

Chester Cycle 1572/2010

Play 2

Adam and Eve

Cast: GOD, ADAM, DEVIL/SERPENT, EVE, FIRST ANGEL, SECOND ANGEL, THIRD ANGEL, FOURTH ANGEL

Minstrels play.

GOD: Ego sum alpha et omega,
primus et novissimus.

I, God, most of majesty,
in whom beginning none may be;
endless also, most of posty, *power*
I am and have been ever.

5 Now Heaven and Earth is made through me.
The Earth is void only, I see;
therefore light for more lee *greater happiness*
through my might I will kever. *secure*

10 At my bidding made be light.
Light is good, I see in sight.
Divided shall be through my might
the light from the darkness.
Light "day" I will be called ay,
and darkness "night," as I say.

15 Thus morn and even, the first day,
is made full and express. *clear*

Now will I make the firmament
in midst the waters to be lent,
for to be dividant *placed*
to twin the waters ay; *divider*
above the sky, beneath also,
and "heaven" it shall be called tho. *then*
Thus come is morn and evening also
of the second day.

25 Now I desire the waters every one
that under heaven been great wone, *in abundance*
that they gather into one,
and dryness soon them show. *at once reveal*
That dryness "earth" men shall call.

30 The gathering of the waters all
"seas" for their name have they shall;
thereby men shall them know.

I will on earth that plants spring,
each one by nature seed-giving;
trees diverse fruits forth bring *according to their nature*
after their kind each one;
the seed of which always shall be
within the fruit of each tree.

40 Thus morn and even of day three
is both come and gone.

Now will I make through my might
lights in the welkin bright,

45	to divide the day from the night and gladden the Earth with lee. Great lights I will make two- the sun and eke the moon also - the sun for day to serve for oo the moon for night to be.	<i>happiness</i> <i>ever</i>
50	Stars also through mine intent I will make on the firmament, the Earth to light where they be lent and known may be thereby courses of plants, nothing amiss. Now I see this work good iwiss.	<i>placed</i> <i>indeed</i>
55	Thus morning and even both made is, the fourth day, fully.	
60	Now will I in waters fish forth bring, fowls in the firmament flying, great whales in the sea swimming; all make I with a thought - beasts, fowls, fruit, stone and tree. These works are good, well I see. Therefore to bless all well pleaseth me, this work that I have wrought.	
65	All beasts, I bid you multiply in earth and water by and by, and fowls in the air to fly, the Earth to fulfill.	<i>populate</i>
70	Thus morn and even through my might of the fifth day and the night is made and ended well aright, all at my own will.	<i>most appropriately</i>
75	Now will I on earth bring forth anon all helpful beasts, every one that creep, fly, or gone, each one in his kind. Now is this done at my bidding: beasts going, flying, and walking; and all my work at my liking	<i>at once</i> <i>walk</i> <i>species</i>
80	fully now I find.	<i>to my delight</i>
<i>Then, going from the place where he was, he cometh to the place where he createth Adam.</i>		
85	Now Heaven and Earth is made express, make we Man to our likeness. Fish, fowl, beast - great and less - to master he shall have might. To our shape now make I thee; man and woman I will there be. Grow and multiply shall ye, and fill the earth on height.	<i>evident</i> <i>completely</i>
90	To help thee thou shalt have here plants, trees, fruit, seed together. All shall be put in thy power, and beasts in addition also; all that in Earth are living, birds in the air flying,	
95	and all that spirit hath and liking,	<i>desire</i>

to sustain you from woe.

100 Now this is done, I see, aright, *correctly*
 and all things made through my might
 The sixth day here in my sight
 is made all of the best.
 Heaven and Earth is wrought all within
 and all that needs to be therein.
 Tomorrow, the seventh day, I will blin
 and from my works take my rest. *cease*

But this man I have made,
 with spirit of life I will him glad. *gladden*

Adam rising.

110 Rise up, Adam, rise up rade, *quickly*
 a man of soul and life,
 and come with me to Paradise,
 a place of pleasure and delight.
 But it is good that thou be wise;
 bring not thyself in strife.

