## PLAY TWENTY-THREE – The Transfiguration

## (The Curriers- processors of animal hides for leatherworking)

**JESUS**   Peter, mine own disciple dear,  
And James and John, my cousins two,  
Take heartily heed, for ye shall hear  
That I will tell unto no mo(re);  
And as ye shall see sights \*seere (\*diverse, many)  
Which none shall see but ye also,  
Therefore come forth with me in \*fere, (\*fellowship, together)  
For to yon mountain will I go.  
There shall ye see a sight  
Which ye have yearned long.  
  
**PETRUS**   My Lord, we are full light  
And glad with thee to \*gange. (\*go)  
  
**JESUS**   Long have ye covete(d) for to \*ken (\*know)  
My Father, for I set him before,  
And well ye \*wot which time and when (\*knew)  
In Galilee going we were.  
“Show us thy Father,” thus said ye then,  
“That suffice us withouten more.”  
I said to you and to all men,  
“Who sees me, sees my Father there.”  
Such words to you I spake  
In truth to make you bold,  
Ye could not undertake  
The tales that I you told.  
  
Another time, for to increase  
Your truth and worldly you to wise,  
I said, *Quem dicunt homines* **[Who do the people say***Esse filium hominis?* **is the Son of Man?- Luke 9:18]**I asked you whom the people chose   
To be man’s Son, withouten \*mis; (\*sin, misery)  
Ye answered and said, “Some Moses,”  
And some said then, “\*Hely it is,” (\*Elijah)  
And some said, “John Baptist.”  
Then more I enquired you yet,  
I asked if ye ought \*wiste (\*knew)  
Who I was, by your wit.  
  
Thou answered, Peter, for thy \*prowe, (\*proof)  
And said that I was Christ, God Son;  
But of thyself that had not thou,  
My Father had that grace begun.  
Therefore be bold and bide now  
To time ye have my Father \*fonne. (\*found)  
  
**JACOBUS**   Lord, to thy bidding will we bow  
Full\* buxumly, as we are \*\*bonne. (\*obediently) (\*\*bound)  
  
**JOHANNES**   Lord, we will work thy will  
Always with true intent.  
We love God loud and still  
That us this \*layne has lent. (\*loan, spiritual gift)  
  
**PETRUS**   Full glad and blithe \*awe us to be (\*ought, owe)  
And thank our master, \*mickle of \*\*main, (\*great) (\*\*power)  
That says we shall the sights see  
The which none other shall see certain.  
  
**JACOBUS**   He told us of his Father free,  
Of that fare would we be full \*fayne. (\*happy)  
  
**JOHANNES**   All that he \*hight us hold will he; (\*told, promised)  
Therefore we will no further \*frayne, (\*desire)  
But as he vouchsafe  
So shall we understand.  
  
**PETRUS**   Behold, here we have nowe in haste  
Some new tidings.  
  
**\*HELYAS**   Lord God, I love thee lastingly (\*Elias)  
And highly, both with heart and hand,  
That me, thy poor prophet Hely,  
Have \*stevened me in this stead to stand. (\*commanded) (\*\*place)  
In paradise \*wonnand am I (\*living, dwelling)  
\*Ay since I left this earthly land. (\*Ever)  
I come Christ’s name to clarify  
As God his Father me has ordained,  
And for to bear witness  
In word to man and \*wife, (\*woman)  
That this his own Son is  
And Lord of lasting life.  
  
**MOYSES**   Lord God, that of all wealth is well,  
With will and wit we worship thee,  
That unto me, Moses, would tell  
This great point of thy \*privity, (\*mystery)  
And \*hendly \*\*hente me out of hell (\*skilfully, graciously) (\*\*took)  
This solemn sight for I should see,  
When thy dear darlings that there dwell  
Has not thy grace in \*swilk degree. (\*such)  
Our forefathers full \*fayne (\*happily)  
Would see this solemn sight  
That in this place thus plain  
Is mustered through thy might.  
  
**PETRUS**   \*Brethir, whatever yon brightness be? (\*brothers, brethren)  
\*Swilk \*\*burdis before was never seen. (\*such) (\*\*visions, tricks)  
It mars my might, I may not see,  
So \*selcouth thing was never seen. (\*miraculous, marvellous)  
  
**JACOBUS**   What it will worth, that \*wot not we, (\*know)  
How weak I wax, ye will not \*wene, (\*believe, understand)  
Ere was there one, now is there three.  
Methink our master is between.  
  
**JOHANNES**   That our master is there  
That may we truly \*trowe; (\*trust, believe)  
He was full fair before,  
But never as he is now.  
  
**PETRUS**   His clothing is as white as snow,  
His face shines as the sun.  
To speak with him I have great awe,  
\*Swilk fair before was never \*fune. (\*such) (\*\*found)  
  
**JACOBUS**   The other two \*fayne would I know (\*desire)  
And \*wit what work them hither has \*wonne. (\*know) (\*brought them)  
  
**JOHANNES**   I \*rede we ask them all on row (\*advise)  
And \*grope them how this game is begun. (\*interrogate)  
  
**PETRUS**   My \*bredir, if that ye be come (\*brethren, brothers)  
To make clear Christ’s name,  
Tell here to us three,  
For we seek to the same.  
  
**HELYAS**   It is God’s will that we you wise  
Of his works, as is worthy.  
I have my place in paradise,  
Enoch my brother me by.  
As messenger withouten \*mis (\*sin, misery)  
Am I called to this company  
To witness that God’s Son is this,  
Even with him met and almighty.  
To dead we were not \*dight, (\*done, prepared)  
But quick shall we come  
With Antichrist for to fight  
Before the day of doom.  
  
