**iv verso**

liber mo*n*t*is* gr*aci*e • this boke is of mou*n*tegrace

**f. 1r**

**Hh**Ere begynnyth a schort tretys and a comfortabyl • for

synful wrecchys • wher in þei may haue gret solas

and co*m*fort to hem • and vndyrstondyn þ*e* hy • & vnspe//

cabyl m*er*cy of ower souereyn Sauyowr cryst Ih*es*u

whos name be worschepd and m*a*gnyfyed w*y*t*h* owten ende •• þ*at*

now in ower days to vs vnworthy deyneth to ex*er*cysen

hys nobeley & hys goodnesse /• Alle þ*e* werkys of ower Sa//

viowr ben for ower exampyl & instruccyon [And what g*ra*ce

þ*at* he werkyth in any creatur •’ is ower p*ro*fyth yf lak of

charyte be not ower hynderawnce • [And þ*er*for be þ*e* leue

of ower m*er*cyful lord cryst Ih*es*u to þ*e* magnyfying of hys

holy name Ih*esu* c*rist* • þ*i*s lytyl tretys • schal tretyn su*m*deel in//

parcel of hys wonderful werkys •• how m*er*cyfully how be//

ny*n*gly & how charytefully • he meued & stered a synful

caytyf vn to hys love • whech synful caytyf many ȝer*ys*

was in wyl and in p*ur*pose *•* thorw stery*n*g of þ*e* holy gost • to

folwyn ^oure savyo*ur* • makyng gret behestys of fastyngy*s* • wyth

many oþ*er* dedys of penawns •• And eu*yr* sche was turned

a ȝen a bak in tym of temptacyon • lech vn to þe reed//

spyr • whech boweth w*yth* eu*er*ywynd & neu*yr* is stable • les

þan no wynd bloweth •• vn to þ*e* tymeþ*a*tower m*erc*yfulle

lord • cryst Ih*es*u • hauyng pety • & co*m*passion of hys hand//

werke & hys creatur • t*ur*nyd helth in to sekenesse • p*ro*sp*er*y//

te in to adu*er*syte • worshep in to repref & love in to

hatered •/ thus alle þ*i*s thyng*ys* t*ur*nyng vp so down •/ þ*i*s

creatur whych many ȝerys had gon wil & eu*er* ben

vnstable • was p*er*fythly drawen & steryd to entren

þe wey of hy • p*er*feccyon •/ whechp*ar*fyth wey • cryst ower

Savyowr in hys p*ro*pyr p*er*soone examplyd • sadly • he//

trad it • & dewly he went it • be forn • Than þ*i*s crea

tur of whom thys tretys • thorw þe m*er*cy of Ih*es*u schal

schewen in p*ar*tyþe leuyng •/ towched be þehand of owy*r* //

**f. 1v**

lord wyth grett bodyly sekenesse • wher thorw sche lost reson

& her wyttes a long tym •• tyl ower lord be grace restoryd

her a geyn • as it schal mor openly be schewed aftyrward •

Her werdly good*ys* whech wer plentyuows & abundawnt

at þ*at* day •’• in lytyl whyle after wer ful bareyn & bare ••

/þa*n* was pompe & pryde cast down & leyd on syde •/ þ*e*i//

þ*at* be forn had worshepd her • sythen ful scharply rep*re*uyd

her •/ her kynred & þei that had ben frend*ys* • wer now hyr

most enmys •7/ than sche *con*syderyng þis wond*ir*ful chawn//

gyng • Sekyng soco*wr* vnd*ir* þeweng*ys* of hyr gostly modyr

holy cherch •• went & obeyd hyr to hyr gostly fadyr •• Accu//

syng hyr self of her mysded*ys* • & sythen ded gret bodyly

penawns ••/ and in schort tyme ower m*er*ciful lord vy//

sytyd þ*i*s creatur w*yth* plentyuows teerys of *con*t*ri*cyon

day be day •• in so mech • þ*at* su*m* men seyden sche mygth

wepen whan sche wold & slawndered þ*e* werk of god •

Sche was so vsyd to be slawndred & rep*re*ued •• to be che//

den & rebuked of þ*e* world • for g*ra*ce& v*er*tu • w*yth* whech

sche was indued • thorw þ*e* strength of þ*e* holy gost •’•/

/þ*at* it was to her in a man*er* of solas & comfort • wha*n*

sche sufferyd any dysese for þe lofe of god • & for þe

grace þ*at* god wrowht in hyr •• ffor eu*yr* þemor slawnder

& repref þ*at* sche sufferyd •’• þe mor sche incresyd in g*ra*ce

& in deuocyon of holy medytacyon • of hy • co*n*templa//

cyon & of wonderful spechys • & dalyawns • whech o*wr* •

lord spak and dalyid to hyr sowle •/ techyng hyr how

sche schuld be despysed for hys lofe •7/ how sche schuld

han pacyens • settyng all hyr trost • alle hyr lofe •• and

alle hyr affeccyon in hym only • [Sche knew & vndyr//

stod many secret & p*re*uythyngys • whech schuld beffalle*n*

aft*i*rward be inspiracyon of þe holy gost •/ And often

tymes • whel sche was kept w*yth* swech holy spechys &//

**f. 2r**

dalyawns •/ sche schuld so wepyn & sobbyn þ*at* many men wer

gretly a wondyr •/ for þei wysten ful lytyl how homly ower

lord was in hyr sowle •/ ne hyr self cowd neu*y*r telle þe//

grace þ*at* sche felt it was so heuenly • So hy a bouen hyr

reson & hyr bodyly wytt*ys •/* And hyr body so febyl in tym

of þ*e* p*re*sens of grace  *•* þat sche myth neu*yr* exp*re*ssyn it •

wyth her word • lych as sche felt it in hyr sowle •/ Tha*n*

had þ*i*s creatur mech drede for illusyons & deceytys

of hyr gostly enmys  *•*[þan went sche be þ*e* byddyng

of þe holy gost  *•* to many worshepful clerkys •*•* bothe//

Archebysshopys & Bysshoppys  *•* docto*wr*s of dyuynyte

& Bachelers also *•* Sche spak also w*yth* many Ankrys

and schewed hem hyr man*er* of leuyng  *•* & swech grace

as þe holy gost of hys goodnesse wrowt in hyr mende

and in hyr sowle as her wytt wold s*er*uen hyr to ex//

p*re*ssyn it *•*/ And þei alle þ*at* sche schewed hyr secret*ys* vn to

seyd sche was mech bownde to louen ower lord  *•* for þ*e*

grace þ*at* he schewyd vn to hyr *•*/ And cownseld hyr to

folwyn hyr meuyngg*ys* & hyr steringg*ys*  *•* & trustly  *•* be//

levyn it weren of þe holy gost & of noon euyl spy//

ryt *•* Su*m*me of these worthy & worshepful clerkys

tokyn it in p*er*el of her sowle and as þei wold an//

swer to god  *•* þ*at* þ*i*s creatur was inspyred w*yth* þ*e* holy

gost *•* And bodyn hyr þ*at* sche schuld don he*m* wryten

& makyn a Booke  *•* of hyr felyng*ys* & hir reuelacyons

[Su*m* p*ro*feryd hir to wrytyn hyr felyng*ys* w*yth* her owe*n*

handys  *•* & sche wold not co*n*sentyn in no wey *•*’[for

sche was comawndyd in hir sowle þ*at* sche schuld

not wrytyn so soone  *•* & so it was xx • ȝer & mor

fro þ*at* tym þ*is* creatur had fyrst felyng*ys* & reuela//

cyons er þa*n* sche dede any wryten /*•* Aftyrward//

whan it plesyd ower lord he comawnded hyr & //

**f. 2v**

chargyd hir þ*at* sche xuld don wryten hyr felyng*ys* & reuela//

cyons & þe forme of her leuyng • þ*at* hys goodnesse myth be

knowyn to alle þe world *•* Than had þe creatur no wryt*er*

þ*at* wold fulfyllyn hyr desyr •ne ȝeue credens to hir feling*ys •*

/vn to þe tym þ*at* a man dwellyng in dewchlond  *•* whech

was an englyschma*n* in hys byrth & sythen weddyd in

dewchland •& had þer boþe a wyf & a chyld • hauyng good

knowlach of þ*i*s creatur & of hir desyr •• meued I trost  *•*

thorw þe holy gost •/ ca*m* in to yngland w*yth* hys wyfe &

hys good*ys*  *•* & dwellyd w*yth* þ*e* forseyd creatur  *•* tyl he had

wretyn as mech as sche wold tellyn hym for þ*e* tym

þ*at* þei wer to gydder •/ and sythen he deyd ••7 Than was

þer a p*re*st whech þ*i*s creatur had gret affeccyon to • &

so sche comownd w*yth* hym of þ*i*s mat*er* & browt hym þe

Boke to redyn •/ þe booke was so euel wretyn þ*at* he//

cowd lytyl skyll þ*er* on *•* for it was neiþ*yr* good englysch

ne dewch•/ ne þe lett*yr* was not schapyn ne formyd

as oþ*er* letters ben •/ þ*er*for þe p*re*st leued fully þ*er* schuld

neu*yr* man redyn it *•* but it wer special grace •/ neu*yr* þ*e*

lesse he behyte hir þ*at* if he cowd redyn it he wolde

copyn it owt & wrytyn it bet*yr* w*yth* good wylle •/ than was

