

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*
Esse filium hominis? [Who do the people say
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
And thank our master, *mickle of **main,
That says we shall the sights see
The which none other shall see certain. (*ought, owe)
(*great) (**power)

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;
Therefore we will no further *frayne,
But as he vouchsafe
So shall we understand. (*told, promised)
(*desire)

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,
Unto no living *lad it **lere
'Til time man's Son have suffered pain
And risen from dead, *kens it than clear.
For all that *trowis that thing
Of my Father and me,
They shall have his blessing
And mine, so *motte it be.

(*teach)

(*person) (**learn)

(*make known)

(*trusts)

(*may, must, might)