

# Pearl

transcribed by

Ross G. Arthur

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P

erle pleasaūte to prynces paye  
to clanly clos in golde soclere  
oute of oryent i hardyly faye  
ne proued i neu' her precios pere  
so roūde so reken in vche araye  
so smal so smoþe her fydez were  
quere so eu' i iugged gēmez gaye  
i fette hyr fengeley i synglure  
allas i leste hyr ion erbere

þur3 gresse to groūde hit fro me yot 10  
i dewyne for dolked of luf daungere  
of þat pryuy perle w<sup>t</sup> outhen spot  
Syþen i þat spote hit fro me sprange  
ofte haf i wayted wyschande þat wele

þat wont wat3 whyle deuoyde my wrange

τ heuen myhappe τ almy hele

þ<sup>t</sup> dot3 bot þrych my hert þrange

my breste inbale bot bolne τ bele

zet þo3t me neu' sofwete afange

as styllle stoūde let to me stele

for soþe þ' fleten to me fele

to þenke hir color so clad i clot

o moul þ<sup>u</sup> marrez amyry iuele

my þuy perle w<sup>t</sup> outhen spotte

3 þat spot of spyfe3 t nede3 sprede

þer fuchryche3 to rot is rūnen

blomez blayke τ blwe τ rede

þer schynez ful schyr agayn þe fūne

flor τ fryte may not be fede

þer hit doū drof i moldez dūne

for vch gresse mot grow of graynez dede

no whete were elle3 to wone3 wōne

of goud vche goude is ay by gōne

so semly afede mo3t fayly not

þ<sup>t</sup> sprygande spyce3 vp ne spōne

of þat þcios perle wythouten spotte

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4 To þat spot þat i in speche expou  
 jentred inþat erber grene  
 in augofte in ahy3 feyfoū  
 quen corne is coruen wyth croke3 kene  
 onhuyle þer perle hit trendeled doū  
 fchadowed þis worte3 ful fchyre ⁊ fchene  
 gilofre gyngure ⁊ gromylyou  
 ⁊ pyonys powdered ay by twene  
 3if hit wat3 femly on tofene  
 afayr reflayr 3et fro hit flot  
 þer wonys þat worþyly iwot ⁊ wene  
 my ꝑcio9 perle wyth outhen spot

40

5 Bifore þat spot myhonde i fpēnd  
 for care fulcolde þat to me ca3t  
 adeuely dele in my hert dēned  
 þa3 refoū fette my feluen fa3t  
 jplayned my perle þ<sup>t</sup> þ<sup>s</sup> wat3 fpēned  
 wyth fyrte fkylle3 þat fafte fa3t  
 þa3 kynde of kryft me comfort kēned  
 my wreched wylle ī wo aywra3te  
 jfelle vpon þat flōy fla3t  
 fuche odō tomy hernez fchot  
 jflode vpon a flep̄y3 fla3te  
 on þat ꝑcos perle w<sup>t</sup> outhen spot

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**F**ro spot my fpyryt þer fprang ī fpace  
 my body onbalke þerbod ifweuen  
 my gofte is gon in gode3 grace  
 in auenture þ<sup>s</sup> meruaylez meuen  
 j ne wyfte inþis worlde quere þ<sup>t</sup> hit wace  
 bot jknew me kefte þ<sup>s</sup> klyfe3 cleuen  
 towarde aforefte j bere þe face  
 where rych rokke3 wer to dyscreuen  
 þely3t of hem my3t no monleuen  
 þe glemande glory þat of hem glēt  
 for wern neu<sup>s</sup> webbez þat wy3e3 weuen  
 of half fo dere adubmente

70

- 7 Dubbed wern alle þo downe3 fyde3  
w<sup>t</sup> crystal klyffe3 fo cler of kynde  
holte wode3 bry3t aboute hembyde3  
of bolle3 as blwe as ble ofynde  
as bornyft fyluer þe lef onflyde3  
þat þike contrylle on vch atynde  
quen glem of glode3 agayn3 hemglyde3  
wyth ſchymýg ſchene ful ſchrylle þay ſchynde 80  
þe grauayl þat on groude con grynde  
wern p̄cio9 perle3 of oryente  
þe fūne beme3 bot blo ⁊ blynde  
jn respecte of þat adubbement
- 8 The adubbemente of þo downe3 dere  
garten my gofte al greffe for 3ete  
fo frech flauore3 of fryte3 were  
as fode hit con me fayre refete  
fowle3 þ' flowen ī fryth ī fere  
of flaūbande hwe3 boþe ſmale ⁊ grete 90  
bot fytolē ſtryg ⁊ gyfnere  
her reken myrþe mo3t not retrete  
for quen þofe brydde3 her wyngē3 bete  
þay ſongen wyth afwete afent  
fo gracos gle coupe no mon gete  
as here ⁊ ſe her adubbement
- 9 So al wat3 dubbet ondere alyfe  
þat fryth þerfortwne forth me fere3  
þe derþe þerof for to deuyfe  
nis no wy3 worþe þat tongebere3 100  
jwelke ay forth iwely wyfe  
no bonk ſobyg þ<sup>t</sup> did me dere3  
þe fyrre ī þe fryth þefeier con ryfe  
þe playn þeplontte3 þe ſpyfe þe pere3  
⁊ rawe3 ⁊ rande3 ⁊ rych reuere3  
as fyldor fyn her bnkes brent  
jwan to a water byſchore þat ſchere3  
lorde dere wat3 hit adubbement

- 40b
- 10 The dubbemente of þo derworth depe  
 wernbonkez bene ofberyl bryzt 110  
 fwangeande fwete þewater confwepe  
 wyth arownande rourde raykande aryzt  
 ī þe fouce þʳ stonden stonez stepe  
 as glente þur3 glas þat glowed ⁊ glyzt  
 aftremande sternez quen stroþe mē flepe  
 ftaren ī welkyn ī wynʳ nyzt  
 for vchea pobbel ī pole þer pyzt  
 wat3 Emerad saffer oþʳ gēme gente  
 þat alle þe loze lemed oflyzt  
 fo dere wat3 hit adubbemēt 120
- T**he dubbemēt dere of doū ⁊ dalez  
 of wod ⁊ waʳ ⁊ wlonk playnez  
 bylde in me blys abated my balez  
 for didden mystresse dystryed my paynez  
 doū after aftrem þat dry3ly halez  
 jbowed inblys bred ful my braynez  
 þe fyrre jfolzed þofe floty valez  
 þe more strengþe of ioeye mynherte strayne3  
 as fortune fares þʳ as ho fraynez  
 wheþʳ solace ho sende oþʳ elle3 fore 130  
 þe wy3 to wham her wylle ho waynez  
 hytte3 tohaue ay more ⁊ more
- 12 More of wele wat3 ī þat wyfe  
 þē jcowþe telle þazjtom hade  
 for vrbely herte myzt not suffyfe  
 to þe tenþedole of þo gladnez glade  
 for þy jþo3t þʳ paradyfe  
 wat3 þer oþʳ gayn þo bonkez brade  
 j hoped þe water were adeuyfe  
 by twene myrþez by mere3 made 140  
 by3onde þe broke byflente oþʳ flade  
 jhope þʳ mote merked wore  
 bot þe water wat3 depe jdorft not wade  
 ⁊ eú me longed amore ⁊ more

- 13 More  $\tau$  more  $\tau$  zet welmare  
 melyfte to se þebroke by 3onde  
 for if hit wat3 fayr þ' jcon fare  
 wel loueloker wat3 þe fyrre londe  
 abowte me con j ftote  $\tau$  ftare  
 to fynde aforþe fafte conjfonde 150  
 bot woþe3 mo jwyffe þ' ware  
 þe fyrre jftalked by þeftronde  
 $\tau$  euer me þo3t j schulde not wonde  
 for wo þerwele3 fo wýne wore  
 þēne nwe note me com on honde  
 þat meued mymynde ay more $\tau$ more
- 14 More meruayle con my dom adaūt  
 jfe3 by3onde þat myry mere  
 acryftal clyffe ful relufaūt  
 monyryal ray confro hit rere 160  
 at þe fote þ' of þ' fete afaūt  
 amayden of menfke fuldebonere  
 blyfnande whyt wat3 hyr bleaūt  
 jknew hyr wel jhade fen hyr ere  
 as glyfnande golde þat man con fchere  
 fo fchon þat fchene anvnder fhore  
 onlengh' j loked tohyrþere  
 þe lenger jknew hyr more  $\tau$  more
- 15 The more j frayfte hyr fayre face  
 her fygure fyn quen j had fonte 170  
 fuche gladande glory conto me glace  
 as lyttel byfore þerto wat3 wonte  
 to calle hyr lyfte con me enchace  
 bot bayfmēt gef mynhert abrūt  
 jfe3 hyr in fo ftrange aplace  
 fuch aburre my3t make mý herte blūt  
 þēne vere3 ho vp her fayre froūt  
 hyr vyfayge whyt as playn yuore  
 þat ftonge mý hert ful ftray atoūt  
 $\tau$  eú þelenger þe more  $\tau$  more 180

