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<Text: Chastising of God's Children, Myrrour of Symple Soulis>

<fol. 28v>case and reste bi foule pride and presumpcion of þese þre þer comeþ a spiritual or a goostli lecherie for whan a man wol haue reste in a maner ydelnesse wiþout any desire or besi seekyng / to god . þan he is ful disposed in-to alle errors / bi-cause he is turned awei fro god and bicause þat he desiriþ and seekeþ al þ is to plesaunce and lust and likynge / suche a man is like to a marchaunt / for in al his werkis he is euer inclyneng and bowyng bi entencioun to his owne reste and to his owne profite / but noþing for þe worship of god / þis man þat restiþ so vpon his owne loue to his propir pleasaunce : may wele be clepid a propretarie / whiche vice is damnable in alle obeishaunt children / neþeles sum of / þese men lyuen in grete penaunce and don many þinges outward þat her lif mowe be knowe and her name be in reputation amonge holî men for eche suche loue of kynde . is fauorable to hym silf ¶ Also sum of þese men bi a grete singularite desiren of god sum special ñifte aboue other eiþer of worchyngne myraclis eiþer reuelacions or sum eiþer specialte wherfor ofte <fol. 29r>tymes þei bien disceyued of þe deuel for sum tyme yei haue of þe deuel þat þei desiren / þan þei wene it cômeþ to hem for her merite . and wene þat it be sent fro god for her holi lyuen eng suche men bien boþ proude and blynde . for hem
lackiþ al goostli li3t and feelyng // and a ful
litel þing may conforte suche men : for þei
knownen nat what hem lackiþ / þis is clepid
a spiritual lecherie . for it is an vnresonable
and vnordynat wil a3ens reason
euermore bowyng doun bi þe loue of kynde
to his owne profite and al ease and reste /
Suche men also bien proude and ful soleyyn
of wil : and to harde of herte / þerfor her desire
and her foule coutise strecchiþ sumtyme
and sprediþ . so ferforþ þat what þei .
desiren þei haue and so oft / siþes þei bien
disceyu ed . and sum in þis lyueng / han be
take wiþ þe fiend . and longe tyme traueld
wiþ spirites . and sum in-to her lyues ende
¶ Also þese men þat þus lyuen . lyuen
contrariousli to charite and to þe loue of
god . wiþ þe whiche a man offriþ hym silf
fulli inward and outward in al þat he may
in-to þe worchip of god / for þer may noþing
<sol. 29v>suffice to a parfite louer~ . ne noþing may
hym please . saue oonli o goodenesse þat
may nat be comprehendid whiche goodenesse
is god hym silf : for he is al charite
and goodenesse / for charite is a bond of loue
. whiche drawiþ us to god in whiche
loue we forsaken oure silf ; and þerwiþ
we bien ooned to god but þe loue of kynde
dwelliþ on hym silf . and euermore is lowyng
to his owne profite neþeleþ þe loue
of kynde is as liche to charite as to þe
worchoyng outward as two heeris of oonhed
but þe willis and þe menynges . bien
myche discordyng and ful vnliche for a
goode mans herte is euere upward to god in
his entencion . and alwey desireþ þe worchip
of god / but in naturel loue a mans
wil bowiþ to his profite and ease / whan
þe loue of kynde passiþ þus of þe loue of
god and charite be contrarious wille and
worchyng þanne a man falliþ into foure
perelous synnes that is to see in-to pride auarice
glotenye and lecherie ¶ þus fel adam
in paradise and al+mankynde wiþ hym ; for
bicause of þe loue þat he had to hym sylf ;
<fol. 30r>he turned fro þe wil of god and bi pride . he dide
a3ens goddis comandement / and bi auarice
he coueited knowyng and wisdom / he sou3t
bi glotenye sauour and delite / and þanne
aftir þis ; he was stired to lecherie / but oure
blisful ladi : fonde þe grace a3en which
adam had lost / þat glorious ladi and modir
of loue ; 3af us ensample in lyueng / hou we
shulden loue / þis noble ladi from þe tyme
