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**Everyman :**

A. C. Cawley

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Page  1 [signature A.i]

**EVERYMAN**

*Here begynneth a treatyse how the hye  
Fader of heuen sendeth Dethe to  
somon euery creature to come and  
gyue a-counte of theyr lyues in  
this worlde / and is in maner  
of a morall playe.*

**French scene**

Messenger.

I pray you all gyue your audyence,

     1

And here this mater with reuerence,

     2

By fygure a morall playe.

     3

*The Somonynge of Eueryman* called it is,

     4

That of our lyues and endynge shewes

     5

How transytory we be all daye.

     6

This mater is wonders precyous;

     7

But the entent of it is more gracyous,

     8

And swete to bere awaye.

     9

The story sayth: Man, in the begynnynge

     10

Loke well, and take good heed to the endynge,

     11

Be you neuer so gay!

     12

Ye thynke synne in the begynnynge full swete,

     13

Whiche in the ende causeth the soule to wepe,

     14

Whan the body lyeth in claye.

     15

Here shall you se how Felawshyp / and Iolyte,

     16

Bothe / Strengthe / Pleasure / and Beaute,

     17

Wyll fade from the as floure in Maye;

     18

For ye shall here how our Heuen Kynge

     19

Calleth Eueryman to a generall rekenynge.

     20

Gyue audyence, and here what he doth saye.

     21

**Scene 2**

God speketh.

God.

I perceyue, here in my maieste,

     22

How that all creatures be to me vnkynde,

     23

Lyuynge without drede in worldly prosperyte.

     24

Page  2

Of ghostly syght the people be so blynde,

     25

Drowned in synne, they know me not for theyr God.

     26

In worldely ryches is all theyr mynde;

     27

They fere not my ryghtwysnes, the sharpe rod.

     28

My lawe that I shewed, whan I for them dyed,

     29

They forget clene / and shedynge of my blode rede. [signature A.ii]

     30

I hanged bytwene two theues, it can not be denyed;

     31

To gete them lyfe I suffred to be deed;

     32

I heled theyr fete / with thornes hurt was my heed.

     33

I coude do no more than I dyde, truely;

     34

And nowe I se the people do clene for-sake me.

     35

They vse the seuen deedly synnes dampnable,

     36

As pryde, coueytyse, wrath, and lechery

     37

Now in the worlde be made commendable;

     38

And thus they leue of aungelles the heuenly company.

     39

Euery man lyueth so after his owne pleasure,

     40

And yet of theyr lyfe they be nothynge sure.

     41

I se the more that I them forbere

     42

The worse they be fro yere to yere.

     43

All that lyueth appayreth faste;

     44

Therefore I wyll, in all the haste,

     45

Haue a rekenynge of euery mannes persone;

     46

For, and I leue the people thus alone

     47

In theyr lyfe and wycked tempestes,

     48

Veryly they will become moche worse than beestes,

     49

For now one wolde by enuy another vp ete;

     50

Charyte they do all clene forgete.

     51

I hoped well that euery man

     52

In my glory sholde make his mansyon,

     53

And therto I had them all electe;

     54

But now I se, lyke traytours deiecte,

     55

They thanke me not for the pleasure that I to them ment,

     56

Nor yet for theyr beynge that I them haue lent.

     57

I profered the people grete multytude of mercy,

     58

And fewe there be that asketh it hertly.

     59

They be so combred with worldly ryches

     60

Page  3

That nedes on them I must do iustyce,

     61

On euery man lyuynge without fere.

     62

Where arte thou, Deth, thou myghty messengere?

     63

**Scene 3**

Dethe.

Dethe.

Almyghty God, I am here at your wyll,

     64

Your commaundement to fulfyll.

     65

God.

Go thou to Eueryman

     66

And shewe hym, in my name,

     67

A pylgrymage he must on hym take,

     68

Whiche he in no wyse may escape;

     69

And that he brynge with hym a sure rekenynge

     70

Without delay or ony taryenge.

     71

Dethe.

Lorde, I wyll in the worlde go renne ouer-all

     72

And cruelly out-serche both grete and small.

     73

Euery man wyll I beset that lyueth beestly

     74

Out of Goddes lawes, and dredeth not foly.

     75

He that loueth rychess I wyll stryke with my darte,

     76

His syght to blynde, and fro heuen to departe—

     77

Excepte that almes be his good frende—

     78

In hell for to dwell, worlde without ende.

     79

Loo, yonder I se Eueryman walkynge.

     80

Full lytell he thynketh on my comynge;

     81

His mynde is on flesshely lustes and his treasure,

     82

And grete payne it shall cause hym to endure

     83

Before the Lorde, Heuen Kynge.

     84

Eueryman, stande styll! Whyder arte thou goynge

     85

Thus gayly? / Hast thou thy Maker forgete?

     86

**Scene 5**

Eueryman.

Eueryman.

Why askest thou?

     87

Woldest thou wete?

     88

Dethe.

Ye, syr. I wyll shewe you:

     89

In grete hast I am sende to the

     90

Fro God out of his mageste.

     91

Eueryman.

What, sente to me?

     92

Page  4 [signature A.iii.]

Dethe.

Ye, certaynly.

     93

Thoughe thou haue forgete hym here,

     94

He thynketh on the in the heuenly spere,

     95

As, or we departe, thou shalte knowe.

     96

Eueryman.

What desyreth God of me?

     97

Dethe.

That shall I shewe the:

     98

A rekenynge he wyll nedes haue

     99

Without ony lenger respyte.

     100

Eueryman.

To gyue a rekenynge longer layser I craue;

     101

This blynde mater troubleth my wytte.

     102

Dethe.

On the thou must take a long iourney;

     103

Therfore thy boke of counte with the thou brynge,

     104

For tourne agayne thou can not by no waye.

     105

And loke thou be sure of thy rekenynge,

     106

For before God thou shalte answere, and shewe

     107

Thy many badde dedes, and good but a fewe;

     108

How thou hast spente thy lyfe, and in what wyse,

     109

Before the chefe Lorde of paradyse.

     110

Haue ado that thou were in that waye,

     111

For wete thou well thou shalte make none attournay.

     112

Eueryman.

Full vnredy I am suche rekenynge to gyue.

     113

I knowe the not. What messenger arte thou?

     114

Dethe.

