IN a somur sesoun when softe was þe sonne
J schop me in-to schrobbes as y a schepherde were
Jn a-byte as as an Eremite vnto holy werkes
J wente forþ in þe worlde wondres to here .
And sau3 mony selles and selcowthe þynges
And on a May+morwnyns on maruer+hulles
Me by-fel forto slepe for werynesse of wandryng~
And in a launde as y lay lened y and slepte .
And merueylously y mette as J may 3ow telle .
Al þe welpe of þys worlde and the wo bope .
walkyng~ as hit were wyterly y sau3 hit
Of truþe and of trycherye tresoun and gyle
Al y sau3 slepyng~ as y schal 3ow telle .
Estewarde y behul aftur the sounne
And sau3 a toure as y trowede truþe was þer-ynne .
Westward y waytede in a whyle aftur .
And sau3 a depe dale deþ as y leve
wonden in tho wones and wyckede spyrites
A fair feld ful of folke fond y þer by-twene
Al maner of men þe mene and þe ryche .
worchange and wauandryng~ as þe world askþep .
Summe puttem hem to þe plou3 and pleyden ful selde
In settyng~ and sowynge swoanken ful harde .
And wonnon þe wastorus w' gluteny destroyen .
Summe putten hem to pruyde and parayîden hem þer-aftur .
Jn contenaunce of cloþynge in mony maner wyse
Jn preyers and penaunces putten hem monye .
Al for þe loue of oure lord lyueden ful harde
Jn hope to haue good ende and heuen ryche blys .
As ancres and eremytes þat holdeþ hem in here celles .
Coueyten nat in contreys to caryen a-bowte .
For no lycorous lyfuelode here lycame to plese .
And somm chesoun chaffare þey cheuesede þe betere .
As hit semeþ to oure sy3t þat suche men þryueþ .
And somme murþes to make as mynistrals conneþ þat wyllen neyþer swynke ne suete but suere gret ðopus .
<fol. 1v>And fynden vp foul feyntises and fooles hem maken And hauen wyt and wylle to worche 3yf þey wolde þat paule precheþ of hem pro-euen hit y my3t .
<lat>two words</lat> is lucyferes knaue Bydderes and beggeres . faste a-bowte 3eeden .
Tyl here bagge and here bely was bredful J.crammed Faytynge for her foode and fou3ten at þe ale Jn glotony þe goomes goþ þey to bedde .
And ryseþ wþybaudy þo Robberes knaues .
Slepe and synful sleuthe duelleþ suche euere Pylgryms and palmers plyþten hem to-gedere To seche seynt Jame and seytus of rome
ten forþ in here wey wþ mony vnwyse tales .
And hauen leewe to lye al here lyf tyme .
Eremytes on an hep wþ hoked staues wenten to walsyngham and here wenches after Gret lobers and longe and lop were to swynke Cloþed hem in copes to be knowe fram oþer And made hem-selue Eremytes her ese to haue y fonde þere of freres al þe foure ordres Prechynge þe peul for profyte of þe wombe And glosyngþ þe gospel as hem good lyckede For couetyse of copes contraryede somme doctours Mony of þes maystres of mentynauns frerus here money and here marchandyse marchen to-gedere Ac seþ charyte haþ be chapmon & chyef to schryue lordes Mony ferlys han fallen in a fewe 3eerus But holyþchirche chop adoun suche schryuers þe most myschyf on molde mountep vp faste .
þer preched a pardonar as he a preste were And brou3t forþ a bulle wþ bysschopes seales
he seyde þat hym-self myȝt assoylen hem alle
Of falnesse of fastynge of vowes to-broke
leuwede men leuede hym wel and lyked his wordes
Comen and kneleden to kyssen his bulles
he blessed hem wþ his bulles and blered here ye
And rauȝt wþ his ragemon rynges broches.
<fol. 2r>þus þe ðeuen þeoun ðoræ gold goltenus to helpe.  
And leneþ hit to lorelles þat lechery haunten. 
were þe byschop blessud or worþ boþe his eren 
his seal schuld nat be sent in deseyt of þe peple 
Ac hit is nat by þe bysschop þat þe boye precheþ. 
þe paryeþe þe parþ & þe pardoner parten þe seluer 
þat poure pepul in parisshes schold haue 3yf þey ne were 
Persones and parysshþþp prests pleyned to þe bysschop. 
þat herþ parisshes ben poure seþ þe pestylens tyme. 
To haue lycense and leue in london to duelle. 
And syng þer for symonye whil seluer is swete. 
Bysshopes and bachilers boþe maystirs and doctours 
þat han cure vnder crist þat crownyng in tokene 
beþ charged wþ holy chirche charyte to tulye 
þat is leel loue and lyf amonge lerđ and lewed. 
þey lyen in londoun in lenton and elles. 
Somme seruen þe kynge and his seluer tellsen. 
