¶ The nynȝe poynȝ seip loue is þis . 
Þat þis soule haþ no wille / O wiþouten faile noo . 
for al þat sche willeþ in consentynge of wille ; it is þiþ 
þat god wole þat sche wole / and þat williþ sche seip 
¶ This heerþ and vnðirstandiþ 3e auditoures of þis 
booke ; þe verrei vnðirstandinge of þese wordis / & what 
þis is to seie . þat þis booke seip in so many places & þiþ 
a soule nouȝted haþ nouȝt of wille ; ne nouȝt may ha 
ue . ne nouȝt may wille / And in þis þe diuine wille ; per 
fijth is fulfillid / ne in-to þis tyme ; may not þe soule 
haue hir ful sufficiunce of diuine loue / ne diuine lo 
ue of þe soule ; til þe soule be in god and god in þe sou 
le . of him . bi him . in þis beynge bi diuine sittinge / 
and þanne þe soule haþ al hir sufficiance ¶ Soþeli 
3he seip þe vnðirstandinge of reson . but it semeþ þat 
þe nynȝe poynȝ seip al þe contrarie / þat seip þiþ soule 
nouȝted willeþ nouȝt ; as in regarde of þat þiþ sche wolde 
wille / ne sche may not haue þat ; þiþ god wole þiþ sche 
wille / And þat hir wil is nouȝt as in regarde of hir 
sufficiunce ; þat neuere was 3oue hir . ne neuere schal be 
3oue hir ¶ Of þis seip reson J vnðirstonde . þat þis 
soule williþ a wille . and god wole þat sche wille a wil 
þe whiche sche may not haue / and þis haþ of þiþ fai 
launce ; and not of substaunce ¶ Jt semeþ me lady 
loure seip þe vnðirstandinge of reson ; þiþ þis nynȝe 
poynt makiþ me þus to vnðirstande þe seiynge of
<fol. 16v>þis booke / þat seiþ forsoþe . þat þe free soule haþ no
wille . ne nou3t may haue . ne nou3t may wille . ne þe
diuine trinite wole not þat sche haue / and þis booke
seiþ . þat sche haþ in al þing bi diuine loue ; hir ful
sufficiauce \# O vndirstandinge of reson seiþ this
soule nou3ted . what þou hast of rudenesse / thou ta
kest þe schelle or þe chaaf ; and leuest þe kernel or þe
grayne / þine vndirstandinge is so lowe . þi þou maist
not so hiþeli areche ; as he bihoueþ þat wel wolde
haue þe vndirstandinge of þe beynge þat we speke
of / But þe vndirstandinge of diuine loue . þe leþip
in a soule nou3ted þat is made free ; vndistandiþ it
wipoute eerynge . for sche is þe same / O þou vndir
standinge of reson seiþ þe hiþenesse of vndirstandin
ge of loue ; now vndirstande þe rudenesse of þi mys
vndirstandinge / If þis lady nou3ted williþ þe wil
of god ; þe more þat sche williþ it . þe more sche wolde
wille it / and þat may sche not haue ; for þe litilnesse
of creature / for god wiþholdeþ þe greetnesse of his diui
ne riþtwisnesse / but god wole þat sche wille þis ; and þe
sche haue suche wille / for suche wille is diuine wille /
þe whiche diuine wille ; 3iueþ beynge to free creatures /
for þe diuine wille þat god makþ to wille ; drawiþ
in hem þe beemys of diuine knowinges , and þe felin
ges of diuine loue . and þe vnyon of diuine magnifi
cence and laude / And þanne seiþ loue to þis creature /
<fol. 17r>Hou may þis soule haue wille . whanne cleer kno
winge knowiþ þat þer is a beynge among þe beyn
ges ; þe whiche is moost noble of alle beynges / whi
che þat creatures may not haue ; but if þei haue it
bi þe nou3t willinge \# Now haþ seiþ loue reson herd
þe answere of his demaundes / saue þere it seiþ . þat þe
fre soule haþ in hir deaute of sufficiauce / but this J
seie to hir wherof to wille þe diuine wille / sœþeli þe
moore yat sche williþ it ; þe lasse haþ suche wille of
þat hir sufficience / but þis same is þe oonli wille
of god : and þe soules glorie / \# A loue seiþ reson 3e
don oure piece for þe actyues and contemplatiues /
now J préie 3ou to declare and expowne to þe comune
peple; þese doubl wordis þi ben hard to vnristonde to her vnristandinge / þat summe bi auenture may come to þis beynge bi whiche þis booke may sche we to alle: þe verrey liȝt of trouȝe. and þe perfeccion of charite of hem; þat preciousli ben clepid & chosen of god. and soueraynli beloued of him. Reson seiþ loue to þis J wolde answere for þe profite of hem; for whom þou makest to us þis pitouse requeste / Reson seiþ loue where ben þese doubl wordis þi þou preiest me to discusse for þe auditoures of þis booke; þat in wille and in desire dwellen / þe whiche booke we clepe þe myyrour of symple soules. ¶ To þis J answere lady loue seiþ reson. for þis booke seiþ greete meruai <fol. 17v>lis of þis soule / þat seiþ sche ne reckeþ of schame. ne of worschip. ne of pouert. ne of richesse. ne of eese. ne of diseese. ne of loue. ne of hate. ne of. elle. ne of para dise / And also it seiþ þat þis soule haþ al: & sche haþ nouȝt / sche