I am Dethe that no man dredeth—

     115

For euery man I reste — and no man spareth;

     116

For it is Goddes commaundement

     117

That all to me sholde be obedyent.

     118

Eueryman.

O Deth, thou comest whan I had the leest in mynde!

     119

In thy power it lyeth me to saue;

     120

Yet of my good wyl I gyue the, yf thou wyl be kynde —

     121

Ye, a thousande pounde shalte thou haue —

     122

And dyfferre this mater tyll an other daye.

     123

Dethe.

Eueryman, it may not be by no waye.

     124

I set not by golde, syluer, nor rychesse,

     125

Ne by pope / emperour / kynge / duke, ne prynces;

     126

For, and I wolde receyue gyftes grete,

     127

All the worlde I myght gete;

     128

Page  5

But my custome is clene contrary.

     129

I gyue the no respyte. Come hens, and not tary!

     130

Eueryman.

Alas, shall I haue no lenger respyte?

     131

I may saye Deth gyueth no warnynge!

     132

To thynke on the, it maketh my herte seke,

     133

For all vnredy is my boke of rekenynge.

     134

But xii. yere and I myght haue a-bydynge,

     135

My countynge-boke I wolde make so clere

     136

That my rekenynge I sholde not nede to fere.

     137

Wherfore, Deth, I praye the, for Goddes mercy,

     138

Spare me tyll I be prouyded of remedy.

     139

Dethe.

The auayleth not to crye, wepe, and praye;

     140

But hast the lyghtly that thou were gone that iournaye,

     141

And preue thy frendes yf thou can.

     142

For wete thou well the tyde abydeth no man,

     143

And in the worlde eche lyuynge creature

     144

For Adams synne must dye of nature.

     145

Eueryman.

Dethe, yf I sholde this pylgrymage take,

     146

And my rekenynge suerly make,

     147

Shewe me, for saynt charyte,

     148

Sholde I not come agayne shortly?

     149

Dethe.

No, Eueryman; and thou be ones there,

     150

Thou mayst neuer more come here,

     151

Trust me veryly.

     152

Eueryman.

O gracyous God in the hye sete celestyall,

     153

Haue mercy on me in this moost nede!

     154

Shall I haue no company fro this vale terestryall

     155

Of myne acqueyntaunce, that way me to lede?

     156

Dethe.

Ye, yf ony be so hardy

     157

That wolde go with the and bere the company.

     158

Hye the that thou were gone to Goddes magnyfycence,

     159

Thy rekenynge to gyue before his presence.

     160

What, wenest thou thy lyue is gyuen the,

     161

And thy worldely gooddes also?

     162

Eueryman.

I had wende so, veryle.

     163

Dethe.

Nay, nay, it was but lende the;

     164

For as soone as thou arte go,

     165

Page  6

Another a whyle shall haue it, and than go ther-fro,

     166

Euen as thou hast done.

     167

Eueryman, thou arte made! Thou hast thy wyttes fyue,

     168

And here on erthe wyll not amende thy lyue;

     169

For sodeynly I do come.

     170

Eueryman.

O wretched caytyfe, wheder shall I flee,

     171

That I myght scape this endles sorowe?

     172

Now, gentyll Deth, spare me tyll to-morowe,

     173

That I may amende me

     174

With good aduysement.

     175

Dethe.

Naye, therto I wyll not consent,

     176

Nor no man wyll I respyte;

     177

But to the herte sodeynly I shall smyte

     178

Without ony aduysement.

     179

And now out of thy syght I wyll me hy.

     180

Se thou make the redy shortely,

     181

For thou mayst saye this is the daye

     182

That no man lyuynge may scape a-way.

     183

Eueryman.

Alas, I may well wepe with syghes depe!

     184

Now haue I no maner of company

     185

To help me in my iourney, and me to kepe;

     186

And also my wrytynge is full vnredy.

     187

How shall I do now for to exscuse me?

     188

I wolde to God I had neuer be gete!

     189

To my soule a full grete profyte it had be,

     190

For now I fere paynes huge and grete.

     191

The tyme passeth. Lorde, helpe, that all wrought!

     192

For though I mourne, it auayleth nought.

     193

The day passeth and is almoost ago;

     194

I wote not well what for to do.

     195

To whome were I best my complaynt to make?

     196

What and I to Felawshyp therof spake,

     197

And shewed hym of this sodeyne chaunce?

     198

For in hym is all muyne affyaunce;

     199

We haue in the worlde so many a daye

     200

Be good frendes in sporte and playe.

     201

I se hym yonder, certaynely.

     202

Page  7

I trust that he wyll bere me company;

     203

Therfore to hym wyll I speke to ese my sorowe.

     204

Well mette, Good Felawshyp, and good morowe!

Felawshyp speketh.

     205

Felawship.

Eueryman, good morowe, by this daye!

     206

Syr, why lokest thou so pyteously?

     207

If ony thynge be a-mysse, I praye the me saye,

     208

That I may helpe to remedy.

     209

Eueryman.

Ye, good Felawshyp, ye,

     210

I am in greate ieoparde.

     211

Felawship.

My true frende, shewe to me your mynde.

     212

I wyll not forsake the to my lyues ende,

     213

In the waye of good company.

     214

Eueryman.

That was well spoken and louyngly.

     215

Felawshyp.

Syr, I must nedes knowe your heuynesse;

     216

I haue pyte to se you in ony dystresse.

     217

If ony haue you wronged, ye shall reuenged be,

     218

Thoughe I on the grounde be slayne for the, [signature B.i]

     219

Though that I knowe before that I sholde dye.

     220

Eueryman.

Veryly, Felawshyp, gramercy.

     221

Felawship.

Tusshe! by thy thankes I set not a strawe.

     222

Shewe me your grefe, and saye no more.

     223

Eueryman.

If I my herte sholde to you breke,

     224

And than you to tourne your mynde fro me

     225

And wolde not me comforte whan ye here me speke,

     226

Than sholde I ten tymes soryer be.

     227

Felawship.

Syr, I saye as I wyll do in dede.

     228

Eueryman.

Than be you a good frende at nede.

     229

I haue founde you true here-before.

     230

Felawship.

And so ye shall euermore;

     231

For, in fayth, and thou go to hell,

     232

I wyll not forsake the by the waye.

