# Millstatt Plaint of Sin | Millstätter Sündenklage

### **Text Information**

Author | Anonymous
Language | Middle High German
Period | 12th Century
Genre | Religious poem
Source | Klagenfurt, Kärtner Landesarchiv, cod. GV 6/19
Collection | Prayer, Spirituality, and Life after Death: Global Medieval Perspectives
URL | http://sourcebook.stanford.edu/text/millstatt\_plaint\_sin/

Transcription, translation and introduction by Sarah Bowden.

#### **Introduction to the Text**

The *Millstatt Plaint of Sin*, written in middle of the twelfth century perhaps in the South West of Germany, is a substantial poem addressed to God in the voice of a sinner. The poem is conventionally counted as part of a small sub-genre of Early Middle High German religious poetry known as the "Sündenklage", or "plaint of sin". These poems – there is also the *Vorau Plaint of Sin* and the more simplistic *Uppsala Plaint of Sin* – all have at their heart a confession of sinfulness and a prayer to God for mercy, and are thought to have taken their inspiration from the more pragmatic text-type of the German confession ("Beichte"). These confessions, generalized first-person confessions in prose, are transmitted widely from the ninth century and had a variety of liturgical and devotional functions.

The manuscript of the *Millstatt Plaint of Sin* is heavily damaged, but it is nonetheless possible to get a good sense of the poem and its themes. It is not simply a confession of sins, but rather offers a conceptualization of the world, as well as the place of man and his sins within it. By framing the confessional act with sections praising God and his creation and structuring sins around the inappropriate use of individual body parts, the *Millstatt Plaint of Sin* explains that God is in everything and that all created things are a way of seeing God; hence sinning is perceived as an almost illogical malfunctioning of creation. Although ostensibly quite straightforward, the poem tackles – in a rewarding and indeed quite challenging way – a number of contemporary issues that will be of interest to readers: the relationship between body and soul; bodily fragmentation; and the nature and construction of selfhood.

### Introduction to the Source

The Millstatt Plaint of Sin is transmitted in full in Klagenfurt Landesarchiv Cod. GV 6/19, a major anthology of "Early Middle High German" verse texts. It was made around 1200, or slightly later, in Bavaria or Austria, and contains the Old German Genesis, Exodus, and Physiologus, accompanied by illustrations, followed by five short religious poems, of which the Millstatt Plaint of Sin is the third. We do not know for whom it was made – perhaps for nobility or for a female religious community. The part of the manuscript containing our poem is heavily damaged and so the poem itself is often difficult to reconstruct. Some insight into the missing sections is, however, offered by two other manuscript witnesses that contain fragmented versions of the same poem: 1) Munich BSB Cgm 5249/60a, four parchment fragments of Honorius' Elucidarium from the late twelfth century, with a German text written below in a smaller hand (although perhaps the same hand) that correlates – albeit with considerable deviation – to around 100 lines of the Millstatt Plaint of Sin; 2) Zurich Zentralbibliothek Cod. Rh. 77, a ninth- or tenth-century Latin manuscript with various twelfth-century additions, including a fragment of a German poem often known as the Rheinau Paul. This poem correlates fairly closely to parts of the end of the Millstatt Plaint of Sin, although it is by no means identical.

#### **About this Edition**

Previous editors of the *Millstatt Plaint of Sin* have made attempts to reconstruct the damaged poem using a mix of the so-called *Rheinau Paul* and educated guesswork. I have largely avoided the latter, although not because I think earlier attempts were not plausible: both Roediger and Maurer make thoughtful, intelligent suggestions. Roediger often underestimates the size of the gaps, however, and Maurer's edition, although largely more plausible, is marred by his insistence on a long-line strophic form, for which there is little evidence. I have only completed half-finished words when their full form is entirely obvious, and these instances are indicated by italicization. I have, however, completed some lines using the Munich and (particularly) the Zurich manuscripts above – these instances are italicized and marked with



square brackets (Munich) and curly brackets (Zurich). I have avoided any linguistic normalization, though; my aim in 'completing' these lines is to give the reader a (plausible) sense of the content, not to recreate a damaged poem. In any case, the verses in the Munich and Zurich manuscripts do show considerable differentiation to those in the Klagenfurt manuscript, so my additions should not be thought of as anything other than possibilities. I use | to mark the end of a folio in the Klagenfurt manuscript.

## **Further Reading**

Bynum, Caroline Walker, Fragmentation and Redemption: Essays on Gender and the Human Body in Medieval Religion (New York: Zone Books, 1992)

- · A key work on medieval approaches to the body, the relationship between body and soul and bodily fragmentation.
- Haug, Walter, 'Literature, allegory and salvation: theoretical positions in Early Middle High German', in Haug, *Vernacular Literary Theory in the Middle Ages*, trans. by Joanna M. Catling, Cambridge Studies in Medieval Literature, 29 (Cambridge: CUP, 1997), pp. 46–74.
- A introduction to the content and style of German religious poetry of the twelfth century, focusing on salvation and praise. Schneider, Karin, 'Ein weiterer Textzeuge der 'Millstätter Sündenklage", ZfdA 124 (1995), 298–302
- A transcription and description of the fragmented Munich manuscript.

Schröder, Werner, Vom 'Rheinauer Paulus' zur 'Millstätter Sündenklage': Aspekte der Poetisierung volkssprachlicher kirchlicher Gebrauchstexte im frühen 12. Jahrhundert (Mainz: Akademie der Wissenschaften und der Literatur/Stuttgart: Steiner Verlag Wiesbaden, 1986). Repr. in Schröder. Frühe Schriften zur Ältesten deutschen Literatur, Schriften der wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft an der Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main, Geisteswissenschaftliche Reihe, 13 (Stuttgart: Steiner, 1999), pp. 255–322

• The only detailed study of the Millstatt Plaint of Sin.



