

PLAY FORTY-SEVEN- Doomsday

(The Mercers)

DEUS INCIPIT

First when I this world had wrought,
Wood and wind and waters *wan
And *all-kin thing that now is *oght,
Full well me thought that I did then.
When they were made, good me them thought.
*Sithen to my likeness made I man,
And man to grieve me gave he nought;
Therefore me rues that I the world began.

(*dark)
(*all kinds of) (*owt, at all)

(*since then)
(i.e. ignored me)

When I had made man at my will,
I gave him wits himself to wise,
And paradise I put him *till
And bade him hold it all as his.
But of the tree of good and ill
I said, "What time thou eats of this,
Man, thou speeds thyself to spill;
Thou art brought out of all bliss."

(*to)

*Belyve break man my bidding,
He *weened have been a god thereby;
He *weened have witting of **all-kin thing,
In world to have been as wise as I.
He ate the apple I bade should hang;
Thus was he beguiled through gluttony.
*Sithen both him and his offspring
To pain I put them all *forthy.

(*swiftly, lively)
(*thought)
(*thought) (**all kinds of)

(*since then)
(*therefore)

Too long and late methought it good
To catch those *caitiffs out of care,
I sent my Son with full blithe mood
To earth, to salve them of their sore.
For ruth of them he rest on *rood
And bought them with his body bare.
For them he shed his heart blood,
What kindness might I do them more?

(*captives, wretches)

(*rod, cross)

*Sithen afterward he harried hell
And took out those wretches that were therein.
There fought that *free with fiends fell
For them that were sunken for sin.
*Sithen in earth then gone he dwell,

(*then)

(*noble one, i.e. Jesus)

(*then)

Example he gave them heaven to win,
In Temple himself to teach and tell
To buy them bliss that never may *blynne. (*end, diminish)

*Sithen have they found me full of mercy,
Full of grace and forgiveness,
And they as wretches utterly
Has led their life in *lithirnesse. (*Wickedness)
Ofte(n) have they grieved me grievously,
Thus have they quit me my kindness;
Therefore no longer, *sekirlye, (*Certainly, surely)
*Thole will I their wickedness. (*suffer, toil)

Men sees the world but vanity,
Yet will no man beware thereby.
*Ilke a day their mirror may they see, (*Each, every)
Yet think they not that they shall die.
All that ever I said should be
Is now fulfilled through prophecy;
Therefore now is it time to me
To make ending of man's folly.

I have *tholed mankind many a year (*suffered)
In lust and liking for to *lende, (*live)
And *unethis find I far or near (*scarcely, uneasily)
A man that will his *misse amend. (*misdeeds, sins)
In earth I see but sins *seere; (*severe, diverse)
Therefore mine angels will I send
To blow their *bemys, that all may hear (*trumpets)
(nb. "blawe their bemys may instead be "show their beams of light")
The time is come I will make end.

Angels, blowes your bemys belyve (*i.e. blow your trumpets lively)
*Ilke a creature for to call; (*each, every)
Learned and *lewde, both man and **wife (*untaught) (**woman)
Receive their doom this day they shall.
*Ilke a lad that ever had life, (*Each, every)
Be none forgotten, great ne small.
There shall they see the wounds five
That my Son suffered for them all.

And sunders them before my sight,
All same in bliss shall they not be.
Mi blessed children, as I have *hight, (*promised, named)
On my right hand I shall them see.
*Sithen shall **ilke a ***wearied ****wight (*then) (**each) (**doubting)(***soul)

On my left side for fearedness flee.
This day their dooms thus have I *dight (*done, ordered)
To *ilke a man as he hath served me. (*each, every)

I ANGELUS Loved be thou, Lord of might's most,
That angel made to (be) messenger,
Thy will shall be fulfilled in haste
That heaven and earth and hell shall hear.
Good and ill, every *ilke a **gaste, (*each) (**ghost, spirit)
Rise and fetch your flesh that was your *feere, (*companion)
For all this world is brought to waste,
Draw to your doom, it nighs near.

