

PLAY THIRTY-FOUR- The Road to Calvary

(The Shearmen- specialists in finishing woollen cloth)

PRIMUS MILES INCIPIT

Peace, bairns and bachelors that *beldis here about, (*lodge, dwell)
Stir not once in this *stead but stand stone still, (*place)
Or, by the lord that I *leve on, I shall gar you lowte. (*believe) (**get) (**kneel, obey)
*But ye spare when I speak, your speech shall I **spill (*unless) (**destroy)
Smartly and soon.
For I am sent from Sir Pilate with pride
To lead this lad our laws to abide,
He gets no better boon.

Therefore I command you on every *ilke a side (*each)
Upon pain of imprisonment that no man appear
To *suppowle this traitor, by time nor by tide, (*supply, support)
[LINE MISSING. . .]
Not one of his *press, (*company, i.e. disciples)
Nor not ones so hardy for to enquire,
But help me wholly, all that are here,
This *caitiff **care to increase. (*captive) (**sorrow, harm)

Therefore make room and revel you now right
That we may with this wearied *wight (*man, soul)
*Wightly wend on our ways. (*quickly, lively)
He napped not of all this night
And this day shall his death be *dight, (*done)
Let see who dare say nay.
Because tomorrow is provide(d)
For our dear Sabbath day,
We will no *mis be moved (*misery)
But mirth in all that ever men may.

We have been busy all this morn
To clothe him and to crown with thorn,
As falls for a fool king,
And now methinketh our fellows scorn,
They *highte to have been here this morn, (*agreed)
This *faitour forth to bring. (*fraud)
To nap now is not good.
Wey! how! high might he hang.

II MILES Peace, man, for *Mahound's blood. (*Mohammed, used as generic pagan deity)
Why make ye such crying?

I MILES Why *wot thou not as well as I, (*know)
This *carle **burde unto Calvary (*servant, rascal) (**must go, i.e. be borne)
And there on cross be done?

II MILES Since doom is given that he shall die,
Let call to us more company,
And else we are our *fone. (*few, i.e. for else we are too few)

I MILES Our gear behoves to be *grayde (*prepared)
And fellows *sammed soon, (*assembled)
For Sir Pilate has said
Him must be dead by noon.

Where is Sir Wymond, *wot thou ought? (*knows)

II MILES He went to *garre a cross be wrought (*get, have)
To bear this cursed knave.

I MILES That would I soon were hither brought,
For *sithen shall other gear be sought (*since then)
That us behoves to have.

II MILES Us must have ties and ropes
To rig him 'til he rave,
And nails and other *japes (*tricks, trifles)
If we ourself will save.

I MILES To tarry long us were full loath,
But Wymond come, it is in *wathe (*danger)
*But we be blamed all three. (*that, i.e. we will be blamed)
Wey, how, Sir Wymond *waytesskathe. (*harm-causer)

II MILES Wey, how, Sir Wymond, how.

III MILES I am here, what say ye both,
Why cry ye so on me?
I have been *garre make (*getting)
This cross, as ye may see,
Of that *lay over the lake; (*legal domain; the royal Clifford's Tower was across a lake.)
Men called it the king's tree.

I MILES Now *sekirly I thought the same, (*surely)
For that *balke will no man us blame (*cross-beam)
To cut it for the king.

II MILES This *karle has called him king at home, (*servant, slave)

And since this tree has such a name,
It is according thing
That his *rigge on it may rest (*back, spine- also roof-ridge, or castrated ram)
For scorn and for hethyng. (*contempt, hating)

III MILES Methought it seemed best
To this bargain to bring.

I MILES It is well *warred, so must I speed, (*whorled, knotted, protruberances)
And it be *lele in length and breadth; (*perfect)
Then is this space well spend.

III MILES To look thereafter it is no need.
I took the measure ere I *yode, (*walked, came here)
Both for the feet and hand.

II MILES Behold how it is bored
Full even at *ilke an end; (*each, every)
This work will well accord,
It may not be amend.

III MILES Nay, I have ordained *mickle more, (*much)
Ya, these thieves are sent before
That beside him shall hang,
And *sties also are ordained there (*ropes, stays)
With stalwart *steeles as master wore, (*ladder rungs)
Bothe some short and some long.

I MILES For hammers and nails,
Let see soon who shall *gang. (*go)

II MILES Here are *bragges that will not fail (*large nails)
Of iron and steel full strong.

III MILES Then is it as it ought to be,
But which of you shall bear this tree
Since I have brought it hither?

I MILES By my faith, bear it shall he
That thereon hanged soon shall be,
And we shall teach him whither.

II MILES Upon his back it shall be laid,
For soon we shall come thither.

III MILES Look that our gear be *grayede, (*prepared, arrayed)

And go we all together.