þ*er* so euel spekyng of þ*i*s creatur & of hir wepyng *•* þ*at* þ*e*

prest durst not for cowardyse speke w*yth* her • but sel//

dom •/ ne not wold wryten as he had be hestyd vn to

þe forseyd creatur & so he voyded & deferryd þe wryty*n*g

of þ*i*s boke wel on to a iiii ȝer or ellys mor •/ not w*yth//*

standyng þe creatur cryed often on hym þ*er*for • At þ*e*

last he seyd on to hir þ*at* he cowd not redyn it wher for

he wold not do it  *•* he wold not he seyd put hym in

p*er*el þ*er*of *•* þan he cownseld hir to gon to a good man

whech had ben mech co*n*u*er*sawnt w*yth* hym þ*at* wrot fyrst

þe booke *•* supposyng þ*at* he schuld cun best rede þ*e* booke

for he had sum tym red letters of þ*e* oþ*er* ma*n*nys wryty*n*g //

**f. 3r**

sent fro be ȝonden þe see whyl he was in dewchland • And so sche

went to þat man p*re*yng hym to wrytyn þ*i*s booke & neu*yr* to

be wreyn it as long as sche leued *•* grawntyng hym a grett

su*m*meof good for hys labo*wr* • And þ*i*s good man wrot a bowt

a leef / & ȝet it was lytyl to þe p*ur*pose / for he cowd not wel

fare þ*er*wyth *•*/þe boke was so euel sett & so vnresonably wr*e*//

tyn •• Than þ*e* p*re*stwas vexyd in his co*n*sciens for he had be//

hestyd hyr to wrytyn þ*i*s boke *•* ȝyf he mygth com to þe

redyng þ*er*of *•*•& dede not hys part as wel as he mygth a//

do •• And p*re*yd þ*i*s creatur to getyn a geyn þe booke yf sche

myth goodly *•*/þan sche gat a geyn þe book & browt it to

þe p*re*ste w*yth* rygth glad cher *•*•p*re*yng hy*m* to do hys good wyl •

And sche schuld p*re*yto god for hym & p*ur*chasyn hym g*ra*ce

to reden it & wrytyn it also *•*/þe p*re*ste trustyng in hire

p*ra*yers be gan to redyn þ*i*s booke & it was mych mor esy

as hym thowt þa*n* it was be forn tym & so he red it ou*yr*

be forn þ*i*s creatur eu*er*y word *•* sche su*m* tym helpyng where

ony difficulte was Thys boke is not wretyn in ordyr

eu*er*y thyng aft*yr* oþ*er* as it wer don *•*/but lych as þe mater

ca*m* to þe creatur in mend whan it schuld be wretyn *•*/for

it was so long er it was wretyn þ*at* sche had for getyn þe

tyme & þe ordyr whan thyng*ys* befellyn •/ And þ*er*for sche //

dede no þing wryten but þ*at* sche knew rygth wel for v*er*y

trewth •• [Whan þe p*re*stbegan fyrst to wryten on þ*i*s booke

hys eyn myssyd so þ*at* he mygth not se to make hys lett*yr* •

ne mygth not se to mend hys penne •• Alle oþ*er* thyng he //

mygth se wel a now • he sett a peyr of sp*ec*tacles on hys nose

& þan wast wel wers þa*n* it was be for •• he co*m*pleyned to þ*e*

creatur • of hys dysese •/ Sche seyd hys enmy had envye at

hys good dede & wold lett hym yf he mygth •• & bad hy*m* do as

wel as god wold ȝeue hy*m* g*ra*ce & not levyn •• Wha*n* he ca*m* a

geyn to hys booke •• he myth se as wel hy*m* thowt as eu*yr* he

dede be for be day lyth & be ca*n*del lygth boþ*e* • & for þ*i*s cause wha*n*

he had wrety*n* a • qwayr he addyd a leef þ*er*to • And þa*n* wrot he

þis p*ro*ym to exp*re*ssyn mor openly • þa*n* doth þ*e* next folwyng //

which was wretyn er þa*n* þ*i*s • Anno d*omi*ni M*lo* • CCCC • xxxvi .;. : •~

**f. 3v**

**A** Schort tretys of a creature sett in grett pompe &

p*ri*de of þe world whech sythen was drawyn to ower

lord be gret pou*er*te sekenes schamis & gret rep*re*uys

in many diuers co*n*tres & places of whech t*ri*bulacyons su*m*

schal ben schewed aft*yr* not in ordyr as it fellyn • but as

þecreatur cowd han mend of hem wha*n* it wer wretyn

ffor it was xx • ȝer & mor fro tym þ*i*s creatur had for//

sake þeworld • and besyly clef on to ower lord or þ*i*s boke

was wretyn •/ not wythstondy*n*g þ*i*s creatur had greet

cownsel for to don wryten hir t*ri*bulacyons & hir felin//

g*ys* • And a whyte frer p*ro*feryd hir to wryte*n* frely yf sche

wold • And sche was warnyd in hyr spyrit þ*at* sche xuld

not wryte so sone • And many ȝerys aft*yr* sche was bodyn

in hyr spyrit for to wrytyn • And þa*n* ȝet it was wrety*n*

fyrst be a ma*n* whech cowd neiþ*yr* wel wryten englysch

ne duch • so it was vn able for to be red but only be

specyal grace • for þ*er* was so mech obloquie & slawndyr

of þ*i*s creatur • þ*at* þ*er* wold fewe men beleue þ*i*s creatur

And so at þ*e* last a p*re*ste was sor mevyd for to wrytin

þ*i*s tretys & he cowd not wel redyn it of a iiii • ȝere

to gedyr & sythen be þe req*ue*st of þ*i*s creatur & co*m*pel//

lyng of hys owyn co*n*sciens he asayd a gayn for to

rede it & it was mech mor esy • þa*n* it was a for tyme

And so he gan to wryten in þe ȝer of o*wr* lord a • M •

CCCC • xxxvi • on þe day next aft*yr* [Mary Maudelyn

aft*yr* þe informacyon of þ*i*s creatur .;. [[ca*pitulum* p*rimum*•

**W**han þis creatur was xx ȝer of age or su*m*dele //

mor Sche was maryed to a worschepful B*ur*geys

and was w*yth* chylde w*yth* in schort tyme as kynde

wolde • And aft*yr* þat sche had co*n*ceyued sche was labowrd

with grett accessys tyl þe chyld was born & þan what

for labo*wr* sche had in chyldyng & for sekenesse goyng be//

forn • sche dysp*er*ed of hyr lyfe • weny*n*g sche mygth not

leuyn • And þan sche sent for hyr gostly fadyr •• for sche //

**f. 4r**

had a thyng in conscyens whech sche had neu*yr* schewyd be

forn þ*at* tyme in alle hyr lyfe •/ for sche was eu*yr* lettyd be

hyr enmy þ*e* deuel • eu*yr* mor seyng to hyr whyl sche was

in good heele •/ hir nedyd no co*n*fessyon • but don penawns

be hir self a loone & all schuld be for ȝouyn • for god is

m*er*cyful i now •• And þ*er* forþ*i*s creatur oftyn tymes dede

greet penawns in fastyng bred & watyr & oþ*er* ded*ys* of al//

mes •• w*yth* devowt p*re*yers •• saf sche wold not schewyn it in

co*n*fession •• And whan sche was any tym seke or dysesyd

þ*e* deuyl seyd in her mende þ*at* sche schuld be dampnyd • for

sche was not schreuyn of þ*at* defawt •• Wherfor aft*yr* þ*at* hir

chyld was born • sche not trostyng hir lyfe • sent for hir

gostly fadyr as I • seyd be forn in ful wyl to be schreuyn

of alle hir lyfe tym as ner as sche cowde •• & whan

sche cam to þe poynt for to seyn þ*at* þing whech sche

had so long conselyd • hir co*n*fesso*wr* was a lytyl to hastye •

& he gan scharply to vndyrnemyn hir er þa*n* sche had ful//

ly seyd hir entent • & so sche wold no mor seyn • for nowt

he mygth do •• And a noon for dreed ache had of da*m*pna//

cyon on þe to syde • & hys scharp rep*re*uyng on þ*at* oþ*er* side ••

/þ*i*s creatur went owt of hir mende & was wondyrlye

vexid & labowryd w*yth* spyrit*ys* half ȝer • viii wekys & odde

days • And in þ*i*s tyme sche sey as hir thowt deuelys opyn

her mowthys al inflaumyd w*yth* brennyg lowys of fyr • as

þei schuld a swalwyd hyr in • Sum tyme rampyng at hyr

su*m* tyme thretyng her su*m* tym pullyng hyr & haly*n*g hir

boþ*e* nygth & day • duryng þe forseyd tyme •• And also þ*e* deue//

lys cryed up on hir w*yth* greet thretyng*ys* & bodyn hir sche

schuld forsake hir crystend*a*m hir feyth •• and denyin hir

god • hys modyr • & alle þe seynt*ys* in heuyn • hyr goode w*er*//

kys & alle good v*er*tues •• hir fadyr • hyr modyr • & alle hire

frendys • And so sche dede • Sche slawndred hir husbond

hir frendys and her owyn self • sche spak many a r*e*p*re*uows //

**f. 4v**

worde and many a schrewyd worde sche knew no v*er*tu ne goodnesse

