

## Play 35, Crucifixio Christi

by: Clifford Davidson (Editor)  
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### The Pynneres and Paynters

5	<p><b>I MILES</b> Sir knyghtis, take heede hydir in hye:          This dede on dergh we may nocht drawe.          Yee wootte youreselffe als wele as I          Howe lordis and leders of owre lawe          Has geven dome that this doote schall dye.</p>	<p><i>haste</i>  <i>in [length of] time; draw out</i>  <i>know</i>  <i>leaders of (authorities on)</i>  <i>judgment; fool</i></p>
	<p><b>II MILES</b> Sir, alle thare counsaile wele we knawe.          Sen we are comen to Calvarie          Latte ilke man helpe nowe as hym awe.</p>	<p><i>(see note)</i>  <i>(i.e., he ought to)</i></p>
10	<p><b>III MILES</b> We are alle redy, loo,          That forward to fullfille.</p>	<p><i>agreement</i></p>
	<p><b>IV MILES</b> Late here howe we schall doo,          And go we tyte thertille.</p>	<p><i>quickly</i></p>
	<p><b>I MILES</b> It may nocht helpe her for to hone,          If we schall any worshippe wyne.</p>	<p><i>delay</i></p>
15	<p><b>II MILES</b> He muste be dede nedelyngis by none.</p>	<p><i>necessarily; noon</i></p>
	<p><b>III MILES</b> Thanne is goode tyme that we begynne.</p>	
	<p><b>IV MILES</b> Late dyngge hym doune, than is he done;          He schall nought dere us with his dynne.</p>	<p><i>strike</i>  <i>harm</i></p>
20	<p><b>I MILES</b> He schall be sette and lerned sone,          With care to hym and all his kynne.</p>	<p><i>set (secured); taught</i>  <i>sorrow; people</i></p>
	<p><b>II MILES</b> The foulest dede of all          Shalle he dye for his dedis.</p>	
	<p><b>III MILES</b> That menes crosse hym we schall.</p>	
	<p><b>IV MILES</b> Behalde so right he redis.</p>	<p><i>understands</i></p>
25	<p><b>II MILES</b> Thanne to this werke us muste take heede          So that oure wirkyng be nocht wronge.</p>	<p><i>(see note)</i></p>
	<p><b>II MILES</b> None othir noote to neven is nede,          But latte us haste hym for to hange.</p>	<p><i>matter; speak of</i></p>
30	<p><b>III MILES</b> And I have gone for gere goode speede,          Bothe hammeres and nayles large and lange.</p>	<p><i>equipment</i></p>
	<p><b>IV MILES</b> Thanne may we boldely do this dede.          Commes on, late kille this traitoure strange.</p>	<p><i>strong (determined)</i></p>
	<p><b>I MILES</b> Faire myght ye falle in feere</p>	

	That has wrought on this wise.	
35	<b>II MILES</b> Us nedis nought for to lere Suche faitoures to chastise.	<i>(i.e., We already know how)</i> <i>deceivers</i>
	<b>III MILES</b> Sen ilke a thyng es right arrayed, The wiselier nowe wirke may we.	<i>everything is</i>
40	<b>IV MILES</b> The crosse on grounde is goodely graied, And boorede even as it awith to be.	<i>prepared</i> <i>bored; ought</i>
	<b>I MILES</b> Lokis that the ladde on lenghe be layde, And made me thane unto this tree.	<i>(i.e., then fastened); cross</i>
	<b>II MILES</b> For alle his fare he schalle be flaied, That one assaie sone schalle ye see.	<i>practices; punished</i> <i>undertaking</i>
45	<b>III MILES</b> Come forthe, thou cursed knave, Thy comforte sone schall kele.	<i>cool (extinguish)</i>
	<b>IV MILES</b> Thyne hyre here schall thou have.	<i>pay</i>
	<b>I MILES</b> Walkes oon, now wirke we wele.	
50	<b>JESUS</b> Almyghty God, my Fadir free, Late this materes be made in mynde: Thou badde that I schulde buxsome be, For Adam plyght for to be pyned. Here to dede I obblisshe me Fro that synne for to save mankynde,	<i>(see note)</i> <i>bade; obedient</i> <i>Adam's guilt</i> <i>oblige</i>
55	And soveraynely beseke I thee That thai for me may favoure fynde, And fro the fende thame fende So that ther saules be saffe In welthe withouten ende.	<i>above all beseech</i> <i>because of me</i> <i>fiend themselves defend</i> <i>well-being</i>
60	I kepe nought ellis to crave.	
	<b>I MILES</b> We, herke sir knyghtis, for Mahoundis bloode, Of Adam kynde is all his thoght.	<i>descendants</i>
	<b>II MILES</b> The warlowe waxis werre than woode; This doufull dede ne dredith he noght.	<i>warlock; worse; mad</i> <i>doleful deed</i>
65	<b>III MILES</b> Thou schulde have mynde, with mayne and moode, Of wikkid werkis that thou haste wrought.	
	<b>IV MILES</b> I hope that he hadde bene as goode Have sesed of sawes that he uppe sought.	<i>ceased; sayings (words); invented</i>
70	<b>I MILES</b> Thoo sawes schall rewe hym sore For all his saunteryng sone.	<i>babbling soon</i>
	<b>II MILES</b> Ille spede thame that hym spare Tille he to dede be done.	
	<b>III MILES</b> Have done belyve, boy, and make thee boune, And bende thi bakke unto this tree.	<i>quickly; prepared</i>
75	<b>IV MILES</b> Byhalde, hymselffe has laide hym doune In lenghe and breede as he schulde bee.	<i>Behold; (see note)</i>
80	<b>I MILES</b> This traitoure here teynted of treasoune, Gose faste and fette hym than, ye thre. And sen he claymeth kyngdome with croune, Even as a kyng here hange schall hee.	<i>convicted</i> <i>?fetter</i> <i>(see note)</i> <i>(t-note)</i>
	<b>II MILES</b> Nowe, certis, I schall noght feyne Or his right hand be feste.	<i>stop</i> <i>Ere; fastened</i>
	<b>III MILES</b> The leftte hande thanne is myne.	