JOHANNES Alas, for my master that most is of might,
That yester-even late, with lanterns light,
Before the bishop was brought.
Both Peter and I we saw that sight,
And *sithen we went our ways full **wight, (*since then) (**quickly)
When the Jews wonderly wrought:
At morn they took to *rede (*advice, counsel)
And subtleties upsought
And deemed him to be dead
That to them trespassed not.

Alas, for *site, what shall I say, (*pity, anguish)
My worldly wealth is went for *ay; (*ever)
In woe ever may I wend.
My master, that never lack in *lay (*legality, obedience to law)
Is deemed to be dead this day,
Even in his *elmys hand(s). (*enemies?)
Alas, for my master mild
That all men's *mis may mend (*sin, misery)
Should so falsely be (de)filed
And no friends him to (de)fend.

Alas, for his mother and others more,
My mother and her sisters also,
Sits *samens with sighings sore. (*together, assembled)
They *wot nothing of all this woe; (*know)
*Forthy to warn them will I go (*Therefore)
Since I may mend no more.
Since he shall die as *tyte (*quickly)
And they unwarned were,
I were worthy to *wit, (*know)
I will to fast therefore.

But in mine heart great dread have I
That his mother for *dole shall die (*doulour, grief)
When she see once that sight.
But *certis I shall not wend **forth (*certainly, surely) (**therefore)
To warn that care-full company
Ere he to dead be *dight. (*prepared, made ready)

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MARIA SANCTA Since he from us will twain

I shall thee never forsake.

Alas, the time and tide,

I *wot well the day is come

(*know)

That ere was specified

Of prophet Simeon in prophecy:

The sword of sorrow should run

Throughout the heart subtly.

II MARIA Alas, this is a *sithfull sight.

(*painful, woeful)

He that was ever lovely and light

And Lord of high and low,

Oo, dolefully now is he *dight

(*prepared, made ready)

In world is none so woeful a *wight

(*soul, man)

Nor so care-full to know.

They that he mended most

In deed and also in *saw,

(*words)

Now have they full great haste

To dead him for to *draw.

(*drive?)

JESUS Daughters of Jerusalem city,

Cease, and mourn no more for me

But thinks upon this thing;

For yourself mourn shall ye,

And for the sons that born shall be

Of you, both old and young.

For such fare shall befall

That ye shall give blessing

To barren bodies all

That no bairns forth may bring.

For *certis ye shall see such a day

(*certainly, surely)

That with sore sighing shall ye say

Unto the hills on height,

“Fall on us, mountains, *and ye may,

(*if)

And cover us from that fell affray

That on us soon shall (a)light.”

Turn home the town until

Since ye have seen this sight,

It is my Father’s will,

All that is done and *dight.

(*prepared)

III MARIA Alas, this is a cursed case.

He that all health in his hand has

Shall here be *sakles slain.

(*blameless, innocent)

Ah, Lord, believe let cleanse thy face.

Behold how he hath showed his grace, (*nb- this indicates veil of Veronica)
How he is most of *main. (*power)
This sign shall bear witness
Unto all people plain
How God's Son here guiltless
Is put to *pereles pain. (*perilous or peerless?)

I MILES Say, *whereto bide ye here about, (*why)
There *quenys, with their **skymeryng and their shout, (*disreputable women)
(**screaming, commotion)

Will not their *stevens **stir? (*shouts) (*i.e. stir up trouble)

II MILES Go home, *casbalde, with thy *clowte (*baldhead) (*cloth)
Or, by that lord we love and laud,
Thou shall *abye full dear. (*obey, abide, buy)

III MARIA This sign shall vengeance call
On you wholly in *feere. (*fellowship)

III MILES Go, hie thee hence with all
Or ill *hayle come thou here. (*fortune)

JOHANNES Lady, your greeting grieves me sore.

MARIA SANCTA John, help me now and evermore
That I might come him *'til. (*to)

JOHANNES My lady, wend we forth before
To Calvary when ye come thither;
Then shall ye say what ye will.

I MILES What a devil is this to say,
How long shall we stand still?
Go, hie you hence away,
In the devil's name, down the hill.

II MILES Their queans us *comeres with their clack; (*harasses)
He shall be served for their sake
With sorrow and with sore.

III MILES And they come more such noise to make,
We shall get lug them in the lake
If they were half a score.

I MILES Let now such *bourdyng be. (*joking)

Since our tools are before
This traitor and this tree;
Would I full *fayne were there. (*happy, desirous)

II MILES We shall no more so still be stood,
For now their queans are from us fled
That falsely would us fear.

III MILES Methinketh this boy is so *for-bled (*i.e. has lost blood)
With this *ladde may he not be led. (*leather whip)
He swoons, that dare I swear.