sche desyryd all wykkydnesse lych as þ*e* spyrytys temptyd hir • to

sey & do so sche seyd & dede • Sche wold a fordon hir self many

a tym at her steryng*ys* & a ben damnyd w*yth* hem in helle • & in

to wytnesse þ*er* of• sche bot hir owen hand so violently •• þ*at* it

was seen al hir lyfe aft*yr* •/ And also sche roof hir skyn on hir

body a ȝen hir hert w*yth* hir nayles spetowsly • for sche had noo*n*

oþ*er* instrument*ys* & wers sche wold a don saf sche was bown//

dyn & kept w*yth* strength • boþ*e* day & nygth • þ*at* sche mygth not

haue hir wylle • & whan sche had long ben labowrd in þ*e*s

& many oþ*er* temptacyons • þat men wend sche schuld neu*yr*

a skapyd ne levyd ••/ þan on a tym as sche lay a loone And

hir kepars wer fro hir • Owyr m*er*cyfullord crist Ih*es*u • eu*yr*

to be trostyd worshypd be hys name • neu*yr* forsakyng hys

s*er*uawnt in tyme of nede aperyd to thys creatur whych

had forsakyn hym • in lyknesse of a man • most semly •

most bewtyuows • & most amyable • þ*at* eu*yr* mygth be seen •

w*yth* mannys eye • clad in a mantyl of p*ur*pyl sylke • sytty*n*g up

on hir bedd*ys* syde • lokyng vp on hir w*yth* so blyssyd a chere

þ*at* sche was strengthyd in alle hir spyrit*ys* • Seyd to hir þ*e*s

word*ys* •• dowtyr why hast þow forsakyn me • And I forsoke

neu*yr* þe • And a noon as he had seyd þes wordys •• sche saw

v*er*yly how þe eyr openyd as brygth as ony levyn / & he

stey up in to þe eyr • not rygth hastyli • & qwykly / but

fayr & esly • þat sche mygth wel be holdyn hym in þe

eyr • tyl it was closyd a geyn •• And a noon þe creature

was stabelyd in hir wytt*ys* & in hir reson as wel as eu*yr*

sche was be forn •• And p*re*yd hir husbond as so soon as

he cam to hir • þ*at* sche mygth haue þe keys of þe Botery

to takyn hir mete & drynke as sche had don be forn •

hyr maydens & hir kepars cownseld hym he xulde de//

lyu*yr* hir no keys for þei seyd sche wold but ȝeue awey //

**f. 5r**

swech good as þ*er* was for sche wyst not what sche seyde as

þei wende •/ neu*yr* þ*e* lesse hir husbond eu*yr* hauyng tendyrnes

& co*m*passion of hir comawndyd þei xulde delyu*yr* to hyr

þe keys • And toke hyr mete & drynke as hir bodily stre*n*gth

wold s*er*uyn hir •/& knew hir frend*ys* • & hir meny & all oþ*er*

þ*at* cam to hir to se how owyr lord Ih*es*u cryst had wrowt

hys grace in hir so blyssyd mot he be • þ*at* eu*yr* is ner in

tribulacyon whan men wenyn he wer for fro hem

he is ful nere be hys grace •• Sythen þ*i*s creatur dede

alle oþ*er* ocupacyons as fel for hir to do wysly & sadly i

now saf sche knew not veryli þe drawt of owyr lord .;. •

**A**nd whan þ*i*s creatur was þus gracyowsly come*n*

a geyn to hir mende • sche thowt sche was

bowndyn to god & þ*at* sche wold ben his s*er*uawnt •

[neu*yr*þelesse sche wold not leeuyn hir p*ri*de ne hir po*m*pows

array þat sche had vsyd be for tym • neiþ*yr* for hyr hus//

bond ne for noon oþ*er* mannys cownsel •• And ȝet sche wyst

ful wel • þ*at* men seyden hir ful mech velany • for sche

weryd gold pypys on hir hevyd & hir hodys w*yth* þ*e* typett*ys*

were daggyd • hir clokys also wer daggyd & leyd w*yth* dyu*er*s

colowrs be twen þe daggys þat it schuld be þe mor sta//

ryng to mennys sygth • and hir self þe mor ben worshepd •

And whan hir husbond wold speke to hir for to leuyn

hir p*ri*de •’ sche answeryd schrewydly & schortly & seyd / þ*at*

sche was comyn of worthy kenred • hym semyd neu*yr* for

to a weddyd hir • for hir ffadyr was su*m* tyme Meyr of

þe town • n • And sythyn he was alderman of þe hey

gylde of þe Trinyte in • N • And þ*er*for sche wold sauyn þ*e*

worschyp of hir kynred what so eu*yr* ony ma*n* seyd •• Sche

had ful greet envye at hir neybowrs þ*at* þei schuld ben

arayd so wei as sche •• Alle hir desyr was for to be wor//

shepd of þe pepul •/ Sche wold not be war be onys chas//

tysyng • ne be co*n*tent w*yth* þe goodys þ*at* god had sent hire //

**f. 5v**

as hir husbond was but eu*yr* desyryd mor & mor • And than for

pure coveytyse & for to maynten hir p*ri*de • sche began to brewyn

& was on of þe grettest brewers in þe town N •• a •• iii • ȝer or iiii •

tyl sche lost mech good • for sche had neu*yr* vre þ*er* to •/ for thow //

sche had neu*yr* so good s*er*uawnt*ys* & cu*n*nyng in brewi*n*g / ȝet it wold

neu*yr* p*re*uyn w*yth* hem / for whan þe ale was as fayr standyng

vndyr berm as any ma*n* mygth se •• Sodenly þe Berm wold

fallyn down þ*at* alle þ*e* ale was lost • eu*er*y brewyng aft*yr* oþer •

[þ*at* hir s*er*uawnt*ys* weryn a schamyd & wold not dwellyn w*yth*

hir • [þan þ*i*s creatur þowt how god had pu*n*ched hir be for

tyme • & sche cowd not be war • And now eftsons be lesy*n*g

of hir good*ys* •• & þa*n* sche left & brewyd no mor • And þan

sche askyd hir husbond m*er*cy • for sche wold not folwyn

hys cownsel a for tyme • And sche seyd þ*at* hir p*ri*de and

synne was cause of alle her pu*n*schyng • And sche wold

amend þ*at* sche had trespasyd w*yth* good wyl •[ but ȝet sche //

left not þ*e* world al hol •• ffor now sche be thowt hir of a //

newe huswyfre • Sche had an hors mille • sche gat hire

tweyn good hors & a man to gryndyn mennys corne

& þus sche trostyd to getyn hir leuyng •7[ þ*i*s p*ro*vysion

duryd not longe for in schort tyme aft*yr* • on • corp*us* x*rist*i

evyn fel þ*i*s merueyl •• Thys ma*n* being in good heele

of body & hys tweyn hors craske & lykand þ*at* wel haddyn

drawyn in þe mylle be for tyme •• As now he toke on

of þ*i*s hors & put hym in þe Mylle as he had don be for •

& þ*i*s hors wold drawe no drawt in þ*e* Mylle for no þing

þe man mygth do •[ þe man was sory & asayd wyth al

hys wytt*ys* •how he schuld don þ*i*s hors drawyn Su*m* tyme

he led hym be þe heed • su*m* tyme he beet hym • & sum

tyme he chershyd hym And alle avayled not • for he

wold raþer gon bakward þa*n* forward •[ þa*n* þ*i*s ma*n* sett

a scharp peyr sporys on hys helys & rood on þ*e* hors bak

for to don hym drawyn & it was neu*yr* þe bett*yr* • Whan

þ*i*s ma*n* saw it wold be in no wey •[ þa*n* het sett up þ*i*s hors //

**f. 6r**

a geyn in þe stabyl and ȝafe hym mete & he ete weel &

freschly [& sythen he toke þe oþ*er* hors & put hym in þ*e* Mylle

And lech as hys felaw dede so dede he for he wold not dra//

we for any þing þ*at* þe man mygth do • And þa*n* þ*i*s man

forsoke hys s*er*uyse & wold no lengar abyden w*yth* þ*e* forn//

seyd creatur • A noon as it was noysed a bowt þe town

of N • þ*at* þ*er* wold neyþ*yr* man ne best • don s*er*uyse to pe

seyd creatur • þa*n* su*m*me seyden sche was a Cursyd • Su*m*

seyden • god toke opyn veniawns up on hir • Su*m* seyd on

& su*m* seyd an oþ*er* • And su*m* wyse men whos mende was

mor growndyd in þelofe of owyr lord • seyd it was þ*e*

hey m*er*cyof o*wyr* lord Ih*es*u cryst • clepyd & kallyd hir fro þ*e* p*ri*de

and vanyte of þe wretthyd world • And þan þ*i*s creatur seyng

alle þ*i*s adu*er*sytes comyng on eu*er*y syde • thowt it weryn þe

sko*wr*ges of ow*yr* lord • þ*at* wold chastyse hir for hir synne •[ þan

sche askyd god m*er*cy & forsoke hir p*ri*de hir coueytyse & desyr

þ*at* sche had of þ*e* worshepys of þeworld & dede grett bodyly

penawnce & gan to entyr þe wey of eu*yr* lestyng lyfe as

schal be seyd aftyr .;.