     233

Eueryman.

Ye speke lyke a good frende; I byleue you well

     234

I shall deserue it, and I maye.

     235

Felawship.

I speke of no deseruynge, by this daye!

     236

Page  8

For he that wyll saye, and nothynge do,

     237

Is not worthy with good company to go;

     238

Therfore shewe me the grefe of your mynde,

     239

As to your frende moost louynge and kynde.

     240

Eueryman.

I shall shewe you how it is:

     241

Commaunded I am to go a iournaye,

     242

A longe waye harde and daungerous,

     243

And gyue a strayte counte, without delaye,

     244

Before the hye Iuge, Adonay.

     245

Wherfore, I pray you, bere me company,

     246

As ye haue promysed, in this iournaye.

     247

Felawship.

That is mater in dede! Promyse is duty;

     248

But, and I sholde take suche a vyage on me,

     249

I knowe it well, it sholde be to my payne;

     250

Also it maketh me aferde, certayne.

     251

But let vs take counsell here as well as we can,

     252

For your wordes wolde fere a stronge man.

     253

Eueryman.

Why, ye sayd yf I had nede

     254

Ye wolde me neuer forsake, quycke ne deed,

     255

Thoughe it were to hell, truely.

     256

Felawship.

So I sayd, certaynely,

     257

But suche pleasures be set a-syde, the sothe to saye;

     258

And also, yf we toke suche a iournaye,

     259

Whan sholde we agayne come?

     260

Eueryman.

Naye, neuer agayne tyll the daye of dome.

     261

Felawship.

In fayth, than wyll not I come there!

     262

Who hath you these tydynges brought?

     263

Eueryman.

In dede, Deth was with me here.

     264

Felawshyp.

Now, by God that all hathe bought,

     265

If Deth were the messenger,

     266

For no man that is lyuynge to-daye

     267

I wyll not go that lothe iournaye —

     268

Not for the fader that bygate me!

     269

Eueryman.

Ye promysed other wyse, parde.

     270

Felawship.

I wote well I sayd so, truely;

     271

Page  9

And yet, yf thou wylte ete & drynke & make good chere,

     272

Or haunt to women the lusty company,

     273

I wolde not forsake you whyle the daye is clere,

     274

Trust me veryly.

     275

Eueryman.

Ye, therto ye wolde be redy!

     276

To go to myrthe, solas, and playe

     277

Your mynde wyll soner apply,

     278

Than to bere me company in my longe iournaye.

     279

Felawship.

Now, in good fayth, I wyll not that waye;

     280

But and thou wyll murder, or ony man kyll,

     281

In that I wyll helpe the with a good wyll.

     282

Eueryman.

O, that is a symple aduyse in dede. [signature B.ii]

     283

Gentyll felawe, helpe me in my necessyte!

     284

We haue loued longe, and now I nede;

     285

And now, gentyll Felawshyp, remembre me.

     286

Felawship.

Wheder ye haue loued me or no,

     287

By Saynt Iohan I wyll not with the go!

     288

Eueryman.

Yet, I pray the, take the labour & do so moche for me

     289

To brynge me forwarde, for saynt charyte,

     290

And comforte me tyll I come without the towne.

     291

Felawship.

Nay, and thou wolde gyue me a newe gowne,

     292

I wyll not a fote with the go;

     293

But, and thou had taryed, I wolde not haue lefte the so.

     294

And as now God spede the in thy iournaye,

     295

For from the I wyll departe as fast as I maye.

     296

Eueryman.

Wheder a-waye, Felawshyp? Wyll thou forsake me?

     297

Felawship.

Ye, by my faye! To God I be-take the.

     298

Eueryman.

Farewell, good Felawshyp! For the my herte is sore.

     299

A-dewe for euer! I shall se the no more.

     300

Felawship.

In fayth, Eueryman, fare well now at the endynge!

     301

For you I wyll remembre that partynge is mournynge.

     302

Eueryman.

A-lacke, shall wee thus departe in ded —

     303

Page  10

A, Lady, helpe! — without ony more comforte?

     304

Lo, Felawshyp forsaketh me in my moost nede.

     305

For helpe in this worlde wheder shall I resorte?

     306

Felawshyp here-before with me wolde mery make,

     307

And now lytell sorowe for me dooth he take.

     308

It is sayd, 'In prosperyte men frendes may fynde,

     309

Whiche in aduersyte be full vnkynde.'

     310

Now wheder for socoure shall I flee,

     311

Syth that Felawshyp hath forsaken me?

     312

To my kynnesmen I wyll, truely,

     313

Prayenge them to helpe me in my necessyte.

     314

I byleue that they wyll do so,

     315

For kynde wyll crepe where it may not go.

     316

I wyll go saye, for yonder I se them.

     317

Where be ye now, my frendes and kynnesmen?

     318

**Scene 6**

Kynrede.

Here be we now at your commaundement.

     319

Cosyn, I praye you shewe vs your entent

     320

In ony wyse, and not spare.

     321

Cosyn.

Ye, Eueryman, and to vs declare

     322

If ye be dysposed to go ony-whyder;

     323

For, wete you well, we wyll lyue and dye to-gyder.

     324

Kynrede.

In welth and wo we wyll with you holde,

     325

For ouer his kynne a man may be bolde.

     326

Eueryman.

Gramercy, my frendes and kynnesmen kynde.

     327

Now shall I shewe you the grefe of my mynde:

     328

I was commaunded by a messenger,

     329

That is a hye kynges chefe offycer.

     330

He bad me go a pylgrymage, to my payne,

     331

And I knowe well I shall neuer come agayne.

     332

Also I must gyue a rekenynge strayte,

     333

For I haue a grete enemy that hath me in wayte,

     334

Whiche entendeth me for to hynder.

     335

Kynrede.

What a-counte is that whiche ye must render?

     336

That wolde I knowe.

     337

Eueryman.

Of all my workes I must shewe

     338

Page  11

How I haue lyued and my dayes spent;

     339

Also of yll dedes that I haue vsed

     340

In my tyme, syth lyfe was me lent;

     341

And of all vertues that I haue refused.

     342

Therfore, I praye you, go thyder with me

     343

To helpe to make myn accounte, for saynt charyte.

     344

Cosyn.

What, to go thyder? Is that the mater?

