

**PLAY THIRTY- The First Trial before Pilate/ The Dream of Pilate's Wife
(The Tapestry-makers and Couchers)**

PILATUS Ye cursed creatures that cruelly are crying,
Restrain you for striving
for strength of my strikes;
Your (com)plaints in my presence
use *plately applying, (*plainly, openly)
Or else this *brand in your brains, (*sword, torch)
shall burst and breaks.
This *brand in his bones breaks, (*sword, torch)
What brawl(er) that with brawling me brews,
That wretch may not *wry from my **wrekis, (*writhe, escape) (**vengeance)
Nor his sleights not slyly him slakes,
Let that traitor not trust in my *truce. (*i.e. good faith, amity)

For Sir Caesar was my sire
and I *soothly his son, (*truly)
That excellent emperor exalted in height
Which all this wild world with wits had won;
And my mother *hight Pila that proud was of **plight, (*called) (**promise, marriage)
O(f) Pila that proud, and Atus her father he *hight. (*called, named)
This Pila was had into Atus,
Now ranks, *rede ye it right? (*understand, advise)
For thus shortly I have showed you in sight
How I am proudly proved Pilatus.

Loo(k), Pilate I am, proved a prince of great pride;
I was put into *Pounce the people to (re)press, (*Pontia)
And sithen Caesar himself with senators by his side,
Remit me to their remiss, the ranks to *redress. (*reform)
And yet am I granted on ground, as I guess,
To justify and judge all the Jews.
Ah, love, here lady, no less?
Lo(ok), sirs, my worthily wife, that she is;
So seemly, loo(k), certain she shows.

UXOR PILATI

Was never judge in this Jewry of so jocund generation, (*happy lineage)
Nor of so joyful genealogy to gentries enjoyed,
As ye, my duke doughty, deemer of damnation
To princes and prelates
that your precepts purloined. (i.e. who broke your laws)
Who that your precepts pertly purloined,
With dread into dead shall ye drive him.

By my truth, he untruly is throned
That against your behests has honed;
All to rags shall ye rent him and rive him.

I am dame precious Percula, of princes the prize,
Wife to Sir Pilate, here prince withouten peer,
All well of all womanhood I am, witty and wise.
Conceive now my countenance so comely and clear.
The colour of my *corse is full clear, (*body)
And in riches of robes I am (ar)rayed.
There is no lord in this land, as I *lere, (*learn)
In faith, that hath a friendlier *fere (*companion)
Than ye my lord,
myself though I say it.

PILATUS Now say it may ye safely,
for I will certify the same.

UXOR PILATI Gracious lord, gramercy, your good word is gain.

PILATUS Yet for to comfort my *corse, me must kiss you, madame. (*body)

UXOR To fulfil your fore-word, my fair lord, in faith I am *fayne. (*happy)

PILATUS How, how, fellows, now in faith I am *fayne (*happy)
Of these lips so lovely are lapped,
In bed is full *buxom and **bayne. (*obedient) (**bound)

DOMINA Ya, sir, it needeth not to *layne, (*lie)
All ladies we covet then
both to be kissed and clapped.

BEDELLUS My liberal lord, O leader of laws,
O shining show that all shames eschews,
I beseek you, my sovereign, assent to my *saws (*words)
As ye are gentle judger and justice of Jews.

DOMINA Do hark, how you, *javell, jangle of Jews. (*quarreler)
Why, go beat whore-son boy, when I bid thee.

BEDELLUS Madame, I do but that due is.

DOMINA But if thou rest of thy reason thou rues,
For all is accursed, churl, has(t)e in, *kydde thee. (*talk, make known)

PILATUS Do mend you, madame, and your mood be amending,

For me seems it were *sittand to see what he says. (*suitable, fitting)

DOMINA Mi lord, he told never tale that to me was tending,
But with *wrinks and with wiles to wend me my ways. (*wrinkles, i.e. twists)

BEDELLUS *Gwisse, of your ways to be wending,
it (be)longs to our laws. (*iwis, I know)

DOMINA Loo(k), lord, this lad with his laws,
How think ye it profits well
his preaching to praise?