## Millstatt Plaint of Sin | Millstätter Sündenklage

Wol du heiligir christ Blessed are you, holy Christ, du ein warer got bist you, who are a true God, the gate of paradise, paradisi porta meister des hellewarten master of the guardian of hell. den gebant din hant Your hand bound him, do in din gotheit ubirwant when your Godhead overcame him. in der helle bistu zornich In hell you are angry, in himelriche genædich in heaven full of mercy. You are King of Kings, du bist rex regum in [...] 10 in [...], paradises herre lord of paradise, [...] of the earth. der erde [...] You are God of the heavens: in den himelen bistu got der sunne leistet din gebot the sun follows your command ioch div mæninne 15 and the moon, too, louh[...][...] [...]inne shines [...]. div nimet abe so du wil They retreat as you will, so [...] so ist ir uil [...] this is sufficient for them. Von den zwein [...] By these two [...] [...] du geschuoffe uon nihte 20 [...] which you created from nothing, ist div [...] the [...] is [...] [...] unz an die helle [...] up to hell. div nemag es [...] [...]nen It cannot [...], da ist immir uinstir inne there, it is always dark [...] brinne 25 [....] burn. Herre dine chnehte Lord, your servant [...] dich mit rehte [...] you, as he should, a God mirabilis ein got mirabilis so du geschriben bist this is how you are described! du bist herre [...] 30 Lord, you are [...], dir enist niht gelich nothing is like you. du bist | mennisc You are of mankind uil starch ist din gebot your command is very strong uns bist doch der ewige got and you are yet also eternal God! Dv bist der heilige geist 35 You are the holy spirit, unde bist doch bein unde uleisch and are yet bone and flesh.



Dv bist uater unde chint du bist regen unde wint Dv bist lewe du bist lamp du bist churz du bist lanch dv bist rich du bist arm dui bist chalt du bist warm du bist lip du bist tot du bist genade ane not du bist suozze du bist scharf du bist weich du bist starch di bist uinster du bist lieht du bist leit du bist liep du bist blode du bist balt du bist iunch du bist alt daz ist alliz an dir zwiv uerhanchtest du mir daz ich cherte uon dir nu bitte ich iuch namen dri doch ichs unwert si daz ich [...] [...]ne ich wil ivch doch erchennen [...] ivr genade daz ir mich enphahet [...] uon den himelen unde din heiliger sun unde din heiligir geist wan du selbe w[...][...] daz mich nu zestunde riwent mine sunde Nv uernim mine stimme durch diner muotir minne und ouch daz din [...] Tobiam unde saram und durch [...] dir abraham gap do in din s[...][...]nes bat Nv uernim mich sund[...][...] wand ich gandert han einen sun [...] | uater bat

You are father and child, you are rain and wind. You are lion, you are lamb, 40 you are short, you are long. You are rich, you are poor, you are cold, you are warm. You are life, you are death, you are mercy without torment. 45 You are sweet, you are sharp, you are soft, you are strong. You are darkness, you are light, you are sorrow, you are love. You are weak, you are brave, you are young, you are old. Everything is in you! How did you put up with me when I turned away from you? Now I beg you in your threefold name, 55 although I am unworthy of it, that I [...]. For I wish to acknowledge you. [...] your mercy, that it [mercy] might receive me, 60 [...] of heaven, and your holy son, and your heavenly spirit. For you yourself [...] that now, at this moment, 65 I regret my sins. So hear my voice, in the name of the love of your mother, and also that your [...] Tobias and Sarah, 70 and in [....] that you gave to Abraham,

when your [...] asked him [...].

a son, [...] asked his father,

for I have followed the example of

So hear me, sinful [...],



daz er im sinen teil gap 75 to give him his portion alles sines quotes of all his property, daz er mit ubir muote which, with pride unde mit huore and with whorery, alliz zefuorte he used up completely. unde mit sunden so gar uerswante and, in sin, wasted so entirely daz er niht enhabete that he had nothing left. do begunde er halten div swin Then he began to keep pigs daz was div lipnar sin this was his living. Die wrzzen die daz swin group The roots that the pigs dug up die douhten in uil guot 85 seemed good enough to him daz er sich da mit nerte to sustain himself with wan er andirs niht enhabete for he had nothing else. Do gedahtet im der arme Then the poor man thought to himself: waz ob ich minen uater erbarme what if I might cause my father to feel pity daz ich im hate div swin by keeping his pigs for him? ia habent dei mietloute sin Indeed, his tenants have plenty of bread and wine. brot unde win genuoch waz ob er [...] tuot What if he [...] did er [...] mich mit triwen he [....] me, with loyalty, 95 and [...] regret. unde [...] riwe waz ob ich bin so sælich What if I am so blessed [...] wirt genædich [...] he might be merciful? Do begunde [...] [...]nen Then he began [...]. do enphiench in mit minnen Then, with love, 100 his good father welcomed him, der sin uater guote wande er im erbarmote because he felt compassion for him. ich uil armer sundære I, a pitiful sinner, ia furhte [...] so sere I fear [...] so much! ich sorge also harte I am extremely worried ze den dinen [...]en worten 105 about your [...] words, dei snident so div strale which cut like arrows. [..] ich herre sware [...] I, lord, with difficulty, si uarent [...] [...]stein they travel [...] stone. iane mach sich unsir sundære [...] In truth, we sinners are not able to [...] nimmir da uor bewarn 110 ever protect ourselves from them, den [...] wellent taren which [...] aim to harm. **D**ir sint [...] [...]unde To you [...]



