

## PLAY TWENTY- Christ before the Doctors

### (The Spurriers and Lorimers, i.e. harness and bridle-makers)

**JOSEPH** Marie, of mirths we may us mean  
And truly tell betwixt us two  
Of solemn sights that we have seen  
In that city where we come fro(m)

**MARIA** \*Sertis, Joseph, ye will not \*\*wene (\*certainly, surely) (\*\*know)  
What mirths within my heart I \*maie (\*may? Make?)  
Since that our Son with us has been  
And seen the solemn sights also.

**JOSEPH** Homeward I \*rede we hie (\*advise)  
In all the might we may  
Because of company  
That will wend in our way.

For good fellowship have we found  
And \*ay so forward shall we find. (\*ever)

**MARIA** Ah, sir, where is our seemly Son?  
I \*trowe our wits be waste as wind, (\*trust, believe)  
Alas, in \*bale thus am I \*\*boone. (\*torment) (\*\*bound)  
What ails us both to be so blind?  
To go over fast we have be-gone  
And let that lovely \*leve behind. (\*love)

**JOSEPH** Marie, mend thy cheer,  
For \*certis when all is done (\*certainly, surely)  
He comes with folk in \*feere (\*fellowship)  
And will overtake us soon.

**MARIA** Overtake us soon, sir, \*certis nay, (\*Certainly, surely)  
Such gabbings may me not beguile,  
For we have travelled all this day  
Fro(m) Jerusalem many a mile.

**JOSEPH** I \*weened he had been with us \*\*aye, (\*thought) (\*\*always)  
Away from us how should he wile?

**MARIA** It helps not such \*saws to say. (\*sayings)  
My bairn is lost, alas the while  
That ever we went there out  
With him in company;

We looked over late about,  
Full woe is me \*forthy. (\*therefore)

For he is went some ways wrong  
And none is worthy to \*wyte but we. (\*blame)

**JOSEPH** \*Again-ward \*\*rede I that we \*\*\*gang (\*i.e. backward) (\*\*advise (\*\*go)  
The right way to that same city  
To spire and spy all men among,  
For hardly homeward is he.

**MARIA** Of sorrows \*sere shall be my song (\*severe)  
My seemly Son 'til I him see,  
He is but twelve year old.

**JOSEPH** What way so-ever he wends,  
Woman, we may be bold  
To find him with our friends.

**I MAGISTER** Masters, take to me intent  
And \*rede your reasons right on rows, (\*advise, teach)  
And all the people in this present,  
Ever \*ilke man let see his \*\*saws. (\*each, every) (\*\*sayings, teachings)  
But \*wit I would, ere we hence went, (\*know)  
By clergy clear if we could know  
If any lad that life has lent  
Would aught allege against our law,  
Either in more or less.  
If we \*default might feel, (\*error, mistake)  
Duly we shall \*gar (ad)dress (\*have, get)  
By doom every \*ilk a \*\*dele. (\*each) (\*\*thing)

**II MAGISTER** That was well said, so \*mot I thee, (\*allow, instruct)  
\*Swilke notes to \*\*neven methink were need, (\*such) (\*\*name, mention)  
For masters in this land are we  
And has the laws loyally to lead,  
And doctors also in our degree  
That \*deeming has of \*\*ilka deed. (\*judging) (\*\*every)  
Lay forth our books \*belyve, let see (\*swiftly, lively)  
What matter most were for our \*mede. (\*reward, gift i.e. attention)

**III MAGISTER** We shall ordain so well  
Since we all clergy know,  
Default shall no man feel  
Neither in deed nor \*saw. (\*words)

**JESUS** Lordings, love be with you lent

And mirths be unto this many.

**I MAGISTER** Son, hence away, I would thou went,  
For other \*hafts in hand have we. (\*handle, i.e. matters)

**II MAGISTER** Son, whoso thee hither sent,  
They were not wise, that warn I thee,  
For we have other tales to \*tent (\*attend)  
Than now with bairns \*bordand to be. (\*jesting, playing)

**III MAGISTER** Son, if thee \*list ought to \*\*lere (\*likes) (\*\*learn)  
To live by Moses' \*lay, (\*laws)  
Come hither and thou shall hear  
The \*saws that we shall say, (\*sayings, teachings)

For in some mind it may thee bring  
To hear our reasons read by rows.

**JESUS** To learn of you needs me nothing,  
For I know both your deeds and \*saws. (\*sayings, teachings)

**I MAGISTER** Now harken yon bairn with his \*bowrdyng, (\*joking)  
He \*wenes he \*\*kens more than we knows. (\*thinks, believes) (\*\*knows)  
Wey, nay, \*certis son, thou art over young (\*certainly, surely)  
By clergy yet to know our laws.