*Then the Creator bringeth Adam into Paradise, before the Tree of Knowledge, and saith
 (Minstrels play):*

115 Here, Adam, I give thee this place,
 thee to comfort and solace, *cheer*
 to keep it well while thou it has,
 and do as I thee bid.
 Of all trees that are herein
 thou shall eat, and in no way sin;
 120 but of this tree, for weal nor win,
 thou eat by no way. *riches nor joy
 by no means*

125 What time thou eat of this tree,
 death thou wilt find, believe thou me,
 Therefore this fruit thou must flee
 and be thou not too bold.
 Beasts and fowls that thou may see
 to these obedient shall they be.
 What name they be given by thee,
 that name they shall hold.

*Then God taketh Adam by the hand and causeth him to lie down and taketh a rib out of
 his side, and saith:*

130 It is not good man alone to be;
 help for him now make we.
 But to induce sleep behoves me
 anon in this man here.

He sleeps.

135 On sleep thou art, well I see
 Here a bone I take from thee
 and flesh also, with heart free, *happy
 mate*
 to make thee a fere.

Then God doth make the woman of the rib of Adam. Then Adam waking saith to God:

ADAM: A, Lord! Where have I long been?

140	For since I slept, much have I seen - wonder that without ween hereafter shall be wist.	<i>doubt known</i>
GOD:	Rise up, Adam, and awake. Here have I formed for thee a make; her to thee thou shalt take and name her as thee list.	<i>mate you please</i>
<i>Adam, rising up, saith:</i>		
ADAM: 146	I see well, Lord, through thy grace bone of my bones thou her makes; and flesh of my flesh she has, and my shape through thy saw.	<i>word indeed</i>
150	Therefore she shall be called, iwiss. "virago," nothing amiss; for out of man taken she is, and to man she shall draw.	
155	Of earth thou madest first me, both bone and flesh; now I see thou hast her given through thy posty some of what I within me had.	<i>power</i>
160	Therefore man naturally shall forsake father and mother and to wife take; two in one flesh, as thou can make, either other for to glad.	<i>cleave to his wife gladden</i>
<i>Then Adam and Eve shall stand naked and shall not be ashamed. Then he Serpent shall come up out of hole, and the Devil, walking, shall say:</i>		
DEVIL: 165	Out, Out! What sorrow is this, that I have lost so much bliss? For once I thought to do amiss, out of Heaven I fell. The brightest angel I was before this, that ever was or yet is; but pride cast me down, iwiss, from Heaven right into Hell.	<i>truly</i>
170	Ghostly Paradise I was in, but thence I fell through sin. Of Earthly Paradise now, as I ween, a man is given mastery.	<i>understand</i>
175	By Beelzabub, I will never blin till I may make him by some gin from that place for to twin and trespass as did I.	<i>cease trick part</i>
180	Should such a caitiff made of clay have such bliss? Nay, by my lay! For I shall teach his wife a play and if I may have a while. For her to deceive I hope I may, and through her bring them both away; for she will do as I her say. Her expectation I will beguile.	<i>law space of time deceive</i>
185	What woman is forbidden to do for anything they will go it to. Therefore, that tree she shall come to	

	and try what kind it is. Prepare me I will at once tye and proffer her some of that same fruit; so shall they both for her delight be banished from that bliss.	<i>quickly</i>
190		
	A kind of an adder is in this place that wings like a bird she has – feet as an adder, a maiden's face - her nature I will take. And of the Tree of Paradise she shall eat through my cunningness, for women, they be most lecherous. That will she not forsake.	<i>i.e. of Knowledge</i>
195		
200		<i>renounce</i>
	And if she eat of it, most certainly they shall fare both as did I - be banished both from that valley and her offspring for ay. Therefore, sure as broke I my pon, the adder's coat I will take on; and into Paradise I will gone as fast as ever I may.	<i>ever</i> <i>my skull (my head)</i> <i>go</i>
205		
	<i>Upper part of the body with feather of a bird; serpent, by shape in the foot; in figure, a girl.</i>	
SERPENT:	Woman, why was God so nice to bid you leave for your delice and of each tree in Paradise to avoid the meat?	<i>foolish</i> <i>refrain; delight</i> <i>food</i>
210		
EVE:	Nay, of the fruit of each tree for to eat, full consent have we, save the fruit of one we must flee; of it may we not eat.	<i>shun</i>
215		
	This tree here that in the midst is - if we eat of this, we do amiss. God said we should die iwiss if we touch that tree.	<i>certainly</i>
220		
SERPENT:	Woman, I say, believe not this; for it shall ye not lose this bliss nor no joy that is his, but be as wise as he.	
225		
	God is subtle and wise of wit and knows well that when ye eat it that your eyes shall be unknit. Like gods ye shall be and know both good, and evil also. Therefore he warned you therefro. Ye may well know he was your foe; therefore, do after me.	<i>opened</i> <i>from it</i> <i>as I say</i>
230		
	Take of this fruit and assay; it is good food, I dare lay. And, unless thou find it to thy pay, say that I am false. Take thou one apple, and no moe, and ye shall know both weal and woe and be like gods both two,	<i>try it</i> <i>wager</i> <i>pleasure</i> <i>more</i> <i>happiness</i>
235		

