

<County: Lancashire>

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<Text: Rolle, Ego Dormio>

<fol. 77r><lat>Ego dormio & cor meum vigilat .</lat> Þe þat lyste luf held þine ere  
 and here of luf. In þe sang of luf J fynde it writen þat J  
 haue sett at þe begynnyng of my wrytyng . J slepe and  
 my hert wakes . mykell luf he shewes ; þat neuere is irke to luf .  
 bot ay standande . sistande . gangande . or any other dede doande os  
 ay his luf thynkand and oft-sithe þer-of dremand . For-yi þat J  
 luf þe J wogh þe þat J myght haue þe as J wilde noght tille me  
 bot till my lard J wille be comer~ and messenger~ to bryng ye till  
 his bed þat has made þe and boght þe criste þe kynges sonn of  
 heuen for he will wed þe if þou wille luf hym . he askes þe  
 na mare . bot þi luf . And my wille þou dose ; if þou luf hym .  
 Crist couaytes yi fairehede in saule þat you gþf hym halely  
 þi hert . and J preche noght ellys ; bot þat þou do his will and  
 afforce þe day & nyght to lefe alle fleschely luf and al likyng  
 þat lett<ill><1 letter><ill>s þe to luf ihesu crist verrayly . for J-whils þi hert is hel  
 dande to luf of any bodyly thþng ; þou may not parfitly be cuipilde  
 wit god. ¶ In heuen er ix ordirs of aungels yat are conteyd  
 in thre Jerarchies þe lagheste Jerarchy contenys aungels archan  
 gels . vertu3 þe myddes Jerarchi contenys <lat>Potestates . Principa  
 tus . dominacones</lat> . Þe heghest Jerarchi þat next is til god contenys  
 tronys Cherubyn and Saraphyn . þe laghest ordir is aungels  
 þe heghest Seraphyn . And þat ordir þat lest is bryght ; is seuen  
 sa bryght as is þis sonn . And as þou sees þe sonn bryghter~ yan  
 ye candel . þe candel bryghter~ þan þe mone . þe mone bryghter  
 þan þe sternys . Alswa are þe orders of aungels in heuen ilkane  
 bryghter þan other fra aungels tille seraphyn . þis J say to  
 kyndel yi hert to couayte ye felawschyp of aungels . for alle  
 þat are gode and haly when þei . passe of þis werld salle be  
 takyn in till yire orders . som til ye lawest ; þat has lufed  
 god mykel . som to þe myddes . þat has loued god mare . other~

til þe heghest ; þat mast lufes god . and brennandest er~ in is  
 lufe Seraphyn . is at saye brynnande tille whilke ordir~ þai er  
 receyfedē . yat leste couaytes inn þis werld and mast swetnes  
 felys in god and brennand hertis han in lufe . ¶ Tille þe J  
 wryte þis specially for J hope in þe mare gudnes yan in ani  
 <fol. 77v>other yat þ<sup>u</sup> wille gyf þi thought to fulfille in dede þat þou sees is  
 profitable for~ yi saule . and yat lyf gþf þe tille ; in þe whilke þou  
 may halelþeste offer þi hert tille ihesu cryst and leste be in bysy  
 nes of þis werld For~ if þou wille stabilly luf god & brennandly  
 whiles þou lyfes here with-outen doute þi setyll es ordaned  
 for þe ful hegh and ioi full before þe face of god ymanges  
 haly aungels . For in ye self degres þare proude deuyls felle  
 downe er meke men and wymmen cristes doufys sett in-to haf  
 rest and ioie with-outen ende for a littul schort penaunce  
 & trauaile þat yei hafe suffrede for goddes luf . ¶ ye thynke  
 now perauenture harde to gyf þi hert fra alle erthly thynges  
 fra ydil speche . fra al fleschely luf . and ga by þine ane to wake  
 & pray . and yinke þe ioie of heuen & to haue compassion of þe  
 passion of ihesu crist and to ymagyn ye pyne of helle þat is  
 ordeyned for synful+men . Bot witterly fra þat you be vsed þer  
 in ; þe wil þinke it lighter & swetter yen euer ye dyd any erth  
 ly solace . / Also sone as þi hert is toched wit ye swetnes of heue  
 þe wil litel liste þe myrth of yis werlde . and when you felys  
 ioie in Cristes luf ; ye wil lathe wit ye ioie & ye comfort of erth  
 ly gammyn . For alle þe melodye . alle þe ryches alle þe delites  
 þat alle þe men in þis world kan ordeyne or thynke ; semes  
 & es bot noy & angyr~ til a manys herte . þat verrayly is bren  
 nand in þe luf of god . for he has myrth & melodie of aungel  
 sange as you may wil wyit . Jf you lefe alle thynges þat þe  
 liste fleschely & haue na thowght of þi syb frendys bot for  
 sake alle for goddes luf . and anely gyf þi herte to couayte god  
 des luf and to paye him . mare ioie þou schal fynde in hym  
 þan J kan thynke howe myght J yan wryte hit J wat na  
 uer if many men be in swilke luf for ay ye hegher yat yi  
 lyfe es ; þe faer folowers it has here . For many thynges  
 drawes men fra goddes luf yat þou may here & see . yat god  
 comfortes his lufers mare yan þei wene þat lufes hym  
 noght . For of we seme in penance wit-outen ; we salle haue  
 ful mykel ioie within . if we ordeyne vs wysely to goddes

