

## PLAY FORTY-FIVE - The Assumption of Mary/ "Thomas Apostolus"

### (The Weavers)

**THOMAS** In wailing and weeping, in woe am I wrapped,  
In \*site and in sorrow, in sighing full sad, (\*pity, sadness)  
My Lord and my love, loo(k), full low is he \*lapped: (\*enclosed, engulfed)  
That makes me to mourn now full \*mate and full mad. (\*defeated, as in checkmate)  
What \*harling and what hurling that \*headsman he had, (\*beating) (\*leader)  
What breaking of branches were bursten about him,  
What \*bolnyng with beating of \*\*brothels full bad. (\*swelling, bruising) (\*\*sinners)  
It learns me full \*lely to love him and \*\*lowte hym, (\*faithfully) (\*\*praise, laud)  
That comely to \*ken. (\*know)  
God's Son Jesus,  
He died for us;  
That makes me thus  
To mourn among many men.

Among men may I mourn for the malice they meant  
To Jesus, the gentlest of Jews generation.  
Of wisdom and wit were the ways that he went  
That drew all those \*doomsmen \*\*derffe indignation, (\*judges) (\*\*wicked, bold)  
For doubtless full dear was his due domination.  
Unkindly they \*kidde them their king for to \*\*ken (\*knew, uttered) (\*\*knew)  
With careful comfort and cold \*recreation, (\*refreshment, esp. spiritual)  
For he mustered his miracles among many men,  
And to the people he preached.  
But the Pharisees fierce  
All his reasons reverse,  
And to their \*headsmen rehearse (\*leaders)  
That untrue were the tales that he teached.

He teached full true, but the tyrants were \*tened, (\*pained, harmed)  
For he reprov'd their pride, they purpos'd them pressed  
To mischief him, with malice in their mind have they meant,  
And to accuse him of cursedness the \*caitiffs has cast. (\*wretches)  
Their rancour was raised, no \*renke might it rest, (\*rank, priest)  
They took him with treason, that turtle(dove) of truth;  
They fed him with \*flappes, with fierceness him \*\*feste, (\*slaps, blows) (\*\*caught)  
To \*rugge him, to \*\*riffe him: there reigned no \*ruth. (\*tug, stretch) (\*\*tear) (\*\*pity)  
Unduly they \*demed him, (\*doomed, judged)  
They \*dushed him, they dashed him, (\*struck)  
They \*lushed hym, they lashed him, (\*loosened?)  
They pushed him, they \*pashed hym, (\*struck)  
All sorrow they said that it \*seemed him. (\*suited)

It seemed him all sorrow, they said in their \*seggyng. (\*saying, judging)  
 They skipped and scourged him, he (e)scaped not with scorns.  
 That he was leader and Lord in their law lay no (al)leging,  
 But \*thrang on and thrusted a crown of thick thorns. (\*crowded, crushed)  
 \*Ilk tag of that turtle(dove) so tattered and torn is (\*each, every)  
 That that blisshed body blue is and \*bolned for beating, (\*swollen)  
 Yet the headsman to hang him with huge hideous horns  
 As \*brothelers or bribers were bawling and bleating. (\*sinners, lechers)  
 "Crucify him," they cried.  
 Soon Pilate in parliament  
 Of Jesus gave judgement,  
 To hang him the harlots him \*hente; (\*promised)  
 There was no deed of that doomsman denied.

