

## PLAY THIRTY-SEVEN- The Harrowing of Hell

### (The Saddlers)

**JESUS** Man on \*molde, be \*\*meek to me (\*earth) (\*\*humble, obedient)  
And have thy Maker in thy mind,  
And think how I have \*tholid for thee (\*toiled, suffered)  
With peerless pains for to be \*pyned. (\*pained, pinned)  
The \*fore-word of my Father free (\*promise, prophecy)  
Have I fulfilled, as folk may find;  
Therefore about now will I be  
That I have bought for to unbind.  
The fiend them won with \*trayne (\*tricks)  
Through fruit of earthly food;  
I have them gotten again  
Through buying with my blood.

And so I shall that \*steede restore (\*place)  
For which the fiend fell for sin;  
There shall mankind \*wonne evermore (\*live, dwell)  
In bliss that shall never \*blynne. (\*dull, diminish)  
All that in work my workmen were,  
Out of their woe I will them win,  
And some sign shall I send before  
Of grace to get their games begin.  
A light I will they have  
To show them I shall come soon.  
My body bides in grave  
'Til all these deeds be done.

My Father ordained on this wise  
After his will that I should wend  
For to fulfil the prophecy  
And as I spake my solace to spend.  
My friends that in me faith \*affies (\*relies, depends)  
Now from their foes I shall them (de)fend,  
And on the third day right uprising  
And so to heaven I shall ascend.  
Sithen shall I come again  
To \*deem both good and ill (\*doom, judge)  
To endless joy or pain;  
Thus is my Father's will.

*Tunc cantent.*

**(They sing)**

**ADAM** Mi brethren, harken to me here:

Such hope of \*heele never ere we had. (\*health)  
 Four thousand and six hundred year  
 Have we been here in this \*stedde. (\*place)  
 Now see I sign of solace \*seere, (\*separate? Joyful?)  
 A glorious gleam to make us glad,  
 Wherefore I hope our help is near  
 And soon shall cease our sorrows sad.

**EVA** Adam, my husband \*hende, (\*clever, noble)  
 This means solace certain;  
 Such light \*gun on us \*lende (\*has) (\*\*come, assemble, land)  
 In paradise full plain.

**ISAIAH** Adam, we shall well understand;  
 I, Ysaias as God me \*kenned, (\*made known)  
 I preached in Neptalym, that land,  
 And Zabulon even until end.  
 I spake of folk in murk walking  
 And said a light should on them \*lende. (\*come, assemble, land)  
 This learned I whilst I was living;  
 Now see I God this same hath send.  
 This light comes all of Christ,  
 That seed to save us now;  
 Thus is my point published,  
 But Simeon, what says thou?

**SYMEON** This, my tale of \*farleis \*\*feele, (\*wonderful) (\*\*excellence)  
 For in the Temple his friends me found.  
 I had delight with him to deal  
 And \*halsed \*\*homely with my hand. (\*held) (\*\*closely)  
 I said, "Lord, let thy servant \*lele (\*loyal)  
 Pass now in peace to life \*lastand, (\*lasting)  
 For now myself has seen thy \*hele, (\*health, wholesomeness)  
 Me \*liste no longer to live in land." (\*desires, likes)  
 This light thou has purveyed  
 To folks that lives in \*leede, (\*land, legal domain)  
 The same that I them said  
 I see fulfilled indeed.

**JOHANNES BAPTISTA** As voice crying to folk I \*kenned (\*made known)  
 The ways of Christ as I well can;  
 I baptised him with both my hand  
 Even in the flood of \*flume Jordan. (\*river)  
 The Holy Ghost from heaven descend  
 As a white dove down on him then;  
 The Father('s) voice, my mirth to mend,

Was made to me even as man;  
"This is my Son," he said,  
"In whom me paies full well." (\*please, i.e. in whom I am pleased full well)  
His light is on us laid,  
He comes our cares to \*kele. (\*kill, quell)

**MOYSES** Of that same light learning have I;  
To me, Moses, he mustered his might  
And also unto another, \*Hely, (\*Elijah)  
Where we were on an hill on height.  
White as snow was his body  
And his face like to the sun to sight;  
No man on \*molde was so mighty (\*earth)  
\*Grathely to look against that light. (\*prepared, able)  
That same light see I now  
Shining on us certain,  
Wherefore truly I \*trowe (\*trust)  
We shall soon pass from pain.

**I DIABOLUS** Help, Belsabub, to bind \*ther \*\*boyes, (\*the, those) (\*commoners)  
Such harrow was never ere heard in hell.

**II DIABOLUS** Why roars thou so, Ribald? Thou \*royis, (\*raves)  
What is betide, can thou ought tell?

**I DIABOLUS** What, hears thou not this ugly noise?  
These \*lurdans that in limbo dwell, (\*criminals, cowards)  
They make \*menyng of many joys (\*moaning, meaning, purpose)  
And musters great mirth them \*emell. (\*among)

**II DIABOLUS** Mirth? Nay, nay, that point is past;  
More \*hele shall they never have. (\*health, well-being)

**I DIABOLUS** They cry on Christ full fast  
And says he shall them save.

**BELSABUB** Ya, if he save them not, we shall,  
For they are \*sperde in special space; (\*locked, fastened, sparred)  
Whilst I am prince and principal  
Shall they never pass out of this place.  
Call up \*Astrotte and Anaball (\*Astaroth)  
To give their counsel in this case,  
Bele-Berit and Belial,  
To mar \*them that such masteries (a)maze. (\*i.e. the souls)  
Say to Satan our sire

And bid them bring also  
Lucifer, lovely of \*lyre. (\*face, looks)

**I DIABOLUS** Al-ready, lord, I go. (nb. May read as “Already” or “All ready”)

**JESUS** *Attollite portas principes,* [**Lift up your gates, princes**]  
Open up, ye princes of pains \*sere, (\*severe, diverse)

*Et elevamini eternas,* [**And lift up, you eternal (gates)**]  
Your endless gates that ye have here.

**SATTAN** What page is there that makes \*press (\*crowd, noise)  
And calls him king of us in \*fere? (\*fellowship, all together)

**DAVID** I learned living, without lies,  
He is a king of virtues clear,  
A Lord \*mickle of might (\*great)  
And strong in \*ilke a \*\*stoure, (\*every) (\*\*combat, including spiritual)  
In battles fierce to fight  
And worthy to win honour.

**SATTAN** Honour, in the devil’s way, for what deed?  
All earthly men to me are thrall.  
The lad that calls him Lord in \*leede (\*land, legal domain)  
Had never yet harbour, house, \*ne hall. (\*nay, nor)

**I DIABOLUS** Hark, Belsabub, I have great dread,  
For hideously I heard him call.

**BELLIALL** Wey, spar our gates, all ill \*mot thou speed, (\*may, might)  
And set forth watches on the wall.  
And if he call or cry  
To make us more debate,  
Lay on him then heartily  
And \*garre him \*\*gange his gait. (\*get) (\*\*go)

**SATTAN** Tell me what \*boyes dare to be so bold (\*boy, commoner)  
For dread to make so mickle \*draye. (\*confusion, disorder, brawl)

**I DIABOLUS** It is the Jew that Judas sold  
For to be dead this other day.

**SATTAN** Oh, this tale in time is told;  
This traitour \*traverses us always. (\*opposes, thwarts)  
He shall be here full hard in hold, (i.e. he shall be held fast here)  
Look that he pass not, I thee pray.

**II DIABOLUS** Nay, nay, he will not wend  
Away or I be (a)ware;  
He \*shapes him for to \*\*shend  
All hell ere he go far.

(\*prepares) (\*\*destroy)

**SATTAN** Nay, \*faior, thereof shall he fail,  
For all his fare I him defy.  
I know his \*trantis from top to tail;  
He lives with \*gaudis and with guilery.  
Thereby he brought out of our \*bale  
Now late Lazar of Betany;  
Therefore I gave to the Jews counsel  
That they should alway \*garre him die.  
I entered in Judas  
That \*fore-word to fulfil;  
Therefore his \*hire he has  
Always to \*wonne here still.

(\*cheater, deceiver)

(\*tricks)

(\*tricks, jokes)

(\*prison, jail)

(\*get)

(\*promise, prophecy)

(\*pay, reward)

(\*live, dwell)

**BELSABUB** Sir Satan, since we hear thee say  
That thou and the Jews were same assent,  
And \*wot he won Lazar away,  
That \*tille us was ta'en for to tend,  
\*Trow thou that thou mar him may,  
To muster mights what he has meant?  
If he now deprive us of our prey  
We will ye wit whence they are went.

(\*knew)

(\*to)

(\*trusts, believes)

**SATTAN** I bid you be not abashed  
But boldly make you boun(d)  
With tools that ye on trust,  
And \*ding that \*\*dastard down.

(\*strike) (\*\*wretch, coward)

**JESUS** *Principes, portas tollite,*  
Undo your gates, ye princes of pride,  
*Et introibit rex glorie,*  
The king of bliss comes in this tide.

**[Princes, open your gates]**

**[And enter the king of glory]**

**SATTAN** Out, harrow, what \*harlot is he  
That says his kingdom shall be cried.

(\*villain, beggar)

**DAVID** That may thou in my \*Sawter see  
For that point of prophecy  
I said that he should break  
Your bars and bands by name  
And on your works take wreck;

(\*Psalter, i.e. David's songs)

Now shall ye see the same.

**JESUS** This \*stead shall stand no longer stoken: (\*place) (\*shut up, enclosed)  
Open up and let my people pass.

**I DIABOLUS** Out, behold, our \*bail is broken, (\*prison)  
And burst are all our bands of brass.  
Tell Lucifer all is unlock-en.

**BELSABUB** What, then, is limbo lost, alas? (\*wrecked)  
Get Satan help that we were \*wroken;  
This work is worse than ever it was.

**SATTAN** I bade ye should be bound (\*strike) (\*beggar)  
If he made masteries more.  
Do \*ding that \*dastard down  
And set him sad and sore.

**BELSABUB** Ya, set him sore, that is soon said, (\*upbraid, punishment)  
But come thyself and serve him so; (\*unless)  
We may not bide his bitter \*braid:  
He will us mar, \*and we were mo(re).

**SATTAN** What, \*faitours, wherefore are ye feared? (\*beggars, cowards)  
Have ye no force to flit him fro(m)?  
\*Belyve look that my gear be \*\*grathed, (\*quickly) (\*\*prepared)  
Myself shall to that \*gadling go. (\*bastard, scoundrel)  
How, \*bel-ami, abide, (\*good friend)  
With all thy boast and bear(ing),  
And tell to me this tide  
What masteries makes thou here?

**JESUS** I make no masteries but for mine, (\*pin, pain)  
Them will I save, I tell thee now. (\*profit? proving? Testing?)  
Thou had no power them to \*pyne  
But as my prison for their \*prowe.  
Here have they sojourned, not as thine  
But in thy \*ward, thou \*\*wot well how. (\*custody) (\*\*knows)

**SATTAN** And what devil has thou done \*ay since (\*ever)  
That never would \*nigh them near ere now? (\*i.e. come near)

**JESUS** Now is the time certain (\*dwell, live)  
My Father ordained before  
That they should pass from pain  
And \*wonne in mirth evermore.

**SATTAN** Thy father knew I well by sight;  
He was a \*wright his \*\*meat to win, (\*constructor/builder, carpenter) (\*\*food)  
And Marie me \*menys thy mother \*hight, (\*knows) (\*called)  
The uttermost end of all thy kin.  
Who made thee be so mickle of might?

**JESUS** Thou wicked fiend, let be thy din;  
Mi Father \*wonnys in heaven on height (\*dwells, lives)  
With bliss that shall never \*blynne. (\*diminish, dull)  
I am his own Son,  
His \*fore-word to fulfil, (\*promise, prophecy)  
And same \*ay shall we \*\*wonne, (\*ever) (\*\*live, dwell)  
And sunder when we will.

**SATTAN** God Son, then should thou be full glad  
After no \*catel need thou crave. (\*cattle, chattel)  
But thou has lived \*ay like a lad (\*ever)  
And in sorrow as a simple knave.

**JESUS** That was for heartily love I had  
Unto man's soul it for to save,  
And for to make thee (a)mazed and mad.  
And by that reason thus duly to have  
Mi Godhead here I hid  
In Marie mother mine,  
For it should not be \*kidde (\*made known)  
To thee nor to none of thine.

**SATTAN** A, this would I were told in \*ilk a town. (\*each, every)  
So since thou says God is thy sire,  
I shall thee prove by right reason  
Thou motes his men into the mire. (\*compels, drives)  
To break his bidding were they bound,  
And, for they did at my desire,  
From paradise he put them down  
In hell here to have their \*hire. (\*reward, pay)  
And thysel, day and night,  
Has taught all men among  
To do reason and right,  
And here works thou all wrong.

**JESUS** I work not wrong, that shall thou \*wit, (\*know, understand)  
If I my men from woe will win;  
Mi prophets plainly preached it,  
All this note that now begin.

They said that I should be \*obitte, (\*recorded as dead, cf. obituary)  
To hell that I should enter in  
And save my servants from that pit  
Where damned souls shall sit for sin.  
And \*ilke true prophet's tale (\*each, every)  
Must be fulfilled in me,  
I have them bought with bale,  
And in bliss shall they be.

**SATTAN** Now since thee \*liste allege the laws, (\*likes)  
Thou shall be \*attainted ere we \*\*twin, (\*convicted) (\*\*part)  
For those that thou to witness draws,  
Full even against thee will begin.  
Salamon said in his \*saws (\*sayings)  
That whoso enters hell within  
Shall never come out, thus \*clerks knows; (\*clerics, priests)  
And therefore, fellow, leave thy din.  
Job, thy servant also,  
Thus in his time gone tell  
That neither friend nor foe  
Should find release in hell.

**JESUS** He said full \*sooth, that shall thou see, (\*truth)  
That in hell may be no release,  
But of that place then preached he  
Where sinful care shall ever increase.  
And in that \*bale \*\*ay shall thou be (\*prison, torment) (\*\*always)  
Where sorrows \*sere shall never cease, (\*severe, diverse)  
And for my folk therefore were free;  
Now shall they pass to the place of peace.  
They were here with my will,  
And so shall they forth wend,  
And thysel self shall fulfil  
Their woe withouten end.

**SATTAN** Oh, then see I how thou moves among  
Some measure with malice to \*melle, (\*mingle)  
Since thou says all shall not \*gang (\*go)  
But some shall always with us dwell.

**JESUS** Yaa, \*wit thou well, else were it wrong, (\*know)  
As cursed Cayme that slew Abell  
And all that hastes themselves to hang  
As Judas and Archedefell,  
Datan and Abiron,  
And all of their assent

As tyrants every each one  
That me and mine torment(ed).

And all that \*liste not to learn my law ( \*likes, lusts)  
That I have left in land now new,  
That is my coming for to know  
And to my sacrament pursue.  
My death, my rising, read by row,  
Who will not \*trowe, they are not true. ( \*trust)  
Unto my Doom I shall them draw  
And judge them worse than any Jew.  
And all that likes to \*leere ( \*learn)  
My law and live thereby  
Shall never have harms here  
But wealth as is worthy.

