

PLAY TWENTY-SIX – The Conspiracy

(The Cutlers)

PILATUS Under the royal-est *roi of **rent and renown, (*king) (**revenue)
Now am I regent of rule this region in rest,
Obey unto bidding must bishops me *bowne, (*bow/be bound)
And bold men that in battle makes breasts to burst.
To me be-taught is the (at)tent this tower begun town,
For traitors *tight will I (at)taint, the truth for to trust, (*caught, imprisoned)
The *dubbing of my dignity may not be done down, (*status)
Neither with duke nor *dugeperes, my deeds are so dressed.

(*twelve peers- famous knights)

My desire must daily be done
With them that are greatest of game,
And there again find I but *fone, (*foes)
Wherefore I shall batter their bone.
But he that me grieves for a groan,
Beware, for vicious I am.

Pounce Pilate of three parts
then is my proper name.
I am a *perelous prince (*peerless, perilous)
to prove where I peer.
Among the philosophers first
there *fanged I my fame, (*seized, grasped)
Wherefore I fell to affect
I find not my *feere. (*fellow, peer)
He shall full bitterly *banne (*regret)
that bide shall my blame,
If all my *blee be as bright (*colour)
as blossom on briar.
For soon his life shall he lose,
or left be for lame,
That *lowtes not to me lowly (*lauds, praises)
nor *liste not to **leere. (*likes, desires) (*learn)
And thus since we stand in our state
As lords with all liking in land,
Do and let us *wit if ye **wate (*know) (**hear of, know)
Either, sirs, of *bayle or debate, (*struggles, brawls)
That needs for to be handled full *hate (*severely)
Since all of your help hangs in my hand.

CAIPHAS Sir, and for to certify the *soth in your sight, (*truth)
As to you for our sovereign seemly we seek.

PILATUS Why, is there any mischief that musters his might
Or malice through mean men us musters to make?

ANNA Ya, sir, there is a rank swain
whose rule is not right,
For through his *romour in this realm (*roaming- or rumour?)
hath raised mickle *reke. (*outcry, tumult)

PILATUS I hear well ye hate him,
your hearts are on height,
And else if I help would
His harms for to eke.
But why are ye barely thus *brathe? (*breathing)
Be *ruly, and (ar)ray forth your reason. (i.e. control yourself)

CAIPHAS To us, sir, his lore is full loath.

PILATUS Beware that we wax not too wroth.

ANNA Why, sir, to *skyfte from his **scathe (*shift, evade) (**harm)
We seek for your succour this season.

PILATUS And if that wretch in our ward
have wrought any wrong,
Since we are warned we would *wit (*know)
and will ere we wend;
But *and his **saw be lawful, (*if) (**sayings)
(al)lege not to long,
For we shall leave him if us *list (*likes, desires)
with love here to *lende. (*live)

I DOCTOR And if that false *faytor (*fraud, beggar)
your furtherance may *fang, (*seize)
Than feel I well that our folk
must fail of a friend.

Sir, the strength of his *steven *ay still is so strange (*shout, command) (*always)
That but he shortly be *shent, he shape us to *shend. (*destroyed)
For he *kens folk him for to call (*knows)
Great God Son, thus grieves us that *gome, (*man)
And says that he sitting be shall
In high heaven, for there is his hall.

PILATUS And friends if that force to him fall,
It seems not ye shall him consume.

But that himself is the same
ye said should descend,
Your seed and you then all for to succour.

CAYPHAS Ah, soft sir, and cease,
For of Christ when he comes
no kin shall be *kenned;
But of this *caitiff kindred
we know the *increase.
He likens him to be like God,
*ay-lasting to **lende,
To lift up the *laby to lose or release.

(*known)
(*captive, lowborn)
(*i.e. the line of descent)

(*ever-lasting) (**live)
(*labour, burden)

PILATUS His masteries should move you,
your mood for to amend.

ANNA Nay, for *swilke **mis from malice
we may not us miss,
For he says he shall *deme us, that dote,
And that to us is *dayne or **dispite.

(*such) (**misery, sin)

(*doom, judge)
(*insult) (**malice, spite)

PILATUS To (an)noy him now is your note,
But yet the law lies in my lot.

I DOCTOR And if ye will *wit, sir, ye *wot,
That he is well worthy to *wyte.

(*know)
(*blame, punish)

For in our Temple has he taught
by times more than ten
Where tables full of treasure lay
to tell and to try
Of our chief money changers;
but, cursedly to *ken,
He cast them over, that *caitiff,
and counted not thereby.

(*know)
(*captive, scoundrel)

CAYPHAS Loo(k), sir, this is a perjury
to print under pen,
Wherefore make ye that *apostita,
we pray you, to plea.

(*apostate)

PILATUS How mean ye?