240 thou and thy husband als. *also*

EVE Ah, Lord, this tree is fair and bright,
green and beautiful to my sight,
the fruit sweet and much of might,
that gods it may us make.
245 One apple of it I will eat
to test which is the meat;
and my husband I will get
one morsel for to take.

Then Eve shall take some of the fruit from the Serpent, and shall eat thereof, and say to Adam:

EVE: Adam, husband beloved and dear,
250 eat some of this apple here.
It is fair, my husband dear;
it may thou not forsake. *reject*

ADAM: That is true, Eve, without were, *without doubt*
the fruit is sweet and passing fair.
255 Therefore I will do thy prayer - *what you ask*
one morsel I will take.

Then Adam shall take the fruit and eat thereof, and in weeping manner shall say:

ADAM: Out, alas! What aileth me?
I am naked, well I see.
260 Woman, cursed may thou be,
for we be both now shent. *destroyed*
I know not for shame whither to flee,
for this fruit was forbidden me.
Now have I broken, through counsel of thee,
my Lord's commandment.

EVE: Alas, this adder hath done me noy! *harm*
266 Alas, to take her counsel why did I?
Naked we been both forthy, *therefore*
and of our shape ashamed.

ADAM: Yea, the truth said I in prophecy
270 when thou was taken from my body
man's woe thou would be certainly;
therefore thou was so named.

EVE: Adam, husband, I suggest we take
these fig-leaves for shame's sake,
275 and to our members a covering make
of them for thee and me.

ADAM: And therewith my members I will hide,
and under this tree I will abide;
for surely, come God us beside, *if God should come*
280 out of this place shall we. *we must go*

*Then Adam and Eve shall cover their members with leaves, hiding themselves under the trees. Then
God shall speak (Minstrels play).*

GOD: Adam, Adam, where art thou?

ADAM: A, Lord! I heard thy voice now.
For I am naked, I make avow, *confess*
therefore now I hid me.

GOD: 286	Who told thee, Adam, thou naked was save only thine own trespass, that of the tree thou eaten has that I forbade thee.	
ADAM: 290	Lord, this woman that is here - that thou gave me to my fere - gave me part, at her prayer, and of it I did eat.	<i>partner entreaty</i>
GOD:	Woman, why hast thou done so?	
EVE: 295	This adder, Lord, she was my foe and truly me deceived tho, and made me to eat that meat.	<i>then food</i>
GOD: 300	Adder, for that thou hast done this annoy, amongst all beasts on Earth thee by cursed thou shalt be forthy, for this woman's sake. Upon thy breast thou shalt go, and eat the earth to and fro; and enmity between you two I assure thee I shall make.	<i>beside you therefore</i>
305	Between thy seed and hers also I shall excite they sorrow and woe; to break thy head and be thy foe, she shall have mastery ay.	<i>ever</i>
310	No beast on Earth, I thee behet, that Man so little shall of set; and trodden be full under feet for thy misdeed today.	<i>promise esteem utterly</i>
	<i>Then the Serpent shall withdraw, making a noise like a snake.</i>	
(to Eve) 315	And, woman, I warn thee certainly, hy great pain I shall multiply - with pains, sorrow, and great annoy thy children thou shall bear.	<i>anguish</i>
320	And for that thou hast done so today, man shall dominate thee alway; and under his power thou shalt be ay, thee for to direct and dere.	<i>always discipline</i>
GOD: (to Adam) 325	And, man, also I say to thee - for thou hast not done after me, thy wife's counsel for to flee, but done so her bidding to eat the fruit of this tree, in thy work cursed the earth shall be; and with great travail it behoves thee on Earth to get thy living.	<i>as I said</i>
330	When thou on earth travailed has, fruit shall not grow in that place; but thorns, briers for thy trespass to thee on earth shall spring. Herbs, roots thou shalt eat and for thy sustenance sore sweat	
335	with great misfortune to win thy meat,	<i>food</i>