**O**N a nygth as þ*i*s creatur lay in hir bedde wyth

hir husbond • sche herd a sownd of melodye • so

swet & delectable hir þowt • as sche had ben in

paradyse • & þ*er* wyth sche styrt owt of hir bedde & seyd • Alas •

þat eu*yr* I dede synne it is ful mery in hevyn • Thys melody

was so swete • þat it passyd alle þe melodye þ*at* eu*yr* mygth be

herd in þ*i*s world • w*yth* owtyn ony co*m*p*ar*ison • & caused þ*i*s crea//

tur wha*n* sche herd ony myrth or melodye aft*yr*ward for to

haue ful plentyuows & habu*n*dawnt teerys of hy • deuocyon •

w*yth* greet sobbyng*ys* & syhyng*ys* • Aft*yr* þ*e* blysse of heuen [not

dredyng þe schamys & þespyt*ys* of þ*e* wretchyd world •7[ &

eu*yr* aft*y*r þ*i*s drawt sche had in hir mende þ*e* myrth & þe //

melodye þ*at* was in heuen • so mech þ*at* sche cowd not wyl

restreyn hyr self fro þe spekyng þ*er*of *•*7ffor wher sche

was in ony cu*m*panye sche wold sey oftyn tyme •[ it is //

**f. 6v**

ful mery in hevyn [ & þei þ*at* knew hir gou*er*nawnce be for tyme

& now herd hir spekyn so mech of þe blysse of heuyn seyd

vn to hir •• why speke ȝe so of þe m*yr*th þat is in heuyn ȝe know

it not & ȝe haue not be þer no mor þa*n* we / & wer wroth

w*yth* hir for sche wold not her no speke of wordly thyngys •

as þei dedyn • & as sche dede be forn tyme •• And aft*yr* þis

tyme sche had neu*yr* desyr to komown fleschly w*yth* hyre

husbonde •/ for þe dette of mat*ri*mony was so abhominabyl

to hir •• þ*at* sche had leu*ar* hir thowt ^have etyn or drynkyn þe wose

þe mukke in þe chanel þa*n* to co*n*sentyn to any fleschly

comowny*n*g •/ saf only for obedyens • & so sche seyd to hir

husbond • I may not deny ȝow my body •[ but þelofe of

myn hert & my*n* affeccyon is drawyn fro alle erdly

creaturys & sett only in god • he wold haue hys wylle

& sche obeyd w*yth* greet wepyng & sorwyng for þ*at* sche

mygth not levyn chast /• & oftyn tymys þ*i*s creatur

~~levyd chast~~ [strike red] cownseld hir husbond to levyn chast • & seyd

þ*at* þei oftyn tymes sche wyst wel had dysplesyd god

be /her inordynat lofe • & þe gret delectacyon þ*at* þei

haddyn eyþ*yr* of hem in vsyng of oþ*er* /• & now it wer good

þ*at* þei schuld be her boþins wylle & co*n*sentyng of hem

bothyn punschyn & chastysyn hem self wylfully be

absteynyng fro her lust of her bodys •[ hir husbond seyd

it wer good to don so • but he mygth not ȝett • he xuld

wha*n* god wold • And so he vsyd her as he had do be for •

he wold not spar • And eu*yr* sche p*re*yd to god þat sche mygth

levyn chast •[ & iii • or iiii • ȝer aft*yr* whan it plesyd ower

lord he made a vow of chastyte as schal be wretyn

aft*yr* be þeleue of Ih*es*u • And also aft*yr* þ*i*s creatur herd

þ*i*s heuenly melody sche dede gret bodyly penawnce • sche

was schreuyn su*m* tyme twyes or thryes on þe day &

in specyal of þ*at* synne whech sche so long had ^had conselyd

& curyd as it is wretyn in þe *^*begynny*n*g of þe boke •[ sche //

**f. 7r**

ȝaf hir to gret fastyng & to gret waky*n*g sche roos at ii or

iii of þeclok & went to cherch & was þ*er* in hir p*ra*yers on to

tyme of noon And also al þeaft*yr* noon [& þan was sche sla//

wnderyd & rep*re*uyd of mech pepul for sche kept so streyt a le//

vyng [ þan sche gat hir an hayr of a kylne swech as men

dryen on malt & leyd it in hir kyrtylle as sotyllych & p*re*uy//

lich as sche mygth þ*at* hir husbond xuld not aspye it ne no//

mor he dede [& ȝet sche lay be hym eu*er*y nygth in his bedde

& weryd þe hayr eu*er*y day •• & bar chylderyn in þe tyme •[ þa*n*

sche had iii • ȝer of gret labo*wr* w*yth* temptacyons • whech sche

bar as mekely as sche cowde • thankyng ower lord of alle

hys ȝeft*ys* [& was as mery wha*n* sche was rep*re*uyd skornyd

or vjapyd for ower lord*ys* lofe & mych mor mery þa*n* sche

was be for tyme in þe worshepys of þe world [for sche

wyst rygth wel sche had synned gretly a ȝens god & was

worthy mor schame & sorwe þa*n* ony ma*n* cowd don to

hir •[ & dyspite of þe werld was þe rygth way to heuyn

ward [sythen cryst hym self ches þ*at* way • Alle hys Apostlys •

Martyres • co*n*fessorys • & virgynes • and alle þ*at* eu*yr* comyn

to heuyn • passed be þe wey of t*ri*bulacyon • And sche desy//

ryd no thyng so mech as heuyn •[ þa*n* was sche glad in

hir co*n*sciens wha*n* sche beleuyd þ*at* sche was entryg þ*e* wey •

whech wold leden hir to þe place þat sche most desyred •

And þ*i*s creatur had co*n*trycion & gret co*m*punccyon w*yth*

plentyuows teerys and many boystows sobbyng*ys* for

hir synnes & for hir vnkyndnesse a geyns hir maker •

Sche bethowt hir fro hir chyldhod for hir vnkyndnes

as ower lord wold put it in hir mende ful many a //

tyme • And þan sche beheldyng hir owyn wykkednes

sche mygth but sorwyn and wepyn & eu*yr* p*re*yn for

m*er*cy & forȝeuenes •[ hir wepyng was so plentyuows

and so contwny*n*g þat mech pepul wend þ*at* sche mygth

wepyn & leuyn wha*n* sche wold • And þ*er*for many men //

**f. 7v**

seyd sche was a fals ypocryte • & wept for þe world for soco*wr* &

for wordly good [& þa*n* ful many forsokyn hir þ*at* louyd hir be for

whyl sche was in þe world & wold not knowyn hir / & eu*yr*

sche thankyd god of alle • no thing desyryng but m*er*cy and

forȝefnes of synne .;.

**T**he fyrst ii • ȝer whan þ*i*s creatur was þus drawyn to

owyr lord sche had gret q*wi*eteof spyryt as for ony

te*m*ptacyons •• sche mygth wel dure to fastyn • it //

greuyd hir not • Sche hatyd þe joys of þe world •[ sche felt

no rebellyon in hyr flesch • sche was strong as hir thowt •

þ*at* sche dred no devylle in helle • for sche dede so gret bodyly

penawnce •• Sche thowt þ*at* sche louyd god mor þa*n* he hir •

sche was smet w*yth* þe dedly wownd of ~~vy~~ veynglory / & felt

it not •• for sche desyryd many tymes þat þ*e* crucifix xuld

losyn hys hand*ys* fro þe crosse & halsyn hir • in tokyn of

lofe •7[ Ower m*e*rcyful lord c*ri*st Ih*es*u seyng þ*i*s creaturys p*re*su*m*pcyon •’

sent hir as is wrete befor • iii • ȝer • of greet temptacyon [of þ*e*

whech on of þe hardest I p*ur*pos to wrytyn for exampyl of

hem þ*a*t com aft*yr* þ*at* þei schuld not trostyn on her owyn self •

[ne haue no ioy in hem self • as þ*i*s creatur had •• ffor no drede •’

owyr gostly enmy slepyth not but he ful besyly sergyth o*wr*

co*m*plexions & owyr dysposycionys • & wher þ*at* he fyndyth us

most freel • þ*er* be owyr lordys sufferawns he leyth hys snar •

whech may no ma*n* skape be hys owyn power •• And so he

leyd be forn þ*i*s creatur þe snar of letchery • whan sche

wend þat all fleschly lust had al hol ben qwenchyd in

hir •• & so long sche was temptyd w*yth* þe syn of letchory

for owt þ*at* sche cowd do [& ȝet sche was oftyn schrevyn •’

sche weryd þe hayr & dede gret bodily penawns • & wept

many a bytt*yr* teer • & p*re*yd ful oftyn to owyr lord • þ*at* he

schuld p*re*s*er*ue hir • & keþe hir • þ*at* sche schuld not fallyn in

to temptacyon [ffor sche thowt sche had leu*ar* ben deed þan

co*n*sentyn þ*er*to[& in al þ*i*styme sche had no lust to comown

**f. 8r**

wyth hir husbond but it was very peynful & horrybyl vn to

hir •• In þesecunde ȝer of hir temptacyons yt fel so þ*at* a man

whech sche louyd wel seyd on to hir on seynt Margaret*ys* evyn

be for euynsong þ*at* for any thyng he wold ly be hir • & haue

hys lust of hys body • & sche xuld not w*yth*stond hym •• ffor yf

he mygth not haue hys wyl þ*at* tyme he seyd he xuld ellys

haue it a noþ*er* tyme • sche xuld not chese • And he dede it

for to p*re*ue hir • what sche wold do •• but sche wend þ*at* he had

ment ful ernest as þat tyme • And seyd but lytyl • þ*er* to•

So they p*ar*tyd asondyr as þa*n* & wentyn boþen for to here

euensong • for her cherch was of seynt Margaret •• þ*i*s wo//

man was so labowrd w*yth* þe mannys wordys þ*at* sche mygth

not heryn hir euynsong ne sey hir Pat*er* nost*e*r •[ er thynkyn

ony oþ*er* good þowt • but was mor labowrd þa*n* eu*yr* sche was

befor •[ þe deuyl put in hir mende þ*at* god had forsakyn hir •

[and ellys xuld sche not so ben temptyd •• She leuyd þ*e* deuel*ys*

suasy~~u~~ons • & began to co*n*sentyn • for be cause sche cowde

thynkyn no good thowt •• þ*er*for wend sche þ*at* god had forsake

hir • And whan euensong was do •• sche went to þe man

befor seyd • þ*at* he xuld haue hys lust • as sche wend þ*at* he

had desired • but he made swech symulacyon • þ*at* sche cowd

not knowe hys entent • & so þei p*ar*tyd a sondyr for þat

nygth • þ*i*s creatur was so labowrd & vexyd al þ*at* nygth •

þ*at* sche wyst neu*yr* what sche mygth do • Sche lay be hir

husbond • & for to comown w*yth* hym it was so abhomy//

nabyl on to hir • þ*at* sche mygth not duren it • & ȝet was

it leful on to hir • in leful tyme yf sche had wold • but

eu*yr* sche was labowrd w*yth* þe oþ*er* man for to syn w*yth* hym •

in as mech as he had spoke to hir •• At þe last thorw

inoportunyte of temptacyon & ~~l~~ lakkyng of dysc*re*cyon •

sche was ou*yr* comyn & co*n*sentyd in hir mend & went to

þe man to wetyn yf he wold þan co*n*sentyn to hire •’

**f. 8v.**

And he seyd he ne wold for al þe good in þ*i*s world • he had leu*ar* ben

hewyn as smal as flesch to þe pott •• Sche went a way al scha//

myd & co*n*fusyd in hir self • Seyng hys stabylnes & hir owyn

vnstabylnes •[ þa*n* thowt sche of þe grace þ*at* god had ȝouyn hire

befor tyme •• how sche had • ii • ȝer of gret qwyet in sowle • Repen//

tawns of hir synne • w*yth* many bytt*yr* teerys of co*m*pu*n*ccyon & p*ar*fyt

wyl neu*yr* to turne a geyn to hir synne • but raþ*ar* to be deed hir

thowt • & now sche saw how sche had co*n*sentyd in hir wyl for

to don synne •[ þa*n* fel sche half in dyspeyr • Sche thowt sche

wold a ben in helle for þe sorw þ*at* sche had •[ sche thowt sche

was worthy no m*er*cy •[ for hir co*n*sentyng was so wylfully do

ne neu*yr* worthy to don hym s*er*uyse • for sche was so fals vn

to hym • Neu*yr* þe lesse sche was schrevyn many tymes • & oftyn •

/and dede hir penawns what so eu*yr* hir co*n*fesso*wr* wold in ioyne

hir to do • & was gouernd aft*yr* þe rewelys of þe chirch • þ*at* grace //

god ȝafe þ*i*s creatur blyssyd mot he be / but he wythdrowe not

hir te*m*ptacyon but raþ*ar* incresyd it as hir thowt • And þ*er*fore

wend sche þ*at* he had forsakyn hir • & durst not trostyn to hys

m*er*cy • but was labowrd w*yth* horrybyl te*m*ptacyons of lettherye

& of dyspeyr • ny al þe next ȝer folwyng • saue owyr lord

of hys mercy • as sche seyd hir self ȝaf hir ech day for þe

most p*ar*ty• too • owerys of co*m*punccyon for hir synnys • wyth

many bytt*yr* teerys & sythen sche was labowrd *wyth* te*m*ptacyo*n*s

of dyspeyr • as sche was befor • And was as for fro fely*n*g

of grace as þei þat neu*yr* felt noon • & þ*at* mygth sche not

beryn & þ*er*for al wey sche dyspeyrd • safe for þe tyme þat

sche felt grace hir labowrs wer so wondyrful • þ*at* sche cowd

euel far w*yth* hem but eu*yr* mornyn & sorwyn as þow god

had forsakyn hir .;.