     345

Nay, Eueryman, I had leuer fast brede and water

     346

All this fyue yere and more. [signature B.iii]

     347

Eueryman.

Alas, that euer I was bore!

     348

For now shall I neuer be mery,

     349

If that you forsake me.

     350

Kynrede.

A, syr, what ye be a mery man!

     351

Take good herte to you, and make no mone.

     352

But one thynge I warne you, by Saynt Anne —

     353

As for me, ye shall go alone.

     354

Eueryman.

My Cosyn, wyll you not with me go?

     355

Cosyn.

No, by our Lady! I haue the crampe in my to.

     356

Trust not to me; for, so God me spede,

     357

I wyll deceyue you in your moost nede.

     358

Kynrede.

It auayleth not vs to tyse.

     359

Ye shall haue my mayde with all my herte;

     360

She loueth to go to feestes, there to be nyse,

     361

And to daunce, and a-brode to sterte.

     362

I wyll gyue her leue to helpe you in that iourney,

     363

If that you and she may a-gree.

     364

Eueryman.

Now shewe me the very effecte of your mynde:

     365

Wyll you go with me, or abyde be-hynde?

     366

Kynrede.

Abyde behynde? / Ye, that wyll I, and I maye!

     367

Therfore farewell tyll another daye.

     368

Eueryman.

Howe sholde I be mery or gladde?

     369

For fayre promyses men to me make,

     370

But whan I haue moost nede they me forsake.

     371

I am deceyued; that maketh me sadde.

     372

Cosyn.

Cosyn Eueryman, farewell now,

     373

For veryly I wyll not go with you.

     374

Also of myne owne an vnredy rekenynge

     375

I haue to accounte; therfore I make taryenge.

     376

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Now God kepe the, for now I go.

     377

**Scene 7**

Eueryman.

A, Iesus, is all come here-to?

     378

Lo, fayre wordes maketh fooles fayne;

     379

They promyse, and nothynge wyll do, certayne.

     380

My kynnesmen promysed me faythfully

     381

For to a-byde with me stedfastly,

     382

And now fast a-waye do they flee.

     383

Euen so Felawshyp promysed me.

     384

What frende were best me of to prouyde?

     385

I lose my tyme here longer to abyde.

     386

Yet in my mynde a thynge there is:

     387

All my lyfe I haue loued ryches;

     388

If that my Good now helpe my myght,

     389

He wolde make my herte full lyght.

     390

I wyll speke to hym in this dystresse.

     391

Where arte thou, my Gooddes and ryches?

     392

**Scene 8**

Goodes.

Who calleth me? Eueryman? / What, hast thou haste?

     393

I lye here in corners, trussed and pyled so hye,

     394

And in chestes I am locked so fast,

     395

Also sacked in bagges. Thou mayst se with thyn eye

     396

I can not styre; in packes, lowe I lye.

     397

What wolde ye haue? Lyghtly me saye.

     398

Eueryman.

Come hyder, Good, in al the hast thou may,

     399

For of counseyll I must desyre the.

     400

Goodes.

Syre, & ye in the worlde haue sorowe or aduersyte,

     401

That can I helpe you to remedy shortly.

     402

Eueryman.

It is another dysease that greueth me;

     403

In this worlde it is not, I tell the so.

     404

I am sent for, an other way to go,

     405

To gyue a strayte counte generall

     406

Before the hyest Iupyter of all.

     407

And all my lyfe I haue had ioye & pleasure in the,

     408

Therfore, I pray the, go with me;

     409

For parauenture, thou mayst before God Almyghty

     410

My rekenynge helpe to clene and puryfye, [signature B.iiii]

     411

For it is sayd euer amonge

     412

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That 'money maketh all ryght that is wronge.'

     413

Goodes.

Nay, Eueryman, I synge an other songe.

     414

I folowe no man in suche vyages;

     415

For, and I wente with the,

     416

Thou sholdest fare moche the worse for me.

     417

For bycause on me thou dyd set thy mynde,

     418

Thy rekenynge I haue made blotted and blynde,

     419

That thyne accounte thou can not make truly —

     420

And that hast thou for the loue of me!

     421

Eueryman.

That wolde greue me full sore,

     422

Whan I sholde come to that ferefull answere.

     423

Vp, let vs go thyder to-gyder.

     424

Goodes.

Nay, not so! I am to brytell, I may not endure.

     425

I wyll folowe no man one fote, be ye sure.

     426

Eueryman.

Alas, I haue the loued, and had grete pleasure

     427

All my lyfe-dayes on good and treasure.

     428

Goodes.

That is to thy dampnacyon, without lesynge,

     429

For my loue is contrary to the loue euerlastynge.

     430

But yf thou had me loued moderately durynge,

     431

As to the poore gyue parte of me,

     432

Than sholdest thou not in this dolour be,

     433

Nor in this grete sorowe and care.

     434

Eueryman.

Lo, now was I deceyued or I was ware;

     435

And all I may wyte my spendynge of tyme.

     436

Goodes.

What, wenest thou that I am thyne?

     437

Eueryman.

I had went so.

     438

Goodes.

Naye, Eueryman, I saye no.

     439

As for a whyle I was lente the;

     440

A season thou hast had me in prosperyte.

     441

My condycyon is mannes soule to kyll;

     442

If I saue one, a thousande I do spyll.

     443

Wenest thou that I wyll folowe the?

     444

Nay, fro this worlde not, veryle.

     445

Eueryman.

I had wende otherwyse.

     446

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Goodes.

Therfore to thy soule Good is a thefe;

     447

For whan thou arte deed, this is my gyse —

     448

Another to deceyue in this same wyse

     449

As I haue done the, and all to his soules reprefe.

     450

Eueryman.

O false Good, cursed thou be,

     451

Thou traytour to God, that hast deceyued me

     452

And caught me in thy snare!

     453

Goodes.

Mary, thou brought thy selfe in care,

     454

Wherof I am gladde.

     455

I must nedes laugh; I can not be sadde.

     456

Eueryman.

A, Good, thou hast had longe my hertely loue;

     457

I gaue the that whiche sholde be the Lordes aboue.

     458

But wylte thou not go with me in dede?

     459

I praye the trouth to saye.

     460

Goodes.

No, so God me spede!

     461

Therfore fare well, and haue good daye.

     462

**Scene 9**

Eueryman.

