

Pearl

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A.x. (Part 3): A Critical Edition
General Editor: Murray McGillivray

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Introduction

[Note that a full introduction will be published when the critical editions of the four poems are in place, and that the current introductory materials are intended primarily to explain features of our editorial practice in *Pearl*, including in the bottom-of-the-page textual variorum.]

Editorial History and the Current Edition

This critical edition of *Pearl* is a product of the larger Cotton Nero A.x Project (<http://gawain-ms.ca/>), an international collaboration between scholars, research associates at the University of Calgary, and the British Library. The aims of the larger project are to digitize this unique manuscript; to produce new diplomatic transcriptions of *Pearl*, *Cleanness*, *Patience*, and *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*; and to publish new critical editions of each of the four poems. MS Cotton Nero A.x. (art. 3), preserved in the British Library, is a fourteenth-century Middle English manuscript that contains the only known extant copies of the anonymous alliterative poems *Pearl*, *Cleanness*, *Patience*, and *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. Of the four poems in the manuscript, *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* and *Pearl* have received the most critical attention in the form of academic articles and books as well as scholarly editions.

The *editio princeps* of *Pearl* by Richard Morris was published by the Early English Text Society (EETS) in 1864. Transcribed and edited from the manuscript, Morris's edition "endeavour[s] to do justice to his author by giving the text, with some few exceptions, as it stands in the manuscript" (xx): in other words, the edition results from an effort primarily

directed at transcription. In his preface, Morris hints at his difficulties in deciphering the manuscript (xx), later noting instances where the manuscript is unclear and offering corrected readings in the marginalia accompanying the poem. Morris produces a punctuated transcription/edition that attempts to record meticulously the readings of the manuscript. His transcription itself is, however, sometimes incorrect, prompting later editors to offer “newly transcribed” versions of *Pearl*.

These revised transcriptions were often produced using the Gollancz facsimile, though Osgood (1906) worked from photographs and Hillman (1961) from a “photostat of the manuscript” (deFord 1967, vi), which was later also used by deFord and her students. The facsimile, published in 1923 by the Early English Text Society and produced under the direction of Gollancz (*Pearl, Cleanness, Patience, and Sir Gawain Reproduced in Facsimile*, with introduction by I. Gollancz, Early English Text Society, OS 162 [London: Oxford UP, 1923]), is a complete reproduction of the Cotton Nero A.x manuscript in grey-scale. It was originally published, for reasons hard to guess, as a boxed sheaf of disbound gatherings that look like they ought to represent the gatherings of the manuscript (they do not). The reproduction is not at a very high resolution and some murkiness results from the reduction of real-life colour to reproduction grey-scale; however, (probably not primarily because of fading of the original but because of the responsiveness of silver-salt photographic media to particular wavelengths and the use of early techniques for increasing contrast by manipulating exposure and aperture) the facsimile is now clearer to read in a few places than the manuscript itself (and we have occasionally relied on it). Some modern editors relied entirely on the Gollancz facsimile in place of the original, while some chose to

consult the manuscript but only in places of doubt, as is the case with the omnibus editions of the *Pearl*-poems prepared by Charles Moorman (1977), by William Vantuono (1984), and by Malcolm Andrew and Ronald Waldron (1978+). Textual cruces necessitating the consultation of the original manuscript are not consistently marked, if at all, in these editions. Working with a facsimile, whatever advantages it has in constraining researcher time and the expense of travel, presents obvious limitations.

The current critical edition is based on an extensive and prolonged direct study of the original manuscript (and of the high-resolution photographs of it provided to the Cotton Nero A.x. Project in 2011, which have resolved some conundrums). We are grateful to the British Library for allowing numerous visits with the manuscript to various members of our team. Our edition is based on our detailed diplomatic transcription, which is presented in tandem with it. The transcription was prepared with a high level of accuracy directly from the manuscript (though we admit to having ourselves based our rough original transcription on the Gollancz reproduction) and was checked recently against the new, high-resolution digital photographs, which sometimes provided more detail than was visible to us in the manuscript itself. (In addition, the colour photographs are subject to image manipulation by which we have frequently attempted to resolve difficult readings, sometimes successfully.) The photographs have also been published to the Web site (gawain.ucalgary.ca) alongside our transcription (www.gawain-MS.ca) so that others can review our evidence and, we hope, improve on our understandings.

We have been liberated by our publication of such a detailed transcription of the manuscript as an ancillary text to our edition (a publication that we hope will be of use to

other scholars on its own), and by the publication of the photos themselves, from one of the forces that has often influenced previous editors to "conservatism," that is, to retaining manuscript readings where at all possible, since earlier editions have taken on the dual role of explaining and emending on the one hand, and of simply presenting, on the other, the text as contained in the manuscript. In emending the manuscript readings (or in retaining them where others have emended) we have been guided primarily by considerations of sense and of linguistic likelihood, and more rarely by metrical concerns—we do not consider the metre of *Pearl* to be a decided matter, though some lines seem more obviously deficient. In terms of linguistic probability, we have profited from the completion of the *Middle English Dictionary*, but we have been aware that the decisions of previous editors about the vocabulary of the poems of this manuscript have often been adopted holus bolus by the editors of the *MED* and we have exercised caution accordingly. This edition follows the manuscript spelling and does not distinguish the characters 'ȝ' ("yogh") and 'z', which we believe after statistical research to have constituted a single letter for both poet and scribe. Abbreviations used in the manuscript have been silently expanded and obvious scribal errors have been corrected.

Previous editions of *Pearl* displayed varying degrees of fidelity to the manuscript. Except for some spelling modernizations, Israel Gollancz in his 1891 edition was restrained in emending. In his revised 1921 edition, he proposed numerous emendations aimed at restoring the metrical structure of the poem as he saw it. Conversely, the 1953 edition of *Pearl* by E.V. Gordon and Ida L. Gordon (the latter not credited on title page, but see preface) reproduced the spelling of the manuscript (except in cases of scribal error) and

emended the text in order to restore rhyme, rather than metrical regularity. Subsequent editions have most often tended to minimize editorial intervention and avoid correcting the manuscript. Charles Moorman, for example, makes no changes for “purely metrical reasons” and refuses “to correct the alliterative pattern or to fill out a short line which otherwise makes good sense” (5). Rather, he insists an “editor should wherever possible accept the MS reading and attempt to justify it” (5). Andrew and Waldron, too, incline towards the manuscript reading where sense can be made of it, though there are instances where they emend for sense, rhyme or metre. William Vantuono offers the fewest emendations of all, preferring to retain the manuscript reading “whenever possible” (*Pearl Poems* liv-lv), which is meant more literally than Moorman's similar expression and motivates Vantuono's defence of even improbable readings rejected by all other editors.

Because the poems of this manuscript, especially *Pearl* and *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, have been frequently edited for use in the university or school classroom, there are a number of editions that modernize the texts to some degree, but that are nevertheless independent scholarly editions that offer textual or interpretive insight. In the case of *Pearl*, the editions of Hillman (1961), Cawley and Anderson (1962), deFord (1967), and Stanbury (2001) modernize spelling by making programmatic substitutions for the Middle English letters thorn and yogh (and sometimes other changes), and offer limited textual argumentation, but are worth consulting for their textual and other interpretations.

The most recent edition of *Pearl*, by Ad Putter and Myra Stokes (2014), is perhaps the most radical in its treatment of the manuscript. Their edition has two main aims: to modernize and regularize the Middle English text for the ease of the modern, non-specialist

reader, and to restore the metrical regularity of the poem, on the basis that the scribe of the Cotton Nero A.x poems did not well understand the metre of the poems being copied. To this end, Putter and Stokes very frequently add or remove final -e, which they seem to assume to have been pronounced by the poet, for what appear to be metrical purposes, or introduce other syllabic changes; these emendations for metrical reasons are often difficult to differentiate from the numerous divergences from the manuscript text that result from their modernizations and regularizations of spelling.

Textual variorum

Our edition is accompanied by a series of notes at the bottom of each page of the edited text giving a "textual variorum," that is, listing the readings of previous editions where they differ from ours or from the manuscript text as we have transcribed it. Each note of this series consists of a line number and word or words of our edited text, followed by the manuscript reading in our close transcription, then the readings of other editions. When the reading in our edited text follows the manuscript, only the readings in editions that diverge from the manuscript reading, whether through emendation or erroneous transcription, are noted. When our reading diverges from the manuscript reading, all previous readings are noted, both those that accept the manuscript and those that also emend. Three typical entries and an explanation follow:

11 fordolked] foꝛ dolked MS; for-do[k]ked GzP, GzP²

- 35 spryngande] fprygande MS; spry[n]gande GzP, Os, GzP², Bo, Gr, CA, Mm,
St, AW, PS; spryg ande Hi, deF, Vn, VnP
- 36 spotte] fpotte MS; spot†† GzP, Bo

In line 11, our reading, "fordolked," follows the manuscript, which all editors have done (perhaps with minor variations such as hyphenation, which we do not record unless significant) save Gollancz, who has emended to "for-dokked" in both his 1891 and his 1921 editions of the poem. Square brackets indicate the addition or substitution of a letter in a particular edition and do not imply that this was signalled with square brackets in the editor's text; a dagger is used to signify the omission of a letter or word. In line 35, we emend the manuscript reading, cite the same emendation in a number of editions, and show the reading that editors who do not emend have preferred. In line 36, only Gollancz in his first edition and Chase (and his Bowdoin College students) emend, in both cases by omitting two letters, signalled with daggers (the daggers do not necessarily appear in their texts).

The degree to which our notes record the variants from a particular edition reflects our understanding of that edition's intentions. For example, we do not record as noteworthy variations (though we do when citing a word for another reason) the substitution of 'gh' for '3' as a textual variant in editions that modernize the letter throughout, nor the substitution of 'z' for '3' if that is the editor's policy when the letter signifies the sibilant. Word division is sometimes ambiguous in the manuscript and, generally speaking, more relaxed in Middle English texts; differences regarding word

division have been indicated in the notes only when the choice of where to divide a word significantly affects meaning.

The recent omnibus Penguin edition of Ad Putter and Myra Stokes has posed particular problems for our textual variorum for two reasons. First, it carries out a program of modernization of the text that does not restrict itself to modernizing the form of word according to a simple formula (such as replacing the letter thorn with 'th'), but instead freely changes word forms either by applying throughout the texts of the four poems the one form of any particular word actually occurring in the manuscript that is most modern, or by creating a form that does not occur in the manuscript but that the editors have judged an apt replacement for the forms that do occur. (This is roughly the procedure of R.T. Jones and then J.A. Burrow in their editions of *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* but with some important differences.) Second, Putter and Stokes have liberally emended the text for metrical reasons. These two procedures of modernization and metrical regularization of the text sometimes conflict or are difficult to disentangle. It would be counterproductive to burden our textual notes with references to each of the several thousands of spelling changes that are thus introduced into the Putter/Stokes text, and we restrict ourselves to recording here "significant variants," that is, additions to or deletions of the words in the manuscript, and variants that have the effect of changing a word to a different word or a differently pronounced word (except additions or subtractions of final –e, which we regard as of no consequence for pronunciation—in contrast, Gollancz's emendations of this kind are recorded) or that introduce changes larger than a single word (such as transpositions of words and lines).

Editions cited

The following editions are those cited in the textual variorum and in the textual and explanatory notes that follow the edited text. In the textual variorum, they are identified with sigla, which here begin each entry; in the discursive notes, with editor's name and date of edition.

Mo Morris, Richard, ed. *Early English Alliterative Poems in the West-Midland Dialect of the Fourteenth Century*. Early English Text Society, Original Series, 1. London: Oxford UP, 1864. 2nd ed. 1869.

GzP Gollancz, Israel, ed. *Pearl: An English Poem of the Fourteenth Century*. London: Nutt, 1891.

Os Osgood, Charles G., ed. *The Pearl: A Middle English Poem*. Boston: Heath, 1906.

GzP² Gollancz, Israel, ed. *Pearl: An English Poem of the XIVth Century . . . with Boccaccio's Olympia*. London: Chatto, 1921.

Bo [Chase, Stanley P. and] members of the Chaucer course . . . in Bowdoin College, eds. *The Pearl (The Bowdoin Edition): The Text of the Fourteenth Century English Poem*. Boston: Humphries, 1932.

Gr Gordon, E.V.[, and Ida L. Gordon], ed[s]. *Pearl*. Oxford: Clarendon, 1953.

Hi Hillman, Sister Mary Vincent, ed. *The Pearl: Medieval Text with a Literal Translation and Interpretation*. 1st ed. College of Saint Elizabeth, 1961. Notre Dame: U Notre Dame P, 1967.

CA Cawley, A.C. and J.J. Anderson, eds. *Pearl, Cleanness, Patience, and Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. Everyman's Library. [*Pearl* and *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* published 1962; the other poems added 1976.] London: Dent, 1976.

deF deFord, Sarah, ed. *The Pearl*. Crofts Classics. Arlington Heights, IL: AHM, 1967.

Mm Moorman, Charles, ed. *The Works of the Gawain-Poet*. Jackson: UP of Mississippi, 1977.

AW Andrew, Malcolm, and Ronald Waldron, eds. *The Poems of the Pearl Manuscript: Pearl, Cleanness, Patience, Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. London: Arnold, 1978. [and subsequent editions]

Vn Vantuono, William, ed. *The Pearl Poems: An Omnibus Edition*. The Renaissance Imagination, 5 and 6. 2 vols. New York: Garland, 1984.

VnP Vantuono, William, ed. *Pearl: An Edition with Verse Translation*. Notre Dame: Notre Dame UP, 1995.

St Stanbury, Sarah, ed. *Pearl*. Kalamazoo: Medieval Institute Publications for TEAMS, 2001.

PS Putter, Ad, and Myra Stokes, eds. *The Works of the Gawain Poet: Pearl, Cleanness, Patience, Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. London: Penguin, 2014.

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[I]

[f. 39r/43r]

Perle, plesaunte to prynces paye,
to clanly clos in golde so clere !—
oute of oryent, I hardyly saye,
ne proued I neuer her precios pere.
5 So rounde, so reken in vche araye,
so smal, so smoþe her syde3 were,
queresoeuer I jugged gemme3 gaye
I sette hyr sengeley in synglure.
Allas! I leste hyr in on erbere,
10 þur3 gresse to grounde hit fro me yot.
I dewyne, fordolked of luf-daungere
of þat pryuy perle withouten spot.

Syþen in þat spote hit fro me sprange,
ofte haf I wayted, wyschande þat wele
15 þat wont wat3 whyle deuoyde my wrange
and heuen my happe and al my hele.
þat dot3 bot þrych my hert þrange,
my breste in bale bot bolne and bele.
3et þo3t me neuer so swete a sange
20 as styлле stounde let to me stele;
forsoþe þer fleten to me fele
to þenke hir color so clad in clot.
O moul, þou marrez a myry iuele,
My priuy perle withouten spotte.

- 8 synglure] fynglure MS; synglure Mo, Hi, deF, Vn, VnP, St, AW; syngl[e]re GzP, Gr, CA, Mm, PS;
syng[u]l[e]re Os, GzP², Bo
11 fordolked] for dolked MS; for-do[k]ked GzP, GzP²
13 Syþen] fyþen MS; syn PS (emends throughout)
17 hert] hert MS; hert[e] GzP, GzP², St
21 þer]þ MS; there PS (emends throughout)
23 iuele] iuele MS; mele Mo, GzP, GzP² (so reading MS)
24 spotte] fþotte MS; spot†† GzP, Bo

25 þat spot of spyse3 mot nede3 sprede
 þer such ryche3 to rot is runnen.
 Blome3 blayke and blwe and rede
 þer schyne3 ful schyr agayn þe sunne.
 Flor and fryte may now be fede
 30 þer hit doun drof in molde3 dunne,
 for vch gresse mot grow of grayne3 dede—
 no whete were elle3 to wone3 wonne.
 Of goud vche goude is ay bygonne:
 so semly a sede mo3t fayly not,
 35 þat sprygande spyce3 vp ne sponne
 of þat precios perle wythouten spotte.

To þat spot þat I in speche expoun, [f. 39v/43v]
 I entred in þat erber grene
 in augoste in a hy3 seysoun,
 40 quen corne is coruen wyth croke3 kene.
 On huyle þer perle hit trendeled doun
 schadowed þis worte3 ful schyre and schene—
 gilofre, gyngure, and gromylyoun,
 and pyonys powdered ay bytwene.
 45 3if hit wat3 semly on to sene,
 a fayr reflagr 3et fro hit flot.
 Þer wonys þat worþyly, I wot and wene,
 my precious perle wythouten spot.

25 mot] mot MS (blotted but legible with image manipulation); my3t Mo; might GzP
 26 runnen] rünen MS; runnen Vn, VnP; runne† all other eds.
 27 blwe] blwe MS; bl[u]e GzP
 28 schyne3] [cyne3 MS; schyne[s] GzP, Bo, CA; schyne† St
 agayn] agayn MS; agayns PS
 29 now] not MS, all eds.
 33 vche] vche MS; uch Bo
 goude] goude MS; goud Bo
 34 semly] femly MS; semely PS
 fayly] fayly MS; fayl[e] Bo, PS
 35 sprygande] [prygande MS; spry[n]gande GzP, Os, GzP², Bo, Gr, CA, Mm, St, AW, PS;
 spryg ande Hi, deF, Vn, VnP
 36 spotte] [potte MS; spot†† GzP, Bo
 46 fayr reflagr] fayr reflagr MS; fayrre flayr GzP, AW
 47 worþyly] wo3þyly MS; worthy PS

Bifore þat spot my honde I spennd
 50 for careful colde þat to me ca3t:
 a deuely dele in my hert denned
 þa3 resoun sette my seluen sa3t.
 I playned my perle þat þer wat3 penned
 wyth fyrte skylle3 þat faste fa3t.
 55 Þa3 kynde of Kryst me comfort kenned,
 my wreched wylle in wo ay wra3te.
 I felle vpon þat floury fla3t,
 suche odour to my herne3 schot—
 I slode vpon a slepyng-sla3te
 60 on þat precios perle withouten spot.

[II]

Fro spot my spyryt þer sprang in space—
 my body on balke þer bod in sweuen.
 My goste is gon in gode3 grace
 in auenture þer meruayle3 meuen.
 65 I ne wyste in þis worlde quere þat hit wace,
 bot I knew me keste þer klyfe3 cleuen.
 Towarde a foreste I bere þe face,
 where rych rokke3 wer to dyscreuen.
 Þe ly3t of hem my3t no mon leuen,
 70 þe glemande glory þat of hem glent,
 for wern neuer webbe3 þat wy3e3 weuen
 of half so dere adubemente.

