

Chester Cycle 1572/2010**Play 10****The Kings and Herod; the Adoration of the Magi; the Slaughter of the Innocents**

Cast: FIRST KING, SECOND KING, THIRD KING, ANGEL, MESENGER, HEROD, COUNSELLOR, MARY, JOSEPH, GOD, FIRST KNIGHT, SECOND KNIGHT, PRIEST, FIRST WOMAN, SECOND WOMAN, DEMON

1 ST KING	Mighty God in majesty that rules the people of Judea when thou on Man wilt have pity and his sins forbuy	<i>redeem</i>
5	send some sign, Lord, to me, that same star that I may see that Balaam said should rise and be in his prophecy.	
10	Therefore these lords and I together In this mount make our prayer devoutly once a year. For to it we be sworn.	
2 nd KING	We who are kings of his kind, I advise we take his words in mind, grace in him if we may find that God's Son shall be. And go we pray, both one and all, into the Mount Victorial.	<i>race</i>
15	Peradventure such grace my fall that star that we may see.	<i>occur</i>
20		
3 rd KING	Sir, surely ye advise us right: unto that hill I will me dight and there beseech God Almighty on us for to have mind, and of that star to have some sight. Worship we all that sweet wight that Balaam to us behight that shall redeem Mankind	<i>go</i>
25		<i>person</i> <i>promised</i>
30	Say, fellow, take this courser and await me right here. Go we, sirs, to our prayer, I advise now in good fay . I have done this many a year, and my ancestors that before me were, High God, prince of power, thou comfort us today!	<i>steed</i>
35		<i>faith</i>

Here they shall dismount from their horses and shall go into the mountain

1 st KING	Lord, what time is thy will Balaam's prophecy to fulfill, thou give us grace, both loud and still, and by some sign us show.
40	
2 nd KING	Yea, Lord, though we be unworthy, on thy servants thou have mercy;

and of thy birth thou certify
here to thy kings three.

3rd KING
46

Lord God, leader of Israel,
that die will for Mankind's weal
come thou to us and not conceal
but be our counsellor.

benefit

1st KING
50

Of all this world thou art the well
that shall be called "Emmanuel."
Resolve thee, Lord, with us to dwell,
and grant us our prayer.

source

Then the star shall appear

1st KING

Ah, sire roi si vous plait,
regardez sous sur votre tete.

2nd KING
56

Une etoile ici est
qui sur vous replait.

3rd KING

60

Aloues, soit la un semblant
d'une virgine portante
comme le semble, d'un enfant
en bras apertement.

1st KING

Ah, Lord, blessed may thou be,
that on they people has pity.
Surely now know we
that answered is our asking.

2nd KING
66

That our prayer heard has he
I believe full well, by my lewty;
for in the star a child I see
and a true tokening.

faith

sign

3rd KING
70

Lords, I advise we hence hie,
for I dare say, and nothing lie,
fulfilled is Balaam's prophecy by this,
we may well know.

hasten

1st KING

75

Yea, lest this be some fantasy
yet pray we all specially;
for if he be born truly
more signs he will us show.

illusion

Then the kings again shall kneel, and the Angel carrying the star shall say

ANGEL

80

Rise up, ye kings three,
and come at once after me
into the land of Judee
as fast as ye may hie ,
The child ye seek there shall ye see
born all of a maiden free
that King of Heaven and earth shall be
and all Mankind shall forbuy.

hasten

noble

redeem

53-60 First King: "Ah, sir king, if it please you, look up above your head." Second King: "There is a star there that shines upon you." Third King: "See there is an image of a virgin bearing, as it seems, a child in her arms, clearly."

Here the kings rise up.

