



<County: Lancashire>

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<MS reference: Cambridge, Fitzwilliam Museum, McClean 131, Hand B>

<Text: Prick of Conscience>

<Tranche 1>

<fol. 5r>FJrst Wan god mad al thyng of no3t
Of ye foulest mater~ man he wro3t
Yat was of ye erthe two skilles to hald
Yat on is for yi . yat he walde
Of foul mater man mad in despytt
Of lucifer . yat fel als tytt
Til hell as he had synnyd thorow *pride*
And of all yat fell . wit him yat tyde
For yai suld haue yan ye more *schamschype*
And ye more sorow . Wan yai toke kepe
Yat man of so foul . mater sulde duell
In yat place . fro wilk yai fell
Yat toyer skil is yis to se
For man suld here . ye mekir~ be
Ay Wan he seys . and yukkes in tho3t
Of how foul mater . he is wro3t
For god thorow his gudnes . & his my3t
Wald <gap> sen yat place . in heuen bry3t
Was mad w<?>yde . thorow syn of *pride*
It war fylled agayn . on ilk a syde
Thorow ye *vertu* of meknes
Yat euen *contrary* . to *pride* is
Yan may no man . yeder *comme*
But he yat meke is . And *buxum*
Yat *proues* Ye gspell . yat says *yus*
How god sayd til his disciplus
<lat></lat>
But 3e he sayd . be made meke . as a chyld



Yat is to say . both sufferand & milde
3e sal no3t entere be no way
To heuen ryke . yat lastes ay
Yan be-houes a+man euer to seke
Yat may tyttes . make hym meke
But no thyng here . may mek him more
Yan to thynke in hert . als J sayd ore
How he was made . of foul matere
And is no3t elles . but erthe here
<fol. 5v>For yi a clerk says . als J 3ow say~
What is man here but erthe & clay
And poud^{er} yat brekes . wit ye wyndes
And yer-for iob to god yus spekes
<lat></lat>
He says ynek<for yenk?> lorde . as you made me .
Foul erth and clay . here to be
Ry3t so you sal . *turne* me a-gayn
Til erth and poudir . yis is *certayn*
Yan sal our~ lorde . god almy3ty
A-gayn to man say . *yus* schorly
<lat></lat>
Thynk man he says askes art y^u now
An till askes a-gayn sal you
Yan is man . no3t elles to say
But askes . poudir . erthe And clay
Of yis sulde ilk man . here haue . mynde
And knaw ye wrychednes . of his kynde
Yat may be schewed . as J se can
In al ye *partye* of ye life of man
All a mannes life kast may be
Pryncipally in *partes* thre .
Yat are yes . to oure vndirstanding
Be-gynnyng . mydward and ye endyng
yese thre *partys* . are iij *partes* cald
Of mannes life . 3ong and alde
BE-gennyng of mannes life . yat fyrst es
Contenes mykyl wrechednes
Yar-fore J will ar J feryer pas
Schewe *what* a man fyrst was

Summe tyme was *wan* a+man was no3t
 Be-fore yat he was getyn & forth bro3t
 He was geten . als . es knawen .
 Of wilk of man wit syn is sown
 He was consayued . synfully
 Wit-jn his . modres body
 <fol. 6r>Whar his herber wit-Jnne was dy3t
 Als dauid says in sauter ry3t
 <lat></lat>
 Lo he says als man-kynd es
 J am consaued in wrechednes .
 And my modir has *consaued* mee
 Jn syn and in caytyfte
 Yar dueled man in merke dounioun
 And in a foul sted of corrupcioun
 Whare he had no noyer fode
 But wlatsum glett & lopuryd blode
 And stynk and fylch . als J said are
 So was he first . norysched yare .
 After-ward when he oute *comme*
 Fro yat doniun his modir wome
 And was born til yis worlde ly3t
 He had noyer strengthe ne no my3t
 Noyer to go ne to stand
 Nor til crepe . wit for ne hand
 Yan has a+man lest my3t yan a best
Wan he is born & is so . vnlest
 For *wan* a best is born may go
 And als tyte renne to and fro
 But a+man has no my3t yar-to
Wan he is born so for to do
 For yan may he no3t stand ne crepe
 But lig crouland crye and wepe
 For vnnes is a barn born fully
 Yat it be-gynnys to gaule & cry
 And be yat cry men may knaw yan
 Wheyer it be man or elles womman
 For when it is born it cryes swa
 If it be man it says A . A .