seruys and set in hym alle oure thoghtes & forsake vanite .  
 ¶ Gyf alle yine entente to vnderstonde yis wrytyng . if  
 <fol. 78r>þou haue set yi desire to luf god . here þere thre degres of luf :  
 swa þat þou may ryse fra ane til a-nother tille þou be at þe  
 hegheste for J ne wil not hil fra þe yat J hope ma torne ye  
 tille halynes ¶ Þe first degree of luf es : when a man haldes  
 þe ten commaundementes and kepes hem fra þe seuen dedly  
 synnes and is stabul in þe trouthe of haly kirke . and when  
 a man wille noght for any erthly thyng wreth god . bot  
 trewly standes in his seruice . and lastes yare-in tille his lyfes  
 ende ¶ yis degree of lufe by-houes ilke man haue þat wille  
 be safe . for na man maye come tille heuen : bot if he luf god  
 and his neghbur with-uten pryde . ire and any bakbytyng~  
 and with-uten alle other wennymouse synnes as slawnes  
 glotery and lichery and couaytys . for yere vices slaes þe  
 saule & makes hit to depart fra god yat es lyfe of ye saule  
 And when a wreched man or wommon es departed fra god .  
 we saye he is ded . for he is slayne fra god with-uten wham  
 na creature may lyf . Als a man poysunde in a swete morsell  
 takes venym yat slas his body . Swa dos a synful wreche in  
 likyng and lust destroyes his saule and brynges hit tille dede  
 with-uten ende . Men yinke hit swete to synne . bot yaire  
 hire þat is ordayned for þaim ; es bitterer & galle . sowrer  
 þan atter wers yan alle ye wa þat man can thynk in  
 erthe ¶ Alle perisches & passes yat we with eghe see . hit  
 wanyes in till wrechedhede þe wele of yis worlde Robys  
 & riches rotes in ye dyche . pryde & payntyng slake salle in  
 sorowe . Delytes and drorys . stynke sall ful sone ; yaire  
 gold & yaire tresoure drawes yaim til dede . Alle þe wykked  
 of þis werlde dryues til a dale . yat yai may see þaire sorowyng .  
 yare wa es alle þe rabel . Bot he may synge of solas yat lufed  
 ihesu cryst when alle ye wrecches fra wele falles in-tille helle .  
 ¶ Bot when þou has wel lyfed in ye commaundementes of  
 god . and styffely keped þe fra alle dedly synnes . and payde+tille  
 criste in yat degree . vmthynke þe yat you wil mare luf god  
 & do better~ with yi saule and bycome parfite & þan enters þou  
 in-tille þe tother degree of luf . þat es to forsake alle þe worlde  
 and þi fader and yi moder & alle yi kyn & folowe crist in po  
 <fol. 79v>uerte . ¶ In þis degree you schalle stody howe clene you may be in

