



<County: Shropshire>

<Code: L4218a>

<MS reference: London, BL Add. 34779>

<Text: Piers Plowman C>

<Tranche 1>

<fol. 8r><lat></lat>

and dauid vndop him-selff as þe dombe shewep

<lat></lat>

To-morwe worþ mede iweddēt to a+manset wreche

To on fauel faibles off þe deuels kynne

Fauel þru3 his flatering speche haþ mede foul enchaunted

And al is liars leding þat þis ladi is þus iweddēt

Soffre and þou schalt see suche as ben apaide

Þat mede is þus imaried to-morue þou schalt asprie

Knowe hem wel iff þou canst and kepe þe fro hem alle

Þat louep her lordschip lasse oþur more

Lakke hem nou3t but lat hem worþe / til lewte be iustice

And haue power to punisch hem þan put forþ þi resoun

For i+bi-kenne þe crist quod sheo and his clene modur

And acombrie neuer þi conciens to couetis off mede

Þus lafft me þat ladi ligging aslepe

And sai3 how mede was maried meting as hit wer

Alle þe riche retenans þat roteep hem off fals liuing

Weren beden to þe bridale off boþe half þe contree

Off mani maner men þat off mede kin wer~

Off kni3tes and clerkes and off comin peple

As sisours somnores shire-reues and her clerkes

Bedels and bailliffs and brokers off chaffar~

Fore-goers off vitailers and vokes off þe arches

y can nou3t rikne þe rowte þat ran abowt mede

Ac ciuile and simonie . <mrg>and</mrg> cisours off contrees and <and in diff hand?>

Weren most priue wiþ mede off any men me þou3t

Ac fauel was þe furst þat fette hure out off chambr~

And a+brokour brou3t hur~ forþ to ioingne hur~ to fals
 When simoni and ciuile isai3 þer boþe wille
 Þei assenteden hit wer so at seluers praier
 Pan leop liar forþ and said hier a+chartre
 Pat gile haþ 3euen to falshed . and graunted also to mede
 And preieþ ciuile to see hit / and symony to red hit
 Penne symony and ciuile standeþ forþ boþe
 And vnfeldet þe fefment þat fals had made
 Pen said symony þat ciuile hit herd
 Al þat loueþ and bileueþ up liking off mede
 Leueþ hit trewly þis worþ her last mede
 Pat folweþ falsnes fauel and liar
 Mede and suche men þat afftur mede waiten
 <lat></lat>
 Witen and witnessen þat woneþ on erþe
 <fol. 8v>Pat mede is maried more for her riches
 Pan for holines oþur hendnes oþur for eni kinnd
 Falsnes is fain off hure for he wot hure riche
 And fauel þat haþ a+fals speche feffed hem bi+þis ~~lette~~ <add>letter</add>
 To be prince in pruide and pouert to despise
 To bakbite and bost and bere fals witnes
 To scorne and to scolde and sclaundre to make
 Vnboxum and bold to breke þe ten hestes
 Þe eorldam off Enuye and Ire he hem graunteþ
 Wiþ þe castel off chest and chatering out off resoun
 Þe counte off couetis concenteþ to hem boþe
 Wiþ vsur~ and auaris and oþur fals slei3þes
 In bargains and brokages wiþ þe borwe off þeofft
 Wiþ al þe lordschip off lecherie in lengþe and in brede
 As in waiting and in worching & waiting off 3eres
 In woldes and in wosching and wiþ idel pou3tes
 Per þat wille wold and werkmanship ~~wold~~
 Glotonye eggeþ hem and gret oþes to-gederes
 Al dai to drink at diuers tauernes
 And þer to iangle and to iape and iugge þin euencristen
 And fasting daies to frete bi-for~ non and drink wiþ spices
 Idelnes and vain speche speke þen afftur
 And sowe forþ suche felawschip til þei fallen in slewþe
 And awake wiþ wanhope and no wille to amend

