

Chester Cycle 1572/2010**Play 3****Cain and Abel**

CAST: GOD, ADAM, EVE, CAIN, ABEL

Minstrels play.

ADAM:	High God, and highest king that of nought made all thing - beast, fowl, and grass growing - and me of earth made,	
5	thou gave me grace to do thy willing. For after great sorrow and sighing thou hast given me great liking, two sons my heart to glad -	<i>desire</i> <i>joy</i> <i>gladden</i>
10	Cain and Abel, my children dear, whom I begat within thirty year after time we deprived were of Paradise for our pride. Therefore now them I will lere, to make them know in good manner	<i>teach</i>
15	what I saw when Eve, my partner was taken from my side.	
20	While that I slept in that place my spirit to Heaven banished was; for to see I there had grace things that shall befall. To make you aware of a dangerous case and keep you from doing trespass, some I will tell before your face, but I will not tell all.	
25	I know by things that I there see that God will come from Heaven on high to overcome the Devil so sly and alight into my kind;	<i>saw</i> <i>race</i>
30	and my blood that he will win that I so lost for my sin; a New Law there shall begin and so men shall it find.	
35	Water or fire also certainly all this world shall destroy, for men shall sin so horribly and do full much amiss. Therefore, that ye may escape that noy, do well and be warned me by.	<i>harm</i>
40	I tell you here in prophecy that this will fall, iwiss.	<i>indeed</i>
45	Also I saw, as I shall say, that God will come the last day to judge Mankind in flesh verray, and flame of fire burning - the good to Heaven, the evil to Hell.	<i>real</i>

Your children this tale ye may tell.
This sight saw I in Paradise before I fell,
as I lay sleeping.

50 Now will I tell how ye shall do
God's love to underfoe. *receive*
Cain, husbandman's trade thou must go to; *apply yourself*
and Abel, a shepherd be.
Therefore of corns fair and clean *ears of corn*
that grows on furrows out of rain,
55 Cain, thou shalt offer, as I mean,
to God in majesty. *intend*

And Abel, while thy life may last
thou shalt offer - and obey my hest - *command*
to God the first-born beast;
60 thereto thou make thee boun. *ready*
Thus shall ye please God almight
if ye do this well and right,
with good heart in his sight
and total devotion.

65 Nor for to get you sustenance
I will you teach without distance. *assuredly*
For since I feel that mischance *misfortune*
of that fruit for to eat,
my dear children fair and free, *noble*
70 with this spade that ye may see
I have dug. Learn this from me,
how ye shall get your meat.

Then Adam shall till the earth and shall teach his sons, and Eve shall have a distaff.

EVE: My sweet children, darlings dear,
ye shall see how I live here
75 because disobedient so we were
and did as God ne would. *willed it not*
This pain otherwise had been no need.
I suffer on Earth for my misdeed.
80 And of this wool I will spin thread by thread,
to cover me from the cold.

Another sorrow I suffer also:
my children must I bear with woe,
as I have done both you two;
85 and so shall women all. *suffering*
This was the Devil, our bitter foe,
that made us out of joy to go.
To please God, sons, therefore be throw, *eager*
in sin that ye not fall.

CAIN: Mother, for truth I tell it thee,
91 a tillman I am, and so will be. *farmer*
As my father hath taught it me,
I will fulfill his lore. *teaching*

Here he brings in the plough.

CAIN: Of corn I have great plenty;
95 sacrifice to God - soon shall ye see -
I will make, to look if he
will send me any more.

ABEL: And I will with devotion
 to my sacrifice make me boun. *ready*
 100 The fairest beast, by my crown,
 for the Lord I will choose
 and offer it before thee here
 meekly in good manner.
 105 No beast to thee may be dear
 that may I not lose.

Here Adam and Eve go out till Cain have slain Abel.

CAIN: I am the elder of us two;
 therefore first I will go.
 Such as the fruit is fallen fro *from*
 is good enough for him.
 110 This corn growing, as mote I thee,
 was eaten by beasts, men may see. *so may I thrive*
 God, thou gettest no other of me,
 be thou never so grim. *however angry you may be*

It were a pity, by my pen, *head*
 those fair ears for to bren, *burn*
 115 Therefore the Devil hang me then
 if thou of it get ought.
 This earless corn grew next to the way;
 of these offer I will today.
 120 For clean corn, by my fay, *faith*
 from me gettest thou nought.

Lo, God, here may thou see
 such corn as grew to me.
 Part of it I bring to thee
 125 quickly without let. *; hesitation*
 I hope thou wilt repay me for this
 and send me more of worldly bliss;
 else indeed thou dost amiss
 and thou should be in my debt.