1 st KING 86	Lords, haste we hence anon. Now we be bidden thither gone I will never stop – by my pon – till I with him be.	<i>at once to go head</i>
2 nd KING 90	Yea, sirs, I advise us every one dromedaries to ride upon for swifter beasts be there none. One I have, ye shall see.	
3 rd KING 95	A dromedary, truly, will go easily on his way an hundred miles upon a day; such beasts now take we.	
1 st KING 100	Lords, and I believe well may that child would shorten well our way who bring presents to his pay that most is of degree.	<i>journey pleasure</i>
<i>Then they go down to the beasts and ride about.</i>		
1 st KING	Alas, where is this star i-went? Our light from us away is glent Now know I not where we be lent nor whitherward lies our way.	<i>gone slipped placed</i>
2 nd KING 106	Pray we to God with good intent to whom we bring our present. He will never suffer us to be shent; that dare I boldly say.	<i>resolve destroyed</i>
3 rd KING 110	It is good that we equire if any the way can us lere Say, fellow that rides there, tell us some tiding.	<i>tell</i>
MESSENGER	Sir, tell me what your will were.	
1 st KING 115	Can thou ought say what place or where a child is born that crown shall bear and of the Jews be king?	
2 nd KING 120	We saw the star shine truly in the east in glorious array. Therefore we come now this way to worship him with win.	<i>joy</i>
MESSENGER	Hold your peace, sirs, I you pray! For if King Herod should hear you that say, he would go mad, truly, and fly out of his skin.	
3 rd KING 126	But since a king is so near, go we to him in all manner	<i>by all means</i>
MESSENGER 130	Ye may well see he dwells here, a palace in to dwell. But may he know without were that any is born of more power, you bring yourselves in great danger	<i>doubt</i>

such tidings for to tell.

Here the Messenger must go to the king. Minstrells here must play.

MESSENGER

135

Tidings, now, my lord, I shall you tell
what these three kings do show unto me.
From whence they come I know not well;
yonder they stand, as ye may see.

1st KING

Sir roi real et reverent,
Dieu vous garde omnipotent.

2nd KING

140

Nous sommes venus comoplent,
nouvelles d'enquire.

Staff

HEROD

Bien sois venus, rois gents.
Me dites tout votre entent.

3rd KING

Enfant enquirons-nous de grand parent
et roi de Ciel et Tere.

HEROD

146

Sirs, take care what you sayn!
Such tidings make my heart unfain.
I advise you, take those words again
for fear of a charge of treachery.

say
unhappy

Sword

150

There is none so great that me dare gain,
to take my realm and to attain
my power, but he shall have pain
and be punished openly

oppose

155

I, king of kings, none so keen;
I sovereign lord, as well is seen;
I tyrant, that may both take and teen
castle, tower and town!
I rule this world without ween;

brave

harass

doubt

160

I drive the devils all bedene
deep in Hell a-down.

immediately

165

For I am king of all Mankind;
I bid, I beat, I loose, I bind;
I master the moon. Take this in mind –
that I am most of might

remember

I am the greatest above degree
that is, or was, or ever shall be;
the sun it dare not shine on me
if I bid him go down.
No rain to fall shall none be free;

the hierarchy

137-44 First King: "Sir king royal and revered, may God preserve you, all-powerful one." Second King: "We have come together to seek tidings." Herod: "Welcome, gracious kings. Tell me your full purpose." Third King: "We seek a child of high lineage and king of heaven and earth."

170

nor no lord have that liberty
that dare remain if I bid flee;
but I shall crack his crown.

175	Nor far nor near, that doth me noy – who angers me – I shall him destroy; for every man I dare defy that will not me please. Unless ye be obedient, I shall you beat; here is no man for you shall treat	<i>injury</i> <i>plead</i>
180	All for wrath, see how I sweat! My heart is not at ease.	
<i>Staff</i>		
	For all men may know and see – both he and you all three – that I am king of Galilee, whatsoever he says or does.	<i>i.e. the Messenger</i> <i>i.e. Jesus</i>
<i>Sword</i>		
185	What the devil should this be! a boy, an urchin of low degree should reign above my royalty and make me but a goose	<i>royal estate</i>
<i>Cast up</i>		
190	that rules and reigns so royally! All grace and goodness I have to guy. There is no prince but he shall ply to do my heart's ease.	<i>govern</i> <i>bend</i>
<i>Staff and another gown</i>		
195	But now you may both hear and see that I summed up my royalty. I advise you all, be ruled by me and contrive me for to please.	
1 st KING	Sir, we saw a star appear in the east without were in a marvellous manner, together as we prayed.	<i>certainly</i>
200		
2 nd KING	We saw never none so clear; by it the way we could lear. But when we came to your land here then vanished it away	<i>learn</i>
3 rd KING	By prophecy well know we that a child born should be to rule the people of Judee, as was said for many a year.	
206		
HEROD	That is false by my lewty for despite of you all three this realm moves all from me; other kings none shall be here	<i>faith</i>
210		
215	But since you speak of prophecy I will know anon in high whether ye say truth or lie My clerk soon shall see. Sir Doctor, that chief are of clergy,	