Denied not that doomsman to \*deem him to dead, (\*doom, judge)  
 That friendly fair food that never offended.  
 They hied them in haste than to hang up their \*head, (\*i.e. leader)  
 What woe that they wrought him no wight would have \*weened it. (\*believed)  
 His true title they took them no time for to attend it,  
 But as a traitor attained they \*toled him and tugged him; (\*punished)  
 They \*schonte for no shouts his shape for to \*\*shend it, (\*stopped) (\*\*ruin)  
 They raised him on \*rode as full \*\*rasely they rugged him. (\*rod, cross) (\*\*harshly)  
 They pierced him with a spear  
 That the blood royal  
 To the earth \*gun fall, (\*did, gone)  
 In redemption of all  
 That his \*lele laws likes to \*\*lere. (\*loyal, faithful) (\*\*learn)

To learn he that likes of his law that is \*lele (\*loyal, faithful)  
 May find in our friend here full faithful \*feste, (\*fastened, firm)  
 That would hang thus on height to enhance us in \*hele (\*health, welfare)  
 And buy us from bondage by his blood that is best.  
 Then the comfort of our company in cares were cast,  
 But that Lord so alone would not leave us full long.  
 On the third day he rose right with his \*renkis to rest; (\*ranks, fellows)  
 Both flesh and fell fiercely that figure gone \*fange (\*seize)  
 And to my \*brethir gone appear. (\*brethren)  
 They told me of this,  
 But I (be)lieved amiss;  
 To rise fleshly, \*iwis, (\*in truth)  
 Methought that it past man's power.

But the power of that prince was preciously proved  
 When that sovereign showed himself to my sight.  
 To mean of his manhood my mind was all moved,  
 But that reverent reduced me by reason and by right.

The wounds full wide of that worthy \*wight, (\*soul, person)  
He \*frayned me to feel them, my faith for to \*feste, (\*asked) (\*fasten, make firm)  
And so I did doubtless, and down I me \*dight; (\*did)  
I bend my back for to bow and obeyed him for best.

So soon he ascended  
My fellows in \*feere (\*company)  
Were sundered \*sere, (\*Separately)  
If they were here  
My mirth were \*mickle amended. (\*greatly)

Amended were my mirth with that \*many to meet, (\*crowd, fellowship)  
My fellows in \*fere for to find will I found; (\*fellowship, company)  
I shall not \*sted in no \*\*stead but in stall and in street, (\*stand, stay) (\*\*place)  
\*Grath me by guides to get them on ground. (\*prepare)

O sovereign, how soon am I set here so sound!  
This is the Vale of Josophat, in Jewry so \*gente. (\*noble)  
I will stem of my steven and sted here a stound,  
(i.e. stop my talking and stand a moment)

For I am weary for walking the ways that I went  
Full \*wilsom and wide. (\*willful)  
Therefore I cast  
Here for to rest;  
I hold it best  
To \*busk on this bank for to bide. (\*prepare)

**[ANGELS, SINGING]** *Surge proxima mea columba  
mea tabernaculum glorie vasculum vite, templum celeste.*

**[Rise up my dove, tabernacle of glory, container of life, heavenly temple.]**

**I ANGELUS** Rise, Marie, thou maiden and mother so mild.

**II ANGELUS** Rise, lily full lusty, thy love is full liking.

**III ANGELUS** Rise, chieftain of chastity, in cheering thy child.

**IV ANGELUS** Rise, rose ripe redolent, in rest to be reigning.

**V ANGELUS** Rise, dove of that \*doomsman all deeds is deeming,

**VI ANGELUS** Rise, turtle(dove), tabernacle, and temple full true.

**VII ANGELUS** Rise, seemly in sight, of thy Son to be seeming.

**VIII ANGELUS** Rise, \*grathed full goodly in grace for to grow. (\*prepared)

**IX ANGELUS** Rise up this \*stound. (\*moment)

**X ANGELUS** Come, chosen child.

**XI ANGELUS** Come, Marie mild.

**XII ANGELUS** Come, flower un(de)filed.

**VIII ANGELUS** Come up to the king to be crowned.

**[ANGELS, SINGING]** *Veni de libano sponsa, veni coronaberis.*[3](#)

[Come from Lebanon, my spouse, come to be crowned- Song of Songs/Canticle of Canticles, 4:8)

**THOMAS** O glorious God, what gleams are gliding.

I move in my mind what may this be-mean?