PILATUS Ya, love, he knows all our custom,
I know well.

BEDELLUS My *seniour, will ye see now the sun in your sight, (*signor, ruler)
For his stately strength he stems in his streams;
Behold over your head how he holds from height
And glides to the ground with his glittering gleams.
To the ground he goes with his beams
And the night is nighing anon.
Ye may deem after no dreams,
But let my lady here
with all her light (g)leams
*Wightely go wend to her **wone, (*swiftly, lively) (**dwelling place, home)

For ye must sit, sir, this same night of life and of limb;
It is not lawful for my lady
by the law of this land
In *doom for to dwell (*judgement)
for the day wax ought dim,
For she may *stakir in the street (*stagger, stammer)
*but she **stalworthily stand. (*unless) (**stalwartly, steadily)
[LINE MISSING]
Let her take her leave while that light is.

PILATUS Now, wife, then ye blithely be *buskand. (*moving, preparing to go)

DOMINA I am here, sir, handily at hand.

PILATUS Loo(k), this rank has us *redde as right is. (*taught)

DOMINA Your commandment to keep to care for thee I *cast me; (*appoint)
My lord, with your le(a)ve, no longer I let you.

PILATUS It were a reprieve to my person

that privily ye *passed me, (*left)
Or ye went from this *wones (*place, house)
or with wine ye had wet you.
Ye shall wend forth with wine
when that ye have wet you.
Get drink, what does thou, have done!
Come, seemly, beside me and set you.
Look, now it is even here that I are behe(s)t you,
Ya, say it now sadly and soon.

DOMINA It would glad me, my lord, if ye goodly begin.

PILATUS Now I assent to your counsel, so comely and clean;
Now drink, madame; to death all this din.

DOMINA If it like you, mine own lord, I am not to *lere; (*teach)
This *lare I am not to **lere. (*law, lore) (**learn, understand)

PILATUS Yet *efte to your **damsel, madame. (*soon, go) (**maidservant)

DOMINA In thy hand, hold now, and have here.

ANCILLA Gramercy, my lady so dear.

PILATUS Now farewell, and walk on your way.

[TWO LINES MISSING]

DOMINA
Now farewell the friendliest, your foemen to *(de)fend. (*i.e. defend from)

PILATUS Now farewell, the fairest figure that ever did food feed,
And farewell, ye damsel, indeed.

ANCILLA My lord, I command me to your royalty.

PILATUS Fair lady, here is shall you lead.
Sir, go with this worthy indeed,
And what she bids you do,
Look that *buxom you be. (*obedient)

FILIUS I am proud and pressed to pass on apace,
To go with this gracious here goodly to guide.

PILATUS
Take (at)tent to my tale, thou turn on no *trayse, (*path, i.e. don't turn away)

Come *tyte and tell me if any tidings betide. (*quickly)

FILIUS If any tidings my lady betide,
I shall full soon, sir, *wit you to say. (*make known)
This seemly shall I show by her side,
*Belyffe, sir, no longer we bide. (*be lively)

PILATUS Now farewell, and walk on your way.

Now went is my wife, if it were not her will,
And she *rakes to her rest as if nothing she wrought. (*goes, rushes)
Time is, I tell thee, thou tend me untill,
And *busk thee **belyve, bel-ami, to bed that I were brought,
(*prepare) (**lively)

[LINE MISSING]
And look I be richly arrayed.

BEDELLUS As your servant I have sadly it sought,
And this night, sir, new shall ye nought,
I dare lay, for ye lovely be laid.

PILATUS I command thee to come near, for I will care to my couch;
Have in thy hands handily and heave me from *hyne, (*here, hence)
But look that thou *tene me not with thy testing, but tenderly me touch (*pain)

BEDELLUS Ah, sir, ye weigh well.

PILATUS Ya, I have wet me with wine.

[LINE MISSING]
Yet hold down and *lappe me even here, (*wrap, blanket)
For I will slyly sleep unto sin.
Look that no man nor no *myron of mine (*servant, idler)
With no noise be nighing me near.