For he leueþ be lost when he is liff leteþ
 Þis liff to folwe falsnes and folk þat on hem leueþ
 Afftur *her* deþ duellen day wiþ-outene end
 In lordschip wiþ lucifer as þis *letre* scheweþ
 Wiþ al þe appurtinaunce off ~~purgatory~~ and þe peine off helle
 In witnes off þis þing wrang was þe furst
 And piers þe *perdoner* off palmes+quest & þe budel off *banbery* sokne
 Reignald þe reue and reding kinges many
 Mund þe muller and many mo oþur
 In þe date off þe deuel þis dede was enselled
 Bisi3t off sir symony and ciuils leue
 Þen tened him theologie when he tales þus herd
 And said to symony now sorwe mot þou haue
 Suche a+wedding to worche þat wrapþe my3t trewþe
 <fol. 9r>And ar þis wedding be wrou3t wo to alle 3our counsail
 For mede is mulier amendes was hur~ dame
 Alpau3 fals wer *her* fadur and fikel tong *her* belsir~
 Amendes was hur~ modur bi trewe mans counsail
 And wiþ-out hur modur amendes . mede mai nou3t be weddet
 For trewþ pliht hur~ trewþe to wed on off *her* dou3tres
 And god *graunt* hit wer so so þer wer no gile
 And þau3 hast 3aff hur~ as gile <add>þ</add>ou3t <change by other hand> god 3eue him sorwe
 For siuile and þi-selue sield fulfillest
 Þat god wold wer ido wiþ-out any disceit
 Þ theo.^[10]gie <h seems to be added on top of another, illegible, letter> þe trewe tixt knowe iff trewe
 dom witnes
 Þat laurans þe leuite þat lai on þe gred iren
 Loked up to our lord and aloud saide
 God off þi grace heuen gates open
 For y man þru3 þi merci mede haue discerned
 Hit semeþ sobli ri3t so on erþe
 Þat mede may be weddet to no+man but to trewþe
 & þou hast feffed hure wiþ fals fi+on suche lawe
 For bi lesinges 3e lachen largeliche mede
 Þat 3e nemeþ and notares to nou3t ginneþ bring
 Holi+church and charite 3e cheweþ and deuoureþ
 3e shuln abuggen hit boþe but 3e amend þe souner
 For wel 3e weteþ wirnardes as heli writ telleþ
 Þat fals is faibles þe fend is his sir~

And as a+bastard ibore bi3ete nas he neu~
 And mede is mulier and maiden off gode
 Sheo mi3t kusse þe king as for his kins-womman
 Forþi worcheþ bi wisdom and bi wit als
 And ledeþ hur~ to london þer lawe may declar~
 Wher matrimony may be off mede and off falshed
 And þau3 iustices en-ioigneþ hem þru3 iurores opes
 3et beþ war off þe wedding for witti is trewþe
 And conciens is off his councel and knoweþ 3ow alle
 And iff he find 3ow in+defaut and wiþ þo fals hald
 Hit shal sitte 3owr~ soules ful sore at þe last
 Hier-to assenteþ siuile ac symony ne wold
 Til he had seluer for þeo seal and signes off notarie
 Þo fette fauel forþ florenis ynowe
 For he may mede amaistrer wiþ his meri speche
 Þo þis gold was 3eue gret was þe þonking
 <fol. 9v>Þat fauel and fals hadde for her fair 3iftes
 And comen ful curtesly to comfort þe fals
 And saiden sooply sese shuln we neuer
 Til mede be þi weddet wiff nul we nou3t stunt
 We wol mede amaistr~ þru3 our meri tong
 Pat he graunteþ to go wiþ a+good wille
 To londoun and to loke iff lawe wol iuge
 To be maried for money mede haþ assented
 Þenne was fauel fain and falsnes bliþe
 And let somnen al his segge <?> on vche side aboute
 And bad hem alle be boun beggers and oþur
 To+wend wiþ him to westminster his wedding to honour~
 Ac hakenais had þei none but hakeneis to hure
 Þen gan gile go borwe hors at many gret lordes
 And ordeint þat a+schire reue shuld bere mede
 Soffte in chambre fram sise to sise
 And fals and fauel fache forþ sisours
 And ride on hem & on reues ri3t fast bi mede
 Symony and ciuile saiden and swor
 Pat prestes and prouisours shuld prelates serue