**JESUS** I \*wot as well as ye (\*know)  
How that your laws were wrought.

**II MAGISTER** Come, sit, soon shall we see,  
For \*certis so seems it not. (\*certainly, surely)

**III MAGISTER** It were wonder that any \*wight (\*person, soul)  
Unto our reasons right should reach,  
And thou says thou has insight  
Our laws truly to tell and teach?

**JESUS** The Holy Ghost has on me light  
And has anointed me as a \*leech (\*healer)  
And given me plain power and might  
The kingdom of heaven for to preach.

**I MAGISTER** Whence ever this bairn may be  
That shows their \*novellis now? (\*news, novelties)

**JESUS** \*Certis, I was (bef)ore ye (\*Certainly, surely)

And shall be after you.

**I MAGISTER** Son, of thy \*saws, as have I \*\*cele, (\*speech) (\*\*pleasure)  
And of thy wit is wonder thing,  
But nevertheless fully I feel  
It may fall well in working, (\*i.e. it might fail in practice)  
For David deems of \*ilka \*\*dele (\*each) (\*\*labour, thing)  
And says thus of childer young,  
And of their mouths, he \*wot full well (\*knew, made known)  
Our Lord has performed loving,  
But yet, Son, should thou let  
Here for to speak over large, (i.e. too boastfully)  
For where masters are met  
Childre(n's) words are not to charge.

And if thou would never so \*fayne (\*be happy)  
If all thee \*liste to learn the law, (\*likes, desires)  
Thou art neither of might nor main  
To \*ken it as a clerk may know. (\*understand)

**JESUS** Sirs, I say you for certain  
That \*soothfast shall be all my \*\*saw, (\*steadfast, true) (\*\*teachings)  
And power have plainer and plain  
To say and answer as me \*awe. (\*ought)

**I DOCTOR** Masters, what may this mean?  
Marvel methink have I  
Whence ever this bairn have been  
That \*carps thus cunningly. (\*talks)

**II DOCTOR** As wide in world as we have went,  
Yet found we never \*swilke \*\*ferly fare, (\*such) (\*\*marvellous)  
For \*certis I \*\*trowe this bairn be sent (\*surely) (\*trust, believe)  
Full sovereignly to \*salve our sore. (\*heal)

**JESUS** Sirs, I shall prove in your present  
All the \*saws that I said are. (\*sayings)

**III DOCTOR** Why, which calls thou the first commandment  
And the most in Moses' law?

**JESUS** Sirs, since ye are set on rows,  
And has your books on \*brede, (\*broad, i.e. spread out)  
Let see, sirs, in your \*saws (\*sayings)  
How right that ye can \*rede. (\*advise, teach)

**I DOCTOR** I \*rede this is the first bidding  
That Moses taught us here until,  
To honour God over all thing  
With all thy wit and all thy will,  
And all thine heart in him shall hang,  
Early and late both loud and still. (\*read, teach)

**JESUS** Ye needs none other books to bring  
But founds this for to fulfil.  
The second may men prove  
And clearly know, whereby  
Your neighbours shall ye love  
As yourself, surely.

This commanded Moses to all men  
In his ten commandments clear,  
In the two biddings, shall we \*ken, (\*know, understand)  
Hangs all the law that we shall \*lere. (\*learn)  
Whoso the two fulfils then  
With main and might in good manner,  
He truly fulfils all the ten  
That after follows in \*feere. (\*fellowship, together)  
Then should we God honour  
With all your might and main  
And love well \*ilke a neighbour (\*each)  
Right as yourself certain.

**I DOCTOR** Now, son, since thou has told us two,  
Which are the eight, can thou ought say?

**JESUS** The three bids whereso ye go,  
That ye shall hallow the holy-day;  
Then is the fourth for friend or foe  
That father and mother honour \*ay. (\*always, ever)  
The fifth you bids not for to \*sloo (\*slay)  
No man nor woman by any way.  
The sixth, \*soothly to see, (\*truly)  
Commands both more and \*min (\*less)  
That they shall find to flee  
All filths of fleshly sin.

The seventh forbids you to steal  
Your neighbour's goods, more or less,  
Which faults now are found \*fell (\*many, in abundance)  
Among the folk that \*ferly is. (\*horrible, terrifying, many?)  
The eighth learns you for to be loyal

Here for to bear no false witness.  
Your neighbour's house, whilst ye have \*hele, (\*health)  
The ninth bids take not by \*stress. (\*i.e. by force)  
His wife nor his women  
The tenth bids not covet.  
These are the biddings ten,  
Whoso will loyally \*layte. (\*worship, laud)

**II DOCTOR** Behold how he alleges our law  
And learned never on book to read.  
Full subtle \*saws, methinks, he says (\*sayings)  
And also true, if we take heed.

