

PLAY FOUR- THE PROHIBITION OF THE TREE OF GOOD AND ILL

(The Fullers)

DEUS

Adam and Eve, this is the place
That I have grant you of my grace

To have your *wonyng in. (*dwelling, living)

Herbs, spice, fruit on tree,

Beasts, fowls, all that ye see

Shall bow to you, more and *min. (*less)

This place *hight paradise; (*is called)

Here shall your joys begin,

And if that ye be wise

From this there ye never *twin. (*i.e. be parted into two)

All your will here shall ye have,

Liking for to eat or save

Fish, fowl, or *fee, (*livestock)

And for to take at your own will

All other creatures also theretill.

Your subjects shall they be.

Adam, of more and less

Lordship in earth here grant I thee;

This place that worthy is,

Keep it in honesty.

Look that ye *yem it utterly, (*tend, care for)

All other creatures shall multiply,

*Ilke one in tender hower. (*Each) (**over? Hour?)

Look that ye both save and set

Herbs and trees, for nothing let,
So that ye may *endower (*endow)
To sustain beast and man
And fowl of *ilke stature. (*each)
Dwell here if that ye can:
This shall be your endower. (*endowment, blessing/gift)

ADAM

O Lord, loved be thy name,
For now is this a joyful home
That thou has brought us to:
Full of mirth and solace *faughe, (*fair? Happy?)
Herbs and trees, fruit on high
With spices many on *hoo. (*hill)
Lo, Eve, now are we brought
Both unto rest and *rowe, (*peace)
We need to take no thought,
But look *ay well to do. (*ever)

EVE

Loving be *ay to such a Lord (*ever)
To us has given so great reward
To govern both great and small,
And made us after his own *rede (*advice, plan)
[LINE MISSING]
Amongst these mirths all.
Here is a joyful sight
Where that we *wonn in shall. (*dwell, live)
We love thee, most of might,
Great God, that we on call.

DEUS

Love my name with good intent
And harken to my commandment,
And do my bidding *buxomly. (*obediently)
Of all the fruit in paradise
Take ye thereof of your best *wise (*i.e. wisdom)
And make you right merry.
The tree of good and ill,
What time you eats of this
Thou speeds thyself to *spill (*kill, destroy)
And be brought out of bliss.

All things is made, man, for thy *prowe; (*fortune)
All creatures shall to thee bow
That here is made earthly.
In earth I make thee lord of all,
And beast unto thee shall be thrall.
Thy kind shall multiply;
Therefore this tree alone,
Adam, this out take I,
The fruit of it *negh none, (*come near)
For *an ye do, then shall ye die. (*if)

ADAM

Alas, Lorde, that we should do so ill,
Thy blessed bidding we shall fulfil
Both in thought and deed.
We shall no *negh this tree nor the bough (*come near)
Nor yet the fruit that thereon groweth,

Therewith our flesh to feed.

EVE

We shall do thy bidding.

We have none other need;

This fruit full still shall hang,

Lord, that thou has forbid.

DEUS

Look that ye do as ye have said.

Of all that there is hold you a-paid,

For here is wealth at will.

This tree that bears the fruit of life,

Look neither thou nor Eve thy wife

Lay ye no hands theretil.

For why it is knowing

Both of good and ill,

This fruit *but ye let hang

(*unless)

Ye speed yourself to *spill.

(*kill, destroy)

*Forthy this tree that I out take,

(*therefore)

Now keep it *grathly for my sake

(*carefully)

That nothing nigh it near.

All other at your will shall be;

I out take nothing but this tree

To feed you with in *fere.

(*together)

Here shall ye lead your life

With dainties that is dear.

Adam and Eve thy wife,

My blessing have ye here.