



<County: Yorkshire West Riding>

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<Text: Desert of Religion>

<Tranche 1>

<fol. 46v>Ye fyrste tre of yis forest schene .
Js ye tre of vertus yat ay is clene .
Yat in mekenes festis his rotes .
Of hym vertus vpwarde schotes .
And sprynges & spredes his leues & groves
And buriones bath w^t braunches & boghes
yis tre be-takenes men y^t ar mylde
And debonere als a chylde
Swylk ar ye varay scolers right .
Of our mayster god of myght .
Mekenes falles in hert to dwell .
Through yir four thynges to tell .
Through oft be-thynkyng~ vp & doune
~~Through haly delyte w^t-outen~~
And through veray contrycioune .
Through sufferance w^t-outen gruchyng
Through haly delyte w^t-outen changyng
Or thynkyng~ of his wrechenes .
Or what god has done hym mar or les .
Yis thought if he lat noght pas
And vmthynkyng what he was
And wheyne he come & right se .
And what he is & wheyder sall he .
And what he sall be at his ende .
And whyderward y^t he sall wende .
Hee sall be many skylles know .
Hym for to meke & for to law .
For out of mekenes of dede & thought .

Comes all ye *vertus* y^t euer was wrought .
 In seuen braunches of yis tre .
 In seuen *vertus* may men se .
 And out of ilk a *verertu*<sic> euen .
 Sprynges other *vertus* in leues seuen .
 yat forth brynges ye froyte of lyfe .
 yat bath suld couayt man & wyfe
 yis is ye tre of whylk we here
 y^t dauyd of spekes in ye sawtere .
 ye ryghtwys is als a+tre y^t standes
 Be-syde ye course of ye water-strandes
 And gyfes his froyte in conabill tyme .
 His lefe sall nother fade ne dwyne .
 <fol. 47r mainly illustrations>
 <fol. 47v>Ye secund tre of yis foreste fayre .
 Js ye tre of vices y^t may enpayre .
 yat groves & festes his rotes on pride .
 And boghes & braunches on ilk a syde .
 yat downward groves ay in-to hell .
 His froyte is bath bytter & fell .
 For out of pride comes all wykkenes .
 yat euer was wrought her mare or les .
 For pride y^t comes of herte & thoght
 Was ye fyrste synn y^t euer was wrought
 Pryde was begynyng of all ill~ .
 Pryde is *contrarius* to alkyn skill .
 Pryde brake fyrste ye company
 And ye ordour in heuen y^t was semely
 yar-for fra heuen doune he fell .
 In-to ye depeste pytt of hell .
 ye syn~ of pryde full perlyous s is
 Of wham sprynges all wykkednes
 It blyndes a man & reues hym syght .
 yat he knawes noght hym-selfe ryght .
 Pryde may be lykkende wele .
 To ye fendes awne wyfe as j fele .
 Yat serues gode & delycyous
 And is straunge and perlyous
 Through ye whilk ye fende he can

Make here dronken many a man
 y^t ar reche here wyght & myghty
 Nobell wyse balde & hardy .
 And communly to vnderstande
 All maner of men here lyfeande
 Jn seuen braunches of yis tre
 Jn seuen vices may men se
 And out of ilk vice doune euen .
 Sprynges other vices in leues seuen
 yat forth brynges ye froyte of dede
 Tast itt noght man J ye red
 yis is ye tre yat in sermoune
 God bad fell and hew it doune
 And cast itt in a fyre to bryne
 For no froyte itt will begyne
 To bere yat is at sap of lyfe
 Nother to man ne to wyfe
 yar-<exp>fro</exp> for grub itt vp be ye rotes .
 And all ye braunches y^t of hym schotes .
 <fol. 48r: mainly illustrations>
 <fol. 48v>JN yis wod Here may y^u se .
 Spryngand full fayr a-nother tre .
 Wyth leues on ilk+a syde be dene .
 Yat wynter & somer is ay grene .
 And beres froyte y^t is ay rype .
 Yat nane bot meke w^t hend may grype .
 Yis is ye tre of mekenes gode .
 Yat our lady vnder stode
 Jn mouthe mekenes schew itt may .
 Thurgh four thynges y^t j sall say .
 Thurgh oft wreyng~ in schryft of ill .
 Thurgh deuote prayer loude or still .
 Thurgh hertt contynuel lowynge .
 Thurgh gode schewyng~ & techynge .
 Jn werk mekenes may be sene .
 Thurgh four thynges yat here bene .
 Thurgh whytyng~ of all y^t dett is es
 Thurgh lely body buxumnes .
 Thurgh wyrkyng~ of gode werkes namly

