to serue at þe barre  
 For penyes & for powndis pladden þe lawe  
 But for þe loue of oure lord not open her <hole in parchment>yppus oonus  
 For þ<sup>u</sup> my3test bettur mete þe myste on mal<hole>uerne hullus  
 þan gete a momme of her mouþe tyl money were schewid .  
 J sawe þer bisschoppus boold & bachylers of dyuyne  
 bycom clerkes of a-cownte þe kyng for to serue  
 Archedekens & deenes þat dygnyty han  
 to preche þe peple & pore men to fede  
 ben lopen to london by leue of her bisschopus  
 to become clerkys of þe kyngus benche þe contrey to schende  
 Barowns & burgeises & bondemen also  
 J sawe in þat semble as 3e schul seen aftur  
 Bakers & bochers & brewstars many  
 Masons & mynours & many oper craftus  
 Dichers & deluers þat doon her dedus yuol  
 and dryuen forth þe longe daye with dieu3 saue dame emme  
 Cookis & her knaues cryen hoote pyes hoote  
 good gees & griyse go+we dyne go+we  
 Tauerners hem tolde þilke same tale  
 Good wyne of gaskyne & þe wyn of osee  
 þe ryne & þe rochel þe roost to defy3e  
 What þis mownteyn bymenep & þis deope dale  
 & eke þis feeld ful of folke I schal 3ou feyre schewe  
 a louely . <mrg>lady</mrg> of leor~ in lynned y-clothed

Come adowne from þe lofte & clepid me feyre  
 & seyde sone slepist þou seest þou þis peple  
 how bysye þat þei ben al abowte þe mase  
 The moost parte of þe peple þ<sup>t</sup> passeþ vpon erþe  
 haue þei worschyp of þis world ne kepe þei no bettur  
 for offer heuen þen here is 3yue þei no tale  
 ¶ J was a-ferde of hir face þei3 heo fayr~ were  
 <fol. 2v>And seyde mercye madame what may þis bymeene  
 ¶ The toure on þe tofte *quod* heo truthe is þer-ynne  
 he wolde þat 3e wrow3ten as his word teecheþ  
 For he is fader of feith þat fourmed 3ou alle  
 bothe wiþ felle & with face & 3aue 3ou fyue wittus  
 For to worschip hym þer-with þe whyle þ<sup>t</sup> 3e beoþ here .  
 And þerfore hooteth þe erþe to serue 3ou uchone  
 of wollen <hole> of lynnenn & lyuelode at neode  
 In a mesu<hole>rable maner to make 3ou at eese  
 And *commaun*<hole>deth of his curtasye in comyn þre þingus  
 her naames beoþ neodeful & nempne hem J þenke  
 by rule & bi reson rehearse hem her aftur  
 That oon clothyng is from cheele 3ou to saue  
 þat oþur is mete at mele for myssecheef of þi syluen  
 Drynke whan þou dryest but do it not oute of resone  
 þat þou worthe þe wors when þou worche schuldest  
 For loot in his lyf dayes þorou3 lykyng of drynke  
 dyde by his dow3tres þat þe deuol lyked  
 For luste of lykerousnes his lycam to plese  
 he delyted him in drynke as þe deuol wolde  
 and lechorye him law3te & he lay by hem bothe . /  
 And al he wyted it wyn þat wickud dede  
 Drede delytable drynke <add><different hand>þou</add> schalt do þe bettur  
 Measure is medcyne þei3 þou myche 3erne  
 al is not good to þe goost þat þe body askeþ  
 ne lyuelode to þe lykam þ<sup>t</sup> leof is to þe soule  
 leue not þi lykam for lyar hym ledith  
 þat is þe wicked worlde þee to bytraï  
 þe fend & þi flesche foloweþ þee togudre  
 & þat schendeþ þi soule J see it in þi harte  
 and for þou schuldest ben ywar J wysse þee þe best  
 ¶ A mercye madame quod I me lykeþ wel þi wordys