woote al; and sche woote nouȝt / sche wil liþ al; and sche willeþ nouȝt / Ne sche ne desireþ seiþ re son despite. ne pouert. ne no martirdome. ne tribulacion on. ne sermons. ne fastinges. ne orisons / And sche þe üþ to nature al his askinge; wiþoute faile loue seiþ reson. þis may noon vnristonde be myn vnristandinge; but if þei leewe it of 3ou bi 3oure techinge / For my counsail is as for þe beste þat J kan counsaile; þat men desire dispite. and pouert. and alle manner of tribulacion. massis. sermons. fastinges. and orisons / and þat men haue drede of alle manner loues what euere þei be: for perels þat myȝte falle / and þat men desire para dise soueraynli: and also þat men haue drede to go to helle / and þat þei refuse alle manner of worschipes. and temporel þinges. and alle eeses. in benemynghe nature al þat he askþ. but oonli þat: wiþoute whi che þei myȝte not lyue. aftir þe ensample of suffe raunce: þat oure lord ihesu crist suffride / Þis is þe bes te þat J kan counsaile seiþ reson; to alle þoo þi lyuen vnristre myn obedience / And þerfore J seie þi noon schal vnristande þis booke be myn vnristandinge: but
if þei vndirstande it bi þe uertu of feiþ . and bi þe strengþe of loue . þat ben my mastressis / for J obeie to hem in al / And 3it seþ reson þus myche J seie . þat who haþ þese two cordis in his herte . þe liȝt of feiþ . and þe strengþe of loue : he haþ leue to do what him likeþ . witnesse of god him sylf þat seþ to þe sou le . Loue loueþ ; and doþp what 3e wol Reson seþ loue þou art ful wise : of al þing þat perteynþ to þee / þat woldest haue answeres to þese wordis a-fore seid . and þat þou askist what it is to seie : it is wel yasked / And J wole seþ loue answere þee ; to alle þine askinges / Reson seþ Loue J certeþ þee . þat þese soules þyk fyne loue ledeþ ; þei haue as leef schame as worschip . and worschip as schame / and pouert as richesse : and ri chesse as pouert / and tormentis of god and of his crea tures ; as confortes of god and of his creatures / and to be hated as loued : and loued as hated / and helle as paradise ; and paradise as helle / and litel estate as greet ; and greet estate as litel / Þis is to seie in sooþ . þat þei ne willen ne vnwille . noone of þese prosperitees : ne noone of þese aduersitees / for þese soules haue no wille : but þing þat god willþ in hem / and þe diuine wille cleþþ not þese surmounted creatures : wiþ suche encombraunces as we haue heere deuysed / J haue seþ loue afore seid . þat þese soules haue as leef alle maner of aduersitees of herte for body and for <fol. 18v>soule ; as prosperitees . and prosperitees as aduersitees / þis is sop seþ loue . if it come to hem ; sifen her wille is not þe cause / þe soules woote not where þe eende lieþ / ne for what cause god wolde fynde her sauaþion . ne þe sauaþion of her euen cristæn / ne for what eueson : god wolde do riȝtwise assesse or meny / ne for what cause god wolde 3iue to þe soule ; þe surmounted 3iftes of þe goodnesse . of his diuine noblesse / and for þis skile . þe fre soule haþ no wille to wille ne vnwille : but oon li to wille þe wille of god . and suffre in pees his diui ne ordenaunce 3itt loue seþ reson . J am at my de maunde / for þis booke seþ þat þis soule haþ al : and sche haþ nouȝt ¶ It is sooþ seþ loue . for þis soule
haþ god in hir bi diuine grace / and who haþ god ;
haþ al / and it seîþ þat sche haþ nou3t / for al þat þis
soule haþ of god in hir bi 3ifte of diuine grace ; it se
meþ hir nou3t . ne no+more it is as in regarde of þat
þat sche loueþ . þat is in him . whiche he 3iueþ to
noon but to him / And bi þis vndirstandinge þis
soule haþ al ; and schè haþ nou3t / schè wote al : and
sche wote nou3t / sche wote al seîþ loue bi uertu of feiþ :
þat god is al myþt . al wisdome . and al goodnesse &
þat god þe fadir haþ do þe werk of incarnacion ; &
þe sone also . and þe hooligoost also / So þat god þe
fadir haþ ioyyned and vnyed manli nature ; to þe per
soone of god þe sone / and god þe sone haþ y-ioyyned
<fol. 19r>it ; to þe persoone of him sîlf / and god þe hooligoost ; haþ
ioyned it to þe persoone of god þe sone / So þat god þe
fadir haþ in him oonli oon nature ; nature diuine /
and god þe sone haþ in him þre natures ; þt same
nature diuine . and nature of soule . and nature of
body / þis is oon persoone in þe trinite / and god þe hooligoost
haþ in him þis same nature . nature diuine /
Þis to bileeeue . þis to seie . and þis to þenke ; is uer
rei contemplacioun / He is oon myþt . oon wisdome .
