

Chester Cycle 1572/2010**Play 11****The Purification and Christ and the Doctors**

Cast: SIMEON, ANNA, ANGEL, MARY, JOSEPH, FIRST DOCTOR, CHRIST, SECOND DOCTOR, THIRD DOCTOR.

SIMEON	Mighty God, have mind on me, that most art in majesty, for many a winter have I be priest in Jerusalem.	
5	Much suffering and incommody <i>inconvenience</i> followeth age, full well I see; and now that fit may I not flee, think me never so swem.	<i>grieved</i>
10	When I am dead and laid in clay, I must go the same way that Abraham went, the sooth to say, and in his bosom be. But Heaven-bliss after my day? Till God's Son come, the sooth to say,	
15	to ransom his folk, in better array to bliss come never we.	<i>condition</i>
	That Christ shall come well I wot, but day nor time may no man wot. Therefore my book look I mot, my heart to make glad and light. What Isaiah saith I will see, for well I know how it shall be; ere I die glad were me of him to have a sight.	<i>know</i> <i>must examine</i>
20		
<i>Then, examining his book, he shall read the prophecy: " Ecce virgo concipiet et pariet filium," etc.</i>		
SIMON	Ah, Lord, much is thy power; a wonder I find written here. It saith a maiden clean and clear shall conceive and bear a son called "Emmanuel."	
26		
30	But of this believe I never a deal; it is wrong written, as I have heal, or else it a wonder were.	<i>bit</i> <i>so may I prosper</i>
	He that wrote this was a fon to write "a virgin" hereupon that should conceive without help of man! This writing marvels me! I will scrape this away anon; thereas "a virgin" is written on I will write "a good woman" -- for so it should be.	<i>fool</i>
35		
40		

Then he shall scrape the book as if he were deleting this word "virgin"; and then he shall place the book upon the altar. And the angel shall come and shall take the book, making a sign as if he were writing; and he shall close the book and disappear; and the prophetess Anna shall speak.

ANNA
 Simeon, father, sooth I see --
 that Christ shall come, our help to be,
 from the Father in majesty
 on Mankind for to min. *think*

45
 And when he comes, believe you me,
 he will have mercy and pity
 on his folk, to make them free,
 and save them from their sin.

SIMEON
 50 The time of his coming know I nought;
 yet many book-es I have sought. *searched through*
 But wondrously he this writing wrought,
 and marvellous think-es me --
 my book to look if I find ought
 55 what manner Mankind shall be bought
 and what time it shall be.

Then he shall take the book and shall say in wonderment:

Ah, Lord, how may this be? Today
 what I wrote last I find away
 and of red letters in stout array
 60 "a virgin" written thereon.
 Nay, truly, next I will assay *test*
 whether this miracle be verray, *true*
 and scrape this word written so gay
 and write "a good woman."

Then he shall scrape it a second time as he did previously.

SIMEON
 65 Dame Anna, thou may see well here
 this is emended in good manner;
 for wonder thing it were
 to fall by any way.
 Therefore, as it was amiss, *wrong*
 I have written what more true is:
 70 that "a good woman" shall iwiss
 conceive, and not a may. *virgin*

Then he shall place the book upon the altar; and the angel shall do as he did before.

ANNA
 Sir, marvel you nothing thereon;
 forsooth, God will take the nature of Man.
 Through his Godhead ordain he can
 75 a maid a child to bear.
 For to that high comely king
 impossible is nothing.
 Therefore I believe it no lying
 but truth, all that is here.

SIMEON
 81 By my faith yet again will I see
 whether my letters chang-ed be.

He shall take up the book.

Ah, high God in Trinity,
 honoured be thou ay!
 For golden letters, by my lewty,
 85 are written through God's posty
 since I laid my book from me
 and my writing away, *faith*
power