alle meres grunde		all the bottom of the sea,
dei [] <i>i</i> och die sewe		the [] and the lakes,
die buhele ioch   die lewer	115	the hills and the valleys.
ulivhe ich an daz meres ort		If I were to flee to the bottom of the sea
da uindet mich daz din wort		your word would find me,
oder in daz apgrunde		or to the abyss,
wie schiere ez mich da uindet		how quickly it would find me there!
<b>D</b> er walt deheinen boum hat	120	The wood has not a single tree
dune wizzent wol wa er stat		whose location is unknown to you.
loch daz uinstir tan		And also the dark pine forest –
dane mach sich dehein man		no man would ever be able to
nindir inne uerbergen		conceal himself there.
div holir in der erde	125	The holes in the earth
ioch die uelt steine		and the stones –
die weist du trohtin eine		you alone, Lord, know these.
ulivhe ich indir []in		If I were to flee into one,
da uindet mich daz wort din		your word would find me.
[] herre inchunde	130	[] Lord, you know
die berge h[][]		the mountains []
<b>D</b> az hast du also geschaffen		You created it thus,
[] []chen		[]
daz ez ouf niht enstat		so that it was lacking in nothing.
[] hast	135	[] you have
ouf diner hende		in your hands
unz an []		until []
[] urteil sol ergan		[] judgement will be cast
ubir wip und <i>ubir man</i>		over woman and man:
[] allez sol uerbrinnen	140	[] everything will burn.
da bist du []		At that time you are []
den guoten mit mit minnen		the good with love
den ubilen [] grimme		the bad with anger.
so bist du rehtir rihtær []		In this way you are a just judge []
<b>O</b> be ich daz rehte uernim	145	If I understood correctly
so ez [] habent geschriben		what the [] have written,
so wirt da ein []		then there will be a []
ein urteil mit chreften		a powerful judgement,
daz [] []sen sol		that will []
ubir dise werlt al	150	over all the world.



<b>D</b> [] [] div miete		[] wealth,
silbir noch golt da[][]		silver nor gold []
[] miete div mære		[] great wealth,
noch phen[][]		nor pennies []
noch lantreht noch phaht	155	nor claim to land, nor taxes:
da [] mit siner chraft		at that time [] in his power.
Dane hilf[] []  zunge		Then [] tongues are of no help,
noch der herre sinem manne		nor the lord to his servant,
noch der man sinem herren		nor the servant to his lord,
swie breit im sin div lehen	160	however much he owes to him.
Der uoget dane hilfet		The advocate is of no help -
swie gare er bestrouffet		he brings his poor defendant
den sinen armen uogetman		into a very difficult situation:
erne getar da lout werden		for he dare not speak up there.
da rihtet got mit rehte	165	There, God judges rightly
dem herren ioch dem chnehte		the lord and the servant,
der urouwen ioch der diwe		the lady and the maid.
swie harte uns unsir sunde riwe		However greatly we regret our sins,
so []		[]
wir schulden ez é behuoten	170	we should protect ourselves sooner
[] da gescheiden		[] are separated
die liben uon den []		the beloved from the []
[] sælegen zeder zeswen		[] blessed to the right,
die sint dir []		they are to you []
[] ewigen genaden	175	[] eternal grace.
mit den sin wir []		With them we are []
[]ent ouch da geschichet		[] are then also sent away
die lei[] []		the pitiful,
[] widir got worhten		who acted against God,
ir schephær []	180	their creator []
uil uerre zeder winstere		far away to the left
in []stere		into [] darkness
in die helle uram		directly into hell,
nehei[] []es ist si wane		which is empty of no [].
<b>D</b> a ist wuoft unde we	185	There, there is weeping and wailing,
[] nimmer zergen		[] never end,
weinen und suof		crying and sighing
[] []ewizze not		[] pain



Da ist zane gris[]		There is teeth []
[] brinnet uivres flamme	190	flaming fires burn
mit [] []re		with [].
lonet in der tivuel		The devil rewards them,
daz [] []negem man		that [] man,
trieffen an sine zun[][]		drop onto their tongues
[] []t andir lon	195	[] other rewards,
wan mit uivrin []		for with fiery []
[] []innet er si binden		he begins to bind
in fuozzen [] []den		their feet and hands:
so entuot in niweht so not		they could have no greater torment
[] []uils getat	200	[] the devil's deeds.
der is also ureissam		He is so terrifying
anzesehent dem man		for man to look at
daz im daz sam we tuot		that it causes him as much pain
sam daz uivr ioch div gluot		as fire or glowing coals.
so grinet si an der satanat	205	This is how devilry howls at them:
da ist deheines leides undirlaz		no form of suffering is ignored.
Belzebup der ubele		The evil Beelzebub
der [] andirs niht ze gebene		has nothing to give
wan urost unde hungir		but frost and hunger:
daz gibet er da zehelle	210	this is what he offers there in hell.
andirhalp die hitzze		Elsewhere there is heat.
da muozzen si inne sitzzen		They must sit there in the heat,
da zuo git er in ouch		which affects them
den []ch []nunden rouch		[] smoke
ze nasen ioch ze []	215	in their noses and in [].
[] mach nieman niht gehoren		[] no-one can hear anything
ni[][]en		[]
des tieuels hiwen		the howling of the devil.
So we i[] []geborn		O woe that he was born!
so get des unseren sc[] []	220	In this way our creator []
[] die uiant sin		[] his enemy,
so muozzen si []		therefore they must [].
sol div werlt elliv zergen		If the world ever comes to an end,
[] schulen gesten		[] should remain
unde sin riche	225	and his kingdom,
[] []chen		[]



daz nemach nimmer ze[]		It will never []
[] got inne		[] God within,
immir unde dar uber []		for ever and above that []
[] uil schone	230	[] very beautifully
der himil chunich ur[]		the King of Heaven []
den wiben ioch den mannen		both women and men
mit den m[] []		with then []
die dar mennischlich zunge		that the tongue of man
nimm <i>ir</i> [] uol bringen	235	never could express completely.
So heizzet er si []		In this way he calls them []
[] schone paradise		[] beautiful paradise,
da ist liep un[] []		where there is delight and []
[] ist dehein ungenade niht		[] there is no unhappiness.
<b>D</b> a [] nit	240	There [] envy
[] uroude ane strit		[] joy without complaint,
da ist lip []		there is life [],
[] genade ane not		[] mercy without suffering,
dane ist urost n[] []		there is neither frost <i>nor</i> []
dane brennet si div sunne	245	the sun does not burn them,
da <i>ne</i> []		[] does not [],
wan si schulen immir iugent han		for they have eternal youth.
<b>D</b> a ist dehein angist		There is no fear:
der engele sanges		in the song of the angels
urouwent sich die menege	250	the crowd rejoices!
da ist aller genaden stæte		There, there is a permanent state of complete grace.
ir ougen sich nimmir gesatten		Their eyes are never sated
des gotes antluzzes		by the sight of God
da si uor im sizzent		when they sit before him -
uil liep er in ze sehen ist	255	he is a joy for them to behold.
so sprichet der heilige christ		Holy Christ speaks as follows:
<b>W</b> ol ir miniu liebiu chint		'You are blessed, my dear children,
ir mit mir hie bint		to be here with me,
[]		[]
nu get in daz himelriche	260	now go to into the Kingdom of Heaven
[]		[]
ich wil iu selbe eruillen		I myself will fill you
[] ze liebe habet getan		[] you have done through love,
daz schult []		this you should []



