

PLAY TWENTY-NINE- The Trial before Caiaphas and Annas

(The Bowyers and Fletchers)

CAYPHAS Peace, *bewshers, I bid no jangling ye make, (*good sirs- sarcasm)
And cease soon of your *saws and see what I say, (*sayings)
And true (at)tent unto me this time that ye take,
For I am a lord learned *lelly in your **lay. (*truly, loyally) (**laws)

By cunning of clergy and casting of wit
Full wisely my words I wield at my will,
So seemly in seat me seems for to sit,
And the law for to learn you and *lede it by skill, (*teach)
Right soon.

What *wite so will ought with me (*person, wit)
Full friendly in faith am I foun(d);
Come off, do *tyte, let me see (*quickly)
How graciously I shall grant him his boon.

There is neither lord nor lady learned in the law,
Nay bishop nay prelate that proved is for price, (i.e. has proved their worth)
Nor clerk in the court that cunning will know
With wisdom may *were him in world is so wise. (*confuse, dismay)

I have the rank and the rule of all the royal,
To rule it by right as reason it is;
All *doomsmen on dais owe for to *dowte me (*judges) (*fear)
That has them in *bandome in **bale or in bliss; (*bondage) (**sorrow)
Wherefore take (at)tent to my tales and *lowtis unto me. (*laud, praise)

And therefore, sir knights . . .

Tunc dicunt: Lorde

[They say: Lord]

I charge you challenge your rights
To wait both by day and by nights
Of the bringing of a boy into *bale. (*captivity, sorrow)

I MILES Yis, lord, we shall wait if any wonders walk,
And *freyne how your folks fare that are forth run. (*ask)

II MILES
We shall be *bayne at your bidding and it not to balk (*obedient, bound)
If they present you that boy in a band boun(d).

ANNA

Why, sir, and is there a boy that will not *lowte to your bidding? (*bow, praise)

CAYPHAS Ya, sir, and of the curiousness of that churl there is carping,
But I have sent for that *segge half for **hethyng (*boaster) (**fun, amusement)

ANNA What wonderful works works that *wight? (*soul, person)

CAYPHAS Sick men and sorry he sends *siker healing, (*true, lasting)
And to lame men, and blind he sends their sight.

Of crooked cripples that we know
It is to hear great wondering
How that he heals them all on row,
And all through his false happening.

I am sorry of a sight that eggs me to ire;
Our law he breaks with all his might,
That is most his desire.

Our Sabbat day he will not save
But is about to bring it down
And therefore sorrow must him have.
May he be caught in field or town
For his false *steven.
He defames foully the Godhead
And calls himself God Son of heaven.

(*commands, shouts)

ANNA I have good knowledge of that knave.
Marie me means, his mother *hight,
And Joseph his father, as God me save,
Was *kidde and known well for a *wright.

(*called)

(*spoken of) (**i.e. carpenter)

But one thing me marvels mickle over all
Of diverse deeds that he has done.

CAYPHAS With witchcraft he fares withall,
Sir, that shall ye see full soon.

Our knights they are forth went
To take him with a *traye;
By this I hold him *shent.
He cannot wend away.

(*betrayal, traitor, trap)

(*destroyed)

ANNA Would ye, sir, take your rest,
This day is come on hand,

And with wine slake your thirst?
Than durst I well warrant

Ye should have tidings soon
Of the knights that are gone
And how that they have done
To take him by a *trayne,

(*trick)

And put all thought away
And let your matters rest.

CAYPHAS I will do as ye say,
Do get us wine of the best.

I MILES My lord, here is wine
that will make you to wink;
It is liquor full delicious,
my lord, and you like.

Wherefore I *rede *drely
a draught that ye drink,

(*advise) (*earnestly, or with dry humour)

For in this country, that we know,
*iwisse there is none *slyke,

(*I believe) (**such)

Wherefore we counsel you,
this cup *saverly for to kiss.

(*confidently)

CAYPHAS Do on daintily and dress me on dais

And *handily hill on me **happing,

(*skillfully) (**blankets, coverings)

And warn all *wights to be in peace,

(*souls, people)

For I am late laid unto napping.

ANNA My lord, with your le(a)ve, and it like you, I pass.

CAYPHAS Adieu be unto, as the manner is.

***MULIER** Sir knights, do keep this boy in **band,

(*woman) (**bondage)

For I will go *wit what it may mean,

(*know)

Why that yon *wight was him **followand

(*soul, man) (**following)

Early and late, morn and e(v)en.