- M**ore þen me lyfte my drede aros  
 iſtod fulſtylle ⁊ dorſte not calle  
 wyth yʒen open ⁊ mouth fulclos  
 i ſtod as hende as hawk i halle  
 i hope þat goſtly watʒ þ<sup>t</sup> porpoſe  
 i dred on ende quat ſchulde byfalle  
 leſt ho me eſchaped þat iþ<sup>s</sup> chos  
 er i at ſteuen hir moʒt ſtalle  
 þat gracios gay w<sup>t</sup>outen galle  
 ſo ſmoþe ſo ſmal ſo ſeme flyʒt 190  
 ryſeʒ vp i hiraraye ryalle  
 a p<sup>s</sup>cos pyece i perleʒ pyʒt  
 17 Perleʒ pyʒte ofryal prys  
 þere moʒt mon by grace haſſene  
 quen þat frech as flor delys  
 doū þe bonke conboʒe by dene  
 al blyſnande whyt watʒ hir beauuiys  
 vpon at ſydeʒ ⁊ boūden bene  
 wyth þe myryeſte margarys at mydeuyſe  
 þat eu<sup>s</sup> iſeʒ ʒet with myn yʒen 200  
 wyth lappeʒ large iʒwot ⁊ iʒwene  
 dubbed with double perle ⁊ dyʒte  
 her cortel of ſelf fute ſchene  
 w<sup>t</sup> p<sup>s</sup>cios perleʒ al vmbe pyʒte  
 18 A pyʒt coroune ʒet wer þat gyrle  
 of mariorys ⁊ non oþ<sup>s</sup> ſton  
 hiʒe pynakled of cler quyt perle  
 wyth flurted flowreʒ perfet vpon  
 to hed hade ho non oþ<sup>s</sup> werle  
 her lere leke al hyr vmbe gon 210  
 her ſemblaūt ſade for doc oþ<sup>s</sup> erle  
 her ble more blaʒt þen whalleʒ bon  
 as ſchorne golde ſchyr her fax þēne ſchon  
 onſchyldereʒ þat legh<sup>r</sup> vnlapped lyʒte  
 her depe colō ʒet wanted non  
 of p<sup>s</sup>cios perle i porfyl pyʒte

- 19 Pyzt wat3 poyned ⁊ vche ahēme  
 at honde at fyde3 at ouerture  
 wyth whyte perle ⁊ non oþ' gēme  
 ⁊ bornyfte quyte wat3 hyr uefture  
 bot awonder perle w<sup>t</sup> outen wēme  
 in mydde3 hyrbrefte wat3fette fo fure  
 amānez dom mozt dry3ly dēme  
 er mynde mozt malte ī hit mefure  
 jhope notong mozt endure  
 no fau'ly faghe fay of þ<sup>t</sup> fyzt  
 fo wat3 hit clene ⁊ cler ⁊ pure  
 þat þ'cios perle þ' hit wat3 pyzt
- 20 Pyzt in perle þat þ'cios pyse  
 on wyþ' half wa' comdoū þe ſchore  
 no gladder gome heþen ī to grece  
 þē j quenho onbrȳme wore  
 ho wat3 me nerre þenaūte or nece  
 my joy for þy wat3 much þe more  
 ho þfered me ſpeche þ<sup>t</sup> ſpecial ſpyce  
 enclynande lowe ī wōmonlore  
 ca3te of her corou of grete trefore  
 ⁊ haylfed me wyth alote lyzte  
 wel wat3 me þ<sup>t</sup> eu' jwat3 bore  
 to ſware þat ſwete ī perlez pyzte
- perle q j inperlez pyzt  
**O** art þ' my perle þat jhaf playned  
 regretted by mȳ one on nyzte  
 much longeȳg haf jfor þe layned  
 ſyþen into greffe þ' me aglyzte  
 penſyf payred jamfor payned  
 ⁊ þ' ī alyf of lykȳg lyzte  
 in paradys erde offtryf vnſtrayned  
 what wyrde hat3 hyder my iuel vayned  
 ⁊ don me in þys del ⁊ gret daunger  
 fro we ī twȳne wern towen ⁊ twayned  
 jhaf ben ajoylez juelere

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- 22 That iuel þēne in gēmeʒ gente  
 vered vp her vyfe w<sup>t</sup> yʒen graye  
 fet on hyr coroū of perle oriēt  
 ⁊ soberly after þēne conho fay  
 l̄ ʒe haf yō tale myse tente  
 to fay yō perle is alawaye  
 þat is īcofer focomly clente  
 as ī þis gardyn gracios gaye 260  
 here īne tolenge foreú ⁊ play  
 þer mys nee mornȳg com neúhere  
 her were aforfer for þe ī faye  
 if þ<sup>r</sup> were agentyl iueler
- 23 Bot iueler gente if þ<sup>r</sup> ſchal lofe  
 þy ioy for agēme þat þewatzlef  
 me þynk þe put ī amad porpoſe  
 ⁊ buſyeʒ þe aboute arayſoū bref  
 for þat þ<sup>r</sup> leſteʒ watʒ bot arofe  
 þat flowred ⁊ fayled as kynde hyt gef 270  
 now þurʒ kynde ofþe kyſte þ<sup>t</sup>hyt con clofe  
 to aperle of prys hit is put ī pref  
 ⁊ þ<sup>r</sup> hatʒ called þy wyrde aþef  
 þat oʒt of noʒt hatʒ mad þe cler  
 þ<sup>r</sup> blameʒ þebote of þy meſchef  
 þ<sup>r</sup> art no kynde iueler
- 24 A iuel to me þen watʒ þys geſte  
 ⁊ iueleʒ wern hyr gētyl ſaweʒ  
 iwyfe q̄ i my blyffol beſte  
 my grete dyſtreſſe þ<sup>r</sup> altodraweʒ 280  
 tobe excuſed i make requeſte  
 i trawed my perle donout of daweʒ  
 now haf i fonde hyt i ſchal ma feſte  
 ⁊ wony w<sup>t</sup> hyt ī ſchyr wod ſchaweʒ  
 ⁊ loue my lorde ⁊ alhis laweʒ  
 þat hatʒ me broʒ þys blys ner  
 now were i at yow byʒonde þifewaweʒ  
 i were a ioyful iueler

- 43a
- 25 Iueler fayde þat gēme clene  
 wy borde zemen fo madde ze be  
 þre wordez hatz þ<sup>u</sup> spoken at ene  
 vn a vyfed forfoþe wern alle þre  
 þ<sup>u</sup> ne wolte in worlde quat on dotz mene  
 þy worde by fore þy wytte confle  
 þ<sup>u</sup> fays þ<sup>u</sup> trawe3 me ī þis dene  
 by cawfe þ<sup>u</sup> may w<sup>t</sup> y3en me fe  
 anop<sup>þ</sup> þ<sup>u</sup> fays ī þys coūtre  
 þy selfschal won w<sup>t</sup> me ry3there  
 þe þrydde topaffe þys wa<sup>t</sup> fre  
 þat may no ioyfol iueler 300
- I** halde þat iueler lyttel to prayfe  
 þat loue3 wel þ<sup>t</sup> he fe3 wyth y3e  
 ⁊ much toblame ⁊ vn cortoyfe  
 þat leue3 oure lorde wolde make aly3e  
 þat lelly hy3te yō lyf to rayfe  
 þa3 fortune dyd yō fleſch to dy3e  
 zefetten hys wordez ful weſternays  
 þat loue3 no þȳk bot ze hit ſy3e  
 ⁊ þat īs apoȳt oforquydry3e  
 þat vche god mon may euel byfeme 310  
 to leue notale be t<sup>r</sup>e totry3e  
 bot þat hys one ſkyl maydem
- 27 Deme now þy ſelf if þ<sup>u</sup> condayly  
 as man to god wordez ſchulde heue  
 þ<sup>u</sup> faytz þ<sup>u</sup> ſchal won ī þis bayly  
 me þynk þeburde fyrſt afke leue  
 ⁊ zet of graūt þ<sup>u</sup> my3tez fayle  
 þ<sup>u</sup> wylnez ou<sup>t</sup> þys water toweue  
 er moſte þ<sup>u</sup> ceuer to op<sup>þ</sup> coūfayl  
 þy corſe ī clot mot calder keue 320  
 for hit watz for garte at paradys greue  
 oure zore fader hit con myſſezeme  
 þur3 drwry deth bo3 vch ma dreue  
 er ou<sup>t</sup> þys dam h̄y dry3t̄y deme