but þe money in þis molde þat men so faste holden  
 telle me to wham þat tresoure apendip . /  
 ¶ Go to þe gospel qooþ heo þer god seyde hym-seluen  
 When þe peple hym apposyd wiþ a peny in þe temple  
 if þei schulden worschyp þerwith Cesar her kynge .  
 And he axede of hem of whom spake þe letture  
 & whom þe ymage was lyke þat þer-ynne stondeth . /  
 <fol. 3r>Cesar þei seyden we seop wel uchoone . /  
 <lat></lat>  
 3eldep to cesar quop god þat to cesar apendip  
 & to god his deel or ellys 3e don ylle  
 For ri3tfullych reson schuld rule 3ou alle  
 & kynde wytte schulde be wardeyn 3oure welþe to kepe  
 & toure of 3oure tresoure to take it 3ou at neode  
 for housbondrye & witte holden to-gydre .  
 ¶ Pan frayned J hir feyre for hym þat hir made  
 þe dale & þe dongown þat dredeful is of sy3te  
 what may þat bymeene madame J þee biseche . /  
 ¶ That is þe castel of care quop heo who þat comeþ þer-ynne  
 he may banne þat he was borne to body or to soule  
 þer-ynne woneþ a wighte þat wronge is y-hote  
 Fadre of falsenes he fonded hym syluen  
 Adam & eue he egged to ylle  
 Caym he cownseyled to kylle his brother  
 Judas he japed þorogh þe jewes syluer  
 & on an ellarne tree honged hym aftur .  
 he is a lettur of loue & byly3eth hem alle  
 þat trustep in her tresoure þat no trewth is ynne  
 ¶ Pan had I wondur in my witte what wommon þis was  
 þat suche wise wordis of hooly wrytt me schewyde  
 J halsed hir in þe hi3e name er heo þennys 3ede  
 what heo were witturly þat tawght me so feyre  
 ¶ Hooly churche J am quop heo þou owghtest me to knowe  
 J þee furst undurfonge & þi feiþ þee tawght  
 þou brow3test me borowes my byddyng to worche  
 & to loue me <add><different hand>truly</add> while þi lyf lasted . /

## <Tranche 2>

<fol. 7r><line 37> NOwe is mede þe mayden j-nomen of hem alle  
 wiþ bideles & wiþ bayles & brou3t to þe kyng  
 þe kyng called a clerke J con not his name .  
 <fol. 7v>& bade him take <hole> mede þe mayden & make hir at eese  
 J wole asay hir my-se<hole>lf seyð þe kyng & hir appose  
 What man in þis moolde þat hir were leouest  
 And heo worche by my witte & my wille folowe  
 J wole forgyue hir þis gulte so me god helpe  
 ¶ Curteyselyþe clerk þen as his kynde wolde  
 toke þe mayden by þe myddel & brou3te hir to chaumbur  
 þer was myrth & mynstralsye mede wiþ to plese  
 þei þat wonen at westmynster worscypen hir ychoone  
 Jentlyche wiþ ioye þe iustice<add><different hand>s</add> wel soone  
 busked h<add><different hand>e</add>m to þe chaumbur þere þe burde was ynne  
 cownfortyd hir kyndely & made hir at eese  
 & seyð ne mowurne þou not mede ne make þou no sorowe  
 For we wolen wisse þe kyng & þi waþe schape  
 for al conscience caste a crafte can we schewe  
 þat þou schalt haue boþe my3t & maystrye & make what þe likeþ  
 wiþ þe kyng & þe comyns & þe courte boþe . /  
 ¶ Mekely þen mede mercyed hem alle  
 of her grete goodnesse 3aue hem <add><different hand>e</add>chone  
 Coupes of clene golde & peces of syluer  
 Ryngus wiþ rybyes & rychesses many  
 þe lest man of her+meine moton of gold . /  
 þen lau3ten þei her leue þese lordyngus at mede  
 ¶ wiþ þat come clerkis to coumfort þe same  
 we biddeþ þee be blythe for we beoþ þine owene  
 for to worche þi wylle þe while oure lyf lastiþ .  
 ¶ hendely þen heo bihy3t hem þe same  
 to louen hem truly & lordes hem maken .  
 In courte & in constrye to tellen her names  
 þer schal no lewdnes hem lett þe lewdest þat J loue  
 þat þei ne worþe a-vaunced for J am J-knowe  
 þere as kunnyng clerkys schul couche byhynde  
 ¶ þen come þer a confessour coped as a frere  
 to mede þe mayden mekely he lowtid