CAYPHAS Sir, to *mort him for moving of men.

(*kill)

PILATUS Then should we make him to mourn

but through your mastery.
Let be, sirs, and move that no more
But what in your Temple betide?

I MILES Wey, there, sir, he *skelpte out of score (*scourged, whipped)
That stately stood selling their store.

PILATUS Than felt he them fault before (*known, enforced)
And made the cause well to be *kydde.

But what taught he that time (*such)
*swilk tales as thou tells?

I MILES Sir, that our Temple is the tower (*power)
of his throned sire,
And thus to praise in that place
our prophets compels,
To him that has *posté
of prince and of empire.
And they make *domus Domini* [house of God]
that dealing there dwells,
The den of the *derfenes (*sacrilege, audacity)
and oft that they desire.

PILATUS Loo(k), is he not a madman
that for your *mede **melles? (*benefit, reward) (**speaks, preaches against)
Since ye imagine amiss,
that *makeles to **mire, (*blameless) (**trouble, mud-sling)
Your rancour is *raykand full raw. (*flowing, wandering)

CAYPHAS Nay, nay, sir, we rule us but right.

PILATUS Forsooth, ye are over cruel to know.

CAYPHAS Why, sir, for he would lose our law (*ought, owe)
Heartily we him hate as we *awe,
And thereto should ye maintain our might.

For why, upon our Sabbath day
the sick makes he safe
And will not cease for our *sawes (*teachings, orders)
to sink so in sin.

II MILES Sir, he covers all that comes (*redemption, healing)
*recoverance to crave,
But in a short continuance

that *kens all our kin. (*knows)
But he holds not our holy days —
hard *happe might him have — (*happiness)
And therefore hanged be he
and that by the *halse. (*neck)

PILATUS Ah, ho(ld), sir, now, and hold in.
For though ye *gange thus giddy (*go, journey)
him guiltless to grave
Withouten ground you gains nought,
*swilke grief to begin. (*such)
And look your (al)leging be *lele (*loyal, legal)
Withouten any trifles to tell.

ANNA For certain our *saws dare we *seele. (*speeches) (**seal? Make good?)

PILATUS And then may we prophet our (ap)peal.

CAYPHAS Sir, *but his faults were fell, (*unless)
We meant nought of him for to *melle. (*meddle, mingle, accuse)

For he perverts our people
that (ap)proves his preaching,
And for that point ye should prise
his *posté to **pare. (*power) (**i.e. cut down)

II DOCTOR Ya, sir, and also that *caitiff (*captive, commoner)
he calls him our king,
And for that cause our commons are cast in care.

PILATUS
And if so be, that *borde to *bayll will him bring (*joke, trick) (*pain, prison)
And make him boldly to *banne the bones that him bare. (*curse)
For why that wretch fro(m) our wrath shall not wring,
Ere there be wrought on him *wrake. (*punishment, torture)

I DOCTOR So would we it were,
For so should ye sustain your *seele (*happiness)
And mildly have mind for to make you. (i.e. keep your mind peaceful)

PILATUS Well *wit ye this work shall be well, (*understand)
For *kenned shall that knave be to kneel. (*taught, made to know)

II DOCTOR And so that our force he may feel,
All same for the same we beseech you.

JUDAS *Ingenti pro injuria*, him Jesus, that Jew,
 Unjust unto me, Judas, I judge to be l(o)athe,
 For at our supper as we sat, the *sooth to pursue
 With Simond Leprous full soon,
 my *skiffte come to **scathe.
 To him there brought one a *boyste
 my *bale for to brew,
 That *baynly to his bare feet
 to bow was full *braythe.

[Because of great injury]

(*truth)

(*share, portion) (**danger)
 (*cosmetic jar)
 (*torment, pain)
 (*humbly, obediently_
 (*violently eager, breathless)

She anoint them with an ointment
 that noble was and new,
 But for that work that she wrought
 I wax wonder wroth.
 And this, to discover, was my skill,
 For of his pennies, purser was I,
 And what that me taught was *until
 The tenth part that stole I *ay still.
 But now for me wants of my will
 That bargain with *bale shall he buy.

(*unto)
 (*always, ever)

(*torment)

That same ointment, I said,
 might same have been sold
 For silver pennies in a sum
 three hundred, and *fayne
 Have been departed to poor men
 as plain pity would.
 But for the poor ne their part
 pricked me no pain,
 But me *tened for the tenth part,
 the truth to behold,
 That thirty pence of three hundred
 so *tyte I should **tyne.
 And for I miss this money
 I mourn on this *mould,
 Wherefore for to mischief
 this master of mine,
 And therefore fast forth will I flit
 The princes of priests *until
 And sell him full soon ere that I sit
 For thirty pence in a knot knit.
 Thus gets full well shall he *wit
 That of my wrath wreak me I will.