I MILES It needs not hard to *hurl (*i.e. swing, hit)
Since it does him such *dere. (*hurt)

II MILES I see here comes a *carl (*servant, slave)
Shall help him for to bear.

III MILES That shall ye see soon on *assay. (*testing)
Good man, whither is thou away?
Thou walks as thou were wrath.

SYMON Sir, I have a great journey
That must be done this same day,
Or else it may do *skathe. (*harm)

I MILES Thou may with little pain
Ease thyself and us both.

SYMON Good sirs, that would I *fayne, (*desire)
But to dwell were me loath.

II MILES Nay, *beuscher, thou shall soon be sped. (*term of abuse)
Look, here a lad that must be led
For his ill deeds to die.

III MILES And he is bruised and all for-bled,
That makes us here thus still be stood;
We pray thee, sir, *forthy, (*therefore)
That thou will take this tree
And bear it to Calvary.

SYMON Good sirs, that may not be,
For full great haste have I.
My ways are long and wide,
And I may not abide,

For dread I come too late;
For surety have I *hight (*promised, agreed)
Must be fulfilled this night
Or it will (im)pair my state.
Therefore, sirs, by your leave,
Methinketh I dwell full long.
Me were loath you for to grieve,
Good sirs, ye let me *gang; (*go)
No longer here now may I *wone. (*dwell, stay)

I MILES Nay, *certis, thou shall not go so soon, (*surely, certainly)
For ought that thou can say.
This deed is most haste to be done,
For this boy must be dead by noon,
And now is near midday.
Go help him in this need
And make no more delay.

SYMON I pray you does your dead
And let me wend my way.

And sirs, I shall come soon again
To help this man with all my main,
And even at your own will.

II MILES What, would thou *trusse with such a **trayne? (*go, depart) (**trick)
Nay, *faitour, thou shall be **fayne (*fraud) (**glad)
This *forward to fulfil, (*fore-word, i.e. promise)
Or, by mighty Mahounde,
Thou shall rue it full ill.

III MILES Let *ding this **dastarde done, (*smite, hit) (**wretch, coward)
*But he go **tyte ***there-till. (*Unless) (**quickly) (**there to)

SYMON *Sertis, sir, that were not wisely wrought (*Certainly, surely)
To beat me *but I trespassed ought (*unless)
Either in word or deed.

I MILES Upon his back it shall be brought
To bear it, whether he will or not.
What, devil, whom should we dread?
Go, take it up *belyve (*eagerly, lively)
And bear it forth good speed.

SYMON It helps not here to strive;
Bear it behoves me need.

And therefore, sirs, as ye have said,
To bear this cross I hold me *paied (*pleased, content)
Right as ye would it were.

II MILES Yaa, now are we right arrayed;
Look that our gear be ready *grayed (*arrayed, prepared)
To work when we come there.

III MILES I warrant all ready
Our tools both less and more;
Let him go heartily
Forth with the cross before.

I MILES Since he has his *lade, now let him **gang, (*leather strap) (**go)
For with this *warlowe work we wrong, (*warlock, sinner, traitor)
And we thus with him *yode. (*depart, travel)

II MILES And now is not good to tarry long;
What should we done more us among?
Say, son, so *mote thou speed. (*must)

III MILES *Neven us no other note (*name)
'Til we have done this deed.

I MILES *Weme, methink we **dote, (*well!) (**act foolishly)
He must be naked need.

*All if he called himself a king, (*Because, for)
In his clothes he shall not hang
But naked as a stone be *stedde. (*placed, stood)

II MILES That call I according thing,
But to his sides I *trow they cling, (*trust, think)
For blood that he has bled.

III MILES Whether they cling or cleave,
Naked he shall be led,
And for the more mischief
*Buffets him shall be bid. (*blows, knocks)

I MILES Take off his clothes *beliffe, let see. (*busily, lively)
Aha, this garment will fall well for me,
And so I hope it shall.

II MILES Nay, sir, so may it not be;

Them must be part among us three,
Take even as will fall.

III MILES Yaa, *and Sir Pilate meddle him, (*if)
Your part will be but small.

I MILES Sir,* and ye **liste, go tell him (*if) (*likes)
Yet shall he not have all
But even his own part and no more.

II MILES Yaa, let them lie still here in store
Until this deed be done.

III MILES Let bind him as he was before
And haul on hard that he were there,
And hanged ere it be noon.

I MILES He shall be fast as fee
And that right sore and soon.

II MILES So falls him for to be,
He gets no better boon.

II MILES This work is well now, I warrant,
For he is bound as beast in bond
That is deemed for to die.

I MILES Then *rede I that we no longer stand (*advise)
But *ilke man fast on him a hand (*each)
And haul him hence in hie.

II MILES Yaa, now is time to *truss (*depart, travel, trudge)
To all our company.

III MILES If any ask after us, (*tell, know)
*Ken them to Calvary.