Thurgh herd lyfe ye flesch to chasty
 For when a man in penaunce lyfes .
 And thurgh penaunce his flesch grefes .
 And fleys delyte and kepes hym chaste .
 And for-^fsakes y^t ye flesch lofes maste
 And chastis itt & puttis itt law .
 Yan may men mekenes *in* hert kaw .
 Yir tuelf degrese yat J now neuen .
 Ledes uerray mekenes euen .
 Be thre partes and makes itt lyght .
 Jn hert in mouthe & wark ryght .
 W^t-outen yir tuelf in yir thre
 Verray mekenes may noght be
 Yis tre floryschand yat yu sees .
 Of mekenes is ye tuelf degrees .
 Yat in a meke hart fyrst begynnes .
 And sythen vp-ward sprede & sprynges .
 And beres ye froyte y^t ay is swete
 And delycyous for to ette .
 Yis suld men sett in yair orth³arde .
 Yat groves or clymbes to heuen-warde .
 And dyke itt w^t depe deuocioune
 Yat wynd of pryde dryfe itt not doune
 Ne stele ye froyte y^t on itt groves .
 Ne breke ye *braunches* ne boghes .
 <fol. 49r: mainly illustrations>
 <fol. 49v>3itt groves here in yis Wylldernes
 A tre of grett wykkednes
 Yat beres froytte bitter als gall
 Yat itt tastes itt poysouns all
 Yo man yat thoght hym for to schryfe
 Braunches & boghes a-way suld ryfe
 For *pride* agaynes god weres all-ways
 And his godes als clerkes says .
 And god weres agayn pryde .
 And abates hir myght on ilk+a syde
 Pryde is ~~ew~~ quene of all vyces .
 Y^t to all wykkednes vs entices .
 Yat all gode swelous as j gesse .

Pryde for-dose all *grace* & vertose .
 And gude all werkes y^t men dose .
 Pryde is ye fyrste y^t asayles faste .
 Goddes knyght & leues hym laste .
 Pryde is ye gredy lyonesse .
 For when he has ouer-commen ryght
 All other synnes thurgh *grace* & myght
 Yan commes pryde after y^t<exp>e</exp> victory .
 And assayles hym maste stalworthly .
 Pryde makes a man to wyn hell sone
 And wastes all y^e gude y^t he has done .
 Pryde men makes hey state to covayte .
 And mastry ouer all other to layte .
 Bott *pride* as clerkes *in* bokes cane rede .
 May be for-done thurgh gyfte of drede .
 Yis spreyingand tre y^t yu now sees
 Of pryde is called ye tuelfe degrees
 Ye fyrste *in* proude hert festes his rotes .
 And sythen vpwarde his boghes schotes .
 Grub & graue als gode gardynere .
 Abowt ye rote bath day and zere .
 And fell itt wuele in-to ye fyre .
 Heuen yar-for sall be yi hyre .
 Vn-to yi lorde if y^u be trew .
 Jn his erbere latt itt noght grew .
 Jn-to his gardyne when he will ga .
 His dyssporte yar-in to ta .
 <fol. 50r><mainly illustrations>
 <fol. 50v>JN yis deserte is a-nother tre
 Sprynges & spredes as *men* may se
 Yat nother groves in cite ne *in* toune
 Bott in places of relygioune
 Jit beres froyte y^t is full soure .
 And full bytter of sauoure
 For ye state of relygioune
 Suld be thurgh Right intencioune
 Far fra ye werld als ye boke telles
 Als in deserte w^[h]ar na man dwelles
 For he yat kepes yat wele .

Ye maners of ye werld suld not fele .
 For man thurgh right intencioun .
 Yat is in ye state of relygioun .
 Ay yis werld suld hate & fle
 Yat is ay full of vanyte
 Swa y^t his conuersacioun be .
 In heuen be-for ye trinyte .
 For he suld putt all his tresore.
 In heuen y^t sekyrest is yar-fore .
 Sway may he yan his tresore saue .
 And in heuen itt fynd and haue .
 Ye tresore of men relygiouse .
 Js poruertt yat is preciouise <smudged> .
 Jf it come of a gode will .
 W^t-outen gruchyng loude or styll .
 Bott ye relygiouse y^t loues his saule .
 Suld take insampell at saynt paule .
 And als he dyd ye werld forgett .
 And all yat may relygioun lett .
 Yir ar ye tuelfe abusyouns
 Yat groves in relygiouns
 Yis tre suld yai nyght & day .
 Be a-boute to hew a-way .
 W^t his boghes & w^t his braunches .
 Yat in relygioun makes dystaunces .
 Whar ye saule suld duell in wildernes
 Yat has for-saken ye werkes of y^e flesch .
 Yis tre has poysonud & broght doune .
 Many a man of relygioun .