**III DOCTOR** Ya, let him wend forth on his ways,  
For if he dwell, withouten dread,  
The people shall full soon him praise  
Well more than us for all our deed.

**I DOCTOR** Nay, nay, than were we wrong;  
Such speaking will we spare.  
As he come let him \*gang, (\*go)  
And move us now no more.

**MARIA** Ah, dear Joseph, what is your \*rede? (\*advice)  
Of our great \*bale no \*\*bote may be; (\*suffering) (\*\*cure)  
Mine heart is heavy as any lead  
My seemly Son 'til him I see.  
Now have we sought in \*ilke a \*\*stead, (\*each, every) (\*\*place)  
Bothe up and down days three,  
And whither that he be \*quick or dead (\*alive)  
Yet \*wot we not, so woe is me. (\*know)

**JOSEPH** Mis-ease had never man more,  
But mourning may not mend.  
I \*rede further we fare (\*advise)  
Till God some succour send.

About yon Temple if he be ought,  
I would we \*wiste this \*ilke night. (\*reveal, know)

**MARIA** Ah, sir, I see that we have sought.  
In world was never so seemly a sight.  
Lo, where he sits, ye see him not  
Among yon masters \*mickle of might? (\*great)

**JOSEPH** Now blessed be he us hither brought,

For in land was never none so light.

**MARIA** Ah, dear Joseph, as we have \*cele, (\*happiness)  
Go forth and fetch your son and mine;  
This day is gone near \*ilke a \*dele, (\*every thing, i.e. end of business)  
And we have need for to go \*hyne. (\*home)

**JOSEPH** With men of might can I not \*mell, (\*mingle)  
Than all my \*travail \*\*mon I \*\*\*tyne; (\*labour, works) (\*\*must) (\*\*suffer)  
I can not with them, this \*wot thou well: (\*know)  
They are so gay in furs fine.

**MARIA** To them your hearing for to say  
\*Soothly ye there not dread no \*dele; (\*truly) (\*thing, deal)  
They will take reward to you alway  
Because of \*eld, this \*\*wot ye well. (\*age) (\*\*know)

**JOSEPH** When I come there, what shall I say?  
I \*wot never, as have I \*cele. (\*know) (\*\*happiness)  
\*Sertis, Marie, thou will have me shamed for \*\*ay, (\*certainly, surely) (\*\*ever)  
For I can neither croak nor kneel.

**MARIA** Go we together, I hold it best,  
Unto yon worthy wise in \*weed, (\*clothes)  
And if I see, as have I rest,  
That ye will not, than must me need.

**JOSEPH** Go on, Marie, and tell thy tale first.  
Thy Son to thee will take good heed.  
Wend forth, Marie, and do thy best;  
I come behind, as God me speed.

**MARIA** Ah, dear son Jesus,  
Since we love thee alone,  
Why does thou thus to us  
And gets us make \*swilke moan? (\*such)

Thy father and I betwixt us two  
Son, for thy love has liked ill;  
We have thee sought both to and fro,  
Weeping full sore as \*wights will. (\*people)

**JESUS** Where to should ye seek me so?  
Oft-times it has been told you \*till: (\*to)  
My Father works, for \*weal or woe, (\*good, welfare)  
Thus am I sent for to fulfil.

**MARIA** The \*saws, as have I \*\*cele, (\*sayings) (\*\*happiness)  
Can I not understand;  
I shall think on them well  
To find what is \*followand. (\*following)

**JOSEPH** Now \*soothly, Son, the sight of thee (\*truly)  
Has salved us of all our sore;  
Come forth, Son, with thy mother and me,  
At Nazareth I would we were.

**JESUS** Believes well, lords free,  
For with my friends now will I fare.

**I DOCTOR** Now, Son, where thou shall bide or be,  
God make thee good man evermore.  
No wonder if yon \*wife (\*woman)  
Of his finding be full \*fayne; (\*happy)  
He shall, and he have life,  
Prove to a \*praty swain. (\*talkative, pretty)

But Son, look that thou \*layne for good or ill (\*preserve, remember)  
The note that we have named here now,  
And if it like thee to \*lende here still, (\*live, land/stay)  
And \*wonne with us, welcome art thou. (\*dwell)

**JESUS** Grant mercy, sirs, of your good will.  
No longer \*liste me \*\*lende with you; (\*desires) (\*\*live)  
My friend's thoughts I will fulfil  
And to their bidding \*baynely bow. (\*obediently)

**MARIA** Full well is us this tide;  
Now may we make good cheer.

**JOSEPH** No longer will we bide;  
Farewell, all folk in \*feere. (\*company, fellowship)