**MOYSES**   Friends, if that ye \*frayne my name, (\*desire)  
Moses than may ye \*rede by \*\*rawe, (\*read, understand) (\*\*order)  
Two thousand year after Adam  
Then gave God unto me his law,  
And \*sithen in hell has been our home. (\*since then)  
Alas, Adam’s kin, this shall ye know:  
Until Christ come, this is the same  
That us shall fro(m) that dungeon draw.  
He shall bring them to bliss  
That now in \*bale are \*\*bonne; (\*torment) (\*\*bound)  
This mirth we may not miss,  
For this same is God’s Son.  
  
**JESUS**   My dear disciple, dread you nought,  
I am your sovereign certainly.  
This wonder work that here is wrought  
Is of my Father almighty.  
There both are hither brought,  
The one Moses, the other Ely,  
And for your sake thus are they sought  
To say you, his Son am I.  
So shall both heaven and hell  
Be deemers of this deed,  
And ye in earth shall tell  
My name where it is need.  
  
**PETRUS**   A, loved be thou ever, my Lord Jesus,  
That all this solemn sight has sent  
That vouches safe to show thee thus  
So that thy mights may be \*kenned. (\*known)  
Here is full fair dwelling for us,  
A liking place in for to \*lende. (\*live, land)  
Ah, Lord, let us no further \*truss, (\*travel)  
For we will make with heart and hand  
A \*tabernacle unto thee (\*temple-tent)  
\*Belyve, and thou will bide; (\*quickly, lively)  
One shall to Moses be,  
And to Ely the third.  
  
**JACOBUS**   Ya, \*witterly, that were well done, (\*skilfully, cleverly, plainly)  
But us ought not \*swilk case to crave; (\*such)  
Them there but say and have it soon,  
Such service \*and he vouchsafe. (\*if)  
He \*hetis his men both morn and noon (\*promises, behests)  
Their harbour high in heaven to have;  
Therefore is best we bide his boon.  
Who other \*redes, rudely they rave. (\*advises)  
  
**JOHANNES**   Such \*sonde as he will send (\*sound, message)  
May mend all our mischief,  
And where him likes to \*lende (\*live)  
We will \*lende, with his leave (\*live)  
  
*Hic descendunt nubes*.  **[Here the clouds descend]**  
**\*PATER IN NUBE**    (\*Father in clouds)  
Ye feeble of faith, folk afraid,  
Be not afeared for us in \*feere. (\*fellowship? Fear?)  
  
Both earth and air with clouds clear.  
This is my Son, as ye have said,  
As he has showed by signs \*sere. (\*diverse, many)  
Of all his works I am well paid,  
Therefore to him take heed and hear.  
Where he is, there am I;  
He is mine and I am his:  
Who \*trows this steadfastly (\*trusts, believes)  
Shall bide in endless bliss.  
  
**JESUS**   Peter, peace be unto thee,  
And to you also, James and John.  
Rise up and tell me what ye see,  
And be no more so \*will of wone. (\*wild of mind)  
  
**PETRUS**   Ah, Lord, what may this marvel be?  
Whither is this glorious gleam all gone?  
We saw here plainly persons three,  
And now is our Lord left alone.  
This marvel moves my mind  
And makes my flesh afraid.  
  
**JACOBUS**   This brightness made me blind,  
I \*bode never \*\*swilke a braid. (\*endured) (\*\*such) (\*\*\*attack, upbraid)  
  
**JOHANNES**   Lord God, our maker almighty,  
This matter evermore be meant,  
We saw two bodies stand him by  
And said his Father had them sent.  
  
**PETRUS**   There come a cloud of the sky,  
Light as the (g)leams on them lent,  
And now fares all as fantasy,  
For \*wot not how they are went (\*know)  
  
**JACOBUS**   That cloud \*cloumsed us clean (\*dazed, stunned)   
That come shining so clear,  
Such sight was never seen,  
To seek all sides \*sere. (\*separate)  
  
**JOHANNES**   Nay, nay, that noise (an)noyed us more  
That here was heard so hideously.  
  
**JESUS**   Friends, be not afeared therefore,  
I shall you say \*encheson why. (\*causes, reasons)  
My Father \*wit how that ye were (\*knew)  
In your faith failing and \*forthy (\*therefore)  
He come to witness \*ay where, (\*every)  
And said that his Son am I  
And also in this \*stead (\*place)  
To witness the same,  
A \*quick man and a dead (\*living)  
Come to make clear my name.  
  
**PETRUS**   A, Lord, why lets thou us not see  
Thy Father’s face in his fairness?  
  
**JESUS**   Peter, thou asks over-great degree,  
That grace may not be granted thee, I guess.  
In his Godhead so high is he  
As all your prophets’ names express,  
That longer of life shall he not be  
That sees his Godhead as it is.  
Here have ye seen in sight  
Points of his \*privity (\*private nature, mystery)  
As \*mickle as earthly \*wight (\*great) (\*soul, person)  
May suffer in earth to see.  
  
And therefore wend we now again  
To our many, and mend their cheer.  
  
**JACOBUS**   Our fellows full fast will us \*Frayne (\*desire)  
How we have fared, all in \*feere. (\*together)  
  
**JESUS**   This vision loyally look ye \*layne, (\*teach)  
Unto no living \*lad it \*\*lere (\*person) (\*\*learn)  
‘Til time man’s Son have suffered pain  
And risen from dead, \*kens it than clear. (\*make known)  
For all that \*trowis that thing (\*trusts)  
Of my Father and me,  
They shall have his blessing  
And mine, so \*motte it be. (\*may, must, might)