

PLAY FORTY-TWO- The Ascension

(The Tailors)

PETRUS O might-full God, how stands it now,
In world thus *will was I never ere; (*wild, confused)
But he appears, but I nay *wot how, (*know)
He from us twins when he will fare.
And yet may fall that for our *prowe (*proof)
And all his working less and more.
Ah, king of comfort, good art thou,
And *lele and liking is thy **lare. (*faithful) (**law)

JOHANNES The missing of my master true
That (be)longs not with us lastingly,
Makes me to mourn *ilke a day new (*each)
For *tharnyng of his company. (*lack)
His peer of goodness never I knew,
Of might nor wisdom yet any.

PETRUS That we him *tharne sore may us rue, (*lack, miss)
For he loved us full faithfully.

But yet in all my misliking,
A word that Christ said comforts me;
Our heaviness and our mourning
He said to joy turned should be.
That joy he said in his *hetyng, (*behest, promising)
To (be)reave us none should have no *posté, (*power)
Wherefore above all other thing
That joy me longs to know and see.

MARIA Thou, Peter, when my Son was slain
And laid in grave, ye were in *were (*fear, wariness, doubt)
Whether he should rise, almost *ilkane, (*each, every one)
But now ye *wot through knowing clear. (*know)
Some that he said should come is gone
And some to come, but *ilkane **sere, (*each one) (**separate, diverse)
Whether it be to come or none,
Us *awe to know it all in **fere. (*owe, ought) (**together)

JESUS Almighty God, my Father free,
In earth thy bidding have I done
And clarified the name of thee,
To thyself clarify the Son.
As thou has given me plain *posté (*power)

Of *ilke a flesh, grant me my boon	(*each)
That thou me gave might living be	
In endless life and with thee *wonne.	(*dwell, live)
That life is this that hath none end,	
To know thee, Father, most of might,	
And me thy Son, whom thou gone send	
To die for man withouten *plight;	(*promise, hope)
Mankind was thine whom thou beckoned	
And took me to thy *yemyng right.	(*protection, authority)
I died for man, man's *misse to mend,	(*misdeeds, misery, sin)
And unto *spitous dead was **dight.	(*piteous) (**done)
Thy will unto them taught have I	
That would unto my *lare incline;	(*law, lore)
Mi lare have they ta'en *buxomly,	(*obediently)
Shall none of them there *travail **tyne.	(*labours) (**pain)
Thou gave them me but not *forthy,	(*for thee)
Yet are they thine as well as mine;	
*Fleme them not from our company	(*outlaw, cut out)
Since thine are mine and mine are thine.	
Since they are ours, if them need *ought	(*owt, anything)
Thou help them, if it be thy will,	
And as thou *wot that I them bought,	(*know)
For *fault of help let them not spill.	(*lack)
From the world to take them pray I not,	
But that thou keep them *ay from ill,	(*ever)
All those also that sets their thought	
In earth my teaching to fulfil.	
Mi tidings *tane has my **many	(*grasped, taken) (**people)
To teach the people where they fare.	
In earth shall they live after me	
And suffer sorrows sad and sore.	
Despised and hated shall they be	
As I have been, with less and more,	
And suffered dead in *sere degree,	(*severe, sore)
For *sothfastness shall none them spare.	(*steadfastness, truthfulness)
Thou hallow them, Father, *forthy,	(*therefore)
In *sothfastness so that they may	(*steadfastness, truthfulness)
Be one as we are, thou and I,	
In will and work, both night and day,	
And know that I am verily	
Both *sothfastness and life alway.	(*steadfastness, truthfulness)

By the which *ilke man that is wily (*each, every)
 May win the life that last shall *ay. (*ever)

But ye, my apostles all *bedene, (*bidden, gathered)
 That long has went about with me,
 In great *wanne **trowyng have ye been (*waning, weakness) (**trusting, faith)
 And wonder hard of hearts are ye.
 Worthy to be reproved, I *ween, (*think, believe)
 Are ye *forsooth, and ye will see (*in truth)
 In as mickle as ye have seen
 My working proved and my *posté. (*power)

When I was dead and laid in grave,
 Of mine *uprise ye were in doubt, (*uprising, resurrection)
 And some for mine uprising *strave (*strove, quarreled)
 When I was laid as under *clowte (*cloth, grave shroud)
 So deep in earth, but *sithen I have (*since then)
 Been walking forty days about,
 Eaten with you, your truth to save,
 Coming among you in and out.