not at all to thy liking.

340 Thus shall thou live, sooth to sayen,
for thou hast been to me unbain,
ever, till the time thou turn again
to earth where thou came fro.
For earth thou art, as well is seen;
and after this work, woe and teen,
to earth there thou shalt return, withouten ween,
and all thy race also.

*truth to tell
disobedient*

suffering

Adam shall speak mournfully.

ADAM:
346 Alas, now in despair am I lent!
Alas, now shamefully am I shent!
For I was disobedient,
of joy now am I waived.
350 Now all my race by me is kent
to flee women's enticement.
Who trusteth them in any intent,
truly he is deceived.

*cast
destroyed*

*banished
instructed*

355 My greedy wife hath been my foe;
the Devil's envy destroyed me also.
These two together well may go,
the sister and the brother!
His wrath hath done me much woe;
her gluttony harmed me also.
360 God let never man trust you two,
the one more than the other.

GOD:
365 Now we shall depart from this lee.
Covered behoveth you to be.
Dead beasts' skins, it seems to me,
is best you on you bear.
For mortal now both been ye
and death no way may you flee.
Such clothes are best for your degree
and such shall ye wear.

joy

*shun
condition*

Then God, putting garments of skins upon them:

GOD:
370 Adam, now hast thou thy willing,
for thou desired over all thing
of good and evil to have knowing;
now accomplished is all thy will.
Thou wouldest know both joy and woe;
now is it fallen to thee so.
375 Therefore hence thou must go,
and thy desire fulfill.

desire

desire

380 Now, lest thou covetest more
and do as thou hast done before -
eat of this fruit - to live evermore
here may thou not be.
To Earth thither thou must gone;
with labour lead thy life thereon,
for certainly, there is no other won.
Go forth; take Eve with thee.

go

dwelling

Then God shall drive Adam and Eve out of Paradise, and saith to the Angel (Minstrels play):

GOD: 386	Now I will I that those remaining within the Angels' order Cherubim, to keep this place of happiness and win that Adam lost thus hath, with sharp swords on every side 390 and flame of fire here to abide, so that never a mortal man in may glide; for given to them is that grace.	<i>remain</i> <i>joy</i> <i>privilege</i>
1st ANGEL: 395	Lord, that order that is right is ready set here in thy sight, with flame of fire, ready to fight against Mankind, thy foe, for whom no grace is claimed by right. Shall none of them bide in thy sight 400 till Wisdom, Right, Mercy, and Might shall redeem them, and others moe.	<i>by justice</i> <i>more</i>
2nd ANGEL: 405	I, Cherubim, must here be chise to keep this place of great price. Since man was so unwise, this dwelling I must were - 405 that he by craft or cleverness shall not come into what was his, but deprived be of Paradise, no more for to come there.	<i>careful</i> <i>defend</i>
3rd ANGEL: 410	And in this inheritance I will be, nobly for to ever see that no mortal come in this city as God hath me behight. Swords of fire have all we 415 to make Man from this place to flee, from this dwelling of great dainty that to him first was dight.	 <i>commanded</i> <i>pleasure</i> <i>prepared</i>
4th ANGEL: 420	And of this order I am made one, from Mankind to defend this wone that through his guilt hath forgone this dwelling full of grace. Therefore depart they must each one. Our swords of fire shall be there boun and myself their very fone, 420 to burn them in the face.	 <i>dwelling</i> <i>forfeited</i> <i>ready</i> <i>foe</i>

[Minstrels play]