**T**han on a fryday beforn Crystmes day as þ*i*s cre//

atur knelyng in a chapel of seynt Iohn w*yth*inne

a cherch of seynt Margrete in N • wept won

dir sore askyng m*er*cy & forȝyfnes of hir synnes & hir tres//

pas • owyr m*er*cyful lord cryst Ih*es*u blyssyd mot he be •7 rauysched

**f. 9r**

hir spyryt & seyd on to hir •• Dowtyr why wepyst þow so sor

I am comyn to þe Ih*es*u cryst þ*at* deyd on þe crosse suffery*n*g

bytt*yr* peynes & passyons for þe • I þe same god forȝefe þ*e*

þi synnes to þe vtterest poynt • And þow schalt neu*yr* com

in helle ne in p*ur*gatorye • but wha*n* þow schalt passyn owt

of þ*i*s world• wyth in þe twynkelyng of an eye þow

schalt haue þ*e* blysse of heuyn•• for I am þ*e* same god þ*at*

haue browt þi synnes to þimend & mad þ*e* to be schreve

þ*er*of• And I grawt þe co*n*trysyon in to þi lyues ende •• þ*er*for

I bydde þe & comawnd þe boldly • clepe me Ih*esu* c*rist* þ*i* loue • for

I am þi loue & schal be þi loue w*yth* owtyn ende •• And dowt*yr* þ*u* hast

an hayr vp on þi bakke I wyl þ*u* do it a way • & I schal ȝiue þ*e*

an hayr in þin hert þ*at* schal lyke me mych bett*yr* þa*n* alle þe

hayres in þe world • Also my derworthy dowt*yr* •• þ*u* must for//

sake þ*at* þow louyst best in þ*i*s world & þ*at* is etyng of flesch •

And in stede of þ*at* flesch þow schalt etyn my flesch & my

blod þ*at* is þe very body of crist in þe sac*ra*ment of þe Awter •

Thys is my wyl dowt*yr* þ*at* þow receyue my body eu*er*ysonday

And I schal flowe so mych grace in þe þat alle þe world

xal m*er*uelyn þ*e* of •[ þow xalt ben etyn & knawyn of þe

pepul of þe world as any raton knawyth þe stokfysch

Drede þe nowt dowt*yr* for þow schalt haue þe vyctory of al

þ*i*n enmys •• I schal ȝeue þe grace i now to answer eu*er*y

clerke in þe loue of god •• I swer to þ*e* be my mageste þ*at* I

schal neu*yr* forsakyn þe in wel ne in woo •• I schal helpyn þe

& kepyn þe þ*at* þ*er* schal neu*yr* deuyl in helle •’ parte þ*e* fro me

• ne Awngel in heuyn • ne man in erthe •• ffor deuelys in

helle mow not • ne Awngelys in heuyn wyl not • ne man

in erthe schal not •• And dowt*yr* I wyl þow leue þ*i* byddyng //

of many bedys And thynk swych thowt*ys* as I wyl putt

in þi mend • I schal ȝeuyn þe leue to byddyn tyl sex of

þe cloke to sey what þow wyld •/ þan schalt þow ly stylle

& speke to me be thowt / & I schal ȝefe ^to þe hey medytacyon

**f. 9v**

And very co*n*templacyon •• & I byd þe gon to þe Ankyr at þe ffrer

p*re*chowrys & schew hym my p*re*uyteys & my cownselys whech

I schewe to þe And werk aft*yr* hys cownsel for my spyrit xal

speke in hym to þe •7 Than þ*i*s creatur went forth to þ*e* Ankyr

as sche was comawndyd • & schewyd hym þ*e* reuelacyons

swech as wer schewyd to hir • [þa*n* þe Ankyr w*yth* gret reu*er*//

ens & wepyng thanky*n*g god • [seyd •/ Dowt*yr* ȝe sowkyn euy*n*

on cryst*ys* brest • And ȝe han an ernest peny of heuyn • I

charge ȝow receyueth swech thowt*ys* whan god wyl ȝeue he*m*

as mekely & as deuowtly as ȝe kan • & comyth to me And

tellyth me what þei be • & I schal w*yth* þe leue of ower lord

Ih*es*u cryst telle ȝow wheþ*yr* þei ben of þe holy gost or ell*ys*

of ȝo*wr* enmy þe deuyl .;. • visio •

**A**n oþ*er* day þ*i*s creatur schul ȝeue hir to medy//

tacyon as sche was bodyn be for & sche lay

stylle nowt knowyng what sche mygth best

thynke • [þa*n* sche seyd to ower lord Ih*es*u c*ri*st • Ih*es*u what

schal I thynke••ower lord Ih*es*u answeryd to hir mende •

Dowt*yr* thynke on my modyr for sche is cause of alle þ*e* g*ra*ce

þ*at* þow hast • And þa*n* a noon sche saw seynt Anne gret w*yth* chylde

And þa*n* sche p*re*yd seynt Anne • to be hir mayden & hir s*er*uawnt •

& anon ower lady was born & þa*n* sche besyde hir to take

þe chyld to hir & keþe it tyl it wer twelve þer of age

w*yth* good mete & drynke w*yth* fayr whyte clothys & whyte //

kerchys And þa*n* sche seyd to þe blyssed chyld •• lady ȝe schal

be þe modyr of god •/ the blyssed chyld answeryd & seyd • I //

wold I wer worthy to be þe handmayden of hir þat xuld

co*n*seive þe sone of god •/ þe creatur seyd I p*ra*yȝow lady ȝyf

þ*at* grace falle ȝow forsake not my s*er*uyse The blysful chyld

passyd awey for a c*er*teyn tyme • þe creatur being stylle i*n*

co*n*templacyon and sythen ca*m* a geyn • And seyd • dowt*yr*

now am I be kome þe modyr of god •/ & þa*n* þe creatur fel

down on hir kneys w*yth* gret reu*er*ens & gret wepyng •• And

seyd • I am not worthy lady to do ȝow s*er*uyse •7/ ȝys dowtyr

**f. 10r**

sche seyde folwe þow me • þi s*er*uyse lykyth me wel •/ þa*n* went

sche forth w*yth* owyr lady *&* w*yth* Iosep • beryng w*yth* hir a potel of

pyment & spyc*ys* þ*er*to •/ þan went þei forth to elysabeth seynt

Iohn Baptyst*ys* modir & wha*n* þei mettyn to gyder •/ eyþ*yr* of he*m*

worshepyd oþ*er* & so þei wonyd to gedyr w*yth* gret grace • and

gladnesse xii wok*ys* • & þa*n* seynt Iohn was bor • & owyr lady

toke hym vp fro þe erthe w*yth* al man*er* reu*er*ens & ȝaf hy*m* to

hys modyr • Seyng of hym þ*at* he schuld be an holy man •/ and

blyssed hy*m* • Sythen þei toke her leue eyþ*yr* of *o*þ*er* w*yth* co*m*passyf

terys • And þa*n* þe creatur fel down on kneys to seynt Elyȝa//

beth & p*re*yd hir sche wold p*re*yfor hir to owyr lady þ*at* sche mygth

do hir s*er*uyse & plesawns • Dowt*yr* me semyth seyd elysabeth þ*u*

dost ryght wel þi deu*er* And þa*n* went þe creatur forth wyth

owyr lady to bedlem & p*ur*chasyd hir herborwe eu*er*y nyght w*yth*

gret reu*er*ens & owyr lady was receyued w*yth* glad cher • Also

sche beggyd owyr lady fayr whyte clothys & kerchys • for to

swathyn in hir sone whan he wer born • And wha*n* Ih*es*u

was born sche ordeyned beddyng for owyr lady to lyg in

w*yth* hir blyssed sone • And sythen sche beggyd mete for owyr

lady & hir blyssyd chyld Aft*yr*ward sche swathyd hym wyth

bytt*yr* teerys of co*m*passyon hauyng mend of þe scharp deth

þ*at* he schuld suffyr for þe lofe of synful men • Seyng to hym

lord I schal fare fayr w*yth* ȝow I schal not byndyn ȝow soor

I p*ra*yȝow beth not dysplesyd w*yt*h me .;.

**A**nd aftyr on þe xii day, wha*n* • iii • kyng*ys* comyn .

w*yth* her ȝyftys & worschepyd owyr lord Ih*es*u c*ris*t

being in hys moderys lapþe •/ þ*i*s creatur owyr

ladys hand mayden beheldyng al þe p*ro*cesse in co*n*templacyon

wept wondyr sor • And wha*n* sche saw þ*at* þei wold take her

leue to gon hom a ȝen in to her cu*n*tre •/ sche mygth not

suffyre þ*at* they schuld go fro þe p*re*sens of owyr lord • And

for wondyr þ*at* þei wold gon a wey •’ sche cryed wondyr sore

& soon aft*yr* cam an Awngel & bad owyr lady & Iosep gon //

**f. 10v**

fro þe cuntre ob bedlem in to egypt þan went þ*i*s creatur forth

w*yth* owyr lady day be day p*ur*ueyng hir herborw w*yth* gret reu*er*ens

w*yth* many swet thowt*ys* & hy medytacyons & also hy co*n*te*m*placyons

su*m*tyme duryng in wepyng ii • owyres & oftyn lengar in þe

mend of owyr lord*ys* passion w*yth* owtyn sesyng •/ Su*m*tyme for

hir owyn synne •/ Su*m*tyme for þe synne of þe pepyl •/ Su*m*tyme

for þe sowlys in p*ur*gatory •/ Su*m*tyme for hem þ*at* arn in pou*er*te

er in any dysese •/ for sche desyred to comfort he*m* alle •/ Su*m*//

tyme sche wept ful plentevowsly & ful boystowsly • for de//

syr of þe blys of heuyn & for sche was so long dyfferryd

þ*er*fro •[ þa*n* þis creatur coueyted gretly to be delyueryd owt

of þ*i*s wretchyd world •/ ower lord Ih*es*u c*ri*st seyd to hir mende

sche schuld abyden & languren in lofe •/ for I haue ordey//

ned þe to knele be for þ*e* Trynyte • for to p*re*yfor al þ*e* world •

for many hu*n*dryd thowsand sowlys schal be sauyd be þi

p*ra*yers • And þ*er*fordowt*yr* aske what þow wylt / & I xal

grawnt þe thyn askyng •/ þ*i*s creatur seyd lord I aske m*er*cy

& p*re*seruyng fro eu*yr* lestyng da*m*pnacyon for me & for all

þe world •/ chastyse us her how þow wylt & in p*ur*gatory

& kepe us fro dampnacyon for þin hy m*er*cy .;.