220	look up thy books of prophecy of Daniel, David and Isaiah, and what thou seest say thou to me.	
225	These kings be come a far way to seek a child, I heard them say, that should be born in this country my kingdom to destroy. Seek each leaf, I thee pray, and what thou findest in good fay tell now here, for I dare lay all these lords lie.	<i>faith wager</i>
COUNSELLOR 230	Nay, my lord, be ye bold; I trust no prophets before would write anything your heart to cold or your right to deny.	<i>chill</i>
235	But since your grace at this time would that I the prophets declare should, of Christ's coming as they have told, the truth to certify.	
240	I beseech your royal majesty with the patience of your benignity the truth to hear, and pardon me their sayings to declare.	
HEROD 245	Nay, my true clerk, that will not I debate with thee; therefore in hie look well on every prophecy. For nothing that thou spare,	<i>at once</i>
250	but search the truth of Isaiah Ezechiel, Nahum, and Jeremiah Micah, Abdas and Zachariah of Christ what they do say. Look also upon Malachi, Haggai, Hosea and Sophony, Joel, Amos and Habakkuk in hie; look none be left away.	<i>Obadiah Zepheniah immediately</i>
COUNSELLOR 255	The Holy Scripture maketh declaration patriarchs and prophets of Christ's nativity, when Jacob prophesied by plain demonstration – said the realm of Juda and also the royalty from that generation never taken should be until he were come that most mighty is sent from the Father, king of heavenly bliss.	
260	And now fulfilled is Jacob's prophecy; for King Herod that is now reigning is no Jew born, nor of that progeny, but a stranger – by the Romans made their king; and the Jews know none of their blood descending	
265	by succession to claim the sceptre and regality <i>rule</i> wherefore Christ is now born, our King and Messiah.	
<i>A bill</i>		
HEROD	That is false by the Devil full of might That old stupid Jacob, doted for age	

270 shall withhold no prophecy the title and right
of Romans' high conquest which to me in heritage
is fallen for ever, as prince
of high parentage *noble ancestry*
If any other king or Messiah intend is to win
275 his head from his body with this sword
I shall twin. *separate*

And he shall say, 'Read on!'

COUNSELLOR Daniel, fulfilled with heavenly grace,
prophesied also by divine inspiration
that when he was come that of all holy was
280 most holiest, in Earth to take his habitation
in the womb of a virgin, and by his blessed incarnation
out of Satan's bond to deliver Mankind
whom sin original most piteously did bind –

285 then both unctions, sacrifices and rites ceremonial
of the Old Testament, with legal observation,
shall utterly cease and take their end final
through Christ's coming, which for Man's salvation
a New Testament should ordain by divine operation,
offering himself in sacrifice for Mankind's offence,
290 which from Heaven was exiled through his great negligence.

Cast down the sword

HEROD Fie on that dream-reader! Such dotards never shall –
nor no sleepy sluggard – make my right title cease.
But I shall knightly keep it, whatsoever shall befall,
against that young villain. And if he once do press
295 this kingdom to claim, or put me to distress,
his head off shall I hew. Yet look thou find there
where this boy is born for whom these kings enquire.

COUNSELLOR Micah, inflamed with spiritual inspiration,
prophesied that Bethlem should a child forth bring.
300 Ruler of God's people and of the Jews' nation
should he be, born of Israel to be king.
Also Isaiah and Jeremiah, full of virtuous living,
with diverse others more fulfilled with grace
of Christ's coming prophesied while their living was. *in their lifetime*
305 Isaiah, to whom the spirit of prophecy
was uniquely given through the Holy Ghost,
in his time prophesied that kings witterly *indeed*
and folks of strange nations from sundry coasts –
that Prince's birth to magnify, which of might is most –
310 should walk in great light; and brightness should appear,
as did these kings, in a bright star shining clear.

