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<Text: Myrrour of Symple Soules>

<fol. 15v><line 23>¶ The nynþe poynt seiþ loue is þis .
 þat þis soule haþ no wille / O wiþouten faile noo .
 for al þat sche willeþ in consentynge of wille ; it is þ^t
 þat god wole þat sche wole / and þat williþ sche seiþ
 <fol. 16r>loue . for goddis wil to fulfille . and not for her wil / And
 þis may sche not wille of hir ; but it is þe wil of god þ^t
 williþ in hur / so þat þis soule haþ no wille ; but þe wil
 of god þat makeþ hir wille . al þat sche owiþ to wille /
 ¶ This heerip and vndirstandip 3e auditoures of þis
 booke ; þe verrei vndirstandinge of þese wordis / & what
 þis is to seie . þat þis booke seiþ in so many places & þ^t
 a soule nou3ted haþ nou3t of wille ; ne nou3t may ha
 ue . ne nou3t may wille / And in þis þe diuine wille ; per
 fijth is fulfillid / ne in-to þis tyme ; may not þe soule
 haue hir ful sufficiaunce 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 sufficiaunce ¶ Sopeli
 3he seiþ þe vndirstandinge of reson . but it semeþ þat
 þe nynþe poynt seiþ al þe contrarie / þat seiþ þ^t þ^s soule
 nou3ted willeþ nou3t ; as in regarde of þat þ^t sche wolde
 wille / ne sche may not haue þat ; þ^t god wole þ^t sche
 wille / And þat hir wil is nou3t as in regarde of hir
 sufficiaunce ; þat neuere was 3oue hir . ne neuere schal be
 3oue hir ¶ Of þis seiþ reson J vndirstonde . þat þis
 soule williþ a wille . and god wole þat sche wille a wil
 þe whiche sche may not haue / and þis haþ of þ^t fai
 launce ; and not of substaunce ¶ Jt semeþ me lady
 loue seiþ þe vndirstandinge of reson ; þ^t þis nynþe
 poynt makip me þus to vndirstande þe seiynge of

<fol. 16v>pis 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
 sufficiounce ¶ O vnderstandinge 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 vnderstandinge is so lowe . þ^t þou maist
 not so hi3eli areche ; as he bihoueþ þat wel wolde
 haue þe vnderstandinge of þe beyng þat we speke
 of / But þe vnderstandinge of diuine loue . þ^t lediþ
 in a soule nou3ted þat is made free ; vnderstandiþ it
 wiþoute eerynge . for sche is þe same / O þou vnder
 standinge of reson seiþ þe hi3enesse of vnderstandin
 ge of loue ; now vnderstande þe rudenesse of þi mys
 vnderstandinge / Jf 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 litalnesse
 of creature / for god wiþholdeþ þe greetnesse of his diui
 ne ri3twisnesse / but god wole þat sche wille þis ; and þ^t
 sche haue suche wille / for suche wille is diuine wille /
 þe whiche diuine wille ; 3iueþ beyng 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 beyng 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 answeere of his demaundes / saue þere it seiþ . þat þe
 fre soule haþ in hir defaute of sufficiounce / but this J
 seie to hir wherof to wille þe diuine wille / soþeli þe
 moore yat sche williþ it ; þe lasse haþ suche wille of
 þat hir sufficiounce / 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 preie 3ou to declare and expowne to þe comune

peple ; þese dowble wordis þ^t ben hard to vndirstonde to
 her vndirstandinge / þat summe bi auenture may
 come to þis beyng bi whiche þis booke may sche
 we to alle : þe verrey li3t of troupe . 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 wole answere for þe profite of hem ; for
 whom þou makest to us þis pitouse requeste / Reson
 seiþ loue where ben þese double wordis þ^t þou preiest
 me to discusse for þe auditoures of þis booke ; þat in
 wille and in desire dwellen / þe whiche booke we clepe
 þe myrroure 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
 nou3t / sche woote al ; and sche woote nou3t / sche wil
 liþ al ; and sche willeþ nou3t / Ne sche ne desireþ seiþ re
 son despite . ne pouert . ne no martirdome . ne tribulaci
 on . ne sermons . ne fastinges . ne orisons / And sche 3e
 ueþ to nature al his askinge ; wiþouten grucchinge
 of conscience / wiþoute faile loue seiþ reson . þis may
 noon vndirstonde be myn vndirstandinge ; but if þei
 leeue it of 3ou bi 3oure techinge / For my counsaile is
 as for þe beste þat J kan counsaile ; þat men desire
 dispite . and pouert . and alle maner of tribulacion .
 massis . sermons . fastinges . and orisons / and þat
 men haue drede of alle maner loues what euere þei be :
 for perels þat my3te falle / and þat men desire para
 dise soueraynli : and also þat men haue drede to go
 to helle / and þat þei refuse alle maner of worschipes .
 and temporel þinges . and alle eeses . in benymyng
 nature al þat he askiþ . but oonli þat : wiþoute whi
 che þei my3ten 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 þ^t lyuen
 vndir myn obedience / And þerfore J seiþ þ^t noon schal
 vndirstande þis booke be myn vndirstandinge : but