- 49 spennd] fpēnd MS; spenn[e]d Mo, Os, GzP², Gr, Hi, deF, CA, Mm, St, PS; spenud Vn, VnP;
 spennd AW
 50 careful] care ful all eds.
 ca3t] ca3t MS; ca3t[e] Mo
 51 deuely] deuely *or* denely MS; denely Mo, GzP; de[r]uely Os dele] dele MS; doel PS
 hert] hert MS; hert[e] GzP, GzP², Bo
 52 sa3t] fa3t MS; sa3t[e] Mo
 53 penned] fpēned MS; spenned Mo, GzP, Gr, Hi, deF, CA, Mm, Vn, VnP; †penned GzP², Bo, St,
 AW, PS
 54 fyrte] fyrte *or* fyrce MS; fyrte Mo, GzP, Os, Bo, Hi, deF, Vn, VnP; fyrce GzP², Gr, CA, Mm, St,
 AW, PS
 fa3t] fa3t MS; fa3t[e] Mo
 57 fla3t] fla3t MS; fla3t[e] Mo
 60 precios] pcos MS; prec[i]os all eds.
 66 bot] bot MS; b[u]t GzP
 68 rych rokke3] rych rokke3 MS; rych[e] rokke3 GzP², Bo, St; rokkes rich PS
 72 adubemente] adubmente MS; adubmente Mo, Hi, deF, Vn, VnP; adub[be]ment† GzP, Bo, CA, PS;
 adub[be]mente Os, GzP², Gr, Mm, St, AW

[f. 40r/44r]

- Dubbed wern alle þo downe3 syde3
with crystal klyffe3 so cler of kynde.
75 Holtewode3 bry3t aboute hem byde3
of bolle3 as blwe as ble of ynde.
As bornyst syluer þe lef onslyde3,
þat þike con trylle on vch a tynde.
Quen glem of glode3 agayn3 hem glyde3,
80 wyth schymeryng schene ful schrylle þay schynde.
þe grauayl þat on grounde con grynde
wern precious perle3 of oryente,
þe sunnebeme3 bot blo and blynde
In respecte of þat adubblement.
- 85 The adubbemente of þo downe3 dere
garten my goste al greffe for3ete;
so frech flauore3 of fryte3 were
as fode hit con me fayre refete.
Fowle3 þer flowen in fryth in fere
90 of flaumbande hwe3, boþe smale and grete,
bot sytole stryng and gyternere
her reken myrþe mo3t not retrete,
for quen þose brydde3 her wynges bete
þay songen wyth a swete asent.
95 So gracios gle couþe no mon gete
as here and se her adubblement.

- 75 Holtewode3] hōlte wode3 MS; Holtwodes PS
77 onslyde3] onslyde3 MS; on slydez AW; on slydes St, PS; on slyde3 Gr
81 þat] þat MS; þat [I] GzP²
82 oryente] ozyente MS; oryent† GzP, Bo
85 adubbemente] adubbemente MS; adubblement† GzP
89 flowen] flowen MS, with 'w' written over a 'y' first written
90 hwe3] hwe3 MS; h[u]ez GzP
92 mo3t] mo3t MS; might PS
95 gracios] gracos MS; grac[i]os Mo, GzP, Os, GzP², Bo, Gr, Hi, deF, CA, Mm, St, AW; gracious
PS; gracos Vn, VnP

So al wat3 dubbet on dere asyse
 þat fryth þer fortwne forth me fere3,
 þe derþe þer of for to deuyse
 100 nis no wy3 worþe þat tonge bere3.
 I welke ay forth in wely wyse,
 no bonk so byg þat did me dere3;
 þe fyrre in þe fryth þe feier con ryse
 þe playn, þe plontte3, þe spyse, þe pere3,
 105 and rawe3 and rande3 and rych reuere3—
 as fyldor fyn her bonkes brent.
 I wan to a water by schore þat schere3:
 Lorde, dere wat3 hit adubbement!

The dubbemente of þo derworth depe [f. 40v/44v]
 110 Wern bonke3 bene of beryl bry3t.
 Swangeande swete þe water con swepe
 Wyth a rownande rourde raykande ary3t.
 In þe founce þer stouden stone3 stepe,
 as glente þur3 glas þat glowed and gly3t,
 115 as stremande sterne3, quen stroþe-men slepe,
 staren in welkyn in wynter ny3t.
 For vche a pobbel in pole þer py3t
 wat3 emerad, saffer, oþer gemme gente,
 þat alle þe lo3e lemed of ly3t,
 120 so dere wat3 hit adubbement.

97 wat3] wat3 MS; wacz GzP (so spelled throughout).

98 fortwne] fo2twne MS; fort[u]ne GzP

100 nis] nis MS; Nys deF

101 forth] fo2th MS; forth[e] GzP

103 feier] feier MS; fei[r]er GzP, Os, GzP², Hi, deF; fayrer PS

106 bonkes] bnkes *or* bukes MS; b[o]nkes Mo, GzP, Os, GzP², Bo, Gr, Hi, deF, CA, Mm, AW, PS;
 bukes Vn, VnP, St

109 dubbemente] dubbemente MS; dubbement GzP

113 stouden] ftou2den *or* ftou2den MS; stonden Mo, GzP, Os, GzP², Gr, Hi, deF, CA, Mm, Vn, VnP, St,
 PS; sto2den AW

115 as] a MS, Mo, Vn, VnP; a[s] GzP, Os, GzP², Gr, Hi, deF, CA, Mm, St, AW, PS

118 gente] gente MS; gent† GzP

119 alle] alle MS; all† Hi, deF

[I]II

The dubbement dere of doun and dale3,
 of wod and water and wlonk playne3,
 bylde in me blys, abated my bale3,
 foridden my stresse, dystried my payne3.
 125 Doun after a strem þat dry3ly hale3
 I bowed in blys, bredful my brayne3.
 Ðe fyrre I fol3ed þose floty vale3,
 þe more strengþe of ioye myn herte strayne3.
 As fortune fares þer as ho frayne3,
 130 wheþer solace ho sende oþer elle3 sore,
 þe wy3 to wham her wylle ho wayne3
 hytte3 to haue ay more and more.

More of wele wat3 in þat wyse
 þen I cowþe telle, þa3 I tom hade,
 135 for vrþely herte my3t not suffyse
 to þe tenþe dole of þo gladne3 glade.
 Forþy I þo3t þat paradyse
 wat3 þerouer, gayn þo bonke3 brade.
 I hoped þe water were a deuyse
 140 bytwene myrþe3 by mere3 made;
 by3onde þe broke, by slente oþer slade,
 I hope þat mote merked wore,
 bot þe water wat3 depe, I dorst not wade,
 and euer me longed ay more and more.

- 122 wlonk] wlonk MS; wlonk[e] GzP², Bo, St
 124 foridden] for didden MS; foridde† GzP
 stresse] ftreffe MS; [di]stresse Mo
 130 oþer] oþ MS; or PS (emends throughout)
 134 I tom] I tom MS; † tom [I] GzP²
 137 þo3t] þo3t MS; þo3t[e] deF.
 138 þerouer, gayn] þer oþ gayn MS; þer oþer gayn Mo, Hi, deF, Vn, VnP; ther othergayn GzP; þer
 o[v]er gayn Os; ther o[v]er gayn Bo, CA, St; þer o[u]er gayn GzP², Gr, Mm, AW; there over
 gayn PS
 140 myrþe3] myrþe3 MS; m[e]rþe3 GzP²
 mere3] mere3 MS; M[y]r[þ]e† GzP²
 142 hope] hope MS; hope[de] Mo; hope[d] GzP, GzP², Bo, Gr, CA, St, AW, PS
 144 ay more] amoze MS; a more Mo, Os, Bo, Hi, deF, Mm, Vn, VnP; a[y] more GzP, GzP², Gr,
 CA, St, AW; aye more PS

- 145 More and more, and ȝet wel mare, [f. 41r/45r]
 me lyste to se þe broke byȝonde,
 for if hit watȝ fayr þer I con fare,
 wel loueloker watȝ þe fyrre londe.
 Abowte me con I stote and stare
 150 to fynde a forþe faste con I fonde—
 bot woþeȝ mo iwysse þer ware
 þe fyrre I stalked by þe stronde,
 and euer me þoȝt I schulde not wonde
 for wo þer weleȝ so wyne wore.
 155 Þenne nwe note me com on honde
 þat meued my mynde ay more and more.

- More meruayle con my dom adaunt:
 I seȝ byȝonde þat myry mere
 a crystal clyffe ful relusaunt—
 160 mony ryal ray con fro hit rere.
 At þe fote þerof þer sete a faunt,
 a mayden of menske, ful debonere—
 blysnande whyt watȝ hyr bleaunt—
 I knew hyr wel, I hade sen hyr ere.
 165 As glysnande golde þat man con schere,
 so schon þat schene anvnder schore.
 On lengh I loket to hyr þere,
 þe lenger I knew hyr more and more.

- 147 hit] hit MS; †it Bo.
 149 abowte] abowte MS; Abo[u]te GzP
 151 bot] þot MS; B[u]t GzP.
 iwysse] I wyffe MS; iw[i]sse GzP
 153 schulde] ſchulde MS; s hulde St.
 154 wo] wo MS; wo[þe] GzP²
 155 nwe] nwe MS; n[e]we GzP
 156 mynde] mynde MS; mynd GzP
 166 schore] ſchoze MS; sþhore Gr, CA
 167 lengh] lengh MS (with comma-shaped stroke on 'h'); lengh[e] all eds.
 loket] loket MS; lo[o]ket GzP

The more I frayste hyr fayre face,
 170 her fygure fyn quen I had fonte,
 suche gladande glory con to me glace
 as lyttel byfore þerto wat3 wonte.
 To calle hyr, lyste con me enchace,
 bot baysment gef myn hert a brunt—
 175 I se3 hyr in so strange a place,
 such a burre my3t make myn herte blunt.
 Þenne vere3 ho vp her fayre frount,
 hyr vysayge whyt as playn yuore—
 þat stonge myn hert ful stray astount,
 180 and euer þe lenger, þe more and more.

III

More þen me lyste my drede aros—
 I stod ful styлле and dorste not calle.
 Wyth y3en open and mouth ful clos,
 I stod as hende as hawk in halle.
 185 I hope þat gostly wat3 þat porpose.
 I dred onende quat schulde byfalle
 lest ho me eschaped þat I þer chos
 er I at steuen hir mo3t stalle.
 Þat gracios gay withouten galle,
 190 so smoþe, so smal, so seme sly3t,
 rysez vp in hir araye ryalle,
 a precios pyece in perlez py3t.

{f. 41v/45v}

- 169 frayste] frayfte MS; frayst VnP
 170 fygure] fygure MS; f[i]gure GzP
 172 wonte] wonte MS; w[e]nte Mm
 179 astount] atoūt MS; atount Mo, GzP, Os, Gr, Hi, deF, CA, Mm, Vn, VnP, AW, PS; astount GzP²,
 Bo, St
 182 ful] ful MS; ful[l] GzP
 185 hope] hope MS; hope[d] GzP², Bo, Gr, CA, St, AW, PS
 186 dred] dred MS; dred[e] GzP
 192 precios] pcos MS; prec[i]os all eds.

Perlez pyzte of ryal prys
 þere mozt mon by grace haf sene,
 195 quen þat frech as flor-de-lys
 doun þe bonke con boze bydene.
 Al blysnande whyt wat3 hir beau amys,
 vpon at syde3, and bounden bene
 wyth þe myryeste margarys, at my deuyse,
 200 þat euer I se3 zet with myn y3en—
 wyth lappe3 large, I wot and I wene,
 dubbed with double perle and dyzte,
 her cortel wat3 of self-sute schene
 with precios perlez al vmbepyzte.

205 A pyzt coroune zet wer þat gyrle
 of mariorys and non oþer ston,
 hi3e pynakled of cler quyt perle,
 wyth flurtd flowrez perfet vpon—
 to hed hade ho non oþer werle.
 210 Her here leke al hyr vmbegon,
 her semblaunt sade for doc oþer erle,
 her ble more bla3t þen whalle3 bon.
 As schorne golde schyr her fax þenne schon
 on schyldere3 þat legh vnlapped lyzte.
 215 Her depe colour zet wanted non
 of precios perle in porfyl pyzte.

- 197 beau amys] *ā*eaumys *or* *ā*eamnys *etc.* MS; beau uiys Mo; beau mys GzP, GzP², Bo, Vn, VnP, PS;
 beaumys Hi, DeF; bleaunt of biys Os; beau biys Gr, CA, Mm, St, AW
 200 y3en] y3en MS; ††en[e] GzP², Bo, Gr
 201 and I] *ɹ* I MS; and † St, PS
 203 cortel] coztel MS; kyrtel PS
 wat3] not in MS or eds. See note.
 208 flowrez] flowrez MS; flow[e]rez Hi, deF
 209 werle] werle MS; [h]erle Os
 210 here leke] lere leke MS; [h]ere [h]eke Mo GzP, GzP²; [h]ere leke Os, Bo, Gr, Mm; [h]ere- leke St;
 lere leke Hi, deF, CA, Vn, VnP, AW; lere hit leke PS.
 214 legh] leg^h MS (with added comma-shaped stroke); lay PS; legh[e] all other eds.
 215 colour] colo MS; colo†r Bo

[f. 42r/46r]

Pyȝt watȝ poyned and vche a hemme,
 at honde, at sydeȝ, at ouerture,
 wyth whyte perle and non oþer gemme,
 220 and bornyste quyte watȝ hyr uesture;
 Bot a wonder perle withouten wemme
 in myddeȝ hyr breste watȝ sette so sure—
 a manneȝ dom moȝt dryȝly demme
 er mynde moȝt malte in hit mesure.
 225 I hope no tong moȝt endure
 no sauerly saghe say of þat syȝt,
 so watȝ hit clene and cler and pure,
 þat precios perle þer hit watȝ pyȝt.

Pyȝt in perle, þat precios pyse
 230 on wyþer half water com down þe schore.
 No gladder gome heþen into grece
 þen I quen ho on brymme wore.
 Ho watȝ me nerre þen aunte or nece—
 my joy forþy watȝ much þe more.
 235 Ho profered me speche, þat special spyce,
 enclynande lowe in wommon lore,
 caȝte of her coroun of grete tresore
 and haylsed me wyth a lote lyȝte.
 Wel watȝ me þat euer I watȝ bore
 240 to sware þat swete in perleȝ pyȝte!

- 217 watȝ] watȝ MS; [and] GzP, Bo; [&] Os.
 and] ⁊ MS; [wacz] GzP; [watz] Os; [was] Bo.
 222 in myddeȝ] in myddeȝ MS; inmyddeȝ Gr, Mm, Vn, VnP, St, AW; inmyddes CA; in-myddes PS
 225 no tong] notong MS; no tong[e] GzP, GzP², Bo, St
 229 pyse] pyfe MS; p[r]lyse Mo; py[ec]e GzP, Os, GzP², Bo, Gr, Mm; p[ec]e Hi, PS; py[c]e deF
 235 spyce] [pyce MS; sp[e]ce GzP, Os, GzP², Bo, Gr, Hi, deF, Mm.
 237 coroun] coȝou MS; crowne PS (emends throughout)

V

“O perle,” coþe I, “in perle3 py3t,
 art þou my perle þat I haf playned,
 regretted by myn one on ny3te?
 Much longeyng haf I for þe layned,
 245 syþen into gresse þou me agly3te.
 Pensyf, payred, I am forpayned,
 and þou in a lyf of lykyng ly3te,
 in paradys erde, of stryf vnstrayned.
 What wyrde hat3 hyder my iuel vayned
 250 and don me in del and gret daunger?
 Fro we in twynne wern towen and twayned,
 I haf ben a joylez juelere.”

That juel þenne in gemme3 gente
 vered vp her vyse with y3en graye,
 255 set on hyr coroun of perle orient,
 and soberly after þenne con ho say:
 “Syr, 3e haf your tale mysetente
 to say your perle is al awaye
 þat is in cofer so comly clente
 260 as in þis gardyn gracios gaye,
 hereinne to lenge foreuer and play
 þer mys ne mornyng com neuer ere.
 Her were a forser for þe in faye,
 if þou were a gentyl jueler.”

[f. 42v/46v]

- 243 on] on MS; an GzP
 249 vayned] vayned MS; wayned GzP, PS.
 250 in del] in þys del MS; in del GzP; in this doel PS; in þys del all other eds.
 253 gemme3] gēme3 MS; gemm[y]3 Mo
 262 ne] ne MS (with otiose additional stroke that is not the beginning of a second 'e'); ne PS; ne[e] all other eds.
 ere] here MS; here Mo, Hi, deF, Vn, VnP, PS; [n]er† GzP, Bo; [n]ere Os, GzP², Gr, CA, Mm, St, AW; ere PS

265 “Bot, jueler gente, if þou schal lose
 þy ioy for a gemme þat þe wat3 lef,
 me þynk þe put in a mad porpose
 and busye3 þe aboute a raysoun bref,
 for þat þou leste3 wat3 bot a rose
 270 þat flowred and fayled as kynde hyt gef—
 now þur3 kynde of þe kyste þat hyt con close
 to a perle of prys hit is put in pref.
 And þou hat3 called þy wyrde a þef,
 þat o3t of no3t hat3 mad þe cler.
 275 Þou blame3 þe bote of þy meschef—
 þou art no kynde jueler.”

A juel to me þen wat3 þys geste,
 and iuele3 wern hyr gentyl sawe3.
 “Iwyse,” coþe I, “my blysfol beste,
 280 my grete dystresse þou al todrawe3.
 To be excused I make requeste—
 I trawed my perle don out of dawe3.
 Now haf I fonde hyt, I schal ma feste,
 and wony with hyt in schyr wod schawe3,
 285 and loue my Lorde and al His lawe3,
 þat hat3 me bro3t þys blys ner.
 Now were I at yow by3onde þise wawe3,
 I were a ioyfol jueler.”

- 268 aboute] aboute MS; about St
 272 hit] hit MS; h[y]t Bo
 283 schal] fchal MS; sc al VnP
 285 and (second)] ⁊ MS; an† Mm
 al] al MS; al[l] GzP
 286 bro3t] bro3 MS; bro3[t] all eds.
 blys] blys MS; blys[se] GzP, GzP², Bo, St

[f. 43r/47r]

290 “Iueler,” sayde þat gemme clene,
 “wy borde 3e men? So madde 3e be!
 Þre worde3 hat3 þou spoken at ene.
 Vnavysed, forsoþe, wern alle þre.
 Þou ne woste in worlde quat on dot3 mene—
 þy worde byfore þy wytte con fle.
 295 Þou says þou trawe3 me in þis dene
 bycawse þou may with y3en me se.
 Anoþer, þou says in þys countre
 þyself schal won with me ry3t here.
 þe þrydde, to passe þys water fre—
 300 þat may no ioyfol iueler.

VI

“I halde þat iueler lyttel to prayse
 þat leue3 wel þat he se3 wyth y3e,
 and much to blame and vncortoyse
 þat leue3 oure Lorde wolde make a ly3e,
 305 þat lelly hy3te your lyf to rayse,
 þa3 Fortune dyd your flesch to dy3e.
 3e setten hys worde3 ful westernays
 þat leue3 noþynk bot 3e hit sy3e
 and þat is a poynt o sorquydry3e,
 310 þat vche god mon may euel byseme,
 to leue no tale be true to try3e
 bot þat hys one skyl may dem.”

- 293 dotz] dot3 MS; do[s] Bo, CA, St
 302 leue3] loue3 MS; loue3 Mo, Os, deF, Vn, VnP; l[e]vez GzP; l[e]ue3 GzP², Gr, Hi, Mm; l[e]ves Bo,
 CA; love[s] St; l[e]uez AW; loues PS
 303 vncortoyse] vn cor2toyfe MS; uncort[a]yse GzP; vncort[a]yse Os, GzP², Gr, PS.
 304 leue3] leue3 MS; l[o]uez Mo
 307 westernays] we3ternays MS; [b]esternays Os; [b]est[o]rnays Bo
 308 leue3] loue3 MS; loue3 Mo, Vn, VnP; l[e]vez GzP; l[e]ue3 Os GzP², Gr, Hi, deF, Mm;
 l[e]ve[s] Bo, CA; love[s] St; l[e]uez AW; loues PS
 309 is] is MS; is all eds.
 312 may dem] may dem MS; may dem[e] Mo, GzP, GzP²

“Deme now þyself if þou con dayly
 as man to god worde3 schulde heue:
 315 þou sayt3 þou schal won in þis bayly;
 me þynk þe burde fyrst aske leue,
 and 3et of graunt þou my3te3 fayle.
 Þou wylne3 ouer þys water to weue:
 er moste þou ceuer to oþer counsayl—
 320 þy corse in clot mot calder keue,
 for hit wat3 forgarte at paradys greue.
 Oure 3orefader hit con mysse3eme;
 þur3 drwry deth bo3 vch man dreue
 er ouer þys dam hym Dry3tyn deme.”