- whereas "a good woman" written was
right now before my face.
- 90 Yet stirred I not out of this place
and my letter changed is!
This must be needs by God's grace,
for an angel this written has.
- 95 Now believe I a maid in this case
shall bear a bairn of bliss.
- Now, Lord, since that it so is –
that thou wilt be born with bliss
of a maid that never did amiss --
on me, Lord, thou have mind.
- 100 Let me never death taste, Lord full of grace,
till I have seen thy child's face
that prophesied is here in this place
to restore all Mankind.
- ANGEL
105 Simeon, I tell thee surely
that God's own spirit am I,
come to warn thee certainly:
death shall thou never see
till thou have seen Christ truly
- 110 that born is of maiden Mary
and come Mankind to forbuy *redeem*
from God in majesty.
- SIMEON
115 Ah, Lord, I thank thee of thy grace
that thy ghost sent to me has.
Now hope I surely in this place
thy Son for to see,
that of a virgin must be born
to save Mankind that was forlorn,
as Isaiah's books told me beforne.
Lord, blessed must thou be.
- Then Simeon shall sit, looking for consolation; from another location far from the temple
Mary shall speak:*
- MARY
121 Joseph, my own true fere, *husband*
now suggest I – if your will it were --
since forty days are gone entire,
the temple that we go to,
and, Moses' Law for to fulfill,
my son to offer Simeon till.
- 125 I know well that it is God's will
that we now so do.
- JOSEPH
130 Yea, Mary, though it be no need --
since thou art clean in thought and deed --
yet it is good to do as God bede *commands*
and work after His law,
and to the temple that we go
and take with us dove-birds two
or a turtle to offer to,
and so fulfill God's law.
- 135
- MARY
140 Righteous, Simeon, God thee see!
Here am I come now to thee
purifi-ed now to be
with mild heart and meek.
Receive my son now at me

and to my offering birds three,
as falls, sir, for your degree,
and for your office eke.

JOSEPH
145

A sign I offer here also
of virgin wax, as other moe,
in tokening she has lived oo
in full devotion.

*more
always*

150

And, Sir Simeon, believe well this:
as clean as this wax now is,
as clean is my wife, iwiss,
of all corruption.

Then Simeon shall take the boy in his arms.

SIMEON

155

Welcome, my Christ, my saviour!
Welcome, Mankind's conqueror!
Welcome, of all fruits the flower!
Welcome, with all my heart!
To thee worship, joy, and honour!
For now I see my saviour
is come to cure my langour
and bring me unto bliss.

champion

160

Though I bear thee now, sweet wight,
thou rulest me as it is right;
for through thee I have main and might;
more than through way of kind.

child

165

Therefore a song, as I have tight,
and praises to thee with heart right
I will show here in thy sight;
of me, Lord, thou have mind.

*natural means
planned*

Then he shall sing "Nunc dimittis servum tuum, domine, " etc.[Luke2:29-32]

170

Now, Lord, let thy servant be,
after thy word, in peace and lee,
for with my eyes now I see
thou art Mankind's heal.
And thou hast ordained there thy posty
to people which thou hast pity.

*succour
power*

175

Light is come now through thee
and joy to Israel.

180

And Mary, mother, to thee I say:
thy son that I have seen today
is come – I tell thee truly --
for downfall of many fone;
and to relieve in good array
many a man, as he well may,
in Israel before he goes away
that shall believe him upon.

enemies

185

Many signs he shall show
which untrue shall no believer trow.
And suffer thou shalt many a blow,
for the sword of sorrow – it shall go
through thy heart. By that men shall know
the thoughts through minds shall go
of men that shall contrary you
and try to work thee woe.

believe

190

ANNA
 195 And I acknowledge to thee, Lord, here,
 to believe on thee through thy power,
 that four score and four year
 has sent me might and grace
 to live in penance and prayer.
 Now know I well without were *doubt*
 that thou art Christ in Godhead clear,
 in thee wholly thou has.

200 And openly here sooth I say
 to all thy people that I see may –
 who have waited many a day
 after thee, saviour --
 that thou art come, Christ truly;
 205 this know I well by many a way.
 Therefore I honour thee now and ay,
 my Christ, my creator.

[Simeon and Anna exit; Joseph and Mary come from Jerusalem 12 years later.]

JOSEPH
 210 Mary, of happy things we may us mean, *talk*
 and truly tell between us two
 of wonderful sights that we have seen
 since we came the city from.

MARY
 215 Dear Joseph, you will not ween *know*
 what mirth I make without woe
 since our child with us hath been
 and seen these solemn sights also.

JOSEPH
 Homeward therefore I read we hie *hurry*
 with all the might that ever we may
 for dread of wicked company
 lest any us meet upon the way.

