

PLAY THIRTY-EIGHT- The Resurrection

(The Carpenters)

PILATUS Lordings, listen now unto me:

I command you in *ilke degree
As *doomsman chief in this country
For counsel *kenned,
At my bidding you *awe to be
And *banely bend.

(*each, every)
(*judge)
(*known)
(*ought, owe)
(*obediently, quickly)

And Sir Cayphas, chief of clergy,
Of your counsel late here in hie,
By our assent since we did *die
Jesus this day,
That we maintain and stand thereby
That work alway(s).

(i.e. have killed)

CAYPHAS Yes, sir, that *dede shall we maintain;
By law it was done all *bedene,
Ye *wot yourself, withouten wene,
As well as we.
His *saws are now upon him seen,
And *ay shall be.

(*deed, death)
(*accordingly, bidden)
(*know) (**doubt)
(*sayings)
(*ever)

ANNA The people, sirs, in this same *stead,
Before you said with a whole head
That he was worthy to be dead
And thereto *sware.
Since all was ruled by right's *rede,
*Nevyn it no more.

(*place)
(*swore, promised)
(*advice)
(*name, mention)

PILATUS To *nevyn me thinketh it needful thing.
Since he was had to burying
Heard we neither of old nor young
Tidings between.

(*name, mention)

CAYPHAS Centurio, sir, will bring tidings
Of all *bedene.

(*bidden, quickly)

We left him there for man most wise;
If any rebels would ought rise
Our right wise *doom for to despise
Or it offend,
To cease them till the next *assize
And then make end.

(*judgement)
(*court session)

CENTURIO Ah, blisssed Lord, *Adonai, (*Lord, Master- specifically for God)
What may these marvels signify
That here was showed so openly
Unto our sight,
This day when that the man *gune die (*did)
That Jesus *highte? (*was called/named)

It is a misty thing to *mean; (*find its meaning)
So *selcouth a sight was never seen (*marvellous)
That our princes and priests *bedene (*bid, bidden)
Of this affray
I will go *weten withouten **wene, (*know, understand) (**doubt)
What they can say.

God save you, sirs, on *ilke a side, (*each, every)
Worship and wealth in worlds wide.
With *mickle mirth might ye abide (*great)
Both day and night.

PILATUS Centurio, welcome this tide,
Our *comely knight. (*handsome, noble)

Ye have been missed us here among.

CENTURIO God give you grace *grathely to **gang. (*readily) (**go)

PILATUS Centurio, our friend full long,
What is your will?

CENTURIO I dread me that ye have done wrong
And wonder ill.

CAYPHAS Wonder ill, I pray thee, why?
Declare it to this company.

CENTURIO So shall I, sirs, tell you truly
Withouten *trayne. (*error? Delay?)
The right wise man then mean I by
That ye have slain.

PILATUS Centurio, cease of such *saw. (*sayings)
Thou art a learned man in the law,
And if we should any witness draw
Us to excuse,
To maintain us evermore thee *awe, (*ought)

And not refuse.

CENTURIO To maintain truth is well worthy.
I said you, when I saw him die,
That he was God's Son almighty
That hangeth there.
Yet say I so, and stand thereby
For evermore.

CAYPHAS Ya, sir, such reasons may ye rue;
Ye should not *neveyn such note anew, (*name, mention)
*But ye could any tokenings true (*unless)
Unto us tell.

CENTURIO Such wonderful case never yet ye knew
As now befell.

ANNA We pray thee tell us of what thing.

CENTURIO All elements, both old and young,
In their manners they made mourning
In *ilke a *stead, (*each, every) (**place)
And knew by countenance that their King
Was done to dead.

The sun for woe he waxed all *wan, (*dark)
The moon and stars of shining *blanne, (*stopped)
The earth trembled, and as a man
Began to speak;
The stones that never was *steered ere then (*moved)
Gone asunder break,

And dead men rose, both great and small.

PILATUS Centurio, beware withal,
Ye *wot our clerks the eclipse they call (*know) (**clerics, priests)
Such sudden sight,
Both sun and moon that season shall
Lack of their light.

CAYPHAS Ya, and if dead men rose bodily,
That might be done through sorcery;
Therefore we set nothing thereby
To be *abaiste. (*abashed, abated)

CENTURIO All that I tell for truth shall I

Evermore trust.

In this *ilke work that ye did work
Not alone the sun was murk,
But how your veil reave in your *kirk,
That *wit I would.