325 “Deme3 þou me,” coþe I, “my swete,
 to dol agayn?—þenne I dowyne. [f. 43v/47v]
 Now haf I fonte þat I forlete,
 schal I efte forgo hit er euer I fyne?
 Why, schal I hit boþe mysse and mete?
 330 My precios perle dot3 me gret pyne.
 What serue3 tresor bot gare3 men grete
 when he hit schal efte with tene3 tyne?
 Now rech I neuer forto declyne,
 ne how fer of folde þat man me fleme,
 335 when I am partle3 of perle myne—
 bot durande doel what may men deme?”

- 313 dayly] dayly MS; dayl[e] Bo, PS
 315 sayt3]fayt3 MS; say[e]z GzP
 bayly] bayly MS; bayl[e] Bo, PS
 319 moste] moſte MS; most VnP
 counsayl] couſsayl MS; counsayl[e] GzP², Bo, Gr, St
 323 drwry] drwry MS; dr[u]ry GzP
 man] ma MS; ma Mo, Os, GzP², Bo, Hi, deF, Vn, VnP; ma[n] GzP, Gr, Mm, St, AW, PS
 326 dowyne] dowyne MS; dewyne PS
 329 schal] ſchal MS; s hal deF
 331 gare3] gare3 MS; gare† GzP²
 335 perle] perle3 MS; perle† Os, GzP², Gr, CA, Mm, St, AW; perle3 Mo, GzP, Hi, deF; perles PS

“Thow deme3 no3t bot doel dystresse,”
 þenne sayde þat wy3t. “Why dot3 þou so?
 For dyne of doel of lure3 lesse
 340 ofte mony mon forgos þe mo.
 Þe o3te better þy seluen blesse
 and loue ay God, in wele and wo,
 for anger gayne3 þe not a cresse.
 Who nede3 schal þole be not so þro;
 345 for þo3 þou daunce as any do,
 braundysch and bray þy braþe3 breme,
 when þou no fyrre may to ne fro,
 þou moste abyde þat He schal deme.

“Deme Dry3tyn, euer Hym adyte,
 350 of þe way a fote ne wyl He wryþe.
 Þy mende3 mounte3 not a myte,
 þa3 þou for sor3e be neuer blyþe.
 Stynst of þy strot and fyne to flyte,
 and sech Hys blyþe ful swefte and swyþe.
 355 Þy prayer may Hys pyte byte,
 þat mercy schal hyr crafte3 kyþe.
 Hys comforte may þy langour lyþe,
 and þy lure3 of ly3tly leme;
 for marre oþer madde, morne and myþe,
 360 al lys in hym to dy3t and deme.”

- 342 in] ɾ MS; & Mo, Os, Hi, deF, Mm; [in] GzP, GzP², Bo, Gr, CA, St, AW; and Vn, VnP
 348 moste] moſte MS; most† GzP
 353 Stynst] ſtȳſt MS; Styn†t GzP, GzP², Bo, Gr, CA, AW, PS; Stynst Mo, Os, Hi, deF, Mm, St
 358 and] ɾ MS; [þat alle] GzP²
 leme] leme MS; [f]leme Gr, Mm, St
 359 marre] marre MS; marre[d] GzP, Os, GzP², Bo

VII

Thenne demed I to þat damyselle: [f. 44r/48r]
 “Ne worþe no wrathþe vnto my Lorde,
 if I rapely raue, spornande in spelle.
 My herte wat3 al with mysse remorde,
 365 as wallande water got3 out of welle.
 I do me ay in Hys myserecorde.
 Rebuke me neuer with worde3 felle,
 þa3 I forloyne, my dere endorde,
 bot kyþe3 me kyndely your coumforde,
 370 pytosly þenkande vpon þysse:
 of care and me 3e made acorde,
 þat er wat3 grounde of alle my blysse.”

“My blysse, my bale, 3e hau ben boþe,
 bot much þe bygger 3et wat3 my mon;
 375 fro þou wat3 wroken fro vch a woþe,
 I wyste neuer quere my perle wat3 gon.
 Now I hit se, now leþe3 my loþe,
 and quen we departed we wern at on—
 God forbede we be now wroþe,
 380 we meten so selden by stok oþer ston.
 Þa3 cortaysly 3e carp con,
 I am bot mol and manere3 mysse.
 bot Crystes mersy and Mary and Jon—
 þise arn þe grounde of alle my blysse.”

- 362 wrathþe] wrath þe MS; wrath † GzP
 363 if I rapely] if rapely MS; if rapely Mo, Vn, VnP; if rapely [I] GzP, GzP², Bo, Gr, Hi, deF, CA, Mm,
 St, AW, PS; if [I] rapely Os
 369 kyþe3] lyþe3 MS; lyþe3 Mo, Os, Hi, deF, Mm, Vn, VnP; lythez GzP; [k]yþe3 GzP², AW;
 [k]ythe[s] Bo, St, CA, PS; [k]yþe3 Gr
 kyndely] kyndely MS; kyndely [wyth] Os
 coumforde] couforde MS; comforte Bo
 373 hau] hau or han MS; han all eds. but PS; haf PS.
 378 on] on MS; on[e] GzP
 381 carp] carp MS; carp[e] GzP², Bo, St
 382 manere3] marere3 MS; marere3 Mo, Os, Vn, VnP; marþrez GzP; ma[n]ere3 GzP², Gr;
 ma[n]ere[s] Bo, CA, St, PS; mare rez Hi, deF; mar[i]ere3 Mm; ma[n]ere3 AW
 384 arn] arn MS; arn[e] GzP
 blysse] blyffe MS; blisse Gr, CA, Mm

385 In blysse I se þe blyþely blent,
 and I a man al mornyf mate.
 3e take þeron ful lyttel tente,
 þa3 I hente ofte harmez hate.
 Bot now I am here in your presente,
 390 I wolde bysech, wythouten debate,
 3e wolde me say in sobre asente
 what lyf 3e lede erly and late,
 for I am ful fayn þat your astate
 is worþen to worschyp and wele, iwysse;
 395 Of alle my joy þe hy3e gate
 hit is, and grounde of alle my blysse.”

“Now blysse, burne, mot þe bytyde,”
 þen sayde þat lufsoum of lyth and lere,
 “and welcum here to walk and byde,
 400 for now þy speche is to me dere.
 Maysterful mod and hy3e pryde,
 I hete, arn heterly hated here.
 My lorde ne loue3 not forto chyde,
 for meke arn alle þat wone3 Hym nere,
 405 and when in Hys place þou schal apere,
 be dep deuote in hol mekenesse.
 My Lorde þe Lamb loue3 ay such chere,
 þat is þe grounde of alle my blysse.

[f.44v/48v]

394 iwysse] I wyffe MS; iwysst GzP
 396 and] ī MS; [and] CA; in all other eds.
 399 byde] bydē MS; [v]yde Vn, VnP
 402 I hete] I hete þe MS; I hete þe all other eds.
 403 loue3 not] loue3 not MS; love3 † GzP.
 404 alle] alle MS; all† Hi, deF
 406 mekenesse] mekenesse MS; meken[y]sse Bo

410 “A blysful lyf þou says I lede;
 þou wolde3 know þerof þe stage.
 Þow wost wel when þy perle con schede
 I wat3 ful 3ong and tender of age;
 bot my Lorde þe Lombe þur3 hys godhede,
 415 he toke my self to Hys maryage,
 corounde me quene in blysse to brede
 in lengh of daye3 þat euer schal wage;
 and sesed in alle Hys herytage
 hys lef is. I am holy Hysse—
 Hys prese, Hys prys, and Hys parage
 420 is rote and grounde of alle my blysse,”

[VIII]

 “Blysful,” coþe I, “may þys be trwe?
 Dysplese3 not if I speke errour—
 art þou þe quene of heuene3 blwe,
 þat al þys worlde schal do honour?
 425 We leuen on Marye þat grace of grewe,
 þat ber a barne of vyrgyn flour.
 Þe croune fro hyr quo mo3t remwe
 bot ho hir passed in sum fauour?
 Now, for synglerty o hyr dousour,
 430 we calle hyr Fenyx of Arraby,
 þat fereles fle3e of hyr Fasor,
 lyk to þe quen of cortaysye.”

- 411 þow] þow MS; þou VnP
 416 lengh] lengh MS (with comma-shaped stroke on 'h'); lengh[e] all other eds.
 419 prese] prefe MS; p[y]ese Vn, VnP, St
 420 alle] alle MS; all† GzP
 421 trwe] trwe MS; tr[u]e GzP
 423 blwe] blwe MS; bl[u]e GzP
 424 al] al MS; al[l] GzP
 426 vyrgyn flour] vyrgyn flo MS; vyrgynflor Hi, deF
 427 hyr] hyr MS; h[e]r GzP
 remwe] remwe MS; remue GzP
 430 Arraby] arraby MS; Arraby[e] Bo
 431 fereles] freles MS, Mo, GzP, Os, GzP², Bo, Gr, Hi, deF, CA, Vn, VnP, St, PS; fte[r]les Mm;
 f[e]reles AW
 Fasor] fafoz MS; faso[u]r Bo

[f. 45r/49r]

- “Cortayse quen! ” þenne sayde þat gaye,
 knelande to grounde, folde vp hyr face,
 435 “Makele3 moder and myryest may!
 Blessed bygygger of vch a grace!”
 Þenne ros ho vp and con restay
 and speke me towarde in þat space:
 “Sir, fele here porchase3 and fonge3 pray,
 440 bot supplantore3 none withinne þys place.
 Þat emperise al heuen3 hat3,
 and vrþe and helle in her bayly.
 Of erytage 3et non wyl ho chace,
 for ho is quen of cortaysye.
 445 “The court of þe kyndom of God alyue
 hat3 a property in hyt self leyng:
 alle þat may þerinne aryue
 of alle þe reme is quen oþer kyng,
 and neuer oþer 3et schal depyue,
 450 bot vchon fayn of oþere3 hafyng
 and wolde her coroune3 wern worþe þo fyue
 if possyble were her mendyng.
 Bot my lady, of quom Iesu con spryng,
 ho halde3 þe empyre ouer vus ful hy3e,
 455 and þat dysplese3 non of oure gyng,
 for ho is quene of cortaysye.

- 433 sayde] fyde MS; syde Vn, VnP; s[a]yde all other eds.
 436 bygygger] bygyner MS; bytgyner deF, St; bytgy[n]ner all other eds.
 441 heuen3] heuē3 MS; heuen[e]3 Hi, deF
 442 bayly] bayly MS; bayly[e] Bo
 446 leyng] leyg MS; beyng all other eds. (who read MS as beyg)

“Of courtaisye, as sayt3 Saynt Poule,
 al arn we membre3 of Iesu Kry3t.
 As heued and arme and legg and naule
 460 temen to hys body ful trwe and ty3te,
 ry3t so is vch a krysten sawle
 a longande lym to þe Mayster of my3te.
 Þenne loke what hate oþer any gawle
 is tached oþer ty3ed þy lymme3 bytwy3te.
 465 Þy heued hat3 nauþer greme ne gry3te
 on arme oþer fynger þa3 þou ber by3e.
 So fare we alle wyth luf and ly3te
 to kyng and quene by cortaysye.”

“Cortayse,” coþe I, “I leue [f. 45v/49v]
 470 and charyte grete be yow among,
 bot my speche þat yow ne greue,

 Þysself in heuen ouer hy3 þou heue,
 to make þe quen þat wat3 so 3onge.
 475 What more honour mo3te he acheue
 þat hade endured in worlde stronge,
 and lyued in penaunce hys lyue3 longe
 with bodyly bale hym blysse to byye?
 What more worschyp mo3t he fonge
 480 þen corounde be kyng, by cortayse?

- 458 Kry3t] kryft MS; Kryst all other eds. (see note)
 460 trwe] trwe MS; tr[u]e GzP
 ty3te] tyfte MS; t[r]yste Mo, GzP, GzP², Bo, Gr, Hi, deF, CA, St, AW, PS; tyste Os, Vn, VnP (see
 note to 458)
 462 my3te] myfte MS; myste all other eds. (see note to 458)
 464 bytwy3te] by twyfte MS; by-twyste Mo, GzP²; bytwyste all other eds. (see note to 458)
 465 gry3te] gryfte MS; gryste all other eds. (see note to 458)
 467 ly3te] lyfte MS; lyst PS; lyste all other eds. (see note to 458)
 469 Cortayse] Cortayfe MS; Cortays[y]e GzP², Bo
 472 line missing in MS; no gap left] [(Me think thou spekez now ful wronge,)] GzP; [(Me þynk þou
 speke3 now ful wronge;)] GzP²
 475 more honour] moze honÉ MS; more-hon[d] Mo
 479 he] ho MS; ho GzP, Vn, VnP; h[e] Os, GzP², Gr, Bo, Hi, deF, CA, Mm, Vn, VnP, St, AW, PS
 480 cortayse] cortayfe MS] cortays[y]e Os, GzP², Bo

[VIII]

“That cortayse is to fre of dede,
 3yf hyt be soth þat þou cone3 saye.
 Þou lyfed not two 3er in oure þede;
 þou cowþe3 God nauþer plese ne pray,
 485 ne neuer nawþer pater ne crede,
 and quen mad on þe fyrst day!
 I may not traw, so God me spede,
 þat God wolde wryþe so wrange away.
 Of countes, damysel, par ma fay,
 490 Wer fayr in heuen to halde asstate,
 oþer elle3 a lady of lasse aray—
 bot a queen! Hit is to dere a date!”

“Þer is no date of Hys godnesse,”
 þen sayde to me þat worþy wy3te,
 495 “for al is trawþe þat He con dresse,
 and he may do no þynk bot ry3t.
 As Mathew mele3 in your messe
 in sothfol gospel of God almy3t,
 insample he can ful grayþely gesse,
 500 and lykne3 hit to heuen ly3te:
 ‘My regne,’ he sayt3, ‘is lyk on hy3t
 to a lorde þat hade a uyne, I wate.
 Of tyme of 3ere þe terme wat3 ty3t;
 to labor vyne wat3 dere þe date.’

- 481 cortayse] cortayfe MS] cortays[y]e GzP², Bo
 484 cowþe3 God] cowþe3 neu god MS; cowþe3 neuer god Mo, Os, GzP², Gr, Mm, Vn, VnP; cowthez
 never god GzP; cowthes never God CA, St; cowþes neuer God Hi, deF; cowþez neuer God AW;
 couthes never God PS
 486 fyrst] fyrft MS; fyrst[e] GzP, Bo, St; f[i]rst Os
 491 oþer] oþ MS; [A]þer Os, Bo; Other GzP, CA, St; oþer Gr, Hi, Vn, VnP, Mm, AW; oþe[n] deF; or
 PS
 499 insample] i fample MS; in sample Mo, Os, Gr, Hi, deF, CA, St, Mm, AW, PS; insample Bo, Vn,
 VnP; in-sample GzP, GzP²

- 505 “þat date of 3ere wel knawe þys hyne. [f. 46r/50r]
 þe Lorde ful erly vp he ros
 to hyre werkmen to hys vyne,
 and fynde3 þer summe to hys porpos.
 Into acorde þay con declyne
 510 for a pene on a day and forth þay got3,
 wryþen and worchen and don gret pyne,
 keruen and caggen and man hit clos.
 Aboute vnder, þe Lorde to marked tot3,
 and ydel men stande he fynde3 þerate.
 515 ‘Why stande 3e ydel?’ he sayde to þos—
 ‘Ne knawe 3e of þis day no date?’
- “ ‘Er date of daye hider arn we wonne—’
 so wat3 al samen her ansvar so3t.
 ‘We haf standen her syn ros þe sunne
 520 and no mon bydde3 vus do ry3t no3t.’
 ‘Gos into my vyne, dot3 þat 3e conne,’
 so sayde þe lorde, and made hit to3t.
 ‘What resonabele hyre be na3t be runne
 I wyl yow pay in dede and þo3te.’
 525 þay wente into þe vyne and wro3te,
 and al day þe lorde þus 3ede his gate,
 and nw men to hys vyne he bro3te
 Wel ne3 wyl day wat3 passed date.

- 505 þys hyne] þys hyne MS; [h]ys hyne GzP, GzP²
 510 on a day] on a day MS; a day GzP²
 523 resonabele] refonabele MS; res nabele GzP²; resonabþle deF
 524 I wyl yow] I yow MS; I [wyl] you GzP; I yow all other eds.
 pay] pray MS; pray Mo, Vn, VnP; pþay all other eds.
 527 nw] nw MS; n[e]w GzP; nw[e] GzP², Bo

530 “At þe date of day of euensonge,
 on oure byfore þe sonne got3 doun,
 He se3 þer ydel men ful stronge
 and sade to hem with sobre soun,
 ‘wy stonde 3e ydel þise daye3 longe?’
 Þay sayden her hyre wat3 nawhere boun.
 535 ‘Got3 to my vyne, 3emen 3onge,
 and wyrke3 and dot3 þat at 3e moun!’
 Sone þe worlde bycom wel broun;
 þe sunne wat3 doun and hit wex late.
 To take her hyre he mad sumoun;
 540 þe day wat3 al apassed date.

X

“The date of þe daye þe lorde con knaw, [f. 46v/50v]
 called to þe reue, ‘Lede, pay þe meyny.
 Gyf hem þe hyre þat I hem owe,
 and fyrre, þat non me may repreny
 545 set hem alle vpon a rawe
 and gyf vchon inlyche a peny.
 Bygyn at þe laste þat stande3 lowe,
 tyl at þe fyrste þat þou atteny.’
 And þenne þe fyrst bygonne to pleny,
 550 and sayden þat þay hade trauayled sore:
 ‘Þese bot on oure hem con streny–
 vus þynk vus o3e to take more.

529 At þe date of day] at þe day of date MS; At da[te] of [the] da[y] GzP; At the da[te] of da[y]
 GzP², Bo, PS; at þe da[te] of da[y] Os, CA, Mm, St, AW; At þe day, of date Vn, VnP
 530 got3] go MS; go all other eds.
 532 sade] fāde MS; sa[y]de Mo, GzP, Os, Bo; sade GzP², Gr, Hi, deF, Mm, Vn, VnP, St, AW; sayd PS
 hem] hen MS; hen Vn, VnP; hem all other eds.
 538 and] ⁊ MS; † and or † & all eds.
 542 meyny] meyny MS; me†ny GzP²; meyn[e] Bo
 543 owe] owe MS; [a]we GzP², Bo
 544 repreny] reprene MS; repreue Mo; repren[y] GzP, Os, GzP², Hi; reprene all other eds.
 547 lowe] lowe MS; l[a]we GzP², Bo
 550 hade] hāde MS; had Hi
 551 oure] oure MS; [h]oure Mo, PS

- “ ‘More haf we serued, vus þynk so,
 þat suffred hau þe daye3 hete,
 555 þenn þyse þat wro3t not houre3 two,
 and þou dot3 hem vus to counterfete!’
 Þenne sayde þe lorde to on of þo,
 ‘frende, no warning I wyl of þe 3ete—
 take þat is þyn owne, and go.
 560 And I hyred þe for a peny agrete,
 quy bygynne3 þou now to þrete?
 Wat3 not a pene þy couenaunt þore?
 Fyrre þen couenaunde is no3t to plete.
 Wy schalte þou þenne ask more?
- 565 “ ‘More, weþer louyly is me my gyfte –
 to do wyth myn quatso me lyke3?
 Oþer elle3 þyn y3e to lyþer is lyfte
 for I am goude and non byswyke3?’
 ‘Þus schal I,’ coþe Kryste, ‘hit skyfte.
 570 Þe laste schal be þe fyrst þat stryke3,
 and þe fyrst þe laste, be he neuer so swyft,
 for mony ben called, þa3 fewe be myke3.’
 Þus pore men her part ay pyke3,
 Þa3 þay com late and lyttel wore,
 575 and þa3 her sweng wyth lyttel atslyke3,
 þe merci of god is much þe more.