II ANGELUS *Ilke a creature, both old and young, (*Each, every)
*Belyve I bid you that ye rise. (*lively, quickly)
Body and soul with you ye bring
And come before the high justice,
For I am sent from heaven's king
To call you to this great *assize; (*testing, judgement)
Therefore rise up and give reckoning
How ye him served upon *sere **wise. (*diverse) (**ways)

I ANIMA BONA Loved be thou, Lord, that is so sheen [**GOOD SOUL**]
That on this manner made us to rise,
Body and soul together clean
To come before the high justice.
Of our ill deeds, Lord, thou not *mene (*mention)
That we have wrought upon *sere **wise, (*diverse) (**ways)
But grant us for thy grace *bedene (*completely)
That we may *wonne in paradise. (*live, dwell)

II ANIMA BONA Ah, loved be thou, Lord of all,
That heaven and earth and all has wrought,
That with thine angels would us call
Out of our graves hither to be brought.
Oft have we grieved thee, great and small,
Thereafter, Lord, thou *deem us not, (*judge, doom)
Nor suffer us never to fiends to be *thrall (*captured, in servitude)
That oft in earth with sin us sought.

I ANIMA MALA Alas, alas, that we were born, [**BAD SOUL**]
So may we sinful *caitiffs say. (*captives, wretches)
I hear well by this hideous horn;
It draws full near to doomsday.
Alas, we wretches that are forlorn
That never yet served God to pay,

But oft we have his flesh forsworn.
Alas, alas, and *welaway! (*expression of grief- wail-away)

What shall we wretches do for dread,
Or whether for fearedness may we flee
When we may bring forth no good deed
Before him that our judge shall be?
To ask mercy us is no need,
For well I *wot damned be we. (*know)
Alas, that we such life should lead
That *dighte us has this destiny. (*made, did)

Our wicked works they will us *wreye (*betray)
That we *weened never should have been *weten; (*believed, thought)
That we did oft full privily,
*Appertely may we see them written. (*openly, apparently)
Alas, wretches, *dere **mon we buy, (*harm) (**must, may)
Full smart with hell fire be we smitten.
Now *mon never soul nor body die, (*may, must)
But with wicked pains evermore be beaten.

Alas, for dread sore may we quake,
Our deeds be our damnation;
For our *mys moaning *mon we make, (*misdeeds, sins) (*may, must)
Help may none *excusacioune. (*excuse)
We *mon be set for our sins sake (*may, must)
Forever from our salvation
In hell to dwell with fiends *blake (*black, bleak)
Where never shall be redemption.

II ANIMA MALA As care-full *caitiffs may we rise, (*captives, wretches)
Sore may we wring our hands and weep.
For cursedness and for *covetise (*envy, greed)
Damned be we to hell full deep.
Wrought we never of God's service,
His commandments would we not keep,
But ofte(n) then made we sacrifice
To Satanas when others sleep.

Alas, now wakens all our *were. (*danger, trials)
Our wicked works may we not hide,
But on our backs us must them bear;
They will us *wreye on *ilke a side. (*betray) (**each, every)
I see foul fiends that will us *fear, (*make fearful)
And all for pomp of wicked pride.
Weep we may with many a tear.

Alas, that we this day should bide.

Before us plainly be forth brought
The deeds that us shall damn *bedene, (*entirely)
That ears has heard or heart has thought
Since any time that we may *mene (*mention, mean)
That foot has gone or hand has wrought,
That mouth hath spoken or eye has seen,
This day full *dear then be it bought. (*harmful)
Alas, unborn and we had been. (i.e. it would be better if we hadn't been born)

III ANGELUS Stands not together, part you in two,
All same shall ye not be in bliss.
Mi Father of heaven will it be so,
For many of you has wrought amiss.
The good on his right hand ye go,
The way to heaven he will you *wisse. (*wise, make known)
Ye *wearied **wights, ye flee him fro(m), (*doubting, woeful)
On his left hand as none of his.

DEUS This woeful world is brought to end, [Nb. Jesus, not the Father]
Mi Father of heaven he will it be;
Therefore to earth now will I wend,
Miself to sit in majesty.
To *deem my **dooms I will descend, (*judge, doom) (**judgements)
This body will I bear with me,
How it was *dight, man's *mys to mend. (*done) (*misdeeds, sin)
All mankind there shall it see.

Mi apostles and my darlings dear,
The dreadful doom this day is *dight. (*done)
Both heaven and earth and hell shall hear
How I shall hold that I have *hight: (*promised, named)
That ye shall sit on seats *sere (*diverse, many)
Beside myself to see that sight,
And for to *deem folk far and near (*doom, judge)
After their working, wrong or right.