(*each, every)

(*church)

(*know, understand)

PILATUS Such tales full soon will make us *irk
*And they be told.

(*irked, angry)

(*if)

ANNA Centurio, such speech withdraw;
Of all these words we have none awe.

CENTURIO Now since ye set not by my *saw,
Sirs, have good day.
God grant you grace that ye may know
The *sooth always.

(*sayings, speech)

(*truth)

ANNA Withdraw thee fast, since thou thee dreads,
For we shall well maintain our deeds.

PILATUS Such wonder reasons as he *redes
Was never before.

(*advises)

CAIPHAS To *neven this note no more us needs,
Neither even nor morn.

(*name, mention)

Therefore look no man make ill cheer;
All this doing may do no *dere,
But to beware yet of more *were
That folk may feel,
We pray you, sirs, of these *saws sere
Advise you well.

(*harm)

(*woe, danger)

(*sayings, speeches) (*diverse, severe)

And to this tale takes heed in hie,
For Jesu said even openly
A thing that grieves all this Jury,
And right so may:
That he should rise up bodily
Within the third day.

And be it so, as *mote I speed,
His latter deed is more to dread
Than is the first, if we take heed
Or (at)tent thereto.

(*Must)

To *nevyn this not methink most need

(*name, mention)

And best to do.

ANNA Ya, sir, if all that he said so,
He has no might to rise and go
But if his men steal him us fro(m)
And bear away.
That were to us and other mo(re)
A foul (af)fray,

For then would they say, every *ilkone, (*each one)
That he rose by himself alone;
Therefore let him be kept anon
With knights *hende (*handy, skilled)
Until three days be come and gone
And brought to end.

PILATUS In certain, sirs, right well ye say,
For this *ilke point now to purvey (*each, every)
I shall ordain if I may.
He shall not rise,
Nor none shall win him thence away
On no kin's wise. (i.e. in nobody's knowledge)

Sir knights, that are in deeds doughty,
Chosen for chief of chivalry,
As we *ay in your force **affie (*ever) (**have faith)
Both day and night,
Wend and keep Jesu body
With all your might.

And for thing that ever be may
Keep him well to the third day
And let no man take him away
Out of that *stead; (*place)
For and they do, *soothly I say, (*truly)
Ye shall be dead.

I MILES Lordings, we say you for certain,
We shall keep him with might and main;
There shall no traitors with no *trayne (*tricks)
Steal him us fro(m).
Sir knights, take gear that most may gain
And let us go.

II MILES Yes, *certis, we are all ready boun(d), (*certainly, surely)
We shall him keep to our renown.

On *ilke a side let us sit down
Now all in *fere,
And soon we shall crack his crown
Whoso comes here.

(*each)
(*altogether, fellowship)

Tunc Jhesu resurgente.
Tunc angelus cantat Resurgens.

[Then Jesus rises]
[Then the angel sings “He rises”]

I MARIA Alas, to dead I would be *dight,
So woe in work was never *wight;
Mi sorrow is all for that sight
That I gone see,
How Christ my master, most of might,
Is dead from me.

(*done, prepared)
(*known, experienced)

Alas, that I should see his pain,
Or yet that I his life should *tyne;
Of *ilke a mischief he is medicine
And *bote of all,
Help and hold to *ilke a hyne
That him on would call.

(*suffer)
(*each, every)
(*remedy, cure)
(*each, every) (*person, servant)

II MARIA Alas, who shall my *balis beat
When I think on his wounds wet?
Jesu, that was of love so sweet
And never did ill,
Is dead and graven under the grit
Withouten skill.

(*sorrows)

III MARIA Withouten skill the Jews *ilkone
That lovely Lord has newly slain,
And trespass did he never none
In no-kin stead.
To whom now shall I make my moan
Since he is dead?

(*each, every)

(i.e. in anybody’s place)

I MARIA Since he is dead, my sisters dear,
Wend we will on mild manner
With our anointments fair and clear
That we have brought
To (an)noint his wounds on sides *sere
That Jews him wrought.

(*separate, diverse)

II MARIA Go we same my sisters free.
Full fair us longs his corpse to see,
But I *wot not how best may be,

(*know)

Help have we none.
And who shall now here of us three
Remove the stone?

III MARIA That do we not but we were mo(re),
For it is huge and heavy also.

I MARIA Sisters, a young child as we go
Making mourning,
I see it sit where we wend to
In white clothing.

II MARIA Sisters, *sertis, it is not to hide: (*certainly, surely)
The heavy stone is put beside.

III MARIA *Sertis, for thing that may betide (*certainly, surely)
Near will we wend,
To *layte that lovely and with him bide (*seek)
That was our friend.

ANGELUS Ye mourning women in your thought,
Here in this place whom have ye sought?

I MARIA Jesu, that to dead is brought,
Our Lord so free.

ANGELUS Women, certain here is he not,
Come near and see.

He is not here, the *sooth to say, (*truth)
The place is void that he in lay.
The *sudary here see ye may (*veil, shroud)
Was on him laid.
He is risen and went his way,
As he you said.

Even as he said so done has he:
He is risen through great *postee. (*power, strength)
He shall be found in Galilee
In flesh and *fell. (*feeling, i.e. presence)
To his disciples now wend ye
And thus them tell.

I MARIA Mi sisters dear, since it is so
That he is risen dead thus fro(m)
As the angel told me and you too,

Our Lord so free,
Hence will I never go
Ere I him see.

II MARIA Marie, us there no longer *lend, (*live, dwell)
To Galilee now let us wend.

I MARIA Not 'til I see that faithful friend, (*doctor, healer)
Mi Lord and *leech; (*handy, skilful)
Therefore all this, my sisters *hende,
That ye forth preach.

III MARIA As we have heard, so shall we say,
Marie our sister, have good day.

I MARIA Now, *verray God as he well may, (*true)
Man most of might,
He *wise you, sisters, well in your way (*teach)
And rule you right.

Alas, what shall now worth on me?
Mi *caitiff heart will break in three (*captive)
When I think on that body free
How it was spilt.
Both feet and hands nailed to a tree
Withouten guilt.

Withouten guilt the true was *tane, (*taken? Tortured?)
For trespass did he never none.
The wounds he suffered many one
Was for my *miss. (*sin)
It was my deed he was for slain
And nothing his.

How might I but I loved that sweet,
That for my love *tholed wounds wet (*suffered)
And *sithen be graven under the grit, (*since then)
Such kindness *kithe? (*known)
There is nothing to that we might
May make me blithe.

I MILES What, out alas! What shall I say?
Where is the corpse that herein lay?

II MILES What ails thee, man? Is he away
That we should tend?

I MILES Rise up and see.

II MILES Harrow! For *ay, (*ever)
I tell us *shent. (*destroyed)

III MILES What devil is this, what ails you two,
Such noise and cry thus for to make too?

II MILES Why, is he gone?

III MILES Alas, where is he that here lay?

IV MILES Wey, harrow! Devil, where is he away?

III MILES What, is he thus gets fro(m) us went,
That false traitor that here was lent?
And we truly here for to (at)tent
Had underta(k)en.
*Sekirlie, I tell us **shent, (*Surely, certainly) (**destroyed)
Wholly *ilkane. (*each, everyone)

I MILES Alas, what shall we do this day
That thus this *warlowe is went his way? (*wizard)
And *savely, sirs, I dare well say (*surely)
He rose alone.

II MILES *Wit Sir Pilate of this affray, (*tell, make known)
We *mon be slain. (*Must)

III MILES Why, can none of us no better *rede? (*advise)

IV MILES There is not else, but we be dead.

II MILES When that he *steered out of this **stead (*moved) (**place)
None could it *ken. (*know)

I MILES Alas, hard *happe was on my head, (*luck)
Among all men.

For Sir Pilate *wit of this deed, (*know)
That we were sleeping when he *yede, (*walked, left)
He will forfeit withouten dread
All that we have.

II MILES Us must make lies, for that is need

Ourselve(s) to save.

III MILES Ya, that *rede I well, also *mote I go. (*advise) (*must)

IV MILES And I assent thereto also.

II MILES An hundred, shall I say, and more
Armed *ilkone (*each one)
Come and took his corpse us fro(m),
And us near slain.

I MILES Nay, *certis, I hold there none so good (*certainly, surely)
As say the *sooth even as it stood: (*truth)
How that he rose with main and mood
And went his way.
To Sir Pilate if he be *wode, (*mad)
This dare I say.

II MILES Why, dare thou to Sir Pilate go
With these tidings and say him so?

I MILES So *rede I, if he us slew (*advise)
We die but once.

