

PLAY EIGHTEEN- The Flight to Egypt

(The Marshalls)

JOSEPH Thou maker that is most of might,
To thy mercy I make my moan;
Lord, see unto thine simple *wight (*soul, person)
That has none help but thee alone.
For all this world I have forsaken
And to thy service I have me taken
With wit and will
For to fulfil
Thy commandment.
Thereon mine heart is set;
With grace thou has me lent,
There shall no *lead me let. (*i.e. direction, command)

For all my trust, Lord, is in thee
That made me, man, to thy likeness,
Thou might-full maker, have mind on me
And see unto my simpleness.
I wax weak as any *wand, (*twig)
For feeble me fails both foot and hand,
Whatever it mean,
Methink mine eye
Heavy as lead.
Therefore I hold it best
A while here in this *stead (*place)
To sleep and take my rest.

MARIA Thou lovely Lord that last shall *ay, (*ever, always)
My God, my Lord, my Son so dear,
To thy Godhead heartily I pray
With all mine heart wholly entire;
As thou me to thy mother chose,
I beseech thee of thy grace
For all mankind
That has in mind
To worship thee.
Thou see thy souls to save,
Jesu, my Son so free,
This boon of thee I crave.

ANGELUS Waken, Joseph, and take intent.
My *saws shall cease thy sorrow sore; (*sayings)
Be not heavy, thy *happe is **hent, (*happiness) (**seized, held)

Therefore I bid thee sleep no more.

JOSEPH Ah, might-full Lord, whatever that meant?

So sweet a voice heard I never (bef)ore.

But what art thou with *steven so **shill

(*shout, speech) (**sweet)

Thus in my sleep that speaks me *till?

(*to)

To me appear

And let me hear

What that thou was.

ANGELUS Joseph, have thou no dread,

Thou shall *wit ere I pass;

(*know)

Therefore to me take heed.

For I am sent to thee,

Gabriel, God's angel bright,

Is come to bid thee flee

With Marie and her worthy *wight,

(*person, i.e. Jesus)

For Herod the king *gars do to dead

(*gets, intends)

All knave children in *ilke a **stead

(*each) (**place, town)

That he may ta(ke)

With years *twa

(*two)

That are of old.

'Til he be dead, away

In Egypt shall ye *beelde

(*shelter, hide)

'Til I *wit thee for to say.

(*make known, tell)

JOSEPH *Ay-lasting Lord, loved **mott thou be

(*everlasting) (**must, may)

That thy sweet sound would to me send.

But, Lord, what ails the king at me?

For unto him I never offend.

Alas, what ails him for to spill

Small young *bairns that never did ill

(*children)

In word nor deed

Unto no *lede

(*person, lad)

By night nor day.

And since he will us *shend,

(*destroy)

Dear Lord, I thee pray,

Thou would be our friend.

For be he never so *wode or wroth,

(*mad)

For all his force thou may us (de) fend.

I pray thee, Lord, keep us from *scathe,

(*harm)

Thy succour soon to us thou send;

For unto Egypt wend we will

Thy bidding *baynely to fulfil,

(*obediently)

As worthy is
Thou king of bliss;
Thy will be wrought.
Marie, my daughter dear,
On thee is all my thought.

MARIA Ah, *leve Joseph, what cheer? (*beloved)

JOSEPH The cheer of me is done for *ay. (*ever)

MARIA Alas, what tidings heard have ye?

JOSEPH Now *certis, full ill to thee at say, (*certainly, surely)
There is nought else but us must flee
Out of our *kith where we are known, (*friends, neighbourhood)
Full *wightely must us be withdrawn, (*quickly, lively)
Both thou and I.

MARIA *Leve Joseph, why? (*lovely, beloved)
*Layne it not, (*Lie, i.e. don't lie)
To dole who has us *demed? (*doomed, deemed)
Or what wrong have we wrought
Wherefore we should be *flemed? (*exiled, outlawed)

JOSEPH Wrought we harm, nay, nay, all wrong, (*understand)
*Wit thou well it is not so; (*boy, child) (**must) (**forgo)
That young *page life thou **mon ***forgange (*Unless)
*But if thou fast flee from his foe.

MARIA His foe, alas, what is your *rede, (*advice)
What would my dear bairn do to dead?
I *durk, I dare, (*i.e. I am in the dark)
Who may my care
Of *bales **blynne? (*torments) (**end, stop)
To flee I would full *fayne; (*happily)
For all this world to win
Would I not see him slain.