	Late see who beres hym beste.	<i>bears himself</i>
85	<b>IV MILES</b> Hys lymmys on lenghe than schalle I lede, And even unto the bore thame bringe.	<i>lead</i> <i>bore hole</i>
	<b>I MILES</b> Unto his heede I schall take hede, And with myne hande helpe hym to hyng.	<i>head; heed</i>
90	<b>II MILES</b> Nowe sen we foure schall do this dede, And medill with this unthrifty thyng, Late no man spare for speciall speede Tille that we have made endyng.	<i>involve [ourselves]</i> <i>hold back</i>
	<b>III MILES</b> This forward may not faile. Nowe are we right arraiede.	<i>plan</i>
95	<b>IV MILES</b> This boy here in oure baile Shall bide full bittir brayde.	<i>custody</i> <i>endure; torment</i>
	<b>I MILES</b> Sir knyghtis, saie, howe wirke we nowe?	
	<b>II MILES</b> Yis, certis, I hope I holde this hande. And to the boore I have it brought, Full boxumly withouten bande.	<i>(t-note)</i> <i>bore hole</i> <i>eagerly</i>
100	<b>I MILES</b> Strike on than harde, for hym thee boght.	
	<b>II MILES</b> Yis, here is a stubbe will stiffely stande, Thurgh bones and senous it schall be soght. This werke is wele, I will warande.	<i>short nail; securely; (see note)</i> <i>sineus</i>
105	<b>I MILES</b> Saie, sir, howe do we thore. This bargayne may not blynne.	<i>process; leave off</i>
	<b>III MILES</b> It failis a foote and more, The senous are so gone ynne.	<i>(see note)</i> <i>contracted</i>
	<b>IV MILES</b> I hope that marke amisse be bored.	<i>think; measurement</i>
110	<b>II MILES</b> Than muste he bide in bittir bale.	<i>abide; misery</i>
	<b>III MILES</b> In faith, it was overe skantely scored; That makis it fouly for to faile.	<i>(i.e., drilled in the wrong spot)</i>
	<b>I MILES</b> Why carpe ye so? Faste on a corde And tugge hym to, by toppe and taile.	<i>complain; Fasten</i>
115	<b>III MILES</b> Ya, thou comaundis lightly as a lorde. Come helpe to haale, with ille haile.	<i>pull</i>
	<b>I MILES</b> Nowe certis, that schall I doo, Full suerly as a snayle.	<i>snail; (t-note)</i>
120	<b>III MILES</b> And I schall tacche hym too, Full nemely with a nayle.	<i>attach</i> <i>nimbly</i>
	This werke will holde, that dar I heete, For nowe are feste faste both his handis.	<i>dare; promise</i> <i>fastened firmly</i>
	<b>IV MILES</b> Go we all foure thanne to his feete, So schall oure space be spedely spende.	<i>then</i> <i>our time; well spent</i>
125	<b>II MILES</b> Latte see, what bourde his bale myght beete, Tharto my bakke nowe wolde I bende.	<i>jest; suffering; assuage</i>
	<b>IV MILES</b> Owe, this werke is all unmeete. This boring muste all be amende.	<i>wrong</i> <i>improved</i>
130	<b>I MILES</b> A, pees, man, for Mahounde, Latte no man wotte that wondir.	<i>peace</i> <i>Let; marvel</i>

	A roope schall rugge hym doune Yf all his synnous go asoundre.	<i>pull violently; (see note)</i> <i>sineus pull apart</i>
	<b>II MILES</b> That corde full kyndely can I knytte, The comforte of this karle to kele.	<i>appropriately; tie</i> <i>cool</i>
135	<b>I MILES</b> Feste on, thanne, faste that all be fyttē; It is no force howe felle he feele.	<i>Fasten; ready</i> <i>no matter; horrible</i>
	<b>II MILES</b> Lugge on ye both a litill yitt.	<i>Pull</i>
	<b>III MILES</b> I schalle nought sese, as I have seele.	<i>cease; happiness</i>
	<b>IV MILES</b> And I schall fonde hym for to hitte.	<i>attempt</i>
140	<b>II MILES</b> Owe, haylle!	
	<b>IV MILES</b> Hoo, nowe, I halde it wele.	
	<b>I MILES</b> Have done, dryve in that nayle So that no faute be foune.	<i>fault; found</i>
	<b>IV MILES</b> This wirkyng wolde nocht faile, Yf foure bullis here were boune.	<i>bound; (see note)</i>
145	<b>I MILES</b> Ther cordis have evill encessed his paynes Or he wer tille the booryngis brought.	<i>Ere; bore holes</i>
	<b>II MILES</b> Yaa, assoundir are bothe synnous and veynis On ilke a side, so have we soughte.	<i>sineus; veins</i>
	<b>III MILES</b> Nowe all his gaudis nothyng hym gaynes; His sauntering schall with bale be bought.	<i>tricks</i> <i>babbling; sorrow</i>
150	<b>IV MILES</b> I wille goo saie to oure soveraynes Of all this werkis howe we have wrought.	<i>masters</i>
	<b>I MILES</b> Nay, sirs, anothir thyng Fallis firste to youe and me, Thei badde we schulde hym hyng On heghte that men myght see.	<i>(t-note)</i> <i>(t-note)</i>
155	<b>II MILES</b> We woote wele so ther wordes wore, But sir, that dede will do us dere.	<i>know</i> <i>deed (act); harm</i>
	<b>I MILES</b> It may not mende for to moote more: This harlotte muste be hanged here.	<i>(i.e., change anything); argue</i>
160	<b>II MILES</b> The mortaise is made fitte therefore.	<i>mortise; suitable; (see note)</i>
	<b>III MILES</b> Feste on youre fyngeres than, in feere.	<i>Fasten; together</i>
	<b>IV MILES</b> I wene it wolle nevere come thore We foure rayse it nocht right to-yere.	<i>there</i> <i>this year</i>
165	<b>I MILES</b> Say, man, whi carpis thou soo? Thy lifyng was but light.	<i>say you</i>
	<b>II MILES</b> He menes ther muste be moo To heve hym uppe on hight.	<i>more [men]</i> <i>heave; high</i>
	<b>III MILES</b> Now, certis, I hope it schall nocht nede To calle to us more companye. Methynke we foure schulde do this dede And bere hym to yone hille on high.	
170	<b>I MILES</b> It muste be done, withouten drede, No more, but loke ye be redy. And this parte schalle I lifte and leede; On lenghe he schalle no lenger lie.	<i>never fear</i> <i>[Say] no more; look</i> <i>lead</i> <i>length</i>
175		

