

seduced into condoning the Crucifixion. The tenor of Christ's address to, 'all men that walk by way or street', combined with this visual impact, makes it plain that, for the playwright, the Crucifixion is an act in which all men at all times are necessarily implicated.

- 1 SOLDIER: Sir knights, take heed hither in hie,
This deed on dreigh we may not draw.
Ye wot yourselves as well as I
How lords and leaders of our law
Have given doom that this dote shall die.
- 2 SOLDIER: Sir, all their counsel well we know.
Since we are come to Calvary
Let ilk man help now as him owe.
- 3 SOLDIER: We are all ready, lo,
That foreward to fulfil.
- 4 SOLDIER: Let hear how we shall do,
And go we tite theretill.
- 1 SOLDIER: It may not help here for to hone
If we shall any worship win.
- 2 SOLDIER: He must be dead needlings by noon.
- 3 SOLDIER: Then is good time that we begin.
- 4 SOLDIER: Let ding him down, then is he done—
He shall not dere us with his din.
- 1 SOLDIER: He shall be set and learned soon,
With care to him and all his kin.
- 2 SOLDIER: The foulest death of all
Shall he die for his deeds.
- 3 SOLDIER: That means cross him we shall.
- 4 SOLDIER: Behold, so right he redes.
- 1 SOLDIER: Then to this work us must take heed,
So that our working be not wrong.
- 2 SOLDIER: None other note to neven is need,
But let us haste him for to hang.
- 1 *in hie* in haste 2 We may not draw this task out too long 3 *wot* know
4 *leaders* upholders 5 *doom* judgement *dote* fool 8 Let each man help
now as he ought to 10 *foreward* undertaking 11 *Let hear* Let us see
12 *tite* quickly *theretill* to it 13 *hone* tarry 14 *worship* esteem
15 *needlings* of necessity 17 Let him be struck down, then [may he] be dealt
with 18 *dere* harm *din* clamour 19 *set* secured *learned* taught (a
lesson) 20 *care* woe 23 *cross* crucify 24 Indeed he advises us well
25 we must pay attention 27 There is no need to mention any other matter

The Crucifixion

3 SOLDIER: And I have gone for gear good speed, 213
 Both hammers and nails large and long.
 4 SOLDIER: Then may we boldly do this deed. 30
 Come on, let kill this traitor strong.
 1 SOLDIER: Fair might ye fall in fere
 That has wrought on this wise.
 2 SOLDIER: Us needs not for to lere
 Such faitours to chastise. 35

3 SOLDIER: Since ilka thing is right arrayed,
 The wiselier now work may we.
 4 SOLDIER: The cross on ground is goodly graid
 And bored even as it ought to be.
 1 SOLDIER: Look that the lad on length be laid 40
 And made me then unto this tree.
 2 SOLDIER: For all his fare he shall be flayed,
 That on assay soon shall ye see.
 3 SOLDIER: Come forth, thou cursed knave,
 Thy comfort soon shall keel. 45
 4 SOLDIER: Thine hire here shall thou have.
 1 SOLDIER: Walk on—now work we well.

JESUS: Almighty God, my Father free,
 Let these matters be made in mind: 50
 Thou bade that I should buxom be,
 For Adam's plight for to be pined.
 Here to death I oblige me,
 For that sin for to save mankind,
 And sovereignly beseech I thee 55
 That they for me may favour find.
 And from the fiend them fend,
 So that their souls be safe
 In wealth without end—
 I keep nought else to crave. 60

29 *good speed* speedily 32 *let kill* let us kill *traitor strong* flagrant traitor
 33-4 May you all have good luck who have acted in this way 35 We don't
 need to be taught 36 *faitours* deceivers 37 *ilka* every *right arrayed*
 well prepared 39 *goodly graid* well prepared 40 *bored* bored with holes
 41 *lad* wretch 42 And then fastened to this cross 43 *fare* practices
flayed punished 44 That [claim] you will soon see put to the test 46 *keel* cool
 (i.e. vanish) 47 *hire* reward 49 *free* gracious 50 *made in mind* particularly
 called to mind 51 *bade* commanded *buxom* willing 52 *pined* tormented
 53 *oblige me* pledge myself 55 *sovereignly* above all 56 *for* because of 57 *fend*
 defend 59 *wealth* joy 60 I have no care to ask for anything else

