



The Vision

Die Sprüche des h. Bernhard
und
die Vision des h. Paulus
nach Ms. Laud 108.

Von
Dr. Carl Horstmann.

I. Die Sprüche des h. Bernhard.*

HERkniez me a luytel þrowe.
þe þat wollez ou self i knowe.
Wiſe þei ȝe beo.
Ichulle ou telle aſe ich can.
þwat holie writ ſpekz of Man.
þif ȝe wullez i heore me.

Seint bernard ſeith in his bok.
þat man is worm and wormes cok.
For he ſchal wormes fede
þwan hiſ lijf him is bi reued.
In hiſ rug and in hiſ heued.
Schullen griſliche wormes brede.

þi fleſchs ſchal melte fram þe bon.
þi ſenues ſundriez euerech on.
þi bodi ſchal al to ſie.
þe þat wollez þe ſope i ſeo.
Vndoz þe burieleſ þare hi beoz
And lokiez ȝwat þare lie.

Man þu art a feble fom.
Here naſt þou no ſiker bom.
I ſegge it þe wel ſtille.
þi rihte hom iſ elles ȝwer.

Ihūs uſ graunti to come þer.
þwan it iſ hiſ wille.

þi fleſch ſtant a ȝein þi goſt.
þwanne þu ſchalt deiȝe þu it noſt.
Noþur day ne nyȝht.
Nedeſcoſteſ þou moſt deiȝe
Ne may no raunchoun þe fur buye.
Striue þe ȝwile þou miȝht.

Of feble wynd man iſ þi lijf.
þwanne dez drawez iſ ſcharpe knyf.
þou do þe ſone to ſchriue.
For ȝif þat þou canſt loken ariȝht.
Ne haſt þou here bote fiȝht.
þe ȝwile þou ar aliue.

Fol. 198. b. Nov þu art wrong nov þu
art ryȝht.

Nou þou art heuy nou þu art lyȝht.
þou lepeſt alſo a ro.
Nov þu art ſik nou þou art coueret.
Nov þou art riſhe nou þu art pouere.
Ne iſ þiſ muſche wo.

* The Sayings of St. Bernard und The Visions of St. Paul betitelt
F. Madden beide Gedichte; vgl. Havel. ed. W. Skeat, London 1868, Pref.
p. XXXV.

þi flesch þe seith boþe night and day.
 Ichulle habbe ayse þe ȝwile i may.
 þi soule seith a ȝein him nay.
 ȝif ich am aȝein þe of mucche meth.
 þou bringust me to helle to þe deth.
 And to wo þat lastez ay.

þus it farez bi twene heom to.
 þat on seith let. þat oþur seith do.
 Ne connen huy neuere blinne.
 Ake wel ȝe mouwen ov self i seo.
 þe soule ouȝhte maister to beo.
 þe maistrie for to winne.

A man ne beo nouȝt þi sulf vnkouth.
 Loke ȝwat comez out of þi mouth.
 And elles ȝware with oute.
 ȝif þou wolt nime wel guod kepe.
 þou ne findest bote a foul doung
 hepe.
 þei þou loke þe al a boute.

Man þu hast in þi foule hous.
 A deoreworþe þing and precious.
 And ful deore it was a bouȝt.
 Ich holde þe more þane wod.
 ȝif letest (!) so mucche guod.
 þe feond habbe al for nouȝt.

Man beo þou i war and eke wys.
 ȝif þou doun fallest sone aris.
 Ne lie þou none stounde.
 With al þi might ȝif þou dost þis.
 þi soule þe seyth and soth it is.
 þat blisse þou hast i founde.

Man þou hauest þreo wicke fon.
 Heore names i can nemme echon.
 ȝif ich schal tellen hem alle.
 þin. owene flechs. þe world. þe feond.
 And he þat best scholde beo þi
 freond.
 Maketh þe raþest doun falle.

þou cloþest him with fair schroud.
 þou makest þi fo fat and proud.
 To fyȝhte þe a ȝein.
 þou dost þi sulf wel mucche wrong
 þou makest þi fo fat and strong.
 ȝif ich it dorste seyen.

