



<County: Warwickshire>

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<Text: Piers Plowman C>

<Tranche 1>

<fol. 6r>JN a somer seson . whan softe was þe sonne  
I schop me in-to schrobbes . as i a schepherde were  
In an abijt of an ermite . vn+holi of werkes  
Wente i forþ in þe world . wondres to here  
¶ I saw mani selles . and selcouþe þynges  
ac in a mai morewing . on maluerne hulles  
me bi-ful to sclepe . for werynesse of walkyng  
¶ In a launde as i lai . i lenede a-doun and slepte  
merueilous-li i mette . as i schal 3ow telle  
Of al þe welþe of þe world . and þe wo boþe  
al i si sleping . as i schal 3ow schewe  
Wynking as hit were . withturli i sy hit  
Of treuþe and of trecheri3e . treson and gile  
¶ Estward i lokede . after þe sonne  
I saw a tour as i trowede . treuþe was þer-inne .  
Westward i bihuld . in a while aftur  
and saw a deop dale . deþ as i leue  
Wonede in þat wones . and wikkede spirites  
¶ A fair feld ful of folc . fond i þer bi-twene  
Of al maner of men . þe mene and þe riche  
Worching and wandryng . as þe world askep  
Summe putten hem to plow . and pleieden ful selde  
Jn setting and in sowyng . swonke ful harde  
And wonnen þat þis wasteres . wiþ gloteni3e destrei3en  
¶ Summe putten hem to pride . and a-þereileþ hem þer-after  
Jn contenance of cloþing . in many kynnes gise  
¶ Jn penaunce and preieres . putten hem mani3e  
For þe loue of oure lord . liueden ful harde

In hope to haue god ende . and heueneriche blisse  
 As ankeres and ermytes . þat holden hem in selles  
 þei coueiten nou3t in cuntreis. to karien a-bou3te  
 For no likeres lijflode . heore likame to plese  
 ¶ And summe chosen chaffare . and preueden þe bettere  
 As hit semþ in oure sith . þat swiche men schulde  
 ¶ And summe merþes to make . as munstrales kunne  
 Willeþ nou3t swynke ne swete . bote swere grete oþes  
 þei fynden vp fantasious . and foles hem makeþ  
 And han with at wille . to worchen 3if þei wilde  
 And þat poul precheþ of hem . preuen hit i my3te  
 <lat></lat> . is luciferes knaue  
 ¶ Bidderes and beggeres . faste a-boute 3ede  
 <fol. 6v>Til heore bagges and heore beli . was bretful i-fulled  
 Faityng for heore fode . and fou3ten at þe ale  
 In gloteny3e god wot . gon þei to bedde  
 And a-risen vp wiþ ribaudri3e . þes roberdes knaues  
 Slep and sunful sleuþe . foleweþ hem euere  
 ¶ Pilgrimes and palmeres . pliten hem to-gideres  
 To seke seynt iame . and seyntes at rome  
 þei gon forþ in heor wai . wiþ mani wise tales  
 And han leue to li3e . al heore lif aftur  
 Ermites on an hep . wiþ hokede staues  
 Wenten to walsingham . and heor wenchies aftur  
 Large lobies and longe . þat loþe weren to swynke  
 Cloþed hem in copes . to be i-knowe fro oþere  
 And maden hem self ermites . heore ese to haue .  
 ¶ þer fond i freres of alle þe foure ordres  
 Preching þe peple . for profijt of þe wombe  
 And glosen þe gospel . as hem self lyken  
 For coueitise of copes . contrariede some doctures  
 ¶ mani3e of þis maisteres . ben meinteinars of freres  
 For heore monei and heor marchaundise . marchaundeþ to-gider~s  
 Ac seþþe charite haþ be chapman . and chef to schriue lordes  
 Many merueiles han i-falle . in a fewe 3eres  
 Bute holi+chirche and charite . choppe a-doun swiche schriueres  
 þe moste mischef of þis world . mounteþ vp faste  
 ¶ þer prechede a pardener . as he a prest were  
 And brou3te forþ a bulle . wiþ bussopes seles