herte and howe chaste in body . and gyf þe tille mekenes suf  
 fryng & bosumnes and loke how faire þou maþ make þi saule  
 in vertuese and hate alle vices . swa þat þi lyfe be gastely noght  
 fleschely neuer-mare spekand ille of yine neghbur ny gyf ane  
 ille word for a-nother . bot alle þat men says ille or gode . suf  
 fir hit debonerly . in yi hert withouten stirryng of wreth .  
 And yan schal you be in reste within and lightly come in-to  
 gastely lyfe . þat you salle fynde swetter þan any erthely thyng~  
 ¶ Parfite lyfe and gastely es : to despise ye erth . couayte ye ioie  
 of heuen . and destroye thurgh goddes grace alle wikked desir~s  
 of ye flesche and forgete þe solace and likyng of þi kynredyne  
 and luf yaim noght bot in god whethire þa dye or lyf be por~  
 or rþche . be hale or seke . in wa or in wele . thank þou ay god  
 and bles hym in alle his werkes ; for his domes are so priue .  
 yat na creature may comprehend þaim . and oftsith sum men  
 has þaire likyng and þaire wele in þis world . and hell in  
 þe tothir . and sum men es in pyne & persecucioun & anguys in yis  
 lyfe : and has heuen til yaire mede for-thy if yi frendes be  
 ay in es and hele & in welth of yis werlde : you & þai bathe  
 maye þe mare drede yat yhe lose noght þe ioie with-outen  
 ende . Jf þai be in penaunce . in sekenes or if yei lyf ryght  
 wysly yai maþ trapste in god to come to his blisse . For-þi in  
 þis degree of luf you salle sa by filde in grace of þe haly gast  
 þat you sal noght haue sorowe ne gratyng bot for gastely  
 thyng and for yi synnes and other mennys and aftir þe luf  
 of ihesu crist and in thynkyng of his passion and þat J wille þat  
 þou hafe mykel mynde of for hit will kyndel þi hert to set  
 at noght alle ye gudes of þis werlde and alle þe ioie & to  
 desire brennandly þe light of heuen with aungels and haloghys .  
 ¶ And when yi hert is ordayned halely to þe seruice of god &  
 alle werldes thoght is putt oute : þan wille ye liste stele be  
 yi nane to thynk of crist and to be in mykel prayng for tho  
 row gode thoghtes and haly prayers . yi hert salle be made  
 brennande in þe luf of ihesu crist . and þan salle þou fele swet  
 <fol. 79r>nes and gastely ioie bathe in prayinge and in thynkyng And when  
 þou arte be yi nane gyf þe mikel to say ye psalmes of ye sawter  
 and pater noster . and aues And take not tent þat you say manþ . bot  
 þat you say hom wele . and in alle þe deuocioun yat you may .  
 lyftande vp thy thoght til heuen . Bettir hit is to say seuen

psalmes in desyr of cristes luf hafand yi hert on þi praying .  
 þan seuen hundred suffrande yi thoght to pas in vanitees of  
 bodily thynges . what gode hopes þou may com yer-of if you lat  
 þi tonge blabir on ye boke and þi hert rynn a-boute in sere ste  
 des in ye werld whare hit will . For-thy set yi thoght in crist  
 and he salle refe it tille hym and halde hit fra ye venym of  
 werldes bysynes . And J pray ye as you couaytes to be goddes  
 lufer . yat you lufe þis name Jhesu . and thynk hit in þi herte  
 swa þat þou forgete hit neuer wharsomm þou be and witterly  
 J hete . <sup>[þe]</sup> þou salle fynde mykelle ioie & comfort þerin . and for ye  
 luf yat þou lufes ihesu sa tendirly and sa specialy you salle be  
 filde full of grace in erth . and be cristes der~ mayden & spouse  
 in heuen . For na thynges sa mekill pays god as verray luf of  
 his name ihesu . Jf þou lufe hit ryght and lastandly & neuer let  
 for na thynges þat men may saþe or do ; þou salle be raysed  
 in-tille a hegher lyfe þan you can couayte . His godenes es sa  
 mekill . yat yare we inwardly aske hym of ane : he wille  
 gyf vs thre . sa wele payed he es when we set alle oure  
 hert to luf hym . ¶ In yis degre of luf you salle ouercom  
 yi thre enmþs . ye werld . ye deuel and yi flesche . bot neuer  
 þe latter you schal hafe ay fightyng whils þou lyfes and  
 ay til þou dye by-houes þe be bysy to stande & to falle noght  
 in ille delyte ne in ille thoght or in ille worde or in ille werk  
 for-þi grete augh þi gernynge to be yat you luf crist verraily .  
 yi flesche salle you ouer-com thurgh haldyng of yi mayden  
 hede for goddes luf anely . or if þou be na maydun thurgh  
 chast lyfynges in thoght and in dede and thurgh discrete ab  
 stinence and resonable seruyse . þe werld salle þou ouer-com  
 þorow couaytyng of cristes luf & thynkynges of his swete  
 name and desire til heuen . for als sonn as you feles sauowr  
 <fol. 79v> in ihesu ye wille thynke alle þe werlde noght bot vanite and noye  
 for mennys saules . you wil noght couayte þan to be ryche to  
 haue many mantils and faire . many kirtils many dreurise bot  
 alle þou wil set at noght and despise alle . and take na mare  
 yan þe nedes . þe wille thynke twa mantils or ane j-nogh ;  
 yat nowe has fyfe or sex . for-yi gyf somm til crist yat gas na  
 ked and pore . and hald noght til ye alle / yat wate noght yi  
 lyfe tille yay be halfe gane . / ye deuyl is ouercommen when you  
 standes stabilly agayns alle his fandynge in sothfaste chari



te ande mekenes . And thynke on me þat J be noght for-*geten* .  
in þi prayeres þat is a-boute-warde þat you were . dere with  
criste whas *mercy* me nedys . J wille þat þou be neuer Jdel  
for be ay other spekand of god or wirkand some notabul warke  
or thynkand in hym and principally yat yi thought be ay hafand  
hym in mynde . And thynk oft yis of his *passioun*.