	Therefore nowe makis you boune: Late bere hym to yone hill.	<i>bound</i> <i>Let us bear</i>
180	<b>IV MILES</b> Thanne will I bere here doune And tente his tase untill.	<i>pay attention; toes</i>
	<b>II MILES</b> We twoo schall see tille aythir side, For ellis this werke wille wrie all wrang.	<i>to either</i> <i>go awry</i>
	<b>III MILES</b> We are redy.	
	<b>IV MILES</b> Gode sirs, abide, And late me first his fete up fang.	<i>(t-note)</i> <i>feet lift up</i>
185	<b>II MILES</b> Why tente ye so to tales this tyde?	<i>pay attention; tales (stories)</i>
	<b>I MILES</b> Lifte uppe!	
	<b>IV MILES</b> Latte see!	
	<b>II MILES</b> Owe, lifte alang!	
	<b>III MILES</b> Fro all this harme he schulde hym hyde And he war God.	<i>If he were</i>
	<b>IV MILES</b> The devill hym hang!	
190	<b>I MILES</b> For grete harme have I hente: My schuldir is in soundre.	<i>experienced</i> <i>out of joint</i>
	<b>II MILES</b> And sertis I am nere schente, So lange have I borne undir.	<i>(i.e., at the end of my strength)</i> <i>long</i>
	<b>III MILES</b> This crosse and I in twoo muste twynne Ellis brekis my bakke in sondre sone.	<i>part</i> <i>break; asunder</i>
195	<b>IV MILES</b> Laye downe agayne and leve youre dynne. This dede for us will nevere be done.	<i>(i.e., complaints)</i>
	<b>I MILES</b> Assaie, sirs, latte se yf any gynne May helpe hym uppe, withouten hone, For here schulde wight men worschippe wynne, And noight with gaudis al day to gone.	<i>Try (make an effort); mechanism</i> <i>delay</i> <i>strong; obtain</i> <i>jests; spend</i>
200	<b>II MILES</b> More wighter men than we Full fewe I hope ye fynde.	<i>stronger</i> <i>expect</i>
	<b>III MILES</b> This bargayne will noight bee, For certis me wantis wynde.	<i>breath</i>
205	<b>IV MILES</b> So wille of werke nevere we wore, I hope this carle some cautellis caste.	<i>(i.e., deficient)</i> <i>believe; churl; spells [has] cast</i>
	<b>II MILES</b> My bourdeyne satte me wondir soore, Unto the hill I myght noight laste.	<i>burden</i>
210	<b>I MILES</b> Lifte uppe, and sone he schall be thore; Therefore feste on youre fyngeres faste.	<i>fasten</i>
	<b>III MILES</b> Owe, lifte!	
	<b>I MILES</b> We, loo!	
	<b>IV MILES</b> A litill more.	
	<b>II MILES</b> Holde thanne!	
	<b>I MILES</b> Howe nowe!	
	<b>II MILES</b> The werste is paste.	<i>worst</i>