of hir birþe euermore turne hir herte to god
bop actifly and goostli / þat is to see wiþ
grete exercices of outward and inward
uertues bi grete desire and feruent loue to
god receyued crist wiþ al maner lownesse
and mekenesse / in þis þat blisful ladi fonde
grace a3ens pride / also she offrid up þi worþi
lord hir dere sone to þe fadir of heuene wiþ
hir worldli possessions : and wiþ al maner
plente or largete of herte . in ful affeccion
in 3eldyng þankynges and worshippes to
almy3ti god / and in þis she fond grace anentis
auarice Also she reste neuer up comfort
ne up graciouse 3iftes . whiche plenteuousli
she receyued of almy3ti god ; but al þat
sauour and swetnesse she 3af / al hooli to
<hfol. 30v>hym . þat al goodenesse sent / and heere she fond
grace a3ens glotenye / also what clennesse
she had in bodi and in soule : it nediþ nat to
expresse / for al cristen feþ knowiþ wele : þer
was neuer erpli creature . þat had þat grace
of so ful clennesse as she had , in whiche clennesse
a3ens lecherie she fond grace ¶ þus
than þe grace þat adam lost : þat glorious
ladi foond a3en / who so wil þanne ouercome
or wiþstonde þe contrarious lyueng whiche
J rehearsed before : must folwe to his power~
oure blisful ladi outward and inward in
mekenesse and largether . in abstinenence and
clennessse / but for we bien fieble to stonde and
bi frealte dredeful to falle þerfor as J seide bfore
wakeþ and prieþ þat 3e falle nat into
temptacion . <lat></lat>Hou
sum oþer men wenen <the w is partial> þat þei haue freedom of
spirit & þat þei bien ooned to god wiþoute
any meane wherfor þei seiþ þei bien bounde
to no lawes of hooli chirche and þei bien
discharged of al maner wirchynges &
of al outward uertues
WHat tyme a man haþ in suche ydelnese
kyndeli reste as i seide bfore & oonli
<fol. 31r>biholdiþ hym silf and stondiþ upon his owne
propre wil : þerwhiles he may nat be ooned
to god . bi-cause he lyueþ in a maner contrariouste
to haue þe loue of god , for clene he is wiþouten
charite / þerfor aftir þis bigynnynge þe þrid
contrarious lyueng whiche is worse þan any
of þe þre whiche i haue rehearsed / for þanne bigynneþ
a lif vnriþtful and vnskilful ful of
gostli errours and al maner wrecchidnesse
what suche men bien and hou 3e shullen knowe
hem ; as bi þer opynions i shal shewe 3ou
¶ þese men in þer owne si3t ; bien ful contemplatif
but in goddis si3t þei bien verray fugitiues
. bi-cause þei haue runne a-wei and fleede
fro god : so it is nedeful þat al men fle awei fro
hem . as from a gostli enemye þese men wenen
þat þei bien þe holiest men þat lyuen . natwiþstondynge
þat þei lyuen contrariumli
to alle goode men for þese bien þer opynions
þei holden bi þat kyndeli reste þat þei haue
and bi þat ydelnesse whiche þei haue whan
þei stonden so alone vpon hem silf þat þei
be free in spirit and ooned to god wipout any meane ¶ Also þat þei bien enhaunsid bi perfeccion . aboue al obseruaunces of <fol. 31v>loue þat he is . for þe most strong meneþ in him þe most fieble Þis uniaunce is ri3t delicious þþ wote þei þat haue assaied it þer is no perle of þe i3e so daungerouse whanne oon putliþ wiþ-ynne - <mrg>it</mrg> þe yrun . or lynt . or stoon þat is þe deeþ of him ; as is diuine loue if oon do a3ens him / his beyng is alwei in perfiȝt playn of pure wille of him ¶ Now may 3e vndirstande hou my wikidnesse causeþ to haue his bounte ; for encheson of my necessite for god suffriþ sumtyme sum yuel to be do for gretter goode þat affirwarde shal growe for al þoo þat bien plauntid of þe fadir and comen into þis worlde ; bien descendid of parfijte . in-to vnparfijte . for to atteyne to þe more parfite . and þanne is opened þe wounde for to be helid þer it is hurt ; wipouten hir wityng / Þese folkis bien mekid of god him silf I Bihiȝte seiþ þis soule . of the takynges of loue sum þinges to seie of þe seuene estatis þat we clepen beynges for so it is and yese bien þe degrees . bi whiche men stien of þe ualey to þe top of the mountayne þat is so seuerel ; þat is seeþ but god . and euery degre hap in it his ful assise

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<fol. 213v>loue it bettre þan for to dwelle in þþ glorie ¶ And þou3 J wiste þat it miȝt be . þat þe swete manhede of crist ihesu and þe uirgyne and al þe court of heuene miȝt not suffre þat J had þe tormentis euerlastyngli . but þat J had þe beyng þat J was come fro . and
god seeþ þis in him if it miȝt be þis pite of him and þis goode wille ; þus seiþ to me if þou wilt J shal ȝilde þee þat whiche þou art comen fro bi my wil . for þis þat my friends of my court wolen it but ne were her wille ; þou shuldest not haue it wherfore J ȝilde þee þis ȝifte if þou wolt take it J shulde falle in my choys raȝer wipouten ende to dwelle in torment ; þan J shuld take it siphe J had it nat of his oonli wille / so J refusid it at þe praiers of þe humanite and of seintes . and of þe uirgyne marie . J miȝt not suffre it but if J had it of þe pure loue þat he hap þo me for me of his pure bounte and of his alloone wille and loue ; þþ loued hap to louer ¶ And þanne J seide to him þat if J wiste it miȝte more plesse him þat J loued anoþer more þan him ; heere me failiþ wit þus it goiþ . þat J ne feele myȝt ne <fol. 214r>wille to graunte ; but J aunswerd þat . J shulde counsaile me ¶ And þanne J seide þis þat if it miȝt be þat he miȝt loue anȝer more þan me ; heere me failiþ wit J kan-not aunswer . ne wille . ne graunte ¶ And þan þis J seide to him þat if it miȝt be þat he miȝt wille þat anoþir loued me more þan he loueþ me . heere me faileþ also witte . J kan not answere no+more þan afore / but alwei J seide þat of al þat J shuld counsaile me ; and riȝt so J dide . J counsailed me at him silf & seide him þat þese þre þinges weren right harde ; for bi þe toþir weren bifo[rre / þat J shulde loue anoþir more þan þe him . and he anoþer more þane me & þat anoþer shuld loue me more þan he ; witt failid me heere for J miȝt not þo noon of þese þre þinges wille ne graunte . and alwei he assailed me for to haue aunswere and so+moche J loued me wiþ him ; þat J miȝt not for nopinge haue
maner in þis and þus J was at distresse
so went J not li3tli a-wei / þis wote noon .
but if he haue assaied þis poynst and alweies
J mi3t haue noo pees ; but if J aunswerd
to þis forsaiđe ¶ A J loued me þis
<fol. 214v>hadde me þe for J mi3t not li3tli aunswer
and if J hadde not loued me ; þe aunswer
hadde be swift and li3t and alweies me
bihouide to aunswere ; if J wolde not leese
of me in him for whiche myn hert suffriđ
so greete distresse
NOu J shal seie 3ou myn aunswered J
seid to him of him þat he wold proue
me of al poynstes Alas what haue J seid
J shal speke no word more þe hert made
alone of him in þis bataile what shal
J aunswered in angwissh of deel ; þat he
þus wolde departe from his louyer~ . þe
whiche he had so wele arraied þat wel
J wend mi3t it haue endured but and
so mi3t be . and if so were þat bi partie
of chaunge he mi3t þis wille J aunswerd
þus and seid to him ¶ O lord if it mi3t
be þat þis chaunge mi3t euerlastynghi
endure in sooñenesse . as it is in demaunedes
; J loue 3ou for 3ou and of 3ou þe for
þat J vn wolde for 3ou and if y had þe
same þat 3e haue wip þe creacion þat 3e
haue 3ouen me . and mi3t also wele do
<fol. 215r>my wille as J do of þe wille þat 3e haue
3oue me / and also if J hadde þis ; þat J were
egal vnto 3ou saue in þis þat J mi3t change
my wille for oþir þan for me þis shuld
3e nat do . siþen þat 3e wolde it wiþouten
eny of 3oure goodenesse . þese þe poynstes
þat bien ri3t greuouse to graunte / and
if J wiste wiþouten doute þat 3oure wille
wolde it . wiþouten amynnsyng<?> of 3our
diuine goodenesse : J wolde it wiþout eny
þing willyng more my wille takeþ his
endyang in yis seieng Þus my wil is
martired . and my loue martired ; 3e haue
hem to martirdom brou3t . her wenynges
bien ful enclinaunt . myn herte wende
sumtyme alwei to haue lyued of loue
bi desire of goode wille Now bien þese
two þinges endid in me : þat maden me
out of my childehode goon / and þere it
shewid me þe cuntrey of freenesse /
¶ Þanne cam to me ri3twisnesse and askid
me what sparyng J wolde haue of hym
or of þing þat torment mi3t me do
Þanne cam mercy and askid me what
help J wolde haue of him ¶ J aunswerd
<fol. 215v>anoon þis þat J was . J wolde no+more
help of him ; ne of þing þat goode mi3t
me do ¶ And þanne came loue to me fulfilled
wiþ bounte þat so often tymes me
had out of witt y-browe ; and in þe fire
me hadde þe deep y-3ouen : 3e haue sumþing
herd heere he seide to me . J holde alþinge
þat was and is and shal be ; J am of al godenesse
fulfilled , take of me what 3ee
wole / if 3e wille haue me al : J vnwille it
not seiþ my friend / hou semþe it 3ou of
me . J am loue fulfilled wiþ bounte / þis
þat 3e wille : we wole it seiþ friend drawiþ
3oure owne wille ¶ J aunswerde
anoon þis þat J am ; J am pure nou3t. <mrg>Alas what wolde pure nou3t</mrg>
it hæþ neuer noþing of wil J wil noþing
þat is not of þe bounte of loue alþing
þat is of him . it is of him uerili fulfilled
and þus it is . þat noþing is . but if it be
of hym and þis J seie me haþ of al consumed
/ Now J began at þis assise of my
3ouþe and of my spirites oolde . to aþen+com
þat wille was drede . and my werkis .
endid . and my loue also þat made me
ioly for þe spredyng of þe diuine loue
<fol. 216r>shewid me bi diuine li3t ; an+hi3eful openyng aprochyng e to þe sooopenesse . þat
shewid me sodainli him and me / him so hi3e and me so lowe ; þat J mi3t no+more of þennes rise . ne help of my silf haue and þere was best ¶ Jf 3e vndirstonde nat þis ; J may not amende it / þis is a werk myracleful . þis þanne may not his weymentynges sen<?> Heere 3e haue seip þis soule sum biholdyng . hou J me compleyned for to vncombe me ; and for þe wey to fynde þat J compleyned whan J was marred þis þat J was þanne is marryng for alle þo þat bien marred þat haue eny-þing of affeccion of spirit And þis biholdyng is in lijf of spirit bi affeccion of tendirnesse of loue þ þe soule haþ to hir silf / but she weneþ þat it is in god þis loue þat she haþ ; of whiche she is so attaynt but in wele vndirstandyng it is in hir silf þat she loueþ wipouten hir wityng / and þere þei bien disceyued þat louen bi þe tendirnesse þat þei haue to affeccion ; þat suffreþ hem not ; to come to knowyng / þus þei leden as <fol. 216v>þei diden in werk of 3ouþe ; and dwellen so long in werkis . til þei haue affeccion of spirit ¶ O god seip diuine loue þat of þis restiþ of him in soule nou3ted . what þis lijf is fer from þe lijf of freenesse ; of þe whiche nat willyng hap lordshippe ouer / and þis nou3t willyng sowyþ in soules þe diuine seedis : fulfillid of diuine wille of god / þis seed mai neuer faile but fewe folkes disposen hem to receyue þis seed ¶ J haue founde many of perissshed in affeccion . and of marrid in lijf of spirit . bi werkis of uertues in desires of goode
wille / but J haue founden fewe of gentil
in beyng : and fewer of hem þat bien
in fredom wiþoute faile . of whiche þis
booke spekiþ of þe haue oon alone wille
þat fyne loue makiþ to haue / for fyne loue
makeþ to haue oon wille and oon loue
and þerfor diuine wille is alwei oon same
wille in loue / and þis loue is of þat þat is
al oonli fyne in stondyng of werk diuine
Þis soule is noon bi nou3tyng . and she ne
reckeþ in þis nou3tyng þou3 þe serpent
hir deoure siþen god may neiþer wexe ne