He will come near, he will not let;

He is a spy, I warrant, full bold.

III MILES It seems by his (dis)sembling he had *levere be set

(*rather)

By the fervent fire to flame him from cold.

MULIER Ya, but *and ye **wiste as well as I

(*if) (**know)

What wonders that this *wight has wrought, (*person, soul)
And through his master sorcery
Full dearly should his death be bought.

IV MILES Dame, we have him now at will
That we have long time sought;
If other go by us still,
Therefore we have no thought.

MULIER It were great scorn that he should (e)scape
Without he had reason and skill,
He looks lurking like an ape;
I hope I shall haste me him *till. (*to)

Thou *caitiff, what moves thee stand (*captive, wretch)
So stable and still in thy thought?
Thou hast wrought mickle wrong in land
And wonderful works has thou wrought.

Ah, *lorell, a leader of law, (*scoundrel, beggar)
To set him and sue has thou sought.
Stand forth and thrust in yon *throw, (*crowd?)
Thy mastery thou bring unto nought.

Wait now, he looks like a *brock, (*badger)
Were he in a *band for to bait, (*bondage, ropes)
Or else like an owl on a *stock (*stump)
Full privily his prey for to wait.

PETRUS Woman, thy words and thy wind thou not waste,
Of his company never ere I was *kenned. (*known)
Thou has thee mismarked, truly by trust;
Wherefore of thy miss thou thee amend.

MULIER Then gainsay thou here the *saws that thou said, (*teachings)
How he should claim to be called God Son,
And with the works that he wrought
Whilst he walketh in this flood,
*Banely at our bidding always to be boun(d). (*obediently, humbly)

PETRUS I will consent to your *saws; (*words, teachings)
what should I say more?
For women are crabbed,
that comes them of kind.
But I say as I first said,
I saw him never ere;

But as a friend of your fellowship
shall ye me *aye find. (*ever, always)

MALCHUS Hark, knights, that are known
in this country as we *ken, (*know)
How yon boy with his boast
has brewed mickle *bale: (*sorrow, agony)
He has forsaken his master
before yon women.
But I shall prove to you *pertly (*briefly)
and tell you my tale.

I was present with people
when *press was full pressed (*crowd)
To meet with his master,
with main and with might,
And hurled him hardily
and hastily him arrest,
And in bands full bitterly
bound him sore all that night.

And of tokening of truth shall I tell you,
How yon boy with a brand
(up)braid me full near
(Do move of these matters among you),
For swiftly he swapped off my ear.

His master with his might healed me all whole,
That by no sign I could see no man could it *witten (*understand)
And then bade him bear peace in every *ilke **bale, (*each) (**misdeed, torment)
For he that strikes with a sword, with a sword shall be stricken.

Let see whether grants thou guilt.
Do speak on and spare not to tell us
Or full fast I shall found thee flit,
The *sooth but thou say here among us. (*truth)

Come off, do *tyte, let me see now, quickly (*swiftly)
In saving of thyself from shame,
[LINE MISSING.]
Ya, and also for bearing of blame.

PETRUS I was never with him in work that he wrought
In word nor in work, in will nor in deed;
I know no *corse that ye have hither brought, (*body, corpse)
In no court of this *kith, if I should right **rede. (*country) (**mention, teach)

MALCHUS Hear, sirs, how he says and has forsaken
His master to this woman here twice,
And newly our law has he taken;
Thus hath he denied him thrice.

JESUS Peter, Peter, thus said I ere
When thou said thou would abide with me
In weal and woe, in sorrow and care,
Whilst I should thrice forsaken be.

PETRUS Alas, the while that I come here,
That ever I denied my Lorde in *quart, (*entirely)
The look of his fair face so clear
With full sad sorrow shears my heart.

III MILES
Sir knights, take keep of this churl and be *konnand; (*knowing, cunning)
Because of Sir Caiaphas we know well his thought.
He will reward us full well, that dare I well warrant,
When he *wit of our works how well we have wrought. (*knows)

IV MILES Sir, this is Caiaphas' hall here at hand;
Go we boldly with this boy that we have here brought.

III MILES Nay, sirs, us must stalk to that *stead and full still stand, (*place)
For it is now of the night, if they nap ought.
Say, who is here?

I MILES Say, who is here?

III MILES I, a friend,
Well known in this country for a knight.