(*happily)

(*pained, yearned)

(*quickly) (**take, tithe)

(*earth)

(*unto)

(*know, understand)

Do open, porter, the port of this proud place
 That I may pass to your princes

to prove for your *prowe. (*power, proof)

JANITOR Go hence, thou glowering *gadling, (*bastard)
God give thee ill grace.
Thy glifiting is so grimly (*glaring)
thou *gars my heart grow. (*gets, makes)

JUDAS Good sir, be toward this time,
and tarry not my trace,
For I have tidings to tell.

JANITOR Ya, some treason I *trowe, (*trust, believe)
For I feel by a figure in your false face
It is but folly to fast affection in you;
For Mars he hath morticed his mark
After all lines of my lore,
And says ye are wicked of work
And both a strange thief and a *stark. (*strong or stiff)

JUDAS Sir, thus at my beard *and ye bark (*if)
It seems it shall sit you full sore.

JANITOR Say, beetle-browed briber,
why blows thou such boast?
Full false in thy face in faith can I find;
Thou art (en)cumbered in cursedness
and cares to this cost.
To mar men of might
has thou marked in thy mind.

JUDAS Sir, I mean of no malice
but mirth move I must.

JANITOR Say, unhangd harlot,
I hold thee *unhende. (*ungracious, ignoble)
Thou looks like a *lurdan (*scoundrel)
his livelihood had lost.
Woe shall I work thee away *but thou wend. (*unless)

JUDAS Ah, good sir, take (at)tent to my talking this tide,
For tidings full true can I tell.

JANITOR Say, brothel, I bid thee abide,
Thou chatters like a churl that can chide.

JUDAS Ya, sir, but and the truth should be tried,

Of mirth are there matters I *mell. (*tell, speak)

For through my deeds your *dugeperes (*twelve peers, i.e. nobles, ministers)
from *dere may be drawn. (*harm)

JANITOR What, deems thou to our dukes
that *dole should be **dight? (*dolour, grief) (*prepared, done)

JUDAS Nay, sir, so said I not;
If I be called to counsel
that cause shall be known
Among that comely company,
to clerk and to knight.

JANITOR Bide me here, *bewchere, (*good sir- sarcasm)
ere more *blore be blown, (*blowing, boasting)
And I shall busk to the *benke (*bench, i.e. Pilate's courtroom)
where banners are bright,
And say unto our sovereigns
ere seed more be sown
That *swilke a **seege as thyself (*such) (*man)
sues to their sight.
My lord now, of wit that is well,
I come for a case to be *kydde. (*discussed, told)

PILATUS Wey, speak on, and spare not thy spell.

CAYPHAS Ya, and if us master to *mell, (*tell, speak)
Since ye bear of beauty the bell,
Blithely shall we bow as ye bid.

JANITOR Sir, without this abating,
there *hoves, as I hope, (*comes near)
A hive held full of ire, for hasty he is.

PILATUS What comes he fore?

JANITOR I *ken him not, but he is clad in a cope; (*know)
He cares with a keen face uncomely to kiss.

PILATUS Go, get him that his grief
we *grathely may **grope (*prepared) (**interrogate)
So no open language be going amiss.

JANITOR Comes on *belive to my lord (*lively, swiftly)
and if thee *liste to leap, (*likes)

But utter so thy language
that thou *let not their bliss. (*stops, ends)

JUDAS That lord, sirs, might sustain your *seele (*health, prosperity)
That flower is of fortune and fame.

PILATUS Welcome, thy words are but well.

CAYPHAS Say, hears thou, knave, can thou not kneel?

PILATUS Loo(k), here may men fault in you feel.
Let be, sir, your scorning, for shame.

But, *bewshere, be not abashed to bide at the bar. (*good sir)

JUDAS Before you, sirs, to be brought
about have I been,
And always for your worship.

ANNA Say, *wot thou any were? (*know- i.e. do you know what they were?)

JUDAS Of work, sir, that hath wrathed you,
I *wot what I mean. (*know, understand)
But I would make a merchandise
your mischief to mar.

PILATUS And may you so?

JUDAS Else made I such masteries to move.

ANNA Then *kens thou of some (en)cumberance (*knows)
our charge for to cheer?
For, cousin, thou art cruel.

JUDAS My cause, sir, is keen,
For if ye will bargain or buy,
Jesus this time will I sell you.

I DOCTOR My blissing, son, have thou forthy.
Loo(k), here is a sport for to spy.

JUDAS And him dare I *hete you in hie (*behest, tell, promise)
If ye will be toward I tell you.

PILATUS What *hytist thou? (*called, named)

JUDAS Judas Scariott.