BEDELLUS Sir, what warlowe you wakens
with words full wild,
That boy for his brawling
were better be unborn.

PILATUS Ya, who chatters, him chastise,
be he churl or child,
For if he (e)scape *scatheless (*unharmed)
it were to us a great scorn.
If scatheless he (e)scape, it were a scorn.
What ribald that readily will roar,

I shall meet with that *myron **tomorne, (*servant, idler) (*tomorrow)
And for his *ledir lewdness him learn to be **lorne. (*commanding) (**lost)

BEDELLUS Wey, so sir, sleep ye, and say no more.

DOMINA Now are we at home, do help if ye may,
For I will make me ready and *rayke to my rest. (*proceed, rush)

ANCILLA Ye are weary, madame, for-went of your way,
Do bound you to bed, for that hold I best.

FILIUS Here is a bed arrayed of the best.

DOMINA Do *happe me, and fast hence ye hie. (*help, make me happy)

ANCILLA Madame, anon all duly is dressed.

FILIUS With no *stalking nor no strife be ye stressed. (*possibly talking?)

DOMINA Now be ye in peace, both your carping and cry.

DIABOLUS Out, out, harrow! Into *bale am I brought. (*torment)
This bargain may I *banne, (*curse)
But if I work some wile, in woe must I *wonne. (*dwell, live)
This gentleman Jesu of cursedness he can,
Be any sign that I see, this same is God's Son,
And he be slain, our solace will cease.
He will save man soul fro(m) our *sonde (*command, message)
And reave us the remiss that are (a)round. (i.e. take the sinners from us)
I will on stiffly in this *stound (*place)
Unto Sir Pilate's wife pertly, and put me in press.

Oh woman, be wise and (a)ware, and *wonne in thy wit (*dwell, remain)
There shall a gentleman, Jesu, unjustly be judged
Before thy husband in haste, and with harlots be hit;
And that doughty today to death thus be *dighted, (*done)
Sir Pilate, for his preaching, and thou
With need shall ye namely be (an)noyed:
Your strife and your strength shall be (de)stroyed,
Your riches shall be reft you that is rude
With vengeance, and that dare I avow.

DOMINA
Ah, I am *drecchid with a dream full dreadfully to doubt. (*troubled)
Say, child, rise up readily and rest for no *roo; (*peace)
Thou must *launce to my lord and lowly him *lowte: (*launch, run) (*bow)

Command me to his reverence, as right will I do.

FILIUS O, what, shall I travail thus timely this tide?

Madame, for the *drecching of heaven,

(*troubling)

Such note is *newsome to **neven,

(*nuisance) (**mention)

And it nighs unto midnight full even.

DOMINA Go beat, boy, I bid no longer thou bide,

And say to my sovereign, this same is *sooth that I send him.

(*truth)

All naked this night as I napped

With *tene and with *trayne was I trapped

(*pain) (*tricks)

With a swevene that swiftly me swapped

(*vision, prophecy)

Of one Jesu, the just man the Jews will undo.

She prays (at)tent to that true man, with *tyne to be not trapped,

(*loss, pain)

But as a *doomsman duly to be dressing

(*judge)

And *lelye deliver that *lede.

(*faithfully) (*lad, boy)

FILIUS Madame, I am dressed to that deed,

But first will I nap in this need,

For he has *mystir of a morn sleep that midnight is missing.

(*?mastery?)

ANNA Sir Caiaphas, ye *ken well

(*know)

this *caitiff we have catched

(*captive)

That oft-times in our Temple

has teachd untruly,

Our *many with might

(*household, company)

at midnight him ma(t)ched

And has driven him to his *deeming

(*judgement)

for his deeds unduly.

Wherefore I counsel that kindly we carry

Unto Sir Pilate, our prince, and pray him

That he for our right will array him,

This *faitour, for his false(hoo)d to flay him

(*fraudster)

For fro we say him the *soth

(*truth)

I shall sit him full sore.

CAYPHAS Sir Anna, this sport have ye speedily a-spied,

As I am pontifical prince of all priests.