II MILES Go forth, on your ways may ye wend,
For we have harboured enough for tonight.

I MILES Go aback, *bewscheres, ye both are to blame, (*good sirs)
To *bourde when our bishop is bound to his bed. (*joke)

IV MILES Why, sir, it were worthy to welcome us home;
We have gone for this warlock and we have well sped.

II MILES Why, who is that?

II MILES The Jew's king, Jesus by name.

I MILES Ah, ye be welcome, that dare I well *wed, (*think)
My lord has sent for to seek him.

IV MILES Loo(k), see here the same.

II MILES Abide as I bid and be nought adread.
My lord, my lord, my lord, here is *layke, if you **list. (*sport, amusement) (**like)

CAYPHAS Peace, *loselles, **list ye be ***nice? (*fools) (**likes) (***foolish)

I MILES My lord, it is well if ye *wiste. (*think)

CAYPHAS What, name us no more, for it is twice.

Thou takes none heed to the haste
that we have here on hand;
Go *frayne how our folk fares (*ask)
that are forth ran.

II MILES My lord, your knights has *kared (*carried out)
as ye them command,
And they have fallen full fair.

CAYPHAS Why, and is the fool found?

I MILES Ya, lord, they have brought a boy in a band bound.

CAYPHAS Where now, Sir Anna, that is one and able to be near?

ANNA My lord, with your le(a)ve me behoves to be here.

CAYPHAS Ah, sir, come near and sit we both in *fere. (*company)

ANNA Do, sir, bid them bring in that boy that is boun(d).

CAYPHAS Peace now, Sir Anna, be still and let him stand,
And let us grope if this game be *grathly begun. (*readily)

ANNA Sir, this game is begun of the best;
Now had he no force for to flee them.

CAYPHAS Now, in faith, I am *fayne he is fast; (*glad)
Do lead in that lad, let me see then.

II MILES Lo(ok), sir, we have said to our sovereign,

Go now and sue to himself for the same thing.

III MILES Mi lord, to your bidding we are *buxom and *bayne, (*obedient)
Lo(ok), here is the *belschere brought that ye bade bring. (*good sir)

IV MILES My lord, *fandis now to fear him. (*find, test)

CAYPHAS Now I am *fayne, (*joyful)
And fellows, fair might ye fall for your finding.

ANNA Sir, and ye *trowe they be true (*trust)
withouten any *trayne, (*trick)
Bid them tell you the time of the taking.

CAYPHAS Say, fellows, how went ye so nimbly by night?

III MILES My lord, was there no man to mar us nor mend us.

IV MILES My lord, we had lanterns and light, (*knew)
And some of his company *kenned us.

ANNA But say, how did he, Judas?

III MILES Ah, sir, full wisely and well:
He marked us his master among all his men
And kissed him full kindly his comfort to *kele (*kill, quell)
Because of a countenance that churl for to *ken. (*know)

CAYPHAS And thus did he his *devere? (*duty)

IV MILES Ya, lord, every *ilke a dele: (*each thing)
He taught us to take him
the time after ten.

ANNA Now, by my faith, a faint friend might he there find.

III MILES Sire, ye might so have said
had ye him seen then.

IV MILES He set us to the same that he sold us (*fraud)
And feigned to be his friend as a *faytour;
This was the tokening before that he told us.

CAYPHAS Now, truly, this was a *trante of a traitor. (*trick, game)

ANNA Ya, be he traitor or true give we never tale,

But takes (at)tent at this time and hear what he tells.

CAYPHAS Now see that our household be holden here whole
So that none carp in case but that in court dwells.

III MILES Ah, lord, this *brethell hath brewed much **bale. (*sinner) (**agony)

CAYPHAS Therefore shall we speed us to spare of his spells.
Sir Anna, take heed now and hear him.

ANNA Say, lad, *liste thee nocht **lowte to a lord? (*likes) (**bow, praise)

IV MILES No, sir, with your leave, we shall *lere him. (*teach, learn)

CAYPHAS Nay, sir, not so, no haste.

It is no *burde to beat beasts that are boun(d), (*game, sport)
And therefore with fairness first we will him *fraste (*test, enquire)
And sithen further him forth as we have foun(d).
And tell us some tales, truly to trust.