Cast down sword

HEROD Alas! What presumption should move that peevish page
or any elvish villain to take me from my crown?
But, by the Devil, that boy for all his great outrage
315 shall die under my hand, that elf and vile congeon. *scoundrel*
for to avenge my teen *anger*
I shall hew that harlot *villain*
with my bright sword so keen *sharp*
into pieces small. Yet look and search again
320 if these kings shall him find, and his presence attain.

COUNSELLOR <i>powerful</i>	David, of all prophets called most prepotent	<i>supremely</i>
325	prophesied that kings of Tharsis and Araby with mystical gifts shall come and present that Lord and Prince, that King and High Messiah, of Abraham's seed descended lineally – which king's with great treasure here in presence to seek him as sovereign, and laud his magnificence!	
330	My lord, by prophecy is proved you before that in Bethlem should be born a child to save all that was forlorn and rule all Israel.	<i>utterly lost</i>
	<i>Break a sword</i>	
HEROD	By Cock's soul, thou art forsworn! Have done! Those books should be rent and torn! For he shall be no king with crown, but I, fully in my weal.	<i>God's splendour</i>
335	And mauger David, that shepherd with his sling Isaiah, Jeremiah with all their offspring here get no other Messiah nor king, from my right title to expel.	<i>in spite of expel (me)</i>
	<i>Cast up</i>	
340	What the devil is this to say: that I should be disproved and put away – since my right is so verray – for a boy's boast!	
345	This realm is mine, and shall be ay, manfully to sustain it while I may though he bring with him today the Devil and all his host.	
	<i>Cast up. Staff and another gown</i>	
350	But go you forth, you kings three, and enquire if it be so. But in any case come again to me, for you I think to feed. And if he be of such degree him will I honour as do ye as befits his dignity in word, thought and deed.	<i>rank</i>
355		
1 st KING	At once, sir! And have good day, till we come again this way.	
2 nd KING	And of his riches and his array from you we shall not lain.	<i>conceal</i>
3 rd KING 361	Sir, as soon as ever we may – and as we see, so shall we say.	
HEROD	Farewell, lords, truly but hasten you fast again, <i>[The kings continue their journey]</i>	

1 st KING 365	Mighty God and most of main to honour thee we may be fain the star I see it come again that was out of our sight.	<i>power</i> <i>eager</i>
2 nd KING 370	Thy lordship to us do not thou lain that for Mankind would suffer pain. Thou send us grace, if thou be gain to come to thee tonight.	<i>conceal</i> <i>well disposed</i>
3 rd KING 375	Ah, Lord, honoured be thou ay, for now we shall know well the way. I will follow it, in good fay, my agreement to fulfill.	<i>faith</i>
1 st KING	I hope without fear today to see that child and his array. But methinks, lords, truly, the star it standeth still.	
2 nd KING 381	That is a sign that we are near – but high hall see I none here. For a child of such power this housing standeth low.	<i>poor</i>
3 rd KING 385	Now know I well, without were, without pride he will appear to make men meek, in such manner an example us to show.	<i>doubt</i>
2 nd KING 390	The star it shines fair and clear over this stable ay entire. Here is his dwelling without were, and herein is he lent.	<i>always; fully</i> <i>doubt</i> <i>placed</i>
3 rd KING	A fair maiden yonder I see, an old man sitting at her knee, a child also; it seems to me, three persons therein are.	
1 st KING 396	I say in certain this is he that we have sought from far country. Therefore now with all honesty honour I will that barn.	<i>child</i>
	<i>Then he shall take a vessel with gold</i>	
400	Hail be thou, Lord, Christ and Messiah, that from God art come kindly, Mankind from torment to forbuy and into bliss bring.	<i>by nature</i> <i>redeem</i>
405	We know well by prophecy of Moses, David and Isaiah, and Balaam of our ancestry of Jews thou shalt be king.	<i>forefathers</i>
410	Therefore as befits thy crown, gold I have here ready boun to honour thee with great renown after thy royalty.	<i>prepared</i>

