

## 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)