

<County: Warwickshire>

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<Text: Piers Plowman A>

<Tranche 1>

<fol. 10r>þe lest barn of his blood a barouns per~
 but sobely þou conscience þou conseildest hym þannes
 to leue þat lordschip for a litel disece
 þat is þe richest rowme þat reyn ouer houeþ
 hit by-comeþ to a king þat kepiþ a rewme
 to 3eue mede to to men þat menskly hym *seruen*
 to aliens to alle men to onour~ hem wiþ 3eftis
 mede makeþ *him* biloued & for a+man y-holde
 dukis & erlis & alle maner lordis
 þur3 3eftus han 3onge<?> men to renne & to ride
 þe pope & his *prelatus presentes* vndirfongen
 & meden greth men to meyntene her~ lawis
seruauntes for her *seruice* wite 3e forsop~
 taken mede of her~ maisters as þei mowe acorde
 beggers for her~ bedis bidden men mende
 mynstrels for her~ *murþe* mede þei asken
 þe king medip his men to make pees in londe
 & þese kunnyng clerkis crauen vpon mede
 prestis þat prechen þe puple to goode
 asken mede & maspenyes & here mete eke
 & alle manere craftis men crauen mede to her~ *prentys*
 for mede & merchaundise most nede holde to-gedris
 þer may no wi3t as J wene wiþ-oute mede lyue
 ¶ þo *qd* þe king to consciens by *crist* þat me made
 mede is worþy myche maistry to haue
 ¶ nay *qd* consciens to þe king & knelid to þe *grounde*
 þer beþ two manere of medis my lord by 3our~ leue
 þat on god of his grace haþ *grauntid* in his blisse

to hem þat wel werchen while þei beþ her~
 þe prophet it *prechid* & *preued* it in þe *sauter*
 <lat></lat>

Take no mede my lord of *men* þat ben trewe
 loue hem & leue hem for our~ lordis loue of *heuen*
 godis mede & his *mercy* þer-wiþ mi3t þou wyn
 but þere is a mede mesureles þat maistrie desirþ
 to meynnten mysdoers mede þei taken
 & þat witnessiþ wel þe *sauter* of wicked men
 <lat></lat>

þat here ri3t+hond so kepid ful of 3eftis
 <fol. 10v>But he þat gripeþ siche 3eftis <?>o me god help
 he shal abigge it bitterly or ellis þe boke lieþ
persouns & *prestis* þat pennyes desiren
 to take mede & money for massis þat þei singen
 þei *hauen* her~ mede on þis molde wiþ-outen eny more
 þat laborers & lewid *men* taken of her~ maistris
 hit nys no *manere* mede but *mesurabel* huyre
 In *merchaundise* nys no mede y may it wel a-vowe
 but a-*pert permytacioun* as a peny for anop<?>
 Reddest þ^u *neuer regum* þat recreyed mede
 how þat *vegeauns* fel on saul & his children
 god sende hym to say by *samuelis* mowþe
 þat agag of *amalek* & alle his puple *after*
 shulde deie for a+dede þat don hadde his *eldren*
 a3ens *Jsrael* & *aaron* & *moises* his+broþer
samuel seide to saul god sende þee to say
 to be *buxum* & *boun* his bidding to werche
 wende þou to *amalek* wiþ þine ost ; þe *cuntr*~ to *quelle*
 children & *cherlis* dryue hem to deþe
 loke þou kille þe king coueit not his goodis
 for eny *myliouns* of money molde hem echone
 burwes & *bernes* & *bestis* þou brenne
 for he killed not þe king as crist hym self sende
 but coueitid þe catel & slow not her~ *bestis*
 & brou3t wiþ hem her~ goodis as þe bible techiþ
 god sende to say þat saul shulde dey3
 & all his seed for þat synne shendfulliche ende
 suche a *meschef* mede made þe king to haue