He seide þat he myȝte . a-soilen hem alle  
 Of falsnesse of fastynge . a-vowes to-broke  
 ¶ Lewede men leuede hem wel . and likedein his speche  
 Comen knelyng . and cussedden his bulles  
 He blessedde hem wiþ his breuet. and blerede heor eyȝen  
 He rauȝte wiþ þat rageman . rynges and broches  
 þus ȝe ȝeuen ȝoure gold . glotenes to helpe  
 And lenep hit to loreles . þat lecheriȝe haunten  
 ¶ Were þe busshop i-blessed . and worþ boþe his eren  
 His seal ne schulde nouȝt be sent . in þe<?> desseid of þe peple.  
 ¶ Ac hit is nouȝt be þe busschop . þat þe boy precheþ  
 Bute þe parcheprest and he . departen þe seluer  
 þat þe pore in þ þarsche scholde haue . hit ȝif þei ne were  
 ¶ Persones and parscheprestes . playnep to þe busschop  
 þat heore parschones were pore . seþþe pestelens time  
 <fol. 7r>To haue licence and leue . at london to dwelle  
 To singe for simonyȝe . for seluer is swete .  
 ¶ Bushopes and bachelers . maisteres and doctures  
 þat han cure vnder crist . and ben crouned in tokne  
 Ben charged wiþ holi+chirche . charite to take  
 þat is lel loue and lijf . a-mong lered and lewed  
 þei liggen in londen . in lenten and elles  
 ¶ Summe seruen þe kyng . and his seluer tellen  
 At þe cheker and in þe chaunsriȝe . chalengeþ hise dettes  
 Of wardes of wardmotes . waynes and straynes  
 Summe arn as seneschalles . and seruen oþer lordes  
 Summe in stede of stewardes . sitten and demen  
 ¶ Conciencie cam to þe kyng . and þe comune hit herde  
 And seide ydolatriȝe ȝe suffreþ . in somdri places maniȝe  
 And boxus ben i-set forþ . i-bounde wiþ iren  
 To vndurtake þe tol . of vntrewe sacrifice  
 In menyng of miracles . mucche wex þer hangeþ  
 Al þe world wot wel . hit myȝte nouȝt be trewe  
 But hit profijte ȝow to pursward . ȝe prelates of holi+chirche  
 þat lewede men in misbileue . liuen and deien  
 ¶ J leue bi oure lord . for loue of ȝoure coueitise  
 þat al þe world be þe wors . as holi+wriȝt telleþ  
 ¶ What cheste and meschaunce . come to þe children of israel  
 Ful on hem þat freo were . þoru to falce prestes

For ophinies sunne . and phinies his broþer~  
 þei weren discunfited in bataile . and losten <lat>archa dei</lat>  
 For heore fader si hem synne . and suffrede hem do ille  
 And nou3t chasted hem þer-of . and nolde nou3t hem rebuke  
 ¶ A-non as hit was told him . þat þe children of israel  
 Weren discunfited in bataile . and <lat>archa dei</lat> i-lore  
 And his sonnes weren i-slayn . a-non he ful for serewe  
 Fro his chaier þer he sat . and brac his necke on twynne  
 ¶ And al was for uengaunce . he but nou3t his children  
 And for þei were prestes . and men of holi+chirche  
 God was þe wroþere . and tok þe rapen veniaunce  
 For-whi i sei3e 3ow prestes . and men of holi+chirche  
 þat suffreþ men do sacrifice . and mawmetes honoure  
 3e schulden ben heore fadres . and teche hem bettere  
 God schal take veniaunce . on alle swiche fadres  
 Wel hardere and grettere . on swiche schrewede prestes  
 þan he dude on ophinies . or phinies or on heore fader  
 <fol. 7v>For 3oure wickede suffraunce . and 3oure owne synne  
 3oure masses and 3oure matines . and many of 3oure oures  
 Arn don undeoutli . drede is at þe laste  
 Lest crist in his constori3e . of 3ow a-curse mani3e  
 ¶ J perseyuede þer þe power . þat petur hadde to kepe  
 To binde and to vnbinde . as þe boc telleþ  
 How he hit lefte wiþ loue . as oure lord wolde  
 a-mong foure vertues . most uertuous of uertues  
 þat cardinales hem calde . and closede þe gates  
 þer crist is in his kyngdom . to close wiþ heuene.  
 ¶ Ac of cardinales at þe court . han cau3t hem swich a name  
 And power presument in hem self . a pope to make  
 To haue power þat petur hadde . repuyne hem i nylle  
 For in loue and lettrure . liþ þe grete eleccioun  
 Counturplede hit nou3t quod concience . for holi+chirche sake  
 ¶ þanne cam þer a kyng . knythode him ladde  
 þe muche my3t of þe men . made him to regne  
 ¶ þer cam kynde+wit . and clerkes he made  
 Conciense and kynde+wit . and knythode to-gedere  
 Casten þat þe comune schulde . heore comunes finde  
 ¶ Kynde+wit and þe comune . contreued alle craftes  
 And for most profijt of þe comune . a plow þei gunne make

