

**Chester 1572/2010****Play 6****Balaam and Balaack**

Cast: MESSENGER, BALAAACK, KNIGHT, BALAAM, GOD, ASS, ANGEL, EXPOSITOR

MESSENGER Make room, lordings, and give us way,  
and let Balaack come in and play,  
and Balaam that well can say,  
to tell you of a prophecy.  
5 That Lord that died on Good Friday,  
he save you all, both night and day.  
Farewell, my lordings, I go my way;  
I may no longer stay.

*King Balaack shall come riding on horseback and shall say:*

BALAAACK	I Balaack, king of Moab land,	
10	All Israel if I had it in my hand, I am so wroth I would not wond to slay them each wight. For their God helps them strongly Of other lands to have mastery	<i>in my power hesitate person</i>
15	that it is useless truly against them for to fight.	
	What nation soever does them annoy, Moses prays at once in high, therefore have they soon the victory and other men they have the worse.	<i>immediately</i>
20	Therefore, how I will avenged be I have bethought me, as you shall see: I will that Balaam shall come to me that people for to curse.	
25	For sword nor knife may not avail These same shrews for to assail. Who attempts to fight, he shall fail, for certainly is him no boot.	<i>futile</i>
30	All nations they do annoy and myself them can destroy as an ox that gnaws busily the grass right to the root.	
	Whoso Balaam blesses, iwis, blessed surely that man is; whoso he curses fares amiss, such loss overall has he.	<i>comes to grief</i>
35	Therefore go fetch him hither, bachelor, that he may curse the people here. For certainly on them in no manner may we not avenged be.	<i>knight</i>
KNIGHT	Sir, on your errand I will be gone .	
41	It shall be well done, and that anon, for he shall avenge you on your fone, the people of Israel.	<i>quickly foes</i>
BALAAACK	Yea, look thou promise him gold great won, and riches for to live upon	<i>quantity</i>
45		

to destroy them if he can,  
the men that be so fell.

*fierce*

*Then he (the knight) shall go to Balaam.*

KNIGHT Balaam, my lord greets well thee  
and prays thee right soon with him to be,  
50 to curse the people of Judee  
that do him great annoy.

*Judea  
harm*

BALAAM In truth, I tell thee, bachelor,  
that I may have no power  
but if God's will it were  
55 that shall I know in hye.

*knight*

*at once*

*God [shall speak] in the high place.*

GOD Balaam, I command thee,  
King Balaack his bidding that thou flee.  
That people that is blessed of me  
curse thou not by no way.

*reject*

BALAAM Lord I must do thy bidding  
61 though it be to me unpleasing,  
for truly much winning  
I might have had today.

*reward*

GOD 65 Though the folk be my foe,  
thou shalt have leave thither to go.  
But look that thou do right so  
as I have thee taught.

*Then they shall ride towards the king and on the way [going] Balaam shall say:*

Now by the law I believe upon,  
since I have leave for to gone,  
70 they shall be cursed everyone  
if I ought win may.  
If Balaack hold that he has height,  
God's command I set at light.  
Cursed they shall be this night,  
75 before I go away.

*go*

*promised  
care little for*

*Then an angel shall stand in Balaam's way with a drawn sword, and the ass will stop.*

BALAAM Go forth, Burnell; go forth! Go!  
What the devil? My ass will not go!  
Served she me never so.  
What misery so she does now?  
80 Rise up, Burnell, make thee bown  
and help to bear me out of town,  
or - as broke I my crown -  
thou shall surely aby.

*ready*

*suffer*

*Then he will beat the ass and other [words] will be spoken in the ass.*

ASS 85 Master, thou dost evil certainly  
so good an ass as me to nye.  
Now hast thou beaten me thrice,  
Who bears thee thus about.

*hurt*

BALAAM Burnell, why beguiles thou me

*deceives*

when I have most need of thee?

ASS 91 That sight that I before me see  
makes me down to lowte. *bow*

Am I not, master, thine own ass  
that ever before ready was  
to bear thee whither thou wouldst pass?  
95 To smite me now it is shame. *disgraceful*  
Thou knowest well, master, pardy, *indeed*  
that thou hadst never none like to me,  
nor never yet so served I thee.  
Now I am not to blame.

*Then Balaam seeing the Angel having a drawn sword worshipping shall say:*

BALAAM 100 Ah, lord, to thee I make a vow  
I had no sight of thee ere now.  
Little knew I it was thou  
That frightened my ass so.

ANGEL 105 Why hast thou beaten thy ass thrice?  
Now I am come thee to nye *punish*  
who changes thy purpose falsely  
and wouldst be my foe.

If the ass had not down gone  
I would have slain thee anon. *at once*

BALAAM 110 Lord, have pity me upon,  
for sinned I have sore.  
Is it your will that I forth go?

ANGEL Yea, but look thou do this folk no woe *harm*  
otherwise than God bad thee do *then*  
and said to thee before.