& seyð ful softly in schryfte as it were  
 þei3 lered & lewide had leyn by þee boþe  
 & þei3 falsenes had folowed þee þis fyftene wyntur  
 J schal asoyle þee my silf for a somme of whete  
 & eke be þi bawdstrot & bere wel þin erande  
 a-monge þese courteors & þe comyns conscience te felle . /  
 <fol. 8r>¶ þen mede for her mysse-deedys to þat man kneled  
 & schrof <smudge or dot> hir of hir shrewdnes schameles j trowe  
 heo told hym a tale & toke hym a noble  
 for to be hir bawde & bere wel hir erand  
 ¶ Þen he asoyled hir sone & siþ to hir seyde  
 We han a wyndowe in wurchynge wol stonde us ful hy3e  
 woldest þou glase þe gable & graue þer-ynne þi name  
 siker schuld þi soule beo heuen forto haue  
 ¶ WYST J þat quop þe woman þer nys wyndow ne awter  
 þat j schuld mende or make & my name wryte .  
 þat <exp>alle</exp> men schulden sey þat J were sustur of þe hous  
 ¶ But god to alle good folke suche grauyng defendiþ  
 And seiþ . <lat></lat>  
 Late not þi lyfte honde late ne raþe  
 be war what þi ry3te honde worcheþ or deleþ  
 so priuely be it parted þat pryde be not seye  
 nowþer in si3te ne in soule <ill><1 word></ill> god him silf knoweþ  
 Who is curteys or kynd<?> coueþtous or ellis  
 for-þi j rede 3ou lordyngus suche lernyngus to leue  
 to wryte in wyndowis of 3oure wel-deedys  
 or to grede aftur goddes folk when 3e 3yuen dooles  
 Jn auntur lest 3e han 3oure hure þerfore here  
 for of soche men oure sauyoure seiþ in þe gospel . /  
 <lat></lat>  
 here forsoþe þei fongon her mede forþ-wiþ  
 3e meyres & maysters þat beoþ ordeyned meenes  
 by-twene þe kyng & þe comyns þe lawe forto kepe  
 to ponysche on pylorþe & on pynyng stoolis  
 Brewesteres . [<sup>&</sup>] bakers bochers & Cokes  
 For þese ben men on molde þat moost harme worchen  
 to þe pore peple þat al most a-byggen  
 For þei pylen þe pore pepul priuely & ofte  
 & waxen ryche regratoures & rentes hem byggen



wiþ þat þe pore peple schuld putt in hor wombes  
 <add>For if þei token w<sup>t</sup> trouthe ; þei tymburyd not so hye  
 ne shulde bye noo burgages be 3e certeyn</add><partly different hand>  
 ¶ but mede þe mayden þe meyre heo <exp>hap</exp> by-sow3te  
 of alle suche sellers for to take syluer  
 or presantes wiþ-oute pans os peces of syluer .  
 <fol. 8v>Or rynges wiþ rubyes þese regratoures to fauour~  
 ¶ for my loue quop þe lady loue hem ychoone  
 & suffre hem to sylle somdel a3eyn resone  
 ¶ But salamon þe sage a sermon he made  
 to amende wiþ þise meyres & men þat kepen þe lawes  
 So þis was his teme þat J telle þenke  
 <lat></lat>  
 Amonge þise lewed men þis latyn amounteþ .  
 þat fyer schal fall & brenn at þe laste  
 þe houses & þe hoomes of hem þat desyren  
 to take 3yftes amysse in 3ouþe or in elde  
 ¶ Now beop 3e war if 3e wole 3e maysturs of þe lawe  
 for þe soþe schale be sou3te of 3oure soules so me god helpe  
 þe suffraunce þat 3e suffre suche wrongus to be wrou3t  
 while þe chaunce is in 3our~ choyse cheose 3e þe best  
 ¶ Then cam þe kyng from þe counseyle & called aftur mede  
 & sent aftur hir asswiþe seriawntis hir fette  
 & brou3ten hir to þe boure þere þe king was ynne  
 wiþ myrþe & wiþ mynstrasye þei pleseden hir ychoone  
 Curtesly þe kyng þoo seyde to mede  
 Certis unwysely wrou3te hast þou ofte  
 wors wrou3test þou neuer þen <mrg>whan</mrg> þou false toke  
 but J for3yue þee þis gylte so þou do no more . /  
 J haue a kny3t hett conscience come late from by3onde  
 If he wole þee to wyf wolt þou assente  
 ¶ 3ea lord quop þe lady god forbede ellis  
 but J hoolly be at 3oure heest gurd off my nek .  
 ¶ Then was conscience called to come & a-pere  
 by-fore þe kynge & his counseyl clerkis & opur  
 knelynge conscience þen to þe kyng lowted  
 to wyte what his wille were & what he do schulde  
 wolt þou wedde þis womman if J wole assent  
 for heo is fayne of þi felawschype for to be þi make





¶ Nay quop conscience to þe kynge *crist* it me forbede  
er J wedde suche a wyf woo me bytyde  
For heo is freyle of hir fleische fykul of hir feiþ  
heo makeþ men mysse-do mony score tymes  
Jn trust of hir tresoure heo teoneþ ful many  
wyues & wydowys wantonnes heo techiþ