- 1 SOLDIER: We, hark sir knights, for Mahound's blood,
Of Adam's kind is all his thought.
- 2 SOLDIER: The warlock waxes war than wood;
This doleful death ne dreadeth he nought.
- 3 SOLDIER: Thou should have mind, with main and mood,
Of wicked works that thou hast wrought. 65
- 4 SOLDIER: I hope that he had been as good
Have ceased of saws that he upsought.
- 1 SOLDIER: Tho saws shall rue him sore,
For all his sauntering, soon. 70
- 2 SOLDIER: Ill speed them that him spare
Till he to death be done.
- 3 SOLDIER: Have done belive, boy, and make thee boun,
And bend thy back unto this tree.
- 4 SOLDIER: Behold, himself has laid him down
In length and breadth as he should be. 75
- 1 SOLDIER: This traitor here tainted of treason,
Go fast and fetter him then ye three;
And since he claimeth kingdom with crown,
Even as a king here hang shall he. 80
- 2 SOLDIER: Now, certes, I shall not fine
Ere his right hand be fast.
- 3 SOLDIER: The left hand then is mine—
Let see who bears him best.
- 4 SOLDIER: His limbs on length then shall I lead,
And even unto the bore them bring. 85
- 1 SOLDIER: Unto his head I shall take heed,
And with mine hand help him to hang.
- 2 SOLDIER: Now since we four shall do this deed
And meddle with this unthrifty thing, 90
Let no man spare for special speed
Till that we have made ending.
- 61 *We* exclamation of contempt *for Mahound's* by Muhammad's (diabolical oath)
62 *kind* offspring 63 The sorcerer grows worse than mad 64 He has
no fear of this terrible death 65 You should try to think very hard 67-8 I
believe he would have done well to have stopped saying the things that he thought up
69 He will greatly regret those words 70 *sauntering* babbling 71 *Ill speed* them
Bad luck to those 73 *belive* quickly *boy* wretch *boun* ready 77 *tainted*
convicted 81 *certes* indeed *fine* stop 82 *Ere* Before 84 *bears*
him acquits himself 85 *on length* outstretched *lead* hold 90 *unthrifty*
unprofitable 91 *spare for* refrain from [using] *special* the utmost

3 SOLDIER: This foreward may not fail;
Now are we right arrayed.

4 SOLDIER: This boy here in our bail
Shall bide full bitter braid. 95

1 SOLDIER: Sir knights, say, how work we now?

2 SOLDIER: Yes, certes, I hope I hold this hand,
And to the bore I have it brought
Full buxomly without band.

1 SOLDIER: Strike on then hard, for him thee bought. 100

2 SOLDIER: Yes, here is a stub will stiffly stand,
Through bones and sinews it shall be sought—
This work is well, I will warrand.

1 SOLDIER: Say sir, how do we there?
This bargain may not blin. 105

3 SOLDIER: It fails a foot and more,
The sinews are so gone in.

4 SOLDIER: I hope that mark amiss be bored.

2 SOLDIER: Then must he bide in bitter bale. 110

3 SOLDIER: In faith, it was over-scantily scored,
That makes it foully for to fail.

1 SOLDIER: Why carp ye so? Fast on a cord
And tug him to, by top and tail.

3 SOLDIER: Yah, thou commands lightly as a lord;
Come help to haul, with ill hail. 115

1 SOLDIER: Now certes that shall I do—
Full snelly as a snail.

3 SOLDIER: And I shall tache him to,
Full nimbly with a nail. 120

This work will hold, that dare I hete,
For now are fest fast both his hend.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 93 This deed must be assuredly done | 95 <i>bail</i> custody | 96 Shall undergo |
| very dreadful torment | 98 <i>hope</i> think | 100 <i>buxomly</i> obediently <i>without</i> |
| <i>band</i> without using a rope | 101 for he who redeemed you (usually refers to | 103 <i>sought</i> applied |
| Christ) | 102 <i>stub</i> short thick nail | 107 It (the |
| 104 <i>warrand</i> guarantee | 106 This business is not at an end | 109 I believe the |
| bore) is more than a foot out | 108 <i>gone in</i> shrunken | 111 <i>over-scantily</i> scored inaccurately |
| spot which was marked has been bored in the wrong place (i.e. and not where it was | 110 <i>bide</i> endure | 113 <i>carp</i> speak <i>Fast</i> |
| marked) | 112 That is why it is such a bad piece of work | 115 <i>lightly</i> |
| drilled | 114 And pull him [to the bores], by his head and feet | 119 <i>tache</i> |
| Fasten | 116 <i>with ill hail</i> curse you | 118 <i>snelly</i> swiftly (an aside) |
| effortlessly | 121 <i>hete</i> promise | 122 <i>hend</i> hands |
| fasten | to to [the cross] | |