<fol. 18r>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 seiþ reson þus myche J seie .
 þat who haþ þese two cordis in his herte . þe li3t of
 feiþ . and þe strengþe of loue : he haþ leue to do what
 him likeþ . witnesse of god him silf þat seiþ to þe sou
 le . Loue loueþ ; and doiþ what 3e wole Reson seiþ
 loue þou art ful wise : of al þing þat perteyneþ 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 seiþ loue answeere þee ; to alle þine askinges /
 Reson seiþ Loue J certefie þee . þat þese soules þ^t 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
 soop . þat þei ne willen ne vnwillen . noone of þese
 prosperitees : ne noone of þese aduersitees / for þese soules
 haue no wille : but þing þat god williþ in hem / and
 þe diuine wille clepiþ not þese surmounted creatures :
 wiþ suche encombraunces as we haue heere deuysed /
 J haue seiþ 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 soþ seiþ loue . if it come to hem ; siþen her wille
 is not þe cause / þe soules woote not where þe eende
 lieþ / ne for what cause god wole fynde her sauacion .
 ne þe sauacion of her euen cristen / ne for what eucheson :
 god wole do ri3twisnesse or meny / ne for what cause
 god wole 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 seiþ reson . J am at my de
 maunde / for þis booke seiþ þat þis soule haþ al : and
 sche haþ nou3t ¶ It is soop seiþ loue . for þis soule

haþ god in hir bi diuine grace / and who haþ god ;
 haþ al / and it seiþ 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 sche haþ nou3t / sche wote al : and
 sche wote nou3t / sche wote al seiþ loue bi uertu of feiþ :
 þat god is al my3t . 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 ioyned and vnyed manli nature ; to þe per
 soone of god þe sone / and god þe sone haþ y-ioyned
 <fol. 19r>it ; to þe persooone of him silf / and god þe hooligoost ; haþ
 ioyned it to þe persooone 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 ; þ^t same
 nature diuine . and nature of soule . and nature of
 body / þis is oon persooone in þe trinite / and god þe hooligoost
 haþ in him þis same nature . nature diuine /
 Þis to bileeue . þis to seiþ . and þis to þenke ; is uer
 rei contemplacioun / He is oon my3t . oon wisdome .
 oon wille . and oonli oon god in þre persooones / þre persooones
 and oon good / Þis god is oueral ; in his di
 uine nature / but þe manhode is in heuene glorifi
 ed . and ioyned to þe diuine persooone 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 manhoode dwelliþ wiþ hem : feiþ te
 chiþ it / þis wote clerkis / and we schal seiþ 3ou hou
 seiþ þe li3t of feiþ . hou þis humanite dwelliþ wiþ
 hem ; as þus bi similitude ¶ Take þis sacrament
 and putte it in mortar wiþ oþir þinges . and bray þis
 sacrament ~~wiþ oþir þinges~~ : so þat 3e may not se ne
 feeþe of þe persooone þat 3ee haue put yn / J seiþ 3ou forsoþe
 seiþ feiþ þ^t it is not now : siþen it may not be seen
 ne felid / To þis 3e may answer . where is it þanne
 bicomē / Nay seiþ trouþe . it was . and now it is not .

