

## 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, \*\*nemynt 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 might 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  
What time that he was graved in grave.  
His sisters pray with \*bowsom beede

(\*know) (\*\*place)

(\*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.  
That I loved most is from me gone,  
My dear brother that Lazar \*hight,  
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  
And have me hence away.

(\*human, soul)

(\*was called)

(\*duty)

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

(\*wood)

(\*buried, prepared)

(\*tilled earth, soil)

(\*health) (\*\*may)

(\*Unless)

(\*cure) (\*\*shelter)

**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,*  
Come from thy monument. **[Lazarus, come forth]**

**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.