## PLAY TWENTY-FOUR – The Woman Caught in Adultery and the Raising of Lazarus

## (The Capmakers and Hatmakers)

**I JUDEUS**   Step forth, let us no longer stand
But smartly that our gear were \*grayde. (\*prepared, made ready)
This fellow that we with folly found,
Let haste us fast that she were flayed.

**II JUDEUS**   We will bear witness and warrant
How we her raised all \*unarrayed (\*undressed)
Against the laws here of our land
Where she was with her \*leman laid. (\*lover)

**I JUDEUS**   Yea, and he a wedded man,
That was a wicked sin.

**II JUDEUS**   That bargain shall she \*banne, (\*cry out/declaim? Banish?)
With \*bale now ere we \*\*blynne. (\*torment) (\*\*stop, end)

**I JUDEUS**   Ah, false studmare and stinking \*strye, (\*hag, sinner)
How dare thou steal so still away
To do so violence \*avowtry (\*adultery)
That is so great against our \*lay. (\*law)

**II JUDEUS**   Her bawdry shall she dear a-buy,
For as we saw, so shall we say,
And also her working is worthy
She shall be \*demed to dead this day. (\*doomed, judged)

**I JUDEUS**   The masters of the law
Are here even at our hand.

**II JUDEUS**   Go we rehearse by \*row (\*i.e. in order)
Her faults as we them found.

**I JUDEUS**   God save you, masters, \*mickle of \*\*main, (\*great) (\*\*power)
That great clergy and counsel \*can. (\*possibly ken- know)

**III JUDEUS**   Welcome, friends, but I would \*frayne (\*desire)
How fare ye with that fair woman?

**II JUDEUS**   Ah, sirs, we shall you say certain
Of \*mickle sorrow since she began. (\*great)
We have her ta’en with \*putry plain, (\*prostitution, lechery)
Herself may not gainsay it then.

**IV JUDEUS**   What, hath she done folly
In fornication and sin?

**I JUDEUS**   Nay, nay, in \*avowtery (\*adultery)
Full bold and will not \*blynne. (\*cease)

**III JUDEUS**   \*Avowtery, \*\*nemyn it not, for shame. (\*adultery) (\*\*name, mention)
It is so foul, openly I it (de)fy.
Is it \*sooth that they say thee, dame? (\*truth)

**II JUDEUS**   What, sir, she may it not deny;
We were then worthy for to blame
To grieve her, \*but she were guilty. (\*unless)

**IV JUDEUS**   Now, \*certis, this is a foul defame, (\*certainly, surely)
And \*mickle \*\*bale must be thereby. (\*great) (\*\*anguish)

**III JUDEUS**   Ya, sir, ye say well there,
By law and rightwise \*rede (\*advice)
There falls nought else therefore
But to be stoned to dead.

**I JUDEUS**   Sirs, since ye tell the law this tide
And knows the course in this country,
\*Deems her on height, no longer hide, (\*doom, judge)
And after your words work shall we.

**IV JUDEUS**
Be not so \*bryme, bewsheris, abide, (\*merciless) (\*good sirs- nb. sarcasm)
A new matter now moves me.

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**III JUDEUS**   He shows my misdeeds more and \*min; (\*less)
I leave you here, let him alone.

**IV JUDEUS**   Ow, here will new \*gaudies begin; (\*games, tricks)
Ya, greet all well, say that I am gone.

**I JUDEUS**   And since ye are not bold,
No longer bide will I.

**II JUDEUS**   Peace, let no tales be told
But pass forth privily.

**JESUS**   Woman, where are those \*wight men went (\*lively)
That keenly here accused thee?
Who has thee damned, took thou \*entent? (\*attention)

**MULIER**   Lord, no man has damned me.

**JESUS**   And for me shall thou not be \*shent. (\*Destroyed)
Of all thy \*mis I make thee free; (\*sins, misery)
Look thou no more to sin assent.

**MULIER**   Ah, Lord, \*ay loved \*mott thou be. (\*ever, always) (\*must, may)
All earthly folk in \*feere (\*together, fellowship)
Loves him and his high name
That me on this manner
Hath saved from sin and shame.

**I APOSTOLUS**   Ah, Lord, we love thee inwardly
And all thy lore, both loud and still,
That grants thy grace to the guilty
And spares them that thy folk would \*spill. (\*kill)

**JESUS**   I shall you say \*encheson why, (\*reason, cause)
I \*wot it is my Father’s will (\*know)
And for to make them (a)ware thereby
To know themself have done more ill.
And evermore of this same
\*Ensample shall be seen: (\*example)
Whoso shall other blame,
Look first themself be clean.

**II APOSTOLUS**   Ah, master, here may men see also
How meekness may full \*mickle amend, (\*great)
To forgive gladly where we go
All folk that have us ought offend.

**JESUS**   He that will not forgive his foe
And use meekness with heart and \*hende, (\*hands)
The kingdom may he not come to
That ordained is withouten end.
And more soon shall we see
Here ere ye further fare
How that my Father free
Will muster mights more.