We will *prese to Sir Pilate and present him with pride

(*praise, gather, push)

With this harlot that has hewed our hearts fro our breasts

Through talking of tales untrue;

And therefore, sir knights . . .

MILITES

Lord.

CAYPHAS Sir knights, that are courteous and kind,
We charge you that churl be well chained.
Do *busk you and **grathely him bind (*hurry, proceed) (*readily)
And rug him in ropes, his *rase till he rue. (*behaviour, story)

I MILES Sir, your *saws shall be served shortly and soon, (*teachings, orders)
Ya, do fellow, by thy faith, let us *fest this faitour full fast. (*fasten) (*fraud)

II MILES I am doughty to this deed, *delyver, have done, (*do lively)
Let us pull on with pride 'til his power be past.

I MILES Do have fast and hold at his hands.

II MILES For this same is he that lightly *avaunted, (*boasted, bragged)
And God Son he *grathely him **granted. (*readily) (**i.e. called)

I MILES He be hurled for the highness he haunted;
Loo(k), he *stonyes for us, he stares where he stands. (*is astonished)

II MILES Now is the *brothel bound for all the boast that he blown, (*sinner)
And the Last Day he let no lordings might law him.

ANNA Ya, he *weened this world had been wholly his own (*believed)
As ye are doughtiest today
to his *deeming ye draw him, (*judging)
And then shall we *ken (*know)
how that he can excuse him.

I MILES
Here, ye *gomes, goes a-roam, give us **gait; (*man, statue) (**movement)
We must step to yon star of estate.

II MILES We must *yappely wend in at this gate, (*eagerly, skillfully)
For he that comes to court, to curtesy must use him.

I MILES Do rap on the *ranks (*person, creature)
that we may raise with our rolling;
Come forth, sir coward,
why cower ye behind?

BEDELLUS O, what *javels are ye that japes with gulling? (*quarrelers)

I MILES Ah, good sir, be not wrath, for words are as the wind.

BEDELLUS I say, *gadlings, go back with your **gaudies. (*bastards) (**games)

II MILES Be suffering, I beseech you,
And more of this matter ye make you.

BEDELLUS Why, uncunning knaves, *and I **cleke you, (*if) (**clutch, grab)
I shall fell you,
by my faith, for all your false frauds.

PILATUS Say, child, ill chief you,
what churls are so clattering?

BEDELLUS My lord, uncunning knaves, they cry and they call.

PILATUS
Go boldly *beliffe, and those **brethels be battering, (*be lively) (**sinners)
And put them in prison upon pain that may fall.
Ya, speedily spur them if any sport can they spell,
Ya, and look what lordings they be.

BEDELLUS My lord, that is love-full in *lee, (*harbour, tranquility)
I am *buxom and blithe to your *blee. (*obedient) (**countenance, brightness)

PILATUS And if they talk any tidings
come *tyte and me tell. (*quickly)

BEDELLUS My fellows, by your faith,
can ye talk any tidings?

I MILES Ya, sir, Sir Caiaphas and Anna are come both together
To Sir Pilate o' Pounce and prince of our law,
And they have *laughte a **lorell (*caught) (**beggar, fool)
that is lawless and *liddir. (*wicked)

BEDELUS My lord, my lord!

PILATUS How?

BEDELLUS My lord, *unlappe you **belyve where ye lie. (*uncover) (**swiftly)
Sir Caiaphas to your court is carried
And Sir Anna, but a traitor them tarried;
Many *wight of that warlowe has **waried, (*man, soul) (**warned, worried)
They have brought him in a band, his *bales to buy. (*torment)

PILATUS But are these *saws certain in **sooth that thou says? (*words) (**truth)

BEDELLUS Ya, lord, the states yonder stands,

for strife are they *stonden. (*stunned, standing)

PILATUS Now then am I light as a *roe (*i.e. roe deer)
and *ethe for to raise; (*easy)
Go bid them come in both,
and the boy they have boun(d).

BEDELLUS Sirs, my lord gives leave
in for to come.

CAYPHAS Hail, prince that is peerless in price,
Ye are leader of laws in this land,
Your help is full handily at hand.