**A**noþ*er* tyme as þ*i*s creatur lay in hir p*ra*yer • þe

Modyr of M*er*cy a peryng to hir • seyd •• A dowt*yr*

blyssyd may þow be • þi sete is mad in heuyn

be for my sonys kne • & whom þow wylt ha*ue* w*yth* þe •• Tha*n*

askyd hyr blyssed sone •• Dowt*yr* whom wylt þow han fe//

law wyth þe • My derworthy lord I aske my gostly fadyr

Mayst*yr* • R •• Why askyst ^thow mor hym þa*n* thyn owyn fadyr

er þin husbond •• for I may neu*yr* qwyte hy*m* þ*e* goodnesse

þ*at* he hath don to me & þe gracyows labowrys þ*at* he hath

had a bowt me in heryng of my co*n*fessyon •• I grawnt

þe þi desyr of hym •• & ȝet schal þi fadyr ben sauyd & þi

husbond also & alle þi chylderyn • Tha*n* þ*i*s creatur seyd

lord sythen þow hast forȝouyn me my synne • I • make

**f. 11r**

þe myn executor of alle þe god werkys þ*at* þow werkyst in //

me in p*ra*yng • in thynkyng • in wepyng • in pilg*ri*mage goyng •

in fastyng • er in any good word spekyng •[ it is fully my

wyl • þ*at* þow ȝeue Mayst*yr* • R • halfyndel to encres of hys

m*er*yte as yf he dede hem hys owyn self • And þe oþer

haluendel • lord sprede on þi frend*ys* & þi enmys • & on my

frendys & my*n* enmys /• for I wyl haue but þ*i* self for my

mede ••Dowt*yr* I xal be a trew executor to þe & fulfyllyn

all þi wylle / & for þi gret charyte þ*at* þow hast to comforty*n*

þin euen c*ri*sten þ*u* schalt haue dubbyl reward in heuyn .;.

**A**noþ*er* tyme as þ*i*s creatur p*ra*ydto god þ*at* sche myt

leuyn chast be leue of hir husbond Cryst seyd

to hir mende [þow must fastyn þ*e* fryday boþen

fro mete & drynke And þow schalt haue þi desyr er whitson//

day • for I schal sodeynly sle **+** þin husbonde • [þa*n* on þ*e* wednys/

day in estern woke Aft*yr* hyr husbond wold haue had know//

lach of hir as he was wone be for •• & wha*n* he gan neygh

hir •• sche seyd Ih*esu* c*rist* help me / & he had no power to towche

hir at þ*at* tyme • in þ*at* wyse •• ne neu*yr* aft*yr* w*yth* no fleschly knowy*n*g •

It be fel on a fryday be for whytson evyn •• as þ*i*s creatur

was in a cherch of seynt Margarete at • N • heryng hir

messe •• sche herd a gret noyse • & a dredful • sche was sore a

stoyned • for dredyng þe voys of þe pepyl • whech seyd god

schuld take veniawns vp on hir •• sche knelyd up on hir

kneys heldyng down hir hed • and hir boke in hir hand •

p*ra*yngowyr lord c*ri*st Ih*es*u for grace and for m*ercy* •• Sodeynly fel

down fro þe heyest party of þe cherch vowte fro vndyr

þe fote of þe sparre on hir hed • & on hir ~~k~~ bakke •/ a ston

whech weyd • iii • pownd & a schort ende of a tre • weyng

vi • pownd / þat hir thowt hir bakke brakke a sundyr •

And sche ferd as sche had be deed [ a lytyl whyle • soone

aft*yr* sche cryed Ih*es*u m*erc*y & a noon hir peyn was gon • A

good man which hygth Iohn of Wyreh*a*m seyng þ*i*s wondyr //

**f. 11v**

cas & supposyng þ*at* sche ben gretly dysesyd cam & pullyd hir be þ*e*

sleue & seyd dame how far ȝe •[ þe creatur al hol & sownd tha*n*//

kyd hym of hys cher & hys charyte mech m*er*ueylyng & gretly

a wonderyd þat sche felt no peyn & had felt so mech • a lytyl

be for • ne xii wekys aft*yr* sche felt no peyne •[ þa*n* þe spiryt of

god seyd to hir sowle •/ helde þ*i*s for a gret Myracle & ȝyf þe //

pepyl wyl not leuyn þ*i*s I schal werkyn meche mor •• A wor//

schepful docto*wr* of dyuynite wych hygth Mayst*yr* Aleyn a whyte

frer heryng of þ*i*s wondyrful werk inq*wi*red of þ*i*s creature

alle þe forme of þ*i*s p*ro*cesse •• he desyryng þe werk of god to

be magnyfyed •• gat hym þe same ston þat fel up on hir

bakke & way • it • & sythen he gat hym þ*e* treys ende þ*at* fel

up on hir hed • which oon of þe kepars of þe cherch had leyd

in þe fyre to bren it • And þ*i*s worshepful docto*wr* • seyd it was

a gret Myracle [• & ower lord was heyly to be magnyfied • for

þe p*re*s*er*uyng of þ*i*s creatur a ȝen þe malyce of hir enmy

And teld it to mech pepyl • & mych pepyl magnyfied mech god

in þ*i*s creatur •• And also mech pepyl wold not leuyn it • but

raþ*ar* leuyd it was a tokyn of wreth & veniawns þa*n* þei

wold leuyn it was any token of M*e*rcyer quemfulnes .;.

**S**One aft*yr* þ*i*s creatur was meuyd in hir sowle

to go vysyten certeyn places for gostly helth •

[in as mech as sche was cured & mygth not

w*yth* owtyn co*n*sentyng of hir husbond • sche req*wi*red hir hus//

bond to grawtyn hir leue /• & he fully trostyng it was þ*e*

wyl of god • sone co*n*sentyng •’ þei went to gedyr to swech

place as sche was mevyd • & þan owyr lord cryst Ih*es*u seyd

to hir • My s*er*uawnt*ys* desyryn gretly to se þe •[ þa*n* was sche

wolcomyd & mech mad of in dyuers plac*ys* •• Wher for sche

had gret dred of veynglory & mech was a ferde •[ owyr

Mercyful lord cryst Ih*es*u worshepd be hys name • seyd to

hir •• [drede þe not dowt*yr* • I xal take veynglory fro þe • for

þei þ*at* worshep þe • þei worshep me •• þei þ*at* despysyn þe • þ*e*i

despysen me •• & I schal chastysen hem þ*er*for •• I am in þe

**f. 12r**

and þow in me • And þei þat heryn þe þei heryn þ*e* voys of

god •• Dowt*yr* þ*er* is no so synful ma*n* in erth leuyng yf he wyl

forsake hys synne & don aft*yr* þi cownsel • swech grace as þ*u*

behestyst hym • I wyl co*n*fermyn for þi lofe •7[ þan hir husbond

& sche went forth to ȝorke & to oþ*er* dyuers plac*ys* .;.

**I**T befel up on a fryday on Mydsomyr evyn in rygth

hot wedyr as þ*i*s creatur was komy*n*g fro ȝorke ward bery*n*g

a botel w*yth* bere in hir hand • & hir husbond a cake in hys

bosom / he askyd hys wyfe þ*i*s qwestyon [ Margery • yf her come

a man w*yth* a swerd & wold smyte of myn hed • les þa*n* I schulde

comown kindly w*yth* ȝow as I haue do be for •’ • seyth me trewth

of ȝo*wr* co*n*sciens for ȝe sey ȝe wyl not lye •’• wheþ*yr* wold ȝe suffyr

myn hed to be smet of ••’ er ellys • suffyr me to medele w*yth* ȝow

a ȝen as I dede su*m* tyme •• Alas ser sche seyd why meue ȝe þ*i*s

mat*er* & haue we ben chast þ*i*s viii wekys •• ffor I wyl wete þ*e*

trewth of ȝo*wr* hert • And þa*n* sche seyd w*yth* gret sorwe • fforsoþ*e* I had

leu*ar* se ȝow be slayn þa*n* we schuld turne a ȝen to owyr vncle*n*//

nesse • And he seyd a ȝen • ȝe arn no good wife [& þa*n* sche askyd

hir husbond what was þe cawse þ*at* he had not medelyd

w*yth* hir • viii • wekys be for •• sythen sche lay w*yth* hy*m* eu*er*ynygth •

in hys bedde •• And he seyd he was so made a ferde wha*n* he

wold a towchyd hir • þ*at* he durst no mor don •• Now good

ser amend ȝow & aske god mercy •• for I teld ȝow ner • iii •

ȝer sythen þ*at* ȝe schuld be slayn sodeynly & now is þ*i*s þ*e*

thryd ȝer • & ȝet I hope I schal han my desyr •7[ good sere

I p*ra*yȝow grawnt me þ*at* I schal askyn •• & I schal p*ra*yfor ȝow

þ*at* ȝe schul be sauyd thorw þe m*er*cy of owyr lord Ih*es*u cryst

And ȝe schul haue mor mede in heuyn þa*n* ȝyf ȝe weryd

an hayr or an haburgon •Ip*ra*y ȝow suffer me to make

a vow of chastyte in what • bysshopys hand þ*at* god wele

nay he seyd þat wyl I not grawnt ȝow for now may I

vsyn ȝow with owtyn dedly synne • & þa*n* mygth I not

so •• þa*n* sche seyd a ȝen •[ ȝyf it be þ*e* wyl of þ*e* holy gost //

**f. 12v**

to fulfyllyn þat I haue seyd • I p*ra*ygod ȝe mote co*n*sent þ*er* to And yf it be