- 28 Deme3 þ<sup>u</sup> me q̄ j my fwete  
to dol agayn þēne j dowyne  
now haf jfonte þat jforlete  
ſchal j efte for go hit er eú jfyne  
why ſchal j hit boþe myſſe ⁊ m ete  
my þ́cios perle dot3 me g ret pyne 330  
what ſerue3 trefor bot gare3 men grete  
when he hit ſchal efte w<sup>t</sup> tene3 tyne  
now rech j neú forto declyne  
ne howfer of folde þat man me fleme  
when j am partle3 of perle3 myne  
bot durande doel what may men deme
- 29 Thow deme3 no3t bot doel dyſtreffe  
þēne ſayde þat wy3t why dot3 þ<sup>u</sup> ſo  
for dyne of doel of lure3 leſſe  
ofte mony mon forgos þe mo 340  
þe o3te better þy ſeluen bleſſe  
⁊ loue ay god ⁊ wele ⁊ wo  
for anger gayne3 þe not acreſſe  
who nede3 ſchal þole benot ſo þro  
for þo3 þ<sup>u</sup> daūce as any do  
braūdyſch ⁊ bray þy braþe3 breme  
when þ<sup>u</sup> nofyrre may to ne fro  
þ<sup>u</sup> moſte abyde þat he ſchal deme
- 30 Deme dry3tyn euer h̄y adyte  
of þe way afote ne wyl he wryþe 350  
þy mende3 moūte3 not amyte  
þa3 þ<sup>u</sup> for for3e be neú blyþe  
ſt̄yſt of þyſtrot ⁊ fyne to flyte  
⁊ ſech hys blyþe ful ſweſte ⁊ ſwyþe  
þy prayer may hys pyte byte  
þat mercy ſchal hyr crafte3 kyþe  
hys comforte may þy langō lyþe  
⁊ þy lure3 of ly3tly fleme  
for marre oþ́ madde morne ⁊ myþe  
al lys ī hym to dy3t ⁊ deme 360

- T**henne demed jto þat damyfelle  
 ne worþe nowrath þe vnto mylorde  
 if rapely raue ſpornande ī ſpelle  
 my herte wat3 al w<sup>t</sup> myſſe remorde  
 as wallande water got3 out of welle  
 j do me ay ī hys myſerecorde  
 rebuke me neu<sup>ʳ</sup> w<sup>t</sup> worde3 felle  
 þa3 j forloyne my dere endorde  
 bot lype3 me kyndely yō couforde  
 pytoſly þenkande vpon þyſſe 370  
 of care ⁊ me 3emade acorde  
 þat er wat3 groūde of alle my blyſſe  
 32 My blyſſe my bale 3ehan ben boþe  
 bot much þebygger 3et wat3 my mon  
 fro þ<sup>ʳ</sup> wat3 wroken fro vch a woþe  
 j wyſte neu<sup>ʳ</sup> quere myperle wat3 gon  
 nowj hit ſe nowleþe3 my loþe  
 ⁊ quen we departed we wernat on  
 god forbede we be now wroþe  
 wemeten ſo ſelden by ſtok oþ<sup>ʳ</sup> ſton 380  
 þa3 cortayfly 3e carp con  
 jam bot mol ⁊ marere3 myſſe  
 bot cryſtes merſy ⁊ mary ⁊ jon  
 þiſe arn þe groūde of alle mybliſſe  
 33 In blyſſe jſe þe blyþely blent  
 ⁊ j aman al mornyf mate  
 3e take þ<sup>ʳ</sup> on ful lyttel tente  
 þa3 j hente ofte harme3 hate  
 bot now jam here ī yō þ<sup>ʳ</sup>ſente  
 j wolde byſech wyth outh debate 390  
 3e wolde me fay j ſobre afente  
 what lyf 3e lede erly ⁊ late  
 for jamful fayn þat yō aſtate  
 is worþen toworſchyp ⁊ wele jwyſſe  
 of alle my joy þehy3e gate  
 hit is ī groūde of alle my blyſſe

- 44b
- 34 Now blyffe burne mot þe bytyde  
þen sayde þat luffoū of lyth ⁊ lere  
⁊ welcū here to walk ⁊ byde  
for now þy ſpeche is to me dere 400  
mayſterful mod ⁊ hyꝝepryde  
i hete þe arnheter ly hated here  
mylorde nelouez not forto chyde  
for meke arn alle þ<sup>t</sup> woneꝝ hȳ nere  
⁊ when i hys place þ<sup>r</sup> ſchal apere  
be dep deuote i hol mekeneffe  
my lorde þelamb louez ayfuch chere  
þat is þe groūde ofalle my blyffe
- 35 A blyfful lyf þ<sup>r</sup> fays i lede 410  
þ<sup>r</sup> woldeꝝ knaw þ<sup>r</sup> of þeſtage  
þow woſt wel when þy perle conſchede  
i watꝝ ful ꝝong ⁊ tender of age  
bot my lorde þe lombe þurꝝ hys god hede  
he toke my ſelf to hys maryage  
coroude me quene i blyffe tobrede  
i lengh<sup>r</sup> of dayeꝝ þat eu<sup>r</sup> ſchal wage  
⁊ feſed i alle hys herytage  
hys lef is i amholy hyſſe  
hys prefe hys prys ⁊ hys parage  
is rote ⁊ groūde of alle my blyffe 420
- B**lyfful q̄ i may þys be trwe  
dyspleſeꝝ not if i ſpeke errō  
art þ<sup>r</sup> þe quene of heueneꝝ blwe  
þ<sup>t</sup> al þys worlde ſchaldohonō  
we leuen on marye þat grace of grewe  
þat ber a barne of vyrgyn flō  
þe croune frohyr quo moꝝt remwe  
bot ho hir paſſed i fū fauō  
now forfynglerty ohyr doufō  
we calle hyr fenyx ofarraby 430  
þat freles fleꝝe of hyrfafor  
lyk to þe quen of cortayſye

- 37 Cortayse quen þēne fyde þat gaye  
 knelande to groūde folde vp hyrface  
 makelez moder ⁊ myryest may  
 blessed bȳgyner of vch agrace  
 þēne ros ho vp ⁊ con restay  
 ⁊ speke me towarde ī þat space  
 l̄ fele here porchafez ⁊ fongez pray  
 bot supplantorez none w<sup>t</sup>ine þys place 440  
 þat empise alheuēz hatz  
 ⁊ vrpe ⁊ helle ī herbayly  
 of erytage zet non wyl ho chace  
 forho is quen of cortaysye
- 38 The cōt of þe kyndom of god alyue  
 hatz aproperty ī hyt self beȳg  
 alle þat may þer īne aryue  
 of alle þe reme is quen oþ kyng  
 ⁊ neu' oþ zet schal depyue  
 bot vchon fayn of oþez hafȳg 450  
 ⁊ wolde her corouēz wern worpe þofyue  
 if possyble were her mendȳg  
 bot my lady of quom jesu con sprȳg  
 ho haldez þe empyre ou' v9 ful hyze  
 ⁊ þat dysplesez non of oure gȳg  
 for ho is quene of cortaysye
- 39 Of cōtayfye as saytz sayt poule  
 al arn we mēbrez of ihū kryft  
 as heued ⁊ arme ⁊ legg ⁊ naule  
 temen tohys body ful trwe ⁊ tyfte 460  
 ryzt so is vch akryften sawhe  
 alongande lym to þe mayster of myfte  
 þēne loke what hate oþ any gawle  
 is tached oþ tyzed þy lȳmez by twyfte  
 þy heued hatz nauþer greme ne gryfte  
 onarme oþ fynger þaz þ<sup>u</sup> ber byze  
 sofare we alle wyth luf ⁊ lyfte  
 to kȳg ⁊ quene by cortaysye