Yai ye first litter is of ye Name
 Of oure forme fader Adam
 And if ye chylde a womman be
 Wan ^[it] is born it says E . E
 <fol. 6v>It is ye first Letter . if 3e take hede
 Of eue yat first be-gayn oure dede
 Yerfore A Clerk made on yis manere
 Yis wers of meterre yat is vreten here
 <lat></lat>
 As yese yat comm of Adam and eue
 Men or wommen yat bus lyfe
 Wan yai are born *what* so yai be .
 Yai say oyer A or E
 Yus is here ye be-gynnyng
 Of oure life . sorow and gretynge
 To wilk oure wrychednes stirrys vs
 And yerfore Innocent says yus
 <lat></lat>
 He says all are we brorn <sic> gretang
 And makand a soryful semnand
 For we schew ye gret . wrechednes
 Of oure kynd yat in us is
 Yus wen ye tyme *comme* of oure byrth
 All ma we <gap> sorow and no myr3t
 Naked we *comme* hiddir and bare
 And pore so sal we hen fare
 Of yese to tymes we suld yinke yan
 For *yus* says Job ye ry3twys+man
 <lat></lat>
 Naked he sayd first J *comme*
 Hidir owt of my mydir *womme*
 And naked J sall turne a-way
 So sall we all at our~ last day
 Yus a man is at his first *commynge*
 Naked and brynges witt him no thyng
 But a rym yat is ful wlatsum
 Es his garment *wan* he sal forth *comme*
 Yat is no3t ^[but] a bloody skyn
 Yat he be-fore was lapped Jn

qwill he in his modir wombe lay
 <fol. 7r>Ye qwilke is a wlatsum thyng to say
 And foulere to here so says ye book
 And alyer foulest thyng on to lok
 Yus is man als we may se
 In wrechednes and caytefte
 And for to lyfe here A few . days
 Yer-for yob yus opunly says
 <lat></lat>
 He says man yat is born of woman
 Lyue he schort tyme . fylled is he yan
 Of many maneres of wrychednes
 Yus says Job and so it is
 Also man is born to no3t elles
 But to *trauayl* als Job 3et telles
 <lat></lat>
 He says ^[man is] borne to *trauayl* ry3t
 Als a foul is here to fly3t
 For lytil rest in yis worlde is
 But *trauayl* gret and besynes
 3et a+man *wan* he is born
 Ye fynd sone is & fro god lorn
 Ay til he thorow *grace* may *comme*
 To baptyng and til *cristyn* dome
 Yus may a man his begynnyng se
 ful of wrychednes and caytefte
Ye secunde part of ye life of man
 YE toyer part of life of man he calles
 Ye midward sowne after it fallys
 Ye whilk reches fro ye be-gynnyng
 Of *mannes* life . to ye endyng
 Ye be-gynnyng of *mannes* life As J tald
 Js vyle wrychednes to be-hald
 But how foul man is afterward
 Tyl vs spekes opynly <exp>sayd</exp> Bernard
 <lat></lat>
 <lat></lat>
 <fol. 7v>Seyn bernard says als ye book telles
 Yat ^[man] is here no thyng elles

But a foul slym wlatsum to mene
 And a sek ful of stynkand fene
 And wormes fode . yat yai wald haue
 Wan he is ded and layd jn graue
 But summe men and women fayre semes
 To sy3t wit-oute . as men demes .
 And yat schewes no3t elles but a skyn
 But who so my3t se yaim wit Jn
 Foulere cayryon my3t neuer non be
 Yan he suld yan of yaim se
 Yer-fore he yat had als scharpe sy3t
 And als clere eyn and als ly3t
 As has a best . yat men lynx calles .
 Yat may se thorow hard ston walles .
 Lytel lykyng sulde A man yan haue
 For to be-hald a fayr woman
 For yan my3t ^[he] her se wit-outen doute
 Als wil wit-Jn als wit-oute
 And if he wit-Jn saw3 hire ry3t
 Scho ware ful wlatsum til his sy3t
 Yus foull wit-Jnne ilk man es
 Als ye bok . beres witnes .
 Yan may we se on yis manere
 How foul of kynd ye man is here .
 Whar-fore J hald A man no3t witty
 Yat is ouer prowed . or ouer Joly
 Wan he may ilk day here and se
 What he is . was . & sal be .
 But proud man of yis tase no hede
 For wantyng of skil yat suld him lede
 Wan he is 3eng . And loues laykyng
 Or has ese and welth & his lykyng
 Or if he be at grett worchype
 What him-self is . he takys no kepe
 <fol. 8r>Whar-fore hym-self . yat knowes he lest
 And fares als an vnresonable best
 And his auwen wil folwes and no3t elles
 And yerfore ye prophete in ye sauter telles

<Tranche 2>

<fol. 31r>But men knawes no3t what it es
 Yer-fore men dredes it ye les
 But if a synful man my3t se with-oute
 How foul syn es . he beres a-bout
 He suld neuer make Joye ; ne hafe lykyng
 Til he ware delyuerd . of yat foul thyng
 Syn has tane ; yus vglynes
 Of fylthe of syn yat so foul es
 Yan a3t ye saule . of ye synful wit-In
 Be ful foul . and floterd In syn
 Yer-fore a+man ; whar so he wendes
 Suld mare dred syn . yan sy3t of fendes
 Yat sal apere til him . at his ded day
 <ill><1-2 words></ill> his synne sal be fouler yan yai
 Of whilk he wald . him no3t schryue
 Nor repente him <ill><1-2 words></ill> life
 YE thrid skil til oure vndirstandynd
 Whi vs a3t to dred . ye ded *commying*
 Js for a count ful strat . and hard
 Of al oure lyf . yat has ben froward .
 Yat vs bus 3elde . in godes sy3t
 Bothe of wrang and of ry3t
 Of al thyng yat euer we wro3t
 In werk . dede . word . and tho3t
 All of all yat passus a-way
 Fro the be-gynnyng til oure last day
 Al sal yan ; be schewed and sene
 Bothe gude and ill . foule & clene
 And be reherced . als ye buk telles
 Be-twix ye fyndes and ye aungles
 Yai sal despute of al oure life
 With discord ; and ful gret stryfe
 Ye aungel sal reherce al ye gude
 Ye deuel ye ille . with ful *gret* mode
 Al ye werkes yat we her hafe wro3t
 Be-twin yaim to . sal be out so3t
 <fol. 31v>And ilk tho3t . and ilk will

Als wele ye gude . as ye ille
 And ilk word yat spoken hafe we
 Gude or ill . wheuder yai be
 All sal be reherced as J said are
 Be-twin yaim to ; sal yai no3t spare
 Bot only syn . yat is wele . clensed here
 And dedes donn . on gude manere
 Yan sal we . bothe here . and see
 All ye priuates . yat euer dyd we
 Yer-fore sais god . in his gospell
 On yis manere . as J will tell
 <lat></lat>
 No thyng is here . so couerd no hyd
 Yat yan it sal ben . schewed and kyd
 Nor so priue is no thyng . yat touches man
 Yat it sal ben knowen . and kyd yan
 Yan bus vs a-byde . we may no3t fle
 Vn-to all oure life . examyned be
 And all oure dedes . bothe gude and ille
 Be disscused . after godes wille
 Yan sal we see all . oure synnes holy
 And what we are . for synnes worthi
 And all oure dedes . yat gude are semed
 Sal ben excused . and haly demed
 So yat we may . knowe by sy3t
 Wheder we dyed . wrang or ry3t
 And whilk we dyde *perfyly* here
 And whilk was donn . on wrang manere
 Yar-fore sayn Anselm schewes vs
 Spekes to ye saule ; & sais yus
 Wreched saule what may you say
 When you *partes* fro ye body a-way
 Yen ye bus a gret count 3elde
 Of all yi lif . in 3outhe and elde
 <fol. 32r>How you has here led yi life
 And spend yi wyttes fyfe
 Yan sal walaway . be yi sang
 For you spend yi tyme wrang
 Bothe in werk . word . tho3t & will

And when you my3t helpe . you held ye still
 You has donne many a senful dede
 To greue god . you has no drede
 Bot when you ses al yi trespas
 Yan sal you say Allas Allas
 When al yi dedes . sal thorow ben so3t
 To ye lest thyng . yat euer you wro3t
 Wheyer you be ; lered or lawed
 Yi syn sal yan fully be schewed
 Yat you has donn<?> here in yis life
 Of whilk you cout ye neuer schryue
 And yo sal be schewed before ye
 Foul & vgly synnes to se
 Of whilk you sal haue more drede and awe
 Yan of yo yat you coud euer schewe
 3et summe dedes yat you ^[tho3t] her to do well
 You sal fynd yaim foul synnes and fell
 Yan be-houes ye . rasayue sone
 After ye werkes yat you has donne
 Yat is to say oyer Joye or payn
 You may on no wyse be yar a-gayn
 Yus sal ilk man at his endyng
 Ben put to ful hard reknyng
 And be a-resoned ; als ry3t es
 Of all his mysdedes bo3 mare & les
 No syn vnrekned yan sal be
 Jf it wore neuer so priue
 All gude dedes yat J haue donn
 A-gayn my syn . are bot fonn
 And 3et we are . vn-syker in tho3t
 Wheyer yai sal be a-lowed or no3t
 <fol. 32v>For J fynd wreten thre skilles whi
 Yat no man may trayst sykerly
 Jn his gude dedes yat he dos here
 Yes thre skilles are gude to lere
 An is for yi . yat al thynges
 Yat gude are only . of god springes
 Yan are gude dedes . yat are wro3t
 Godes awne dedes . and oures no3t