And therefore be no more in *were (*doubt, wariness)
 Of mine uprising, day nor night;
 Your misbelief leaves *ilkone **seere, (*Each one) (**withered, brittle)
 For *wit ye well, as man of might
 Over whom no death may have power,
 I shall be endless life and right.
 But for to show you figure clear,
 Show I me thus gets to your sight,

How man by course of *kind shall rise (*nature)
 Although he be rotten until nought;
 Out of his grave in this same wise
 At the day of doom shall he be brought
 Where I shall sit as true justice
 And *deem man after he has wrought: (*doom, judge)
 The wicked to wend with their *enmyse, (*enemies, i.e. devils- or enmities?)
 The good to bliss they shall be brought.

Another skill *forsoth is this: (*in truth)
 In a tree man was (be)trayed through *trayne, (*tricks)
 One man, *forthy, to mend that **miss (*for thee, therefore) (**misery, misdeed)
 On a tree bought mankind again.
 In confusion of *him and his (*i.e. Lucifer)
 That falsely to forge that fraud was *fayne (*happy, desiring)
 Mankind to bring again to bliss,

His foe the fiend to endless pain.

The third skill is, truly to tell,
Right as I wend as well will seem,
So shall I come in flesh and *fell
At the day of doom when I shall *deem
The good in endless bliss to dwell,
Mi foe-men from me for to *fleme
Without end in woe to *well.
*Ilke living man here to take **yeme.

(*fullness)

(*doom, judge)

(*leave, be cut out)

(*dwell? Wail?)

(*Each) (**protection, care)

But until all the world *wendand
The gospel truly preach shall ye
To *ilke a creature **liffand.

(*depart, journey- perhaps waning?)

(*each) (**living)

(*trusts)

Who *trowes, if that he baptised be,
He shall, as ye shall understand,
Be saved and of all *thralldom free;
Who *trows it not, as **mistrowand,
For fault of truth, damned is he.

(*servitude, slavery)

(*trusts) (**mistrusting, mistrewing)

But all the tokenings *bedene
Shall follow them that *trows it right,
In my name devils cruel and keen
Shall they out cast of *ilka **wight,
With new tongues speak, serpents unclean
*Fordo, and if they day or night
Drink venom *wik, without **wene,
To *noye them shall it have no might.

(*together)

(*trusts)

(*each, every) (**soul, person)

(*undo)

(*wicked) (**doubt)

(*harm, annoy)

On sick folk shall they hands lay
And well shall they have soon at wield;
This power shall they have alway,
My *many, both in town and field.
And wit ye well, so shall they
That works my will in youth or eld,
A place for them I shall purvey
In bliss with me *ay in to **belde.

(*company, people)

(*always) (**shelter)

Now is my journey brought to end,
Mi time that me to *lang was lend.
To my Father now up I wend,
And your Father that me down sent:
Mi God, your God, and *ilk man's friend
That to his teaching will consent
To sinners that no sin them *shend,
That *mys amends and will repent.

(*live, linger)

(*each)

(*destroy)

(*misdeeds, sins)

But for I speak these words now
 To you, your hearts has heaviness,
 Fulfilled all be it for your *prowe (*proof)
 That I hence wend, as needful is.
 And *but I wend, comes not to you (*unless)
 The comforter of comfortless.
 And if I wend, ye shall find how
 I shall him send, of my goodness.

Mi Father's will fulfilled have I;
 Therefore farewell, *ilkone **seere. (*each, every one) (*diverse, many)
 I go make you a *stead ready (*home)
 Endless to *wonne with me in **feere. (*dwell) (**fellowship, together)
 Send down a cloud, Father, *forthy (*therefore)
 I come to thee, my Father dear.
 The Father's blessing most mighty
 Give I you all that *leffe here. (*live, love, believe)

Tunc cantat angelus Ascendo ad patrem meum.