<Tranche 2>

<fol. 41r>þe goodes off þis ground ben likned to gret wawes
 Pat as windes and wedres þat walkeþ al about
 þe bot is likned our bodi þat bretel is off kynd
 Pat þru3 fond and our flesch and þe britek<sic> kind
 Sun-geþ seue sipes þe saddest man on erþe
 An liff holiest off liff þat liueþ vndur sonne
 Ac fre wille and fre wit folweþ man euer
 To repente and to rise and to rome out off synne
 And contrission and confessione til he come to his ende
 For raþer haue we no rest til þat we restitute
 Our liff to our lord god for our licams gultes
 Y haue no kind knowlache to knowe al þis speche
 Ac iff i+may liue lurne i+shal better / ibiken þe crist þat on þe cros dei3ed
 And y say þe same saue 3ow fro mishappe
 And 3eue ous grace on þis ground a good end to make
 J went forþ wide wher walking min one
 Til i+met wiþ a+man þou3t was his name
 Y asked him ful fair what was dowel fro dobet & dobest fro hem boþe
 Sir wit quod þou3t hier can telle þe ful wel
 And saide sir dowel and wit dwelleþ nou3t a+daies *Journe* hens
 Jn a+castel þat kynd made off iiij . *maner* þinges
 Off erþe and eir hit is mad medlet to-gederes
 Wiþ wind and wiþ water witturly en-ioigned
 Kind haþ closed þe þer kindly wiþ alle
 A *lemman* þat he loueþ ilik to him-selff
 Anima sheo hatte to hure haþ enuie
 A prowð priker off *fraunce* princeps *huius mundi*
 A wold wyne hure away wiþ wiles and he my3t
 And kinnd knoweþ þis wel and kepeþ hure þe better
 And haþ don hure wiþ sir dowel duc off þis marches
 Dobet is hure damisel sir dowels dou3ter
 To serue þat ladi trewly boþe late and rape
 Dobest is aboue boþe a+bischopes pier~
 And bi his lurning is lad his ladi anima
 Ac þe constable off þat castel þat kepeþ hem alle
 Ys a+wis kni3t . wiþ al sir in-wit he hatte
 And haþ fiff fair sones bi his furst wyue

Syr worche we wiþ þin hand a+my3ty man off streinþe
 And sir good faiþ dowel gret lordes alle
 <fol. 41v>Þese Fiff ben set to saue anima
 Til kind come and send and saue anima to kepe him-selue
 What maner þing is kind quod y canst þou me telle
 Kind is creature quod off many maner þinges
 Fadur and formour off al þat forþ groweþ
 Þe which is god grettest biginning had he neuer
 Lord off liff and off li3t off lisse and paine
 Aungles and al þinges ben at his wille
 Man is him most lik off membre and off face
 And sembable to god in soule but sinne hit make
 And as þou ne sist þe sonne somtyme for clowdes
 May nou3t shine ne shewe on shalkes on erþe
 So latteþ lecherie and oþur luþer synnes
 Þat god showeþ nou3t suche sinful and suffreþ hem misfar~
 And som hangeþ hem-selff and oþur-whil adrencheþ
 God nul nou3t of hem wite but let hem iworþe
 As þe sauter saiþ bi sinful shrewes
 <lat></lat>
 And suche men luþer liuing lome ben riche
 & off gold and oþur good ac good grace hem lakeþ
 And þei loueþ and bileueþ al her liff time
 On catel more þen on kind þat al þing wrou3t
 Þe whiche is loue and liff þat last wiþout end
 Ynwit and alle wittes closed ben þer-ynne
 Bi loue and bi+lewte þer bilyueþ anima
 And liff liueþ bi inwit and liuing bi kind
 Jnwit is þe hed and anima þe hert /
 And meche wo worþ him þat inwit mispenenþ
 For þat is goddes owne good his grace & his tresour
 Þat many man leseþ þru3 likerous drink
 As loot dede and noe and herowdes daffe
 3aff his dou3ter for a+dauncing seint ions hed
 Off þat blessed baptisst bifore al his gestes
 Eueri man þat haþ inwit and his hele boþe
 Haþ tresour inou3 off trewþe him-selff to helpe
 Ac fautins and foles þat faut inwit
 Frendes shuln find hem and out off foli kepe