**SATTAN** Now here my hand, I hold me paid,  
This point is plainly for our \*prowe. ( \*profit)  
If this be \*sooth that thou has said ( \*truth)  
We shall have more than we have now.  
This law that thou now late has laid  
I shall learn men not to allow,  
If they it take they be betrayed,  
For I shall turn them tight, I \*trowe. ( \*trust)  
I shall walk east and west  
And \*garre them work well \*\*werre. ( \*get) ( \*\*worse)

**JESUS** Nay, fiend, thou shall be \*fast ( \*fastened, bound)  
That thou shall flit not far.

**SATTAN** Fast, that were a foul reason;  
Nay, \*bel-ami, thou must be smite. ( \*good friend)

**JESUS** \*Mighill, mine angel, make thee bound ( \*Michael)  
And fast yon fiend that he not flit.  
And Devil, I command thee go down  
Into thy cell where thou shall sit.

**SATTAN** Out! Ay, harrow — help, Mahounde!  
Now \*wax I \*woode out of my wit. ( \*grow) ( \*\*mad)

**BELSABUB** Satan, this said we are,  
Now shall thou feel thy fate.

**SATTAN** Alas, for dole and care,  
I sink into hell pit.

**ADAME** A, Jesu Lord, \*mickle is thy might  
That makes thyself in this manner  
Us for to help as thou has \*hight  
When both forfeit, I and my \*feere.  
Here have we lived withouten light  
Four thousand and six hundred year;  
Now see I by this solemn sight  
How thy mercy hath made us clean.

(\*great)

(\*said, described)

(\*companion, i.e. Eve)

**EVE** Ah, Lord, we were worthy  
More torments for to taste,  
But mend us with mercy  
As thou of might is most.

**BAPTISTA** Ah, Lord, I love thee inwardly  
That me would make thy messenger  
Thy coming in earth for to cry  
And teach thy faith to folk in \*feere,  
And \*sithen before thee for to die  
And bring \*boodword to them here  
How they should have thine help in hie.  
Now see I all thy points appear  
As David, prophet true,  
Oft times told unto us;  
Of this coming he knew  
And said it should be thus.

(\*fellowship, together)

(\*since then)

(\*bid-word, i.e. promise)

**DAVID** As I have said, yet say I so,  
*Ne derelinquas, Domine,*  
*Animam meam in inferno,*  
Leave not my soul, Lord, after thee  
In deep hell where damned shall go,  
Ne suffer never souls from thee be,  
The sorrow of them that \*wონnes in woe  
\*Ay full of filth, that may \*\*repleye.

**[You will not leave, Lord  
My soul in hell - Psalm 15:10]**

(\*dwells, lives)

(\*ever) (\*\*turn back, oppose)

**ADAME** We thank his great goodness  
He fetch us from this place;  
Makes joy now more and less.

**OMNIS** We laud God of his grace.

*Tunc cantent.*

**[They sing]**

**JESUS** Adam and my friends in \*feere,

(\*fellowship)

From all your foes come forth with me;  
 Ye shall be set in solace \*seere (\*separate, diverse)  
 Where ye shall never of sorrows see.  
 And \*Mighill, mine angel clear, (\*Michael)  
 Receive these souls all unto thee  
 And lead them as I shall thee \*lere (\*learn, teach)  
 To paradise with play and plenty.  
 Mi grave I will go \*till, (\*to)  
 Ready to rise upright,  
 And so I shall fulfil  
 That I before have \*highte. (\*named, described)

**MICHILL** Lord, wend we shall after thy \*saw, (\*sayings, commands)  
 To solace \*sere they shall be send, (\*separate, diverse)  
 But that their devils no draught us draw, (\*i.e. like fire drawn up a chimney)  
 Lord, bliss us with thy holy hand.

**JESUS** Mi blissing have ye all on row.  
 I shall be with you where ye wend,  
 And all that loyally loves my law,  
 They shall be blissed withouten end.

**ADAME** To thee, Lord, be loving  
 That us has won from woe  
 For solace will we sing,  
*Laus tibi cum gloria, etc.* [Praise to you with glory; nb. song is unknown]