So wirt da michil uroude	265	Thus there is great joy there
[] <i>m</i> enege		[] the crowd,
die urivnt ioch die []		friends as well as [],
[] /ieb alle dare		[] love all there.
uil wol erchen <i>nent</i> []		They recognise very well []
si sehent got tægelich	270	They see God daily.
er sach in []		He looked []
der daz sol garnen		whoever should deserve it,
daz er []		that he []
die michelen mandunge		the manifold joys.
da schu <i>len wir d</i> enchen umbe	275	Now we should think about
daz wir si gewin <i>nen</i>		how we might obtain this.
<b>N</b> u chum ich uater unde sun		So I approach, Father and Son,
zuo [] []ron		to []
und ze dem heiligen ateme		and to the holy spirit
[] []te	280	[]
wie ich die selben genade []		how I might [] the same grace,
wande ich mennisch arme		for I, poor man,
[] han uersoumet		[] have been lacking.
wie sere mich []		How much I []!
Ich armir meintæte	285	l, a poor criminal,
mir en[] []		[]
so bin ich gescheidin uon iv []		then I am separated from you []
wand ich der aller armist bin		because I am the man most devoid
aller   slahte guote		of all kinds of goodness.
daz furhte ich herre noten	290	I fear terrible things, Lord.
Ich wolde é sunten mit gewalte		I was accustomed to sin with violence,
din gebot niweht behalten		to uphold no laws.
ich bin din intrunner schalch		I am your servant who has run away.
uon div uurhte ich dinen slach		Because of this I feared your blows,
wand ich uon dineme dienste	295	for I fled from your service
uloch swa ichz weste		whenever I was able.
<b>D</b> a man dir dienote		To places where people served you
dar ich niht enwolte		I did not want to go.
widir dich [] ich		I [] against you
[] ruoge ich mich	300	[] I chastise myself
unde chume [] in dine gewalt		and come [] into your hands.
ich bin idoch din []		I am however your []



[] []fot mich wilen		[] me, willing
mit dinem []		with your []
mit tode den grimmen	305	with grim death
[] dir gewinnen		[] win for you
durch dine []		through your []
Das was herre michil reht		Lord, that was a great thing,
[] din chneht		[] your servant,
daz er enphien <i>ch</i> []	310	that he might receive [].
nu sihe ich wol daz ich enm[]		Now I can see full well that I cannot []
[] entrinnen		[] escape.
nu wil ich widir si[]		I wish []
[] hulde wil ich gewinnen		[] I will regain <i>your</i> love
[] christ	315	[] Christ
du dir min rehtir vatir []		you who are my true father
[] sun herre bin ich		[] Lord, I am <i>your</i> son.
uon div ruo[] []		From this []
wan ich han gesundet		for I have sinned
nu so[] []	320	[]
in den himelen uor dir		in heaven before you,
daz [] []geben mir		that [] I am forgiven
Der minen sun[] []		Of my sins
der ich dir nu chlagen wil		which I now wish to bewail to you
[] ubir genuoge	325	[] more than enough.
nu wil ich mich []		Now I will []
e mich min widirwinne		before my enemy
ruog[] []		[]
<b>D</b> er leidige hellewarte		The terrible guardian of hell
der hat gebruofet harte	330	has full knowledge of
mine manege missetat		my many misdeeds.
Lucifer si gescriben hat		Lucifer has written them down
unde wil die brieue bringen		and will bring the written records
ze dinem tagedinge		to your Last Judgement,
[] wil da ruogen den rate	335	and there will make known all the advice
die er mir getan hat		that he has given to me.
die mine sunte manichvalt		My manifold sins
die sint chomen in sine gewalt		have brought me into his power.
ich furhte ob ich si []are		I fear, that if I put this off
ze dem iungisten tage	340	until the Last Judgement,



[] ichs ch[] [] michil not		then I would <i>enter into</i> great torment.
wande niht en[] []		For nothing []
der nahet aller tagelich		it grows closer every day.
uon [] dich		From [] you.
Nv hilf mir got der []	3/15	Now help me, God [],
[] willen diner muoter	040	in the name of your mother,
daz ichz é []		so that I []
[] aller herist		[] the finest.
nu wil ich ruo <i>gen</i> []		I want to speak about []
[] mine arme fuozze	350	[] my poor feet,
den waren []	330	which were []
[] []e sundirstige		[] most sinfully
zeden ubilen wi[]		towards wicked women,
[] tieuil hat gestellet		who the devil had positioned
da er manege []	355	·
daz sint siniv nezze	333	They are his nets,
da er si in hat ge[]		for he has [] them,
[] diche tage ioch naht		very frequently, both day and night,
daz ich ez er[] [] mach		such that I can [] them.
ze huore waren si gereht	360	
[] []en si gebrech	300	[] they were weak,
ze roube was is so lipe		they loved robbery so much,
[] []tes weges niht		they did not follow the way of God.
da waren si zuo ri[]		They were too []
[] swære	365	[] difficult.
ze mettin unde ze misse	300	At matins and at mass,
[] dienst wesse		when I was engaged in service to you,
da uerrieten si mich		my feet betrayed me.
[] bringe ich schuldige fur dich		I bring <i>my feet</i> to you as guilty
daz [] si rihtest	370	so that you might judge them
swie du trohtin wellest	070	however you wish, O Lord,
[]icher harmschare		with any kind of punishment,
daz min sele nine   uare		so that my soul will never enter
in die helle porte		through the gates of hell.
gesundet han ich harte	375	I have sinned greatly!
des bitte ich durch dei []nte	070	I pray for this through the <i>binding ties</i>
diner hende		of your hands,
die du den juden gæ <i>be</i>		which you gave over to the Jews
are as deri juderi goode		minon you gave over to the ocho