	Take here, Lord, my intention that I do with devotion, and give me here thy benison before I go from thee.	<i>purpose</i> <i>blessing</i>
415		
2 nd KING	Hail be Christ Emmanuel! Thou come art for Man's heal and for to win again that weal that Adam put away.	<i>well-being</i> <i>happiness</i> <i>cast aside</i>
420	Prophets of thee every one tell both Isaiah and Ezechiel; and Abraham might not conceal the truth of thee to say.	
425	Priest I know thou must be; therefore now, it seems to me, incense will fall best for thee; and that now here I bring as a sign of thy dignity and that office of sprituality.	<i>be most fitting</i>
430	Receive here, Lord, from me devoutly my offering.	
3 rd KING	Hail, Champion of all Mankind! To do mercy thou has mind the Devil's bond to unbind and release all that are thine.	<i>intend</i>
435	for thou shalt restore us through thy might, die and rise the third night, to recover again our right and break the Devil's band.	<i>what is rightfully ours</i>
440	Myrrh to thee here have I dight to embalm thy body fair and bright. Receive my present, sweet wight and bless me with thy hand.	<i>prepared</i> <i>beautiful</i> <i>child</i>
GOD	You be welcome, kings three unto my mother and to me, and into the land of Judea And here I give you my blessing.	
445		
MARY	You royal kings in rich array the high Father of Heaven I pray to reward you your good deed today, for his great might.	
450		
455	And believe, lords, without were that to my Son you shall be dear, that him today hath honoured here and me also for his sake.	<i>doubt</i>
JOSEPH	You kings all comely of kind, full faithfully you shall it find this reverence that God will have in mind and repay you well your meed.	<i>noble by nature</i> <i>reward</i>
460	This maiden was entrusted to me When I had lost my jollity and lacked might and posty sin for to assay.	<i>power</i>
465	But for God would in chastity that we should together be,	

	keeper of her virginity I have been many a day.	
470	Therefore I know, truly iwiss, pure virgin that she is and with man did never amiss; and thereof be you bold. Of the Holy Ghost this child is, for to bring Mankind to bliss. And this child is truly his; so Gabriel me told.	<i>committed sin</i> <i>confident</i>
475		
ANGEL	I warn you, comely kings three, my Lord would not you killed be. Therefore he sends you word by me the return another way.	
480	Herod's fellowship you shall flee; for you, harm ordained has he. Therefore go not through his country, nor the way you came today.	
1 st KING 485	Ah, high Lord that we honour here, who warns us in this manner! Else had we gone without were to him that would us spill.	<i>doubt</i> <i>destroy</i>
2 nd KING	Yea, Lord as thou can us lere we will do to our power.	<i>teach</i>
3 rd KING	Go we hence all together, and his bidding fulfill.	
	<i>[The kings leave Mary and Joeseeph]</i>	
1 st KING	Farewell, Sir Jasper, brother, to you, King of Tharsis most worthy.	
495	Farewell, Sir Balthasar; to you I bow, I thank you for your company. He that caused us to meet on plain and offer to Mary in her gesine and send us safe and sound again to the lands that we come from.	<i>childbed</i>
500		
2 nd KING	You kings, I tell you verament: since God of his grace us hither sent, we will do his commandment whatsoever befall.	<i>truly</i>
3 rd KING 506	Farewell, sir kings, both together; I thank you both for your good cheer. But yet my mind is in a were lest Herod prepare us some tray.	<i>confusion</i> <i>ambush</i>
510	He that created both sea and sand send us safe into our land! Kings two, give me your hand. Farewell, and have good day.	
	<i>[Herod's Court]</i>	
HEROD	Princes, prelates of price, barons in ermine and bise	<i>worth</i> <i>rich linen</i>
515	beware of me, all who are wise, that wieldes all at my will.	