Jn þe cheker and chauncellerye chalenge his dettes. 
Of wardes and wardemotes waynes and straynes. 
Somme are as seneschalles and seruen <ill><1 word></ill> lوردes. 
And ben in stede of stuwardes and sitton and demen<ill>. 
Conscience cam and acusede hem and þe co<ill><...></ill> herde hit 
And seyde ydolatrie þe soffren in sondry <ill><two words></ill> </ill>
And boxes ben set forþ bo<ill><...></ill>den with jren 
To vnportake þe tol of vntrue sacrifise 
In menyng of myracles <ill><four words></ill> </ill> 
Al þe world wot wel <ill><rest of line></ill> </ill> 
Ac for hit profyteþ <ill><crest of line></ill> </ill> 
þat leuwed men in <ill><rest of line></ill> </ill> 
J leue wel by oure lord for loue <ill><two words></ill> </ill> 
þat al þe world be þe wors as holy wryt tellþ 
what cheste<ill> and <ill><five? words></ill> </ill> 
Ful <ill><5 words></ill> </ill> þorow to false prestes
For þe <ill><1 word></ill> of Ophyn . and fynes his broþer
þey were <ill><2 words></ill> batail and loften archa dei .
And for <ill><4 words?></ill> and soffred hem <ill><two words></ill>
And not <ill><5 words?></ill> rebuke hem .
<fol. 2v>Anom as hit was told hym þat þe children of israel
weren dyscomfyt in batayle and archa dei . y-lore
And his sones slayn anon he ful for sorwe
Fro his chayer þer he sat & brak his necke a-tweyne
And al was for veniaunce þat he beted not his children .
And for þey weren prestes and menne of holy chirche
God was wel þe worþer and toke þe raþer veniaunce
For-þy J say þe prestes and men of holy chirche
þat suffren men do sacryfice & worschypen mawmetes
And þe shuld be here fadres and teche hem betre
God schal take veniaunce on alle suche prestus
wel hardur and gretture on suche schrewede fadres
þe euer he dede on Ophyn and Fynees or on here fader
for 3oure schrewede suffraunce and 3oure owne synne .
3oure masse & 3oure matyns & mony of 3oure owres
Aren donn vndeoulyche drede is at þe laste
leste criste in his constory of 3ow a-corse monye
J parceyuede of þe power þat petur hadde to kepe .
To bynde and to vnbynde as þe book telluþ .
how he is loste wþ loue as oure lord wolde .
Amonnges four vertues moste vertues of vertues .
þat cardynals ben ycalde and closyne 3atus
þer criste is in kyndam to close wþ heuene .
Ac of þe cardynals at court þat cau3te han suche a+name
And power presumen in hem-self a pope to make
To haue þe powere þat petur hadde jngunen<?> y nelle
For in loue and lecture lyþe þe grete elecco

Conturplede hit nau3t quaþ Conscience for holy chirches sake
þen kam þer a kynge kny3thod hym ladde
þe meche my3t of þo men made hym to regne .
þan come kynde wyt and kny3thod to-gederes
Casten þat þe comune contreouede alle craftes
And for most proftytable to poeple a plou3 þey guane make .
with lel labour to lyue wel lef and lond lasteþ .
þenne kynde+wyt to þe kyng~ and to þe comune seyde
Criste kepe þe kyng and þy kynde ryche
And loue þe lede so þy londe þi leaute þe louye .
<fol. 3r>And for þy ry3tful rulynge be rewarded in heuene
Conscience to clergye and to þe kyng seyde
<lat></lat>
<lat></lat>
<lat></lat>
<lat></lat>
<lat></lat>
<lat></lat>  
Consciencie and þe kynge in-to courte wenten .
wher houed an hundred in houes of selke
Sergauns hit semeden þat seruen atte barre
To plede for penyes and poundes þe lawe
And nou3t for oure lordes loue vnlose here lyp ones
þow my3test beter mete þe myst on maluerne hulles
þan gete a+mom of here mouþ tyl monye be schewed .
þenne ra-nne þer a rowe of ratones as hit were
and smale Muys wî hem mo þen ten þowsand
Comen to a counsayl for here comune profit .
For a Cat of a Cote cam whan hym lyket
And ouer-hopped hem ly3tliche & lau3t hem at wylle
And pleyde wî summe perylously & put hem þer hym liked
And 3if we grucche of his gamen he wol greue vs sarrur
To his cleos clawon vs and in his cloches holde
þat vs loþeþ þe lyf er he lete vs passe .
My3t we wî eny wit his wil to wî-sette
we my3t be lordes of loft and lyuen as vs lusten .