[] dich geuiengen		when they captured you.
Herre nu []	380	Lord, now [],
wande ich dinge an dich		for I have hope in you.
[] miniv chniv		[] my knees.
uil selten [] ze diu		Very seldom [] to you
[] si uielen fur dich		[] they fell before you
an[] []	385	[]
[] ist ouch herro dem ung[]		Lord, this is also []
in daz hor und in den []		before whores and in the []
[] lust		[] desire
unde durch uppigen []		and through reckless []
[] herre got	390	[] Lord God,
du rihte []		so that you might judge []
[] []gip ez miner sele		[] forgive it from my soul
g[] []		[]
[] die uillate		[] the flagellation
die dir die []	395	which the Jews gave to you
[] dich marteroten		when they martyred you.
Nu []		Now []
[] arme		[] arms,
die hende [] die []		my hands [] which []
[] ich betrahten	400	[] I examine
si []		they []
[] manichualten sunde		[] manifold sins,
die si w[] [] hulde		which they, contrary to your love,
taten aller tagelich		committed every day.
die [] schuldich fur dich	405	I bring them to you as guilty.
si griffen []		They reached for [],
[] sluogen mit den fousten		they hit with fists,
si roub <i>en</i> [] []ten		they robbed [],
sumelich si blanten		they blinded people entirely,
si [] bestiezzen	410	they [] drove away,
durch dich si daz en[]		that which, because of you []
witwen unde weisen		widows and orphans
unde n[] [] tes housen		and [] the house of God,
daz si ze rehte s[] []		that they, as a right, []
[] wil ich dir herr chl <i>agen</i>	415	I bewail this to you, Lord.
[]		[]

[]   sich burgen		[] hid themselves
uor den mennischen armen		from poor people –
der newolden [] nine erbarmen		they never wanted to show them compassion
daz si si inladeten	420	by inviting them inside,
[] []de habeten		welcoming them [].
noch gab in gewæte		They neither gave them clothes
noch [] []nden		nor []
durch den dinen willen		for your sake.
[]n si nie gedahten	425	They never thought about []
ir ophir []		[] offerings to you
[] altare		[] altar.
die solt du uil <i>len</i> []		You should punish them [],
[] du rihten		you should judge them,
die sint schul[][]	430	they are guilty []
[] uergip ez miner sele		[] forgive it from my soul,
durch []		in the name of [],
[]o du ze dem chruzze gienge		when you went to the cross,
[][]iengen		[]
unde dich dar an []	435	and <i>hung</i> you upon it.
[] herre		[] Lord,
nu wil ich ruo <i>gen</i> []		now I want to speak []
[] enzundet		[] aflame
mit wrzzen []		with the roots []
[] solt ein fundamentum sin	440	It should be a fundament
[]		[]
daz gebet daz der man tuot		The prayers that men perform
[]		[]
[] uon herzzen nine sti[]		if they do not come from the heart:
[][]re bezzer []swiget	445	it would be better to remain silent.
min herzze [][]gen		My heart [],
des bin ich beswichen		I have been deceived by it.
ubir[][]iben		pride []
unde hat dar uz uertriben		and drove out from it
[][]ichen minne	450	the love of God
unde pouwit []		and lives within it.
<b>V</b> birmuot div ist sogetan		Pride is such that
div [][]gen man		it fells many men.
div ualte uon himele		From heaven, it felled



[][]nege	455	Lucifer with his throng.
div hat ouch mich eruel <i>let</i>	700	It also brought me down
[] an mir gestellet		and made a place in me
hvor unde []		for whores and [],
[] andir manich achust		and other bad things,
[]	460	
unde luge uil breit		and terrible lies
und   haz unde nit		and hate and envy,
zorn unde strit		anger and fighting,
pispræche		defamation,
und lanchræche	465	
huoch und []		mockery and [].
danne erlose mich got		Set me free from these, God,
daz mich []		so that [] in me
[]an nine uinde		[] might find none of these things,
daz ich []	470	
[] minne		[] love
unde den g[]		and the []
[] ze dem paradise		[] to paradise.
D[][]		[]
[] sun	475	[] son
durch dines uatir []		in the name of the [] of your father,
[] des heiligen chruzzis e[]		and in the name of the [] of the holy cross,
[] mit eren		[] with honour:
nu erlose m[]		redeem my soul!
[][]tin ewarte	480	Priestly lord,
nu wil ich []		I now wish to []
[] wirsiste uleisch		[] the worst flesh
daz ich []		that I []
[][]gen mit dem munde		my tongue and my mouth,
[]	485	[]
widir dir worhten		committed against you
d[] [] []ten		[]
si sprach div un[][]		they spoke [],
[] riet huor unde m[]		they advised adultery and []
[][]slaht	490	[] manslaughter,
swa so si ma[]		whenever they could.
[] anderem man		[] to other people,