	Let no man say anything is his but only at my device; for all this world under me lies to spare – and also to kill.	<i>devising</i> <i>destroy</i>
520		
	My subjects who are all here set barons, burgess and baronet – be obedient to me, or you are let and at my bidding be. For believe this without let, that I will do as I have het – mar that misbegotten marmoset that thinks to mar me.	<i>locked up</i> <i>doubt</i> <i>promised</i> <i>inflict damage on</i> <i>harm</i>
525		
	And those false traitors that me behight to have come again this same night by another was have taken their flight; this way durst they not take. Therefore that boy, by God Almighty, shall be slain soon in your sight, and – though it be against what is right – a thousand for his sake.	<i>promised</i>
530		
	Alas, what purpose had that page that is so young and tender of age, that would take away my heritage who is so great of might? Truly that shrew was wondrous wise against me war to wage! The wretched rascal for all his rage shall not rob me of my right.	<i>lad</i> <i>sage</i>
540		
	But since it may no other way be but that these kings are gone from me, Because I know not which is he all for his sake shall be slain.	
545		
	How! Pretty Prat, my messenger! Come hither to me without fear! For thou must go without fear! For thou must go with hasty bere into Judea this day after my sturdy and comely knights and bid them hasten with all their mights and bid that they stop for no fights! Bring them without delay.	<i>tumult</i>
550		
	Yes, my lord of great renown, to do your command, I am boun lightly to leap over dale and down and prosper if I were there Farewell, my lord in majesty, for on my journey I will hie me.	<i>ready</i> <i>hasten</i>
MESSENGER 560		
	Now my best wishes go with thee, may we ever dwell together.	
HEROD 565		
	<i>[The messenger goes to the knights]</i>	
	How! awake out of your sleep, Sir Grimbald and Sir Lancherdeep! And to me you take good heed,	<i>heed</i>
MESSENGER		

570	for hither I am sent. My lord, King Herod, begins to swoon for a wretch would have his crown and thus deprive him of his renown, and soon would have him shent.	<i>destroyed</i>
1 st KNIGHT 575	Welcome, messenger that art so gent These tidings which my lord has sent – they be welcome, verament. With thee now will I wend.	<i>courteous</i> <i>go</i>
2 nd KNIGHT 580	Messenger, I will, in good fay, go with you this same way to hear what my lord will say, of this matter to make an end.	<i>faith</i>
	<i>[They go to Herod]</i>	
MESSENGER 585 HEROD	Hail, comely king sitting in see! Here are thy knights come to thee that are men of great degree to hear of your talent. Messenger, for thy good deed right well shall I pay thy meed: have here of me to do thee speed buy a gay garment	<i>on a throne</i> <i>purpose</i> <i>reward</i>
MESSENGER 591	Gramercy, lord regent; well am I pleased to mine intent. May the Devil your friend I meant keep you in this stead!	<i>place</i>
1 st KNIGHT 595	Sir Lancherdeep, what say ye? This is the fairest king that ever I see.	
2 nd KNIGHT	This day under the sun shining is there none so seemly a king.	
1 st KNIGHT 600	Hail, comely king crowned in gold! No king or emperor knows your bet If any were that with your grace fight would, such strokes for your sake full sore should be set.	<i>better</i> <i>placed</i>
HEROD 605	Welcome, our knights that be so gent! Now will we tell you our intent, what is the cause we for you sent so soon and hastily. Yesterday to this city when we were in our royalty, there came to us kings three and told us their intent	<i>royal state</i>
610	to seek a child that born should be, that was said by prophecy that should be king of Judea and many another land.	
615	We gave them leave to search and see and come again to this city; and if he were of such degree; we would not him withstand.	<i>rank</i>
	But if they had come again,	