on wille . and oonli oon god in þre persoones / þre persoones
and oon good / Þis god is oueral ; in his di
uine nature / but þe manhode is in heuene glorifi
ed . and ioyyned to þe diuine persoone of þe sone ; and
oonli in þe hooli sacrament of þe auter / Þis diui
nite and þis manhode receyuen þe uerrey cristene ;
whanne þei take þe hooli sacrament of þe autere /
Hou wel þis manhooode dweillþ wiþ hem : feiþ te
chîþ it / þis wote clerkis / and we schal seie 3ou hou
seîþ þe li3t of feiþ . hou þis humanite dweillþ wiþ
hem ; as þis bi similitude ¶ Take þis sacrament
and putte it in morter wiþ oþir þinges . and bray þis
sacrament wiþ oþir þinges : so þat 3e may not se ne
feele of þe persoone þat 3ee haue put yn / J seie 3ou forsoþe
seîþ feiþ þit it is not now : siþen it may not be seen
ne felid / To þis 3e may answer . where is it þanne
bicone / Nay seîþ trouþe . it was . and now it is not .
vndirstande hoolli of þe humanite. Þanne may 3e aske if it be goon as it came J seie 3ou seïp troupe. Þat þe humanite of crist ihesu neïper comeïp ne goïp. & how may ðis be seïp temptacion? M ¶ It is þus. Þat þe manho de neïper comeïp ne goïp of crist ihesu but bi his diui ne my3t. & and bi ðe uertu of his hooli word: þe oost turneïp in to his own precious body of fleisch and blood. / His glorious bodi þat is in heuene & knyt to þe diuine persoone of þe sone. comeïp not down in to þe oost; but þe oost turneïp in to him. as it is a-fo re seid / so ðat it is uerrili his own precious body: Þat for us sufferde deep. þankid and worshipid be he euere þerfore / Pu8 þe diuine my3t hap ordeyned þis worpï sacrament. N ¶ Þe seyntes þat ben in he uene schulden se him in noon oïpï semblaunce þan we self don; if þei sawen him in such semblaunce as we seen him / but þei seen bi vndirstandinge of spi rite / For for to se þe humanite of ihesu crist in þe sacrament of þe auter~ glorified. but bi vndirstandinge: it aperteneïp [not] to þe glorie of hem of glorie / Þerfore þei se him not glorified: but bi vndirstandinge / and we seen him bi uertu of feïp / þer~ a3enst seïnynge þe reson of oure wittes; Þat we seen but breed. ne feele. ne sauour. ne smelle / but oure feïp wiïp-seïp al Þat. & bileueïp verrili and sopeli wiïpouten ony dowte: Þat it ne hap whitnesse. ne taast. ne smelle. but þe precious body of oure lord crist ihesu uerreï god and man / now we seen him bi feïp; so doon not þei of glorie / for þei þan ben <fol. 20r>glorified: ne vsen not of feïp / þei seen not bi feïp as we don / Jn þis secrete. þe diuine trinite ãhç ordeyned þe hooli sacrament of þe auter~. hooli chirche to norische and to sustene seïp þe soule of feïp illumyned of þe diuine trinite / such is þe. <mrg>ordenauence of þe</mrg> sacrament of þe autere. in knowinge of him; & in bileeeue of me bi diuine my3t ¶ Þe seye ðat þe meruele 3ou not seïp curtesie of þe good nesse of loue; þou3 we for loue seie 3ou ðese þinges / For J seie 3ou in sooïp. Þat noon may come to deepe foundement. ne to hi3e edifiynge; but if þei come bi sotilte of greet wit of nature. & bi gladnesse of þe
vndirstandinge of þe spirite / And bi þis . a creature
may not to myche knowe ; in askinge þe diuine
wille / for þe vndirstandinge . þat 3iuþ li3t . schewt
to þe soule þing þat sche louþ / And þe soule þat re
ceyueþ bi li3t of vndirstandinge . þe nei3ynge and þe
knyttinge bi acorde of vnyon in plenteouse loue .