Wip lel labour~ to liue . while lif and lond lasteþ.  
 ¶ þo kynde wip to þe kyng . and to þe comune seide  
 Crist saue þe sire kyng . and þi kyng+riche  
 And leue þe lede so þi lond . þat lewte þe loui3e  
 And for ri3thful reulyng . be rewarded in heuene  
 ¶ Conciense to þe clergi3e . and to þe kyng seide  
 <lat><6 lines></lat>  
 ¶ Conciense and þe kyng . in-to þe court wenten  
 Where houeden an hondred . in howues of selk  
 Sergauns hit semede . þat seruen at þe barre  
 To plede for penies . and poundes þe lawe  
 Nou3t for þe loue of oure lord . open heor lippes ones  
 þow mitest betere mete þe myst . on maluerne hulles  
 þan gete a mom of here mouþ . til monei be i-schewed

## <Tranche 2>

<fol. 14r><line 10>¶ Dred stond þow at þe dore . and þat þe deon herde  
 What þe kyngus wille was . and withli he wente  
 And bad fals forte fle . and his feren alle  
 ¶ Falsnesse for fere . fli to þe freres  
 And gile dude him to go . a-gast forte dei3e  
 Ac marchaundes metten wip him . and him abide made  
 And schitten him in heor schoppes . to schewen heore ware  
 And aparailede him as a prentes . þe peple to serue  
 ¶ Lithliche liere . lup awei þenne  
 Lurkinge in lanes . to-lugged of manye  
 Ihe ne was nowher welcome . for his mani tales  
 Ouer-al i-honted out . and i-hote to trusse  
 ¶ Pardeneres hadden pite of him . and pulde him to house  
 þei wessche him and wipede him . and wounden him in cloutes  
 And senten him on sondaies . wip seales to chirche  
 And gaf pardon for penes . pound mele abou3te  
 ¶ þo loureden leches . and letteres þei senden  
 þat liere schulde wone ~~wone~~ wip hem . watres to loke  
 ¶ Spiceres to him speke . to aspi3e heore ware  
 For he can on heore craft . and knowe many gummes  
 ¶ munestres and massageres . metten wip liere ones  
 And wiphelden him half 3er . and enleuene daies