[Then angels sing "I ascend to my Father"]

MARIA Ah, might-full God, *ay most of might, (*ever, always)
 A *selcouth sight is this to see, (*marvellous)
 My Son thus to be ravished right
 In a cloud wending up from me.
 Both is my heart heavy and light,
 Heavy for *swilke twinning should be (*such)
 And light for he holds that he *hight (*promised)
 And thus up wends in great *posté. (*power)

His *hetings holds he all **bedene (*promises, behests) (**together, bidden)
 That comforts me in all my care,
 But unto whom shall I me *mene? (*moan, mean)
 Thus will in world was I never
 To dwell among these Jews keen,
 Me to despise will they not spare.

JOHANNES All be he not in presence seen,
 Yet is he salve of *ilka sore; (*every)

But, lady, since that he betook
 Me for to serve you as your son,
 You needs nothing, lady, but look
 What thing in earth ye will have done.
 I were to blame if I forsook

To work your will, midday or noon,
Or any time yet of the week.

MARIA I thank thee, John, with words *fune; (*few)

Mi motherhood, John, shall thou have,
And for my son I will thee take.

JOHANNES That grace, dear lady, would I crave.

MARIA Mi Son's *saws will I never forsake. (*words, sayings)
It were not seeming that we *strave (*quarrel)
Ne *contraried nought that he spake. (*disputed, opposed)
But John, 'til I be brought in grave,
Shall thou never see my sorrow slake.

JACOBUS Our worthy Lord, since he is went
For us, lady, as is his will,
We thank him that us thee have lent
With us on live to *lenge her still. (*linger, stay)
I say for me with full consent,
Thy liking all will I fulfil.

ANDREAS So will we all with great talent,
*Forthy, lady, **giffe thee not ill. (*therefore) (**give? grieve?)

I ANGELUS Ye men of the land of Galilee,
What wonder ye to heaven *lookand? (*looking)
This Jesus whom ye from you see
Up-ta(k)en, ye shall well understand,
Right so again come down shall he
When he so comes with wounds *bleedand, (*bleeding)
Who well has wrought full glad may be,
Who ill has lived full sore *dreadand. (*dreading)

II ANGELUS Ye that has been his servants true
And with him *lengand, night and day, (*belonging, staying)
*Slike working as ye with him knew, (*such)
Look that ye preach it forth alway.
Your *mede in heaven be **ilke day new, (*reward) (**each)
And all that serves him well to pay;
Who *trowes you not, it shall them rue, (*trusts)
They *mon have pain increasing **ay. (*must) (**always, ever)

JACOBUS Loved be thou, Lord, *ay, most of might (*always, ever)
That thus, in all our great dis-ease,

Us comforts with thine angels bright.
Now ought the Jews their malice *meese (*soothe)
That saw themself this wonder sight
Thus near them wrought under their nose.
And we have matter day and night,
Our God more for to praise and please.

ANDREAS Now may the Jews be all confused
If they on think them inwardly
How falsely they have him accused
And *sakeless **shent through their envy. (*blameless) (**destroyed)
Their falsehood, that they long have used,
Now is it proved here openly.
*And they were of this matter **mused, (*if) (**aware)
It should them stir to ask mercy.

PETRUS That will they not, Andrew, let be,
For they are full of pomp and pride.
It may not avail to thee nor me,
Ne none of us with them to chide.
Profit to dwell can I none see,
*Forthy let us no longer bide (*therefore)
But wend we unto *seere country (*many, diverse)
To preach through all this world so wide.

JOHANNES That is our charge, for that is best
That we *lenge now no longer here, (*linger, stay)
For here get we no place of rest
To *lenge so near the Jews' power. (*linger, stay)
Us to *fordo they will them cast, (*undo, destroy)
*Forthy come forth, my lady dear, (*therefore)
And wend us hence, I am full pressed
With you to wend with full good cheer.

Mi trust is now ever *ilk a dele (*each thing)
In you to work after your counsel.

JACOBUS Mi lady dear, that shall ye feel
In *owt that ever us may avail; (*anything, all)
Our comfort, your care to kill
While we may live we shall not fail.

MARIA Mi *brethir dear, I trust it well, (*brethren)
Mi Son shall quit you your *travail. (*labours)

PETRUS To Jerusalem go we again

And look what fare so after fall;
Our Lord and master most of *main,
He wise you and be with you all.

(*power)