Then Abel will sacrifice his beasts.

ABEL: Now, my brother, as I see,
 131 hath done sacrifice to thee.
 Offer I will, as befits me,
 such as thou hast me sent.
 135 The best beast, as mote I thee, *so may I thrive*
 of all my flock with heart free *willing*
 to thee offered it shall be.
 Receive, Lord, my present.

Then a flame of fire shall descend upon the sacrifice of Abel.

ABEL: Ah, high God, and king of bliss,
 now truly know I well by this
 140 my sacrifice accepted is
 before the Lord today.
 A flame of fire thou sent has
 from Heaven on high into this place.
 I thank thee, Lord, for thy grace
 145 and so shall I do ay. *ever*

CAIN: Out, out! How have I spent my good? *portion*

	To see this sight I grow near wood. A flame of fire from Heaven stood on my brother's offering.	<i>mad</i>	
150	His sacrifice I see God takes, and mine refuses and forsakes. My body for shame shakes for envy of this thing.		
GOD: 155	Cain, why art thou angry, why? Thy countenance changes wondrously. thou do well and truly, thou may have reward of me.		If
160	Know thou not well that for thy deed if thou do well thou may have meed; if thou do foul, foul for to speed and certain thereof to be?	<i>reward</i>	
165	But, Cain, thou shalt have all thy will, thy talent if thou wilt fulfill. Sin against it, it will thee spill and make thee evil to speed. Thy brother obedient ever shall be and fully under thy posty; the enjoyment of that rests with thee. Think about thy deed.	<i>inate potential destroy to fare badly power</i>	
CAIN 171	Ah! Well, well! Is it so? Come forth with me. Thou must go into the field a little fro; I have an message to say.	<i>a little way away</i>	
ABEL 175	Brother, for you I am ready to go with thee full meekly. For thou art elder than am I, thy will I will do ay.	<i>ever</i>	
CAIN: 180	Say, thou caitif, thou congeon, dost thou think to surpass me in renown? Thou shalt fail, by my crown, of mastery, if I may.	<i>imbecile</i>	
185	God hath challenged me now here because of thee, and that in foul manner; and that shall thou pay for full dear before you go away.	<i>can (stop it)</i>	
190	Thy offering God accepted has. I see by fire that on it was. Shalt thou never again have such grace, for die thou shalt this night. Though God stood in this place for to help thee in this case, thou should die before his face. Have this, and get thee right!		
<i>Then Cain killeth his brother Abel; and God, coming, saith (Minstrels play):</i>			
GOD:	Cain, where is thy brother Abel?		
CAIN: 191	I know never; I cannot tell of my brother. Knowst thou not well that I of him had no keeping?	<i>control</i>	

- GOD: What has thou done, thou wicked man?
 Thy brother's blood asks thee upon
 195 vengeance, as fast as it can,
 from earth to me crying.
- Cain, cursed on Earth thou shalt be ay. *ever*
 For thy deed thou hast done today,
 earth cursed shall be in thy work alway
 that wickedly hast wrought.
 200 And for that thou hast done this mischief,
 to all men thou shalt be unliel,
 idle and wandering as a thief *hateful*
 and overall set at nought. *esteemed as nothing*
- Cain speaketh mournfully.*
- CAIN: Out, alas! Where may I be?
 206 Sorrow on each side I see.
 For if I out of the land flee
 from men's company,
 beasts I know will gnaw me.
 210 And if I stay, I say truly,
 I must be bond, and nothing free - *a bondman*
 and all for my folly!
- For my sin so horrible is,
 and I have done too much amiss,
 215 that unworthy I am, iwiss, *indeed*
 forgiveness to attain.
 Well I know wherever I go
 whoso meets me will me slow, *slay*
 and each man will be my foe.
 220 No grace to me may gain. *be a help*
- GOD: Nay, Cain, thou shalt not die soon,
 horribly even if thou have always done.
 That is not thy brother's boon,
 thy blood for to shed. *prayer*
 225 But, truly, whosoever slayeth thee
 sevenfold punished he shall be,
 and great pain may thou not flee
 for thy wicked deed.
- Because thou has done this deed,
 thou may expect – and thy seed -
 230 into the seventh generation -
 punishment for the whole.
 For thou today has done so,
 thy seed for thee shall suffer woe;
 and while thou on Earth may go
 235 of vengeance have thy dole. *portion*
- CAIN: Out, out! Alas, alas!
 I am damned without grace.
 Therefore I will go from place to place
 and look where is the best.
 240 Well I know and certainly,
 into what place that come I,
 each man will loathe my company;
 so shall I never have rest.
- Foul fortune is me befall:

