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<Text: Speculum Vitae>

<Tranche 1>

<fol. ara>Of ye warlde . & all ye noblenes
For whenn he sese it all sammen
Hym thynk noght bot a barne gammen
Or als a dreame in a slepe
Yen forsakes he warldes wirschepe
Thurgh hardines of hert stable
He traistes in godde so merciable
Whenn he dar habide so wele
ye angers of ye warlde & fele
And alkyn noye thole & proue
Or take ye dede for goddes lofe
ye seuen brannches now haf J redde
yat in þe meke manes hert er spreadde
All yai spryng both more & lesse
Out of ye vertu ^[of] mekenes
yat ledes a mann by right way
To ye blissedhede yat is to say
Of gastly pouert yat godde pais
And to his mede als godde yus sais
Blissed be ye pore in gaste
For heuen rike yairs is maste
Her may 3e se who so takes hede
whare of it serues ye gift of drede
It is ye last yat we craue
Bot it is ye first yat we sulde hafe
yat gift may ye seuent askyng
Of ye pater noster to vs bryng
yat may vs fro all ill defende



ye whilk gift . Jhesi *crist* vs sende
<lat></lat>
Nowther gift . 3ett may we gete
Als her is *in* yis boke sett
yat *after* ye gift of drede sulde be
And is ye gift of pite
ye whilk ye sext askyng may *wynn* vs
Jn ye *pater noster* so *precious*
þis gift of pite is slike a *grace*
yat to *charite* it may vs chace
And strenght+our hertis & fest so faste
yat no fayndyng vs may done caste
yis gift of pite is full myghty
Jt puttis a-way ye *synn* of enuy
<fol. arb>Out of ye hert yer it is *Jnn*
And settis *frenschip* *in* stede of yat *synn*
Enuy in thre partes may sprede
Jn hert *in* mouth & in dede
Jn hert it spredes thurgh thynges
yat in ye enuyous *mann* hert hynges
A+fals demyng ye first thyng es
ye toyer is a wicked gladdenes
ye threde is a fole forthynkyng
yes thre . out of enuy may spryng
A fals demyng may yis be
whenn ye enuyous may here or se
ye gudenenes of a-nothir *mann*
And *in* hert demes *hym* falsly yan
A wickede gladdenes yis *menn* calles
whenn ioy in a *mannes* hert falles
Of oyer *menns* noye or greuaunce
Or of any harme yat comes thurgh chaunce
A fole forthynkyng is yis calede
whenn a *mann* in hert will halde
Outhyr mourenyng . dole or care
For any manes wele fare
Enuy also spredes *in* mouthe
Thurgh thre thynges yat er couthe
Thurgh myssayng & bitternes

Thurgh bakbityng ye threde es
 For at ye dosell menn may know
 what licour is in ye tunn to draw
 missayng of mouth first is yis
 when a mann spekes oght of mys
 Of any othir mennes gudeness
 And paynes hym to mak it lesse
 Bitterness is yis bi skill
 when a mann heres of oyer menes ill
 he sekess & makes it mare
 And dose it be knawen wide where
 Backbityng is yis to say
 whenn a mann spekes ill ay
 And turnes all yat he may here
 Of oyer menn . to ye warst manere
 In dede also spredess enuy
 Thurgh thre thynges specially
 <fol. ava>Thurgh restrenyng of gude bigynnyng
 Thurgh fordoyng of gude wynnyng
 Thurgh dressyng of wickede wiles
 At yes thre ye fende smyles
 Restrenyng may yis be to lak
 Whenn he ye enuyous puttis a-bak
 A mann yat has gude begynnyng
 And will do wele in althyng
 Both to godde & to ilk mann
 Hym lettis ye enuyous als he can
 A fordoyng menn may .^[yis] tell
 when he yat is enuyous & fell
 Distroys a-nothyr mann thurgh myght
 þat to godde & mann dose right
 Dressyng of wiles yat er wik
 yat Inn ye enuyous mannes hert may stik
 A-gayne gude men yat is to a-bate
 yair gude name & yair state
 ye whilk enuyous nyght & day
 waytis to fordo in all yat he may .
 Menn may liken ye enuyous
 vnto a worme yat is venemous