seþ þe beynge where þat sche holdeþ to haue hir assise ;
heeriþ gladli þe li3t of knowinge . þat bringeþ hir
tidinges of loue / and þanne sche wolde be bicum
soo ; þat sche hadde but oon wille in loue / and þat is
þe oonli wille of him þat sche louþ \¶ Reson seiþ lo
ue J answere to þee . for J haue seid þat a soule þat is
made free woote al : and sche wote nou3t / S che woote
bi þe uertu of feiþ ; þat þ' hir nediþ to wite for saua
cion / and sche woote nou3t : for sche woote nou3t of
<fol. 20v>þat whiche god haþ in him . of him . for him / þat
he 3iuþ to noon but to him sîl / Þanne bi þis vndir
standinge þis soule wote al ; and sche wote nou3t /
sche willeþ ; and sche willeþ nou3t \¶ For þis soule
seiþ loue willeþ so parfiþli þe wille of god ; þat sche
ne kan wille . ne not may wille . but þe wille of god /
Jn suche prisone loue haþ reclusid hir / And sche willeþ
nou3t / for it is so litil þis þat sche willeþ . and þ' god
willeþ in hir . in regarde of þis þat sche wolde wille ;
þat sche may not haue þat god wole þ' sche haue / &
þis þat hir wil is nou3t as in regarde of hir sufficiency .
whiche was neuere 3oue . ne neuere schal be 3oue . it is to
mene to wille þe wille of god as it is seid bifore / Þan
ne bi þis vndirstandinge þis soule willeþ al : and
sche willeþ nou3t / This dou3ter of syon desirë
neiper massis ne sermons . fastinges ne orisons /
¶ whi so seiþ reson lady loue : it is þe foode of hooli sou
lis / ¶ Jt is sooþ for hem þat crauen seiþ loue . but
þis soule craueþ not / for sche haþ in hir inwardnesse
no nature to desire þing þat is wipoute hir / Now
vndirstande reson seiþ loue . whi desiren suche soules
þese þinges afore seid : siþþe it is so þ' god is oueral
wipoute þat . as wel as wip al þat / þis soule ne haþ
þou3t word . ne werk ; but þe usage of þe diuine grace
of þe trinite / sche ne haþ diseese for synne þat sche
euere dide . ne for sufferaunce þat crist ihesu suffride for hir .
<fol. 21r>ne for synne ne diseese þat her euencristen haue /
¶ A god seiþ reson what is þis to seie . Loue teche me
þe vndirstandinge þat of myn oþir demaundes
haue apeesid me / ¶ Pis to seie seiþ loue . þat þis
is not wiþ hir . ne þis may sche not haue off hir :
for hir þou3t is sett in þe pesible . þat is in þe trinite /
Sche may not þennes meue . ne haue diseese ; as
longe as hir loued is in eese . þou3 þat ony falle in
to synne . ne for synne þat euere was doon / Jt displee
siþ to hir wille ; and so it doþp to god / it is his owen
displeseynge ; þat to þis soule 3iueþ such displesinge /
Jn sooþe seiþ loue . but þe trinite haþ in him no dis
eese for such displesynge / nomore haþ þis soule þat
in him is sett ; and bi him yled / But and þis soule
þat is hi3e sett . my3te helpe ony of his euencristen ;
sche wolde helpe hem at her neede wiþ al her my3t /
But þe þou3tis of þese soules ben so diuine ; þat þei
resten not so myche in þinges þat ben passinge . ne
made . þat þei schulden conceyue ony diseese fore in
her inwardnesse . siþen þat god is good wiþouten
comprenhendinge / This soule 3iueþ to nature al þe
he askiþ hir : wiþoten grucching of conscience /
For alle proprittees of nature ; ben mortefied in þese cre
atures / and þe lawe or oure lord ihesu crist is
wiþynne suche liþf closed ; and þe diuine 3iftes ben
aboue þis lawe / Þis is sooþe seiþ loue . þat þis soule