O, to whome shall I make my mone

     463

For to go with me in that heuy iournaye?

     464

Fyrst Felawshyp sayd he wolde with me gone;

     465

His wordes were very pleasaunt and gaye,

     466

But afterwarde he lefte me alone.

     467

Than spake I to my kynnesmen, all in dyspayre,

     468

And also they gaue me wordes fayre;

     469

They lacked no fayre spekynge,

     470

But all forsake me in the endynge.

     471

Than wente I to my Goodes that I loued best,

     472

In hope to haue comforte; but there had I leest,

     473

For my Goodes sharpely dyd me tell

     474

That he bryngeth many in to hell.

     475

Than of my selfe I was ashamed,

     476

And so I am worthy to be blamed;

     477

Thus may I well my selfe hate.

     478

Of whome shall I now counseyll take?

     479

I thynke that I shall neuer spede

     480

Tyll that I go to my Good Dede.

     481

But, alas, she is so weke

     482

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That she can nother go nor speke;

     483

Yet wyll I venter on her now.

     484

My Good Dedes, where be you?

     485

**Scene 10**

Good Dedes.

Here I lye, colde in the grounde.

     486

Thy synnes hath me sore bounde,

     487

That I can not stere.

     488

Eueryman.

O Good Dedes, I stande in fere!

     489

I must you pray of counseyll,

     490

For help now sholde come ryght well.

     491

Good Dedes.

Eueryman, I haue vnderstandynge

     492

That ye be somoned a-counte to make

     493

Before Myssyas, of Iherusalem kynge;

     494

And you do by me, that iournay with you wyll I take.

     495

Eueryman.

Therfore I come to you my moone to make.

     496

I praye you that ye wyll go with me.

     497

Good Dedes.

I wolde full fayne, but I can not stande, veryly.

     498

Ereryman.

Why, is there ony thynge on you fall?

     499

Goode Dedes.

Ye, syr, I may thanke you of all.

     500

If ye had parfytely chered me,

     501

Your boke of counte full redy had be.

     502

Loke, the bokes of your workes and dedes eke

     503

Ase how they lye vnder the fete,

     504

To your soules heuynes.

     505

Eueryman.

Our Lorde Iesus help me!

     506

For one letter here I can not se.

     507

Good Dedes.

There is a blynde rekenynge in tyme of dystres.

     508

Eueryman.

Good Dedes, I praye you helpe me in this nede,

     509

Or elles I am for euer dampned in dede;

     510

Therfore helpe me to make rekenynge

     511

Before the Redemer of all thynge,

     512

That Kynge is, and was, and euer shall.

     513

Good Dedes.

Eueryman, I am sory of your fall,

     514

And fayne wolde I help you, and I were able.

     515

Eueryman.

Good Dedes, your counseyll I pray you gyue me.

     516

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Good Dedes.

That shall I do veryly.

     517

Thoughe that on my fete I may not go,

     518

I haue a syster that shall with you also,

     519

Called Knowlege, whiche shall with you abyde,

     520

To helpe you to make that dredefull rekenynge.

     521

**Scene 11**

Knowlege.

Eueryman, I wyll go with the and be thy gyde,

     522

In they moost nede to go by thy syde.

     523

Eueryman.

In good condycyon I am now in euery thynge,

     524

And am holy content with this good thynge,

     525

Thanked be God my creature.

     526

Good Dedes.

And whan she hath brought you there

     527

Where thou shalte hele the of thy smarte,

     528

Than go you with your rekenynge & your Good Dedes togyder,

     529

For to make you ioyfull at herte

     530

Before the Blessyd Trynyte.

     531

Eueryman.

My Good Dedes, gramercy!

     532

I am well content, certaynly,

     533

With your wordes swete.

     534

Knowlege.

Now go we togyder louyngly

     535

To Confessyon, that clensynge ryuere.

     536

Eueryman.

For ioy I wepe; I wolde we were there!

     537

But, I pray you, gyue me cognycyon

     538

Where dwelleth that holy man, Confessyon.

     539

Knowlege.

In the house of saluacyon;

     540

We shall fynde hym in that place,

     541

That shall vs comforte, by Goddes grace.

     542

Lo, this is Confessyon. Knele downe & aske mercy,

     543

For he is in good conceyte with God Almyghty.

     544

Eueryman.

O gloryous fountayne, that all vnclennes doth claryfy,

     545

Wasshe fro me the spottes of vyce vnclene,

     546

That on me no synne may be sene.

     547

I come with Knowlege for my redempcyon,

     548

Redempte with herte and full contrycyon;

     549

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For I am commaunded a pylgrymage to take,

     550

And grete accountes before God to make.

     551

Now I praye you, Shryfte, moder of saluacyon,

     552

Helpe my Good Dedes for my pyteous exclamacyon.

     553

**Scene 12**

Confessyon.

I knowe your sorowe well, Eueryman.

     554

Bycause with Knowlege ye come to me,

     555

I wyll you comforte as well as I can.

     556

And a precyous iewell I wyll gyue the,

     557

Called penaunce, voyder of aduersyte;

     558

Therwith shall your body chastysed be,

     559

With abstynence & perseueraunce in Goddes seruyture.

     560

Here shall you receyue that scourge of me,

     561

Whiche is penaunce stronge that ye must endure,

     562

To remembre thy Sauyour was scourged for the

     563

With sharpe scourges, and suffred it pacyently;

     564

So must thou or thou scape that paynful pylgrymage.

     565

Knowlege, kepe hym in this vyage,

     566

And by that tyme Good Dedes wyll be with the.

     567

But in ony wyse be seker of mercy,

     568

For your tyme draweth fast; and ye wyll saued be,

     569

Aske God mercy, and he wyll graunte truely.

     570

Whan with the scourge of penaunce man doth hym bynde,

     571

The oyle of forgyuenes than shall he fynde.

     572

Eueryman.

Thanked be God for his gracyous werke!

     573

For now I wyll my penaunce begyn.

     574

This hath reioysed and lyghted my herte,

     575

Though the knottes by paynful and harde, within.

     576

Knowlege.

Eueryman, loke your penaunce that ye fulfyll,

     577

What payne that euer it to you be;

     578

And Knowlege shall gyue you counseyll at wyll

     579

How your accounte ye shall make clerely.