PILATUS Thou art a just man
That will Jesus be justified
by our judgement.
But how gets bought shall he be?
Bid forth thy bargain.

JUDAS But for a little betting
to bear from this *bente. (*bench, court)

PILATUS Now, what shall we pay?

JUDAS Sir, thirty pence and (com)plete, no more than.

PILATUS Say, are ye pleased of this price
he prices to present?

II DOCTOR Else contrary we our conscience
conceive since we can
That Judas knows him culpable.

PILATUS I call you consent,
But Judas, a knot for to knit,
Wilt thou to this covenant accord?

JUDAS Ya, at a word.

PILATUS Welcome is it.

II MILES Take thereof, a traitor, *tyte. (*quickly)

I MILES Now leave, ser, let no man *wit (*know)
How this *losell laykis with his lord. (*rogue) (**lacks, is missing)

PILATUS Why, dwells he with that *dotard (*fool)
whose deeds has us droved?

I MILES That has he done, sir, and does,
no doubt is this day.

PILATUS Than would we know why this knave
thus cursedly contrived.

II MILES Enquire him since ye can best (*know)
*ken if he contrary.

PILATUS Say, man, to sell thy master
what *mis hath he moved? (*sin, misdeed)

JUDAS For of as *mickle money he made me delay; (*great)
Of you, as I receive, shall but right be reproved.

ANNA I *rede not that ye *reken us (*advise) (*command)
our rule so to *ray, (*arrange, make ready)
For that the false fiend shall thee *fang. (*grasp)

I MILES When he shall want of a *wraсте. (*trick, ill turn)

I DOCTOR To whom work we *wittingly wrong. (*knowingly)

II DOCTOR To him but ye hastily hang.

III DOCTOR Your language ye lay out too long,
But Judas, we truly thee trust.

For truly thou must learn us
that *loسل to **latch, (*scoundrel) (**catch)
Or of land, through a *lirte, (*trick)
that *lurdan may leap. (*rogue) (i.e. might escape)

JUDAS I shall you teach a token
him *tyte for to take (*tightly, quickly)
Where he is thronging in the throng,
withouten any *threpe. (*dispute, question)

I MILES We know him not.

JUDAS Take keep then that *caitiff to catch (*captive, commoner)
The which that I kiss.

II MILES That comes well thee, curious, I *cleepe. (*say)
But yet to warn us wisely,
always must ye watch.
When thou shall wend forthwith
we shall walk a wild heap, (i.e. as a large crowd)
And therefore busy look now thou be.

JUDAS Yes, yes, a space shall I spy us
As soon as the sun is set, as ye see.

I MILES Go forth, for a traitor are ye,

II MILES Ya, and a wicked man.

I DOCTOR Why, what is he?

II DOCTOR A *losell, sir, but loyalty should lie us, (*scoundrel)

He is trapped full of *trayne the truth for to trust. (*tricks)
I hold it but folly his faith for to *trowe. (*trust, believe)

PILATUS Abide in my blessing,
and let your *breste, (*complaining)
For it is best for our *bote (*reward, goodness)
in *bayle for to **bow. (*protection) (**obey)
And Judas, for our profit
we pray thee be *pressed. (*quick)

JUDAS Yet had I not a penny
to purvey for my *prowe. (*proof, evidence)

PILATUS Thou shalt have deliverance,
*belyve at thy **list, (*lively, swiftly) (*desire, liking)
So that thou shall have liking
our lordship to love.
And therefore, Judas, mend thou thy moan
And take there thy silver all same.

JUDAS Ya, now is my great grief overgone.

I MILES Be light then.

JUDAS Yes, let me alone,
For *tyte shall that **taynte be done, (*quickly) (**trick, ill deed)
And thereto jocund and jolly I am.

PILATUS Judas, to hold thy behest
be *hende for our **happe, (*gracious) (**happiness)
And of us help and uphold
we *hete thee to have. (*promise, command)

JUDAS I shall *bekenne you his corpse (*make known. Beckon?)
in care for to clap.

ANNA And more comfort in this case
we covet not to crave.

I MILES For (if) we may reach that reckless,
his ribs shall we rap
And make that *roy, ere we rest, (*king, fellow)
for running to *raffe. (*pieces, bereft, grief)

PILATUS Nay, sirs, all if ye scourge him
ye *shend not his shape, (*destroy)
For if the sot be *sakles (*innocent)
Us sits him to save.
Wherefore when ye go shall to get him,
Unto his body brew ye no *bale. (*torment)

II MILES Our *liste is for leaping to *lette him, (*lust, desire) (*harm, end)
But in your sight sound shall we set him.

PILATUS Do flit now forth till ye *fette him, (*fetch, fetter)
With solace all same to your *sale. (*soul, health)