yat clerkes calles on latyn yus
 Als ye boke sais basiliscus
 ye whilk destroyes als menn has sene
 ye gresse yat groues whenn it is grene
 And namely a thyng als we se
 yat is corne yat has states thre
 First ye corne semes als gresse
 yat waxes ay+mare & noght lesse
 Sithen it spires & florische faire
 Thurgh *vertu* & thurgh kynde of ye aire
 yen *after* becomes [˘] [it] corne ripe
 Both forto bery & forto stripe
 ye gresse betokyns yat first sulde spring
 A mann yat has gude begynnnyng
 To do wele als his hert is sett
 And ^[yat] will ye enuyous mann lette
 Als dose ye worme w^t-inn a stonnde
 yat lettis ye gresse yat groues on gronde
 ye florischyng to se & fele
 Betokens a mann yat dose here wele
 <fol. avb>A-gayne hymm is ye enuyous bounne
 To distroy hym & bryng hym doune
 Als ye worme dose thurgh his myght
 yat destroyes ye gresse yat floris ri3t
 ye ripe corne yat is in sesoune
 Betokens ^{yai} [˘] ^[gude] menn of renoune
 Agayne ^[yaim] ye enuyous mann
 Sekis all wiles yat he cann
 To fordo here yair gude fame
 And to bryng yaim to worldes schame
 For ye mare yat gude menn dose wele
 ye mare soro^[u] may ye enuyous fele
 ye synn of enuy is so perilous
 yat vnnethes nay ye enuyous
 Comm to right repentaunce
 It brynges hym to slike ane encumbraunce
 For it is a synnn yat godde hates maste
 It ^[is] contrarius vnto ye haly gaste
 yat is of all gudenys ye well

For godde sais yus *in* ye gspell
 yat who so synnes & dose ill
 Agaynes ye haly+gaste thurgh will
 In yis warlde getis he no mercy
 Ne in ye thoथyr of yat foly
 For he yat dose slike a vice
 He synnes thurgh will & malice
 Bot 3e sall sauely vnderstande
 And noght be ouer-mekill dredande
 yat ^[it] is none so gret synn done
 yat ne godde will forgyf it sone
 Jf a mann will hym repente
 In his life w^t gude talent
 Bot vnnethes will a mann begynne
 To repent hym of slik a synn
 Bot ser synnes fynde J speciele
 Agayne ye haly gaste to fele
 An is *presumpcioun* of hert balde
 yat is ouerhope *in* inglische calde
 Wanhope is ye secunde synn
 wo is hym yat endes yer-Jnn
 Ye threde is hardynes of hert
 ye ferthe is . dispite of penaunce smert
 <fol. bra>ye fift es wereyng of oyer menn
 Of ye *grace* of ye haly+gaste to kenne
 ye sext synn yer-aftyre es
 wereyng a-gayn sothfastnes
 Ouerhope *propely* may be yis
 When a mann ledes his wittes omys
 yat will noght lefe his foly
 Bot traistis all *in* goddes mercy
 Her makes he goddes mercy ouer-large
 yis ^[es] a synn gretly to charge
 For all if leuede ay als a swyne
 He wenes yat godde will hym noght tyne
 yer haldes he godde vnrightwise
 And his rightwisnes of litill prise
 So goddes mercy ouer-large menn makes
 And his rightwisnes ouer scharse takes

And thurgh yat may menn so lang synn
 yat mercy of godde sall yai neuer wynn
 A-nothir synn is wanhope callede
 yat is yis proprely to hald
 whenn a mann is so full of foly
 yat he traystis no3t in goddes mercy
 For gyf hym ye synn yat he has wro3t
 he wenes & hopes yat godde may no3t
 So makes wanhope goddes mercy lesse
 Als ouerhope dose his rightwisnes
 Bot is nane yat mercy will hafe
 yat he+ne may hafe & he will it crafe
 yat is if he will folow yerto
 And schrif hym wele & penaunce do
 And make a-mendes of all his ill
 And turne hym after to goddes will
 And elles he is noght worthy
 To hafe forgifnes & mercy
 For godde sais yus in ye gspell
 Als 3e may here yes clerkes tell
 Als sall noght he sais . [yat says] yus
 lorde . lorde haue mercy on vs
 Do ye kyngdome of heuen wende
 To life in ioy w^t-outen ende
 Bot yai anely yat will fulfill
 In all thyng my fader will
 <fol. brb>Hardynes of hert is ye threde
 yat is whenn a mann is so stedde
 yat he is hardend+in his synn
 yat no mann may hym out wynn .
 For he will for no thyng hym amende
 yat menn may warne hym or defende
 whenn a mann thurgh wickede encumbranche
 ye ferthe is dispite of penaunce
 Js neuer in will ne in entente
 Of his synn hym to repente
 ye fift is weryng a-gayne grace
 Of ye haly gaste yat we purchace
 Als whenn a mann walde fordo & waste