I see a \*babe born in bliss to be biding (\*young lady)

With angels company, comely and clean.

Many \*selcouth sights in \*\*sertis have I seen, (\*marvellous) (\*certain)

But this mirth and this melody \*mengis my mood. (\*confuses, mangles)

**MARIA** Thomas, do way all thy doubts \*bedene, (\*completely)

For I am founding forth to my fair food,

I tell thee this tide.

**THOMAS** Who, my sovereign Lady?

**MARIA** Ya, \*sertis I say thee. (\*surely)

**THOMAS** Whither wends thou, I pray thee?

**MARIA** To bliss with my bairn for to bide.

**THOMAS** To bide with thy bairn in bliss to be biding!

Hail, gentlest of Jesse in Jews' generation,

Hail, wealth of this world all wealths is wielding,

Hail, \*hendest enhanced to high habitation, (\*noblest, most skilful)

Hail, dearworth and dear is thy due domination.

Hail, flower fresh flourished, thy fruit is full \*felesome. (\*delicious, filling)

Hail, seat of our Saviour and \*sege of salvation, (\*throne)

Hail, happy to hold to, thy help is full \*helesome. (\*healing)

Hail, peerless in pleasance,

Hail, precious and pure,

Hail, salve that is sure,

Hail, letter of \*languor, (\*sickness, malaise)

Hail, \*bote of our \*\*bale in obeisance. (\*cure) (\*\*torment)

**MARIA** Go to thy \*brethir that in \*\*bale are abiding (\*brethren) (\*\*suffering)  
And of what wise to wealht I am wending  
Without tarrying thou tell them this tiding,  
Their mirth so \*besse \*\*mickle amending. (\*be, is) (\*\*greatly)  
For Thomas, to me were they tending  
When I drew to the death, all but thou.

**THOMAS** But I, Lady, whilst in land I am \*lending, (\*living)  
Obey thee full \*baynly my bones will I bow. (\*humbly, obediently)  
But I, alas,  
Where was I then  
When that \*barett began? (\*struggle, turmoil)  
An unhappy man  
Both now and ever I was.

Unhappy, \*unhende am I \*\*holden at home, (\*unhandy, unskilled) (\*beheld)  
What dreary destiny me drew from that \*dede? (\*death)

**MARIA** Thomas, cease of thy sorrow, for I am \*sothly the same. (\*truly)

**THOMAS** That \*wot I well, the worthiest that wrapped is in \*\*weed. (\*know) (\*\*clothes)

**MARIA** Then spare not a space now my speech for to speed,  
Go say them \*soothly, thou saw me ascending. (\*truly)

**THOMAS** Now doubtless, dear-worthy, I dare not for dread,  
For to my tales that I tell they are not attending,  
For no spell that is spoken.

**MARIA** I shall thee show  
A token true,  
Full fresh of hue;  
My girdle, loo(k), take them this token.

**THOMAS** I thank thee as reverent root of our rest,  
I thank thee as steadfast stock for to stand,  
I thank thee as trusty tree for to trust,  
I thank thee as \*buxsom bough to thee bound, (\*obedient)  
I thank thee as leaf, the \*lustiest in land, (\*vigorous, beautiful)  
I thank thee as beauteous branch for to bear,  
I thank thee as flower that never is \*fadand, (\*fading)  
I thank thee as fruit that has fed us in \*fere, (\*fellowship)

I thank thee for ever.  
If they reprove me,  
Now shall they love me.  
Thy blessing give me  
And doubtless I shall do my \*devere. (\*duty, devotion)

**MARIA**

Thomas, to do then thy \*devere be \*\*dressing, (\*duty, devotion) (\*preparing)  
He bid thee his blessing that \*beldis aboven, (\*shelters, comforts)  
And in sight of my Son there is sitting  
Shall I kneel to that comely with crown  
That who despair by dale or by down  
With piteous plaint in perils will pray me;  
If he \*swink or sweat, in swelte(r) or in swoon, (\*toil)  
I shall sue to my sovereign Son for to say me  
He shall grant them their grace.  
Be it man in his mourning  
Or woman in \*childing, (\*childbirth)  
All these to be helping  
That prince shall I pray in that place.