¶ Ac freres þorw fair speche . fetten him þennes  
 For knowing of comeres . þei copede him as a frere  
 He hæp leue to lepe out . as ofte as him likeþ  
 He is welcome whan he comeþ . and woneþ wiþ hem ofte  
 ¶ Symoni3e and ciuile . senten to rome  
 And putten hem þorw a-peles . in þe popes grace  
 ¶ Ac conciense to þe kyng . a-cusede hem boþe  
 And seide sire kyng bi crist . bote clerkes amende  
 þi kyngdom þorw heore coueitise . wile out of kynde wende  
 And holi+chirche þorw hem . worþ i-harmed for euere  
 <fol. 14v>¶ Alle fledden for fere . and flowen in-to hernes  
 Saue mede þat maide . ne mo dursten a-bide  
 Ac truli to telle . sche tremelde for fere  
 Wrong hure honden and wepte . whan sche was a-tached  
 <lat>hic incipit quartus passus de uisione</lat>  
 Now is mede þat maide . no mo of hem alle  
 Wiþ budelus and bailiues . i-brou3t bi-fore þe kyng  
 þe kyng clepede a clerk . i can nou3t his name  
 To take mede þat maide . and make hure at ese  
 I schal a-saie hure my-self . and softliche apoce  
 What man of þis world . sche is leuest to haue  
 ¶ And 3if sche worche wijsli . bi wijsmenes consail  
 J wole for-giue hure alle hure gultes . so me god helpe  
 ¶ Curteisli þe clerk þo . as þe kyng hite  
 Tok mede bi þe middel . and mildeliche hure brou3te  
 Jn-to boure wiþ blisse . and bi hure gan sitte  
 þer was murþe and menestralcie . mede to plece  
 þat wonen in westmenestre . honouren hure mani3e  
 Gentelliche wiþ ioi3e . þe iustises summe  
 Buskede hem to þat borw . þer þat burde dwellede  
 And comfortede hure as þei coude . bi þe clerkes leue  
 And seide morne nou3t mede . ne mak þow no serewe  
 For we wolleþ wisse þe kyng . and þi wai schape  
 Forte wende at þi wil . where þe leef likeþ  
 For al conciencies cast . or craft as i trowe  
 ¶ mildeliche mede þo . þankede hem alle  
 Of heore grete goodnesse . a gaf hem echon  
 Coupes of clene gold . cuppes of seluer  
 Rynges wiþ rubies . and oþer riche giftes

þe leste of heore men . a moten of golde  
 ¶ Whan þei hadden i-lau3t leue . at þis ladi mede  
 þo come clerkes . to comforte hure same  
 And beden hure be bliþe . for we ben þin owne  
 forte worche þi wil . while we mowe endure  
 ¶ And mede mildeliche bi-hi3te hem þat same  
 To loue hem lelliche . and lordes hem make  
 And purchasse 3ow prouendres . while 3oure penes lasten  
 And bugge 3ow benefices . pluralite to haue  
 ¶ And in constorie at court . do calle 3oure names  
 Schal no lewednesse lette . þe clerk þat i loui3e  
 þat he ne worþ furst a-vaunsed . for i am bi-knowe  
 <fol. 15r>þere connynge clerkes . schulle clocke bi-hynde  
 ¶ þo cam þer a confessour . i-coped as a frere  
 To mede þat maide . mildeliche he loutede  
 þaw lered men and lewed . hadde i-leien bi þe echon  
 And falshode i-folewed þe . al þis fourti winter  
 J schal a-soile þe my self . for a sem of whete  
 And 3ut be þi bedeman . conciense to felle  
 A-mong kynges and knyhtes . and clerkes 3if þe likeþ  
 ¶ þo mede for hure misdedes . to þat man loutede  
 And schrof hure of hure synnes . schameles i wene  
 Sche tolde him a tale . and tok him a+noble  
 Forte ben hure bedeman . and bere wel hure ernde  
 among knyhtes and clerkes . concience to turne  
 ¶ He a-soilede hure sone . and seþþe he seide we hauen  
 A wyndow in worching . wile stonde us ful hi3e  
 Wolde 3e glace þe gable . and graue þer-inne 3oure name  
 Jn masse and in matynes . for mede wolde we singe  
 Sollempliche and softeliche . as for a sester of oure ordre  
 Loueliche þat ladi . lauhinge seide  
 J schal be 3oure frend frere . and faile 3ow neuere  
 Whiles 3e louen lordes . þat lecheri3e haunten  
 And lackeþ nou3t ladies . þat louen þe same  
 ¶ Hit nys nou3t bute frelte of fleish . 3e findeþ hit be bokes  
 And a cours of kynde . wher-of we comen alle  
 Whose a-schapud þe sclaunder . þe scape is sone amendet  
 Hit is synne of seuene . sennest i releseð  
 ¶ Haueþ merci quod mede . on hem þat hit haunteþ