     580

Eueryman.

O eternall God / O heuenly fygure,

     581

O way of ryghtwysnes / O goodly vysyon,

     582

Whiche dyscended downe in a vyrgyn pure

     583

Bycause he wolde euery man redeme,

     584

Which Adam forfayted by his dysobedyence:

     585

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O blessyd God-heed, electe and hye deuyne,

     586

Forgyue me my greuous offence!

     587

Here I crye the mercy in this presence.

     588

O ghostly treasure, O raunsomer and redemer,

     589

Of all the worlde hope and conduyter,

     590

Myrrour of ioye, foundatour of mercy,

     591

Whiche enlumyneth heuen and erth therby,

     592

Here my clamorous complaynt, though it late be,

     593

Receyue my prayers vnworthy in this heuy lyfe!

     594

Though I be a synner moost abhomynable,

     595

Yet let my name be wryten in Moyses table.

     596

O Mary, praye to the Maker of all thynge,

     597

Me for to helpe at my endynge;

     598

And saue me from the power of my enemy,

     599

For Deth assayleth me strongly.

     600

And, Lady, that I may by meane of thy prayer

     601

Of your Sones glory to be partynere,

     602

By the meanes of his passyon, I it craue;

     603

I besech you helpe my soule to saue.

     604

Knowlege, gyue me the scourge of penaunce;

     605

My flesshe therwith shall gyue acqueyntaunce.

     606

I wyll now begyn yf God gyue me grace.

     607

Knowlege.

Eueryman, God gyue you tyme and space!

     608

Thus I bequeth you in the handes of our Sauyour;

     609

Now may you make your rekenynge sure.

     610

Eueryman.

In the name of the Holy Trynyte,

     611

My body sore punysshed shall be:

     612

Take this, body, for the synne of the flesshe!

     613

Also thou delytest to go gay and fresshe,

     614

And in the way of dampnacyon thou dyd me brynge;

     615

Therfore suffre now strokes of punysshynge.

     616

Now of penaunce I wyll wade the water clere,

     617

To saue me from Purgatory, that sharpe fyre.

     618

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Goode Dedes.

I thanke God, now I can walke and go,

     619

And am delyuered of my sykenesse and wo.

     620

Therfore with Eueryman I wyll go, and not spare;

     621

His good workes I wyll helpe hym to declare.

     622

Knowlege.

Now, Eueryman, be mery and glad!

     623

Your Good Dedes cometh now; ye may not be sad.

     624

Now is your Good Dedes hole and sounde,

     625

Goynge vpryght vpon the grounde.

     626

Eueryman.

My herte is lyght, and shal be euermore;

     627

Now wyll I smyte faster than I dyde before.

     628

Good Dedes.

Eueryman, pylgryme, my specyall frende,

     629

Blessyd be thou without ende!

     630

For the is preparate the eternall glory.

     631

Ye haue me made hole and sounde,

     632

Therfore I wyll byde by the in euery stounde.

     633

Eueryman.

Welcome, my Good Dedes! Now I here thy voyce

     634

I wepe for very swetenes of loue.

     635

Knowlege.

Be no more sad, but euer reioyce;

     636

God seeth thy lyuynge in his trone aboue.

     637

Put on this garment to thy behoue,

     638

Whiche is wette with your teres,

     639

Or elles before God you may it mysse,

     640

Whan ye to your iourneys ende come shall.

     641

Eueryman.

Gentyll Knowlege, what do ye it call?

     642

Knowlege.

It is a garment of sorowe;

     643

Fro payne it wyll you borowe.

     644

Contrycyon it is

     645

That getteth forgyuenes;

     646

He pleaseth God passynge well.

     647

Good Dedes.

Eueryman, wyll you were it for your hele?

     648

Eueryman.

Now blessyde be Iesu, Maryes sone,

     649

For now haue I on true contrycyon;

     650

And lette vs go now without taryenge.

     651

Good Dedes, haue we clere our rekenynge?

     652

Good Dedes.

Ye, in dede, I haue it here.

     653

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Eueryman.

Than I trust we nede not fere.

     654

Now, frendes, let vs not parte in twayne.

     655

Knowlege.

Nay, Eueryman, that wyll we not, certayne.

     656

Good Dedes.

Yet must thou lede with the

     657

Thre persones of grete myght.

     658

Eueryman.

Who sholde they be?

     659

Good Dedes.

Dyscrecyon and Strength they hyght,

     660

And thy Beaute may not abyde behynde.

     661

Knowlege.

Also ye must call to mynde

     662

Your Fyue Wyttes as for your counseylours.

     663

Good Dedes.

You must haue them redy at all houres.

     664

Eueryman.

Howe shall I gette them hyder?

     665

Knowlege.

You must call them all togyder,

     666

And they wyll here you in-contynent.

     667

Eueryman.

My frendes, come hyder and be present,

     668

Dyscrecyon, Strengthe, my Fyue Wyttes, and Beaute.

     669

**Scene 13**

Beaute.

Here at your wyll we be all redy.

     670

What wolde ye that we shold do?

     671

Good Dedes.

That ye wolde with Eueryman go,

     672

And help hym in his pylgrymage.

     673

Aduyse you / wyll ye with him or not in that vyage?

     674

Strength.

We wyll brynge hym all thyder,

     675

To his helpe and comforte / ye may byleue me.

     676

Dyscrecion.

So wyll we go with hym all togyder.

     677

Eueryman.

Almyghty God, loued may thou be!

     678

I gyue the laude that I haue hyder brought

     679

Strength, Dyscrecyon, Beaute, & V. Wyttes. Lacke I nought.

     680

And my Good Dedes, with Knowlege clere,

     681

All be in company at my wyll here.

     682

I desyre no more to my besynes.

     683

Strengthe.

And I, Strength, wyll gy you stande in dystres,

     684

Though thou wolde in batayle fyght on the grounde.

     685

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V. Wyttes.

And though it were thrugh the worlde rounde,

     686

We wyll not departe for swete ne soure.

     687

Beaute.

No more wyll I vnto dethes houre,

     688

What so euer therof befall.

     689

Dyscrecion.

Eueryman, aduyse you fyrst of all;

     690

Go with a good aduysement and delyberacyon.

     691

We all gyue you vertuous monycyon

     692

That all shall be well.

     693

Eueryman.

My frendes, harken what I wyll tell:

     694

I praye God rewarde you in his heuenly spere.

     695

Now herken, all that be here,

     696

For I wyll make my testament

     697

Here before you all present:

     698

In almes / halfe my good I wyll gyue with my handes twayne

     699

In the way of charyte with good entent,

     700

And the other halfe styll shall remayne

     701

In queth, to be retourned there it ought to be.

     702

This I do in despyte of the fende of hell,

     703

To go quyte out of his perell

     704

Euer after and this daye.

     705

Knowlege.

Eueryman, herken what I saye:

     706

Go to Presthode, I you aduyse,

     707

And receyue of hym in ony wyse

     708

The holy sacrament and oyntement togyder.

     709

Than shortly se ye tourne agayne hyder;

     710

We wyll all abyde you here.

     711

V. Wwyttes.

Ye, Eueryman, hye you that ye redy were.

     712

There is no Emperour, Kynge, Duke, ne Baron,

     713

That of God hath commycyon

     714

As hath the leest preest in the worlde beynge;

     715

For of the blessyd sacraments pure and benygne

     716

He bereth the keyes, and therof hath the cure

     717

For mannes recempcyon — it is euer sure —

     718

Whiche God for our soules medycyne Page  22

     719

Gaue vs out of his herte with grete pyne.

     720

Here in this transytory lyfe, for the and me,

     721

The blessyd sacraments vii. there be:

     722

Baptym, confyrmacyon, with preesthode good,

     723

And the sacrament of Goddes precyous flesshe & blod,

     724

Maryage, the holy extreme vnccyon, and penaunce.

     725

These seuen be good to haue in remembraunce,

     726

Gracyous sacraments of hye deuynyte.

     727

Eueryman.

Fayne wolde I receyue that holy body,

     728

And mekely to my ghostly fader I wyll go.

     729

V. Wyttes.

Eueryman, that is the best that ye can do.

     730

God wyll you to saluacyon brynge,

     731

For preesthode excedeth all other thynge:

     732

To vs holy scrypture they do teche,

     733

And conuerteth man fro synne, heuen to reche;

     734

God hath to them more power gyuen

     735

Than to ony aungell that is in heuen.

     736

With v. wordes he may consecrate,

     737

Goddes body in flesshe and blode to make,

     738

And handeleth his Maker bytwene his handes.

     739

The preest byndeth and vnbyndeth all bandes,

     740

Bothe in erthe and in heuen.

     741

Thou mynystres all the sacramentes seuen;

     742

Though we kysse thy fete, thou were worthy.

     743

Thou arte surgyon that cureth synne deedly;

     744

No remedy we fynde vnder God

     745

But all onely preesthode.

     746

Eueryman, God gaue preest that dygnyte,

     747

And setteth them in his stede amonge vs to be;

     748

Thus be they aboue aungelles in degree.

     749

Knowlege.

If preestes be good, it is so, suerly.

     750

But whan Iesu hanged on the crosse with grete smarte,

     751

There he gaue out of his blessyd herte

     752

The seuen sacraments in grete tourment; Page  23

     753

He solde them not to vs, that Lorde omnypotent.

     754

Therfore Saynt Peter the apostell dothe saye

     755

That Iesus curse hath all they

     756

Whiche God theyr Sauyour do by or sell,

     757

Or they for ony money do take or tell.

     758

Synfull preestes gyueth the synners example bad:

     759

Theyr chyldren sytteth by other mennes fyres, I haue harde;

     760

And some haunteth womens company

     761

With vnclene lyfe, as lustes of lechery.

     762

These be with synne made blynde.

     763

V. Wyttes.

I trust to God no suche may we fynde;

     764

Therfore let vs preesthode honour,

     765

And folowe theyr doctryne for our soules socoure.

     766

We be theyr shepe, and they shepeherdes be

     767

By whome we all be kepte in suerte.

     768

Peas! For yonder I se Eueryman come,

     769

Which hath made true satysfaccyon.

     770

Good Dedes.

Me thyhnke it is he in ded.

     771

Eueryman.

Now Iesu be your alder spede!

     772

I haue receyued the sacrament for my redempycon,

     773

And than myne extreme vnccyon.

     774

Blessyd be all they that counseyled me to take it!

     775

And now, frendes, let vs go with-out longer respyte.

     776

I thanke God that ye haue taryed so longe.

     777

Now set eche of you on this rodde your honde,

     778

And shortely folowe me.

     779

I go before there I wolde be. God be our gyde!

     780

Strength.

Eueryman, we wyll not fro you go

     781

Tyll ye haue done this vyage longe.

     782

Dyscrecion.

I, Dyscrecyon, wyll byde by you also.

     783

Knowlege.

And though this pylgrymage be neuer so stronge,

     784

I wyll neuer parte you fro.

     785

Strength.

Eueryman, I wyll be as sure by the

     786

As euer I dyde by Iudas Machabee.

     787

Eueryman.

Alas, I am so faynt I may not stande;

     788

Page  24

My lymmes vnder me do folde.

     789

Frendes, let vs not tourne agayne to this lande,

     790

Not for all the worldes golde;

     791

For in to this caue must I crepe

     792

And tourne to erth, and there to slepe.

     793

Beaute.

What, in to this graue? Alas!

     794

Eueryman.

Ye, there shall ye consume, more and lesse. [signature C.ii]

     795

Beaute.

And what, sholde I smoder here?

     796

Eueryman.

Ye, by my fayth, and neuer more appere.

     797

In this worlde lyue no more we shall,

     798

But in heuen before the hyest Lorde of all.

     799

Beaute.

I crosse out all this. / Adewe, by Saynt Iohan!

     800

I take my tappe in my lappe and am gone.

     801

Eueryman.

What, Beaute, whyder wyll ye?

     802

Beaute.

Peas! I am defe. I loke not behynde me,

     803

Not & thou wolde gyue me all the golde in thy chest.

     804

**Scene 14**

Eueryman.

Alas, wherto may I truste?

     805

Beaute gothe fast awaye fro me.

     806

She promysed with me to lyue and dye.

     807

Strength.

Eueryman, I wyll the also forsake and denye;

     808

Thy game lyketh me not at all.

     809

Eueryman.

Why, than, ye wyll forsake me all?

     810

Swete Strength, tary a lyttel space.