- 554 hau] han *or* hau MS; haf PS; han all other eds.
 555 wro3t] wro3t MS; wro3t[e] Mo
 558 warning] wanig MS; wanig Hi, deF; w[r]an†g Mo; wani[n]g all other eds.
 wyl of þe] wyl þe MS; wyl þe all other eds.
 564 ask] ask MS; ask[e] GzP, GzP², Bo, St
 565 louyly] louyly MS; lawely Os, Bo; leuyly GzP²
 572 called] calle MS; calle Hi, deF, Mm, Vn, VnP; calle[d] all other eds.

[f. 47r/51r]

“More haf I of joye and blysse hereinne,
of ladyschyp gret and lyue3 blom,
þen alle þe wy3e3 in þe worlde my3t wynne
580 by þe way of ry3t to aske dome.
Wheþer welnygh now I con bygynne—
in euentyde into þe vyne I come—
fyrst of my hyre my Lorde con mynne:
I wat3 payed anon of al and sum.
585 3et oþer þer werne þat toke more tom,
þat swange and swat for long 3ore,
þat 3et of hyre noþynk þay nom,
paraunter no3t schal to3ere more.”

Then more I meled and sayde apert,
590 “Me þynk þy tale vnresounable.
Godde3 ry3t is redy and euermor rert,
oþer holy wryt is bot a fable.
In sauter is sayd a verce ouerte,
þat speke3 a poynt determynable:
595 ‘Þou quyte3 vchon as hys desserte,
þou hy3e Kyng ay pertermynable.’
Now he þat stod þe long day stable,
and þou to payment com hym byfore,
þenne þe lasse in werke to take more able,
600 and euer þe lenger þe lasse þe more.”

581 welnygh] welnygh MS; wēl nygh[t] Mo, GzP

586 long] long MS; longe GzP, Bo, St

596 pertermynable] þtermynable MS; pretermynable Mo, GzP, Os, GzP², Bo, Gr, Hi, deF, CA, Mm; pertermynable Vn, VnP, St, AW, PS

XI

“Of more and lasse in Godeȝ ryche,”
 þat gentyl sayde, “lys no joparde,
 for þer is vch mon payed inlyche,
 wheþer lyttel oþer much be hys rewarde.
 605 For þe gentyl Cheuentayn is no chyche,
 queþer-so-euer he dele nesch oþer harde;
 he laueȝ hys gyfteȝ as water of dyche,
 oþer goteȝ of golf þat neuer charde.
 Hys fraunchyse is large þat euer dard
 610 to hym þat matȝ in synne rescoghe,
 no blysse betȝ fro hem reparde,
 for þe grace of God is gret inoghe.

“Bot now þou moteȝ me for to mate,
 þat I my peny haf wrang tan here.
 615 Þou sayȝ þat I þat com to late,
 am not worþy so gret bere.
 Where wysteȝ þou euer any bourne abate,
 euer so holy in hys prayere,
 þat he ne forfeȝed by sumkyn gate
 620 þe mede sumtyme of heueneȝ clere?
 And ay þe ofter þe alder þay were,
 þay laften ryȝt and wroȝten woghe.
 Mercy and grace moste hem þen stere,
 for þe grace of god is gret innoȝe.

[f. 47v/51v]

- 605 Cheuentayn] cheuentayn MS; Cheftayn PS
 610 rescoghe] MS blotted but just legible as reſcogħ; [no] scoghe Mo; rescowe PS; rescoghe all other
 eds.
 611 hem] hem MS; h[i]m GzP
 615 com] com MS; com[e] Hi, deF
 616 bere] bere or lere MS; [f]ere Gr, CA, Mm, St, AW; lere Mo, GzP, Hi, deF, Vn, VnP; [h]ere
 Os, GzP², Bo; [low]ere PS

625 "Bot innoghe of grace hat3 innocent.
 As sone as þay arn borne, by lyne,
 in þe water of babtem þay dyssente—
 þen arne þay boro3t into þe vyne.
 Anon þe day with derk endente
 630 þe my3t of deth dot3 to enclyne
 þat wro3t neuer wrang er þenne þay wente.
 Þe gentyle Lorde þenne paye3 His hyne.
 Þay dyden Hys heste; þay wern þereine—
 Why schulde he not her labour alow,
 635 3ys, and pay hym at þe fyrst fyne?
 For þe grace of God is gret innoghe.

"Ino3e is knawen þat mankyn grete
 fyrste wat3 wro3t to blysse parfyt.
 Oure forme-fader hit con forfete
 640 þur3 an apple þat he vpon con byte.
 Al wer we dampned for þat mete,
 to dy3e in doel out of delyt,
 and syþen wende to helle hete,
 þerinne to won withoute respyt.
 645 Bot þeron com a bote astryt:
 ryche blod ran on rode so roghe
 and wynne water þen at þat plyt.
 Þe grace of God wex gret innoghe

- 630 my3t] my3t *or* niy3t MS niy3t Gr, Mm, Vn, VnP, AW; niyght CA, St; my3t Mo, GzP, Os, GzP²,
 Hi, deF; myght Bo; night PS
- 635 3ys] 3yf MS, but indistinct; 3y[rd] Mo; Yyld GzP; 3y . . . Os
 hym] hym MS; hym Hi, Vn, VnP, St, AW; h[e]m Mo, GzP, Os, GzP², Bo, Gr, deF, CA, Mm, PS
 fyrst] fyrft MS; fyrst[e] GzP², Bo, St
- 637 mankyn] man kyn MS; mankynde PS
- 645 þeron com] þer on com MS; þer oncom GzP, Os
- 647 wynne water] wýne wat MS; wynne [&] water Mo

[f. 48r/52r]

650 “Innoghe þer wax out of þat welle,
 blod and water of brode wounde.
 Þe blod vus boȝt fro bale of helle
 and delyuered vus of þe deth secounde;
 þe water is baptem þe soþe to telle,
 þat folȝed þe glayue so grymly grounde,
 655 þat wascheȝ away þe gylteȝ felle
 þat Adam wythinne deth vus drounde.
 Now is þer noȝt in þe worlde rounde
 bytwene vus and blysse bot þat he withdroȝ,
 and þat is restored in sely stounde,
 660 and þe grace of God is gret innoghe.

XII

“Grace innogh þe mon may haue
 þat synneȝ þenne new, ȝif hym repente,
 bot with sorȝ and syt he mot hit craue,
 and byde þe payne þat þerto is bent.
 665 Bot resoun of ryȝt þat con not raue
 saueȝ euer more þe innoscent:
 hit is a dom þat neuer God gaue
 þat euer þe gyltleȝ schulde be schente.
 Þe gyltyf may contrysseyoun hente
 670 and be þurȝ mercy to grace þryȝt,
 bot he to gyle þat neuer glente,
 al inoscente is saf and ryȝte.

649 out] out out MS; † out all eds.
 656 wythinne] wythīne MS; wyth inne Os, Bo, Gr, Hi, deF, CA, Mm, Vn, VnP, St, AW; wythinne Mo;
 wyth in†† GzP, GzP²; with in PS
 672 al] at MS; a[nd] Gr; at GzP, Os, GzP², Bo, Hi, deF, Mm, Vn, VnP, PS; a[s] CA, Vn, VnP, St, AW
 inoscente] ī ofente MS; inos[c]ente Os, Bo, Gr, Hi, deF, CA, Mm, St, AW; in-os[c]ente Mo;
 inos[c]en[c]e GzP, GzP²; in[n]os†ent† Vn, VnP
 and] ⁊ MS; [by] GzP, GzP²

- “Ryzt þus I knaw wel in þis cas
 two men to saue is God by skylle:
 675 þe ryztwys man schal se Hys face,
 þe harmle3 haþel schal com Hym tulle.
 Þe sauter hyt sat3 þus, in a pace:
 ‘Lorde, quo schal klymbe þy hy3 hylle,
 oþer rest withinne þy holy place?’
 680 Hymself to onsware he is not dylle:
 ‘Hondelynge3 harme þat dyt not ille,
 þat is of hert boþe clene and ly3t,
 þer schal hys step stable styлле.
 Þe innosent is ay saf by ryzt.’
- 685 “The ryztwys man also sertayn [f. 48v/52v]
 aproche he schal þat proper pyle–
 þat take3 not her lyf in vayne,
 ne glauere3 her ne3bor wyth no gyle.’
 Of þys ryztwys sa3 Salamon playn
 690 how Koyntyse in honoure hym con aquyle.
 By waye3 ful stre3t ho con him strayn
 and scheued hym þe rengne of God awhyle,
 as quo says, ‘Lo, 3on louely yle!
 Þou may hit wynne if þou be wy3te.’
 695 Bot hardyly, withoute peryle,
 þe innosent is ay saue by ry3te.
- 673 þus] þʰ þʰ MS; † þus all eds.
 675 face] fate MS; fa[c]e all eds.
 678 hy3 hylle] hy3 hylle3 MS; hy3 hylle3 Mo; hy3 hylle† Gr, Hi, deF, Mm, Vn, VnP, AW; hygh[e]
 hylle† GzP, Bo, St; hygh hylle† CA; hy3[e] hylle† GzP²; high hille PS
 683 step] fstep MS; step[pe] GzP², Bo; step[e] St
 688 ne3bor] me3bof or nie3bof MS; nieghbor GzP; nie3bor Mo, Gr, Hi, deF, Mm, Vn, VnP, AW;
 neighbor CA, St, PS; ne3bor Os, GzP²; neighbor Bo
 689 sa3] fa3 MS; sa3 Mo, Os, GzP², Gr, Hi, deF, Mm, Vn, VnP; sagh GzP, Bo; saw PS; sa[s] CA, St;
 sa[y]z AW
 690 how Koyntyse in onoure him] how kyntly oure or onre MS; How kyntly oure Mo, Vn, VnP;
 How Koyntise onoure Gr, CA; How koyntise onoure Mm; How kyntly oure lorde him GzP; How
 kyntly our Kyng hym Os, Bo; How kyntly oure Koyntyse hym GzP², St; How kyntly onore Hi, deF;
 Him Koyntoyse oure AW; How koynt duitour he PS
 691 ho] hē MS; h[o] Gr, Hi, CA, Mm; he GzP, Os, GzP², Bo, deF, Vn, VnP, St, AW, PS

“Anende ry3twys men 3et sayt3 a gome
 Daud in sauter, if euer 3e se3 hit,
 ‘Lorde, þy seruaunt dra3 neuer to dome,
 700 for non lyuyande to þe is justyfyet.’
 Forþy to corte quen þou schal com
 þer alle oure cause3 schal be tryed,
 alege þe ry3t, þou may be innome
 by þys ilke speech, I haue asspyed.
 705 Bot he on rode þat bloody dyed,
 delfully þur3 honde3 þry3t,
 gyue þe to passe when þou arte tryed,
 by innocens and not by ry3te.

“Ry3twysly quo con rede
 710 he loke on bok and be awayed
 how Iesu hym welke in areþede,
 and burne3 her barne3 vnto Hym brayde.
 For happe and hele þat fro Hym 3ede
 to touch her chylder þay fayr Hym prayed.
 715 His dessypelez with blame ‘Let be!’ hym bede
 and wyth her resoune3 ful fele restayed.
 Iesu þenne hem swetely sayde,
 ‘Do way! Let chylder vnto me ty3t
 to suche is heuenryche arayed.’
 720 þe innocent is ay saf by ry3t.

- 698 se3] fe3 MS; s[y]3 GzP², Gr; s[y]gh Bo; se3 Mo, Os, Hi, deF, Mm, Vn, VnP, AW; sey CA, St;
 segh GzP
 701 com] com MS; com[e] GzP², Bo
 702 tryed] tryed MS; [c]ryed GzP², AW; triet PS
 704 asspyed] alpyed MS; aspyet PS
 705 dyed] dyed MS; dyet PS
 707 tryed] tryed MS; triet PS
 709 quo con] quo con MS; quo [so] con GzP²; quo con[e] Bo
 710 awayed] awayed MS; avayed PS
 714 touch] touth MS; tou[c]h all eds.
 715 hym] hȳ MS; h[e]m Os, Gr, GzP², Bo, CA, Mm; hym Mo, GzP, Hi, deF, Vn, VnP, St, AW, PS

[XIII]

[f. 49r/53r]

Iesu con calle to Hym Hys mylde,
 and sayde Hys ryche no wyȝ myȝt wynne
 bot he com þyder ryȝt as a chylde,
 oþer elleȝ neuer more com þerinne:
 725 harmleȝ, trwe, and vndefylde,
 withouten mote oþer mascle of sulpande synne.
 Quen such þer cnoken on þe bylde,
 tyt schal hem men þe ȝate vnpyne.
 Þer is þe blys þat con not blynne,
 730 þat þe jueler soȝte þurȝ perre pres,
 and solde alle hys goud, boþe wolen and lynne,
 to bye hym a perle watȝ mascelleȝ.

This makelleȝ perle þat boȝt is dere,
 þe joueler gef fore alle hys god,
 735 is lyke þe reme of heuenesse clere—
 so sayde þe Fader of folde and flode—
 for hit is wemleȝ, clene and clere,
 and endeleȝ rounde, and blyþe of mode,
 and commune to alle þat ryȝtywys were.
 740 Lo, euen in myddeȝ my breste hit stode!
 My Lorde, þe Lombe, þat schede hys blode,
 he pyȝt hit þere in token of pes.
 I rede þe forsake þe worlde wode
 and porchace þy perle maskelles.”

- 721 Iesu] Ihc MS; [Ryȝt] AW
 732 watȝ mascelleȝ] watȝ mafcelleȝ MS; [þat] watȝ mascelleȝ Mo; wa[s] mascelle[s] Bo, CA, St
 733 makelleȝ] makelleȝ MS ma[s]kelleȝ Os, GzP²; ma[s]kelleȝ GzP; makelþeȝ Gr, Hi, deF;
 makelle[s] CA, St; makeles PS; makelleȝ Mo, Bo, Mm, Vn, VnP; makelleȝ AW
 734 gef] gef MS; gave PS
 735 heuenesse clere] heueneffe clere MS; hevenesþþ clere GzP, Bo; hevenesþþ [sp]ere GzP²; heuens
 clere PS
 739 ryȝtywys] ryȝtywys MS; ryȝtþwys Mo, Os, GzP², Gr, Hi, deF, Mm, Vn, VnP, AW; ryghtþwys GzP,
 Bo, CA, St

745 “O maskelez perle in perlez pure,
 þat berez,” coþe I, “þe perle of prys,
 quo formed þe þy fayre figure?
 Þat wrozt þy wede he wat3 ful wys!
 Þy beaute com neuer of nature –
 750 Pymalyon paynted neuer þy vys,
 ne Arystotel nawþer by hys lettrure,
 of carpe þe kynde þese properte3.
 Þy colour passe3 þe flour-de-lys,
 þyn angel hauyng so clene corte3.
 755 Breue me, bryzt, quatkyn offys
 berez þe perle so maskelle3?”

“My makelez Lambe þat al may bete,”
 coþe scho, “my dere destyne,
 me ches to Hys make, alþaz vnmete
 760 sumtyme semed þat assemble.
 When I wente fro yor worlde wete
 He calde me to Hys bonerte:
 ‘Cum hyder to me, my lemman swete,
 for mote ne spot is non in þe.’
 765 He gef me myzt and als bewte.
 In Hys blod He wesch my wede on dese,
 and coronde clene in verrgynte,
 and pyzt me in perlez maskelle3.”

[f. 49v/53v]

752 carpe] carpe MS; carpe[d] GzP, GzP², Bo, Gr, CA, AW, PS; carpe Mo, Os, Hi, deF, Mm, Vn, VnP,
 St
 properte3] pperte3 MS; property3 Os, GzP²; propertys Bo
 755 offys] offys MS (see note); of priys Mo; of triys GzP, GzP²; ostriys St
 757 makelez] makelez MS; ma[s]kelez Os, GzP²; ma[s]kelez GzP
 768 and] ⁊ MS; [He] GzP²; † (i.e. and omitted) Bo

“Why, maskelle3 bryd þat bryzt con flambe,
 770 þat reiate3 hat3 so ryche and ryf,
 quat kyn þyng may be þat Lambe
 þat þe wolde wedde vnto hys vyf?
 Ouer alle oþer so hy3 þou clambe
 to lede with hym so ladyly lyf.
 775 So mony a comly onvunder cambe
 for Kryst hau lyued in much stryf,
 and þou con alle þo dere outdryf,
 and fro þat maryag al oþer depres,
 al only þyself so stout and styf,
 780 a makele3 may and maskelle3!”

[XIII]

“Maskelles,” coþe þat myry quene,
 “vnblemyst I am wythouten blot,
 and þat may I with mensk menteene,
 bot ‘makele3 quene’ þenne sade I not.
 785 Þe Lambes vyue3 in blysse we bene,
 a hondred and forty þowsande flot,
 as in þe Apocalyppe3 hit is sene.
 Sant John hem sy3 al in a knot
 on þe hyl of Syon, þat semly clot;
 790 þe apostel hem segh in gostly drem,
 arayed to þe wedding in þat hyl coppe,
 þe nwe cyte o Jerusalem.

- 775 a comly] acomly MS; a c[u]mly Mo, GzP
 778 maryag] maryag MS; maryag[e] GzP²
 784 sade] fade MS; sa[y]de GzP, Os, Bo; sayd PS
 786 forty þowsande flot] foʽty þowfande flot MS; forty [fowre] þowsande flot GzP², Gr; forty-four
 thousande flot PS
 791 hyl coppe] hyl coppe MS; h[igh] coppe GzP; hyl-cot Bo; hylcoppe Mm
 792 nwe] nwe MS; n[e]we GzP
 o] o or u MS; u Mo; of PS

[f. 50r/54r]

“Of Jerusalem I in speche selle.
 If þou wyl knaw what kyn He be—
 795 my Lombe, my Lorde, my dere Juelle
 my Joy, my Blys, my Lemman fre—
 þe profete Ysaye of Hym con melle
 pitously of hys debonerte:
 ‘Þat glorious Gyltlez þat mon con quelle
 800 withouten any sake of felonye,
 as a schep to þe slaȝt þer lad wat3 He,
 and as lombe þat clypper in hande nem,
 so closed he hys mouth fro vch query
 quen jue3 hym iugged in Jerusalem.’
 805 “In Jerusalem wat3 my Lemman slayn
 and rent on rode with boye3 bolde.
 Al oure bale3 to bere ful bayn,
 He toke on hym self oure care3 colde.
 With boffete3 wat3 Hys face flayn,
 810 þat wat3 so fayr on to byholde.
 For synne he set Hymself in vayn,
 þat neuer hade non Hymself to wolde;
 for vus He lette Hym fly3e and folde,
 and brede vpon a bostwys bem,
 815 as meke as lomp þat no playnt tolde.
 For vus He swalt in Jerusalem.