daz si selbe niht v[]		which they themselves had not []
[] redete mit dem munde		[] spoke with the mouth
lukiz []	495	untruthful [].
Durch miete ioch durch ruom		For gain and for fame
[][]gelichen wistuom		[] wisdom.
Ir lantloute []		Its fellow countrymen
[] als in der gluote		[] as in the flames,
umbe eigen []	500	for []
[] hiwen		[] maids,
die lie si nindir bel[]		who it never left [].
[][]be unrehte gewinne		[] unjust profit
dar [][]nen		[].
sine welle si gel[]	505	If it did not want to []
[] immir enkelten		[] always punish
sw[][]		[]
[]   golten		[]
[][]ennet die sele		[] make the soul burn,
so der lip lít in der []	510	as the body suffers in the [].
wan si uerswur sich aller teg[]		For it perjured itself everyday,
[] si sich		[]
des si widir []		those things it did against you.
[si habet unre]hte sete		It has unjust habits,
in tranche []	515	in drinking []
[][]ein mazze		[] no moderation
unde []		and []
[] meinen ebenchristen		[] my fellow Christians
[]		[]
bediv ze spotte ioch ze []	520	to both mockery and []
[] zunge		[] tongue
der sunten brun[]		A fountain of sin
[] ir uloz		poured forth from it [],
daz mir die sele []		with the result that my soul []
[][]h si ze selten	525	[] too seldom.
ez ist nu [][]te		It is now []
mit munde mit []		with mouth and with []
[] der helle		[] hell
unde dem hel[][]		and the guardian of hell.
[] dinen worten	530	[] your words,



daz si []		that they []
[] alle uermiden		[] avoided all [].
lch []		I [].
nu nim mich in []		Now take me in [].
[] ich dich durch die []	535	I beg this of you in the name of the nails
[] dir wurden geslagene		which were hammered
durch [] durch fuzze		through your hands and through your feet,
daz sich mine [][]n muozze		so that my [] might []
in dem paradise uro[]		in the <i>glories</i> of paradise,
[] dem zehenten chore	540	[] in the tenth choir
mit samt dir []		together with you [].
<b>D</b> v cheisir aller chunege		You, Lord of all Kings,
du [] [ <i>all</i> ]er himele		you, [] of all heaven,
du geruoche mich []		grant it to me that [].
[] wil [] ruogen miniv oren	545	Now I want to speak of my ears,
[daz hus miner sund]en		the home of my sins.
swaz ich in allen []		Whatever I, in all []
[] in huore widir dir		did contrary to you by way of whores,
miniv oren brahten ez mir		my ears brought this to me.
mit deheinem ubelen wibe	550	With no wicked woman
daz []		[].
<b>S</b> wa si mir die []		Wherever they [] me,
[] ich daz neliezze		[] I did not avoid that,
ich []		I []
[] was herro der oren []	555	Lord, the ears were guilty of this.
[sva man mir den] roup riet		Whenever anyone suggested theft to me,
da was den <i>oren so liep</i>		this was music to my ears.
[][]slahte		[] manslaughter,
tages oder nahtes		by day or night,
[] herre	560	[] lord,
sint schuldich []		they are guilty []
[][]wem rounen		[] rumours,
die mich [so sere riuwe]		which causes me such regret.
[] cherte ich div oren		I turned my ears <i>towards</i> them,
si [newolten nieht] horen	565	they did not want to listen.
<b>S</b> o mich ar[][]		Whenever poor people
[] willen baten		begged me, in your name [?]
trach[][]		for drink [],



[]nam ich lazze		I let them <i>listen</i> .
si horten []	570	They listened []
[] danne mit zorne	0,0	and went away from there with anger.
So [ich scolde beten]		When I was supposed to pray,
da uerrieten si mich []		they betrayed me [],
[in munstere oder in] chirchen		in the cathedral or in church
uor dir []	575	[] before you,
[unt ich den]ne uernam	0,0	And there I listened
wedir wip oder man		to neither woman nor man
[reden oder] singen		speak or sing -
so was min gebet ergang <i>en</i>		thus my prayer went away.
[] mir sa inmuote	580	[] in my mind,
miniv oren ez []		my ears [] it.
[uber] die solt duz rihten		You should judge them for this,
mine schulde []		[] my sins [],
durch die rede die du tæte		in the name of the words you spoke
w[][] muotir	585	to your [] mother
do du an dem chruzze [erst] []		when you <i>died</i> on the cross,
[] si beuullhe		and you commended her
dem guoten sancte []		to the good St <i>John</i> ,
[dem vil hei]ligem manne		the most holy man,
ein ma[get] []	590	a maiden [].
[] ruoge ich christ		[] I speak, Christ,
gotes [kind]		child of God,
[] [der allerscu]/ digist[]		[] the most guilty person
[][]v ougen herte		[] my terrible eyes.
dei waren leu[][]	595	They were []
[]		[]
[] tages unde nahtes		both day and night
[]		[]
[] widir dir getaten		[] acted against you
[]	600	[]
dar wisten mich div []		the eyes showed me the way.
[swar mir die fuoze gi]engen		Wherever my feet went,
da si die sunde []		where they [] sin [],
[]hir slahte so si was		whatever kind it might be,
dei [][]e stat	605	they showed me the way.
swa mir div []		Whenever my []



[] sunte habete		[] I might possess sin,
oder swa []		or whenever []
[] ougen wisten mich der []		my eyes showed me the way.
[] worhten wider dir	610	[] acted against you,
ubir []		over []
[][]ten mich div ougen		my eyes showed me the way.
[][]hte		[]
miniv ougen ez uol <i>brahten</i>		my eyes carried it out.
[] mit dem munde	615	[] with the mouth
ze ubi <i>le</i> [][]nde		towards wicked [],
so siz geredete al gar		when this had been spoken,
[]		[].
Swaz ich sundigir []		Whatever I, sinful man,
[][]am	620	[],
des minen lip [][]de tuon		through which my body might commit sin
miniv ougen [] dar zuo		my eyes <i>helped me</i> to do it.
si reiten mir genote		They encouraged me very strongly
daz []		that [].
Dei sint herre schuldich	625	They are guilty, Lord,
unde [] min lip		and <i>also</i> my body,
unde elliv lít miniv		and all my limbs,
[] ich schuldigiv		I bring them, guilty,
in dine gewalt		into your power,
[] eigen schalch	630	for I am your servant.
dar ubir rihte du []		You should pass judgement on them []
[] nach dinen genaden		[] according to your grace
unde uer[][]		and []
wande sis uerhanchte []		for it let these things happen <i>ungladly</i> .
[] die chlage mine	635	Hear my plaint
durh []		in the name of []
[] du erlite durch mich		that you suffered for my sake:
daz han ich uerdient umbe dich		I have deserved this from you.
[] mich losende		Set me free
mit diner h[]	640	with your hands
[] not		[] torment
durch din heil[][]		in the name of your holy [],
[] sabaoht		[] Sabaoth.
rex angelorum		King of the angels,