ANNA Hail, strong in your state for to stand,
All this doom must be dressed at your duly devise.

(*i.e. your judgement must be properly prepared)

PILATUS Who is there? My prelates?

CAYPHAS Ya, lord.

PILATUS Now be ye welcome, *iwisse. (*I believe)

CAYPHAS Gramercy, my sovereign,
but we beseek you all same;
Because of waking you unwarily
be not wroth with this,
For we have brought here a *lorell, (*fraud, rascal)
he looks like a lamb.

PILATUS Come in, you both, and to the bench *brade you. (*hurry)

CAYPHAS Nay, good sir, lower is lawful for us.

PILATUS Ah, Sir Caiaphas, be courteous ye must.

ANNA Nay, good lord, it may not be thus.

PILATUS Say no more, but come sit you beside me
in sorrow, as I said you.

FILIUS Hail, the seemliest *seeg under son sought, (*throne)
Hail, the dearest duke and doughtiest in deed.

PILATUS Now be *veneuew, **beuscher, (*welcome) (**beau-sir, good sir)
what bid-word hast thou brought?
Has any *langour my lady new **laught in this ***leede?
(*illness)(**latched, caught)(**place)

FILIUS Sir, that comely commands her you to
And says, all naked this night as she napped,
With *tene and with *traye was she trapped (*pain) (**betrayal)
With a *sweven that swiftly her **swapped (*vision) (*hit)
Of one Jesu, the just man the Jews will undo.

She beseeches you as her sovereign that simple to save;
Deem him not to death, for dread of vengeance.

PILATUS What, I hope this be he that hither hauled ye have.

CAYPHAS Ya, sir, the same and the self,
but this is but a *skaunce; (*joke, trick)
He with witchcraft
this wile has he wrought.
Some fiend of his *sound has he sent (*command, voice)
And warned your wife ere he went.

PILATUS
Yow, that *schalke should not shamefully be **shent. (*person) (**destroyed)
This is *sikir in certain, and **sooth should be sought. (*surely) (**truth)

ANNA Ya, through his phantom and falsehood and fiend's craft
He has wrought many wonder
where he walked full wide,
Wherefore, my lord, it were lawful
his life were him (be)reft.

PILATUS Be ye never so *bryme, ye both must abide, (*in heat, grunting)
*But if the traitor be taught for untrue (*unless)
And therefore sermon you no more,
I will *sekirly send himself for (*surely)
And see what he says to thee sore.
Beadle, go bring him,
for of that *renke have I ruth. (*person) (*i.e. pity)

BEDELLUS This fore-word to fulfil
am I *fayne in mine heart moved. (*glad)
Say, Jesu, the judges and the Jews
has me enjoined

To bring thee before them
even bound as thou art,
Yon lordings to lose thee
full long have they *heynd. (*waited)
But first shall I worship thee
with wit and with will:
This reverence I do thee forthy
For wits that were wiser than I;
They worshipped thee full holy on high,
And with solemnity sang *Hosanna* *till. (*to)

I MILES My lord that is leader of laws in this land,
All beadles to your bidding should be *buxsom and **bayne, (*obedient)(**bound)
And yet this boy here before you
full boldly was *bowand (*bowing)
To worship this *warlowe; (*warlock)
methink we work all in vain.

II MILES Ya, and in your presence he prayed him of peace
In kneeling on knees to this knave;
He besought him his servant to save.

CAIPHAS Loo(k), lord such error among them they have
It is great sorrow to see, no *seeg may it cease. (*throne, ruler)

It is no *menske to your manhood that mickle is of might (*honour)
To forbear such forfeits that falsely are feigned,
Such spites in especial would be eschewed in your sight.

PILATUS Sirs, move you not in this matter
but be mildly demeaned,
For yon courtesy I *ken had some cause. (*know)

ANNA In your sight, sir, the *sooth shall I say, (*truth)
As ye are prince, take heed, I you pray,
Such a *lurdan unloyal, dare I lay, (*rogue)
Many lords of our lands
might lead from our laws.