Man do þu bi conseil and bi red.
 And with drauȝ þou him of is bred.
 And watur ȝif him to drinke.
 Ne lat him no þing Idel gon.

Ake do him pines mani on.
 And ofte forto swynke.

To coueitise of mani þing.
 þe world þe drawez a misliking.
 A ȝeynes þe more and more.
 Fals he is and fayr he semez.
 Alre best ȝwane he þe quemez.
 He þe bindez sore.

þou wost þis world schal gon to nouȝt.
 Ne hast þou no þing hidere i brouȝt.
 Ne nouȝt ne schalt bere with þe.
 þou schalt al one gon þi wey.
 With outen stede and palefrey.
 With oute gold and feo.

þi þridde fo is þe foule wiȝht.
 þat fondeth boþe day and nyȝht.
 With his guyles alle.
 Wel þou wost he ne louez þe nouȝt
 He fondez ay to chaungen þi þouȝht.
 And makez þe forto falle.

þou wost wel he nele þe no guod.
 He wolde hauen þin herte blod.
 Beo iwar of his hok.
 Ake do ase ich þe habbe i seid.
 And þine þreo fon worþez a leyd.
 With heore owene Crok.

ȝif þu seist þis spel is hard
 Ine may nouȝt holde þis foreward
 Holde ne wel it driȝe.
 A luytel þing ich axi þe.
 þou seie it me par charite.
 þat þou me nouȝt ne lye.

ȝware beoth nou þei þat bi fore us
 weren.
 þat houndes ladden and hauekes
 beren.
 And hadden field and wode.
 þis riche leuedies in heore bour.
 þet wereden gold on heore tressour.
 With heore briȝhte rode.

Fol. 199. a. Huy eten and dronken and
 maden hem glad.
 Here lyf was al in Ioye a lad.
 Men knevleden hem bi fore.
 Huy beren heom here so swiþe heyȝe.
 þat þoruȝ twinklingues of heore eyȝen.
 Heore soules beon alle for lore.

3ware beoz þulke þat coupen so wel
 With vnrijhte and wrongliche echdel
 Winne rentes and londes.
 And nolden nought here beon aknowe.
 þat it was unrijhtfulliche heore owe.
 For þe worldes schonde.

þulke þat deiden on vrþe here
 And wonnen ought in swuch manere.
 Londes oþur rente
 For soþe i segge it eou to wisse
 Huy ne comiez neuere in heuene bisse*
 Ake in helle huy schullen stunte.

þei huy ligge sike longue
 And in heore dez bedde þienchez mid
 wronge

To þulke þing we come.
 Fain huy wolden hadden huy space.
 Ake manie nabbez þer to no grace
 To ȝelden a ȝein eft sone.

þare seith þe bok a plight.
 þat eorl ne baroun cler** ne knyght.
 Bacheler ne sweyn.
 Noþing ne mouwe huy with onrijht.
 In þis manere habbe no wijht.
 Bote huy it ȝelden aȝein.

3ware is þis hoppingue and þis song.
 þis ridingue and þis proute ȝong.
 þis haekes and þis houndes.
 Al þat weole is went away.

þat Joyge is come to weilawey.
 And to mani harde stoundes.

þole þou man ȝif þat þou might.
 A luyte pine þat man þe bit.
 With draugh þine ayses ofte.
 þei þine pines þe þinchen on lede.*
 þou þench opon þe muchele mede.
 Hit schal þe liken softe.

ȝif þe feond þat foule þing
 With wicke roun oþur vuel egging.
 Hauze þe ene a kast
 Op stond and beo guod Chaum-
 piun
 And ne fal þou non more a doun
 For a luytel blast.

þou tak þe rode to þi staf.
 And þenk on him þat þaron ȝaf.
 His lif þat was so leof.
 He ȝaf it for þe þou ȝeld it him.
 A ȝein is fo a staf þu nim.
 And awrek him on þat þeof.

Marie moder houene quen.
 þou canst and might and owest to
 ben.

Ore help aȝein þe feonde.
 Help us sunnes forto fleon.
 þat we moten þi sone i seon.
 In Joye with outen ende. Amen.

II. Die Vision des h. Paulus.

Pol. 199. a. SEne dawes aren þat men
 callez.