III MILES Now, he that wrought us all this woe,
Woe worth his bones.

IV MILES Go we then, sir knights *hende, (*handy, skilful)
Since that we shall to Sir Pilate wend;
I *trowe that we shall part no friends (*trust)
Ere that we pass.

I MILES And I shall him say *ilke word to end, (*each, every)
Even as it was.

Sir Pilate, prince withouten peer,
Sir Cayphas and Anna in *fere (*fellowship, together)
And all ye lordings that are here
To *neven by name, (*mention, name)
God save you all, on sides *sere, (*separate, diverse)
From sin and shame.

PILATUS Ye are welcome, our knights keen, (*great) (*mention)
Of *mickle mirth now may ye *mean;
Therefore some tales tell us between
How ye have wrought.

I MILES Our waking, lord, withouten *wene,
Is worth to nought. (*doubt)
(*i.e. we woke to nothing)

CAYPHAS To nought? Alas, cease of such *saw. (*sayings)

II MILES The prophet Jesu that ye well know
Is risen and gone, for all our awe,
With main and might.

PILATUS Therefore the devil himself thee draw,
False *recreyed knight. (*recreant)

*(En)cumbered cowards I you call;
Have ye let him go from you all? (*burdened, wretched)

III MILES Sir, there was none that did but small
When that he *yede. (*walked, left)

IV MILES We were so feared down gone we fall,
And dared for dread.

ANNA Had ye no strength him to gainstand?
Traitors, ye might have bound in band
Both him and them that ye there found
And ceased them soon.

I MILES That deed all earthly men *livand
Might not have done. (*living)

II MILES We were so *radde ever *ilkone (*terrified) (*each one)
When that he put beside the stone,
We were so *stoned we durst stir none (*like stone- i.e. stiff with fear)
And so abashed.

PILATUS What, rose he by himself alone?

I MILES Ya, sir, that be ye trust

IV MILES We heard never since we were born,
Nor all our fathers us before,
Such melody, midday nor morn
As was made there.

CAYPHAS Alas, then is our laws *lorne (*lost)
For evermore.

II MILES What time he rose good (at)tent I took.
The earth that time trembled and quake,
All kindly force then me forsook
'Til he was gone.

III MILES I was afeared, I durst not look,
Nor might had none,

I might not stand, so was I stark.

PILATUS Sir Cayphas, ye are a cunning clerk;
If we amiss have ta'en our mark,
I *trowe same fail;
Therefore what shall worth now of this work,
Says your counsel?

(*trust)

CAYPHAS To say the best *forsooth I shall,
That shall be profit to us all;
Yon knights behoves their words again (re)call
How he is missed.

(*in truth)

We *nolde for thing that might befall
That no man *wiste.

(*would not)
(*knew)

ANNA Now, Sir Pilate, since that it is so
That he is risen dead us fro(m),
Command your knights to say where they go
That he was ta'en
With twenty thousand men and mo(re),
And them near slain.

And thereto of our treasury
Give to them a reward forthy.

PILATUS Now of this purpose well pleased am I,
And further thus;
Sir knights, that are in deeds doughty,
Takes (at)tent to us,

And harkeness what that ye shall say
To *ilke a man both night and day,
That ten thousand men in good array
Come you until,
With force of arms bore him away
Against your will.

(*each, every)

Thus shall ye say in *ilke a land, (*each, every)
And thereto on that same command
A thousand pound have in your hand
To your reward;
And friendship, sirs, ye understand
Shall not be spared.

CAIPHAS *Ilkone your state we shall amend, (*Each one, everyone)
And look ye say as we you *kenned. (*knew)

I MILES In what country so ye us send,
By night or day,
Whereso we come, whereso we wend,
So shall we say.

PILATUS Ya, and whereso ye tarry in *ilke country, (*each)
Of our doing in no degree
Does that no man the wiser be,
Nor (re)frain before,
Nor of the sight that ye gone see
*Nevens it neither even nor morn. (*mention, name)

For we shall maintain you alway,
And to the people shall we say
It is greatly against our *lay (*law)
To *trowe such thing. (*trust, believe)
So shall they deem, both night and day,
All is *lesyng. (*lying)

Thus shall the *sooth be bought and sold, (*truth)
And treason shall for truth be told.
Therefore *ay in your hearts ye hold (*ever)
This counsel clean,
And fares now well, both young and old,
Wholly *bedene. (*bidden, ordered, quickly)