JOSEPH I warn thee he is *thrally threat (*violently, boldly)
With Herod king, hard harms to have;
With that meeting if that we be met
There is no salve that him may save.
I warn thee well, he slays all
Knave children, great and small,
In town and field
Within the *eld (*age)

Of two year
And for thy Son's sake;
He will *fordo that dear, (*undo, destroy)
May that traitor him take.

MARIA *Leve Joseph, who told you this? (*beloved)
How had ye wittering of this deed?

JOSEPH An angel bright that come from bliss
This tidings told withouten dread,
And wakened me out of my sleep
That *comely child from cares to keep, (*noble)
And bade me flee
With him and thee
Onto Egypt.
And *sertis I dread me sore (*certainly, surely)
To make any small trip,
Or time that I come there.

MARIA What ails they at my bairn
*Slike harms him for to **hete? (*such) (**name, command)
Alas, why should I *tharne (*lack, be deprived of)
My Son his life so sweet.
His heart ought to be full sore
On *slike a food him to **forfare (*such) (**eat)
That never did ill
Him for to *spill, (*kill, destroy)
And he nay *wot why. (*know)
I were full will of *wane (*despair)
My Son and he should die,
And I have but him alone.

JOSEPH Wey, *leve Marie, do way, let be, (*beloved)
I pray thee, leave off thy din
And *fand thee forth fast for to flee (*find)
Away with him for to win
That no mischief on him betide,
Nor none *unhappe in no kin side, (*unhappiness)
By way nor street,
That we none meet
To slay him.

MARIA Alas, Joseph, for care.
Why should I forgo him,
My dear bairn that I bare?

JOSEPH That sweet swain if thou save,
Do *tyte, pack same our gear (*quickly)
And such small harness as we have.

MARIA Ah, *leve Joseph, I may not bear. (*beloved)

JOSEPH Bear (h)arm? No, I *trowe but small, (*trust, believe)
But God it *wot I must care for all, (*know)
For bed and back,
And all the pack
That needs unto us.
It furthers to *fene me, (*make happy, please)
This *packald bear me *bus, (*package) (**must)
Of all I pledge and (com)plain me.

But God grant grace I not forget
No tools that we should with us take.

MARIA Alas, Joseph, for grievance great,
When shall my sorrow slake,
For I *wot not whither to fare. (*know)

JOSEPH To Egypt told I thee long ere.

MARIA Where standeth it?
*Fayne would I **wit. (*Happily) (**know)

JOSEPH What *wot I? (*know)
I wot not where it stands.

MARIA Joseph, I ask mercy;
Help me out of this land.

JOSEPH Now *certis, Marie, I would full **fayne, (*certainly, surely) (**happily)
Help thee all that I may
And at my power me pain
To win with him and thee away.

MARIA Alas, what ails that fiend
Thus wilsom ways make us to wend?
He does great sin,
From *kith and kin (*neighbours, friends)
He gets us flee.

JOSEPH *Leve, Marie, **leve thy ***grete. (*love, **leave) (**complaining)

MARIA Joseph, full woe is me,
For my dear Son so sweet.

JOSEPH I pray thee, Marie, *happe him warm (*wrap, hold)
And set him soft that he not *syle, (*slip)
And if thou will ought ease thine arm,
Give me him, let me bear him awhile.

MARIA I thank you of your great good deed;
Now good Joseph to him take heed,
That food so free
Tille him ye see
Now in this tide.

JOSEPH Let me and him alone,
And if thou can ill ride
Have and hold thee fast by the mane.

MARIA Alas, Joseph, for woe,
Was never *wight in word so will. (*soul, person)

JOSEPH Do way, Marie, and say not so,
For thou shall have no cause theretill.
For *wit thou well, God is our friend; (*know)
He will be with us whereso we *lende; (*live)
In all our need
He will us speed,
This wot I well;
I love my Lord of all,
Such force methink I feel,
I may go where I shall.

Ere was I (a)wake, now am I *wight, (*lively)
My limbs to wield *ay at my will; (*every, always)
I love my maker most of might
That such grace has grant me *til. (*to)
Now shall no *hatyll do us harm, (*person)
I have our help here in mine arm.
He will us (de)fend
Whereso we *lende (*live)
From *tene and **tray. (*pain) (**betrayal)
Let us go with good cheer,
Farewell and have good day.
God bliss us all in *fere. (*fellowship)

MARIA Amen as he best may.