- 4 SOLDIER: Go we all four then to his feet,
So shall our space be speedily spend.
- 2 SOLDIER: Let see what bourd his bale might beet,
Thereto my back now would I bend. 125
- 4 SOLDIER: Oh, this work is all unmeet—
This boring must all be amend.
- 1 SOLDIER: Ah, peace man, for Mahound,
Let no man wot that wonder,
A rope shall rug him down
If all his sinews go asunder. 130
- 2 SOLDIER: That cord full kindly can I knit,
The comfort of this carl to keel.
- 1 SOLDIER: Fast on then fast, that all be fit,
It is no force how fell he feel. 135
- 2 SOLDIER: Lug on ye both a little yet.
- 3 SOLDIER: I shall not cease, as I have sele.
- 4 SOLDIER: And I shall fond him for to hit.
- 2 SOLDIER: Oh, hale!
- 4 SOLDIER: Whoa, now, I hold it well. 140
- 1 SOLDIER: Have done, drive in that nail,
So that no fault be found.
- 4 SOLDIER: This working would not fail
If four bulls here were bound.
- 1 SOLDIER: These cords have evil increased his pains,
Ere he were to the borings brought. 145
- 2 SOLDIER: Yea, asunder are both sinews and veins
On ilka side, so have we sought.
- 3 SOLDIER: Now all his gauds nothing him gains,
His sauntering shall with bale be bought. 150
- 4 SOLDIER: I will go say to our sovereigns
Of all these works how we have wrought.
- 1 SOLDIER: Nay sirs, another thing
Falls first to you and me,

124 So we shall usefully pass our time	125 <i>bourd</i> jest	<i>beet</i> lighten
127 <i>unmeet</i> out of place	128 <i>amend</i> altered	130 <i>wonder</i> strange thing
(i.e. a piece of magic)	131 <i>rug</i> tug	132 <i>If</i> Even if
fittingly	134 <i>carl</i> wretch	133 <i>kindly</i>
<i>knit</i> fasten	135 <i>Fast</i> Bind	<i>fit</i> ready
136 <i>no force</i> no matter	<i>fell</i> terrible (i.e. how much pain)	138 as I have joy
139 <i>fond</i> attempt	140 <i>hale</i> haul	141 <i>Have done</i> Stop
severely	148 <i>so</i> . . . <i>sought</i> as far as we can see	145 <i>evil</i>
tricks are of no avail, he will pay for his babbling with pain	149–50 Now all his	154 <i>Falls</i> Is allotted

The Crucifixion

217

They bade we should him hang
On high, that men might see.

155

2 SOLDIER: We wot well so their words were,
But sir, that deed will do us dere.

1 SOLDIER: It may not mend for to moot more,
This harlot must be hanged here.

2 SOLDIER: The mortice is made fit therefore.

160

3 SOLDIER: Fast on your fingers then, in fere.

4 SOLDIER: I ween it will never come there—
We four raise it not right to-year.

1 SOLDIER: Say man, why carps thou so?
Thy lifting was but light.

165

2 SOLDIER: He means there must be more
To heave him up on height.

3 SOLDIER: Now certes, I hope it shall not need
To call to us more company.

170

Methink we four should do this deed
And bear him to yon hill on high.

1 SOLDIER: It must be done, without dread.

No more, but look ye be ready,
And this part shall I lift and lead;

175

On length he shall no longer lie.

Therefore now make you boun,
Let bear him to yon hill.

4 SOLDIER: Then will I bear here down,
And tent his toes until.

180

2 SOLDIER: We two shall see to either side,
For else this work will wry all wrong.

3 SOLDIER: We are ready.

4 SOLDIER: Good sirs, abide,
And let me first his feet up fang.

185

2 SOLDIER: Why tent ye so to tales this tide?

1 SOLDIER: Lift up!

157 so what

159 It won't do any good to argue any more

160 harlot

scoundrel

162 in fere all together

163 ween believe

164 The four

of us will not raise it upright this year

166 light weak

173 dread doubt

174 Say no more, but make sure you're ready

179 here down this end

180 And attend to his toes

182 wry go

183 abide wait

184 up

fang catch up

185 Why are you paying such attention to talk just now (i.e.

instead of working)