Menn yat er ledde thurgh ye haly+gaste
 For ye enuyous walde fayne fordo
 yat ye haly gaste puttis yaim to
 ye sext synn & ye laste is yis
 weryng a-gayne sothfastnes
 Principally of ye trouth right
 Als whenn a mann w^t all his myght
 wyttandly halde*s* yer agayne
 yen getes he no mercy sartayne
 For who so halde*s* agayne ye fathe
 He dose heresy yat synn is laithe

<Tranche 2>

<fol. era>yat be-houes hym stoppe in ye dett
 Or elles wreke of godde he sall gett
 For ilk man sulde for goddes sake
 To oyer frest & no3t yerfore take
 yen will godde for yat dede
 Specially graunt hym his mede
 ye threde maner of oker kidde
 Js yis yat mekill is hidde
 Als when a man weldes a thyng
 yat his frendes wan ^[w^t] okeryng
 And yai be passede out of yis life
 Be it fader moder or wife
 He sulde no3t halde it in store
 Bot he sulde make a-sethe yerfore
 yat is to say if he may witt
 how his frendes hafe wonnen it
 And if he do he is gilty
 Als he yat first didde yat foly
 ye ferth maner is charchande
 yat is yis to vnderstande
 Als when a mann his seruant has
 yat oker to his vse tase
 If he yer-of payede hym halde
 He may be maister okerer calde
 ye fift maner of <gap> oker is yis

yat somme men vses yat lenys of mysse
 Als when a man for oker lens
 ye siluer yat is oyer mens
 yat he *in* kepyng has to safe
 w^t yat yus will he ye oker hafe
 Or if a mann born *in* priuete
 For oker siluer or oyer mone
 To lene to oyer for to hafe
 More oker *yen* he to oyer gafe
 He yat is disciple okerer
 yat maner sall he by full dere
 bot he yer-fore mendes make
 Or ye dede *hym* hethen take
 ye sext is yis when a man selles
 Corne or beste or oght elles
 And frestes it to a terme day
 And selles derrer for frest of þe pay
 <fol. erb>In ye dett if he do wele
 He sulde alow it ilk a dele
 yat he has more als J vnderstande
yenn he walde firste hafe tane *in* hande
 And bot he do he monne be schent
 When he is of yis warlde went
 ye seuent maner of oker soght
 Js yis yat charges some menn no3t
 Als when a man selles a thyng anely
 To *hym* yat nede has it to by
 For he sees wele & cann witt
 yat he yat byes may no3t tharne it
yenn selles he it double prys
 he takes ouer mekill on yat wise
 No more he sulde take of *hym* yan
yen it wer worth to a-noyer mann
 For all yat tym yat he takes mare
yen ye worth he sall rew sare
 For on yat wise dose he no3t
 Als he walde to *hym*-selfe were wro3t
 yer-fore sall he aresonde be
 For he dose a-gayne charite

ye aghtende maner is yis to <ill><repetition of the t?></ill> drede

When a man sees a-*noyer* has nede

To sell corne catell or fee

Be-fore ye tyme yat fell to be

yenn byes .^[he] it for a light pris

To his auantage on yis wis

So yat he make before ye pay

And ye corne habide to a-*noyer* day

yus gates is ye bargayne wroght

So yat ye byer has ye half for no3t

For ye day may fall so

ye corne is worght slike two

yer-for he sulde whenn he it tase

Pay hym more als corne yenn gase

And if he rewarde hym w^t no more

yann tase je oker als J saide are

ye nente maner of oker J fynde

yat makes somme menns conscience blynde

yat is whenn a mann for a-uauntage

Lenes siluer for rent in morgage

<fol. eva>And takes ye *profet* of ye rent

Ouer ye siluer yat it lent

Of all ye tyme to ye day

yat sett is to take ye pay .