- 800 felonye] felonye MS; felonȝe GzP², Bo
 802 in hande nem] ī lande men MS; in [h]ande [n]e[m] Gr, CA, Mm, AW, PS; in lande [n]e[m] Mo,
 GzP, Os, GzP², Bo, Hi, deF, St; in lande men Vn, VnP
 803 query] query MS; quer[e] GzP²
 815 lomp] lomp MS; lom[b] Mo, GzP, Os, GzP², Bo; lamb PS

- “Jerusalem, Jordan and Galalye:
 þeras baptysed þe goude Saynt Jon,
 his wordez acorded to Ysaye.
 820 When Iesu con to hym warde gon,
 he sayde of Hym þys professye:
 ‘Lo, Gode3 Lombe as trwe as ston,
 þat dot3 away þe synne3 dry3e,
 þat alle þys worlde hat3 wro3t vpon.’
 825 Hymself ne wro3t neuer zet non,
 wheþer on Hymself He con al clem.
 Hys generacyoun quo recen con,
 þat dyzed for vus in Jerusalem?
- “In Jerusalem þus my Lemman swette, [f. 50v/54v]
 830 twye3 for lombe wat3 taken þere
 by trw recorde of ayþer prophete,
 for mode so meke and al Hys fare.
 Þe þryde tyme is þerto ful mete
 in Apokalype3 wryten ful 3are.
 835 Inmyde3 þe trone þere saynte3 sete,
 þe apostel John Hym sy3 as bare,
 lesande þe boke with leue3 sware
 þere seuen syngnette3 wern sette in seme;
 and at þat sy3t vche douth con dare,
 840 in helle, in erþe, and Jerusalem.
- 817 Jerusalem, Jordan and Galalye] Ilr̃m jordan ɛ galalye MS; [In] Jerusalem, Jordan and Galalye GzP²,
 Gr, CA, AW
 825 wro3t] wro3t MS; wroght[e] GzP², St
 829 swette] fwatte MS; swatte Mo, Hi, deF, Mm, Vn, VnP; sw[e]t̃te GzP, Os, GzP², Bo, Gr, CA, St,
 AW, PS
 830 þere] þere MS (but the second letter difficult to read); þere Mo, Os; there GzP, St; þ[a]re GzP²,
 Gr, Hi, deF, Mm, Vn, VnP, AW; th[a]re Bo, CA, PS
 836 sy3] fayt3 MS; sayt3 Mo, Hi, deF, Mm, Vn, VnP; s̃tyt̃3 Os; sa††3 GzP², Gr, AW; sa††gh GzP;
 s̃ty†gh Bo; sa††w CA, St, PS

[XV]

“Thys Jerusalem Lombe hade neuer pechche
 of oþer hue bot quyt jolyf
 þat mot ne masklle mozt on streche,
 for wolke quyte so ronk and ryf.
 845 Forþy vche saule þat hade neuer teche
 is to þat lombe a worthyly wyf,
 and þaȝ vch day a store He feche,
 among vus commeȝ nouþer strot ne stryf,
 bot vchon enle we wolde were fyf—
 850 þe mo þe myryer, so God me blesse!
 In compayny gret our luf con þryf,
 in honour more and neuer þe lesse.

“Lasse of blysse may non vus bryng
 þat beren þys perle vpon oure breste,
 855 for þay of mote couþe neuer mynge
 of spotleȝ perleȝ þat beren þe creste.
 Alþaȝ oure corsen in clotteȝ clynge,
 and ȝe remen for rauþe wythouten reste,
 we þurȝoutly hauen cnawynge.
 860 Of on dethe ful oure hope is drest.
 Þe Lombe vus gladeȝ; oure care is kest;
 he myrþeȝ vus alle at vch a mes.
 Vchoneȝ blysse is breme and beste,
 and neuer oneȝ honour ȝet neuer þe les.

- 843 masklle] masklle MS; masklȝe GzP; mask[e]lle GzP²
 848 nouþer] nouȝþ or nonȝþ MS; non oþer Mo, Os, Hi, Mm; non other GzP, Bo; nonoþer deF; nouȝþer
 Gr, AW; nouȝther CA, St; nouȝþer GzP²; no noþer Vn, VnP; nauther PS
 856 þat] þa MS; þa Hi, deF, Vn, VnP; tha St; þay Mo; thay GzP; þat Os, GzP², Gr, Mm, AW; that Bo,
 CA, PS
 860 on] _n or _u MS (first letter of second word of this line illegible because of damage); [o]n all eds.
 861 Lombe] lonbē or loubē MS; lou[m]be Mo, GzP²; lamb PS; lo[m]be or Lo[m]be all other eds.

865 “Lest les þou leue my talle farande, [f. 51r/55r]
in Appocalyppece is wryten in wro:
‘I segh,’ says John, ‘þe Loumbe Hym stande
on þe mount of Syon ful þryuen and þro,
and wyth Hym maydenneȝ an hundreþe þowsande,
870 and fowre and forty þowsande mo.
On alle her forhedeȝ wryten I fandē
þe Lombeȝ nome, Hys fadereȝ also.
A hue fro heuen I herde þoo,
lyk flodeȝ fele, laden runnen on resse,
875 and as þunder þroweȝ in torreȝ blo,
þat lote I leue watȝ neuer þe les.’

“ ‘Naupēles, þaȝ hit schowted scharpe,
and ledden loude alþaȝ hit were,
a note ful nwe I herde hem warpe,
880 to lysten þat watȝ ful lufly dere.
As harporeȝ harpen in her harpe,
þat nwe songe þay songen ful cler,
in sounande noteȝ a gentyl carpe;
ful fayre þe modeȝ þay fonge in fere.
885 Ryȝt byfore Godeȝ chayere,
and þe fowre besteȝ þat hym obes,
and þe aldermen so sadde of chere,
her songe þay songen neuer þe les.’

867 þe] þe MS; þ[a] Hi, deF
873 fro] fro MS; fro[m] CA, Mm
874 laden] laðen MS; l[e]den GzP², Bo
883 noteȝ] noteȝ MS; noteȝ [con] GzP

“ Nowþe lese non wat3 neuer so quoynt,
 890 for alle þe crafte3 þat euer þay knewe,
 þat of þat songe my3t synge a poynt,
 bot þat meyny þe Lombe þat swe,
 for þay arn bo3t fro þe vrþe al oynte
 as newe fryt to god ful due;
 895 and to þe gentyl Lombe hit arn anoynt
 as lyk to hym self of lote and hwe,
 for neuer lesyng ne tale vnrwe
 ne towched her tonge for no dysstresse.
 Þat moteles meyny may neuer remwe
 900 fro þat maskelez mayster neuer þe les.’ ”

“Neuer þe les let be my þonc,” [f. 51v/55v]
 coþe I, “my perle þa3 I appose;
 I schulde not tempte þy wyt so wlonc,
 to Kryste3 chambre þat art ichose.
 905 I am bot mokke and mul among,
 and þou so ryche a reken rose,
 and byde3 here by þys blysful bonc
 þer lyue3 lyste may neuer lose.
 Now, hynde þat sympelnesse cone3 enclose,
 910 I wolde þe aske a þynge expresse,
 and þa3 I be bustwys as a blose,
 let my bone vayl neuer þe lese.

892 þat swe] þay fwe MS; þay swe Mo, Hi, deF, Vn, VnP; thay sue GzP; þa[t] swe Os, GzP², Gr, Mm,
 AW; tha[t] swe Bo, CA, St; that sue PS
 893 al oynte] aloynte MS, all eds.
 895 anoynt] amoȳt MS; amoynt Mo; anjoynt GzP, Bo, CA, Vn, VnP, St, AW, PS; anioynt Os, GzP²,
 Gr, Hi, deF, Mm
 905 among] amōg MS; amon[c] GzP², Bo; amon[k] PS
 911 a blose] ablofe MS; a [w]ose GzP²; a b†ose AW
 912 vayl] vayl MS; vayl[e] GzP², Bo, St

[XVI]

- “Neuerþelese, cler, I yow bycalle,
 if 3e con se hyt be to done,
 915 as þou art glorious withouten galle,
 withnay þou neuer my ruful bone:
 Haf 3e no wone3 in castel-walle,
 ne maner þer 3e may mete and won?
 Þou telle3 me of Jerusalem, þe ryche ryalle,
 920 þer Daudid dere wat3 dy3t on trone,
 bot by þyse holte3 hit con not hone,
 bot in Judee hit is þat noble note.
 As 3e ar maskele3 vnder mone,
 your wone3 schulde be wythouten mote.
 925 “Þys motele3 meyny þou cone3 of mele,
 of þousande3 þry3t so gret a route—
 a gret cete, for 3e arn fele,
 yow byhod haue, withouten doute.
 So cumly a pakke of joly juele
 930 wer euel don schulde ly3 þeroute,
 and by þyse bonke3 þer I con gele
 I se no bygyng nawhere aboute.
 I trowe al one 3e lenge and loute
 to loken on þe glory of þys gracious gote.
 935 If þou hat3 oþer bygynge3 stoute
 now tech me to þat myry mote.”

- 918 won] won MS; won[e] GzP²
 928 byhod] by hōd MS; behoved PS
 932 I] † I MS; & I Mo, Os, Hi, deF; † I GzP, GzP², Bo, Gr, CA, Mm, St, AW, PS; and I Vn, VnP
 934 gracious] g^aco⁹ MS; grac[i]ous Mo, GzP, Os, GzP², Bo, Gr, Hi, deF, CA, Mm, St, AW, PS;
 gracious Vn, VnP
 935 bygynge3] lygȳge3 MS; [b]ygynge3 Gr, Mm, Vn, VnP; [b]ygynge[s] CA, St; [b]ygyngez AW;
 [b]ygynges PS; lygynges GzP; lygynge[s] Bo; lygynge3 Mo, Os, GzP², Hi, deF

“That mote þou meneȝ in Judy londe,” [f. 52r/56r]
 þat specyal spyce þen to me spakk,
 “þat is þe cyte þat þe Lombe con fonde
 940 to soffer inne sor for maneȝ sake,
 þe olde Jerusalem to vnderstonde,
 for þere þe olde gulte watȝ don to slake.
 Bot þe new, þat lyȝt of Godeȝ sonde,
 þe apostel in Apocalyppe in theme con take.
 945 Þe Lompe þer withouten spotteȝ blake
 hatȝ feryed þyder Hys fayre flote,
 and as Hys flok is withouten flake,
 so is Hys mote withouten moote.

 “Of moteȝ two to carpe clene
 950 and Jerusalem hyȝt boþe nawþeles—
 þat nys to yow no more to mene
 bot ‘cete of God’ oþer ‘syȝt of pes’—
 in þat on oure pes watȝ mad at ene,
 with payne to suffer þe Lombe hit chese;
 955 in þat oþer is noȝt bot pes to glene
 þat ay schal laste withouten reles.
 Þat is þe borȝ þat we to pres,
 fro þat oure flesch be layd to rote,
 þer glory and blysse schal euer encres
 960 to þe meyny þat is withouten mote.”

938 spakk] ʃpakk MS; spak[e] Bo
 944 in theme] ī theme MS; theme Bo; in teme PS
 945 Lompe] lompẽ MS; Lom[b]e Mo, GzP, Os, GzP², Bo
 958 flesch] freȝth MS; f[l]es[c]h Mo, GzP, Os, GzP², Bo, Gr, Hi, deF, CA, Mm, St, AW, PS; fres[c]h
 Vn, VnP (all eds. read 'sch' for MS 'fth')

“Moteleȝ may so meke and mylde,”
 þen sayde I to þat lufly flor,
 “bryng me to þat bygly bylde
 and let me se þy blyssful bor.”
 965 Þat schene sayde: “Þat God wyl schylde!
 Þou may not enter withinne Hys tor;
 bot of þe Lombe I haue þe aquylde
 for a syȝt þerof þurȝ gret fauor.
 Vtwyth to se þat clene cloystor
 970 þou may, bot inwyth not a fote;
 to stretch in þe strete þou hatȝ no vygour,
 bot þou wer clene, withouten mote.

[XVII]

“If I þis mote þe schal vnhyde,
 bow vp towarde þys borneȝ heued,
 975 and I anendeȝ þe on þis syde
 schal sve tyl þou to a hil be veued.”
 Þen wolde I no lenger byde,
 bot lurked by launceȝ so lufly leued,
 tyl on a hyl þat I asspyed
 980 and blusched on þe burgh, as I forth dreued,
 byȝonde þe brok fro mewarde keued,
 þat schyrrer þen sunne with schafteȝ schon.
 In þe Apokalypce is þe fasoun preued,
 as deuyseȝ hit þe apostel John.

[f. 52v/56v]

962 lufly] lufly MS; lovely PS (emends throughout)
 977 wolde I] wolde MS, Vn, VnP; wolde [I] Mo, GzP, Os, Bo, Gr, Hi, deF, CA, Mm, St, AW, PS;
 wolde [I þer] GzP²
 981 keued] keued MS; [br]eued Os

985 As John þe apostel hit sy3 with sy3t,
 I sy3e þat cyty of gret renoun,
 Jerusalem so nwe and ryally dy3t,
 as hit wat3 ly3t fro þe heuen adoun.
 Þe bor3 wat3 al of brende golde bry3t
 990 as glemande glas burnist broun,
 with gentyl gemme3 anvnder py3t,
 with bantele3 twelue on basyng boun,
 þe foundementez twelue of riche tenoun;
 vch tabelment wat3 a serlype3 ston,
 995 as derely deuyse3 þis ilk toun
 in Apocalyppe3 þe apostel John.

As þise stone3 John in writ con nemme
 I knew þe name after his tale.
 Jasper hy3t þe fyrst gemme
 1000 þat I on þe fyrst basse con wale—
 he glente grene in þe lowest hemme.
 Saffer helde þe secounde stale;
 þe calsydoyne þenne withouten wemme
 in þe þryd table con purly pale;
 1005 þe emerade þe furþe so grene of scale;
 þe sardonysse þe fyfþe ston;
 þe sexte þe rybe he con hit wale
 in þe Apocalyppe3, þe apostel John.

997 As þise stone3 John] AS þise fstone3 MS; As þise stone3 Mo; As [Joh̃] (with macron over 'n') thise
 stone3 GzP; As [John] þise stone3 Os, GzP², Gr, Hi, deF, Mm; As [John] þise stone3 AW; As
 [John] thise stone[s] Bo, CA, St; As John these stones PS; As [Johan] þise stone3 Vn, VnP
 998 name] name MS; names GzP; name3 GzP²
 999 fyrst] fyr̃t MS; fyrst[e] GzP, GzP², Bo, St
 1000 fyrst] fyr̃t MS; fyrst[e] GzP, GzP², Bo
 1004 þryd] þryd MS; thryd[e] GzP; þryd[de] GzP²; thrydde Bo, St
 1007 rybe] ryb̃e MS; [sarde] GzP²

[f. 53r/57r]

3et joyned John þe crysolyt,
 1010 þe seuenþe gemme in fundament;
 þe aȝtþe, þe beryl, cler and quyt;
 þe topasye twynnehow þe nente endent;
 þe crysopase þe tenþe is tyȝt;
 þe jacyngh þe enleuenþe gent;
 1015 þe twelfþe, þe gentyleste in vch a plyt,
 þe amatyst purple with ynde blente.
 Þe wal abof þe bantels bent
 o jasporye, as glas þat glysnande schon.
 I knew hit by his deuysement
 1020 in þe Apocalyppeȝ þe apostel John.

As John deuysed ȝet saȝ I þare
 þise twelue degres wern brode and stayre;
 Þe cyte stod abof ful sware,
 as longe as brode as hyȝe ful fayre—
 1025 þe streteȝ of golde as glasse al bare,
 þe wal of jasper þat glent as glayre.
 Þe woneȝ withinne enurned ware
 wyth alle kynneȝ perre þat moȝt repayre.
 Þenne helde vch sware of þis manayre
 1030 twelue forlonge space, er euer hit fon,
 of heȝt, of brede, of lenþe to cayre,
 for meten hit syȝ þe apostel John.

1012 twynnehow] twȳne how MS; twynne-h[e]w Gr, CA, Mm, St, AW

1014 jacyngh] jacȳgh MS; jacyngh[t] GzP², Gr, CA, AW, PS

1015 gentyleste] gentyleȝte MS; [tryeste] GzP², St, AW

1017 bent] bēnt MS; b[r]ent GzP², Bo

1018 o jasporye] o jaȝpōȳe MS; [M]asporye Mo; O[f] jasporye Vn, VnP; Of jasper PS. Some eds. believe they detect a small 'f' after the first 'o', but what they are so interpreting appears to us to be part of an area of ink transfers from the opposite page rather than an intentional mark on this page, whether in original ink or later.

1030 twelue forlonge space] twelue foȝlonge fpace MS; twelue [þowsande] forlonge GzP²

[XVIII]

- As John hym wryteȝ ȝet more I syȝe:
 vch pane of þat place had þre ȝateȝ—
 1035 so twelue in poursent I con asspye;
 þe portaleȝ pyked of rych plateȝ,
 and vch ȝate of a margyrye,
 a parfyt perle þat neuer fateȝ.
 Vchon in scrypture a name con plye
 1040 of Israel barneȝ, folewande her dateȝ,
 þat is to say as her byrþ whateȝ;
 þe aldest ay fyrst þeron watȝ done.
 Such lyȝt þer lemed in alle þe strateȝ
 hem nedde nawþer sunne ne mone.
- 1045 Of sunne ne mone had þay no nede—
 þe self God watȝ her lambe-lyȝt,
 þe Lombe her lantyrne withouten drede;
 þurȝ Hym blysned þe borȝ al bryȝt.
 Þorȝ woȝe and won my lokyng ȝede;
 1050 for sotyle cler noȝt lette no lyȝt.
 Þe hyȝe trone þer moȝt ȝe hede
 With alle þe apparaylmente vmbepyȝte,
 as John þe appostel in termeȝ tyȝte.
 Þe hyȝe Godeȝ self hit set vpone.
 1055 A reuer of þe trone þer ran outryȝte
 watȝ bryȝter þen boþe þe sunne and mone.

[f. 53v/57v]

- 1035 poursent] p^{er}sent *or* p^{er}sent MS; pourceut GzP, Os, Bo, Hi, deF, Mm; poursent Mo, Gr, GzP², CA, Vn, VnP, St, AW, PS
 1036 rych] rych MS; rych[e] GzP, GzP², Bo, St
 1041 byrþ whateȝ] byrþ whateȝ MS; byrþ[e]-whateȝ GzP²
 1046 self] felf MS; self[e] GzP², Bo, St
 lambe-lyȝt] lambe lyȝt MS (the 'a' read as an 'o' by most eds.); lombe-lyȝt Gr, Mm, AW;
 lom[p]elyȝt Os, Bo; lom[p]e lyȝt Mo, GzP, Hi, deF; lom[p]e-lyȝt GzP²; lambe-lyȝt Vn, VnP;
 lambe-lyght CA, St; lambe light PS
 1050 noȝt] noȝt MS; [m]oȝt Mo
 lyȝt] lyȝt MS; [s]yȝt GzP², AW; [s]yght St

- Sunne ne mone schon neuer so swete
as þat foyssoun flode out of þat flet;
swyþe hit swange þurȝ vch a strete
1060 withouten fylþe oþer galle oþer glet.
Kyrk þerinne watȝ non ȝete,
chapel ne temple þat euer watȝ set;
þe Almyȝty watȝ her mynyster mete,
þe Lombe, þe sakerfyse, þer to reget.
1065 Þe ȝateȝ stoken watȝ neuer ȝet,
bot euer more vpen at vch alone;
þer entreȝ non to take reset
þat bereȝ any spot anvnder mone.
- The mone may þerof acroche no myȝte—
1070 to spotty ho is, of body to grym,
and also þer ne is neuer nyȝt.
What schulde þe mone þer compas clym
and to euen wyth þat worþly syȝt
þat schyneȝ vpon þe brokeȝ brym?
1075 Þe planeteȝ arn in to pouer a plyȝt,
and þe self sunne ful fer to dym.
Aboute þat water arn tres ful schym,
þat twelue fryteȝ of lyf con bere ful sone;
twelue syþeȝ on ȝer þay beren ful frym
1080 and renoweȝ nwe in vche a mone.

