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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 errours / bi-cause he is turned awei fro
god and bicause þat he desiriþ and seekeþ al þat
is to plesaunce and lust and likyng / 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 plesaunce : may wele be
clepid a propretarie / whiche vice is dampnable
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 reputacion
amonge holi 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 3ifte aboue other
eiþer of worchyng myraclis eiþer reuelacions
or sum oþer 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 comeþ to hem for her merite . and
wene þat it be sent fro god for her holi lyueng
suche men bien boþ proude and blynde . for hem

lackip al goostli li3t and feelyng // and a ful
 litel þing may comforte suche men : for þei
 knowen nat what hem lackip / 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 soleyn
 of wil : and to harde of herte / þerfor her desire
 and her foule couetise stretchip sumtyme
 and spredip . so ferforþ þat what þei .
 desiren þei haue and so oft / sipes þei bien
 disceyued . 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
 <fol. 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 drawip us to god in whiche
 loue we forsaken oure silf ; and þerwiþ
 we bien ooned to god but þe loue of kynde
 dwellip on hym silf . and euermore is lowyng
 to his owne profite nepeles þe loue
 of kynde is as liche to charite as to þe
 worchyng 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 bowip to his profite and ease / whan
 þe loue of kynde passip þus of þe loue of

god and charite be contrarious wille and
 worchyng þanne a man falliþ into foure
 perelous synnes that is to seie 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 silf ;
 <fol. 30r>he turned fro þe wil of god and bi pride . he dide
 aþens goddis comandement / and bi auarice
 he coueitid 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 aþen whiche
 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
 boþ actifly and goostli / þat is to seie wiþ
 grete excercises 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 aþens pride / also she offrid up þ^t 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 graciose 3iftes . whiche plenteuousli
 she receyued of almy3ti god ; but al þat
 sauour and swetnesse she 3af / al hooli to
 <fol. 30v>hym . þat al goodenesse sent / and heere she fond
 grace aþens glotenye / also what clennesses
 she had in bodi and in soule : it nediþ nat to
 expresse / for al cristen fep knowiþ wele : þer
 was neuer erþli creature . þat had þat grace
 of so ful clennesses as she had , in whiche clennesses
 aþens 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 rehersed bifore : must folwe to his power~
 oure blisful ladi outward and inward in
 mekenesse and largete . in abstinence and
 clenness / but for we bien fieble to stonde and
 bi frealte dredeful to falle þerfor as J seide bifore
 wakeþ and preieþ þat 3e falle nat into
 temptacion . <lat></lat>**Hou**

**sum oþer men wenen <the w is partial> þat þei haue fredom of
 spirit & þat þei bien ooned to god wiþoute
 any meane wherfor þei seie 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 hap in suche ydelnese
 kyndeli reste as i seide bifore & 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 bigynnyng þe þrid
 contrarious lyueng whiche is worse þan any
 of þe þre whiche i haue rehersed / for þanne bigynneþ
 a lif vnri3tful and vnskilful ful of
 goostli errors 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 fledde
 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 . natwiþstondyng
 þat þei lyuen contrariousli
 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 wiþout
 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
 þ^t wote þei þat haue assaied it þer is
 no perle of þe i3e so daungerouse whanne
 oon puttþ wiþ-ynne . <mrg>it</mrg> þe yrun . or lynt . or
 stoon þat is þe deef of him ; as is diuine loue
 if oon do a3ens him / his beyng is alwei in parfijt
 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 aftirwarde 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 ; wiþouten hir
 wityng / Þese folkis bien mekid of god him _{silf}
 I Bihi3te seiþ þis soule . of the
 takynges of loue sum þinges to seiþ
 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

<Tranche 2>

<fol. 213v>loue it bettre þan for to dwelle in þ^t glorie
 ¶ And þou3 J wiste þat it mi3t be . þat þe
 swete manhede of crist ihesu and þe uirgyne
 and al þe court of heuene mi3t not suffre
 þat J had þe tormentis euerlastyngli . but
 þat J had þe beyng þat J was come fro . and

god seep þis in him if it mi3t be þis pite of
 hem and þis goode wille ; þus seiþ to me if
 þou wilt J shal 3ilde þee þat whiche þou art
 comen fro bi my wil . for þis þat my friendis
 of my court wolen it but ne were her
 wille ; þou shuldest not haue it wherfore
 J 3ilde þee þis 3ifte if þou wolt take it Jt
 shulde falle in my choys rap^{er} wiþouten
 ende to dwelle in torment ; þan J shuld take
 it siþþe 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+mi3t
 not suffre it but if J had it of þe pure loue
 þat he haþ to me for me of his pure bounte
 and of his alloone wille and loue ; þ^t loued
 haþ to louer ¶ And þanne J seide to him
 þat if J wiste it mi3te more plese him þat
 J loued anoþer more þan him ; heere me failiþ
 wit þus it goiþ . þat J ne feelee my3t ne
 <fol. 214r>wille to graunte ; but J aunswerd þat . J
 shulde counsaile me ¶ And þanne J seide
 þis þat if it mi3t be þat he mi3t loue anoþ
 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 mi3t be þat he mi3t
 wille þat anoþir loued me more þan he loueþ
 me . here 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
 ri3t so J dide . J counsailed me at him silf &
 seide him þat þese þre þinges weren right
 harde ; for bi þe toþir weren bifore / þat J
 shulde loue anoþir more þanne him . and he
 anoþer more þane me & þat anoþer shuld loue
 me more þan he ; witt failid me heere for
 J mi3t not to 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 mi3t not for noþing 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 poynt and alweies
 J mi3t haue noo pees ; but if J aunswerd
 to þis forsaide ¶ A J loued me þis
 <fol. 214v>hadde me þerfor 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 suffri^d
 so greete distresse
 NOu J shal seie 3ou myn aunswere J
 seid to him of him þat he wold proue
 me of al poyntes Alas what haue J seid
 J shal speke no word more þe hert made
 alone of him in þis bataile what shal
 J aunswere in angwissh of deep ; 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 mi3te 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 euerlastyngli
 endure in soopenesse . as it is in demaundes
 ; J loue 3ou for 3ou and and of 3ou þerfor
 þat J vnwolde for 3ou and if y had þe
 same þat 3e haue wiþ þe creacion þat 3e
 haue 3ouen me . and mi3te 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 opir þan for me þis shuld
 3e nat do . siþen þat 3e wolde it wiþouten
 eny of 3oure goodenesse . þese þre poyntes
 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
 endyng 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 /
 ¶ Panne cam to me ri3twisnesse and askid
 me what sparyng J wolde haue of hym
 or of þing þat torment mi3t me do
 Panne 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-þrowe ; and in þe fire
 me hadde þe deep y-3ouen : 3e haue sumþing
 herd heere he seide to me . J holde al-þinge
 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 semeþ 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
 anoan þis þat J am ; J am pure nou3t. <mrg>Alas what wolde pure nou3t</mrg>
 it haþ 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 a3en+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 to þe soopenesse . 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
 seiþ þis soule sum biholdyng . hou J me
 compleyned for to vncombre 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^t þe
 soule haþ to hir silf / but she wenep 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 louep
 wiþouten hir wityng / and þere þei bien
 disceyued þat louen bi þe tendirnesse þat
 þei haue to affeccion ; þat suffrep 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 seiþ 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 haþ 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 perished
 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 spekþ of þ^t haue oon alone wille
þat fyne loue makþ 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 deuoure siþen god may neiþer wexe ne