Bot al oure synnes . yat may be knowen
 Commes of oure self . yo are oure auwen
 For whi ; with-ouen god . we synne sonne
 Bot no gude dede . with-ouen god is donne
 Anoyer is . als for yi
 Yat are we cumly . more redy
 A hundred sythes . here to syn
 Yan a gude dede . for to be-gyn
 So we may ay rekken an rede
 A hundred synnes a-gayn . a gude dede
 Ye thrid is yis . to schewe a-mang
 Oure gude dedes . are oft donn wrang
 No3t on gude manere . als yai suld be
 Or perchauns donn out . of charite
 All oure synnes are here certayn
 And be ry3t and skil are worthi payn
 But fore gude dedes certainly
 We wot no3t what . we are worthi
 Whar-fore ; oure gude dedes we suld no3t prays
 And yer-fore sayn austyn yus says
 <lat></lat>
 <lat></lat>
 He sais oure ille dedes . are pure ill wro3t
 Bot oure gude dedes . ful gude are no3t
 Her-to a-cordes . als ye buk telles vs
 Jsodrous ye gret clerk . yat says yus
 <lat></lat>
 He sais all oure ry3twysnes are sene
 <fol. 33r>Als a clar filed of clath vnclene .
 For here certaynly wot none
 How we sal fare . when we are gonne
 Bot comforth of god & help . may be fele
 Yat lofes here . to serue god wele
 For we awe to trow . with-ouen were
 Yat god sal hym weld . yat dos wele here
 Bot 3et is he no3t sekyr . in his days
 For whi ye haly man yus sais
 <lat></lat>
 For certayn he sais . a man wat no3t

Jf he hafe neuer . so mykil wro3t
 Wheyer he ware worthi after his ded
 to haue lofe . <gap> god or hatred
 And Jsoder als in a bok scheues vs
 Yat a-cordes yer-to . and sais yus
 <lat></lat>
 He sais he yat is . godes seruand
 Wan he dons gude . with tonng or hand
 He is no3t certayn . 3et in tho3t
 Whether it be gude . til him or no3t
 Yer-fore oure lyuyng . here is hard
 Als ye haly man sais . saynt bernard
 <lat></lat>
 Who he sais may yus lif lede
 With-uten tremblyng here & drede
 Al-so he sais here may lif na man
 With-uten dred . yat wit can
 For al if a man here a-fors hym ay
 To do al ye gud here yat he may
 3et may his gude dedes ben so wro3t
 Yat perchans god . a-lowes yaim no3t
 Of ye lif yat is on yis manere
 Schewes vs ye bok & telles vs here .
 <lat></lat>
 <fol. 33v><lat></lat>
 <lat></lat>
 <lat></lat>
 <lat></lat>
 Yese are bernard wordes yat sais
 Al my wreched life . here me aflays
 For if it entently be discussed til me
 It semes no3t elles here for to be
 Bot oyer syn . yat ye saule more deres
 Or barayn fruthyng yat no frut beres
 Jf any frut yer~ Jn seme
 J be skil . yus may it deme
 Oyer feyned ; to schewe in sy3t
 Or thyng yat has no3t al ben donn ry3t
 Or on oyer~ wyse . ben corrupt with-Jnne



Yat is to say fyled with synne
So yat oyer yan . may it no3t
Pay god almy3ty . yat is so wro3t
Or *peraenture* . it him mys pays
Yus ye haly man . saynt bernard sais
What may a synful man say yan
When he yat was so holy a+man
Count no frount here in yis life se
Yan a3t ye synful . dredand to be
Of yis life here . yat is vnclene
Jn whilk na frount may be sene
YE forthe skil . and ye last to telle
Whi men dredes ye ded of helle
Js for he ne what . whedir he sal wynde
To Joye or payn . after~ his ende
For so witty a+man . is here nan
whot when ye ded sal him tan
For certayn wheudir~ he sal go
Whedir~ he sal to wel or wo
Yan a3t ilk 3ong man and old
Haf dred for ye skil . yat J haue told