4 SOLDIER: Let see! Oh, lift along.
 2 SOLDIER:
 3 SOLDIER: From all this harm he should him hide
 And he were God.
 4 SOLDIER: The devil him hang!
 1 SOLDIER: For-great harm have I hent,
 My shoulder is in sunder. 190
 2 SOLDIER: And certes, I am near shent,
 So long have I borne under.
 3 SOLDIER: This cross and I in two must twin,
 Else breaks my back in sunder soon.
 4 SOLDIER: Lay down again and leave your din, 195
 This deed for us will never be done.
 1 SOLDIER: Assay, sirs, let see if any gin
 May help him up without hone,
 For here should wight men worship win,
 And not with gauds all day to gone. 200
 2 SOLDIER: More wighter men than we
 Full few I hope ye find.
 3 SOLDIER: This bargain will not be,
 For certes, me wants wind.
 4 SOLDIER: So will of work never we were— 205
 I hope this carl some cautels cast.
 2 SOLDIER: My burden sat me wonder sore,
 Unto the hill I might not last.
 1 SOLDIER: Lift up, and soon he shall be there,
 Therefore fast on your fingers fast. 210
 3 SOLDIER: Oh, lift!
 1 SOLDIER: We, lo!
 4 SOLDIER: A little more.
 2 SOLDIER: Hold then!
 1 SOLDIER: How now?
 2 SOLDIER: The worst is past.

186 along from end to end 187 him hide protect himself 188 And If
 189 For-great Excessive hent suffered 190 in sunder out of joint 191 shent
 exhausted 192 borne under held up from underneath 193 twin part
 194 sunder half 196 for by 197 gin device 198 hone delay 199 wight
 robust 200 And not spend the whole day in jests 203 This job will
 never be done 204 me wants wind I am out of breath 205 will of at a loss
 in [our] 206 I believe this wretch has cast some spells 207 afflicted me
 most grievously

SOLDIER: He we
 SOLDIER: So may we
 Ere he was heaved on
 And raised in this arra
 SOLDIER: He made
 So boistous was he fo
 SOLDIER: Now rais
 And set him by this
 And let him fall in a
 For certes, that pain
 SOLDIER: Heave u
 SOLDIER:
 Are asunder now o
 SOLDIER: This fa
 Than all the harm
 Now may a man w
 The least lith of t
 SOLDIER: Meth
 Ne stand still in
 SOLDIER: At th
 That makes it w
 SOLDIER: It sh
 So that it shall r
 Good wedges sh
 And fast the foc
 SOLDIER: He
 For that, both
 SOLDIER: W
 That we shoul
 SOLDIER: W
 SOLDIER: G
 SOLDIER: H
 SOLDIER: D
 216 army fashion
 219 for the nonce (r
 of the body 225
 we understand
 at this time

The Crucifixion

3 SOLDIER: He weighs a wicked weight. 219
2 SOLDIER: So may we all four say,
Ere he was heaved on height
And raised in this array. 215

4 SOLDIER: He made us stand as any stones,
So boistous was he for to bear.
1 SOLDIER: Now raise him nimbly for the nonce
And set him by this mortice here,
And let him fall in all at once, 220
For certes, that pain shall have no peer.

3 SOLDIER: Heave up!
4 SOLDIER: Let down, so all his bones
Are asunder now on sides sere.

1 SOLDIER: This falling was more fell
Than all the harms he had. 225
Now may a man well tell
The least lith of this lad.

3 SOLDIER: Methinketh this cross will not abide
Ne stand still in this mortice yet. 230

4 SOLDIER: At the first time was it made over-wide;
That makes it wave, thou may well wit.

1 SOLDIER: It shall be set on ilka side
So that it shall no further flit.
Good wedges shall we take this tide 235
And fast the foot, then is all fit.

2 SOLDIER: Here are wedges arrayed
For that, both great and small.

3 SOLDIER: Where are our hammers laid
That we should work withal? 240

4 SOLDIER: We have them even here at our hand.

2 SOLDIER: Give me this wedge, I shall it in drive.

4 SOLDIER: Here is another yet ordained.

3 SOLDIER: Do take it me hither belive.

216 *array* fashion 217 He brought us to a standstill 218 *boistous* awkward
219 *for the nonce* (rhyming tag) 222 *peer* equal 224 *on sides sere* in many
places 225 *fell* terrible 227 *tell* count 228 *least lith* smallest part
of the body 229 *abide* remain firm 230 *Ne Nor* 232 *wave* move about
wit understand 233 *set* fixed *ilka* each 234 *flit* move 235 *this*
tide at this time 236 *foot* base of cross 237 *arrayed* ready 240 *withal*
with 243 *ordained* ready 244 Bring it here to me quickly

- 1 SOLDIER: Lay on then fast.
 2 SOLDIER: Yes, I warrand.
 I thring them sam, so mote I thrive. 245
 Now will this cross full stably stand,
 All if he rave they will not rive.
 1 SOLDIER: Say sir, how likes you now,
 This work that we have wrought? 250
 4 SOLDIER: We pray you say us how
 Ye feel, or faint ye aught.