þat god hatid hym for euer & alle his eires after
 þe colour~ of þis kepe y not to shewe
 þer samuel slowe agag & saul was y-blamyd
 & dauid was diademyd & daunted hem alle
 & on cristen king kept hem echone
 J consciens knew þis for kynde witt me tau3t
 þat resoun shal regne & rewmes gouerne
 shal no more mede be maister vpon erþe
 but loue & lownes & lewte togedris
 lewte shal do hym lawe or lese his lyf ellis
 shal no *seriaunt* for þat *seruise* . wer~ a selken howne
 <fol. 11r>Ne no ray robe of riche pelur~
 Mede wiþ her~ mysdedis makeþ hem so riche
 þat lawe is lord waxen & lewte is pore
 wickednes is comaunder & kyndenes is bansched
 but kynde witt shal come 3it & consciens to-godris
 & make of law a labrereer<? on patch in parchment> siche loue shal arise
 ¶ <ill></ill>
 SEsyth seyde the king ne mote 3e no more
 3e schul sa3tene^{acorde} forsoþe & *serue* me boþe
 kisse hyr *qd* þe king conscience J bid þee
 ¶ Nay by crist J *qd* conscience coniuge<first minim added above line in what looks like orig. ink>
 me raþer
 but resoun radde me þer-to leuer~ hadde y dey3e
 ¶ J comaunde þee quop þe king to conscience as swiþe
 þat þou rape þee to ride resoun to fecche
 & comaunde hym þat he come my counseil to hur~
 for he shal reule my rewme & rede me for þe best
 of mede & of oþer mo & what man shal hir~ haue
 & a-counte wiþ þee consciens so me god help
 how þou lernest my puple lerid & lewid
 ¶ J am fayn of þat foreward *qd* þe freke þen
 & rideþ ri3t to resoun & rowneþ in his eer~
 & sende as þe king bade & sipþe toke his leue
 ¶ J shal araie me to ride *qd* resoun rest þee a+while
 he clipped catoun his knaue corteis of speche
 set my sadel vpon suffr~ quod he ; til y se my tyme
 & loke þou warrok hym wel wiþ swiþe fele gurbis
 honge on hym þe heuy bridel to ber~ his heed lowe

3it wol he make many a wehe or he come þer~
 ¶ þen consciens on his capel caried forþ fast
 & resoun wiþ hym rideþ & hastid hem swiþe
 & in a wayn wysdome & witty his fer~
 foleweden hem fast for þei hadde to done
 in court & in chauncelrie to dischargen hem of þingis
 & for resoun shulde reule hem & rede hem for þe best
 & saue hem fram harme & fram shame also
 conscience come erst to court by a myle
 & romed forþ wiþ resoun & rau3t to þe kyng
 Corteisly þe king welcomed resoun
 & speken a gret while wisely to-gederis
 <fol. 11v>þen come pes to þe perlement & put vp a bulle
 how þt wrong a3ens his wille hadde his wyf taken
 & how he rauaschid rose reygnaidis dou3ter
 & molde of her~ maidenhod mawgr~ her~ chekis
 boþe my gees & my grys his gadelingus fecchen
 J durst not for drede of hem fi3te ne chyde
 he borwid of me bayard & brou3t him neuer a-3eyne
 ne no ferþing for hym for ou3t þat J cowde pleden .
 he meintenep his men forto sle myn owen .
 he forstallip my feires & fi3teþ in my chepynge
 he brekip vp my berne dores & berip away my whete
 & takip me þen a+taile of ten quarter ootis
 & 3it he betip me þer-to & lip by my maide
 y nam not so hardy for hym vneþis to loke
 þe king seide þis is soþ for conscience hit me tolde
 wrong was a-ferd þo & wisdom he sou3t
 to make his pes wiþ penyes & profrid forþ money
 but pes wiþ his power~ pleyned on hym euere
 wysdome wente þo & so dide hym witt
 for þat wrong hadde ywrou3t so wicked a dede
 & warned wrong þoo wiþ siche a wise tale
 who-so werchip by wille makip wrapþe oft
 we say it by þy-siluen þu shalt hit sone fynde
 but yf mede make it þy meschef is vppe
 for boþe þy lyf & þy lyme lip in her~ grace
 wrong þen vpon wisdom wepte to help
 hym for his handidandy redeliche he paid

þen wisdom & witt wenten to-gedris
 & toke mede wiþ hym mercy to wynne
 pes put forþ his heed & his hode blody
 wiþ-oute gult god wot hent J þis scape
 þe king & conscience knewen þe soþe
 & wisten wel þat wrong was a shrewe euere
 but wisdom & witt weren aboute fast
 to ouercome þe king wiþ mede 3if þei mi3te
 þe king swore by *crist* & by his croun boþe
 þat wrong for his werkis shulde woo þole

<Tranche 2>

<fol. 17v>take hem not in a-uenture þou maist hem not deserue
 for þou shalt 3elde it a3en at one 3eris ende
 in a wel *perilous* place þat *purgatorie* hatte
 & mysbede not þy bonde-men þe better þou mi3t spede
 & be trewe of þy tunge talis þou hate
 but hit be wysdom & witt wicked men to chast
 hold not wiþ harlotis hur~ not her~ tales
 & nameliche at þe mete siche men exchewe
 for it beþ þe deuels disours y do þee to vndirstonde
 J assent by seint Jame seide þe kni3t þen
 forto werche by þy wordis whil my lyf durip
 & y shal aperail me *qd* perkyn in a *palmerys* wise
 & wende wiþ þee on þe way til we fynde treuþe
 he cast on his cloutid cloþis & his olde cokeris
 & his coffis also for colde of his nailes
 he heng his *hoper* on his rugge in stede of a *scrip*
 a boyschel of bredcorn he brou3te þer-yn
 for y wol sowe it my self quop he & siþþe wole y+wende
 & who-so helpip me to erie or eny-þing to swink
 he shal haue by our~ lord þe more hur~ in heruest
 & make hym mery wiþ þe corn who-so hit bygrucchip
 & alle manere craftis men þat kunne lyue in treuþe
 J shal fynde hem foode feiþfully to lyuen
 Saue Jacke þe iogeler~ & Jenot of þe styves
 & Roberd þe ribauder~ for his rousty wordis