40 Cortayse ¶ i jleue 45b  
 ⁊ charyte grete beyow amōg 470  
 bot my speche þat yow ne greue  
 þy self in heuen ou' hyz þ' heue  
 to make þe quen þat watz sozonge  
 what more honō mozte he acheue  
 þat hade endured ī worlde stronge  
 ⁊ lyued ī penaūce hys lyuez longe  
 w<sup>t</sup> bodyly bale h̄y blyffe tobyye  
 what more worfchyp mozt ho fonge  
 þen coroude be k̄yng by cortayse 480

**T**hat cortayse is tofre ofdede  
 3yf hyt befoth þat þ' cone3 saye  
 þ' lyfed not two 3er ī oure þede  
 þ' cowþe3 neu' god nauþ' plese ne pray  
 ne neu' nawþer pater ne crede  
 ⁊ quen mad onþe fyrst day  
 i may not traw so god me spede  
 þat god wolde wryþe sowrange away  
 of coūtes damysel parmafay  
 wer fayr ī heuen tohalde alltate 490  
 oþ' elle3 alady oflasse aray  
 bot aquene hit is to dere adate

42 þer is nodate of hys god nesse  
 þen sayde to me þat worþy wyzte  
 for al is trawþe þat he con dresse  
 ⁊ he may do no þynk bot ryzt  
 as mathew mele3 ī yō melle  
 ī sothfol gospel of god al myzt  
 ī sample he can ful grayþely gefse  
 ⁊ lyknez hit toheuen lyzte 500  
 my regne hefaytz is lyk onhyzt  
 to alorde þat hade auyne jwate  
 of tyme ofzere þe terme watz tyzt  
 to labor vyne watz dere þe date

- 46a
- 43 þat date of 3ere wel knawe þys hyne  
 þe lorde fulerly vp he ros  
 to hyre werkmen tohys vyne  
 ⁊ fynde3 þ' fūme tohys porpos  
 into acorde þaycon de clyne  
 for apene on aday ⁊ forth þay got3  
 wryþen ⁊ worchen ⁊ don gret pyne  
 keruen ⁊ caggen ⁊ man hit clos  
 aboute vnder þelorde to marked tot3  
 ⁊ ydel men ftande he fynde3 þerate  
 whyftande 3e ydel he fayde to þos  
 ne knawe 3e of þis day no date  
 510
- 44 Er date ofdaye hider arn we wōne  
 fo wat3 al famen her anfwar fo3t  
 we haf ftanden her fyn ros þe fūne  
 ⁊ no mō bydde3 v9 do ry3t no3t  
 gos īto my vyne dot3 þat 3e cōne  
 fofayde þelorde ⁊ made hit to3t  
 what refonabele hyre be na3t berūne  
 ī yow pray ī dede ⁊ þo3te  
 þay wente ī to þe vyne ⁊ wro3te  
 ⁊ alday þe lorde þ93ede his gate  
 ⁊ nw men tohys vyne he bro3te  
 welne3 wyl day wat3 paffed date  
 520
- 45 At þe day of date of euenfonge  
 on oure byfore þefōne go doū  
 he fe3 þer ydel men ful stronge  
 ⁊ fade to hen w<sup>t</sup> fobre foū  
 wy ftonde 3e ydel þife daye3 longe  
 þayfayden her hyre wat3 nawhere boū  
 got3 to my vyne 3emen 3onge  
 ⁊ wyrke3 ⁊ dot3 þ<sup>t</sup> at 3e moū  
 fone þeworlde bycom wel broū  
 þe fūne wat3 doū ⁊ ⁊ hit wex late  
 totake her hyre hemad fūoū  
 þeday wat3 al apaffed date  
 530  
 540



**T**he date of þe daye þelorde con knaw  
 called toþe reue lede pay þe meyny  
 gyf hem þe hyre þat iþhem owe  
 ⁊ fyrre þat non me may reprene  
 fet hem alle vpon arawe  
 ⁊ gyf vchon ī lyche apeny  
 bygyn at þe lafte þat ſtandeꝝ lowe  
 tyl to þe fyrſte þat þʳ atteney  
 ⁊ þēne þe fyrſt by gōne to pleny  
 ⁊ fayden þat þay hade trauayled fore  
 þeſe bot on oure hem con ſtreny  
 vᵛ þȳk vᵛ oꝝe to take m ore

550

47 More hafwe ſerued vᵛ þȳk fo  
 þat ſuffred han þe da yeꝝ hete  
 þēn þyfe þat wroꝝt not houreꝝ two  
 ⁊ þʳ dotꝝ hem vᵛ to coūterfete  
 þēne ſayde þe lorde to onof þo  
 frende no wanig i wyl þe zete  
 take þat is þyn owne ⁊ go  
 ⁊ i hyred þe for apeny agrete  
 quy bygȳneꝝ þʳ now to þrete  
 watꝝ not apene þy couenaūt þore  
 fyrre þē couenaūde is noꝝt to plete  
 wy ſchalte þʳ þēne afk more

560

48 More weþʳ louyly is me my gyfte  
 to do wyth myn quat ſo me lykeꝝ  
 oþʳ elleꝝ þyn yꝝe tolyþʳ is lyfte  
 for iam goude ⁊ nō by ſwykeꝝ  
 þᵛ ſchal i qʳ kryfte hit ſkyfte  
 þelaſte ſchalbe þe fyrſt þat ſtrykeꝝ  
 ⁊ þe fyrſt þe lafte be he neuʳ ſo ſwyft  
 for mony ben calle þaꝝ fewe be mykeꝝ  
 þᵛ pore men her part ay pykeꝝ  
 þaꝝ þay comlate ⁊ lyttel wore  
 ⁊ þaꝝ her ſweng wythlyttel at flykeꝝ  
 þe merciof god is much þe more

570

49 More haf i of ioye ⁊ blyffe hereīne  
 of ladyſchyp gret ⁊ lyue3 blom  
 þen alle þe wy3e3 ī þe worlde my3twȳne  
 by þe way of ry3t to afke dome  
 wheþer welnygh now i con byḡne  
 in euentyde intoþe vyne i come  
 fyrft of my hyre my lorde con m̄yne  
 i wat3 payed anon of al ⁊ ſum  
 3et oþ þer werne þ<sup>t</sup> toke moretom  
 þat ſwange ⁊ ſwat for long 3ore  
 þat 3et of hyre nopynk þay nom  
 paraūf no3t ſchal to3ere more

580

50 Then more i meled ⁊ fayde apert  
 me þynk þytale vnrefouable  
 godde3 ry3t is redy ⁊ eūmore rert  
 oþ holy wryt is bot afable  
 īfauter is fayd averce ouerte  
 þat ſpeke3 apoȳt determynable  
 þ<sup>r</sup> quyte3 vchon as hys deſſerte  
 þ<sup>r</sup> hy3e k̄ȳg ay ptermynable  
 now he þat ſtod þelong day ſtable  
 ⁊ þ<sup>r</sup> to payment com hym byfore  
 þēne þelaffe ī werke to take more able  
 ⁊ eū þe lenger þelaffe þe more

590

600

**O**f more ⁊ laſſe ingode3 ryche  
 þat gentyll fayde lys no ioparde  
 for þer is vch mon payed inlyche  
 wheþer lyttel oþ much be hys rewarde  
 for þe gentyll cheuentayn is no chyche  
 queþ ſo eū he dele neſch oþ harde  
 helaue3 hys gyfte3 as waſ ofdyche  
 oþ gote3 of golf þat neū charde  
 hys fraūchyſe is large þ<sup>t</sup> eū dard  
 to h̄y þat mat3 ī ſȳne reſcogh<sup>r</sup>  
 noblyffe bet3 fro hem reparde  
 for þe grace of god is gret i nogh<sup>r</sup>