not þe wyl of þe holy gost I p*ra*ygod ȝe neu*yr* co*n*sent þ*er* to / þa*n* went þ*e*i

forth to brydlyngton ward in rygth hoot wedyr [þe forn seyd creatur

hauyng gret sorwe & gret dred for hyr chastite •• And as þ*e*i cam be

a cros hyr husbond sett hym down vndyr þe cros clepyng hys wyfe

vn to hym & seyng þ*i*s word*ys* on to hir •• Margery grawnt me my

desyr & I schal grawnt ȝow ȝo*wr* desyr •• Myfyrst desyr is þ*at* we xal

lyn stylle to gedyr in o • bed • as we han do be for •7[ þe secu*n*de þ*at* ȝe

schal pay my dett*ys* er ȝe go to Ih*e*r*usa*l*e*m [& þe thrydde • þ*at* ȝe schal

etyn & drynkyn w*yth* me on þe fryday as ȝe wer wont to don •• Nay

ser sche seyd • to breke þe fryday • I wyl neu*yr* grawnt ȝow whyl I

leue •/ Wel he seyd þa*n* schal I medyl ȝow a geyn • Sche p*ra*ydhy*m*

þ*at* he wold ȝeue hir leue to make hyr p*ra*erys /• & he grawntyd it

goodlych • þa*n* sche knelyd down be syden a cros in þe feld and

p*re*yd in þ*i*s man*er* wyth gret habu*n*dawns of teerys [• lord god þ*u*

knowyst al thyng •[ þow knowyst what sorwe I haue had to

be chast in my body • to þ*e* al þis • iii • ȝer • & now mygth I han

my wylle & I dar not • for lofe of þe • ffor ȝyf I wold brekyn

þ*at* man*er* of fastyng whech þow comawndyst me to kepyn on þ*e*

fryday w*yth* owtyn mete or drynk • I xuld now han my desyr

but blyssyd lord þow knowyst • I wyl not co*n*tr*ar*yen þ*i* wyl • And

mekyl now is my sorwe •• les þa*n* I fynde co*m*fort in þ*e* •[ Now

blyssed Ih*es*u make þi wyl knowyn to me vn worthy • þ*at* I may

folwyn þ*er* aft*yr* • & fulfyllyn it w*yth* al my myghtys •• And þan

owyr lord Ih*es*u cryst wyth gret swetnesse spak to þ*i*s creatur

[comawndyng hir to gon a ȝen to hir husbond • & p*ra*yn hym

to grawntyn hir þ*at* sche desired & he xal han þ*at* he desyreth •

ffor my derworthy dowt*yr* • þ*i*s was þe cawse þ*at* I bad þe fastyn •

for þ*u* schuldyst þe sonar opteyn & getyn þi desyr • & now

it is grawntyd þe: Iwyl no lengar þow fast •• þ*er*for I byd þ*e*

in þe name of Ih*es*u ete & drynk as thyn husbond doth

[þa*n* þ*i*s creatur tha*n*kyd owyr lord Ih*es*u cryst of hys grace &

hys goodness • Sythen ros up & went to hir husbond • seyng //

**f. 13r**

vn to hym Sere •’ yf it lyke ȝow, ȝe schal grawnt me my desyr & ȝe schal

haue ȝo*wr* desyr •• Grawntyth me þ*at* ȝe schal not komyn in my bed / & I

grawnt ȝow to qwyte ȝo*wr* dett*ys* er I go to Ier*usa*l*e*m & makyth my body

fre to god •[ so þ*at* ȝe neu*yr* make no chalengyng in me to askyn no dett

of mat*ri*mony •• aft*yr* þ*i*s day whyl ȝe leuyn • & I schal etyn & drynkyn

on þe fryday at ȝo*wr* byddyng • Than seyd hir husbond a ȝen [to hi]r

as fre mot ȝo*wr* body ben to god as it hath ben to me • Thys c*re*atur

thankyd god gretly • enioyng þ*at* sche had hir desyr • p*re*yng hir husbo*n*d

þ*at* þei schuld sey • iii • pat*er* n*oste*r • in þ*e* worshep of þe t*ri*nyte • for þ*e* gret

grace þ*at* he had grawntyd hem • & so they ded knelyng vnd*yr* a cros •

& sythen þ*e*i etyn & dronkyn to gedyr in gret gladnes of spyryt •

þ*i*s was on a fryday on Mydsom*yr* euyn •7[ þa*n* went þ*e*i forth to

brydlyngton ward • And also to many oþ*er* co*n*tres & spokyn wyth

goddys seruawnt*ys* boþen Ankrys & reclusys & many oþ*er* of owyr

lord*ys* louerys • w*yth* many worthy clerkys • doctorys of dyuynyte •

& bachelers also • in many dyuers plac*ys* •[ & þ*i*s creatur to dyuers

of hem schewed hir felyng*ys* & hyr co*n*templacyons as sche

was comawndyd for to don • to wetyn yf any disseyt were

in hir felyngys .;.

**T**hys creatur was sent of owyr lord to diuers plac*ys*

of relygyon / & among on sche cam to a place of

Monkys wher sche was rygth wolcom for owyr lord*ys*

lofe / saue þ*er* was a Monk whech bar gret offyce in þ*at* place des//

pysed hir • & set hir at nowt [neu*yr* þe lesse sche was sett at mete

w*yth* þe abbot / & many tymes of þe mete sche seyd many good

word*ys* •• as god wold he*m* puttyn in hir mende [þe same Monke

whech had so dyspysed hir beyng p*re*sent & many oþ*er* to heryng

what sche wold sey •/ & thorw hir dalyawns hys affeccyon began

gretly enclyne to hir ward / & gan to haue gret savo*wr* in hir word*ys* •

so þ*at* aft*yr*ward þ*e* forseyd monk cam to hir & seyde sche beyng

in cherch & he also as þ*at* tyme • Damsel I her seyn god spekyth

on to þe I p*ra*y þe telle me • wheþ*yr* I schal be sauyd or nowt •• And

in what synnes I haue most dysplesyd god • for I wyl not

leuy*n* þe but þow con telle me my synne • The creatur seyd to //

**f. 13v**

þe Monke [goth to ȝo*wr* messe & ȝyf I may wepe for ȝow I hope to ha*n*

grace for ȝow •/ he folwyd hir cownsel & went to hys messe / sche

wept wondyrly for hys synnes •• Wha*n* messe was endyd þ*e* creatur

seyd to owyr lord cryst Ih*es*u •• blyssed lord what answer schal I ȝeue

to þ*i*s man •/ My derworthy dowt*yr* sey in þe name of Ih*es*u þ*at* he

hath synned in letthery •’ in dyspeyr •’ & in wordly good*ys* kepyng •

A gracyows lord þ*i*s is hard for me to sey he schal do me mech

schame •• ȝyf I telle hym any lesyng •• Drede þ*e* not but speke

boldly in my name in þe name of Ih*es*u • for þei arn no lee//

syng*ys* • And þa*n* sche seyd a ȝen to owyr lord Ih*es*u crist •[ good lord

schal he be savyd •[ ȝa seyd owyr lord Ih*es*u • ȝyf he wyl forsaky*n*

hys synne & don aft*yr* þi cownsel • Charge hy*m* þ*at* he forsake

hys synne & be schreue þ*er* of / & also hys offyce • þ*at* he hath w*yth*

owtyn forth •7 Tha*n* ca*m* þe Monk a ȝen • Margery telle me

my synnes • Sche seyd I p*ra*y ȝow ser askyth not þ*er* aftyr • for I

vndyrtake for ȝo*wr* sowle • ȝe schal ben savyd • ȝyf ȝe wyl do

aftyr my cownsel •• forsoþ*e* I wyl not leuyn ȝow but ȝyf ȝe telle*n*

me my synne • Syr I vndyrstond þ*at* ȝe han synned in letchery

in dyspeyr & in kepyng of wordly good •[ þa*n* stod þ*e* monke

stylle • su*m*del a baschyd •• & sythen he seyd •• Wheþ*yr* haue I sy*n*ned

w*yth* wyfes er w*yth* sengyl women •7[ Ser *wyth* wyfes •’/ þa*n* seyd he

schal I be sauyd •• ȝa syr yf ȝe wyl do aft*yr* my cownsel • Sor//

wyth for ȝo*wr* synne / & I xal help ȝow • to sorwyn beth schre//

vyn þ*er* of & forsake it wylfully • leuyth þe offyce þ*at* ȝe han

with owtyn forth •/ & god schal ȝeue ȝow g*ra*cefor my lofe •

The Monke toke hir be þe hand & led hir in to a fayr hows

of offyce made hir a gret dyn*er* / & sythen ȝaf hyr gold to

p*re*yfor hym • And so sche toke hir leue at þ*at* tyme • Anoþ*er*

tyme wha*n* þe creatur ca*m* a geyn to þ*e* same place •/ þ*e* forn//

seyd Monke had forsakyn hys offyce at hir cownsel • & was

turnyd fro hys synne & was mad Supp*ri*owr of þe place

a wel gou*er*nyd man & wel dysposyd þa*n*kyd be god & made þ*i*s c*re*atur

gret cher & hyly blyssed God / þat eu*yr* he saw hir .;.