I said also when I you sent
To suffer sorrow for my sake,
All those that would them right repent
Should with you wend and *wynly wake; (*graciously, happily)
And to your tales who took no (at)tent
Should fare to fire with fiends *blake. (*black, bleak)
Of mercy now may no(u)ght be *meant, (*mentioned)
But after working, wealth or *wrake. (*vengeance, punishment)

My *hetyng haly shall I fulfil;
Therefore come forth and sit me by
To hear the doom of good and ill.

(*promise) (*wholly- or holy?)

I APOSTOLUS I love thee, Lord God almighty.
Late and early, loud and still,
To do thy bidding *bayne am I;
I oblige me to do thy will
With all my might, as is worthy.

(*bound, obedient)

II APOSTOLUS Ah, might-full God, here is it seen
Thou will fulfil thy fore-word right,
And all thy saws thou will maintain.
I love thee, Lord, with all my might;
Therefore us that has earthly been,
Such dignities has *dressed and **dight.

(*prepared) (**done)

DEUS Comes forth, I shall sit you between,
And all fulfil that I have *hight.

(*named, promised)

Hic ad sedem iudicii cum cantu angelorum.

[Here they sit in judgement and the angels sing.]

I DIABOLUS Fellows, array us for to fight,
And go we fast our *fee to **fang.
The dreadful doom this day is *dight;
I dread me that we dwell full long.

(*pay, reward) (**grasp, seize)
(*done)

II DIABOLUS We shall be seen ever in their sight
And warily wait, else work we wrong,
For if the *doomsman do us right
Full great party with us shall *gang.

(*judge)
(*go, journey)

III DIABOLUS He shall do right to foe and friend,
For now shall all the *soth be sought.
All *weried **wights with us shall wend
To pain endless they shall be brought.

(*truth)
(*doubting, harmful) (**souls)

[FOUR LINES MISSING]

DEUS *Ilke a creature, take intent
What *bodword I to you bring:
This woeful world away is went,
And I am come as crowned king.
Mi Father of heaven, he has me sent

(*Each, every)
(*bid-word, prophecy)

To *deem your deeds and make ending. (*doom, judge)
 Come is the day of judgement,
 Of sorrow may *ilke a sinful sing. (*Each, every)

The day is come of *caittifness, (*captivity, wretchedness)
 All them to *care that are unclean, (*sorrow)
 The day of *bale and bitterness. (*torment, agony)
 Full long abiding has it been,
 The day of dread to more and less,
 Of ire, of trembling, and of *tene, (*pain)
 That *ilke a **wight that ***weried is (*every) (**soul) (**wearied, doubtful)
 May say, "Alas, this day is seen."

Here may ye see my wounds wide
 The which I *tholed for your misdeed (*suffered, endured, toiled)
 Through heart and head, foot, hand, and *hide (*skin)
 Not for my guilt but for your need.
 Behold both body, back, and side
 How dear I bought your brotherhood.
 These bitter pains I would abide
 To buy you bliss thus would I bleed.

Mi body was scourged without skill,
 As thief full *thraly was I threat, (*fiercely, cruelly)
 On cross they hanged me on a hill,
 Bloody and *bloo, as I was beat, (*bruised, swollen)
 With crown of thorn, thrust full ill.
 This spear unto my side was set,
 Mine heart blood spared not they for to spill,
 Man, for thy love would I not *let. (*stop)

The Jews spit on me *spitously; (*piteously, spitefully)
 They spared me no more than a thief.
 When they me struck I stood full stilly,
 Against them did I nothing grieve.
 Behold, mankind, this *ilke is I (*each, everything)
 That for thee suffered *swilke mischief; (*such)
 Thus was I *dight for thy folly. (*done)
 Man, look, thy life was to me full *leffe. (*beloved)

Thus was I *dight thy sorrow to slake, (*done)
 Man, thus behoved thee to *borrowed be. (*redeemed, ransomed)
 In all my woe took I no *wrake, (*Anger, vengeance)
 Mi will it was for the love of thee.
 Man, sore ought thee for to quake,
 This dreadful day, this sight to see.

All this I suffered for thy sake.
Say, man, what suffered thou for me?

Mi blisshed children on my right hand,
Your doom this day ye there not dread,
For all your comfort is command(ed),
Your life in liking shall ye lead.

Come to the kingdom *ay-lastand
That you is *dight for your good deed.
Full blithe may ye be where ye stand,
For mickle in heaven shall be your *mede.