þo seyde a ratoun of renoun most resonable of tongue
y haue seye gret sires in cyteus and in townes
Bere byes of bry3t gold al a-boute here neckes
And colers of crafty werkes boþe kny3tes & squyers
were þere a belle on here by3e by ihesu me þynkeþ
Men my3t wyte were þey wente and here way rowme
Ry3t so quaþ þe ratoun resoun me þynkeþ
A belle to buggen of bras or of bry3t seluer
And knutte hit on a coler for oure comune profit
And hange a-bowte þe cattes necke þan here we mowe
And a-pere in his presence whil hym pleye lykeþ .

**<Tranche 2>**

Wel wery & wetschod went y forþ aftur
As recheles renk þ' reccheþ nat of sorowe
A 3eede forþ like a lorel al my lyf tyme
Tyl y wexe wery of þis world and wilned efte slepe
Of gurles and of _gloria laus_ gretliche me dremede .

And how _osanna_ by orgen olde men songen
On was semblable to þe _samaritan_ & somdel _to pers plouhman_.
Barfot on an asse bak botles cam prykynge
w'oute spores ᵒpύr spere ac braglyche he lokede
As is þe kynde of a knyȝt þat comeþ to beo dobet .
To getorn his gult spores and galeges y-coped
þenne was _faith_ in a fenestre and cryde _<lat>fili dauid</lat>
As doþ an heraud of armes when auntres comedþ to iouste .
Olde iewes of _ierusalem_ . for ioye þey songen .
þan y frayned at _faith_ what al þat fare by-mente
and ho scholde ioustn in _ierusalem ihesuc_ he seyde
And fecche þat þe feond cleymeþ _peres_ fruyte þe plouman .
Js peres in þis place qd y & he pryked vp-on me
_<lat>liberum dei arbitrium</lat>_ qd he for loue hâp vndurtake
þat þes _ihesuc_ of is gentrye schal iouste _in peres_ armes
In his helm & in his hauberioun _<lat>humana natura</lat>_-
þat _criste_ be not y-knowe for _<lat>consummatus deus</lat>_. _<lat>_In peres plates þe plouhman þeos prykyere schal ryde
For no dynt schal hym dere as _in<lat>two words</lat>_ ho schal iouste w' _ihesus_ qd y iewes or scribes
Nay quaþ _fayþ_ but þe feonde & fals dom to dye
Deþ seŷh he wol fordo and adoun bryngye
Al þat lyueþ or lokeþ a lounde & in watere
Lyf seŷh he lyeþ and hâp leyd his lyf to wedde
þ' for al þat deþ can do with-in þre dayes
To walke & fecche fro þe feond peres fruyt þe plouhman
And legge hit þer hym lykeþ and _lucifer_ bynde
And for-byte adoun and bryngye bale deþ for euere
þenne can _pilatus_ with muche poeple
To seo heu douȝtyliche deþ schold do & deme her breþ ryȝte
þe iewes & þe iustices aþeyns ihesuc þey were
And alle þe court cryede <lat>crucifige</lat> looude
þennne putte hym a pelour by-fore pilat and seyde
þes ihesuc of oure iewene temple iapede & despisede
To for-doun hit on a day & in þre dayes after
Edifyen hit eft newe her he stant þat seyde hit
And 3ut maken hit as muche in alle manere poyntes
<fol. 84r>Boþe as longe & as large a loft and a grounde
And as wyde as hit euer was þis we witnes alle
<lat>crucifige</lat> qd a kachepol he can of wicche-crafte
tolle tolle quaþ anoþer and tok of kene þornes
And bygan of grene þorne a garlaunde to make
And sette hit sore on his heued and seþ seyde in enuye .
Aue rabby qd þat rybaud & reodes schotte at his yen
And nayled hym wê yre nayles naked on þe roode
And wê a pole poysun putten to his lippes
And bede hym drynke his deþe to lette & his dayes lengþen
And seyde yf he solþaste beo he wol hym-selue helpon
And now 3yf þow be criste criste godes sone
Com adoun of þis roode and þen wol we leue
þat lyf þe louyeþ and wol nat let þe dye
<lat>Consu</lat> <lat>matum est</lat> quaþ criste & comsed for to swouene
Pytousliche & pale as prysoun þat dyeþ
þe lord of lyf & of ly3t þo leyd is yen to-gederes
þe day for drede þerof withdrouþ & derke by-cam þe sonne
þe wal of þe temple to-clef euyn a tw peces
þe hard roche al to-ref & ritht deorke ny3t hit semed
þe erþe quok & quakede as hit quycke wore
And dede men for þat deone comen out of deop graues
And tolde why þat tempest so longe tyme durede
For a bittur batayle þe dede body sayde
Lyf & deep in þis derknesse here oun fordoþ þat oper
Ac schal no why3te wite witturly ho shal haue þe maistrie
Or sonne-day a-boute þe sonne rysynge & sank wê þil eorþe
<lat>Summe</lat> sayde he was godes sone þat so fayr deyde
<lat>Sum</lat> sayde he can of sorcerye good is þat we assaye
wher he beo ded or nat ded doun or he beo take
þo þeues þer were poleden deþ þat tyme .
vpon croys by-sydes criste so was þe comune lawe
Quyclyche cam a kachepol & craked a two here legges
And here armes after of eueryche of þo þeues
Ac þer was no boy so bolde godes body to touche
For he was kny3t & kynges sone kynd for3at þt
tat no boy hadde hardynesse hym touche in dyinge.