- 1058 as] a MS; a *or* A Mo, Hi, deF, Vn, VnP; a[s] *or* A[s] GzP, Os, GzP², Bo, Gr, CA, Mm, St, AW, PS
1063 mynyster] mynyfter MS; myn ster Gr, Hi, deF, CA, Mm, St, AW, PS
1064 reget] reget MS; re[f]et Gr, CA, Mm, St, AW, PS; reget Mo, GzP, Os, GzP², Bo, Hi, deF, Vn, VnP
1068 anvnder] an vndeȝ MS; an-vnde[r] Mo, GzP², Gr; an-unde[r] GzP; anunde[r] Bo, CA, St, PS;
anvnde[r] Os, Hi, deF, Mm, AW; anvndeȝ Vn, VnP
1073 syȝt] fyȝt MS; [l]yȝt all eds. See note.
1076 self] felf MS; self[e] GzP, GzP², Bo, St

[f. 54r/58r]

- Anvnder mone so gret merwayle
no fleschly hert ne myȝt endeure
as quen I blusched vpon þat baly,
so ferly þerof watȝ þe fasure.
1085 I stod as styлле as dased quayle
for ferly of þat frech fygyre,
þat felde I nawþer reste ne trauayle,
so watȝ I rauyste wyth glymme pure.
For I dar say with conciens sure,
1090 hade bodyly burne abiden þat bone,
þaȝ alle clerkeȝ hym hade in cure,
his lyf wer loste anvnder mone.

[XIIII]

- Ryȝt as þe maynful mone con rys
er þenne þe day-glem dryue al down,
1095 so sodanly on awonder wyse
I watȝ war of a prosessoun.
Þis noble cite of ryche enpresse
watȝ sodanly ful, withouten sommoun,
of such vergyneȝ in þe same gyse
1100 þat watȝ my blysful anvnder croun;
and coronde wern alle of þe same fasoun,
depaynt in perleȝ and wedeȝ qwyte.
In vchoneȝ breste watȝ bounden boun
þe blysful perle with outer delyt.

- 1083 baly] baly MS; bayl[e] GzP², Bo, Gr, Hi, CA, Mm, St, PS; ba[y]ly Os
1084 fasure] fafure MS; fa[l]ure Mo
1086 frech] french *or* freuch MS; fre[li]ch Gr, Mm; freuch GzP, Os, GzP², Bo, Hi, deF, CA, Vn,
VnP, St; french Mo; freȝch AW; fresch PS
1093 con rys] con rys MS; con rys[e] Bo
1097 enpresse] enpreffe MS; enpresse Mo, deF, Vn, VnP, AW; enpr[y]ȝse GzP, Os, GzP², Bo, Gr, Hi,
CA, Mm, St; enprise PS
1104 with outer delyt] w^t outen delyt MS; with *or* wyth [gret] delyt Mo, GzP, Os, GzP², Bo, Gr, CA,
Mm, St, AW; with gret delit PS; wythouten delyt Hi, deF, Vn, VnP

- 1105 With gret delyt þay glod in fere
on golden gate3 þat glent as glasse.
Hundreth þowsande3 I wot þer were,
and alle in sute her liure3 wasse.
Tor to know þe gladdest chere.
1110 Þe Lombe byfore con proudly passe
wyth horne3 seuen of red golde cler,
as praysed perle3 His wede3 wasse.
Towarde þe throne þay trone a tras
þa3 þay wern fele, no pres in plyt,
1115 bot mylde as maydene3 seme at mas,
so dro3 þay forth with gret delyt.

- Delyt þat Hys come encroched,
to much hit were of for to melle. [f. 54v/58v]
Þise alder men, quen He aproched,
1120 grouelyng to His fete þay felle.
Legyounes of aungele3 togeder uoched
þer kesten ensens of swete smelle—
þen glory and gle wat3 nwe abroched—
al songe to loue þat gay Juelle.
1125 Þe steuen mo3t stryke þur3 þe vrþe to helle,
þat þe vertues of heuen of joye endyte,
to loue þe Lombe His meyny in melle.
Iwysse I la3t a gret delyt!

- 1108 liure3] liure3 MS; liure† GzP²
1109 knaw] knaw MS; tell PS
1111 golde] glode MS; glod deF (in error; translated as 'gold'); g[o]l†de all other eds.
1112 wede3] wede3 MS; wede† GzP²
1117 þat] þ¹ MS; that [there] GzP, PS; that [ther] Bo; þat [þer] Os, GzP²; þat Mo, Gr, Hi, deF, Mm,
Vn, VnP, AW; þat Mo; that CA, St
1122 kesten] keften MS; cast PS
1125 þur3 þe] þur3 þe MS; þur3 † Hi, deF

Delit þe Lombe forto deuise
 1130 with much meruayle in mynde went.
 Best wat3 He, blyþest and moste to pryse,
 þat euer I herde of speche spent.
 So worþly whyt wern wede3 Hys,
 His loke3 simple, Hymself so gent,
 1135 bot a wounde, ful wyde and weete con wyse
 anende His hert, þur3 hyde torente.
 Of His quyte syde His blod outsprent.
 Alas, þo3t I, who did þat spyt?
 Ani breste for bale a3t haf forbrent
 1140 er he þerto hade had delyt.

The Lombe delyt non lyste to wene.
 Þa3 He were hurt and wounde hade,
 in His sembelaunt wat3 neuer sene,
 so wern His glente3 glorious glade.
 1145 I loked among His meyny schene
 how þay wyth lyf wern laste and lade.
 Þen sa3 I þer my lyttel quene
 þat I wende had standen by me in sclade.
 Lorde, much of mirþe wat3 þat ho made
 1150 among her fere3 þat wat3 so quyt!
 þat sy3t me gart to þenk to wade
 for luf-longyng in gret delyt.

1133 Hys] hys MS; hys[c] GzP², Bo

[XX]

[f. 55r/59r]

- Delyt me drof in y3e and ere,
 my mane3 mynde to maddyng malte.
 1155 Quen I sez my freely, I wolde be þere
 by3onde þe water þa3 ho were walte.
 I þo3t þat no þyng my3t me dere
 to fech me bur and take me halte,
 and to start in þe strem schulde non me stere,
 1160 to swymme þe remnaunt þa3 I þer swalte.
 Bot of þat munt I wat3 bitalt;
 when I schulde start in þe strem astraye,
 out of þat caste I wat3 bycalt–
 hit wat3 not at my Prynce3 paye.
 1165 Hit payed Hym not þat I so flonc
 ouer meruelous mere3, so mad arayd.
 Of raas þa3 I were rasch and ronk,
 3et rapely þerinne I wat3 restayed,
 for ry3t as I sparred vnto þe bonc,
 1170 þat brathe out of my drem me brayde.
 Þen wakned I in þat erber wlonk–
 my hede vpon þat hylle wat3 layde
 þer as my perle to grounde strayd.
 I raxled and fel in gret affray,
 1175 and sykyng to myself I sayd,
 “Now al be to þat Prynce3 paye.”

- 1166 arayd] arayd MS, AW; arayd[e] Mo, GzP, Os, GzP², Bo, Gr, Hi, deF, CA, Mm, Vn, VnP, St; arrayed
 PS
 1168 restayed] reftayed MS; restayd Os, Bo
 1170 brathe] brathē MS; brathe Mo, GzP², Bo, Hi, deF, Vn, VnP, St; bra[t]the GzP; brath[þ]e Os, Gr,
 Mm, AW; bra[th]the CA

Me payed ful ille to be outfleme
 so sodenly of þat fayre regioun,
 fro alle þo syzteȝ so quyke and queme.
 1180 A longeyng heuy me strok in swone,
 and rewfully þenne I con to reme:
 “O perle,” coþe I, “of rych renoun,
 so watȝ hit me dere þat þou con deme
 in þys veray avysoun!
 1185 If hit be ueray and soth sermoun
 þat þou so stykeȝ in garlande gay,
 so wel is me in þys doel-doungoun
 þat þou art to þat Prynceȝ paye.”

To þat Prynceȝ paye hade I ay bente, [f. 55v/59v]
 1190 and ȝerned no more þen watȝ me geuen,
 and halden me þer in trwe entent,
 as þe perle me prayed þat watȝ so þryuen,
 as helde drawen to Goddeȝ present,
 to mo of His mysterys I hade ben dryuen.
 1195 Bot ay wolde man of happe more hente
 þen moȝten by ryȝt vpon hem clyuen.
 Þerfore my ioȝe watȝ sone toriuen,
 and I kaste of kytheȝ þat lasteȝ aȝe.
 Lorde, mad hit arn þat agayn þe stryuen,
 1200 oþer proferen þe oȝt agayn þy paye.

- 1179 quyke] quykeȝ MS; quyke† GzP, Os, GzP², Bo, Gr, Hi, deF, CA, Mm, Vn, VnP, St, AW; quykeȝ Mo
 1185 If] if MS; If all eds.
 1186 stykeȝ] ftykeȝ MS; st[r]ykeȝ GzP, Os, GzP², Bo, AW
 1190 geuen] geuen MS; g[y]uen Gr, GzP²; g[y]ven Bo, CA, St
 1193 helde] helde MS; helde[r] Os
 1196 moȝten] moȝten MS; moȝte† Gr, GzP², AW; moghte† CA; myght PS

- To pay þe Prence oþer sete saȝte
 hit is ful eþe to þe god Krystyn;
 for I haf founden Hym, boþe day and naȝte,
 a God, a Lorde, a frende ful fyin.
 1205 Ouer þis hyul þis lote I laȝte,
 for pyty of my perle enclyin,
 and syþen to God I hit bytaȝte,
 in Krysteȝ dere blessyng and myn,
 þat in þe forme of bred and wyn
 1210 þe preste vus scheweȝ vch a daye.
 He gef vus to be His homly hyne
 ande precious perleȝ vnto His pay Amen. Amen.

1201 sete] fete MS; sete [hym] Os
 1205 hyul] hyul MS; hyt̃l Mo, GzP ; hy[ii]l Os
 1211 gef] gef MS ; gyve PS

Textual and Explanatory Notes

- 1-2 *Perle, plesaunte . . . in golde so clere!* Since the syntax shifts at the end of line 2, it seems best to take the first two lines, *pace* Gordon (1953), as an apostrophe to the pearl, a “stone” redolent with Biblical and medieval lapidary meaning. Pearls were considered to result from the dew falling on oysters and to be foremost among white stones and whiter the younger they were. In *Cleanness* 1117 – 1132, pearls that regain their whiteness after being washed in wine symbolize the effect of penance on the soul; in *Cleanness* 1067 – 1070, Christ himself is a pearl, enclosed in the “lel Mayden” Mary. Appearances of pearls in the Bible with obvious relevance in this poem are the pearl of great price of Matthew 13: 45 –46, perhaps particularly relevant to this stanza and its lost pearl and explicitly invoked in a later stanza (733 – 744); and the pearls that ornament the gates of the New Jerusalem in Apocalypse (Revelation) 21: 21, which may have suggested the heavenly Pearl-maiden herself to the poet. The Latin name of the pearl, *margarita*, and derived English personal names such as Margaret and Margery (for which cf. lines 199, 206, and 1037), may of course also be relevant to a poem about a girl who is a pearl.
- 3 *oute of oryent* The lapidaries assert that the best pearls come from India and Britain, so this phrase could conceivably mean “except in the East,” “coming from the East,” or “among those not from the East.”
- 5-6 *So rounde . . . her sydez were* The terms of the description (as much as the pronoun) anticipate the appearance of the Pearl-maiden, since the gem itself is only figuratively “reken in vche araye” (in every suit of clothes?) and its “sma” (i.e. slim) and “smoþe” sides are cast in the vocabulary of erotic blazoning of women. Line 6, especially, is echoed by line 190, where the Pearl-maiden herself is being described.
- 8 *sengeley in synglure* i.e., apart as unique. Gollancz (1891) first emends to *synglere* and then (1921) to *syngulere*, both presumably to fix the eye-rhyme, which does not seem necessary to us.
- 9 *leste* The manuscript reading could equally well be *lefte*.
- 10 *hit* The pearl is referred to using the feminine pronoun in the preceding lines, and the sudden change of pronoun gender here and in lines 13, 30, and 41 serves to emphasize the disjunction between the pearl here depicted as an inanimate lost gemstone and the human being who is so allegorized—the feminine pronouns are the ones that are out of place in the current context.
- 11 *luf-daungere* the power of love (see MED). The word *daunger* evokes feudal power, primarily referring to the power exercised by a lord or lady (MED sense 1) but also

- referring to the woman's resistance to her lover or the feeling of frustration experienced by the lover himself (MED sense 4), couching courtly love as feudal service to a lady and anticipating the Dreamer's use of the language of courtly love later in the poem. See W.R.J. Barron, "Luf-daungere," *Medieval Miscellany Presented to Eugène Vinaver by Pupils, Colleagues and Friends*, ed. F. Whitehead et al. (Manchester: Manchester UP, 1965), 1-18.
- 17 *bert* Gollancz (1921) and Stanbury (2001) emend *bert* to *berte*, perhaps for meter.
- 23 *iuele* Early editors Morris (1864) and Gollancz (1891, 1921) read *mele*, but there appears to be a faint "dotting" of the first minim. See MED s.v. *mel* n2, senses 1 and 2b, for the alternative reading.
- 25 *mot* In MS, there is a blot that obscures the letter(s) preceding the 't'. Morris (1864) and Gollancz (1891) read *myzt* whereas Osgood (1906), Gordon (1953), Hillman (1961) and others read *mot*. There is some fading as well, but image manipulation using the 2007 photographs confirms *mot*; *myzt* does not seem possible in any case because there is not enough space for both *y* and *z*.
- 26 *runnen* Only Vantuono (1984) retains MS *runnen*; other editors emend to *runne*. However, with unpronounced final-syllable 'e', rhyming *runnen* with *sunne* and *dunne* may be acceptable.
- 28 *schyne3* Andrew and Waldron (1978+), following Luttrell ("Pearl: Symbolism in a Garden Setting," *Neophilologus* 49 [1965] 160 - 76), emend to *schyne* for grammatical agreement with *sprede*, taking both as infinitives dependent on *mot*, but by 2007 "consider this unnecessary." We agree with their later determination and doubt Luttrell's proposed grammar.
- 29 *may now be fede* "may now be fed/nourished." MS reads *not*, and most editors have interpreted "fede" as a variant spelling of "fade" (dim, dull, feeble), but the phonology makes that explanation rather unlikely. Stanbury (2001) follows Gollancz (1891) in understanding *fede* as past participle of a verb derived from ON *feyja* 'to cause to rot' (MED s.v. *fēde* ppl adj) but the resulting sense seems incongruous even if the concepts of "rot and regeneration" (Stanbury) pervade the stanza.
- 35 *spryngande* growing, sprouting (see MED). MS reads *sprygande*, which is retained by Hillman (1961) and Vantuono (1984), though both divide *spryg ande*. Vantuono argues that the "emendation of all other editors to *spryngande* seems unnecessary, since the scribe sometimes ran words together" (102). Vantuono glosses *spryg* as "shrubs" (which seems unlikely as a gloss) and Hillman as "sprig" (which makes an unlikely collocation).

- 46 *fayr reflowr* "sweeter scent." Dismissing the occurrence of *reflowr* in *Cleanness*: "Þer wat3 rose reflowr where rote hat3 ben ever" (1079), Andrew and Waldron (1978+) follow Gollancz (1891) and suggest that the word division in the MS is unreliable and that the syntax favours *fayrre flowr*. As Gordon (1953) noted, the spelling "feier" in line 103 of what must be a comparative there ("þe fyrre in þe fryth þe feier con ryse/ þe playn . . .") suggests that *fayr* may also be a comparative here.
- 49 *spennd* Vantuono (1984) reads *spenud* (paleographically possible since 'n' and 'u' are indistinguishable in the manuscript but at very least unusual orthography) while others emend to *spenned* for metre or exact visual rhyme. Andrew and Waldron (1978+) retain *spennd*.
- 50 *for careful colde . . . cazt* "on account of a mournful chill that seized me." MS reads *care ful colde* ("very cold sorrow") which other editors have retained, but the scribe's word-division practice makes our reading equally likely.
- 53 *penned* (Holthausen). MS reads "spenned," but this does not alliterate properly in its line and is a repetition of an earlier rhyme word in the stanza (l. 49), a kind of repetition that the poet generally avoids.
- 54 *fyrte* Paleographically, either *fyrte* or *fyrce* may be the MS reading here, since 'c' and 't' are not carefully distinguished in the scribal hand. 'Fyrte' could be the past participle of the verb MED 'frighten,' so meaning apprehensive or fearful (MED). Conversely, MED 'fers,' modern *fierce*, is used primarily to describe the qualities of a person, meaning bold, brave, noble, etc. However, it possesses a secondary meaning of violent and dangerous, which might be appropriate here. Morris (1864) understands this passage to mean "With trembling doubts that fast fought" (105). Chase (1932) glosses *fyrte* as "frightened, fearful" (75), whereas Hillman (1964) glosses *fyrte* "violent," interpreting the passage as "With violence which swiftly reasonings fought" (80). Gollancz (1891) suggests the phrase *fyrte skylles* means "timid reasons" (109). Gordon (1953) understands this passage to mean "With vehement thoughts that contended obstinately" (49). Andrew and Waldron (1978+) interpret *fyrce* as "proud; bold; fierce; vehement" (317). See also F. Holthausen, "Zur Textkritik me. Dichtungen," *Archiv* 90 (1893): 143-48. The extension by Gordon of the meaning of *skylles* to "thoughts" (also implicit in Morris) seems unlikely; of the many significations of that word in Middle English, the meaning "cause, reason, ground" seems most likely: "I mourned my pearl that was enclosed there, for reasons of fear that contended strongly."
- 72 *adubemente* (for metre). MS reads "adubmente."

- 77 *onslydeȝ* Gordon (1953) as well as Andrew and Waldron (1978+) separate the words *on slydeȝ*. Andrew and Waldron interpret *on slydeȝ* to mean “slide over each other” (58).
- 106 *bonkes* (Morris) MS reads “bnkes” or “bukēs” (although Gordon [1953] apparently read the right stroke of the “b” as the central stroke of an uncompleted “bo” juncture and printed “bonkes” with the comment “o imperfect in MS”). While most editors sensibly emend to *bonkes*, Vantuono (1984), followed by Stanbury (2001), argues for reading *bukēs* as a variant spelling of *bek*, meaning “small stream,” which we reject on phonological grounds.
- 113 *stouden* Editors transcribe *stonden*, interpreting as present or past tense of *standen*. Andrew and Waldron (1978+) emend to *stoden*, glossing “shone.”
- 115 *as* (Gollancz 1891) Editors, except Morris (1864) and Vantuono (1984), emend MS *a* to *as*. Vantuono suggests that the ‘a,’ “gliding to the *s* of *stremande*, may be a shortened form of *as*.” (109).
- 138 *perouer, gayn* “across [the stream], beside.” MS reads “per oþer gayn.” Editors emend to *over gayn*, except Morris (1864), Hillman (1961), deFord (1967) and Vantuono (1984) who retain MS reading, the former three without explanation. Vantuono says that the MS *oþer* can be retained because “[t]he dreamer thinks that Paradise must be either on his side of the stream or on the opposite side” (110), but this reading hardly matches the import of the whole stanza. There is a plausible etymology for *gayn* as a preposition (ON *gegn*) and it is attested in northern texts, but the combination with *over* (adv) is at least hard to parse and would likely not make a Middle English equivalent of “over against” as editors seem to assume.
- 142 *hope*: Here and at lines 185 and 225, this form probably represents the past tense, in which case *hoped* at 138 is possibly scribal.
- 144 *ay more* (Gollancz 1891). MS reads “amore.” Vantuono defends “a more” as a variant spelling for “ay more.”
- 179 *astount* (Gollancz 1921). MS reads “atount.” Gordon (1953) suggests that, although *atount* has been regarded as an error for *astount*, *atount* may “[represent] an Anglo-French of *atoner*, a nearly related synonym of *estoner*,” and most editors have followed Gordon. The emended reading has usually been assigned to ME *astounen* (see MED s.v. *astonen*), but the past participle of that verb is usually *astonied*; the manuscript form is better explained as a form of ME *astinten*, to stop an activity: “that pierced my heart, stopped very much off course.”