610

- 52 Bot now þ<sup>r</sup> mote3 me for to mate  
 þat i my peny haf wrang tan here  
 þ<sup>r</sup> fay3 þat i þat com tolate  
 am not worþy fo gretlere  
 wherewyfte3 þ<sup>r</sup> eu<sup>r</sup> any bourne abate  
 euer fo holy i hys prayere  
 þat he neforfeted by fūkyn gate  
 þe mede fū tyme of heuenez clere 620  
 ⁊ ay þe ofter þe alder þay were  
 þaylaften ry3t ⁊ wro3ten wogh<sup>r</sup>  
 mercy ⁊ g<sup>r</sup>ce moſte hem þē ſtere  
 for þe g<sup>r</sup>ce of god is gret i no3e
- 53 Bot i nogh<sup>r</sup> of grace hat3 inoent  
 as fone as þay arn borne by lyne  
 i þe water of babtem þay dyffente  
 þē arne þay boro3t i to þe vyne  
 anon þe day w<sup>t</sup> derk endente 630  
 þe niy3t of deth dot3 to en clyne  
 þat wro3t neuer wrang er þēne þay wente  
 þe gentyle lorde þēne paye3 hys hyne  
 þay dyden hys hefte þay wern þere ine  
 why ſchulde he not herlabō<sup>r</sup> allow  
 3ys ⁊ pay hym at þefyrft fyne  
 for þe grace of god is gret inogh<sup>r</sup>
- 54 Inoze is knawen þ<sup>t</sup> mankyn grete  
 fyrſte watz wro3t toblyſſe parfyt  
 oure forme fader hit con forfete  
 þur3 an apple þat he vpon conbyte 640  
 al wer we dampned for þat mete  
 tody3e i doel out of delyt  
 ⁊ fyþen wende to helle hete  
 þ<sup>r</sup> ine to won w<sup>t</sup>oute reſpyt  
 bot þer on com abote as tyt  
 ryche blod ran on rode fo rogh<sup>r</sup>  
 ⁊ wȳne waſ þē at þat plyt  
 þe g<sup>r</sup>ce of god wex gret inogh<sup>r</sup>

- 48a
- 55 In nogh' þer wax out out of þat welle  
 blod ⁊ waƿ of brode woūde 650  
 þe blod v9 bozt frobale of helle  
 ⁊ delyuēd v9 of þe deth secoūde  
 þe water is baptem þefoþe totelle  
 þat folzed þe glayue fo grȳly groūde  
 þat waſchez away þe gyltez felle  
 þat adam wythīne deth v9droūde  
 now is þ' nozt ī þe worlde roūde  
 bytwene v9 ⁊ blyſſe bot þat he w<sup>t</sup>droz  
 ⁊ þat is reſtored ī fely ſtoūde  
 ⁊ þe grace of god is gret ī nogh 660
- G** race ī nogh þemon may haue  
 þat ſȳnez þēne new 3if hȳ repente  
 bot w<sup>t</sup> forz ⁊ ſyt he mot hit craue  
 ⁊ byde þe payne þerto is bent  
 bot refoū of ryzt þat con not raue  
 ſauez eu' more þe īnoſſēt  
 hit is adom þ<sup>t</sup> neu' god gaue  
 þat eu' þe gyltlez ſchulde be ſchente  
 þe gyltyf may contryſſyoū hente  
 ⁊ beþurz mercy to grace þryzt 670  
 bothe to gyle þat neu' glente  
 at ī ofcente is ſaf ⁊ ryzte
- 57 ryzt þ9 þ9 įknaw wel ī þis cas  
 two men to ſaue is god byſkylle  
 þe ryzt wys man ſchal ſe hys fate  
 þe harmlez haþel ſchal com hym tulle  
 þe ſau' hyt ſatz þ9 ī apace  
 lorde quo ſchal klymbe þyhyzhylle  
 oþ' reſt w<sup>t</sup>īne þy holy place  
 hymſelf to on ſware he is not dylle 680  
 hondelȳgez harme þat dyt not ille  
 þatis of hert boþe clene ⁊ lyzt  
 þer ſchal hys ſtep ſtable ſtulle  
 þe īnoſent is ay ſaf by ryzt

- 58 The ryztwys man also fertayn  
aproche heschal þ<sup>t</sup> proper pyle  
þat take3 not herlyf in vayne  
neglauere3 her nie3bor wyth no gyle  
of þys ryztwys fa3 salamon playn  
how kyntly oure con aquyle 690  
by waye3 ful stre3t hecon hym strayn  
τ scheued hȳ þe rengne ofgod awhyle  
as quo fays lo 3on louely yle  
þ<sup>r</sup> may hit wȳne if þ<sup>r</sup> be wy3te  
bot hardyly w<sup>t</sup> oute peryle  
þe īnofent is ay faue by ry3te
- 59 An ende ryztwys men 3et fayt3 agome  
Dauid in fauter if eú 3e fe3 hit  
lorde þy feruaūt dra3 neuer to dome  
for non lyuyande to þe is iu3tyfyet 700  
forþy to corte quen þ<sup>r</sup> schal com  
þer alle oure caufe3 schalbe tryed  
alegge þery3t þ<sup>r</sup> may be īnome  
by þys ilke spech i haue affpyed  
bot he on rode þat bloody dyed  
delfully þur3 honde3 þry3t  
gyue þe to passe when þ<sup>r</sup> arte tryed  
by īnocens τ not by ry3te
- 60 Ryztwyfly quo con rede  
he loke onbok τbe awayed 710  
how jh̄c hȳ welke in are þede  
τ burne3 herbarne3 vnto hȳ brayde  
for happe τ hele þat fro hȳ 3ede  
to touth herchylde þay fayr hymprayed  
his deffypele3 w<sup>t</sup> blame let be hȳ bede  
τ wyth her refoūe3 fulfele restayed  
jh̄c þēne hem fwetelyfayde  
do way let chylder vnto me ty3t  
tofuche is heuen ryche arayed  
þe īnocent is ayfaf by ry3t 720

- I** hē con calle toh̄y hys mylde  
 ⁊ fayde hys ryche nowy3 my3t w̄yne  
 bot he com þyder ry3t as achylde  
 oþ̄ elle3 neu'more com þerīne  
 harmlez trwe ⁊ vnde fylde  
 w<sup>t</sup> outen mote oþ̄ mafcle of fulpande f̄yne  
 quen fuch þer cnoken on þe bylde  
 tyt ſchal hem men þezate vnp̄yne  
 þer is þeblys þat connot bl̄yne  
 þat þe jueler ſozte þur3 perre pres 730  
 ⁊ folde alle hys goud boþe wolen ⁊ l̄yne  
 tobye h̄y aperle wat3 mafcellez  
 62 This makelle3 perle þat bo3t is dere  
 þe joueler gef fore alle hys god  
 islyke þe reme ofheuenesse clere  
 ſofayde þefader of folde ⁊ flode  
 for hit is wēlez clene ⁊ clere  
 ⁊ endele3 roūde ⁊ blyþe ofmode  
 ⁊ cōmune toalle þat ry3tywys were  
 lo euen īmydde3 my breſte hit ſtode 740  
 mylorde þe lombe þat ſchede hys blode  
 he py3t hit þere ī token of pes  
 ī rede þe forfake þe worlde wode  
 ⁊ porchace þy perle mafkelles  
 63 O mafkelez perle ī perlez pure  
 þat bere3 q̄ ī þe perle of prys  
 quo formed þe þy fayre figure  
 þat wro3t þywede hewatz ful wys  
 þy beaute com neu' of nature  
 pymalyon paynted neu' þy vys 750  
 ne aryftotel nawþ̄ by hys lettrure  
 of carpe þekynde þefe pperte3  
 þy colō paſſez þeflō delys  
 þyn angel hauȳg ſo clene corte3  
 breue me bry3t quat kyn off̄ys  
 bere3 þe perle ſomafkelle3