<fol. 84r> Ac þer cam forþ a blynt kny3t with kene spere y-grounde

Hy3t longius as þe lettre telluþ & londe had lore his sy3t
Byfore pilat & oþer poeple in þe place he houede
Maugrey his mony tþp he was mad þat tyme
To iouste with ihesue þis blynde iewe longius.
For alle hy weren vnhardy þþ houeden þer or stode
To touche hym or to tryne hym or to taken hym doun or graue hym.
But þis blynde bachelor þþ bar hym þorow þe herte
þe blood sprand doun by þe spere & vnsperred þe kny3tes yen.
þo ful þe kny3t vpon kneos & cryede ihesu mercy
Aþeysns my wil hit was quaþ he þat y 3ow wou
he sy3ed & seyde sore hit me forþynke þ
Of þe dede þat y haue doun y do me in 3owre grace
My lond & my lycame at 3oure lykynge takeþ hit
And haue mercy on me ry3tful ihesu ry3t wþ þat he wepte
þenne gan fayþ fouly þe false iewes to despyse
And calde hem caytyf acorsed for þis was aþyle vylanye
veniunce is to 3ow falle þat makede þe blynde
Beten hym þat was ded hit was aþbeyes dede
Corsed caytyf kny3thod was hit neure
To bete a body bounde wþ eny bry3t wepene
þe gree 3it haþ he getom for alle his grete woundes
For 3oure chaumpyon chyualer chyef kny3t of 3ow alle
3elt hym recreaunt remynge ry3t at ihesu wil
For beo þis dernenne y-do deþ worþ y-venkysed
And 3ee lordynges han lost for lyf schal haue þe maistrie.
And 3owre fraunchyse þþ freo was fallen is to þraldome
And al 3oure children cherles cheuen schul þey neuer
Ne haue lordschipe in londe nþpur lond tulye
And as barayne bee by vsure lybbe
þe whiche is lyf þat our lorde in alle lawes defendeþ
Now beþ 3oure good dayes doun as daniel
when criste with croys ouercam 3oure kyndom schal to-cleue
what for fere of þis ferly & of þis false iuwes
J drow in þat derkenesse to <lat>descendit ad inferna .</lat>
And þer y sayh soþly <lat></lat>
Out of þe west as hit were a wenche as me þouhte
<fol. 85r>Cam walkynge in þe way to helle ward he lokede
Mercy hihte þat mayde a mylke þyng þe mett with alle
And ful benygne burde and buxom of speche
Heune out of þe west & westwarde he þouhte
A comely creatur & clene trewe scheo hyhte
For þe vertu þat heore folowede aferd was scheo neuer
when þis mayden metten mercy and treuþe
Ayþur axede of oþer of þis grete wondur
Of þe dene and derkenes & how þe day roued
And whiche a lyȝt & leem lay by-fore helle
J haue ferly of þis fare in fayþ seyde treuþe
And y am wendynge to wyte what þis wonder meneþ
Haue no meruayle þer-of quaþ mercy murþe hit bytokneþ
Aþþur þat hadde marie & moder wȝ-oute velynge
Of eny kynde of creature conceyued þorow speche
And grace of þe holy gost wax gret with childe
wȝ-oute wommone wem in-to þis world brouȝt hym
And þat my tale is trewe y take god to witnese
Syþen þis barn was y-bore beþ þrytty wynter passed
Deyde & deþ þolede þis day a-boute mydday
þat is þe cause of þis eclipse þȝ ouerclose now þe sonne
Jn menynge þȝ man schal fro merkenessee beo drawe
þe while þis lyȝt & þis leom schal lucifer ablynge
For patriarches & prophets han preched her-of ofte
þat þynge þat tynt was with treo . treo schal hit wynne
And þat þȝ deþ dom brouȝte del schal releue
þat þȝ bow tellest quaþ treuþe is but a tale of walterot
For adam and eue and abraham with oþere
patriarches & prophets þat in þȝ peyne lyggen
Leef hit neuere þat ȝeon liht hem alofte brynge
Ne haue hem out of helle hold þȝ tonge mercy
Jt is trufe þat bow tellest y treuþe wot þȝ soþe
þat þynge þat ones is in helle out comeþ hit neuere
forþþob þȝ parfit patriarche reproueþ þȝ saweþ
þen myldeliche mouþede þeos wordes .