- 184 *as hende as hawk in halle*. Apparently, “as tame (obedient) as a hawk brought indoors.” Stanbury (2001) suggests that the image of the hawk is a “courtly hunting image, consistent with [the dreamer’s] fears of her escape (“eschaped”) in line 187.” See also Reichardt, Paul F., “Animal Similes in *Pearl*.” *Text and Matter: New Critical Perspectives of the Pearl-Poet*. (Troy, New York: Whitston, 1991), 17-29.
- 197 *beau amys*. MS has a sequence of five minims after ‘a’ and thus reads “beaumys” or “beamuys” etc. Morris (1864) reads *beau uiys*. Gollancz (1891) reads *beau mys* and translates *mys* as ‘tunic.’ Osgood (1906), also reading *beau uiys*, emends dramatically to *bleaunt of biys*, meaning “surcot of fine linen” (64), after an extended discussion of the Pearl-maiden’s clothing and citing Revelation 19:8. Gordon (1953), followed by other editors, reading *beauuiys*, emends to *beau biys*, again citing Revelation 19:8. Hillman reads *beaumys* and glosses “mantle or surcoat” (83), interpreting “be” as a prefix meaning “around, about,” and “aumys” as a reflection of ModF *aumusse* (from Latin *almucium*), a fur of various forms, but most often a cape, worn by ecclesiastical canons. Vantuono (1984) reads *beau mys*, suggesting that *mys* is a shortening of *amit* (see MED s.v. and note variant spellings *amis*, *amice*, *amuce*) and glosses *mys* as ‘cloak,’ “[denoting] the loose outer garment the maiden wears over her *cortel* (203).” The identification of the second part with ME *amit/amis* (ModE *amice*, derived from Latin *amictus*) seems particularly promising to us in the light of Revelation 7:9 and 7:13, both of which describe the saved of the nations as *amicti stolis albis* (“wrapped in white robes”) that they have washed and whitened in the blood of the Lamb (Revelation 7:14). An aphetic form as suggested by Vantuono is apparently not otherwise attested in ME, however, and we assume instead a scribal confusion, involving repetition in an exemplar of ‘a’ and letters composed of minims.
- 203 *watz* Not in MS, but required for metre and sense.
- 207 *hize* The first letter of this word has been imperfectly corrected by the scribe from some other letter, possibly ‘p,’ by partial erasure
- 210 *here leke* (suggested by Gollancz 1891) “hair enclosed.” MS reads *lere leke*. Morris (1864) emends to *here beke* (i.e. *eke*), understanding “hair also.” Gollancz (1891) also reads *here beke*, but adopts it hesitantly and proposes the following emendation in his note: “*her here leke al hyr umbegon*,” meaning “her hair encircled her all about.” Osgood (1906) emends to “here-leke,” which he defines as “locks of hair.” Gordon (1953) follows Gollancz’s proposal. Hillman (1961), Cawley and Anderson (1962), Andrew and Waldron (1978+) and Vantuono (1984) all print *lere leke*. Hillman (1961) translates the line as “Her face-radiance all ‘round her beamed.” Andrew and Waldron (1978+) agree with Cawley and Anderson (1962), who translate the phrase as “Her face was enclosed all around (i.e. with a wimple).” Andrew and Waldron argue that the emendation to *here* “involves the awkward reading of *leke* as a pa.t.

- It also weakens the logical development of the poet's description, for the Maiden's hair is dealt with in 213f, and it would be clumsy for the subject to be anticipated here" (64). *Lere-leke* has been enshrined in the MED as "wimple," with only this line from *Pearl* as substantiation. Understanding the MS reading in this way, however, would seem to involve attributing a most unusual fashion to the Pearl-maiden, of hair wimpled up near the face (line 210) but freely flowing over shoulders below (lines 213-14). Stanbury (2001) reads *here-leke*, translating "hair-enclosure" in the margin, and argues "[s]ince the stanza emphasizes her unbound hair and lovely complexion, she would have been unlikely to be wearing a wimple."
- 229 *pyse* "person." Gollancz (1891), followed by other editors, emends to 'pyece,' Hillman (1961) to 'pece,' all presumably to preserve the sight-rhyme, since 'pyse' is an acceptable spelling variant of the same word.
- 235 *spyce* Gollancz (1891), Gordon (1953), and Hillman (1961) emend to *spece*. Vantuono (1995) notes that emendation is unnecessary. Although his glossary translates the word as "damsel" here and at 938 (i.e. MED s.v. *spice* n.2), he draws attention in his note to the use of "[t]he spice image . . . throughout *Pearl*. The spot where the pearl is lost is spread with spices...the dreamer sees spices in the terrestrial paradise...and the maiden is again called *specyal spyce* . . . At the basis of this image is the symbolic death-and-resurrection seed that fell into the ground" (116).
- 241 *cope* The MS abbreviation here, used in Latin manuscripts for *quod*, is expanded as *quod* or *quoth* by all editors, but the word is spelled out in the manuscript (once only) as *cope* at *SGGK* 776.
- 250 *in del* Amended for metre. MS reads *in pys del*, which is likely scribal.
- 262 *ne* All previous editions read "nee," but what they transcribe as the second 'e' is at most a single minim-like stroke, possibly the beginning of a second 'e' (or more likely another letter) which the scribe stopped himself before completing but did not erase.
- ere* MS reads *here*. See *SGGK* 239, 1632, 1891 and cf. *Cl* 1088 and 1339 and *SGGK* 197. Morris (1864), Hillman (1961), deFord (1967), Vantuono (1984) and Putter and Stokes (2014) retain MS *here* while other editors, most notably Gollancz (1891, 1921), Gordon (1953), Andrew and Waldron (1978+), and Stanbury (2001), emend to *nere*. Hillman (1961) suggests other editors emend to *nere* because of "their difficulty arising from their punctuation of the passage. The maiden's argument is: 'Since neither loss or mourning exists here in Heaven, here indeed would be your true treasure chest'...The second *here* is pleonastic." It seems more likely to us that the first *here* is an anticipatory error.

- 302 *leuez* (Gollancz 1891) MS reads *louez*. Morris (1864) and a few others retain the MS reading, Vantuono (1995) arguing that "*louez* 'honors' here and in 308 recalls 285 and heightens the word-play with *leuez* 'believes' 304 and *leue* 311."
- 304 *leuez* MS reading is very indistinct as a result of damp damage but was probably *leuez* rather than *lyuez*, which remains a possibility, however.
- 307 *westernays* Apparently a corruption or alternative form of OF *bestorné* 'awry', 'backwards', 'wrongly'. See MED. Hillman (1961), followed by Vantuono (1984), reads "west ernays." She argues, "A possible reading here is *west* (OE *weste*) and *ernays* for *ernes*, a fourteenth-century form of 'earnest, pledge'," an understanding Vantuono also follows. Osgood (1906) and Chase (1932) emend to forms of "besternays."
- 308 *leuez* (Gollancz 1891) MS reads *louez*, which Morris (1864), Vantuono (1984), Stanbury (2001) and Putter and Stokes (2014) alone retain.
- 309 *is* MS reads *īs*.
- 319 *counsayl* Gollancz (1921), Chase (1932), Gordon (1953), and Stanbury (2001) emend to *counsayle*, presumably for the eye-rhyme, but this seems entirely unnecessary.
- 323 *man* (Gollancz 1891) MS reads *ma*, which most editors emend. Morris (1864), Osgood (1906), Gollancz (1921), Hillman (1961), de Ford (1967) and Vantuono (1984) retain *ma*, glossing as a form of "man" without further explanation except in the case of Vantuono, who adduces the same spelling of MED *me* indefinite pronoun ("one, someone, a person . . .") in *Sir Ferumbras* (whereas this line has an instance of the common noun instead).
- 335 *perle* (Osgood). MS reads *perlez*, which is retained by Morris (1864), Gollancz (1891), Hillman (1961), and deFord (1967) but likely results from the influence of the similar ending of *partlez* earlier in the line. (Putter and Stokes [2014] modernize the same reading as *perles*.)
- 342 *in* (suggested by Morris). MS reads *and* (i.e. the Tironian nota), and Morris (1864), Osgood (1906), Hillman (1961), deFord (1967), Moorman (1977), and Vantuono (1984) retain *and*, Vantuono translating "both in prosperity and in misfortune," understanding the nouns as "synthetic datives."

- 353 *stynst* MS reads *ftȳft*. We have retained this as a possible anomalous form of the imperative; other editors emend, notably Gollancz (1921), Gordon (1953) and Andrew and Waldron (1978+), to *stynt*.
- 358 *þy lureȝ of lyȝtly leme* "easily drive off your losses." Stanley (in *Notes and Queries* 37.2 [1990], 158-160) explains *of* . . . *leme* as a metanalysis of **offleme*, then subjected to tmesis by the insertion of *lyȝtly*.
- 363 *if I rapely raue* MS reads *if rapely raue*. Gollancz (1921), followed by other editors, inserts *I* after *rapely* for sense, but this is not the usual syntax of the poem, though it is slightly more explicable as a scribal error.
- 369 *kyȝeȝ* (Holthausen). MS reads *lyȝeȝ* ("assuage"), which is not a completely implausible reading (though the grammar would not likely be Vantuono's "soothe . . . [me] with (your) solace," where *lyȝeȝ* is an imperative parallel to *rebuke* l. 367, but rather "your solace . . . soothes me"). However, it makes rather awkward sense, whereas the Holthausen emendation gives better sense and also fuller alliteration.
- 373 *hau* Editors transcribe and print *han*, but we think the glyph represents the labial-dental fricative in this word. Cf. *Cleanness* 692-693 where the spellings *haf* and *hau* are used in quick succession.
- 382 *manereȝ* (Holthausen). MS reads *marereȝ*. Morris (1864) retains the MS reading but guesses at emendation to *marrez* in his glossary (without further explanation). Gollancz (1891) adopts *marrez* as an emendation, translating *marrez mysse* as "grief woundeth me" (i.e. taking *mysse* as the subject of *marrez*). Holthausen and an anonymous reviewer of Gollancz (in *Athenæum* (1891): 185) suggested emending to *manereȝ*, which Osgood (1906), who retained the MS reading and translated "A botcher's blunder," dismissed because "N.E.D. shows that 'manners' was not employed in this sense till much later." Most subsequent editors have adopted the Holthausen emendation, but Moorman (1977) follows Schofield's (*PMLA* 24 (1909): 585-675) suggestion of *mariereȝ* ("pearls"); Hillman (1961) would read *mare rez mysse* "great eloquence lack" (with innovative and improbable interpretation of the first two words); and Vantuono ingeniously but even more improbably explains *marereȝ mysse* as a figurative use of the word *marrow*, meaning vitality, translating the line "I am but dust and lack vitality." It is not clear to what sense of the noun *manner* Osgood's comments about date apply; there are certainly several relevant senses attested for the period of the poem, see MED s.v. *manere*, and a similar use of the plural *manereȝ*, also implying "refined ways of speaking," occurs at *SGGK* 924.
- 383 *Crystes mersy and Mary and Jon* "the mercy of Christ and Mary and John." Gordon (1953) comments, somewhat oddly, that "The *mersy* is Christ's, and not Mary's and

John's. . . . Lines 383-4 are a way of saying that Christ's mercy of redemption, shown in the Crucifixion where Mary and John stood close at hand, is the sole source of the poet's happiness." John is perhaps included primarily for the rhyme, but both Jesus and Mary were often associated with mercy and indeed one of the epithets of the latter was "well of mercy"—see SNT 37, PrT 656.

- 402 *I hete* MS reads *I hete þe*, which is awkward metrically and likely scribal.
- 430 *Fenyx of Araby* Not a common designation of Mary. The focus here is on the singularity or uniqueness (*synglerty* 429) of the bird rather than the death and resurrection that cause it to be taken elsewhere as a type of Christ: "Fenyx is a bridde and þere is but oon of þat kynde in all þe worlde wyde [A]mong þe aribyes, þere þis bridde fenix is Ibredde, he is Iclepud singularis, al one" (Trevisa)
- 431 *fereles* (Hamilton) "without equal" (or possibly here, "without companion," or "without a mate"—see MED s.v. *ferē* n1). MS reads *freles*, which has been defended as a reflex of ON *frýjalaust* ("blameless"—Gordon [1953]), or as derived from *frele* ("moral weakness, sinfulness"—MED), but Hamilton ("Notes on *Pearl*," *Journal of English and Germanic Philology* 57 [1958], 187) pointed out that "fereles" is applied to the Phoenix elsewhere in ME literature and is more relevant to the passage, and Luttrell ("A 'Gawain' Group Miscellany," *Notes and Queries* 207 [1962]: 448 - 449) provided additional evidence.
- 433 *sayde* (Morris). MS *syde*
- 436 *bygygger* (Morris). MS *býgyner* (i.e. the scribe has drawn the macron over the wrong 'y').
- 439 *porchase3 and fonge3 pray* pursue and seize their quarry.
- 446 *in hyt self leyng*: MS. Previous editions, taking the 'l' as a lobeless 'b,' have understood this as "in its own being," but although this is grammatically possible, the 'l' is more distant from the following letter than is usually the case with lobeless 'b' in the MS, and the interpretation "laying (that is, existing) in itself" seems to us equally if not more viable.
- 457 *as sayt3 Saynt Poule* See 1 Cor. 12: 12 - 26
- 458- 467 *Kryzt . . . tyzte . . . myzte . . . bytwyzte . . . gryzte . . . lyzte* MS reads *kryſt . . . tyſte . . . myſte . . . by twyſte . . . gryſte . . . lyſte*. The words *tyste* and *myste* have proven problematic for editors and have provoked various attempts at emendation or explanation. Morris (1864) retains *myste* and glosses "mysteries, secrets," and this explanation has been enshrined in MED (s.v. *mist* n2) and OED (s.v. *mist* sb 2) but

seems an entirely unlikely truncation (the only other quotation beyond this one alleged in the MED entry probably belongs with the foggy kind of mist, and we think the Milton sentence in the OED entry is also entirely unrelated, see Daniel M. Murtaugh, "Pearl 462: Ðe Mayster of Myste," *Neophilologus* 55 [1971], 192-193). Morris emends *tyste* to *tryste* ("trusty"). Gollancz (1891, 1921) follows Morris for both readings but takes *myste* as a "poetical licence for *myghte*." Osgoode (1906) retains both MS readings, but notes "Probably for *tyzte*, *myzte*, but thus spelled for the sake of rhyme." Emerson, "Some Notes on *Pearl*" (*PMLA* 37 [1922]), p. 70, proposes "OF. *miste* 'joli, gentil, beau mis, propret' . . . an adj. here used as a substantive for 'gentility, graciousness, courtesy'," but this stretches both semantics and grammar of the OF. Murtaugh 1971 proposes *miste* derived from *mister* ("trade") and meaning "ministry", 'service', or 'calling'" but there does not seem to be other evidence of such a word with such a meaning. The phrase "maister of myght" is attested in *Gologras and Gawain* 187, unlike "Mayster of miste," where neither the word nor the phrase is attested. We therefore follow Osgoode in suspecting that 'tight' and 'might' are the words meant, and suggest that these would have made satisfactory eye-rhymes in this stanza with the other rhyme words ending in a sibilant followed by 't' if all were spelled with the glyph that in the script of this manuscript stands for both yogh and 'z'. Our theory is that the scribe balked at spelling the name Christ with that letter in the first line of the stanza and then regularized the other spellings to match as he/she wrote the rest of the stanza.

466 *on arme oþer fynger þaz þou ber byze* "even if you wear a ring on arm or finger"

467-68 *fare we alle . . . to kyng and queen* "we all become king and queen"

472 This line is missing from the manuscript and a gap has not been left, so the page has been written with 35 lines of text rather than the normal 36. The elaborate regularity of stanza structure, concatenation, etc., suggest strongly that there did exist a line to complete the stanza structure and that it has been accidentally omitted in copying. Gollancz (1891 and 1921) is the only editor bold enough to compose his own line to fill the gap; other editors follow the example of Morris (1864) and leave a blank line.

479 *he* (Osgood). MS reads *ho*.

483-5 *þou lyfed not two zer . . . pater ne crede* These lines are generally taken to indicate that the Pearl-maiden died as a young girl under two years of age and therefore unable to pray or to memorize the Lord's Prayer ("pater") or the (Apostles') Creed ("crede"). The age of the Pearl-maiden may be symbolic rather than autobiographical: the Innocents slaughtered by Herod are aged two and under.

- 484 *cowþeʒ* *God* MS reads *cowþeʒ nēu god*, which editors have accepted, but the resulting line seems extremely awkward metrically and we suspect *neuer* results from an error of anticipation of the following line.
- 489 *par ma fay* An elegant French asseveration (literally, “by my faith”).
- 490 *fayr* As it is in lines 46 and 103, the word *fayr* is likely a comparative (“fairer”) here: “It would be more seemly to hold the estate of countess in heaven.”
- 492 *to dere a date* As Gordon (1953) notes, the normal ME usage of *date* is extended by its uses as a concatenation word in this sequence of stanzas. The phrase in this line may depend on knowledge of the word’s etymology (L *datum*, “(a thing) given”): “too rich a gift.”
- 497-8 *As Mathew meleʒ in your messe/ in sothfol gospel* “As Matthew says in your mass in the true gospel.” The parable of the vineyard which follows, Matthew 20: 1 – 16, is the gospel reading for Septuagesima Sunday mass (York and Sarum). Cf. *Cleanness* 51: “Maþew meleʒ in his masse of þe man ryche” It is possible that the mention of the mass is called up in both cases by the demands of alliteration, but on the other hand both passages mentioned in this way are authentically gospel readings in the missal.
- 499-500 *insample . . . lyʒte* “He skilfully conceived a parable [MED s.v. *ensaumple* n.] and likens it to bright heaven.” It is also possible to retain the manuscript separation of *in* and *sample* (MED s.v. *saumple* n.) as many editors have done and understand “In a parable he skilfully conceived . . . ,” but this seems to us to give less satisfactory sense.
- 501 *My regne . . . is lyk on hyʒt* “My Kingdom above is like”
- 512 *keruen and caggen and man hit clos* “cut and bind and make it secure”
- 522 *made hit toʒt* “made it a firm offer” (lit. “made it taut”)
- 529 *þe date of day* (Osgood). MS reads *þe day of date*.
- 530 *on oure byfore þe sonne gotʒ down* In the Vulgate, this is “undecimam [horam]” the eleventh hour, and the lord has previously gone out specifically at the third hour (*under*, l. 513), sixth hour, and ninth hour.
gotʒ: MS reads *go*, which has been retained by editors, presumably as a subjunctive, though one would not seem to be called for here.