þe sonenday is best of alle.
 þanne aungles habbuz heore pley.
 Alle þe sunfole soules wicke.
 þat beoz in helle pines þicke.
 Huy restez hem þat ilke day.

þe storie is ase ich eou radde.
 Hou seint Mijhel powel ladde.
 To þe peynes of helle.
 He saizh at helle ȝates stonde.
 Galutres al fuyrie to fonde.
 Sunfole soules to quelle.

Some bi þe fiet weren an bongue.
 And some bi heore tresses longue.

* Ms. bisse statt blisse.

** cler st. clerk.

Heore peynes forto lienge.
 Some bi hondene and bi armes.
 And some bi heore erene and bi þe
 þarmes.
 And some bi heore toungues hienge.

Powel lokede him bi side
 And saizh a flod in helle glide
 þare inne weren bestes felle.
 Some ase fisches in þe se.
 And some ase wormes fierden heo.
 Sunfole soules to quelle.

A ful heigh brugge and vnguod.
 Was maked ouer þat foule flod.
 To habbe redie passage.
 To laten þe guode soules pase.

* on lede st. onrede?

3 *

Powel saigh an old man al one.
In one huyrne sitte and grone.
And make reulich chere.
Feondes in is necke he bar.
For he nolde nought beo war.
be twile he was here.

hanne seide powel þo.
 3wat is þat man þat is sq wo.
 And in so gret trauaile.
 þe Aungel Answere him a ȝein
 Powel for soþe ichulle þe seien
 With outen ani fayle.

He was an hokerere in is liue.
In word in weork he dude Gyle.
In poujt and eke dede.
Trichour he was euere embe þwile
Foul nig and hard in al is liue.
þare fore he bath þere is mede.

Powel gradde and seide alas.
 þat þulke soule imaked was.
 To pini so in wowe.
 He lokede him bi side þo.
 A put he saizh was ful of wo.
 Hit was be feondes owe.

Sunfole soules for heore gult.
Weren in þat þustur put ipult.
Heore tongues forto hete.
þulke weren bacbitares in heore liue.
þat no merci nadden siþe.
Powel bi gan to weope.

Powel weop for soruwe þat he hadde.
þe Aungel him a boute ladde
And bad him late al beo.
Wel mo peynes þane þou seiȝe.*
I schal be ȝuyt in helle schewe.
Powel þat þou schalt i seo.

He let him seon a put bi cas.
 þat with seouen seles a seled was.
 þat gan foule stinke.
 He brac þe seles euerech on.
 Foulere stunch nas neuere non.
 þane cam out of þane brinke.

Also þo dominical it tellez.
Hit is þe meste pine of helle.
Powel bereth witnesse.

* Ms. sewe mit überschriebenem iſe.

* Ms. sewe mit überschriebenem iſe.

þe soules þat comez in þat prisoun.
Of heom nis no mencion.
Noþer more ne lesse.

Fol. 200. a. Also deop is þat funde-
ment.

Ase it is to þe firmament.
Heore gretingue farth ase þonder
Euerech feond on oþur sat.
Much feorlich him þoughte þat.
Powel hadde gret wunder,

In þat stinkinde put þei wone.
þulke þat ihū Marie sone.
Nolden on bi leue.
Hey hadden cristindom to ȝift.
And ȝif huy wolden boþe hosel and
schrift.
And sethþe wolden mis bi leue.

Powel saiȝh a fuyr glowe grimme.
Of seue colours was þat leȝe þar inne.
At seuen holes hit out wende.
Sunfole soules weren þar inne.
For huy deiden in dedlich sunne.
Heore sunnes forte amende.

þat o leyȝe was puy* snouȝh ȝwyȝht.
þat oþur ase hayl þat lyȝt in dyȝt.**
þat þridde ase fuyr him brennez.
þat feorþe was hewene ich wene.
þat fiftte ase naddres on to seone.
þare was luyte wunne.

þe sixte leyȝe ful cold was.
þe seouenþe stonke foule alas.
þe soules weren þare inne.
For heore sunnes no penaunce.
Huy nolden don no cheuisaunce.
Ne neuere wicke hede a blinne.