PILATUS Say, *losell, who gave thee leave (*louse, rascal)
so for to *lowte to yon lad (*bow, praise)
And solace him in my sight
so seemly, that I saw?

BEDELLUS Ah, gracious lord, grieve you not
for good cause I had.

Ye commanded me to care
as ye *kenned well and know, (*knew)
To Jerusalem on a journey, with *seele, (*seal, i.e. message, or blessing)
And then this seemly on an ass was set
And many men mildly him met.
As a God in that ground they him greet,
Well seeming him in way with worship *leal. (*loyal, faithful)

Osanna they sang, “the son of David,”
Rich men with their robes, they ran to his feet,
And poor folk fetched flowers of the *frith (*forest)
And made mirth and melody this man for to meet.

PILATUS Now, good sir, by thy faith,
what is *Osanna* to say?

BEDELLUS Sir, construe it we may
by language of this land as I live,
It is as much to me for to move,
Your prelates in this place can it prove,
As “Oure Saviour and sovereign,
thou save us, we pray.”

PILATUS Loo(k), *seniors, how seems you? — (*signors, sirs)
the *sooth I you said. (*truth)

CAYPHAS Ya, lord, this lad is full *liddir, by this light, (*wicked)
If his *saws were searched and **sadly ***assayed,
(*sayings)(**solemnly)(***tested)

Save your reverence,
his reason they reckon not with right.
This *caitiff thus cursedly can construe us. (*captive)

BEDELLUS Sirs, truly the truth I have told
Of this *wight ye have wrapped in *wolde. (*person, soul) (**forest, i.e. arrested)

ANNA I say, harlot, thy tongue should thou hold
And not against thy masters to move thus.

PILATUS Do cease of your saying, and I shall examine full sore.

ANNA Sir, *deem him to death, or does him away. (*doom, judge)

PILATUS Sir, have ye said?

ANNA Ya, lord.

PILATUS Now go set you with sorrow and care,
For I will lose no lad that is *leal to our law. (*loyal)
But step forth and stand up on height
And *busk to my bidding, thou boy, (*hurry)
And for the *nonce that thou **neven us a ***noy.
(*moment) (**name, mention) (**noise, i.e. oyez)

BEDELLUS I am here at your hand to *halow a *hoy*; (*halloo, cry)
Do move of your master, for I shall *melle it with might. (*do)

PILATUS Cry Oyas.

BEDELLUS Oyas!

PILATUS Yet *efte, by thy faith. (*again)

BEDELLUS Oyes! [*Aloud*]

PILATUS Yet louder
that *ilke lad may **lithe, (*each) (**listen, pay attention)
Cry peace in this press upon pain thereupon,
Bid them (as)suage of their *swaying (*jostling, shoving)
both swiftly and *swithe, (*quick)
And stint of their striving and stand still as a stone.
Call Jesu, the gentle of Jacob, the Jew,
Come *prest and appear, (*quickly)
To the bar draw thee near
To thy judgement here,
To be *deemed for his deeds undue. (*doomed, judged)

I MILES Wey, hark how this harlot he holds out of herr, (*i.e. holds like a lord)
This *loterel **liste not my lord to ***lowte. (*scoundrel) (**likes) (**praise, bow)

II MILES Say, beggar, why brawls thou? Go bound thee to the bar.

I MILES Step on thy standing so stern and so stout.

II MILES Step on thy standing so still.

I MILES Sir coward, to court must ye car(ry).

II MILES A lesson to learn of our law.

I MILES Flit forth, foul might thou fare.

II MILES Say, *warlowe, thou wants of thy will. (*warlock)

FILIUS O Jesu ungentle, thy joy is in japes;
Thou cannot be courteous, thou *caitiff I call thee. (*captive, peasant)
No *ruth were it to rug thee and rive thee in ropes. (*pity)
Why falls thou not flat here, foul fall thee,
For feared of my father so free?
Thou *wot not his wisdom, *iwis; (*know) (*I think)
All thine help in his hand that it is,
How soon he might save thee from this.
Obey him, *brothel, I bid thee. (*sinner)