64 My makelez lambe þat almay bete  
 q̄ fcho my dere deſtyne  
 meches tohys make alþaꝝ vnmete  
 fūtyme ſemed þ<sup>t</sup> aſſemble  
 when j wente fro yor worlde wete  
 he calde me tohys boníte  
 cū hyder to me my lēman ſwete  
 for mote neſpot is non ī þe  
 he gef me myꝝt ⁊ als bewte  
 ī hys blod he weſch mywede ondeſe  
 ⁊ coronde clene in v̄gynte  
 ⁊ pyꝝt me ī perlez maſkellez

760

65 Why maſkellez byrd þat bryꝝt conflambe  
 þat reiatez hatz ſo ryche ⁊ryf  
 quat kyn þ̄yḡ may be þat lambe  
 þat þe wolde wedde vnto hys vyf  
 oūalle oþ̄ ſo hyz þ̄ clambe  
 tolede w<sup>t</sup> h̄y ſoladyly lyf  
 ſomony acomly on vūder cambe  
 for kryft han lyued ī much ſtryf  
 ⁊ þ̄ con alle þo dere out dryf  
 ⁊ fro þat maryag aloþ̄ depres  
 al only þyſelf ſoftout ⁊ ſtyf  
 amakelezmay ⁊ maſkellez

770

780

**M**aſkelles q̄ þat myry quene  
 vnblemyſt jam wyth outen blot  
 ⁊ þat mayj w<sup>t</sup> menſk mēteene  
 bot makelez quene þēne ſade jnot  
 þe lambes vyuez ī blyſſe webene  
 ahondred ⁊ forty þowfande flot  
 as ī þe apocalyppez hit is ſene  
 ſant joh̄n hem ſyꝝ al ī aknot  
 onþe hylof ſyon þat ſemly clot  
 þe apoſtel hem ſegh ī goſtly drem  
 arayed toþe wedd̄yḡ ī þ<sup>t</sup> hyl coppe  
 þe nwe cyte u jlr̄m

790

- 67 Of jlr̄m̄ j in speche spelle  
 if þ̄ wyl knaw what kyn he be  
 my lombe my lorde my dere juelle  
 my ioꝝ my blys my lēman fre  
 þe þfete yfaye of h̄y con melle  
 pitoufly ofhys debonerte  
 þat gloryoꝝ gyltlez þ̄t mon con quelle  
 w̄t outen any fake offelonye 800  
 as afchep to þe flaꝝt þ̄ lad watꝝ he  
 ⁊ as lombe þat clypper ī hande men  
 fo clofed he hys mouth fro vch query  
 quen jueꝝ h̄y iugged in jh̄r̄m̄
- 68 Injlr̄m̄ watꝝ my lēman flayn  
 ⁊ rent on rode w̄t boꝝeꝝ bolde  
 aloure baleꝝ tobere fulbayn  
 he toke onh̄y self oure careꝝ colde  
 w̄t boffeteꝝ watꝝ hys face flayn  
 þat watꝝ sofayr onto byholde 810  
 for s̄yne hefet h̄y self ī vayn  
 þat neū hade non hym self towolde  
 for vꝝ helette h̄y flyꝝe ⁊ folde  
 ⁊ brede vpon aboftwys bem  
 as meke as lomp þat no playnt tolde  
 for vꝝ hef Walt ī jrl̄m̄
- 69 Ilr̄m̄ jordan ⁊ galalye  
 þer as baptyfed þe goude saýt jon  
 his wordeꝝ acorded to yfaye  
 when jh̄c̄ con toh̄y warde gon 820  
 hefayde of h̄y þys þfessye  
 lo godeꝝ lombe as trwe as fton  
 þat dotꝝ away þe s̄yneꝝ dryꝝe  
 þat alle þys worlde hatꝝ wroꝝt vpon  
 h̄y self ne wroꝝt neū zet non  
 wheþer on hym self he con al clem  
 hys generacyoū quo recen con  
 þat dyꝝed for vꝝ ī jlr̄m̄



- 50b
- 70 In ilr̄m þ̄ my lēman fwatte  
 twye3 for lombe wat3 taken þere  
 by trw recorde of ayþ' pphete  
 for mode someke ⁊ al hys fare  
 þe þryde tyme is þ'to ful mete  
 in apokalypez wryten fulzare  
 in myde3 þe trone þere faynte3 fete  
 þe apostel ioh̄n h̄y fayt3 as bare  
 lefande þeboke with leue3 fware  
 þere feuen s̄ygnette3 wernfette ī seme  
 ⁊ at þ't syzt vche douth condare  
 inhelle ī erþe ⁊ jlr̄m  
 style="text-align: right;">830
- T** hys jlr̄m lombe hade neu' pechche  
 of oþ' huee bot quyt jolyf  
 þat mot ne masklle mozt on streche  
 for wolle quyte so ronk ⁊ ryf  
 for þy vche faule þat hade neu' teche  
 is to þat lombe a worthyly wyf  
 ⁊ þaz vch day aftore he feche  
 among v9 cōme3 non oþ' strot nestryf  
 bot vchon enle we wolde were fyf  
 þemo þe myryer so god me blesse  
 ī compayny gret ourluf con þryf  
 in honõ more ⁊ neu' þelesse  
 style="text-align: right;">850
- 72 ʃasse ofblysse may non v9 br̄yg  
 þat beren þys perle vpon oure bereste  
 for þay of mote coupe neu' m̄yge  
 of spotle3 perlez þaberen þe creste  
 al þaz oure corfes ī clottez cl̄yge  
 ⁊ 3e remen for rauþe wyth outen reste  
 we þur3 outly hauen cnaw̄yg  
 o n dethe ful oure hope is drest  
 þe lonbe v9 glade3 oure care is kest  
 he myrþez v9 alle at vch ames  
 vchone3 blysse is breme ⁊ beste  
 ⁊ neu' one3 honõ zet neu' þeles  
 leste les þow leue my tale farā  
 style="text-align: right;">860

- 73 leſtles þ̄ leue my talle farande  
 ī appocalyppece is wryten ī wro  
 iſegh' fays joh̄n þe loūbe h̄y ſtande  
 on þe moūt of ſyon fulþryuen ⁊ þro  
 ⁊ wyth hym maydēnez an hūdreþe þowfande  
 ⁊ fowre ⁊ forty þowfande mo  
 onalle her forhedeꝝ wryten iſfande  
 þe lombez nome hys fadereꝝ alfo  
 ahue fro heuen i herde þoo  
 lyk flodeꝝ fele laden rūnē on reſſe  
 ⁊ as þūder þroweꝝ ī torreꝝ blo  
 þat lote iſleue watꝝ neú þeles  
 870
- 74 Nauþeles þaꝝ hit ſchowted ſcharpe  
 ⁊ ledden loude al þaꝝ hit were  
 anote ful nwe iherde hem warpe  
 to lyſten þat watꝝ ful luſly dere  
 as harporeꝝ harpen in her harpe  
 þat nwe ſonge þay ſōgen fulcler  
 in ſouānde noteꝝ agentyl carpe  
 fulfayre þe modeꝝ þay fonge ī fere  
 ryꝝt byfore godeꝝ chayere  
 ⁊ þe fowre beſteꝝ þat h̄y obes  
 ⁊ þe alder men ſofadde ofchere  
 her ſonge þay ſongen neú þe les  
 880
- 75 Nowþe leſe non watꝝ neú ſo quoȳt  
 for alle þe crafteꝝ þat eú þay knewe  
 þat of þat ſonge myꝝt ſyge apoȳt  
 bot þat meyny þe lombe þay ſwe  
 for þay arn boꝝt fro þe vrþe aloynte  
 as newe fryt to god ful due  
 ⁊ toþe gentyl lombe hit arn anioȳt  
 as lyk to hym ſelf of lote ⁊ hwe  
 for neú leſyng ne tale vn trwe  
 ne towched hertonge for no dyſſtreſſe  
 þat moteles meyny may neú remwe  
 fro þat maſkeleꝝ mayſter neú þeles  
 900

76 Neuer þe les let bemy þonc  
 q̄ i my perle þaz i appofe  
 iſchulde not tempte þy wyt fo wlonc  
 to kryftez chambre þat art ichofe  
 I am bot mokke ⁊ mul amōg  
 ⁊ þʳ fo ryche areken rofe  
 ⁊ bydez here by þys blyfful bonc  
 þer lyuez lyfte may neu' lofe  
 now hynde þat ſympelneſſe cōez enclofe  
 i wolde þe afke a þyge expreſſe  
 ⁊ þaz iþe buſtwys as ablofe  
 let my bone vayl neu' þe lefe