<Tranche 2>

<fol. 57v>JN yis forest 3itt groves a tre .
 Als telles ye boke of pryete .
 Yat god yat is maste of myght
 Yus says to hym y^t kepes itt ryght
 J gyfe ye to ete w^t-outen stryfe
 Of ye froyte y^t sprynges of y^e tre of lyfe

Yat standes in myddes paradyse .
 Jitt passes all ye froyt of pryse .
 And he y^t kepes noght yis tre .
 Of yat gude froyt sall noght se .
 For wha sa is synfull and ill .
 Yir thre names he beres be skill .
 Godes thefe & thefes fere .
 And mortherer~ of his doghter dere
 And godes traytour men hym calles .
 Ye synfull man y^t in syn falles .
 First god thefe he may be knawen .
 For he wastes y^t is noght his awen .
 Yat he hym tok to kepe & welde .
 Of ye whilk hym buse a-counte 3elde .
 Mortherer he hym-self mase .
 Y^t thurgh syn his saule slase .
 For god ordayned it to blys .
 Yat thurgh *grace* his doghter ys .
 Godes traytour he is be resone .
 For he dose god grett tresone .
 When he 3eldes to ye fende haly .
 Yat os godes maste enmy .
 Ye castell of his hert so qweme .
 Ye whilk god toke hym for to 3eme .
 For he y^t in schryfe his hert lawes .
 Spekes to god y^t itt wele knawes .
 For ye preste y^t is of schryfte herer~ .
 In schryfte is called goddes awn er~ .
 Yis tre sprynges of a mannes hert .
 Y^t vn-to god is *convert* .
 Fra all wikkednes & his synnes .
 When he w^t<exp>t</exp> sare herte on yaim mynnes .
 And schryfes hym clene & tase pennance .
 And for yaim haues verray repentaunce .
 And thynkes na mare to do ya synnes .
 Yis tre to florysch yan be-gynnes .
 Ye froyte is satisfaccioune .
 Yat *commes* oute of confescioune .
 <fol. 58r: mainly illustrations>

<fol. 58v>JN yis forest groves a-nother tre .
 Yat in wyldernes sprynges full hee .
 Ye whilk tre als j vnder stande .
 Sathanas sett itt w^t his hande .
 Jn ye fyrst braunche yu may se .
 Sex thynges yat ar gode to fle .
 Yir sex ar full mykell in vse .
 Yat gode begynnyng of lyfe for-dose .
 Ane ~~itt~~ is ~~dafa~~ dasynes of hert aneley<e corrected to y by other hand?> .
 <mrg>y^e</mrg> Secunde is tendernes of body .
 Ye ~~thyde~~ thryd is jdelnes of man in qwart
 Ye ferth is hevines of hert .
 Ye fift is lythernnes of hert w^t-in .
 Ye sext is arghnes to be-gyn .
 Other sex in a braunche ar sett
 Als taryng and reklesnes .
 Sone forgetyng & slawnes .
 Lachenis alswa & faylyng~ .
 Yir sex mase a grett lettyng~ .
 Other sex ar spryngand yan .
 Yat till ill endyng brynges a man .
 Yat amendment of life may lett .
 Yir ar ya sex yat ar noght gode .
 Vnbuxsumnes & vntholemode
 Gruchyng~ alswa and drerynes .
 Langour wanhope y^t werst es .
 Yir sprynges & sprede on ilk+a syde .
 Oute of ye tre y^t is called accyde .
 Yir ar ye vices aghten to knaw .
 Jn whilk men falles y^t ar slaw .
 For ye fende thurgh jdelnes can .
 Lett ye gude lyfe of a man .
 And occupie hym in his nedes .
 Jf he fynd hym jdell in gode dedes .
 Yis tre w^t braunches & w^t boghes .
 And w^t leves y^t on hym groves .
 Ware gode to grub & grave a-way .
 Oute of gastely gardyn for ay .
 For itt is nawther gode ne abell .

To bere thyng~ y^t is perfectabell .
 To man y^t gode lyfe walde lede .
 Jtt sall hym fayle in his maste nede .
 <fol. 59r: mainly illustrations>
 <fol. 59v><ill><torn off part></ill> sorest of delite
 <ill><torn off part></ill> y^t is full white .
 <ill><torn off part></ill> & honest day & houre
 <ill><torn off part></ill> delycius of sauoure .
 <ill><torn off part></ill> ye qwhilk ye haly+gaste .
 Makes duellyng~ for itt is c.^[h]aste .
 For chastite men calles right .
 A tre of grete vertu & might .
 Ye whilk has seuen degrece sere .
 And seuen braunches spryngand here .
 Ye fyrst degre is to be-gyn .
 Clyne consciens of hert w^t-in .
 Ye secund agh.^[t] to be full couthe .
 Yat is honest ~~spek~~ speche of mouthe .
 Ye thryd is kepyng~ of ye wittes fyfe .
 Ye ferth is straytnes here of lyfe .
 Ye fift is fleyng~ of ill company .
 And ye encheson of grete foly .
 Ye sext is gode occupacioune .
 Ye seuent is prayer w^t deuocioune .
 Now will j schew efter my witt .
 Ye seuen braunches y^t *commes* of itt .
 Ane is of maydens y^t will fle
 Flescly dede to yai maryd be .
 Ye secund is of anlapy .
 Yat has bene filed & left foly .
 Ye thryd is yas y^t wedded bene .
 Ye ferth is state of ~~w~~ wydouse clene .
 Ye fift state is of maydens schene .
 Y^t whils yai lyfe thynkes schast to bene .
 Ye sext state of clerkes may be
 Yat ar ordand in haly degre .
 Ye seuent als boke mas mencioune .
 Js ye state of men of religioune .
 Yis tre to men is full profytabill .