Powel lokede bi side heom.
þare he saiȝh blake wōmen
And blake weren heore cloþus.
þe cloþus þat huy hadden on.
Welden in pich and in brumston.
With dragones and fuyr boþe.

Dragones weren a boutte heore hals.
And seouen feondes þat weren fals.
þat day þat huy weren take.
þe feondes harden*** hornes gretȝ.
Huy pulten heom for heore misdede.
Muche wo þare huy maden.

* puy st. puyr.
** Oder dyȝh?
*** st. hadden.

Some brenden in þat fuyr þere.
And some maden reulich bere.
And seiden in heore mone.
Some songuen in heore songue.
Allas þat we liuen þus longue.
In helle fuyre to grone.

þulke weren wummen in heore liue
þat bi fore heore wedlok and eke
siȝen.

Heore children a slowe.
Ne sethþe huy nolden atþe laste.
For heore sunnes o day faste.
Ne to ihū crist a bouwe.

Powel lokede up an heiȝh.
And saiȝh ane soule þare heo fleiȝh.
Among feondes seouene.
þat bodi was ded þat ilke day.
þe soule þoughte to scapen a wey.
And a scapede almeſt to heouene.

þo cam an Aungle him aȝein.
And bad him laten is fleoingue beon.
And bi leue with is make.
Of alle his sunnes a chartre huy
radde.

þe feondes out heore armes spradden.
þat soule huy gonne take.

þat wrechche soule huy bounden faste.
A feond in his necke hire caste.
And bar hire into helle.
He ste (!) hire into þe put.
Also deope ase any feond sit.
His pruyde huy maden doun falle.

In one stude þare powel stod.
He saiȝh a soule þat was guod.
To ward heouene bringue.
A þousend Aungles in a play.
Bi fore þat soule huy comen þat day.
And murie huy gonne singue.

To þat soule þanne seiden heo.
Sweting iblessed mote þou heo.
Euere with outen ende.
Nime we huy seiden þis soule briȝht.
And beren to ihū oure driȝht.
To ore louerd þat is so hende.

þe soules þat weren in pining stude.
To seint Miȝhel huy maden heore
bede.

And to powel boþe.
 þat huy scholden heore erinde craue
 Some remedie for to haue.
 þei it were heom loth.

Fol. 200. b. þat heorde powel and seint
 Miþhel.
 On kneos huy fullen to grounde
 echdel.
 And Ihū crist bi souȝhten
 A þousend Aungles fullen heom with
 Alle huy mauden heom pays and grith
 To Jesu þat hem bouȝhte.

He ȝaf heom remedie with oute soruwe.
 Fram saturday non to þe monen
 moruwe.
 For to beon on bounde.
 He þat vscher was in helle.
 Of mucche soruwe he miȝhte telle
 In þat schorte stounde.

Huy heuen heore hondene heom aboue.
 And þonkeden Ihū Marie sone.
 þat heom ȝaf swuch reste.
 Ake ȝwane it comez to þe mone mo-
 ruwe

þanne awakez heore soruwe.
 And þat is al þat wurste.

Powel gan Miþhel forto frayne.
 þat he scholde don him to seine.

ȝif he euere wuste.
 & þat he him scholde sone telle.
 Hou fale peynes weren in helle.
 þat he þar of ne miste.

þo seide Miþhel to him ful sone
 I ne ne* may nouȝt do þi bone.
 þe soþe forto seiȝe.
 Pines þare beth swiþe strongue.
 Lasse and more þat lastez longue.
 To heo** þat þare beoz neyȝe.

Ake þei a þousend tounghen were
 echdel.

I maked of Ire and of stiel.
 And couþe speken and spelle.
 And hadden i sete in studijngue.
 Fram þe worldes bi guynnigue.
 þe peynes ne miȝhten huy telle.

Ake Ihū crist þat alle þing wost.
 Fader and sone and holi gost.
 þou ȝif us miȝhte and space.
 A domes day þane þe dom schal be.
 þat we moten þine face i seo.
 Louerd þoruȝ þine holie grace.

* Ms. doppelt ne.

** Ms. heo statt heom.