{nu sholtu mich irhorin}	645	you should listen to me
durch die waren triwe	0-10	in the name of true loyalty,
{also du uernami dine diwe}		as you listened to your maidservant,
[][]test Mariam		listened to Mary
unde M{artam} []		and Martha [],
{die umbe dich irdigi}ten	650	who had hope in you
daz du lazarum so[] grap	000	that you might rouse Lazarus from his grave,
der drie tage be{grabin was}		who had been buried for three days:
{in den} selben namen bitte ich {tich}		for this same sake I beg you
{daz tu gelibhaf}tigest mich		to set me free.
gip mir {urstendide}	655	Let me rise again
{aller minir} sunden		from all my sins,
durch dine {heiligin toth}		in the name of the holy death,
{den du dur} unsir not		which, because of our suffering,
herre a{n dem cruce irsturbe}		Lord, you died on the cross.
[] helle uuore	660	[] <i>you</i> went to hell.
<b>D</b> a{z du die dine alle}		So that you might set all of your people
{lostos uon} der helle		free from hell:
durch die {selbun losunge}		in the name of this very redemption
{bittit} dich min zunge		my tongue begs you
daz d{ <i>u irlostest mine sele</i> }	665	to save my soul
[] minem ende herre		at my death, O Lord,
u[][]		from []
[] uon den wizzen allen		and from all punishments
{dur tine gotilichun} chraft		through your godly power,
durch din heiliger g{rab}	670	in the name of the holy grave
{da din lich}nam inne lach		in which your body lay.
Herre got []		Lord God [],
[] genade dinge ich		I have hope in your mercy
unde an []		and in []
ziur drier genaden ich chum	675	I bring myself to your threefold mercy.
[] <i>hei</i> ligir geist		[] Holy Spirit,
mich solt []		should [] me []
[] allen minen sunten		from all my sins,
solt du [] m[][]		you should []
durch dine genædichen []	680	through your merciful []
[][]meit		[]
sit mich div m[][]		since the [] me []



[]		[]
mit werchen und mit willen		in deeds and in desires
[] gedingen	685	[] hope,
swie michil []		however great []
[] gnade da bi		[] your grace is there,
michil me[][]		many []
[] dich		[] you.
herre christ dv []	690	Lord Christ, you []
[][]ot durch mich		[] through me,
næme []		took []
[][]er divmuote		[] humility.
daz w[][]		That was [],
daz du allez manchun <i>ne</i>	695	that you all mankind
[][]ane		[]
unde den tieuil []		and [] the devil
[] gewaltigen hende		with your powerful hands.
do tæte []		Then did []
[]	700	[]
[] spartest du daz heilige []		you protected the holy []
[][]eit uor		[]
wande erz []		for he [].
[] uns dunchen uil guot		We should think this a very good thing.
[] man	705	[] man,
durch dinen []		through your [].
daz riwet mich sere		This causes me great regret.
[]		[]
[] daz dine hantgetat		lest your creation
[]	710	[]
[][]ne uerlische		[] deceive
die sele []		the soul []
[] beuilhet der min lip		[] my body might fall
ze [] trohtin		to [] Lord.
swaz ich durch achust	715	Whatever I, through wickedness,
[] deheiner sunden glust		and through my desire for any kind of sin,
widir [] getan		have committed against you,
daz lazze ubir minen []		let my body take on responsibility
[] ieglicher harmschare		with any kind of punishment,
daz ichz [] sele iht gespare	720	so that <i>my</i> soul be saved.



swaz du g[][] <i>m</i> ich		Whatever you [] me,
herre christ daz lobe ich		Lord Christ, I praise it,
[][]eile		[]
nine werde geschei[]		I am never torn away
[] <i>mi</i> t gewalte	725	[] violently.
da solt du   mich behalten		You should protect me,
durch dine []		through your []
[] ubirmuote		[] pride.
da uon []		Therefore [],
[] genaden ich dich bitte	730	I pray to you for your grace,
[] sanctam Mariam		[] Saint Mary,
[]		[]
[] si mit himilischer c[]		that she, with heavenly power,
[] immir wegehaft		is always a help []
d[][]	735	, , , , , ,
[] si uon dem lichnamen []		when it <i>leaves</i> the body.
[] ewich		Lord God eternal,
nu wis mir ge[]		show me <i>mercy</i> ,
[] sunte		[] sins
durch dine urstende	740	in the name of your resurrection
[] wech so here		and in the name of the path so blessed,
den []		which [].
[] mane dich diner w[]		I urge you with your own words:
[] mortem		you said: nolo mortem
peccatoris	745	peccatoris
[]		[]
[] wil zware		Indeed, I wish
daz er si[][]		that he [].
[] sundigir man		[] sinful man,
wid <i>ir</i> []	750	against [],
daz riwet mich nu []		now fills me with <i>great</i> regret,
[] bechere		[] convert.
Nv uergip []		Now forgive []
[] gip mir dine hulde		and give me your love.
[]	755	[]
[] du dich selben hiezze		that you called yourself
pastor[][]		pastorem bonum,
[] guoten hirte uronen		the blessed good shepherd.