*Then Balaam and the Knight ride on. Balaack comes in the way*

BALAACK 116 Ah, welcome, Balaam my friend,  
for all my anguish thou shall end,  
if that thou wilt agree to wend  
and avenge me on my foe.

BALAAM 120 Nought may I speak, so have I win, *joy*  
but as God puts me in  
to redeem all men and my kin.  
Therefore, certainly I have woe.

BALAACK 125 Come forth, Balaam; come with me,  
for on this hill, so mote I thee, *so may I thrive*  
the folk of Israel thou shalt see -  
and curse them, I thee pray!  
Thou shalt have riches, gold and fee,  
and I shall advance thy dignity -  
130 to curse men - cursed they may be  
that thou shalt see today.

*Then bringing Balaam with him on to the mountain [he says]:*

Lo, Balaam, now thou seest here  
God's people all together

City, castle, and river -  
 look now. How likes it thee?  
 135 Curse them now at my prayer  
 as thou wilt be to me most dear  
 and in my realm most of power  
 and be the greatest under me.

*bidding*  
*most*

*Then Balaam facing to the east says as follows:*

BALAAM  
 140 How may I curse them in this place,  
 the people that God blessed has?  
 In them is both might and grace,  
 and that is always seen.  
 Witness I may none bear  
 against those that God has protected here  
 145 his people that no man may dere  
 nor trouble with no teen.

*harm*  
*suffering*

I say these folks shall have their will,  
 that no nation shall them spill;  
 the goodness that they shall fulfill  
 150 numbered may not be.  
 Their God shall them keep and save.  
 No other reproof may I not have;  
 but such a death as they shall have  
 I pray God send me.

*harm*

BALAACK  
 156 What the devil ails thee, popelart?  
 Thy speech is not worth a fart!  
 Stupid I know well thou art,  
 for madly thou hast wrought.  
 I bade thee curse them every one  
 160 and thou blessed them blood and bone!  
 To this north side thou shalt anon,  
 for here thy deed is nought..

*fool*

*acted*

*at once*

*The he leads him to the north part.*

BALAAM  
 165 Harken, Balaack, what I say:  
 God may not waver in any way;  
 that he saith is veray  
 for he may not lie.  
 To bless his folk he me sent;  
 therefore I say, as I am kent,  
 that in this land verament  
 170 is used no idolatry.

*true*

*instructed*  
*truly*

To Jacob's blood and Israel  
 God shall send joy and heale;  
 and as a lion in his weale  
 Christ shall be elevated high,  
 175 and rise also in noble array  
 as a prince to win great pay,  
 overcome his enemies, as I say,  
 and them readily buy.

*happiness*  
*splendour*

*pleasure*

*redeem*

BALAACK  
 180 What the devil is this? Thou cursest them naught  
 nor blessest them neither, as me thought

*not at all*

BALAAM  
 Sir king, this I thee beheight  
 before that I came here.

*promised*

BALAACK      Yet thou shalt to another place,  
                   there God's power for to embrace.  
       185      The devil give thee hard grace  
                   unless thou do my prayer.

*[He leads him] to the western part.*

BALAAM      Ah, lord, here is fair wonning:      *dwelling places*  
                   halls, chambers of great liking,  
                   valleys, woods, grass springing,  
       190      fair yards, and also rivers.  
                   I know well God made all this,  
                   his folk to live in joy and bliss.  
                   Who curseth them, cursed is;  
                   Who blessest them, to God is dear.

BALAACK      Popelard, thou preachest as a magpie;      *fool*  
       196      the devil of hell thee destroy!  
                   I bade thee curse my enemy;  
                   therefore thou came to me.  
                   Now hast thou blessed them here thrice  
                   for the nonce me to nye.      *annoy*  
       200

BALAAM      So told I thee before twice  
                   I might none other do.

BALAACK      Out, alas, what devil ails thee?  
                   I have promised thee gold and fee  
       205      to speak but words two or three,  
                   and thou makes much distance.  
                   Yet once I will assay thee,  
                   if any help of torment will be,  
                   and if thou falsely now fail me,  
       210      the Devil give thee mischance.

*Then Balaam looking up to heaven prophesies:*

BALAAM      Now one thing I will tell you all,  
                   hereafter what shall befall:  
                   a star of Jacob spring shall,  
                   a man of Israel.  
       215      He shall overcome and have as bondsmen  
                   all kings, dukes of strange lands;  
                   and all the world have in his hand  
                   as lord to assign and deal      *apportion*

BALAACK      Go we forth; it is no boot      *remedy*  
                   longer with this man to moot,.      *debate*  
       220      for God of Jews is top of the tree and root  
                   and Lord of Heaven and Hell.  
                   Now see I well no man alive  
                   against him is able to strive.  
                   Therefore here, as might I thrive,  
       225      I will no longer dwell.

EXPOSITOR      Lords, much more matter  
                   is in this story than you see here.  
                   But the substance without were,  
                   is played you before.      *doubt*  
                   And by this prophesy, believe you me,  
                   three kings, as you shall played see,  
                   presented at his Nativity

Christ when he was born.