Bot he ye *profitt* to pris sett

And alow it in ye dett

His saule sall be in grete daungere

Als he yat is ane okerere

ye tent maner of oker may be

In yis case yat menn may se

Als when a mann w^t-haldes for ay

A wedde yat laide is to a day

For he has no3t ye pay of ye dett

Namely at ye day yat is sett

All if ye conaunt slike ware

3tt if ye wedde wer worth mare

ye dett amounte myght

Hym behouede 3elde agayn thurgh ri3t

Or elles he sall haue a harde fitt

Whenn he sall out of yis warlde flit
 Or if a mann wedde yat is laide
 Wer ay to ye dett be payede
 Jf it be payrede als J trow
 Jn ye pay hym behoues alow
 And stoppe als mekill & no lesse
 Als ye wedde appairede yen es
 And bot he do J warne hym wele
 He mon yerfore harde payne fele
 ye elleuent manere fynde J now
 yat is yis J dar a+wo auow
 Whenn a mann takes till a marchande
 Siluer or golde by yis conande
 yat he hafe halfe yat wynnyng es
 And his awen ^[siluer] neuer-ye-lesse
 Jf he take ^[halfe] wynnyng fre
 w^t-outen oker yat may no3t be
 For he will haue half wynnyng
 And no3t alow if yar be tynnyng
 Bor if he make slike a connande
 yat he to perell of losse will stande
 And alow als falles to all costage
 yen may he take halfe auauntage
 <fol. evb>Leffully . als ye conante es
 w^t-outen oker & yat skill . es
 And ye same maner in catell lyse
 þat to halfe is laten on yis wise
 When a mann letes catell or fe
 To halfe if slik ye connande be
^[he] þat half ye auauntage hafe
 þat yer-of commes & his awene safe
 so yat if yat catell be loste
 He will hafe hailly yat it coste
 Ne alow will no costage
 yenn halde J oker all his vauntage
 ye twelft maner of oker is ill
 þat is yis yat somme vse will
 Als whenn a mann will firste & lenne
 Siluer or corne to symple menn

Or othyr thyng yat mote yaim vaile
 þen puttes he yaim to trauaile
 In his werkes yat he walde were wro3t
 And elles walde he firste yaim no3t
 Or if yai may no3t ye dett pay
 Als yai er haldene at a day
 þen he ^[makes] w^t yaim coneande
 To wirk his werkes w^t fote or hande
 For yat dett yat yai hymm awen
 yerto he byndes yaim w^t ye law
 He will for ilk peny of ye dett
 Thre peny worth of werk sett
 þis is a synfull bargayne
 yerfore he monn hafe mekill payne
 Now hafe J schewede on sere wise
 ye case in whilk oker lise
 Þe secund braunche of auarice
 Js theft yat is a wickede vice
 Bot fife maners of theft J fynde
 In whilk couatyse mase menn blynde
 For if yai yat menn here thefes calles
 Couthe se what dome to thefes falles
 Thurgh laghe of lande & goddes laghe
 To stele oght yai sulde hafe aghe
 Ane maner of theft is theft apert
 Anoyer priue ye therde couert
 <fol. fra>þe ferthe es litill theft to know
 þe fift is theft of thefes felaw
 Apert theft dose he yat mann
 þat thurgh sleghet stele apertly cann
 And hauntes oft yat foly
 To sustayne hym & his yer-by
 He were worthy als J vnderstande
 Be taken & hangede by laghe of lande
 A priue theft dose he yis
 þat takes oght yat is no3t his
 And haldes it priuely als his awen
 And 3hett is he for trew mann knawen
 Bot wheder he take more or lesse

A priuy thefe he yat es
 Bot all if he be here for trew kidde
 Fro godde may no3t yat theft .^[be] hidde
 And yof he schape here ye laghe of lande
 To goddes laghe hym be-houes stande
 For whenn his saule is hethen flemede
 Thurgh goddes laghe . he sall be demede
 And perchaunce to endles payne
 Bor he 3elde it here a-gayne
 A couert theft dose he in case
 yat kepyng of his lordes godes has
 Als bayllif seruant or grayfe
 þat falles his lordes rentes to resceyfe
 And in his count rekens lesse
 ye reseytes yen ye spens es
 so sleghly he cann his acounntes sett
 þat ye lorde rynnes in his dett
 And puttes hym selfe to auantage
 þer he sulde be in a rerage
 so slely he steles his lordes rent
 Me thynk he were worthy be schent
 3hett thurgh colour of his office
 He haunttes couertly yis vice
 Auantage of oyer men to take
 w^t fals sleghthes yat he cann make
 þus cann he couertly stele
 And 3ett he semes als he were lele
 Bot he wiste w^[h]at he were worthy
 For slike dedes hym aght be sory
 <fol. frb>Also a wife sulde vnderstande
 þat takes ye gudes of hir husbande
 Agayne his lefe or his will
 Scho steles yos gudes & dose full ill
 Or he yat is a mann religious
 þat tase ye gudes of his hous
 w^t-outen lefe of his souerayne
 He steles yes gudes for sertayne
 For wife ne mann of religione
 Of ye gudes yat is comone



Has no maner of *proprete*
þe law will at it so be
þerfore yai may no3t sell ne gife
w^t-outen yair souerayne lefe
Also yat wif dose grete foly
þat has a childe *in* a-uoutry
Jf it be to hir lorde vnknawen
And he wenes ye childe is his awen
ye whilk .^[als] heyre beres heritage
Agayne ye law of mariage