**THOMAS** Gramercy, the goodliest grounded in grace,  
Gramercy, the loveliest Lady of \*lire, (\*face, countenance)  
Gramercy, the fairest in figure and face,  
Gramercy, the dearest to do our desire.

**MARIA** Farewell, now I pass to the peerless empire;  
Farewell, Thomas, I tarry no tide here.

**THOMAS** Farewell, thou shining shape that shines so sheer,  
Farewell, the belle of all beauties to bide here,  
Farewell, thou fair food,  
Farewell, the key of counsel,  
Farewell, all this world's \*wele, (\*wealth, welfare)  
Farewell, our hope and our \*hele, (\*health)  
Farewell now, both gracious and good.

**[ANGELS, SINGING]** *Veni electa mea et ponam in te tronum meum  
Quia concupivit rex speciem tuam.*

**[Come my chosen one and I will place you on my throne; because the king  
longs for your beauty. From the Use of York's Feast of the Assumption]**

**THOMAS** That I met with this maid here my mirth is amend;  
I will hie me in haste and hold that I have \*hight, (\*promised)

To bear my \*brethir this \*\*bode-word my back shall I bend (\*brethren) (\*\*bidding)  
 And say them in certain the \*sooth of this sight. (\*truth)  
 By dale and by down shall I \*dress me to \*\*dight (\*prepare) (\*\*do)  
 Til I find of this fellowship faithful in \*fere, (\*company, togetherness)  
 I shall run and rest not, to \*ransack full right. (\*search)  
 Lo, the \*many I meant of I meet them even here (\*company)  
 At hand.  
 God save you in \*feere, (\*fellowship)  
 Say, \*brethir, what cheer? (\*brethren)

**PETRUS** What does thou here?

Thou may now of thy gaits be \*gangand. (\*going)

**THOMAS** Why, dear \*brethir, what \*\*bale is begun? (\*brethren) (\*\*troubles)

**PETRUS** Thomas, I tell thee, that \*tene is betide us. (\*pain, suffering)

**THOMAS** Me for-thinketh for my friends that faithful are foun(d)

**JACOBUS** Ya, but in care little kindness thou \*kid us. (\*declare)

**ANDREAS** His brag and his boast is he busy to bid us,  
 But and there come any cares he keeps not to \*ken; (\*know)  
 We may run 'til we rave ere any \*ruth rid us (\*grief)  
 For the friendship he fetched us, by \*frith or by fen. (\*forest)

**THOMAS** Sirs, me marvels, I say you,  
 What moves in your mind.

**JOHANNES** We can well find  
 Thou art unkind.

**THOMAS** Now, peace then, and prove it, I pray you.

**PETRUS** That thou come not to court here unkindness thou \*kid us, (\*told)  
 Our truth has of-turned us to \*tene and to \*\*traye; (\*sorrow) (\*\*betrayal, distress)  
 This year has thou \*raked, thy ruth would not rid us, (\*run wild)  
 For wit thou well that \*worthy is went on her way. (\*i.e. Mary)  
 In a deep den dead is she dolven this day, (\*delved, buried)  
 Marie, that maiden and mother so mild.