<fol. 19v>vndirstande hoolli of þe humanite / . <mrg>Þanne may 3e aske if it be goon as it came J
 seie 3ou
 seiþ trouþe . þat þe humanite of crist ihesu neiþer comeþ ne goiþ /</mrg> & how may þis
 be seiþ temptacion / M ¶ It is þus . þat þe manho
 de neiþer comeþ ne goiþ of crist ihesu / but bi his diui
 ne my3t . and bi þe uertu of his hooli word : þe oost
 turneþ in to his owen *precious* body of fleisch and
 blood / His gloriouse bodi þat is in heuene & knyt
 to þe diuine *persone* of þe sone . comeþ not down in
 to þe oost ; but þe oost turneþ in to him . as it is a-fo
 re seid / so þat it is uerrili his owen *precious* body :
 þat for us suffride deep . þankid and worschipid be
 he euere þerfore / Þus þe diuine my3t haþ ordeyned þis
 worþi sacrament . N ¶ Þe seyntes þat ben in he
 uene schulden se him in noon oþir 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 ihesus crist in þe sacrament
 of þe auter~ glorified . but bi vndirstandinge :
 it aperteneþ ^[not] to þe glorie of hem of glorie / Þerfore þei
 se him not glorified : but bi vndirstandinge / and we
 seen him bi uertu of feiþ / þer~ a3enst seiynge þe reson
 of oure wittes ; þat we seen but breed . ne feele . ne sauour .
 ne smelle / but oure feiþ wiþ-seiþ al þat . and bileeueþ
 verrili and sopeli wiþouten ony dowte : þat it ne haþ
 whitnesse . ne taast . ne smelle . but þe *precious* body
 of oure lord crist ihesu uerrei god and man / now we seen
 him bi feiþ ; so doon not þei of glorie / for þei þan ben
 <fol. 20r>glorified ; ne vsen not of feiþ / þei seen not bi feiþ as we
 don / In þis secrete . þe diuine trinite haþ ordeyned þe
 hooli sacrament of þe auter~ . hooli chirche to norische
 and to sustene seiþ þe soule of feiþ illumyned of þe
 diuine trinite / such is þe . <mrg>ordenaunce of þe</mrg> sacrament of þe autere . in
 knowinge of him ; and in bileeue of me bi diuine
 my3t ¶ Ne merueile 3ou not seiþ curtesie of þe good
 nesse of loue ; þou3 we for loue seie 3ou þese þinges /
 For J seie 3ou in soope . þat noon may come to deepe
 foundement . ne to hi3e edifiynge ; but if þei come bi
 sotilte of greet wit of nature . and 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 3iueþ li3t . schew^t
 to þe soule þing þat sche loueþ / And þe soule þat re
 ceyueþ bi li3t of vndirstandinge . þe nei3ynge and þe
 knytinge bi acorde of vnyon in plenteuouse loue .
 seep þe beynge where þat sche holdeþ to haue hir assise ;
 heerip gladli þe li3t of knowinge . þat bringeþ hir
 tidings of loue / and þanne sche wolde be bicom
 soo ; þat sche hadde but oon wille in loue / and þat is
 þe oonli wille of him þat sche loueþ ¶ Reson seiþ lo
 ue J answe to þee . for J haue seid þat a soule þat is
 made free woote al : and sche wote nou3t / Sche woote
 bi þe uertu of feip ; þat þ^t hir nedip to wite for sau
 cion / and sche woote nou3t : for sche woote nou3t of
 <fol. 20v>þat whiche god haþ in him . of him . for him / þat
 he 3iueþ to noon but to him silf / Panne 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 parfijtli þe wille of god ; þat sche
 ne kan wille . ne not may wille . but þe wille of god /
 Jn suche prison loue haþ reclusid hir / And sche willeþ
 nou3t / for it is so litil þis þat sche willip . and þ^t god
 willip in hir . in regarde of þis þat sche wolde wille ;
 þat sche may not haue þat god wole þ^t 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 willip al : and
 sche willip nou3t / **This dou3ter of syon desireþ
 neiþer massis ne sermons . fastinges ne orisons /**
 ¶ whi so seiþ reson lady loue : it is þe foode of hooli sou
 lis / ¶ It is soop for hem þat crauen seiþ loue . but
 þis soule craueþ not / for sche haþ in hir inwardnesse
 no nature to desire þing þat is wiþoute hir / Now
 vndirstande reson seiþ loue . whi desiren suche soules
 þese þinges afore seid : sippe it is so þ^t god is oueral
 wiþoute þat . as wel as wiþ 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 euen-cristen haue /
 ¶ A god seiþ reson what is þis to seie . Loue teche me
 þe vndirstandinge þat of myn oþir demaundes
 haue apeesid me / ¶ Þis is to seie seiþ loue . þat þis
 is not wiþ hir . ne þis may sche not haue off hir :
 for hir pou3t 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 . pou3 þat ony falle in
 to synne . ne for synne þat euere was doon / It displee
 siþ to hir wille : and so it doiþ to god / it is his owen
 displesynge ; þat to þis soule 3iueþ such displesinge /
 In 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 pou3tis of þese soules ben so diuine ; þ^t þei
 resten not so myche in þinges þat ben passinge . ne
 made . þat þei schulden conceyue ony disese fore in
 her inwardnesse . siþen þat god is good wiþouten
 comprehendinge / This soule 3iueþ to nature al þ^t
 he askiþ hir : wiþouten grucchinge of conscience /
 For alle propirtees of nature ; ben mortefied in þese cre
 atures / and þerfore þe lawe or oure lord ihesu crist is
 wiþynne suche lijf closed ; and þe diuine 3iftes ben
 aboue þis lawe / Þis is sooþe seiþ loue . þat þis soule