And i schal keure <changed from ceure?> 3oure kyrke . and 3oure cloistre make  
 Boþe wyndowes and woves . i wole a-mende and glace  
 And do peinte and portrei3e . and paie for þe makyng  
 þat eche sisour schal i-se . i am a soster of 3oures  
 ¶ Ac god to alle goode men . swich grauing defendeþ  
 To writen in windowes . of eny goode dedes  
 Leste pride be i-peinted þer . and pomp of þe world  
 For god knoweþ þi conciense . and þi kynde wil  
 þi cost and hure coueitise . and who þe catel au3te  
 For whi leue lordes . leueþ swiche writyng  
 God in þe gospel . swiche grauyng nou3t a-loweþ  
 <lat></lat>  
 ¶ Let nou3t þi left+hand . oure lord techeþ  
 Wite what þow delest . wiþ þi rith+side  
 <fol. 15v>¶ 3ut mede þat maide . þe meir sche bi-sou3te  
 Boþe schereues and sergaunt3 . and swiche as lawes kepen  
 To punissche on pilaries . and in penyng-stoles  
 As bakers and brueres . bocheres and cokes  
 For þese men don most harm . to þe mene peple  
 Rechen þorw regratrie . and rentes hem biggen  
 Wiþ þat þe pore peple . schulde putte in heore wombe  
 For token þei treweli . þei stieden nou3t so hi3e  
 And bou3ten hem no burgages . be þe wel sure  
 þei han no pite on þe pore peple . þat parcelmele biggen  
 þaw þei take hem untidi þing . no tresoun þei hit holden  
 And þaw þei fulle nou3t ful . þat for þe lawe is seled  
 þei gripen þer-fore as grete . as for þe grete truþe  
 ¶ many sondri serewes . in cites falleþ ofte  
 Boþe þorw feor and flod . and al þorw fals peple  
 þat bi-gilen goode men . and greuen hem wrongfulli  
 þe whiche crien on heore knes . þat crist hem a-uenge  
 Here on þis erþe . or elles in helle  
 ¶ þat so bi-gileþ hem of heor good . god on hem sendeþ  
 Feueres or fouler eueles . or feor on heore howses  
 Moreine or oper meschaunces . and many tyme hit falleþ  
 þat jnnocence is i-herd . in heuene a-mong seyntes  
 þat louten for hem to oure lord . and to oure ladi boþe  
 To graunte gilours on erþe . grace to a-mende  
 And to haue heore penaunce on erþe . and nou3t þe peine of helle

¶ þanne falleþ þer feor . on false menes houses  
 And gode menes for heore gultes . gloweþ on feore after  
 Al þis we han seyn . þat sum time þorw a brewere  
 Many burgages han be i-brent . and bodies þer-jinne  
 And þorw a candel cleuyng . in a cursed place  
 Ful adoun and furbrente . forþ al þe rewe  
 ¶ For whi meires þat maken fre men . me þynkeþ þei au3ten  
 Forte sperie and a-spie . for eny speche of seluer  
 What maner mister . or marchaundise he usede  
 Ar he were vnderfonge fre . and falawe in oure rolles  
 ¶ Hit is nou3t semeli for soþe . in cite ne in borw toun  
 þat vsereres and regratours . for eny kynnes 3iftes  
 Be i-franchised for a fre man . and haue a fals name  
 ¶ Ac mede þe maide . þe meir sche bi- sou3te  
 Of alle swiche sellers . seluer to take  
 Or presentes wiþ-oute penes. and oþer priuey3e giftes  
 <fol. 16r>And haue reuþe on regratours . þat han riche handes  
 <lat></lat>  
 ¶ Loue hem for my loue . quod þat ladi mede  
 And suffre hem sum time . to sulle a-geyn þe lawe  
 ¶ Salamon þe sage . a sermoun he made  
 In amendement of meires . and oþere stewardes  
 And withnesseþ what worþ of hem . þat willen take mede