      *Lazare mortus*. **[Death of Lazarus.]** (Nb title not stage direction)

**NUNCIUS**    Jesu, that is prophet \*veray, (\*true)
My ladies Martha and Marie,
If thou vouchsafe, they would thee pray
For to come unto Bethany.
He whom thou loves full well always(s)
Is sick and like, Lord, for to die.
If thou would come, amend him thou may,
And comfort all that company.

**JESUS**   I say you that sickness
Is not only to dead,
But joy of God’s goodness
Shall be showed in that \*stead. (\*place)

And God’s Son shall be glorified
By that sickness and signs \*seere; (\*diverse)
Therefore \*brethir no longer bide, (\*brothers, brethren)
Two days fully have we been here;
We will go sojourn here beside
In the Jewry with friends in \*feere. (\*fellowship)

**I APOSTOLUS**
Ah, Lord, thou \*wot well \*\*ilke a tide (\*knows) (\*\*each, every)
The Jews they \*layte thee far and near (\*desire)
To stone thee unto dead
Or put to \*pereles pain, (\*peerless, perilous)
And thou to that same \*stead (\*place)
\*Covets to go again. (\*wishes)

**JESUS**   Ye \*wot by course well for to \*\*cast, (\*know) (\*\*compute, work out)
The day is now of twelve hours long,
And whilst light of the day may last
It is good that we \*grathely \*\*gange, (\*prepared) (\*\*go)
For when daylight is plainly past
Full soon then may ye wend all wrong.
Therefore takes heed and \*travail fast (\*work)
Whilst light of life is you among.
And to you say I more,
How that Lazar our friend
Sleeps now, and I therefore
With you to him will wend.

**II APOSTOLUS**   We will be ruled after thy \*rede, (\*advice, teaching)
But \*and he sleep he shall be save. (\*if)

**JESUS**   I say to you, Lazare is dead,
And for you all great joy I have.
Ye \*wot I was not in that \*\*stead (\*know) (\*\*place)
What time that he was graved in grave.
His sisters pray with \*bowsom beede (\*buxom bid- obedient prayer-

gendered for women-

Davidson also suggests bosom-bead- i.e. rosary)

And for comfort they call and crave;
Therefore go we together
To make there mirths more.

**I APOSTOLUS**   Since he will needs wend thither,
Go we and die with him there.

**MARIA**   Alas, out on God’s will alone
That I should sit to see this sight.
For I may mourn and make my moan,
So woe in world was never \*wight. (\*human, soul)
That I loved most is from me gone,
My dear brother that Lazar \*hight, (\*was called)
And I durst say I would be slain,
For now me fails both mind and might.
My wealth is went forever,
No medicine mend me may.
Ah, death, thou do thy \*dever (\*duty)
And have me hence away.

**MARTHA**   Alas, for ruth, now may I rave
And feebly fare by \*frith and field. (\*wood)
Would God that I were \*grathed in grave, (\*buried, prepared)
That dead had ta’en me under \*telde. (\*tilled earth, soil)
For \*hele in heart \*\*mon I never have (\*health) (\*\*may)
\*But if he help that all may wield. (\*Unless)
Of Christ I will some comfort crave,
For he may be my \*bote and \*\*belde. (\*cure) (\*\*shelter)
To seek I shall not cease
‘Til I my sovereign see.
Hail, peerless prince of peace,
Jesu, my master so free!

**JESUS**   Martha, what means thou to make such cheer?

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**[???]** This stone we shall full soon
Remove and set on side.

**JESUS**    Father that is in heaven on height,
I thank thee ever over all thing
That \*hendely hears me day and night (\*skilfully, nobly)
And takes heed unto mine asking:
Wherefore vouchsafe of thy great might
So that this people, old and young,
That stands and bides to see that sight
May truly \*trowe and have knowing (\*trust, believe)
This time here ere I pass
How that thou has me sent.
*Lazar, veni foras*, **[Lazarus, come forth]**Come from thy monument.

**LAZARUS**   Ah, peerless prince, full of pity,
Worshipped be thou in world alway
That thus hast showed thy might in me,
Both dead and \*dolven, this is the fourth day. (\*delved, i.e. buried)
By certain signs here may men see
How that thou art God’s Son \*verray. (\*truly)
All those that truly trusts in thee
Shall never die, this dare I say.
Therefore ye folk in \*fere, (\*fellowship, together)
\*Menske him with main and might, (\*honour, worship)
His laws look that ye \*lere; (\*learn)
Then will he lead you to his light.

**MARIA**   Here may men find a faithful friend
That thus has covered us of our care.

**MARTHA**   Jesu, my Lord and master \*hende, (\*skilful, noble)
Of this we thank thee evermore.

**JESUS**   Sisters, I may no longer \*lende, (\*stay)
To other folk now must me fare,
And to Jerusalem will I wend
For things that must be fulfilled there.
Therefore \*rede I you right, (\*advise)
My men, to wend with me.
Ye that have seen this sight
My blissing with you be.