ANNA Sir, we might as well talk

tille a tome tonne. (i.e. to a dumb stone)

I warrant him witless

or else he is wrong *wrayste, (*seized, tricked, twisted)

Or else he waits to work

as he was ere *wonne. (*living, doing)

III MILES His *wonne was to work mickle woe (*livelihood, living)
And make many masteries among us.

KAYPHAS And some shall he grant ere he go,
Or must you tend him and tell us.

IV MILES Mi lord, to *wit the wonders that he has wrought, (*know)
For to tell you the tenth it would our tongues tear.

KAYPHAS Since the boy for his boast is into *bale brought, (*captivity)
We will *wit ere he wend how his works were. (*know)

III MILES Our Sabbat day we say

saves he right not

That he should hallow and hold

full *dingne and full dear. (*dignified)

IV MILES No, sir, in the same *feste (*festival)
as we the sot sought,

He salved them of sickness
on many sides *seere. (*separate, diverse)

CAYPHAS What then, makes he them *grathely to **gange? (*readily) (**go)

III MILES Ya, lord, even forth in every *ilke a town (*each)
He them *leeches to life after long. (*heals)

CAYPHAS Ah, this makes he by the mightes of *Mahounde. (*Mohammed)

IV MILES Sir, our stiff Temple, that made is of stone,
That passes any palace of price for to praise,
*And it were down to the earth and to the ground gone, (*if)
This ribald he rouses him *rathely to raise. (*readily, swiftly)

III MILES Ya, lord, and other wonders he works great *wone, (*living)
And with his loud *lesings he loses our **layes. (*lies) (**laws)

CAYPHAS Go, loose him, and leave then and let me alone,
For myself shall search him and hear what he says.

ANNA Hark, Jesus of Jews will have joy
To spill all thy sport for thy spells.

CAYPHAS Do *move, fellow, of thy friends that fed thee before, (*talk)
And *sithen, fellow, of thy fare further will I **freyne. (*then) (**ask)
Do *neven us lightly — his language is **lorne. (*name) (**lost)

III MILES My lord, with your leave, him likes for to *layne, (*lie)
But and he should (e)scape *skatheles it were a full scorn, (*without harm)
For he has mustered among us full mickle of his *main. (*power)

IV MILES Malkus, your man, lord, that had his ear shorn,
This harlot full hastily healed it again.

CAYPHAS
What, and *liste him be **nyse for the ***nonce, (*likes) (**foolish) (**moment)
And hear how we haste to *rehetete him. (*rebuke, attack)

ANNA Now, by Belial's blood and his bones,
I hold it best to go beat him.

CAYPHAS Nay, sir, none haste, we shall have game ere we go.
Boy, be not aghast if we seem gay;
I conjure thee kindly and command thee also
By great God that is living and last shall *ay, (*ever)

If thou be Christ, God's Son, tell to us two.

JESUS Sir, thou says it thyself, and *soothly I say (*truly)
That I shall go to my Father that I come fro(m)
And dwell with him *winly in wealth alway. (*winningly, graciously)

CAYPHAS Why, fie on thee, *faitour untrue. (*fraud)
Thy father has thou foully defamed,
Now needs us no notes of new,
Himself with his *saws has he shamed. (*sayings, words)

ANNA Now needs neither witness nor counsel to call,
But take his *saws as he sayeth in the same **stead: (*Sayings) (**place)
He slanders the Godhead and grieves us all,
Wherefore he is well worthy to be dead.
And therefore, sir, say him the *sooth. (*truth)

CAYPHAS *Sertis, so I shall. (*surely, certainly)
Hears thou not, harlot?
Ill *happe on thy head. (*luck, happiness)
Answer here *grathely to great and to small, (*quickly)
And reach us out *rathely some reason, I **rede. (*readily) (**advise)

JESUS My reasons are not to rehearse,
Nor they that might help me are not here now.

ANNA Say, lad, *liste thee make verse? (*likes)
Do tell on, *belyff, let us hear now. (*be lively)

JESUS Sir, if I say the *sooth, thou shall not assent (*truth)
But hinder or haste me hung.
I preached where people was most in present
And no point in privity to old ne young.
And also in your Temple I told mine intent,
Ye might have ta'en me that time for my telling
Well better than bring me with brands unburnt,
And thus to (an)noy me by night and also for nothing.

CAYPHAS For nothing? *Losell, thou lies, (*wretch)
Thy words and works will have a *wrekyng. (*reckoning)

JESUS Sire, since thou with wrong so me *wreyes, (*betrays)
Go, *spere them that heard of my speaking. (*search, enquire)

CAYPHAS Ah, this traitor has *tened me (*pained)
with tales that he has told,

Yet had I never such *hething
as of a harlot as he. (*contempt, mockery)

I MILES What, fie on thee, beggar,
who made thee so bold
To *bourde with our bishop? (*jest)
Thy bane shall I be.

JESUS Sir, if my words be wrong or worse than thou would,
A wrong witness I *wot now are ye, (*know)
And if my *saws be **sooth they must be sore sold, (*sayings) (**truth)
Wherefore thou *bourdes too broad for to beat me. (*jokes)

II MILES My lord, will ye hear, for Mahounde?
No more now for to *neven that it needs. (*name, mention)

CAYPHAS Go, *dress you and *ding ye him down, (*prepare) (**strike)
And deaf us no more with his deeds.

ANNA Nay, sir, than blemish ye prelate's estates;
Ye *awe to **deem no man to dead for to ***ding. (*ought)(**doom, judge)(***hit)

CAYPHAS Why, sir, so were better than be in debate;
Ye see the boy will not bow for our bidding.

ANNA Now sir, ye must present this boy unto Sir Pilate,
For he is *doomsman near and next to the king, (*judge)
And let him hear all the whole, how ye him hate
And whether he will help him or haste him to hang.

I MILES My lord, let men lead him by night,
So shall ye best (e)scape out of scorning.

II MILES My lord, it is now in the night;
I *rede ye abide 'til the morning. (*advise)

CAYPHAS *Bewschere, thou says the best, and so shall it be, (*good sir)
But learn yon boy better to bend and bow.

I MILES We shall learn yon lad, by my *lewté, (*loyalty, oath)
For to *loute unto **ilke lord like unto you. (*bow, praise) (**each)

CAYPHAS Ya, and fellows, wait that he be *ay **wakand. (*always) (**waking)

II MILES Yis, lord, that warrant will we.
It were a full needless note to bid us nap now.

III MILES *Sertis, will ye sit, and soon shall ye see (*certainly)
How we shall play *popse for the **pages ***prowe.
(*blind man's buff) (**boy's) (**profit, reward)

IV MILES Let see, who starts for a stool?
For I have here a *hatir to hide him. (*hood, cloth- "hat here")

I MILES Lo, here is one full fit for a fool;
Go get it, and set thee beside him.

II MILES Nay, I shall set it myself and *frush him also. (*thrash, charge)
Lo(ok), here a shroud for a shrew, and of sheen shape.

III MILES Play fair in *feere, and there is one and there is - two; (*together)
I shall find to faste(n) it with a fair flap,
And there is — three, and there is — four.
Say, now, with an evil *happe, (*luck)
Who *nighs thee now? Not one word, no. (*is near)

IV MILES Does noddle on him with *neffes (*fists)
That he not nap.

I MILES Nay, now to nap is no need,
Wassail, wassail!
I warrant him wakened.

II MILES Ya, and but he better *bourdis can bide, (*jests, jokes)
Such buffets shall he be *takand. (*taking)

III MILES Prophet, I say, to be out of debate,
Quis te percussit, man? *Rede if thou may. [Who hits you?] (*say, advise)

IV MILES Those words are in waste,
what *weens thou he **wot? (*thinks) (**knows)
It seems by his working
his wits were away.

I MILES Now let him stand as he stood
in a fool's state,
For he likes not this *layke, (*game, sport)
my life dare I *lay. (*bet)

II MILES Sirs, us must present this page to Sir Pilate,
But go we first to our sovereign
and see what he says.

III MILES My lord, we have *bourded with this boy (*joked, played)
And hold him full hot among us.

CAYPHAS Then heard ye some japes of joy?

IV MILES The devil have the word, lord, he would tell us.

ANNA Sir, bid *belyve, they go and bind him again (*quickly, lively)
So that he (e)scape not, for that were a scorn.

CAYPHAS Do tell to Sir Pilate our (com)plaints all plain
And say, this lad with his *lesings has our laws **lorne; (*lying) (*lost)
And say this same day must he be slain
Because of Sabbath day that shall be *tomorne. (*tomorrow)
And say that we come ourself for certain,
And for to further this fare, fare ye before.

I MILES Mi lord, with your leave, us must wend,
Our message to make as we may.

CAYPHAS Sir, your fair fellowship
we betake to the fiend.
Go on now and dance forth in the devil's way.