JESUS: All men that walk by way or street,
 Take tent ye shall no travail tine. 255
 Behold mine head, mine hands, and my feet,
 And fully feel now, ere ye fine,
 If any mourning may be meet,
 Or mischief measured unto mine.
 My father, that all bales may beet,
 Forgive these men that do me pine. 260
 What they work, wot they not;
 Therefore, my father, I crave,
 Let never their sins be sought,
 But see their souls to save.

- 1 SOLDIER: We, hark, he jangles like a jay. 265
 2 SOLDIER: Methink he patters like a pie.
 3 SOLDIER: He has been doing all this day,
 And made great moving of mercy.
 4 SOLDIER: Is this the same that gan us say
 That he was God's son almighty? 270
 1 SOLDIER: Therefore he feels full fell affray,
 And deemed this day for to die.
 2 SOLDIER: *Vath, qui destruis templum!*
 3 SOLDIER: His saws were so, certain.
 4 SOLDIER: And sirs, he said to some 275
 He might raise it again.

246 I'll thrust them in together, so may I prosper 247 *stably* firmly 248 All
 if Even if *rive* split 252 or whether you feel faint at all 254 Take heed
 that you miss none of my suffering 256 *fine* pass 257 *meet* equal 258 *mis-*
chief misfortune 259 who may relieve all torments 260 *do . . . pine* torment me
 261 They know not what they do 263 *sought* visited upon them 264 *see*
 see that 266 *pie* magpie 268 *moving of* reference to 269 *gan* did
 271 Because of that he suffered this very cruel assault 272 *deemed* was judged
 273 'Ah, thou who destroyest the temple' (Mark 14: 58, John 2: 19) 274 *saws* words

1 SOLDIER: To muste
 For all the cautels that
 All if he were in word
 As Plate deemed is
 Therefore I rede tha
 2 SOLDIER: This rac
 Through the world
 3 SOLDIER: Yea, let
 And make mows or
 4 SOLDIER: Then r
 1 SOLDIER: Nay, g

For certes us nee
 This kirtle would
 2 SOLDIER: Nay,
 Which of us four
 3 SOLDIER: I red
 Lo, see how soo
 4 SOLDIER: The
 Whether it fall
 1 SOLDIER: Fel
 For this mantl
 2 SOLDIER: G
 This travail he

277 *muster* manifes
 so bold 281
 must be properly r
 other business
 . . . have shall have
 be content
 here

1 SOLDIER: To muster that he had no might,
For all the cautels that he could cast.

All if he were in word so wight,
For all his force now is he fast.

280

As Pilate deemed is done and dight,
Therefore I rede that we go rest.

2 SOLDIER: This race mun be rehearsed right,
Through the world both east and west.

3 SOLDIER: Yea, let him hang there still
And make mows on the moon.

285

4 SOLDIER: Then may we wend at will.

1 SOLDIER: Nay, good sirs, not so soon.

For certes us needs another note:

This kirtle would I of you crave.

290

2 SOLDIER: Nay, nay, sir, we will look by lot
Which of us four falls it to have.

3 SOLDIER: I rede we draw cut for this coat—
Lo, see how soon—all sides to save.

4 SOLDIER: The short cut shall win, that well ye wot,
Whether it fall to knight or knave.

295

1 SOLDIER: Fellows, ye tharf not flite,
For this mantle is mine.

2 SOLDIER: Go we then hence tite,
This travail here we tine.

300

277 <i>muster</i> manifest	278 <i>cautels</i> spells	279 Even though his words were
so bold	281 <i>dight</i> dealt with	282 <i>rede</i> advise
283 These events	286 <i>make mows on</i> pull faces at	289 we have
must be properly reported	290 <i>kirtle</i> garment	291 <i>look . . . lot</i> draw lots
other business	293 <i>cut</i> straws	292 <i>falls</i>
. . . <i>have</i> shall have it	294 <i>all . . . save</i> so everybody shall	300 We are wasting effort
be content	297 <i>tharf not flite</i> need not wrangle	
here		

arrand,
t,
y feet,
ay.
e.
lay,
say
affray,
247 stably firm
el faint at all
257 must equal
260 do . . .