	<b>III MILES</b> He weyes a wikkid weght.	<i>weighs</i>
215	<b>II MILES</b> So may we all foure saie, Or he was heved on heght And raysed in this array.	<i>Ere manner</i>
	<b>IV MILES</b> He made us stande as any stones, So boustous was he for to bere.	<i>heavy (awkward); carry</i>
220	<b>I MILES</b> Nowe raise hym nemely for the nonys And sette hym be this mortas heere, And latte hym falle in alle at ones, For certis that payne schall have no pere.	<i>nimbly; nonce mortise  equal</i>
	<b>III MILES</b> Heve uppe!	
	<b>IV MILES</b> Latte doune, so all his bones Are asoundre nowe on sides seere.	
225	<b>I MILES</b> This fallyng was more felle Than all the harmes he hadde. Nowe may a man wele telle The leste lith of this ladde.	<i>painful; (see note)  count (i.e., the smallest part of his body)</i>
230	<b>III MILES</b> Methynkith this crosse will noght abide, Ne stande stille in this morteyse yitt.	<i>(i.e., be secure) (i.e., it wobbles); (t-note)</i>
	<b>IV MILES</b> Att the firste tyme was it made overe wyde, That makis it wave, thou may wele witte.	
235	<b>I MILES</b> Itt schall be sette on ilke a side So that it schall no forther flitte; Goode wegges schall we take this tyde And feste the foote, thanne is all fitte.	<i>move wedges make fast</i>
	<b>II MILES</b> Here are wegges arraied For that, both grete and smale.	
240	<b>III MILES</b> Where are oure hameres laide That we schulde wirke withall?	
	<b>IV MILES</b> We have them here even atte oure hande.	
	<b>II MILES</b> Gyffe me this wegge: I schall it in dryve.	
	<b>IV MILES</b> Here is anodir yitt ordande.	<i>ready</i>
	<b>III MILES</b> Do take it me hidir belyve.	<i>Give it to me quickly</i>
245	<b>I MILES</b> Laye on thanne faste.	<i>then</i>
	<b>III MILES</b> Yis, I warrande. I thryng thame same, so motte I thryve. Nowe will this crosse full stabely stande; All yf he rave thei will noght ryve.	<i>press; together; might firmly Even if; split (break apart)</i>
250	<b>I MILES</b> Say, sir, howe likis thou nowe This werke that we have wrought?	
	<b>IV MILES</b> We praye youe sais us howe Ye fele, or faynte ye ought?	<i>tell</i>
255	<b>JESUS</b> Al men that walkis by waye or strete, Takes tente ye schalle no travayle tyne. Byholdes myn heede, myn handis, and my feete, And fully feele nowe, or ye fyne, Yf any mourning may be meete Or myscheve mesured unto myne. My Fadir, that alle bales may bete,	<i>(see note) Pay attention; suffering; lose head experience; before you pass away equal  sorrows; cure</i>

260	<p>Forgiffis thes men that dois me pyne.          What thai wirke wotte thai noght.          Therfore, my Fadir, I crave          Latte nevere ther synnys be sought,          But see their saules to save.</p>	<p>cause; pain    <i>(i.e., visited upon them)</i>  <i>(t-note)</i></p>
265	<p><b>I MILES</b> We, harke, he jangelis like a jay.   <b>II MILES</b> Methynke he patris like a py.   <b>III MILES</b> He has ben doand all this day          And made grete meuyng of mercy.   <b>IV MILES</b> Es this the same that gune us say          That he was Goddis Sone almyghty?</p>	<p><i>patters; magpie</i>    <i>doing [so]</i>  <i>much referring to</i>    <i>did</i></p>
270	<p><b>I MILES</b> Therfore he felis full felle affraye,          And demyd this day for to dye.   <b>II MILES</b> <i>Vath, qui destruit templum.</i>   <b>III MILES</b> His sawes wer so, certayne.</p>	<p><i>[this] very evil assault</i>  <i>is judged</i>    <i>Vah, thou that destroyest the Temple of God; (see note)</i></p>
275	<p><b>IV MILES</b> And sirs, he saide to some          He myght rayse it agayne.   <b>I MILES</b> To mustir that he hadde no myght,          For all the kautelles that he couthe kaste,          All yf he wer in worde so wight,          For all his force nowe he is feste.          Als Pilate demed is done and dight;          Therfore I rede that we go reste.</p>	<p><i>perform; power</i>  <i>spells; cast</i>  <i>strong</i>  <i>secure</i>  <i>As; judged</i>  <i>advise</i></p>
280	<p><b>II MILES</b> This race mon be rehersed right          Thurgh the worlde both este and weste.</p>	
285	<p><b>III MILES</b> Yaa, late hym hynge here stille          And make mowes on the mone.   <b>IV MILES</b> Thanne may we wende at wille.   <b>I MILES</b> Nay, goode sirs, noght so sone,           For certis us nedis anodir note.          This kirtill wolde I of you crave.</p>	<p><i>hang</i>  <i>make faces at the moon</i>       <i>(i.e., there is another matter)</i>  <i>gown</i></p>
290	<p><b>II MILES</b> Nay, nay, sir, we will loke be lotte          Whilke of us foure fallis it to have.   <b>III MILES</b> I rede we drawe cutte for this coote,          Loo, se howe sone, alle sidis to save.</p>	<p><i>by lot</i>    <i>straws; coat; (see note)</i>  <i>(i.e., everyone's interests to preserve)</i></p>
295	<p><b>IV MILES</b> The schorte cutte schall wynne, that wele ye woote,          Whedir itt falle to knyght or knave.   <b>I MILES</b> Felowes, ye thar noght flyte,          For this mantell is myne.   <b>II MILES</b> Goo we thanne hense tyte;          This travayle here we tyne, etc.</p>	<p><i>need not argue</i>  <i>garment with open sides</i>     <i>quickly</i>  <i>effort; waste</i></p>
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Go To Play 36, *Mortificacio Christi*

## FOOTNOTES

**ABBREVIATIONS:** *AV*: Authorized (“King James”) Version; **Meditations**: *Meditations on the Life of Christ*, trans. Ragusa and Green; **MED**: *Middle English Dictionary*; **OED**: *Oxford English Dictionary*; **RB**: Richard Beadle, ed., *York Plays*; **REED**: *Records of Early English Drama*; **YA**: Davidson and O’Connor, *York Art*; **York Breviary**: *Breviarium ad usum insignis ecclesie Eboracensis*; **York Missal**: *Missale ad usum insignis ecclesie Eboracensis*.

References to the **Ordo paginarum** are to *REED*: *York*, 1:16–27.

The *Crucifixio Christi*, presented by the Pinners (and Painters), dramatizes the cruel placing of Jesus onto the cross by four soldiers, who would dominate the pageant if it were not for the Savior who is the silent center of the action. Their quick and impulsive gestures, movement, and speech would have been regarded as being typical of evil as opposed to the equanimity of more stable good characters. They attach Christ to the cross on the ground, as in the alternate way of doing it noted in the *Meditations* and in Love’s adaptation of this work.<sup>1</sup> This is the manner in which the crucifying is done, for example, in a panel of painted glass now in the church of All Saints, Pavement, where, as too in the account in the *Northern Passion*, ropes are required to extend the body to fit the pre-drilled holes on the cross.<sup>2</sup> Jesus speaks only twice, once before being nailed to the cross, and the second time reciting a variant of very popular verses from the cross — the *O vos omnes* speech addressed to those who pass by. The play, in twelve-line stanzas, represents a different style from the previous plays in the alliterative long line, and has some confusion in its speech designations. In this regard, the present text follows the edition of Beadle,<sup>3</sup> who in turn was guided by J. P. R. Wallis.<sup>4</sup>

**7** *Sen we are comen to Calvarie*. Locating the scene. There is some difficulty again with imagining the pageant’s action since much of it is as if on the ground; sight lines when Jesus is lying down, as he is during much of the play, are problematic even when using wagon staging. The *Ordo paginarum* specified that the crucifixion itself should be “super montem calvarie,” which must have been a raised area on the pageant wagon.