(*everlasting)
(*done, prepared)
(*reward)

When I was hungry ye me fed,
To slake my thirst your heart was free,
When I was clotheless ye me clad;
Ye would no sorrow upon me see.
In hard press when I was *stead,
Of my pains ye had pity,
Full sick when I was brought in bed
Kindly ye come to comfort me.

(*placed)

When I was ill and weariest
Ye harboured me full heartfully,
Full glad then were ye of your guest
And *pleyned my poverty piteously.
*Belyve ye brought me of the best
And made my bed full easily.
Therefore in heaven shall be your rest,
In joy and bliss to be me by.

(*complained, lamented)
(*quickly, lively)

I ANIMA BONA When had we, Lord, that all has wrought,
Meat and drink thee with to feed,
Since we in earth had never nought
But through the grace of thy godhead?

II ANIMA BONA When was that we thee clothes brought
Or visite(d) thee in any need?
Or in thy sickness we thee sought,
Lord, when did we thee this deed?

DEUS Mi blisshed children, I shall you say
What time this deed was to me done:
When any that need had, night or day,
Asked you help and had it soon.
Your free hearts said them never nay,
Early nor late, midday nor noon,

But as ofte(n) *sithis as they would pray,
Them *thurte but bide and have their boon.

(*times)
(*ought? Asked?)

Ye cursed *caitiffs of Cain's kin
That never me comfort in my care,
I and ye forever will *twin,
In dole to dwell forevermore.
Your bitter *bales shall never *blynne
That ye shall have when ye come there.
Thus have ye (de)served for your sin,
For *derffe deeds ye have done ere.

(*captives)
(*split, separate)

(*torments) (**end, diminish)

(*wicked, harmful)

When I had *mister of meat and drink,
*Caitiffs, ye *cacched me from your gate;
When ye were set as sirs on *benke
I stood thereout, weary and wet;
Was none of you would on me think,
Pity to have of my poor state.
Therefore to hell I shall you sink,
Well are ye worthy to go that *gate.

(*missed, lack)
(*captives, wretches) (**cast, banished)
(*magistrate's bench)

(*hellmouth- or gait, journey)

When I was sick and sorriest
Ye visit me not, for I was poor;
In prison fast when I was *feste
Was none of you looked how I *fore.
When I *wist never where for to rest,
With *dints ye drove me from your door,
But ever to pride then were ye pressed;
Mi flesh, my blood oft ye forswore.

(*locked, bound)
(*fared, did)
(*knew)
(*blows, hits)

Clothes-less when I was oft and cold,
At need of you, *yede I full naked,
House nor harbour, help nor hold
Had I none of you, though I quaked.
Mi mischief saw ye manifold,
Was none of you my sorrow slaked,
But ever forsook me, young and old.
Therefore shall ye now be forsaked.

(*walked)

I ANIMA MALA When had thou, Lord that all thing has,
Hunger or thirst since thou God is?
When was thou in prison was,
When was thou naked or harbourless?

II ANIMA MALA When was it we saw thee sick, alas;
When *kid we thee this unkindness?

(*declared, spoke)

Weary or wet to let thee pass,
When did we thee this wickedness?

DEUS *Caistiffis, as oft as it betide
That needful aught asked in my name,
Ye heard them not, your ears ye hid:
Your help to them was not at home.
To me was that unkindness *kyd;
Therefore ye bear this bitter blame.
To least or most when ye it did,
To me ye did the self and the same.

(*captives, wretches)

(*declared, made known)

Mi chosen children, come unto me,
With me to *wonne now shall ye wend
There joy and bliss shall ever be.
Your life in liking shall ye *lend.
Ye cursed *caitiffs, from me ye flee
In hell to dwell without end;
There ye shall never but sorrow see
And sit by Satanus the fiend.

(*dwell, wend)

(*live)

(*captives, wretches)

Now is fulfilled all my fore-thought,
For ended is all earthly thing;
All worldly *wights that I have wrought
After their works have now *wonnyng.
They that would sin and ceased not
Of sorrows *sere now shall they sing,
And they that mended them whilst they might
Shall *belde and bide in my blissing.

(*souls, people)

(*living, dwelling place)

(*sore, many)

(*shelter)

Et sic facit finem cum melodia

[And then at the end they make music]

angelorum transiens a loco ad locum.

[as the angels move from place to place]