- 558 *no warning I wyl of þe ȝete* "I will not receive a reprimand from you." MS reads *no wanig I wyl þe ȝete*. Editors have emended to *waning* (reduction), having the lord rather oddly promise not to reduce the agreed-upon penny. While it is just marginally possible that such a statement could be based on a wild mistranslation of Vulgate "non faciam tibi iniuriam" (Matthew 20: 13: "I do thee no wrong"), that seems unlikely.
- 563 *Fyrre þen couenaunde is noȝt to plete* Apparently a legal maxim: "One cannot sue beyond the contract."
- 572 *called* (Morris 1864). MS reads *calle*.
- 573-5 *þus pore men . . . wyth lyttel atslykeȝ* "Thus poor men always get their part, though they came late and were inconsiderable and though their labour slides away with little (recompense)."
- 581 *Wheper welnygh now I con bygynne* "Nevertheless, I began just recently"
- 595 *þou quytez vchon as þys desserte* Psalm 61 (62): 13: "tu reddes unicuique iuxta opera sua" ("thou wilt render to every man according to his works").
- 616 *bere* So, probably, MS (þere): 'l' and lobeless 'b' before 'e' (i.e. 'b' in juncture or "with biting") are not easily distinguishable in this hand. Previous editors have read *lere*, and most have emended, Gordon (1953), Andrew and Waldron (1979+) and others to *fere* (show, array), Osgoode (1906) and Gollancz (1921) to *here* (hire), Putter and Stokes (2014) to *lowere* (reward, recompense). Emerson ("Some Notes on the *Pearl*," *PMLA* 37 [1922]) read *lere* and suggested emendation to *bere*, "bearing, manner, society, position" (74), i.e. MED *bere* n9, sense b. We think this is the right word but not the right sense (since the focus of the stanza is on reward, not position) and would instead propose an attenuated use of *bere* n9 sense a ("Outcry, clamor, commotion, disturbance"); "You say that I came too late and am not worthy so great a fuss."
- 617 *bourne abate* "nobleman abbot." Previous attempts to read *abate* as a verb (the leading contenders being the past tense of *abiden*—to remain—and the infinitive or past participle of *abaten*—to beat down) are unconvincing and have missed the point of the Pearl-maiden's question here, which is that worldly position, public piety, and exalted status in the church hierarchy do not exempt even the great and holy adult from sin and its occasions.
- 672 *al* MS reads *at*, which many editors retain. Those who emend follow either Holthausen (*as*) or Gordon (*and*).

674 *two men to saue is God by skylle* “God will (‘is to’) skilfully save two men.”

675 *face* MS reads *fate*.

677-688 Psalm 23 (24): 3 – 4: “Quis ascendet in montem Domini? Aut quis stabit in loco sancto eius? Innocens manibus et mundo corde, Qui non accepit in vano animam suam, Nec iuravit in dolo proximo suo.” (“Who shall ascend into the mountain of the Lord: or who shall stand in his holy place? The innocent in hands and clean of heart, who hath not taken his soul in vain, nor sworn deceitfully to his neighbour.”) Not recognizing lines 687 – 688 as continued translation of the biblical passage, previous editors have placed only lines 681 – 683 in quotation marks as psalter text, but it is better to treat the whole, including the tag line 684, which picks up *innocens* from the psalm, as paraphrase of the psalm. Note that the poet’s reading of his text is innovative in detecting in the psalm two classes of the saved: the innocent (up to *mundo corde*) and the righteous (*Qui no accepit . . .*).

689-90 *Of þys ryztwys saȝ Salamon playn/ how Koyntyse in honoure hym con aquyle*. “About this righteous one Solomon says plainly how Wisdom received him in honour.” For line 690, MS reads only the obviously corrupt *how kyntly oure con aquyle*. As Henry Bradley argued in 1890 (“An Obscure Passage in *The Pearl*,” *Academy* 38 [1890], 201-2, 249), the reference must be to the personified Wisdom (Koyntyse) of Wisdom 10:10: “Haec profugum irae fratris iustum deduxit per vias rectas; Et ostendit illi regnum Dei, Et dedit illi scientiam sanctorum, Honestavit illum in laboribus et complevit labores illum.” (“She conducted the just, when he fled from his brother’s wrath, through the right ways, and shewed him the kingdom of God, and gave him knowledge of the holy things, and made him honourable in his labours, and accomplished his labours.”) The Wisdom reference is to the dream of Jacob in Genesis 28: 11 – 17, in which a ladder extends from the place Jacob sleeps up to heaven.

691 *ho* (Bradley 1890). MS reads *he*. Sapientia in the book of Wisdom is female, and it seems likely that the poet would not have changed her gender in a direct reference.

698 *Dauid in sauter*: Psalm 142 (143): 2: “Et non intres in iudicium cum servo tuo, Quia non iustificabitur in conspectus tuo omnis vivens.” (“And enter not into judgment with thy servant: for in thy sight no man living shall be justified.”)

703-4 *alegge þe ryzt . . . speech*: “claim the right (to eternal life), and you may be caught out by that same speech”—because it would exhibit the sin of pride.

- 710 *on bok*: the story of the presentation of the children is told in Matthew 19: 13 – 15, Mark 10: 13 – 16, and Luke 18: 15 – 17. The account given in lines 711 – 724 combines details from the accounts in Matthew and Mark.
- 721 The concatenation pattern fails in this line, since either *innocent/innocens* or *ryzt* or both would be required by the pattern. Andrew and Waldron's substitution for the first word, *Iesu*, of *Ryzt*, which they take to be a personified Justice here equated with Jesus, is unconvincing.
- 729-32 The parable of the pearl of great price is told in Matthew 13: 45 – 46, where the man seeking to acquire the pearl is a merchant (Lat. "negotiator") rather than the poem's jeweller, whose selling here of all his goods "both woollen and linen" is slightly incongruous with his profession.
- 755 *offys* There is disagreement among editors and critics as to the manuscript reading here, with many detecting an 'ri' abbreviation above the right shoulder of a 't', resulting in the readings *oftriys* (Gollancz 1891 and 1921.) and *ostriys* (Stanbury 2001; Donaldson, "Oysters, Forsooth: Two Readings in *Pearl*," *Neuphilologische Mitteilungen* 73 [1972], 75-79); others (notably Osgoode (1906), Gordon (1953) , Andrew and Waldron (1978+)) read the MS as *offys*. We see more paleographic difficulties with the former readings than with the latter. The scribe's 'ri' abbreviation with 't' is most commonly slightly seriffed top and bottom to form a miniature minim, whereas the stroke in question is rounded and teardrop shaped, more like the completing stroke of an 'f'; moreover, the scribe habitually writes 's' and 't' in ligature whereas these (if the first glyph were indeed a long 's') are not written that way. Reading *offys* requires understanding the same stroke that others take as an 'ri' abbreviation as the far-displaced completing stroke of a second 'f', and although this is probably the farthest separation of such a stroke from its ascender in the manuscript, such an understanding is on slightly firmer paleographic grounds. Possibly the appeal of a mention of oysters in association with a pearl has some weight here, and that reading was strongly argued by Donaldson, but as Gordon (1953) points out the plural *ostriys* is a logical problem since we are dealing with the unique Pearl and her unique Maker, and the rhyme also is more or less impossible with *prys*, *wys*, *vys*, and *fleur-de-lys*. Moreover, one might expect some direct reference in the Pearl-maiden's answer to such an audacious question. Echoed in *angel-hauyng* 754 (angel-like possession—c.f. line 450) the idea of office may be called up here by the Pearl-maiden's outfit, perhaps conceived of in these lines as a livery of office. The Pearl-maiden's position and her appearance are again linked in her answer: "He gef me myzt and als bewte" (765 "He gave me power and also beauty.").
- 758 *destyne* Andrew and Waldron (1978+) capitalize this word as a reference to Christ, and translate the first two lines of the stanza as "'My peerless Lamb,' she said, 'my beloved Destiny, who can amend everything . . .'" This interpretation is

grammatically and logically possible, but seems to strain the sense of a stanza that features the active intervention of the Lamb. We therefore side with the majority of editors, taking *al* as adverbial rather than pronomial and understanding, "'My peerless Lamb,' she said, 'who is entirely able to amend my dire destiny'"

- 761 *worlde wete* An image that likely evoked both moist fleshiness and dismal winter dampness for a medieval audience.
- 763-4 *Cum hyder . . . non in þe* from Canticles (Song of Solomon) 4: 7 - 8: "Tota pulchra es, amica mea, et macula non est in te. Veni de Libano, sponsa mea: veni de Libano, veni, coronaberis." ("Thou art all fair, O my love, and there is not a spot in thee. Come from Libanus, my spouse, come from Libanus, come: thou shalt be crowned.") These lines were generally considered to be addressed by Christ to his Church.
- 766 *In Hys blod He wesch my wede*: cf. Apocalypse (Revelation) 7:14: "Hi sunt, qui venerunt de tribulatione magna, et laverunt stolas suas, et dealbaverunt eas in sanguine Agni." ("These are they who are come out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and have made them white in the blood of the Lamb.")
- 786 *a hondred and forty þowsande flot* the saved are numbered at 144,000 in Apocalypse (Revelation) 7:4 and 14: 1.
- 790-92 *þe apostel . . . þe nwe cyte o Jerusalem* Apocalypse (Revelation) 21: 2: "Et ego Ioannes vidi sanctam civitatem Ierusalem novam descendentem de caelo a Deo, paratam sicut sponsam ornatam viro suo." ("And I John saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.")
- 799 *gyltlez*: So MS as we read it. The scribe has accidentally written the vertical stroke of an 'f' rather than an 'l' (i.e. it begins with a swoop from the right rather than a serif from the left) but has noticed the mistake and has not provided the final right-curving stroke of the 'f'. We therefore read the stroke as a (malformed) 'l'. We do not see the signs of imperfect correction that Andrew and Waldron (1978+) allege.
- 801-3 *as a schep . . . fro vch query* Isaiah 53: 7: "Oblatus est quia ipse voluit, et non aperuit os suum: sicut ovis ad occisionem ducetur, et quasi agnus coram tondente se obmutescet, et non aperiet os suum." ("He was offered because it was his own will, and he opened not his mouth: he shall be led as a sheep to the slaughter, and shall be dumb as a lamb before his shearer, and he shall not open his mouth.") This verse of Isaiah is also quoted in Acts 8: 32 with slight differences of wording.
- 802 *in hande nem* (Gordon). MS reads *ī landē men*. We do not observe signs of attempted correction as suggested by Andrew and Waldron (1978+).

- 803-4 For Christ's silence before his Jewish accusers, see Matthew 27: 12; Mark 15: 3 - 5.
- 807-8 *Al oure balez . . . oure carez colde* A translation of Isaiah 53: 4: " . . . languores nostros ipse tulit, et dolores nostros ipse portavit." (" . . . he hath borne our infirmities and carried our sorrows.")
- 817 *Jerusalem, Jordan and Galalye* Although the places of John the Baptist's ministry are not well recorded in the Bible, he baptized Jesus in the Jordan and neither Jerusalem nor Galilee are mentioned in connection with him. Probably the poet, whether deficient in sacred geography or not, ascribed to him an ambit similar to that of Jesus, his successor. Several editors, including Gordon (1953) and Andrew and Waldron (1978+), add *In* at the beginning of this line; we prefer to understand *peras* in 818 as a summative "wherever."
- 820-4 John 1: 29: "Altera die vidit Ioannes Iesum venientem ad se, et ait: Ecce agnus Dei, ecce qui tollit peccatum mundi." ("The next day, John saw Jesus coming to him, and he saith: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who taketh away the sin of the world.")
- 827 *Hys generacyoun quo recen con* Isaiah 53: 8: "Generationem eius quis ennarabit?" ("Who shall declare his generation?"). Again, this is quoted in Acts 8: 33.
- 831 *ayþer prophete* Isaiah and John the Baptist.
- 835-40 The Lamb is the only one worthy to open the book in Apocalypse (Revelation) 5; the seals are broken and the book read in the subsequent chapters.
- 836 *John* The MS always spells this name with abbreviations for the Latin equivalent Johannes or its case variants, here *iobū* or *iobn̄*; with some reservations, we follow established editorial convention in everywhere substituting the single syllable English name, which is guaranteed as the phonetic intent of these Latin spellings/abbreviations by metre and rhyme.
- sy3* (Osgood): MS reads *ſayt3*.
- 848 *nouþer* (Gordon).: MS reads *nonôþ*
- 849 *enle*: possibly MED *enle* adj., from OE *ænlic*, "single, individual," as editors have speculated, though this line would then be the only evidence for such a word in ME; but more likely a spelling of MED *inli* adv., from OE *inlic*, "heartily, cordially."

- 855 *þay of mote coupe neuer mynge . . . creste*: "they could never bring to mind spot (blemish, flaw, stain) who bear the crest of spotless pearls." Editors since Gordon (1953) have been convinced by his argument (given most fully in Gordon and Onions, "Notes on the Text and Interpretation of *Pearl*," *Medium Aevum* 1 [1933], 183) that *mote* refers to "strife" (MED *mot* n3) here, unusually for the poem. But that suggestion is more appropriate to the previous stanza than this one, which specifically contrasts the perfected vision of the throng of maidens with the imperfect vision of their mourners, including the Dreamer, who see only their "corse in clotte3" (bodies in lumps of dirt) and not their heavenly perfection.
- 856 *þat* (Osgood). MS reads *þa*.
- 860 *on dethe* that of Jesus.
- 865 *Lest les þou leue my talle farande*: "Lest you believe my excellent tale to false" (MED s.v. *lese* adj). As one of the 144,000, the Pearl-maiden is incapable of lying. See lines 897-98 and Apocalypse (Revelation) 14: 5.
- 867-900 *'I segh,' says John . . .*: These lines paraphrase Apocalypse (Revelation) 14: 1 - 5: "Et vidi: et ecce Agnus stabat supra montem Sion, et cum eo centum quadraginta quatuor millia, habentes nomen eius et nomen Patris eius scriptum in frontibus suis. Et audiui vocem de caelo, tamquam vocem aquarum multarum, et tamquam vocem tonitruui magni: et vocem, quam audiui, sicut citharoedorum citharizantium in citharis suis. Et cantabant quasi canticum novum ante sedem, et ante quatuor animalia, et seniores: et nemo poterat dicere canticum, nisi illa centum quadraginta quatuor millia, qui empti sunt de terra. Hi sunt qui cum mulieribus non sunt coinquinati: virgines enim sunt. Hi sequuntur Agnum quocumque ierit. Hi empti sunt ex hominibus primitiae Deo, et Agno: Et in ore eorum non est inventum mendacium: sine macula enim sunt ante thronum Dei." ("And I beheld, and lo a lamb stood upon mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty-four thousand, having his name, and the name of his Father, written on their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the noise of many waters, and as the voice of great thunder; and the voice which I heard, was as the voice of harpers, harping on their harps. And they sung as it were a new canticle, before the throne, and before the four living creatures, and the ancients; and no man could say the canticle, but those hundred forty-four thousand, who were purchased from the earth. These are they who were not defiled with women: for they are virgins. These follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were purchased from among men, the firstfruits to God and to the Lamb: And in their mouth there was found no lie; for they are without spot before the throne of God.")
- 892 *þat swe* (Kölbing). MS reads *þay swe*.

- 893 *al oynte* "entirely consecrated/anointed" (MED ointen v.). Editors have kept MS *aloynte* and have accepted the interpretation of Morris (1864) "removed, far from . . . OFr aloigner." More likely, this is a reference to the consecration by anointing with oil and frankincense of first fruits, as in Lev. 2: 14 - 15: Si autem obtuleris munus primarum frugum tuarum Domino de spicis adhuc virentibus, torrebis igni, et confringes in morem farris, et sic offeres primitias tuas Domino, fundens supra oleum et thus imponens, quia oblatio Domini est." (But if thou offer a gift of the firstfruits of thy corn to the Lord, of the ears yet green, thou shalt dry it at the fire, and break it small like meal, and so shalt thou offer thy firstfruits to the Lord, pouring oil upon it and putting on frankincense, because it is the oblation of the Lord.)
- 895 *anoynt* "anointed, consecrated." MS reads *amoynt*, i.e. has three minims after 'a', and editors have in general accepted Gollancz's 1891 explanation of this as *anioynt*, a form of MED *enjoinen* to join.
- 909 *hynde þat sympelnesse coneȝ enclose* "boorish fellow enclosed in ignorance." The Dreamer is characterizing himself in these terms. Previous editors have interpreted *hynde* as a spelling variant of *hende* and seen this description as addressed to the Pearl-maiden, who has, however, displayed theological sophistication rather than simplicity in their conversation.
- 935 *bygynges* (Gordon). MS reads *lygynges* and this is a sensible word ("places to lie"), varies the vocabulary from 932, and has therefore been retained by some editors, but it does not suit the argument of this stanza well, since a place to sleep outside (930) would also be a *lygyng*.
- 943 *þat lyȝt of Godeȝ sonde* "that descended by the sending of God." The New Jerusalem comes down from heaven in Apocalypse (Revelation) 21: 2.
- 952 *'cete of God' oþer 'syȝt of pes'*: "City of God" (*civitas dei*) is a Biblical cognomen (though the poet appears to take it as an etymology) of Jerusalem, e.g. in Psalm 86 (87): 3, Hebrews 12: 22; it is associated with the New Jerusalem in Apocalypse (Revelation) 3: 12: "scribam super eum nomen Dei mei, et nomen civitatis Dei mei novae Ierusalem, quae descendit de caelo a Deo meo." ("I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God.") "Sight of peace" is the translation of the name Jerusalem given by Augustine in his commentary on the Psalms: "Babylon Confusio interpretatur, Jerusalem visio pacis" (PL 36: col 773). (Babylon means "mingling/confusion"; Jerusalem "sight/vision of peace.")
- 953-4 "in the one our peace was made entire: the Lamb chose it to suffer pain [in]"

- 958 *flesch* (Morris). MS reads *frefth*, which Vantuono (1984) reads as *frefch*, defends and renders improbably as "young bodies."
- 977 *wolde I* (Morris). MS reads only *wolde*. Gollancz (1921) has *wolde I þer*.
- 979 *on a hyl* John is taken to a "montem magnum et altum" ("a great and high mountain") to be shown the New Jerusalem (Apocalypse [Revelation] 21: 10).
- 985ff. The description of the New Jerusalem in the poem is generally founded on Apocalypse (Revelation) 21: 11 to 22: 8.
- 1012 *topasye twynnehow* "two-coloured topaz." "[Topazius] hath .ii. colours, as it were of golde and of clere ayre, and shineth moste whan it is smite with the sonne beame" (Trevisa).
- 1016 *purpre with ynde blente* "purple blended with indigo." "Amatistus is purpre in colour, medlyd with colour of violette" (Trevisa).
- 1068 *anvnder* (Morris). MS reads *an unde3*, which Vantuono (1984) alone retains, taking it as a spelling of MED *anentes*.
- 1073 *syzt*: so MS in our reading. The first letter is either a malformed 'l' (as previous editors have taken it) or a malformed 's' (in our understanding).
- 1086 *frech* (Andrew and Waldron). MS reads *freuch* or more likely *french*, neither of which seem particularly sensible. Gordon (1953) emended to *frelich*. Many editors have accepted *freuch* as a spelling of the word *fresh*, but this seems doubtful to us.
- 1104 *with outer delyt* "with utter delight" (MED *outr* adj.) MS reads "w^t outen delyt," which is nonsense although it has been retained by some editors as the doubtful "beyond delight" (Hillman 1961). Others in general have emended to "with gret delyt," leaving the MS reading unexplained.
- 1111 *golde* (Morris). MS reads *glode*.
- 1179 *quyke* (Gollancz 1891). MS reads *quyke3*.

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