PILATUS

Now, Jesu, thou art welcome *iwis, as I **ween, (*I think)(**believe)
Be not abashed but boldly bound thee to the bar.
What senior will sue for thee sore, I have seen.
To work on this *warlowe, his wit is in waste. (*warlock)
Come priest, of a pain, and appear,
And sir prelates, your points be proving,
What cause can ye cast of accusing?
This matter ye mark to be moving
And *handily in haste let us hear. (*skillfully)

CAYPHAS Sir Pilate o' Pounce, and prince of great price,
We trust ye will *trowe our tales they be true (*trust)
To death for to *deem him with duly device, (*doom, judge)
For cursedness yon knave has in case, if ye knew,
In heart would ye hate him in hie.
For if it were so,
We meant not to misdo;
Trust, sir, shall ye thereto,
We had not him taken to thee.

PILATUS Sir, your tales would I *trowe (*trust, believe)
but they touch none intent.
What cause can ye find
now this freak for to fell?

ANNA Our Sabbot he saves not, but sadly assent
To work full unwisely, this *wot I right well, (*think)
[LINE MISSING]
He works when he will, well I *wot, (*think)
And therefore in heart we him hate.
It sits you to strength your estate

Yon *lozell to lose for his **lay. (*scoundrel) (**law, lies)

PILATUS

*Ilike a lad for to lose for his **lay is not **lele. (*each) (**law, lies) (**legal)
Your laws is lawful, but to your laws (be)longs it
This *faitour to **feese well with ***flaps full fell, (*fraud) (**punish) (**hits)
And woe may ye work him by law,
for he wrongs it.
Therefore takes unto you full *tyte (*quickly)
And like as your laws will you lead
Ye deem him to death for his deed.

CAYPHAS Nay, nay sir, that doom must us dread;

[LINE MISSING]

It (be)longs not to us no lad for to *lose. (*kill)

PILATUS What would ye I did then? —

the devil might you draw.

Full few are his friends, but fell are his foes.

His life for to lose there (be)longs no law,

Nor no cause can I kindly contrive

That why he should lose thus his life.

ANNA Ah, good sir, it *rakes full rife (*happens)
In *steads where he has stirred mickle strife (*places)
Of lads that is *leal to your life. (*loyal)

CAYPHAS Sir, *halt men and hurt he healed in haste, (*lame)

The deaf and the dumb he delivered from dole

By witchcraft, I warrant; his wits shall waste,

For the *farles that he fares with — (*miracles)

loo(k), how they follow yon fool,

Our folk so thus he *frayes in **fere. (*scares) (**fear, or together)

ANNA The dead he raises anon,

This Lazare that low lay alone

He grant him his gaits for to gone

And pertly thus proved he his power.

PILATUS Now good sirs, I say, what would ye?

CAIPHAS Sir, to dead for to do him or does him *adawe. (*end, finish)

PILATUS Ya, for he does well his death for to deem?

Go *layke you sir, lightly, (*amuse, joke)
where learned ye such law?

This touches no treason, I tell you;
ye prelates that proved are for price,
Ye should be both witty and wise
And *legge our law where it lies, (*allege)
Our matters ye move thus among you.

ANNA Misplaye not your person,
ye prince withouten peer.
It touches to treason, this tale I shall tell.
Yon briber, full *baynly he bade to forbear (*eagerly)
The tribute to the emperor, thus would he compel
Our people thus his points to apply.

CAYPHAS The people, he says, he shall save,
And Christ gets he call him, yon knave,
And says he will the high kingdom have.
Look whether he deserve to die.

PILATUS To die he deserves if he do thus indeed,
But I will see myself what he says.
Speak, Jesu, and spend now thy space for to speed.
These lordings they (al)lege thee thou *liste not live on our laws. (*likes)
They accuse thee cruelly and keen,
And therefore, as a chieftain I charge thee,
If thou be Christ that thou tell me,
And God Son thou grudge not to grant thee,
For this is the matter that I mean.

JESUS Thou says so thyself, I am *soothly the same, (*truly)
Here *wonyng in world to work all thy will. (*dwelling, living)
Mi Father is faithful to fell all thy fame;
Withouten trespass or *tene am I taken thee till. (*pain)

PILATUS Loo(k), bishops, why blame ye this boy?
Me seems that it is *sooth that he says. (*truth)
Ye move all the malice ye may
With your wrenches and wiles to writhe him away
Unjustly to judge him from joy.

CAYPHAS
Not so, sir, his *seggyng is full *soothly soth, (*saying)(*truly the truth)
It brings our *bairns in **bale for to bind. (*children) (**torment)

ANNA Sir, doubtless we deem as due the death
This fool that ye favour, great faults can we find
This day for to deem him to die.

PILATUS Say, *losell, thou lies by this light; (*louse, rascal)
Nay, thou ribald, thou reckons unright.

CAYPHAS Advise you, sir, with main and with might,
And *wreyk not your wrath now **forthy. (*unleash, wreak) (**therefore)

PILATUS Me likes not his language so largely for to lie.

CAIPHAS Ah, mercy, lord, meekly, no malice we meant.

PILATUS No(t) done is it doubtless, bold be and blithe,
Talk on that traitor and tell your intent.
Yon *segge is subtle, ye say; (*man)
Good sirs, where learned he such *lare? (*law, knowledge)

CAYPHAS In faith, we cannot find where.

PILATUS Yes, his father with some *farlis gone fare (*miracles, wonders)
And has learned this lad of his *lare. (*law, knowledge)

ANNA Nay, nay, sir, he was but a *wright, that we **wiste; (*carpenter) (**know)
No subtlety he showed that any *segge saw. (*man)

PILATUS Then mean ye of malice to mar him of might,
Of cursedness convict no cause can ye know;
Me marvels ye malign o' *mis. (*misdeeds, sins)

CAYPHAS Sir, from Galilee hither and ho(me)
The greatest against him gone go,
Yon *warlowe to waken of woe, (*warlock)
And of this work bears witness, *iwis. (*I believe)

PILATUS
Why, and has he gone in Galilee, yon *gadling ungain(ly)? (*bastard)

ANNA Ya, lord, there was he born,
yon *brethelle, and bred. (*sinner, brothel-goer)

PILATUS
Now without *fagyng, my friends, in faith I am **fayne, (*flattery) (**glad)
For now shall our strife full sternly be *stede. (*stood, stayed)
Sir Herod is king there, ye *ken; (*know)
His power is proved full *preste (*provided, entire)
To rid him or reave him of rest.
And therefore, to go with yon guest,

Ye mark us out of the manliest men.

CAYPHAS As wit and wisdom your will shall be wrought;
Here is *kempis full keen to the king for to care. (*warriors)

PILATUS Now, seniors, I say you since *soth shall be sought, (*truth)
But if he shortly be sent it may sit us full sore.
And therefore, sir knights . . .

MILITES Lord.

PILATUS Sir knights that are cruel and keen,
That *warlowe ye **warrok and wrast, (*warlock) (**work? tie fast?) (**wrestle)
And look that he *brymly be **braste; (*swiftly) (**embraced, grasped)
[LINE MISSING]
Do take on that traitor you between.

To Herod in haste with that harlot ye hie,
Command me full meekly unto his most might,
Say the doom of this boy, to deem him to die,
Is done upon him duly, to *dress or to **dight, (*prepare, make ready) (**do)
Or life for to leave at his *liste. (*liking)
Say ought I may do him indeed,
His own am I worthily in *wede. (*tribute, debt)

I MILES My lord, we shall spring on a-speed;
Come thence to me, this traitor full *tyte. (*quickly)

PILATUS Beau sirs, I bid you ye be not too bold,
But takes (at)tent for our tribute full truly to treat.

II MILES Mi lord, we shall hie this behest for to hold
And work it full wisely in will and in wit.

PILATUS So, sirs, me seems it is *sittand. (*suitable, fitting)

I MILES Mahounde, sirs, he *menske you with might. (*honours)

II MILES And save you, sir, seemly in sight.

PILATUS Now in the wild vengeance ye walk with that *wight, (*man, soul)
And freshly ye found to be *flittand. (*flitting)