**f. 14r**

**O**N a tyme as þ*i*s creatur was at Cawnt*yr*bery in þe//

cherch a mong þe Monkys [sche was gretly despysed

& rep*re*uyd for cawse sche wept so fast •• bothyn of þ*e*

Monkys & p*re*stys & of Seculer men • ner al ^a day boþ*e* a for noon

& aft*yr* noon [also in so mech þ*at* hyr husbond went away fro

hir as he had not a knowyn hir • & left hir a loon a mong

hem • cheys hir as sche cowde •• for oþ*er* co*m*fort had sche noon

of hym • as þ*at* day • So an eld Monk whech had ben tresowrer

w*yth* þe qwen • whyl he was in seculer clothyng • a Riche man •

& gretly dred of ~~þe~~ ^mech pepyl • to^ke hir be þe hand seying vn to hir

what kanst þow seyn of god •• ser sche seyth I wyl boþ*e* speke

of hy*m* & heryn of hy*m* rehersyng þe monk a story of sc*ri*ptur •

The mu*n*ke seyd I wold ~~ȝo~~ þow wer closyd in an hows of ston þ*at* þ*er*

schuld no ma*n* speke w*yth* þe • A ser sche seyd ȝe schuld meynteyn

godd*ys* s*er*uawnt*ys* • & ȝe arn þ*e* fyrst þ*at* heldyn a ȝens he*m* • owyr lord

amend ȝow [ þa*n* a ȝong Monke seyde to þ*i*s creatur •[ eyþ*yr* þow

hast þe holy gost or ellys þow hast a devyl w*yth* in þe •• for þ*at* þ*u*

spekyst her to vs it is holy wrytte And þ*at* hast þ*u* not of þiself

[þan seyd þ*i*s creatur • I p*ra*yȝow ser ȝeue me leue to tellyn ȝow

a tale •• þa*n* þe pepyl seyd to þe Monke •• late hir sey what sche

wyl • And þa*n* sche seyd þ*er* was onys a man þ*at* had synned

gretly a ȝens god & wha*n* he was schrevyn hys co*n*fessowr

inyoined hym in p*ar*tyof penawnce þat he schuld o ȝer hyer

men to chyde hym & rep*re*uyn hym for hys synnes • & he xuld

ȝeuen hem sylu*er* for her labowr • & on a day he ca*m* a mong

many gret men • as now ben her god saue ȝow alle •• And

stod a mong hem as I do now a mong ȝow • despysyng hym

as ȝe do me •• þe man lawhyng er smylyng & hauyng good

game at here wordys • þe grettest mayst*yr* of hem seyd to þ*e*

Man • Why lawhyst þ*u* broþel & art þow gretly despised •/ A

ser • I haue a gret cause to lawh • for I haue many days

put sylu*er* owt of my purse • & hyred me*n* to chyde me for

remyssyon of my synne /• & þ*i*s day I may keþe my sylu*er* in my

**f. 14v**

purs I thank ȝow alle • Rygth so I sey to ȝow worshipful serys •

Whyl I was at hom in myn owyn contre day be day w*yth* gret

wepyng & mornyng I sorwyd for I had no schame • skorne • &

despyte • as I was worthy • I thank ȝow alle serys heyly what

fore noon & aft*yr* noon I haue had resonably þ*i*s day blyssed

be god þ*er*of • Than sche went owt of þe Monastery þei fol//

wyng & crying vp on hir þow xalt be brent fals lollare •

her is a cartful of thornys redy for þe & a to*n*ne to bren

þ*e* wyth • And þe creatur stod wythowtyn þe ȝatys at Cawn//

tyrbery for it was in þe euenyng [mech pepyl wonderyng

on hir •• þa*n* seyd þe pepyl • tak & bren hir • And þe creatur

stod stylle tremelyng & whakyng ful sor in hir flesch • w*yth*//

owtyn ony erdly co*m*fort • & wyst not wher hyr husbond was

be come •[ þa*n* p*ra*yd sche in hir hert to owyr lord thynkyng on

þ*i*s man*er* • hedyr cam I lord for þi lofe • blyssed lord help me

& haue m*er*cy on me •• And a non aft*yr* sche had mad hir p*ra*yer*ys*

in hir hert to owyr lord •• þ*er* komyn tweyn fayr ȝong men

& seyd to hir • Damsel art þow non eretyke ne no loller •

And sche seyd no Serys I am neyþyr eretyke ne loller • þa*n* þ*e*i

askyd hir wher was hir in • Sche seyd sche wyst neu*yr* in

what strete •• neu*yr* þe lesse it schuld be at a dewchma*n*nys

hows •[ þa*n* þ*i*s tweyn ȝong men browgt hir hom to hir

ostel & made hir gret cher • p*re*yng hir to p*ra*yfor hem •[ &

þ*er* v fond sche hyr husbond • And mech pepyl in N • had seyd

euyl of hir whyl sche was owte • & slawndryd hir in many

thyng*ys* • þ*at* sche schuld a do*n* whyl sche was in þe contre • Tha*n*

aft*yr* þ*i*s sche was in gret rest of sowle a gret whyle • & had

hy co*n*templacyon day be day & many holy spech & dalyaw*n*s

of owyr lord Ih*es*u cryst • boþ*e* a for noon & aft*yr* noon • wyth

many swet terys of hy deuocyon • so plentyvowsly & *con*ty//

nualy •’ þ*at* it was m*er*uayle þ*at* hir eyne enduryd er how hir

hert mygth lestyn þ*at* it was not co*n*sumyd *wyth* ardowr of loue

**f. 15r**

lofe whych was kyndelyd w*yth* þe holy dalyawns of owyr lord ih*es*u

wha*n* he seyd to hir • many tymes •• derworthy dowt*yr* lofe þow

me w*yth* al þin hert for I loue þe with al myn hert & w*yth* al

þ*e* mygth of my godhed for þow wer a chosyn sowle wyth

owt begynnyg in my syghte And a peler of holy cherch • My

m*er*cyful eyne arn eu*yr* up on þe It wer vnpossibyl to þe to

suffyr þe scornys & despytes þ*at* þow schalt haue •’ ne were

only my grace supportyng þe .;.

**T**han thys creatur þowt it was ful mery to be rep*re*vyd

for godd*ys* lofe [it was to hir gret solas & cowmfort

wha*n* sche was chedyn & fletyn for þ*e* lofe of Ih*es*u •

for rep*re*uyng of synne • for spekyng of vertu • for comowny*n*g

in sc*ri*ptur • whech sche lernyd in s*er*mownys • & be comowny*n*g w*yth*

clerk*ys* • Sche ymagyned in hir self what deth sche mygth

deyn for cryst*ys* sake •• hyr þow sche wold a be slayn for godd*ys*

lofe • but for dred for þ*e* poynt of deth • & þ*er*forsche ymagyned

hyr self þ*e* most soft deth as hir thowt for dred of inpacy//

ens • þ*at* was to be bowndyn hyr hed & hir fet to a stokke • &

hir hed to be smet of w*yth* a scharp ex for godd*ys* lofe •[ þan seyd

owyr lord in hir mende • I thank þe dowt*yr* þ*at* þow woldyst ^ for suffer deth

my lofe •[ for as oftyn as þow thynkyst so þow schalt haue þ*e*

same mede in heuyn as þow þ*u* suffredyst þ*e* same deth •• &

ȝet schal no ma*n* sle the •• ne fyer bren þe • ne watyr drynch

þe •• ne wynd deryn þe •• for I may not for ȝetyn þe • how þow

art wretyn in myn handys & my fete • it lykyn me wel

þe peynes þ*at* I haue sufferyd for þ*e* • I xal neu*yr* ben wroth w*yth*

þe •[ but I xal louyn þe w*yth* owtyn ende • þow al þ*e* worlde be

a ȝens þe • drede þe not • for þei cu*n* no skyl of þe • I swer to

þi mend & it wer possybyl me to suffyr peyn a ȝeyn as

I haue do be forn • me wer leu*ar* to suffyr as mech peyn as

eu*yr* I dede for þi sowle alon • raþ*ar* þa*n* þow schuldyst p*ar*tyn

fro me w*yth* owtyn end • & þ*er*fordowt*yr* rygth as þow seyst

þe p*re*st take þe chyld at þ*e* funt ston & dyppe it in þ*e* wat*yr*

~~fro~~ [strike in red] & wasch it fro oryginal synne • Rygth so xal I wasch þ*e* //

**f. 15v**

in my p*re*cyows blod fro alle þ*i* synne • And þ*ow* I wythdrawe //

su*m*tyme þe felyng of grace fro þe eyþ*yr* of spech er of wepy*n*g

drede þ*e* not þ*er*of• for I am an hyd god in þe•þ*at* þ*u* schuldyst haue

no veynglory & þ*at* þ*u* schuldyst knowyn wele þowmayst not

han terys ne swych dalyawns • but whan god wyl send he*m*

þ*e* • for it arn þefre ȝyft*ys* of god • w*yth* owtyn þi m*er*yte */* & he

may ȝeue hem ^to whom he wyl • & don þ*e* no wrong • And þ*er*for

take hem mekely & þankyngly • Wha*n* I wyl send hem / & suffyr

pacyently wha*n* I wythdrawe hem & seke besyly tyl þow

mayst getyn hem • for terys of co*m*puccyon • deuocyon & *com*pas//

syon • arn þe heyest & sekerest • ȝyft*ys* • þ*at* I ȝeue in erde And

what schuld I don mor for þe •• les þa*n* I toke þ*i* sowle owt

of þ*i* body & put it in heuyn • & þ*at* wyl I not ȝet • Neu*y*r þ*e* les

wherso eu*yr* god is heuyn is • & god is in þ*i* sowle & many

an Awngel is abowte þ*i* sowle • to kepe it boþ*e* nygth & day

ffor whan þow gost to chyrch • I go w*yth* þe •• Wha*n* þ*u* syttest at

þi mete I sytte w*yth* þe • Wha*n* þow gost to þ*i* bed I go w*yth* þe •[ &

whan þ*u* gost owt of towne I go w*yth* þe • Dowt*yr* þ*er* was neu*yr*

chyld so buxom to þe fadyr • as I wyl be to þe • to help þ*e* and

kepe þe •• I far su*m* tyme w*yth* my grace to þe • As I do w*yth* þ*e* sunne •’

su*m* tyme þow wetyst wel þe su*n*ne schynyth al abrod þ*at* many

man may se it • & su*m* tyme it is hyd vndyr a clowde þ*at* men

may not se it • & ȝet is þe su*n*ne neu*yr* þe lesse in hys hete //

ne in hys brytnesse • And rygth so far I be þe & be my chosyn

sowlys þ*e* ^owgh it be so þ*at* þ*u* wepe not alwey at þ*i* lyst • my g*ra*ce

is neu*yr* þe lesse in þe • þ*er* for I p*re*ueþ*at* þow art a very dowt*yr* to

me • & a modyr also • A syster • A wyfe • & A spowse • wytnessy*n*g

þ*e* gospel wher owyr lord seyth to hys dyscyples •[ he þ*at* doth

þe wyl of my fadyr in heuyn • he is bothyn modyr broþ*yr* &

syster • vn to me • Whan þow stodyst to plese me • þa*n* art þ*u*

A very dowt*yr* •• Wha*n* þ*u* wepyst & mornyst for my peyn &

for my passyon • þ*an* art þow a very modyr to haue co*m*pas

syon of hyr chyld • Wha*n* þow wepyst for oþ*er* mennys sy*n*nes //