Ich [][]uil nach		1[].	
ich bin daz din []	760	I am that, your [],	
[] dir was engangen		which strayed from you.	
nu wil []		Now I wish to [].	
[] heiliger christ		[] Holy Christ,	
du dir min []		you who are my [].	
woldest du des ruochen	765	If you wished it,	
daz [] suochen		that you wanted to seek me,	
nu mohtest du []		then you would find me.	
nu riwent mich m[][]		I repent of <i>my sins</i> .	
[]		[]	
[] din heiligiz bilede	770	[] your holy image,	
die []		the []	
[][]m zuo den dinen		[] to your people.	
[]		[]	
daz si uerlorn nine []		so that they are not lost.	
[] eine	775	[] one,	
durch die leben <i>tigen steine</i>		in the name of the living stones,	
{daz ich niut b}esizze		that I do not inhabit	
die uereislichin {izze}		the terrible heat,	
{di die hellechnechte} habent		which is the home of the servants of hell.	
des bitte ich {dur die drie} chnaben	780	I pray for this in the name of the three youths,	
die du domine {beschirdos in deme glugindin ho ene	u}	whom you, Lord, protected in the fiery furnace.	
daz eine was ana <i>nias</i>		One was Ananias,	
[] {asar}inas		the second Asarias,	
ia sagent uns div {buch daz misahel daz} dritte was		indeed the book tells us that the third was Misahel.	
des uiu[] []	785	Of the fire []	
tet in niender we		it gave them no pain,	
ez moht si {niuth gebrennin}		it was unable to burn them.	
[] engil was mit in darinne		Your angel was there with them.	
{do beshirndos tu} dine degene		Thus you protected your servants	
mit dinem []	790	with your []	
[] daz uivr nine muoete		so that the fire was unable to touch them,	
[][]te		[].	
nu bitte ich ivch {chnabin drie}		Now I beg you in the name of the three youths	
{daz si} mir helfunde sit		to help me	
unde {daz du mich irlose}st dinen schalch	795	and to free me, your servant,	



mit diner {gi ualch} {mit} din selbes troste unde du si erlostest {so lose ouch m}ine sele daz si nine brinne sere {Himil chuninch herre} {io f hulfi du dan}ielem behuotest durch min[...] [...] grimmen in der lewen {grube} {daz} si {in niuwet ge}torsten geruoren der {drin was} gegeben daz in ze{rbrachin die lewin} {do} bewartest du dinen {shalch} {mit tiner gew}alt daz die lewen | uon im uluhen {in einin winchil sich} smugen daz ma{choth al din gotehait} {sin tatin} im dehein leit {unzi du mit abacuchis brote} {in} uon danne erlostest {nu bitich den herrin} den guoten Danielen {daz er mir sie weginde} daz ouch du mir sist {uergebinde} {die minis libes} sunde die ich in a[...][...] [...][...]met mit minem libe {also du tate dem wibe} div durch ruoge fur dich {warth geuurith} umbe daz di si hiezzest (steinin) {si seigin si hu}res eines unde sprachen [...] {siu des todes} wert wære als iz div {alte euwe gebot} {do lastos tu si uzir} michil not

do schribe d{u an der erde}

with your power, with the same mercy with which you saved them. So free my soul too, 800 so that it may never burn so greatly! Lord, King of Heaven, just as you helped Daniel, protected him in your love from fierce beasts 805 in the lion's den, so that they dared not touch him: he was put in there with them, so that the lions might tear him to pieces. Then you protected your servant 810 with your power, making the lions flee from him and cower in a corner. Your godhead made this happen: they caused him no suffering 815 until you, with the bread of Abacuchis, set him free from that place. Now I beg you, Lord, that Daniel, the good man, might show me the way, 820 and that you forgive me too the sins of my body, that I, at all times, committed with my body, just as you behaved towards the woman, 825 who, for justice, was brought before you so that they might order her to be stoned. They accused her of adultery and said [...], 830 that she was worthy of death, as the old laws ordered.

Then you relieved her of great torment.

Then you wrote in the earth,



{den iudin} unwerde {swer ane sunde ware}

{daz er} niht uerbære

erne {wurfi an si einen stein}

{do} newas ir aller dehein

{der sich des uermasze}

eine si si liezzen

si cherten {alle dannin}

{eine} nach dem anderen

Vn{us post unum}

{do} begunden alle rounen

Do {ruwin si ir sun}de

do uergæbe du ir an {zerstunde}

{dur} die dine guote daz si ie {gesundote}

{do hisze} du ir herre

daz si sin nine {intate mere}

{daz} si ir sunden liezze sin

{do warth siv din trutinne}

Vaste geloubete si an dich

{des anthlazes gerin} ovch ich

des du ir an {tate}

{dur dine gute} |

{uro du si lize}

{nu la mi}ch ir geniezzen

und {danielis dinis wisagin} heres

unde diner {shlach allir}

{di du irlostos}t uon der helle

[...] Michahele

daz er [...]

daz er si bringe

so {siu qeshadi hinnin}

in den barn Abrahames

durh {dine trie namin}

{amin}

before the unworthy Jews,

835 that whoever was without sin

should not refrain

from casting a stone at her.

There was no one there

who dared to do this.

840 Each one left her alone,

they all went away,

one after another.

Unus post unum,

they all began to mutter.

845 Then she repented her sins

and you forgave her immediately,

in your goodness,

that she had ever sinned.

Then you ordered her, Lord,

850 that she should never do it again,

that she should set sin aside.

Thus she became your devotee.

She had great faith in you.

I also desire the absolution

855 that you gave her

through your goodness.

You left her rejoicing.

Now let me rejoice in her,

and in Daniel, and in the host of your prophets,

860 and all your servants

who you freed from hell.

[...] Michael,

that he [...],

that he bring it,

when it leaves this place,

to the children of Abraham,

in your threefold name,

Amen.



## **Critical Notes**

**Transcription** 

Line 360

Line 593	At the top of f. 161v in a later hand: "dew vil lieben frawen mein. der dien wil ich imm sein" [My most
Lille 393	beloved lady. I desire always to be your servant].
Translation	
Line 28	"miraculous". I preserve the Latin adjective in the original text.

There is a suggestion here, as elsewhere, that individual body parts have a kind of moral agency inde

pendent from the whole.

Line 643 Sabaoth is a common epithet for God; God is the Lord of Sabaoth, i.e. the Lord of the Heavenly Hosts.

Line 745 "I do not want the death of sinners" (Latin).

Line 757 "The good shepherd" (Latin).