910

**N**euer þe lefe cler i yow by calle  
 if ze con fe hyt be to done  
 as þʳ art gloryo⁹ w<sup>t</sup> outen galle  
 w<sup>t</sup> nay þʳ neu' my ruful bone  
 haf ze no wonez i caſtel walle  
 ne man' þer ze may mete ⁊ won  
 þʳ tellez me of iſr<sup>m</sup> þe ryche ryalle  
 þer dauid dere watz dyzt on trone  
 bot by þyfe holtez hit con not hone  
 bot in iudee hit is þ<sup>t</sup> noble note  
 as ze ar maſkelez vnder mone  
 yō wonez ſchulde be wyth outen mote

920

78 þys motelez meyny þʳ cone3 of mele  
 of þoufandez þryzt ſogret aroute  
 agret cete for ze arn fele  
 yow by hod haue w<sup>t</sup>outen doute  
 ſocūly apakke of joly juele  
 wer euel don ſchulde lyz þ' oute  
 ⁊ by þyfe bonkez þer icon gele  
 ⁊ iſe nobyg̃g nawhere aboute  
 i trowe al one ze lenge ⁊ loute  
 to loke onþe glory of þys g<sup>r</sup>co⁹ gote  
 if þʳ hatz oþer lyg̃gez ſtoute  
 now tech me to þat myry mote

930

- 79 That mote þ<sup>u</sup> mene3 in iudy londe  
 þat ſpecial ſpyce þentome ſpakk  
 þat is þe cyte þat þe lombe con fonde  
 to ſoffer ine for for mane3 fake 940  
 þe olde jlr̄m to vnderſtonde  
 for þere þe olde gulte wat3 don to flake  
 bot þe nwe þat ly3t of gode3 fonde  
 þe apoſtel inapocalyppce ī theme contake  
 þe lompe þ<sup>ʃ</sup> w<sup>t</sup>outen ſpotte3 blake  
 hat3 feryed þyder hys fayre flote  
 ⁊ as hys flok is w<sup>t</sup> outen flake  
 ſo is hys mote w<sup>t</sup> outen moote
- 80 Of motes two to carpe clene  
 ⁊ jlr̄m hy3t boþe nawþeles 950  
 þat nys to yow no more to mene  
 bot cete of god oþ<sup>ʃ</sup> ſy3t of pes  
 ī þat on oure pes wat3 mad at ene  
 w<sup>t</sup> payne to ſuffer þe lombe hit cheſe  
 in þat oþ<sup>ʃ</sup> is no3t bot pes to glene  
 þat ay ſchal laſte w<sup>t</sup>outen reles  
 þat is þe bor3 þat we topres  
 froþ<sup>t</sup> oure freſth be layd to rote  
 þer glory ⁊ blyſſe ſchal eu<sup>ʃ</sup> encres  
 toþe meyny þ<sup>t</sup> is w<sup>t</sup> outen mote 960
- M**otelez may ſo meke ⁊ mylde  
 þen ſayde jto þat lufly flor  
 br̄yg me to þat bygly bylde  
 ⁊ let me ſe þy blyfful bor  
 þat ſchene ſayde þat god wyl ſchylde  
 þ<sup>u</sup> may not enter w<sup>t</sup>ine hys tor  
 bot of þe lombe j haue þe aquylde  
 for a ſy3t þerof þur3 gret fauor  
 vt wyth tofe þat clene cloyſtor  
 þ<sup>u</sup> may bot īwyth not afote  
 toſtrech in þe ſtrete þ<sup>u</sup> hat3 no vygō 970  
 bot þ<sup>u</sup> wer clene w<sup>t</sup> outen mote

- I** f i þis mote þefchal vn hyde  
 bow vp towarde þys bornez heued  
 ⁊ i an ende3 þe on þis fyde  
 fchal fve tylþ<sup>o</sup> to ahil be veued  
 þē wolde no lenger byde  
 bot lurked by laūce3 folufly leued  
 tylon a hyl þat i affpyed  
 ⁊ blufched on þe burgh<sup>h</sup> as i forth dreued 980  
 by zonde þe brok fro mewarde keued  
 þat fchyrre þenfūne w<sup>t</sup> fchafte3 schon  
 ī þe apokalypce is þe fafoū preued  
 as deuyfe3 hit þe apofitel ihōn  
 83 As ihñ þe apofitel hit fy3 w<sup>t</sup> fyzt  
 i fyze þat cyty of gret renou  
 i lrm fo nwe ⁊ ryally dyzt  
 as hit was lyzt froþe heuen adoū  
 þebor3 wat3 al of brende golde bryzt  
 as glemande glas burnift broū 990  
 w<sup>t</sup> genty l gēme3 an vnder pyzt  
 w<sup>t</sup> bantelez twelue on bafyng boū  
 þe foūdementez twelue of riche tenou  
 vch tabelment wat3 aferlype3 fton  
 as derely deuyfe3 þis ilk tou  
 ī apocalyppez þe apofitel iohñ  
 84 As þife ftone3 ī writ con nēme  
 i knew þe name aff his tale  
 i afper hyzt þe fyrft gēme  
 þat jon þe fyrft baffe con wale 1000  
 he glente grene ī þe loweft hēme  
 faffer helde þefecoūde ftale  
 þe calfydoyne þēne w<sup>t</sup>outen wēme  
 ī þe þryd table conpurly pale  
 þe emerade þefurþe fogrene of fcale  
 þe fardonyfe þe fyfþe fton  
 þe fexte þe rybe he conhit wale  
 ī þe apocalyppe þe apofitel iohñ

53a

85    3et joyned joh̄n þecryfolyt  
 þe feuenþe gēme ī fundament 1010  
 þe a3tþe þe beryl cler ⁊ quyt  
 þe topafye twȳne howþe nēte endent  
 þe cryfopafe þe tenþe is ty3t  
 þejacȳgh þe enleuenþe gent  
 þe twelfþe þegentylefte ī vch aplyt  
 þe amatyft purple w<sup>t</sup> ynde blente  
 þe walabof þe bantels bent  
 ojaſporye as glas þat glyfnande ſchon  
 j knew hit by his deuyſement  
 ī þe apocalyppez þe apoſtel jh̄n 1020

86    as joh̄n deuyfed 3et fa3 j þare  
 þiſe twelue de gres wern brode ⁊ ſtayre  
 þe cyte ſtod abof ful ſware  
 as longe as brode as hy3e ful fayre  
 þe ſtretez of golde as glaſſe albare  
 þe wal of jaſper þat glent as glayre  
 þe wone3 w<sup>t</sup>ine enurned ware  
 wyth alle kȳnez perre þat mo3t repayre  
 þēne helde vch ſware of þis manayre  
 twelue forlonge ſpace er eú hit fon 1030  
 of he3t of brede of lenþe to cayre  
 for meten hitſy3 þe apoſtel joh̄n

**A**s joh̄n hȳ wrytez 3et more iſy3e  
 vch pane of þat place had þre 3ate3  
 ſo twelue ī pōſent j con allpye  
 þe portalez pyked of rych plate3  
 ⁊ vch 3ate of amargyrye  
 aparfyt perle þat neu' fate3  
 vchon iſcripture aname con plye  
 of iſrl barnez folewande her date3 1040  
 þat is toſay as herbyrþ whate3  
 þe aldeſt ay fyrſt þ' on watz done  
 ſuch ly3t þer lemed ī alle þe ſtrate3  
 hem nedde nawþ' ſūne ne mone