620	all three traitors would have been slain, also that deceitful swain – and all for his sake. Out, alas! What may this be? For I know not which is he!	
625	Therefore all knave-children in this country, on them shall fall the wreak.	<i>vengeance</i>
630	For we know not that child well, Though we therefore should go to Hell, all children of Israel we condemn them to be slain. Counsellor, what is thy read?	<i>advice</i>
COUNSELLOR	Condemn them, lord, to be dead – for that is best as I eat bread, to catch that deceitful swain	
640	Command your knights anon to hie to go to the land of Galilee and into the land of Judee, to slay all that they find.	<i>hasten</i>
HEROD	That was well said, my counsellor, But yet I burn as doth the fire both for wrath and for ire – till this be brought to an end. You must hasten out of this town To Bethlehem as fast as you mon.	<i>may</i>
650	All male-children, by my crown, you must slay this night.	
1 st KNIGHT	Alas! My lord and king of bliss, sent you after us for this? A villainy it were, iwiss, for my fellow and me to slay a shitten-arsed shrew;	
655	a mere boy his head off might hew! For rascals are not now in this row, but knights of great degree.	<i>high rank</i>
2 nd KNIGHT	My dear lord of great renown, we shall avenge you if we mon – whether he be knight, or champion stiffer than ever Samson was, certainly I shall drive them down. But for to kill such a congeon I'm sore ashamed, I'll be bound, to go in any place.	<i>may</i> <i>brat</i>
665		
HEROD	Nay, nay, it is neither one nor two that you shall slay, as I may go, but a thousand and yet moe Take this in your mind:	<i>still more</i>
670	Because I know not which this shrew is therefore, in case you should him miss, you must slay, truly, iwiss, all that you may find.	
675	You shall walk far and near into Bethlehem. Spare for no bere all male-children within two year	<i>outcry</i>

ANGEL 731	Yea, company we shall you bear until that you have come there. Herod prepares him you to dere as fast as ever he may.	<i>harm</i>
JOSEPH 735	Mary, sister, now we must flit; upon my ass shall thou now sit, into Eygpt until we hit. The angel will us lead.	<i>move on</i> <i>enter</i>
MARY 740	Sir, evermore loud and still your wishes I shall fulfil I know it is my Lord's will; I do as you me read.	<i>in all circumstances</i> <i>advise</i>
ANGEL 745	Come now forth in God's name. I shall you shield from all shame; and you shall see my dear dame, a thing to your liking; for idols both one and all, that men of Egypt "gods" do call, at your coming down shall fall when I begin to sing.	

Then they shall go, and the Angel shall sing, "Ecce dominus ascendet super nubem levem, et ingrediatur Egiptum, et movebatur simulchra Egipti a facie domini exercitum" [Isaiah 19:1]; and if it can be done, some statue or image shall fall.

1 st KNIGHT 751	Have done, fellows, hurry fast, that these sluts were down cast, and the children in thrast; and cut them all to cloutes	<i>stabbed</i> <i>pieces</i>
2 nd KNIGHT 755	Yea, sir, we stay too long; therefore, go we them among. They expect to have some wrong that go so fast about us.	
1 st WOMAN 760	Whom callest thou "slut", scabbed bitch? Thy dame, thou coward, was never such? She burned a kiln, each stitch – yet did I never none.	<i>every bit</i>
2 nd WOMAN 765	Be thou so hardy, I thee behet, to handle my son that is so sweet this distaff and thy head shall meet before we hither be gone.	<i>promise</i>
1 st KNIGHT 771	Come hither to me, Dame Parnell, and show me here thy son snell. For the king has bid me kill all that we find may.	<i>quickly</i>
1 st WOMAN 771	My son? Nay, strong thief, for – as I have good proof – do thou my child any grief, I shall crack thy crown.	