**THOMAS** I \*wot well, \*\*iwis. (\*know) (\*\*truly)

**JOHANNES** Thomas, do way.

**ANDREAS** It force not to \*frayne him, he will not be \*\*filde.

(\*ask) (\*\*fall to, be polite)

**THOMAS** Sirs, with her have I spoken  
Latter than ye.

**JOHANNES** That may not be.

**THOMAS** Yes, kneeling on knee.

**PETRUS** Then \*tite can thou tell us some token? (\*quickly)

**THOMAS** Lo, this token full trusty she took me to take you.

**JACOBUS** Ah, Thomas, where got thou that girdle so good?

**THOMAS** Sirs, my message is moving some mirth for to make you,  
For founding fleshly I found her to her fair food,  
And when I met with that maiden it mended my mood.  
Her \*sande has she sent you, so seemly to see. (\*sound, message)

**ANDREAS** Ya, Thomas, unsteadfast full staring thou stood,  
That makes thy mind now full mad for to be.  
But harken and hear now:  
Let us look where we laid her  
If any folk have affrayed her.

**JOHANNES** Go we \*grope where we graved her, (\*search)  
If we find ought that faire one in \*fere now. (\*company)

**PETRUS** Behold, now hither your heads in haste;  
This glorious and goodly is gone from this grave.

**THOMAS** Loo(k), to my talking ye took you no (at)tent for to \*traste. (\*trust)

**JACOBUS** Ah, Thomas, untruly now trespassed we have;  
Mercy full kindly we cry and we crave.

**ANDREAS** Mercy, for foul have we faulted in \*faye. (\*faith)

**JOHANNES** Mercy, we pray thee, we will not \*deprave. (\*condemn, disparage)

**PETRUS** Mercy, for deeds we did thee this day.

**THOMAS** Our Saviour so sweet  
Forgive you all,  
And so I shall.  
This token tall

Have I brought you your \*bales to beat. (\*torments, woes)

**PETRUS**

It is welcome, \*iwis, from that worthy \*\*wight, (\*surely) (\*\*person, soul)  
For it was wont for to w(r)ap that worthy virgin.

**JACOBUS** It is welcome, \*iwis, from that Lady so light, (\*surely)  
For her womb would she wrap with it and wear it with \*win. (\*joy)

**ANDREAS** It is welcome, \*iwis, from that salver of sin, (\*surely)  
For she bend it about her with blossom so bright.

**JOHANNES** It is welcome, \*iwis, from the key of our kin, (\*surely)  
For about that reverent it reached full right.

**PETRUS** Now kneel we \*ilkone (\*each, everyone)  
Upon our knee.

**JACOBUS** To that Lady free.

**ANDREAS** Blessed \*mote she be, (\*must, may)  
Ya, for she is Lady lovesome alone.

**THOMAS** Now, \*brethir, be busy and \*\*busk to be \*\*\*bownand, (\*brethren) (\*\*hurry) (\*\*going)  
To India will I turn me and travel to teach.

**PETRUS** And to Romans so royal those ranks to be \*rownand (\*telling)  
Will I pass from this place, my people to preach.

**JACOBUS** And I shall Samaritans so sadly \*ensearch, (\*seek out)  
To \*ware them by wisdom they work not in waste. (\*warn)

**ANDREAS** And to Achaia full \*lely that \*\*lede for to \*leech, (\*faithfully) (\*\*people) (\*\*heal)  
Will hie me to help them and heal them in haste.

**JOHANNES** This covenant accords;  
Sirs, since ye will so,  
Me must needs part you fro(m).  
To Asia will I go.  
He lead you, that Lord of all lords.

**THOMAS** The Lord of all lords in land shall he lead you  
Whilst ye travel in trouble, the truth for to teach,  
With fruit of our faith in \*firthe shall we feed you, (\*forest)

For that labour is lovesome, *ilke **lede for to ***leche.	(*each)(**person)(***heal)
Now I pass from your presence the people to preach, To lead them and learn them the law of our Lord.	
As I said, us must asunder and sadly *ensearch	(*seek out)
*Ilke country to keep clean and knit in o(ne) cord	(*each, every)
Of our faith.	
That *frelve food	(*noble)
That died on *rood	(*rod, cross)
With main and mood,	
He *grath you by guides full **grath.	(*prepare) (**ready, diligent)