- 88 Of fūne ne mone had þay no nede  
 þe felf god watz her lombe lyzt  
 þe lombe her lantyrne w<sup>t</sup> ouden drede  
 þurȝ hȳ blyfnd þeborȝ al bryzt  
 þurȝ woȝe ⁊ won my lokȳg zede  
 for fotyle cler noȝt lette no lyzt 1050  
 þe hyȝe trone þer moȝt ȝe hede  
 w<sup>t</sup> alle þe apparaylmente vmbe pyȝte  
 as joh̄n þe appoſtel in termeȝ tyȝte  
 þe hyȝe godeȝ felf hit fet vpone  
 areú of þe trone þer ran out ryȝte  
 watz bryȝter þen boþe þe fūne ⁊ mone
- 89 Sūne nemone ſchon neú ſo ſwete  
 a þat foyfoū flode out of þat flet  
 ſwyþe hit ſwange þurȝ vch aſtrete  
 w<sup>t</sup> ouden fylþe oþ̄ galle oþ̄ glet 1060  
 kyrk þer īne watz non ȝete  
 chapel ne temple þat eú watz fet  
 þe al myȝty watz her mynyſter mete  
 þe lombe þe ſaker:fyfe þer to re get  
 þe ȝateȝ ſtoken watz neú ȝet  
 bot eú more vpen at vche alone  
 þer entreȝ non totake reſet  
 þat bereȝ any ſpot an vndeȝ mone
- 90 The mone may þer of acroche no myȝte  
 to ſpotty ho is of body to grym 1070  
 ⁊ al ſo þ̄ ne is neú nyȝt  
 what ſchulde þe mone þer compas clym  
 ⁊ to euen wyth þat worþly lyȝt  
 þat ſchyneȝ vpon þe brokeȝ brym  
 þe planeteȝ arn ī to poū aplyȝt  
 ⁊ þe felf fūne fulfer todym  
 aboute þat waſ arntres fulſchym  
 þat twelue fryteȝ of lyf conbere fulſone  
 twelue ſyþeȝ on ȝer þay beren fulfrym  
 ⁊ re nowleȝ nwe ī vche amone 1080

91 An vnder mone so great m'wayle  
 no fleschly hert ne myzt endeure  
 as quen i blusched vpon þat baly  
 soferly þ' of watz þe fafure  
 i stod as styllle as dafed quayle  
 forferly of þat freuch fygure  
 þat felde i nawþ' reste ne t<sup>r</sup>uayle  
 so watz i rauyste wyth glȳme pure  
 for i dar fay w<sup>t</sup> conciens fure  
 hade bodyly burne abiden þat bone  
 þa3 alle clerkez hȳ hade ī cure  
 his lyf were lofte an vnder mone

1090

**R**yzt as þe maynful mone con rys  
 er þēne þe day glem dryue aldou  
 so sodanly on awonder wyfe

i watz war of aprofessyoū  
 þis noble cite of ryche enpresse  
 watz sodanly ful w<sup>t</sup>outen sōmoū  
 of such v'gynez ī þe same gyfe  
 þat watz my blyfful an vnder croū  
 ⁊ coronde wernalle of þe same fasoū  
 depaynt ī perlez ⁊ wedez qwyte  
 ī vchone3 breste watz boūden boū  
 þeblyfful perle w<sup>t</sup> outen delyt

1100

93 w<sup>t</sup> gret delyt þay glod ī fere  
 on golden gate3 þat glent as glasse  
 hūdreth þowfandez i wot þer were  
 ⁊ alle infute her liurez waffe  
 tortoknaw þe gladdest chere  
 þelombe byfore con proudly passe  
 wyth hornez seuen ofred glode cler  
 as prayfed perlez his wedez waffe  
 towarde þe throne þay trone atras  
 þa3 þay wernfele no pres ī plyt  
 bot mylde as maydenez feme at mas  
 so dro3 þay forth w<sup>t</sup> gret delyt

1110



- 54b
- 94 Delyt þ<sup>t</sup> hys come encroched  
to much hitwere of forto melle  
þife alder men quen he aproched  
grouelȳg to his fete þay felle 1120  
legyoūes of aūgeleȳ togeder uoched  
þer keften enfens of fwete smelle  
þen glory ʔ gle watȳ nwe abroched  
alsonge toloue þat gay juelle  
þesteuen moȳt sʔryke þurȳþevrþe tohelle  
þat þe vʔtues of heuen of joye endyte  
toloue þe lombe his meyny in melle  
jwyffe jlaȳt agret delyt
- 95 Delit þe lōbe forto deuife 1130  
w<sup>t</sup> much meruayle in mynde went  
beȳt watȳ he blyþeȳt ʔ moȳte topryfe  
þat eū j herde of sʔpeche sʔpent  
foworþly whyt wern wedeȳ hys  
his lokeȳ sʔymple hȳ self so gent  
bot awoūde ful wyde ʔ weete con wyfe  
anende hys hert þurȳ hyde to rente  
of his quyte fyde his blod out sʔrent  
alas þoȳt j who did þat sʔpyt  
ani breȳte for bale aȳt haf for brent  
er he þer to hade had delyt 1140
- 96 The lombe delyt nonlyȳte to wene  
þaȳ he were hurt ʔ woūde hade  
ī his sembelaūt watȳ neū fene  
so wern his glenteȳ gloryoȳ glade  
jloked amōg his meyny schene  
how þay wyth lyf wern laȳte ʔlade  
þē faȳ jþer mylyttel quene  
þat jwende had standen by me ī sclade  
lorde much of mirþe watȳ þat ho made  
amōg her fereȳ þat watȳ so quyt 1150  
þat syȳt me gart to þenk towade  
for luf longȳg ī gret delyt

- D**elyt me drof ī yze ⁊ ere  
 my maneȝ mynde to maddȝg malte  
 quen iſez my frely iwolde be þere  
 byȝonde þewater þaȝ ho were walte  
 i þoȝt þat no þȝg myȝt me dere  
 to fech me bur ⁊take me halte  
 ⁊ to ſtart in þe ſtrem ſchulde non me ſtere  
 to ſwȝme þe remnaūt þaȝiþer ſwalte 1160  
 bot of þat mūt iwatȝ bi talt  
 wheniſchulde ſtart ī þe ſtrem aſtraye  
 out of þat caſte iwatȝ by calt  
 hit watȝ not at my prynceȝ paye  
 98 hit payed hym not þat iſo flonc  
 ou' meruelo<sup>9</sup> mereȝ ſo mad arayde  
 of raas þaȝ iwere rafch ⁊ronk  
 ȝet rapely þer īne iwatȝ reſtayed  
 for ryȝt as i ſparred vnto þe bonc  
 þat bratþe out of my drem me brayde 1170  
 þen wakned i ī þat erber wlonk  
 my hede vpon þat hylle watȝ layde  
 þer as my perle to groūde ſtrayd  
 iſaxled ⁊ fel ī gret affray  
 ⁊ ſykyng to my ſelf iſayd  
 now al be to þat prynces paye  
 99 Me payed ful ille tobe out fleme  
 ſo ſodenly ofþat fayre regioū  
 fro alle þoſyȝteȝ ſo quykeȝ ⁊ queme  
 alongeȝg heuy meſtrok ī ſwone 1180  
 ⁊ rewfully þēne iconto reme  
 o perle q̄ i ofrych renou  
 ſo watȝ hit me dere þ<sup>t</sup> þ<sup>u</sup> con deme  
 ī þys v'ay avyſyoū  
 īf hit be ueray ⁊ ſoth ſermoū  
 þat þ<sup>u</sup> ſo ſtykeȝ ī garlande gay  
 ſowel is me ī þys doel doūgoū  
 þat þ<sup>u</sup> art toþat pryneȝ paye

55b

100 To þat pryncez paye hade jay bente  
 ⁊ zerned no more þen wat3 me geuen 1190  
 ⁊ halden me þer in trwe entent  
 as þe perle me prayed þat wat3 fo þryuen  
 as helde drawen to goddez þsent  
 to mo of his mysterys jhade ben dryuen  
 bot ay wolde man of happe more hente  
 þen mo3ten by ryzt vpon hem clyuen  
 þer fore my ioie wat3 fone to riuen  
 ⁊ j kaste of kythez þat laftez aye  
 lorde mad hit arn þat agayn þe stryuen  
 oþ proferen þe ozt agayn þy paye 1200

101 To pay þe þnce oþ fete fazte  
 hit is ful eþe to þe god kryftyin  
 for jhaf fouden hym boþe day ⁊ nazte  
 agod alorde afrende ful fyin  
 ou þis hyul þis lote jlazte  
 for pyty of my perle enclyin  
 ⁊ syþen to god jhit bytazte  
 in kryftez dere bleffyg ⁊ myn  
 þat inþeforme of bred ⁊ wyn  
 þe preste v9 schewe3 vch adaye 1210  
 he gef v9 to be his homly hyne  
 Ande precio9 perlez vnto his pay Amen· Amen·