treuþe tolde me onys & bade me teche it ferþer
 holi+churche is holde of hem no tiþe to aske
 þei beþ ascaped good thrift god hem amende
 <lat></lat>
 Dame werche when time is peris wyf hatte
 his dou3ter hat do ri3t so or þy dame wol þee bete
 his sone hat suffre þy souereyns forto haue her~ wille
 & deme hem not for 3if þou doist þou shalt it dere abigge
 let god worþe wiþ al for so his word techiþ
 for now J am old & y now haue of myn owen
 to penaunce & pilgrimage y wol passe wiþ þese oþere
 For-þy y wol or y wende write my testament
 In þe name of god y make it my siluen
 he shal haue my soule þat best haþ deserued
 & defende it fram þe fend for so y bileue
 til y come to his acountis as my crede techiþ
 <fol. 18r>to haue a relese & a remissioun of þat rental for euer
 þe churche shal haue my careyn & kepe þer my bonys
 for of my catel & my corn he craueþ þe tiþe
 J haue paied hym prestly for perel of my soule
 he is holden y hope to to haue me in mynde
 & mynwe me in his memorie among alle cristen
 My wyf shal haue þat J wan wiþ treuþe & no more
 & dele among my children & my frendis boþe
 for þou3 y deied to-day my dettis beþ quyt
 J bar~ home þat J borwed or J went to bedde
 & wiþ þe recidewe & þe þe remelaunt by þe roode of chestr~
 J wol worschipe þer-wiþ treuþe in my lyue
 & be his pylgrym at þe plow for pore men sake
 my plowbat shal be my pilgrimstaf to posse at þe rootis
 & help my coltur to kerue & close þe forwis
 Now is peris þe pilgryme to þe plow faren
 to heren his half acr~ helpen hym many
 Dichers & delueris di3ten vp þe bankis
 þer-wiþ was perkyn a-payn<?> & preised hem ful 3erne
 oþer werkmen þer weren þat wrou3ten ful+fast
 Eche man in his manere made hym to done
 & somme to plese perkyn piked vp þe wedis
 An hast þen perkyn let þe plow3 stonde

to ouer-se hym self who þat best wrou3t
 þei shulde be hurid þer-after when heruest tyme come
 þen seten somme & songen at þe nale
 & holpen hym to erie wiþ hay trolly lolly
 Now by þe prince of paradise *qd* peris þo in wrap
 but 3e rise vp þe raþer & & rape 3ow to werche
 shal no greyn þat growiþ glade 3ow at nede
 & þou3 3e deie for þe defaut þe deucl haue þat recche
 þen wer~ þer faitours fele þat feyned hem blynd
 & somme leide þe leggis alery as suche losels kunne
 & pleynd hem to peris wiþ suche pitous wordis
 we haue no lymes to labore wiþ our~ lord we hit þonken
 but we preie for þee peris & for þy plow boþe
 for we may noþer swinke ne swete siche sikeness vs eyleþ
 3if hit be soþe *qd* peris soone J shal asprie
 <fol. 18v>3e beþ wastours J wot & treuþe woot þe soþe
 J am his holde hyne & au3t hym to warne
 Suche wastours in þe world his werkmen destroi3en
 3e eten þat þei shulde ete þat erien for 3ow alle
 But treuþe shal teche 3ow his teme for+to dryue
 boþe to fette & to sowe & sauē his telþ
 gast crowen fro þe corn & kepen his bestis
 oþer 3e shult ete barly breed & of þe broke d<ill><rest of word></ill>
 but 3e be blynde or bedrede or ellis broke shankid
 þen shulle 3e haue as good as J so me god help
 ancre3 & heremytes þat holdeþ hem in her~ cellis
 Shul haue of myne almes while þat y lyue
 J-nowe eche day at noon & no more til þe morwe
 lest þe fend & her~ flesch folewen her~ soulis
 onys at noon is y-now þat no werk ne vsiþ
 he abideþ wel þe better þat ne bommeþ not to oft
 þan by-gan wastour to-rise & wold haue yfou3te
 To peris þe plowman one *profrid* his gloue
 a britoner~ & bragger~ abostid hym also
 & bade hym go pisse hym & his plow olde pilede shrewe
 wolt^u nelt^u we wole haue y-now of þy flour~
 & of þy flesch & þy fysch when þat vs likeþ
 & make vs mery þer-wiþ mawgr~ þy chekis
 þen peris þe plowman pleynd hym to þe kni3t

