

PLAY TWO- THE CREATION THROUGH FIFTH DAY

(The Plasterers)

DEUS

In altissimis habito,

In the highest heaven my home have I,

Eterne mentis et ego,

Without end *ay-lastingly.

** In the highest I dwell*

**Eternal in mind and self*

(*ever)

Since I have wrought there worlds wide,

Heaven and air and earth also,

My high Godhead I will not hide

All if some fools be fallen me fro(m).

When they assent with sin of pride

Up for to *trine my throne unto,

(*lay hands on/approach)

In heaven they might no longer bide

But *wightly went to **wone in woe;

(*quickly, immediately) (**live, dwell)

And since they wrong have wrought,

My like is to let them go

To suffer sorrow unsought

Since they have served so.

Their *mis may never be amended

(*misery)

Since they assent me to forsake,

For all their force, none shall them (de)fend

For to be fiends foul and black.

And those that likes with me to *lend

(*live)

And truly (at)tent to me will take

Shall wone in wealth without end

(*dwell)

And always *winly with me wake.

(*profitably)

They shall have for their *sele (*salary)
Solace that never shall slake.
This work methinks full well,
And more now will I make.

Since that this world is ordained even,
Forth will I publish my power.

Not by my strength but by my *stevyn (*voice, command)
A firmament I bid appear.

Among the waters, light so *levyn, (*like lightning)
Their courses loyally for to *lere, (*learn, discover)

And that same shall be named heaven
With planets and with clouds clear.

The water I will be set

To flow both far and near,

And then the firmament

In midst to set them *sere. (*separate, severed)

The firmament shall not move,

But be a *mene, thus will I **mene, (*intermediate space) (**order)

Over all the world to hold and *hove, (*float)

And be those two waters between.

Under the heaven, and also above

The waters *serly shall be seen, (*separately)

And so I will my *post prove (*power)

By creatures of kinds clean.

This work is to my pay

Right well, without *wyne. (*doubt)

Thus cease the second day

Of my doings *bydene. (*now)

More subtle works essay I shall

For to be set in service *sere: (*separately)

All the waters great and small

That under heaven are ordained here,

Goes together and hold you all

And be a flood fastened in *fere (*fellowship)

So that the earth, both down and dale,

In dryness plainly may appear.

The dryness "land" shall be

Named, both far and near,

And then I name the "sea"

Gathering of waters clear.

The earth shall foster and forth bring

*Buxsumly, as I will bid, (*Obediently)

Herbs and also other thing

Well for to wax and worth to *weed. (*wear, e.g. widow's weeds)

Trees also thereon shall spring

With branches and with boughs on broad,

With flowers fair on height to hang

And fruit also to fill and feed.

And then I will that they

Of themself have the seed

And matter that they may

Be lasting forth in *lede. (*place, i.e. where they are planted)

And all their matters is in mind

For to be made of *mickle might, (*much, great)

And to be cast in diverse kind

So for to bear *sere **burguns bright. (*different, separate) (**blossoms)
And when their fruits is fully *found (*i.e. ripe)
And fairest seeming unto sight,
Then the weather's wet and wind
Away I will it wend full *wyght, (*quickly)
And of their seed full soon
New roots shall rise upright.
The third day thus is done:
Their deeds are duly *dight. (*named)

Now since the earth thus ordained is,
Measured and made by mine assent,
*Grathely for to grow with grass (*Ready)
And weeds that soon away be went,
Of my goodness now will I *ges (*intend- but possibly gesse- the
straps to hold a hunting bird)
So that my works no harms *hent, (*seize, catch hold of)
Two lights, one more and one less,
To be fast in the firmament:
The *more light to day (*bigger)
Fully *soothly shall be sent; (*truly)
The less light always
To the night shall take intent.

Their figures fair that forth are found
Thus on *sere sides serve they shall: (*separate)
The more light shall be named the sun,
Dimness to waste by down and by dale.
Herbs and trees that are begun:
All shall he govern, great and small.
With cold if they be closed or bound,

Through heat of the sun they shall be *hale. (*healthy)
 As they have honours
 In all kind (of) wealth to wale, (*choose, i.e. the best)
 So shall my creatures
 Ever bide without *bale. (*torment)

The sun and the moon in fair manner
 Now *grathly go in your *degree (*readily) (**manner, order)
 As ye have *ta'en your courses clear (*taken)
 To serve forth look ye be free,
 For ye shall set the seasons *sere (*separate)
 Kindly to know in *ilke country, (*each, every)
 Day from day, and year from year,
 By certain signs *soothly to see. (*truly)

The heaven shall be overheld
 With stars to stand plenty
 The fourth day is fulfilled:
 This work well likes me.

Now since their works are wrought with *wyne, (*joy)
 And founded forth by *firth and fell, (*forest)
 The sea now will I set within
 Whales *whikly for to dwell, (*quickly?)
 And other fish to flit with fin,
 Some with scale and some with shell,
 Of diverse matters more and *min, (*less)
 In *sere manners to make and *mell. (*separate, several) (*mingle)
 Some shall be meek and mild
 And some both fierce and fell:
 This world thus will I *eke (*increase, i.e. eke out)

Since I am wit of well.

(*i.e. wise)

Also up in the air on height

I bid now that there be ordained

For to be fouls fair and bright,

Duly in their degree dwelling,

With feathers fair to thrust their flight

For stede to stede where they will stand,

(*place, i.e. From place to place)

And also lightly for to (a)light

Whereso them likes in *ilke a land.

(*each)

Then fish and fowls *sere

(*several, separate)

*Kindly I you command

(*i.e. according to your kind/nature)

To *meng in your manner

(*mingle)

Both by sea and sand.

This matters more yet will I *mend

(*improve)

So for to fulfil my forethought

With diverse beasts in land to *lend,

(*live)

To breed and be with *bale forth brought.

(*pain, torment- or guardianship?)

And with beasts I will be blend

Serpents to be seen unsought

And worms upon their wombs shall wend

To *wone in earth and worth to nought.

(*dwell)

And so it shall be kened

How all that *eme is ought,

(*care)

Beginning, midst, and end

I with my word has wrought.

For as I bid must all thing be

And duly done as I will dress,

Now beasts are set in *sere degree
On *mold to move, both more and less.
Then fowls in air and fish in sea
And beasts on earth of bone and flesh,
I bid ye wax forth fair plenty
And *grathly grows, as I you gesse.
So multiply ye shall
*Ay forth in fair *process:
My blessing have ye all.
The fifth day ended is.

(*separate, different)

(*earth)

(*readily)

(**intend)

(*Ever)

(*procession)