And holi+churche help so to & þen shuld no+man begge
 Ne spille speche ne tyme ne myspend neiþer
 Meble ne vnmeble mete ne drink
 <fol. 42r>Ac þen dede we wel and wel bet þen to louye / our enmys entierly & helpe
 And 3et wer best to bring to hepe al landes to vnitee in on lawe
 Bischopes shuld ben about þis ^[to] bring to hepe
 Pat alle landes liu^ed and so her liff þer-fore to lete
 Þe catel þat crist had þreo clopes hit wer~ / & off hem was he robbet
 And afftur losst his liff for lawe shuld loue waxe
 Prelates and prestes and princes off holi church
 Shuld nou3t dowte no+deeph ne no dere 3eres to wend as wide as þe world
 to tily þe erþe wiþ tonge & teche men to lyue
 For who-so loueþ leue me god nullot hm leue in mischieff ne defaut
 <lat></lat>
 Who-so leueþ in lawe and in loue deþ wel
 Ac þis weddet men þat þis world susteineþ
 For off her kind þei cam boþe confessours and martirs
 Profetes and patriarkes confessours & martirs
 For god saiþ him-selff shal neuer good appul
 Þru3 no soutil sciens on sour stok growe
 And nis no more to mene but men þat ben bigeten
 Out off matrymony nou3t mulier mowe nowt haue grace
 Pat trewe legittym bi+þe lawe may clayme
 And þat my sawe is soop þe sauter bereþ witnes
 <lat></lat>
 Caim þe cursed creatur~ conceiued was yn synne
 Afftur þat adam and eue hadde ysynget
 Wip-out repentauns off her rebelnes a+ribawd þei en-gedret /
 As an huwe þat crieþ auntreþ him to sowe
 On a+leie-land a3enis his lordes wille
 So was caim conceiued and so ben cursed wreches
 Pat licam han a3enis þe lawe þat our lord ordeint
 And for þe synne off caiyms blod said god to Noe
 <lat></lat>
 And bad go schape a+schip off shides and bordes
 Þi-selff and þi sones þre & her wiues als to dwell þerynne
 Til xl be fulfild and flood haue ywaschen
 Clene away þe cursed blod þat off caim sprang
 bestes þ^t now ben shuln banne þe tyme & founs als

And alle shuluden dei3e for his dedes bi dales & downes
 Except only off uche a+kynd a+peir~
 Þat in þy shynglet ship shal be wiþ þe saued
 hier abou3t þe . child þe belsires gultes
 <fol. 42v>And al for *her* fore-fadres þei ferden þe worse
 Þe gospel is her a3eins as men now rede
 <lat></lat>
 holi writ witnesseþ þat for no wiked dede
 Þat þe sir~ bi him-selff dede þe sone shuld nou3t be þe worse
 Ac westminster lawe worcheþ þe contrari for þou3 þe franklayn be hanget
 Þe heritage off þe eir is at þe kinges wille
 Ac þe gospel is as þe glose þer and hindeþ þe verray trewþe
 For god said ensample off suche maner issue
 Þat kynd folweþ kynd þat contrarieþ neuer
 Ac whi þe world was adreint holi writ telleþ
 Was for mariages making / þat men mad somtyme
 Afftur þat caym þat cursed had ikuld abel
 Seþ adam sone seeþ was engendrit
 And god sent to seeþ so sone he was off age
 Þat for no maner catel ne for no by hest
 Suffren his sied seden wiþ caym his broþer
 And seþþe for he suffred hit god said me forþenkeþ
 Þat y man made opir matrimony suffr~
 For good shold wedde þe goode þau3 þei no good hadde
 For y am <lat>via & veritas</lat> & may auuanse alle
 Fond fewe folk þis folwe now / for þei 3eue *her* childr~
 For couetis off catel & konnyng chapmen
 Off kyn ne off kynrede ne counteþ þei but luitul
 And þau3 he be louelichen to loke on & louessen abedde
 A maid & wel ymaried & off good men isprunges
 But iff heo haue oper good haue hur~ no+man nulle
 Ac let *hem* ben vnlouely & vn-lossom abedde
 A bastard a bond a+begeneld dou3ter
 Þat no curtesie ne *can* but let hur~ be knowe
 For riches oper for rent þau3 she ryulle for eld
 Þer nis squier ne kny3t ne in contre abowte
 Þat he nul bowe to þat bond & bid hur~ an husband
 And wedden hur~ for *her* welþe & wischen on þe morwe
 Þat his wiff wer waxeþ a+walet off nobles /



The Middle English Grammar Project | Department of Cultural and Language Studies |
Faculty of Arts and Education | University of Stavanger | N-4036 Stavanger |
www.uis.no/research/culture/the_middle_english_grammar_project/

In gelosie gelous & gangeling / abedde
Many a+pair~ seþ pestilens han pli3t trewþe to loue