to kepe hym as couenaunt was fro þe corsed shrewis
 fram wastours þat waiten wywners to shende
 Cortesly þo þe kni3t as his kynde wolde
 warned wastours & bade hem go werche
 or þei shulde abigge by þe lawe by þe ordre þat he ber~
 J was not woned to werche *qd* wastour 3it wole y not bygynne
 & lete li3t of þe lawe & lasse of þe kni3t
 & acountid peris at a pese & his plow boþe
 & manasid hym & his men when þey next metten
 Now by þe perel of my soule quop peris y shal apeir~ 3ou alle
 & huntid after hunger þat herde hym at þe furst
 wreke me on wastours *qd* peris þat þis world shenden
 hunger in hast hent wastour by þe mawe
 & wrong hym so by þe wombe þat boþe his i3en watrid
 <fol. 19r>& boffetid þe bretonere aboute boþe his chekis
 þat he loked like a lanterne al his lyf after
 he bete hem so boþe he barst ny3e her~ mawis
 ne hadde peris wiþ a pese+lof y-preied hem to lyue
 & wiþ a benne batt 3ede hem by-twene
 & hitte hunger þer wiþ amydde boþe his lippes
 & made hym blede inward a bolle ful of gruel
 Nadde þe fician <hole in parchment> furst defendid hym water
 to a+bate þe ba<hole in parchment>ly bred & þe benys *grounden*
 þei hadde be d<hole in parchment> by þis day & y-dolfe al warm
 faitours for ferde þen flowe into bernas
 & flappid on wiþ flailles fram morn to euen
 þ^t hunger nas not so hardy on hem forto loke
 for a potel of pesen þat peris let make
 & an hepe of heremytes henten here<er expuncted?> spades
 & doluen dritt & donge to ditte out hunger
 Blinde & bedraden wer~ botned a þousand
 þat leien for blinde & for brokeleggid
 vpon soft sonedaies by þe hi3e weie
 hunger hem heelid wiþ an oten cake
 & lame mennys lymes wer~ liped þat tyme
 & by-comen knaues to kepe peris bestis
 & preide for charite wiþ peris forto dwelle
 al for couetise of his corn to caste a way hunger
 & peris was prout þerfore & put hem in offys

& 3af hem mete & money as þei mi3t deserue
 þen hadde peris pite & preide hunger to wende
 into his owne erþe & holde hymm þer for euere
 but y preie þee quop peris or þou passe forþer
 of bedreden & beggeris what is best to done
 J woot be þou went þei wol werche ful ille
 þy self makip it iwis þei ben so meke nowþe
 & for defaute of fode þus faste þei werchen
 þei beþ myne breþeren of one blood for god made vs
 treuþe tau3te me onys to loue hem echone
 & help hem of alle þing after þat hem nedip
 now wolde J wite 3if þou wistist what wer~ þe <ill><1 word></ill>
 how y my3t a-maistren hem & make hem to wer<ill><rest of word></ill>
 her~ now quop hunger & holde if for a wysdom
 <fol. 19v>bolde bidders & beggers þat mowe here mete by swink
 wiþ houndis+breed & hors+breed holde þow her~ mawes
 a-baue hem wiþ bonys for bolnyng of her~ wombes
 3if eny gromes grucche bidde hem go swink
 & þei shuld sowpe þe swetter when þei haue deserued
 & 3if þou fynde eny freek þat fortune hap apeired
 wiþ fur~ oþer wiþ fals men fonde siche forto knowe
 confort hem wiþ þy catel for cristis loue of heuen
 loue hem & lene hem for so lawe of <hole> kynde wole
 & alle maner men þat þu mi3t asprie <hole>
 þat ben nedy & naked & naue not to spende
 wiþ mete oþer wiþ money lete hem fare þe better
 oþer wiþ werk oþer wiþ wordis whils þou art here
 <lat></lat>
 make þee frendis þer-wiþ for so seiþ þe gospel
 J wold not wrappe god quop peris for al þe good on erþe
 my3t y do synles as þou seist seide peris þen
 3e y by+hote þee quop hunger or ellis þe book lieþ
 Jn sweting & swinking þou shalt þy mete tilie
 & labore for þy lyuelode for so our~ lord biddip
 so seiþ genosis þe gent gendrer of vs alle
 <lat></lat>
 þerfore he shal bigge & begge & no man bete his hunger