Then the knight shall transfix the first male-child and lift it on his spear

775	Out, out and woe is me! Thief, thou shalt hang-ed be.	
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- 780 My child is dead; now I see
my sorrow may not cease.
Thou shall be hanged upon a tree
and all thy fellows with thee.
All men in this country
shall not make thy peace.
- 785 Have thou this, thou foul harlot!
And thou knight, to make a knot!
And one buffet with this bot
thou shalt have to boot. *to complete it
bundle of cloth*
And thou this! And thou this!
Though thou both shit and piss!
And if thou think we do amiss
hasten you to the court moot.
- 2nd KNIGHT
791 Dame show me thy child there;
he must hop upon my spear
and it any penis bear,
I must teach him a play.
- 2nd WOMAN
795 Nay, knight, thou shalt fail;
my child shalt thou not assail
It has two holes under the tail;
kiss, and thou may assay.
- 800 Be thou so bold, stick-toad
to endure any wrong, or bode!
For all thy speech and thy goad *offer*
I tell ye, ye do but good.
For, if you do me any harm
or my child upon my arm,
I shall manage to keep you warm
805 be thou never so wood. *make you sweat
angry*
- Then the Second Knight shall transfix the second male-child*
- 2nd WOMAN
810 Out, out, out, out!
You shall be hanged, the rout. *the lot of you
bold*
Thieves, be you never so stout,
full foul you have done.
This child was given to me
to look to. Thieves, who been ye?
He was not mine as you shall see.
He was the king's son.
- 815 I shall tell while I may drey;
his child was slain before my eye. *endure*
Thieves, you shall be hang-ed high,
if I may come to his hall.
But before I go, have thou one!
And thou another by St John!
820 For to the king I will anon
to complain upon you all.
- Then she shall go to Herod*
- 825 Lo, lord, look and see –
the child that thou entrusted to me
men of thine own company
have slain it – here they be

HEROD	Fie, whore, fie! God give the pain! Why didst thou not say the child was mine? But it is vengeance, as drink I wine, and that is now well seen.	
2 nd WOMAN 831	Yea, lord, they see well aright thy son was like to be a knight, for in gold harness he was dight painted wondrous gay.	<i>clad</i>
835	Yet was I never so sore afright, when they their spears through him thright; lord, so little was my might when they began to fray.	<i>thrust</i> <i>attack</i>
HEROD 840	He was most secure in silk array, in gold and perry that was so gay. They might well know by this day he was a king's son. What the Devil is this to say? Why were thy wits so far away? Could thou not speak? Could thou not pray, and say it was my son?	<i>precious stones</i>
845		
850	Alas my days now are done! I know I must die soon. Useless for me to make moan, for damned I must be. My legs rot and my arms, that now I see for fiends swarms – I have done so many harms – from Hell coming after me.	
855	I have done so much woe and never good since I might go; therefore I see now coming my foe to fetch me to Hell. I bequeath here in this place my soul to Satanus.	
860	I die now. Alas, alas! I may no longer dwell.	
<i>Then he make a sign as if he dies and the Demon shall come</i>		
DEMON 865	From Lucifer, that lord, I am sent to fetch this king's soul here present into Hell to bring him, there to be lent, ever to live in woe.	<i>placed</i>
	There fire burns dark and brent, he shall there be, this lord verament. His place evermore therein is hent, his body never to go fro.	<i>high</i> <i>taken</i>
870	No more shall you trespass. By my lewty, those who fill their measures falsely shall bear this lord company; they get none other grace. I will you bring thus to woe, and come again and fetch more as fast as ever I may go. Farewell and have good days.	<i>faith</i>
875		

Exit Demon

ANGEL	Joseph, arise and that in hie! For dead is now your enemy.	<i>in haste</i>
880	Take Jesus the child and also Mary and wend into Judea.	
	Herod, that would have you slain, he is destroyed, both might and main.	
885	Therefore hasten you home again; in peace now shall you be.	
JOSEPH	Ah, Lord that madest all of nought, it is right that thy will be wrought.	<i>done</i>
890	Now he is dead that us has sought. We shall never cease till that we at home be again in our country.	
	Now hope we well to live in lee and in full great peace.	<i>happiness</i>
895	Mary, sister, we must go to our land that we came fro.	
	The angel has bidden us so, my own dear sweet.	
900	On my ass thou shalt be, and my mantle under thee, full easily sister, believe thou me and that I thee behete.	<i>promise</i>
MARY	I thank you, sir, as best I can. Help me up that I were on.	
905	He that is both God and man keep us in this tide!	<i>at this time</i>
JOSEPH	Come hither, dear heart-root; I shall soon be thy boot.	<i>help</i>
	Thou shalt soon ride each foot, and I will be by your side.	<i>all the way</i>
ANGEL	Now you be ready for to go – Joseph and Mary also	
911	truly I will not depart you fro but protect you from your foe.	
915	And I will make a melody, and sing here in your company	
925	a word that was said in prophecy a thousand years ago:	
	“Ex Egipto vocavi Filium meum, ut salvum faciet populum meum”	