MARY
 221 Joseph, husband beloved and dear,
 our child is gone upon his way.
 My heart would light if he were here;
 let us go seek him, I thee pray.
 225 For suddenly he went away
 and left us both in Jerusalem,
 in high delight for many a day,
 that will be lord over all the realm.

[In the temple]

1ST DOCTOR
 230 Hear our reason right on a row
 you clerks that be of great cunning.
 Methinks this child will learn our law --
 he takes good heed to our talking.

JESUS
 235 You clerks that be of great degree,
 unto my talking you take good heed!
 My Father that sitteth in majesty,
 he knows your works, in thought and deed.
 My Father and I together be *certainly*
 in one Godhead, without dread.
 We be both one, in certainty,
 all these works to rule and read. *direct*

1ST DOCTOR
 241 Hark to this child in his joking!
 He thinks he kens more than he knows.

	Certainly, son, thou art over-young by clergy clean to know our laws. Therefore, if thou wouldst, be never so fain till further in age thou hast grown. Yet art thou neither of might nor main to know what a clerk might know.	<i>eager</i>
245		
2 ND DOCTOR	If thou wilt speak of Moses' law take good heed, and thou may see, in case it be that thou dost know, here in this book that written be.	
250		
JESUS	The kingdom of Heaven is in me light and hath me anointed as a leech, and given me plain power and might the kingdom of Heaven to tell and teach.	<i>healer</i>
255		
	You, that be masters of Moses' Law and worthy doctors of great degree, one commandment you to me show that God on Earth bade kept should be.	
1 ST DOCTOR	I believe this is the first bidding and is the most of Moses' Law: to love our God above all thing and with all our might and all our saw.	
261		
JESUS	That for to do, look ye be obedient with all your heart, with good intent. Take you not His name in vain. This is my Father's commandment.	
265		
	Also, you honour your holy day – no works save alms-deeds you do. These three, the certain for to say, the first Table belong to.	
270		
	Also father and mother worship ay. Take no man's goods without the right. All false witness you put away. And slay no man, by day nor night.	
275		
	Injury do to no woman to do her shame, by night or day. Other men's wives desire you none -- all such desires you put away! Look ye not steal by night nor day, whatever it that to you be lent. These words understand you may. They are my Father's commandment.	
280		
2 ND DOCTOR	Behold, how he has learned our laws and he learned never on book to read! Methinks he says subtle saws and very truth, if you take heed.	
285		
3 RD DOCTOR	Let him wend forth on his ways; for, and he dwell, without dread, the people full soon will him praise well more than we, for all our deed.	<i>certainly</i>
290		
1 ST DOCTOR	This is nothing to my intent;	

	saying such things I advise we spare. As wide in world as I have went, yet found I never such a marvellous fare.	<i>situation</i>
2 ND DOCTOR	By the matters that this child hath meant to know our laws, both less and more, out of Heaven I believe him sent into the Earth to salve our sore.	<i>spoken of</i> <i>ease our distress</i>
3 RD DOCTOR 301	Sir, This child of great price who is young and tender of age. I believe he is sent from the High Justice to win again our heritage.	<i>worth</i>
	<i>[Mary and Joseph reach the temple</i> 	
MARY 305	Now blessed be he us hither brought! In land lives none so bright! See where he sits whom we have sought, among yonder masters much of might. Wend forth, Joseph, upon your way and fetch our son, and let us fare,	<i>glorious</i>
310	who sitteth with yonder doctors gay, for we have had of him great care.	<i>leave</i>
JOSEPH 315	Mary, wife, thou know right well that I must all my effort teen; with men of might I cannot mell, who sit so gay in furs fine.	<i>waste</i> <i>speak</i>
MARY	My dearworthy son, to me so dear, we have you sought full wonder wide. I am right glad that you be here, that we found you in this tide.	<i>at this time</i>
JESUS 321	Mother, full oft I told you till, my Father's works, for well nor woe, hither was I sent for to fulfill. That must I needs do before I go.	
MARY 325	Thy words, son, as I have heal, I can in no way understand, I shall think on them full well and try to do that they command.	<i>joy</i>
ANGEL 330	Now have you heard, all in this place, that Christ is come through his grace -- as holy Isaiah prophesied has -- and Simeon has him seen. Believe you well this, lords of might, and keep you all his laws of right, that you may in his bliss so bright	
335	evermore with him to lene.	<i>rest</i>