     811

Strengthe.

Nay, syr, by the rode of grace!

     812

I wyll hye me from the fast,

     813

Though thou wepe to thy herte to-brast.

     814

Eueryman.

Ye wolde euer byde by me, ye sayd.

     815

Strength.

Ye, I haue you ferre ynoughe conueyde.

     816

Ye be olde ynoughe, I vnderstande,

     817

Your pylgrymage to take on hande.

     818

I repent me that I hyder came.

     819

Eueryman.

Strength, you to dysplease I am to blame.

     820

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Wyll ye breke promyse that is dette?

     821

Strength.

In fayth, I care not.

     822

Thou arte but a foole to complayne;

     823

You spend your speche and wast your brayne.

     824

Go thryst the in to the grounde.

     825

**Scene 15**

Everyman.

I had wende surer I sholde you haue founde.

     826

He that trusteth in his Strength,

     827

She hym deceyueth at the length.

     828

Bothe Strength and Beaute forsaketh me;

     829

Yet they promysed me fayre and louyngly.

     830

Dyscrecion.

Eueryman, I wyll after Strength be gone.

     831

As for me, I wyll leue you alone.

     832

Eueryman.

Why, Dyscrecyon, wyll ye forsake me?

     833

Dyscrecion.

Ye, in faytyh, I wyll go fro the,

     834

For whan Strength goth before

     835

I folowe after euer more.

     836

Eueryman.

Yet, I pray the, for the loue of the Trynyte,

     837

Loke in my graue ones pyteously.

     838

Dyscrecion.

Nay, so nye wyll I not come.

     839

Fare well, euerychone!

     840

**Scene 16**

Eueryman.

O, all thynge fayleth, saue God alone —

     841

Beaute, Strength, and Dyscrecyon;

     842

For whan Deth bloweth his blast,

     843

They all renne fro me full fast.

     844

V. Wyttes.

Eueryman, my leue now of the I take.

     845

I wyll folowe the other, for here I the forsake.

     846

Eueryman.

Alas, than may I wayle and wepe,

     847

For I toke you for my best frende.

     848

V. Wyttes.

I wyll no lenger the kepe.

     849

Now fare well, and there an ende.

     850

**Scene 17**

Eueryman.

O Iesu, helpe! All hath forsaken me.

     851

Good Dedes.

Nay, Eueryman, I wyll byde with the.

     852

I wyll not forsake the in dede;

     853

Thou shalte fynde me a good frende at nede.

     854

Eueryman.

Gramercy, Good Dedes! Now may I true frendes se.

     855

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They haue forsaken me, euerychone;

     856

I loued them better than my Good Dedes alone.

     857

Knowlege, wyll ye forsake me also?

     858

Knowlege.

Ye, Eueryman, whan ye to Deth shall go; [signature C.iii]

     859

But not yet, for no maner of daunger.

     860

Everyman.

Gramercy, Knowlege, with all my herte.

     861

Knowlege.

Nay, yet I wyll not from hens departe

     862

Tyll I se where ye shall be-come.

     863

Eueryman.

Me thynke, alas, that I must be gone

     864

To make my rekenynge and my dettes paye,

     865

For I se my tyme is nye spent awaye.

     866

Take example, all ye that this do here or se,

     867

How they that I loued best do forsake me,

     868

Except my Good Dedes that bydeth truely.

     869

Good Dedes.

All erthly thynges is but vanyte:

     870

Beaute, Strength / and Dyscrecyon do man forsake,

     871

Folysshe frendes and kynnesmen that fayre spake —

     872

All fleeth saue Good Dedes, and that am I.

     873

Eueryman.

Haue mercy on me, God moost myghty,

     874

And stande by me, thou moder & mayde, Holy Mary!

     875

Good Dedes.

Fere not; I wyll speke for the.

     876

Eueryman.

Here I crye God mercy.

     877

Good Dedes.

Shorte our ende and mynysshe our payne;

     878

Let vs go and neuer come agayne.

     879

Eueryman.

In to thy handes, Lorde, my soule I commende;

     880

Receyue it, Lorde, that it be not lost.

     881

As thou me boughtest, so me defende,

     882

And saue me from the fendes boost,

     883

That I may appere with that blessyd hoost

     884

That shall be saued at the day of dome.

     885

In manus tuas, of myghtes moost

     886

For euer, Commendo spiritum meum.

     887

Knowlege.

Now hath he suffred that we all shall endure;

     888

The Good Dedes shall make all sure.

     889

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Now hath he made endynge;

     890

Me thynketh that I here aungelles synge

     891

And make grete ioy and melody

     892

Where Euerymannes soule receyued shall be.

     893

**Scene 18**

The Aungell.

Come, excellente electe spouse, to Iesu!

     894

Here aboue thou shalte go

     895

Bycause of thy synguler vertue.

     896

Now thy soule is taken thy body fro,

     897

Thy rekenynge is crystall-clere.

     898

Now shalte thou in to the heuenly spere,

     899

Vnto the whiche all ye shall come

     900

That lyueth well before the daye of dome.

     901

**Scene 19**

Doctour.

This morall men may haue in mynde.

     902

Ye herers, take it of worth, olde and yonge,

     903

And forsake Pryde, for he deceyueth you in the ende;

     904

And remembre Beaute, V. Wyttes, Strength, & Dyscrecyon,

     905

They all at the last do Eueryman forsake,

     906

Saue his Good Dedes there dothe he take.

     907

But be-ware, for and they be small,

     908

Before God he hath no helpe at all:

     909

None excuse may be there for Eueryman.

     910

Alas, how shall he do than?

     911

For after dethe amendes may no man make,

     912

For than mercy and pyte doth hym forsake.

     913

If his rekenynge be not clere whan he doth come,

     914

God wyll saye, 'Ite, maledicti, in ignem eternum.'

     915

And he that hath his accounte hole and sounde,

     916

Hye in heuen he shall be crounde.

     917

Vnto which place God brynge vs all thyder,

     918

That we may lyue body and soule togyder. Page  28

     919

Therto helpe the Trynyte!

     920

Amen, saye ye, for saynt charyte.

     921

FINIS.   
*Thus endeth this morall playe of Eueryman.   
Imprynted at London in Poules  
chyrche yarde by me  
Iohan Skot.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
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