**25–26** *to this werke us muste take heede / So that oure wirkyng be nocht wronge*. This statement has been taken as a sign that the soldiers are good workmen who are anxious to do a good job, just as craftsmen in the city of York are expected to do quality work. It is tempting to invoke the concept of the “banality of evil” introduced by Hannah Arendt (*Eichmann in Jerusalem*). The executioners in this case may be energetic, but they are certainly sadistic bullies who go out of their way to torment and cause pain — acts which they clearly enjoy in spite of their frustration with the process of attaching Jesus to the cross. The soldiers are too much like out-of-control guards at a concentration camp or similar prison facility to be sympathetic. Research such as the Stanford Prison Experiment demonstrates how ordinary human beings are capable of participating in torment and torture under circumstances in which they can see their victims as the “other” (see Zimbardo, *Lucifer Effect*). The executioners in this pageant are betrayed by circumstances and their lack of vision so that they too become like the other rabid torturers who have been observed in the previous Passion pageants in the cycle.

**49–60** Jesus’ prayer before being nailed to the cross may be compared to the prayer in the *Meditations* (p. 334) and also to the *Northern Passion*, 1:179.

**75** *hymselffe has laide hym doune*. The *Meditations* and other sources report instead a violent action. Love wishes his readers to imagine Jesus being cast upon the cross by the soldiers, who are like mad thieves trying to pull his hands and feet so as to nail him to it (*Mirror*, p. 177); see also the *Northern Passion*, 1:179–80.

**79–80** *he claymeth kyngdome with crowne . . . schall hee*. Possible stage direction. He may have been given a crown here, but if so it could have been a mock crown such as was worn by a fool king in play; compare the paper crown placed on the head of the Duke of York in Shakespeare’s *Henry VI, Part 3*, 1.4.93–95.

**102** *a stubbe*. A short, thick nail (*MED*); see C. Davidson, *Technology, Guilds*, fig. 40 (p. 39), for an illustration, though the nail in this instance is not exactly a stub.

**107** *It failis a foote and more*. Compare the *Northern Passion*: “If the tone hand at the bore ware, / That other failed a fute and mare” (1:189, Harleian manuscript, lines 1608–09).

**131–32** *A roope schall rugge hym doune / Yf all his synnous go asoundre*. All Jesus’ sinews and bones indeed will be pulled asunder (see lines 147–48, 223–24), and this was regarded as having been predicted by Old Testament prophecy; see Psalm 21 (*AV* 22), particularly verses 15 and 18. Verse 18 also says, “They have dug my hands and feet,” predicting the driving of nails through Jesus’ hands and feet. Pickering notes that ropes had been mentioned in connection with the Crucifixion by Hilary of Poitiers in the fourth century (*Literature and Art*, p. 244). The account in the *Stanzaic Life* is even more violent and bloody than in the pageant.

**144** *four bullis*. The suggestion that even four bulls would be ineffectual in pulling Jesus’ limbs into place is an echo of Psalm 21:13 (*AV* 21:12): “fat bulls have besieged me.”

**161** *The mortaise is made fitte*. Having the cross fit into a mortise in a Passion drama may be reflected in a drawing of the Crucifixion in the *Carthusian Miscellany* (London, British Library, MS. Add. 37049, fol. 30). This therefore may be an instance in which art imitates the drama, a view promoted by Émile Mâle (*Religious Art*) and M. D. Anderson (*Drama and Imagery*), who believed that the artists were influenced by the stage. In general, however, a very healthy skepticism is required with regard to this theory.