Jtt festens yair herttes & mas yaim stabill .
 Als tre in ye erth roted fast .
 Yat wyndes ne stormes doune may cast .
 Yis is ye gode tre of continence .
 Yat men suld kepe w^t diligence .
 Fra fleschly filth yat itt may fyle .
 And fra ye fende y^t has many wyle .
 <fol. 60r: mainly illustrations>
 <fol. 60v>IN yis forest a-nother tre sprynges .
 Yat many scharpe thornes forth brynges .
 Yat many prykes and makes ~~war~~ wrath
 Yat deserues full litell schath .
 Bot men may vnderstand & se .
 Yat wikked tonge is ye tre .
 And ye leves in haly writt
 Js vnderstanden ye wordes of itt .
 And lange itt is to tell be talle
 All ye leves grete and smale .
 Bot men may ten braunches knaw .
 Yat on yis tre groves hye & law .
 And yas may be cald skill .
 Yir ten synnes y^t j neuen will .
 Idell speche & vayn a-vauntynge~ .
 Losengery and bakbiteyng~ .
 Leyng~ & <exp>for</exp> floryschyng~ thurgh ath .
 Stryuyng~ and gruchyng~ bath .
 Frawardnes & sclauder to neuen .
 To god & to his halows in heuen .
 Here may men se spryngand wyde .
 Ye tre of ye tonge yat noght can hyde .
 Yat men may call & halde be skill .
 Ye tre of ye tonge yat is ill .
 And on yis tre ten leves hynges .
 Yat oute of wikked tonge sprynges .
 Ye whilk may a man lede .
 To ye put of hell yat is to drede .
 Yis tre beres full many leves .
 Yat many sakles oft-tyme greves
 Yis is ye tre y^t god in yre .

Bad hew doune & cast in fyre
 For ye froyte of itt was full soure .
 And ba^{ly}ske and bitter of odoure .
 A-mange thornes yis tre sprynges .
 For of itt *commes* alk-yn synnes .
 Yat dyseses bath man & wyfe .
 Yis tre sprynges now full ryfe .
 Ji t ware gode to hew itt doune
 And putt itt oute of religioun .
 And all-swa oute of all ye werlde .
 For itt fra heuen has many marrede .
 <fol. 61r: mainly illustrations>
 <fol. 61v>JN yis deserte sprynges a tre .
 Yat spredes his boghes bath wyde & hee .
 Yis tre is called prowes be name .
 Many braunches beres ye same .
 For prowes is a vertu pryse .
 Jitt mase a man hardy & wyse .
 Seuen braunches has yis vertu .
 And seuen leves of grete valu .
 Yir ar ye braunches first to know .
 And ay ar groveand on a raw .
 Nobelnes of hert in ilk a chaunce
 Traystyng sekynes & sufferaunce .
 Stedfastnes y^t mekyll may wayle .
 And lastandnes w^t-outen fayle .
 Hunger & thurst of rightwisnes
 And ilk ane of yir a vertu es .
 Bot seuen leves sprynges of itt .
 Yat men calles & haldes thurgh witt .
 Seuen victories y^t here awayles .
 Of seuen manere of batayles .
 Thurgh qwhilk a man may not mys .
 Of seuen crounes in heuen blys .
 Ye fyrst batayle to be-gynne .
 Js ye batayle of dedely synne .
 Ye secund is penaunce harde .
 Ye thryd is of ye flesch frawarde
 Jn ye werld is ye ferth & y^e fift twa .



Yat ane is welth yat other is wa .
Ye sext is wikked men & fell .
Ye seuent is ye fende of hell .
Yir ar called ye seuen degrese .
Of prowes y^t a man may chese .
And seuen braunches of victory .
Yat men suld couayte for ye maystry .
Yat may hym lede ye right way .
To heuen blys yat lastes ay .
Yir bataylles suld a man a-byde .
And fyght fast on ilk a syde .
And stande stalworthly in yat stoure
God will hym helpe & socoure .
And saue & kepe hym & defende .
Fra ye begynnyng~ vn-to ye ende .