

YORK MYSTERIES @ HOME

You and your household are invited to create your own performance of the York Mystery Plays. In a time when it is difficult or even impossible to gather to create plays in person, we can instead find our own ways of performing in our own homes.

The following is an abridged adaptation of one of the Plays. You may wish to use this, or create your own.

PLAY ONE- CREATION and FALL OF ANGELS

GOD Ego sum Alpha et Omega, vita, via,
[*I am A and Z, life, the way*]
Veritas Primus et novissimus.
[*First and only truth*]

I am maker unmade- all might is in me;
I am foremost and first. As I bid- it shall be.
And all shall be made even from nought.

Bound in my blessing, I bid here be
A bliss all-blinding, all-building about me,
Into which bliss I bid shall be here
Nine orders of angels full clear.

Here underneath me now a nexus I name.
Now all be at once
Earth holy, and Hell, this highest be Heaven,
And all shall have haven in this home.
Of all the mights I have made, most next after me
I make thee as master and mirror of my might;
I name thee Lucifer, bearer of light.

LUCIFER All the mirth that is made is marked in me!
The beams of my brightness are burning so bright,
And I so shapely in sight myself now I see,
For like a lord I love to live in this light.

ANGEL 1 With all the wit that we wield we worship thy will,
Lord, to be fed with the food of thy fair face.

In this life that is love ever-lasting,
Thy food, lord, is ever deliciously given,
And who that food might taste-
To see thy fair face- is not fasting.

LUCIFER Oh, surely, what! I am worthily wrought for worship and bliss
For in a glorious glee my glittering it gleams;
Above it shall I be burning,
On height in the highest of heaven.
I shall be like Him that is highest on height-

Oh! God! All goes down!
Help, fellows! In faith I am falling.

Now am I loathly, alas, that before was bright.
My brightness is beaten and burned-
Out on you, losers, you smothered me in smoke.

GOD Those fools for their vanities and fantasies fell,
Fallen into filth that evermore shall fade them,
And never shall have grace to guard them.

To bring more forth of my work, work now I will.
Humankind of earth will I make.
But first will I form for them before
All things that shall them restore,
To which that their talent will take.
And all this work likes me right well,
And boldly I give it my blessing.

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York Mysteries@Home is part of an ongoing investigation into community theatre in York, as part of a PhD by Creative Practice in Theatre (Directing) at the University of York.

For further details on the researcher/director, Tom Straszewski, visit <https://www.york.ac.uk/tfti/study/postgraduate/profiles/tomstraszewski/>

*Supervised by Dr Ollie Jones (TFTI) and Dr Kate Giles (Archaeology).
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