**225–26** *This fallyng was more felle / Than all the harmes he hadde*. The cross is now raised high. At first it will wobble until wedges are driven to stabilize it. The terrible pain of Jesus’ torment is consistently emphasized, and in this late medieval writers stressed the importance of sympathizing and identifying with the pain. For its greater intensity and the visible signs — e.g., the flow of blood caused by the shock of the fall — see Mâle, *Religious Art*, 3:85.

**253–64** *Al men that walkis by waye or strete . . . saules to save*. Jesus’ address from the cross to those who pass by — i.e., in this case the audience watching the pageant. The words are again adapted from *O vos omnes*, the cry from Lamentations 1:12, chosen also as the text of an antiphon on Good Friday as well as a responsory on Holy Saturday, and incorporated in the *Improperia*. See Gray, *Themes and Images*, pp. 140–42. Jesus’ forgiveness of his persecutors is based on Luke 23:34.

**273** *Vath, qui destruit templum*. Matthew 27:40, following the Vulgate text.

**293** *I rede we drawe cutte for this coote*. Compare Psalm 21:19 (*AV* 22:18): “They parted my garments amongst them; and upon my vesture they cast lots.”



**ABBREVIATIONS:** **Bevington:** David Bevington, ed., *Medieval Drama* (1975); **Köbling:** E. Köbling, "Beiträge zur Erklärung und Textkritik der York Plays"; **LTS:** Lucy Toulmin Smith, ed., *The York Plays* (1885); **RB:** Richard Beadle, ed., *The York Plays* (1972) (incorporating numerous emendations from other sources); **RB<sup>2</sup>:** Richard Beadle, "Corrections to *The York Plays*," in Gerald Byron Kinneavy, *A Concordance to the York Plays* (1986), pp. xxxi–xxxii; **s.d.:** stage direction; **Sykes:** A. C. Cawley, ed., "The Sykes MS of the York Scriveners' Play"; **Towneley:** Martin Stevens and A. C. Cawley, eds., *The Towneley Plays*.

The base text for this edition is London, British Library, MS. Add. 35290, called the "Register" in the York civic records and here identified by the abbreviation **Reg**. Some variations in lineation from the manuscript are not noted here; see RB and Beadle and Meredith's *The York Play: A Facsimile*. In most cases the line numbering in the present text is consistent with RB. Lineation of alliterative verse throughout is based on Reg, with line numbering adjusted accordingly to account for half lines. Scribes are identified as follows: **Scribe A;** **Scribe B:** main scribe; **JC:** John Clerke; **LH:** later scribal hand (unidentified).

As addition to craft ascription, by LH: *and Paynters*.

**80** *hange*. So RB; Reg, LTS: *have*.

**98–107** Speech identifications follow RB.

**118** *suerty*. So Reg, LTS; RB: *snelly*.

**154** *and*. So RB; Reg, LTS omit.

**155** *Thei*. So RB; Reg, LTS: *I*.

**183–84** *We are redy . . . fang*. Reg: added in margin by Scribe B.

**183** *IV MILES*. So RB; Reg, LTS: *III Miles*.

**230** *morteyse*. So LTS, RB; Reg: *moteyse*.

**264** Reg: addition by JC in right margin: *In welth without end / I kepe noght elles to crave*.

### Play 35, *CRUCIFIXIO CHRISTI*: EXPLANATORY NOTE FOOTNOTES

**Footnote 1** *Meditations*, p. 334; Love, *Mirror*, p. 177. See also the discussion in Pickering, *Literature and Art*, pp. 237–48.

**Footnote 2** C. Davidson, *From Creation to Doom*, pp. 125–26, fig. 11; *Northern Passion*, 1:188–89.

**Footnote 3** RB, p. 451.

**Footnote 4** Wallis, "Miracle Play of 'Crucifixio Christi.'"