

ElizabethanDrama.org

presents
a Theatre Script of

THE SUMMONING
of EVERYMAN

Anonymous

Written c. 1490-1510

Earliest Extant Complete Copy: c. 1520s

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THE SUMMONING
of EVERYMAN

ANONYMOUS

Written c. 1490-1510

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Personae Dramatis:

Everyman.

Messenger.

God.

Death.

Everyman's False Friends:

Fellowship.

Kindred.

Cousin.

Goods.

Everyman's True Friends:

Good Deeds.

Knowledge.

Confession.

Beauty.

Strength.

Discretion.

Five Wits.

Angel.

Doctor.

NOTES.

A. A One-Act Play?

The Summoning of Everyman is a play comprised of a single and very long act. The action (excepting the appearance and disappearance of the presenters of the Prologue and Epilogue) is continuous, and there is never a point in time during which no character is present on the stage. Every edition of *Everyman* ever published presents the play as a single act.

However, the play's single-act structure makes it difficult to distinguish between the theologically distinct sections of which the play is actually constructed. Thus, to facilitate ease of reading and to help the reader recognize, appreciate and understand the distinct, yet complex and doctrinally intertwined sections, we have broken up *Everyman* into five acts. The extensive theological notes will enhance understanding of the different acts.

B. The Language of *Everyman*.

Everyman is written in late Middle English. For you, the reader, this means that the original text is readable, once you get the hang of the slight grammatical differences, most of which carried over into the Elizabethan era. For example, the object of a sentence frequently precedes the verb, e.g., Death, in the first act, asks, "Hast thou thy maker forgot?"

Obviously, there is some differing and obsolete vocabulary to negotiate, but one will find that *Everyman* is still easier to read than are the works of Shakespeare. Besides, that is why one reads these plays in annotated form, so that nothing is lost in comprehension.

An interesting feature of late Middle English is that while *reading* the play does not pose any insurmountable problem, one would likely be completely lost if one were to *hear* the play in its original Middle English pronunciation.

The problem is two-fold:

(1) many of the vowels in Middle English were pronounced completely differently than they are today. For example:

a. The letters *i* and *y* were pronounced *ee*, as in *feet*. Hence, *my* was pronounced *me*, *time* as *teem-e*, etc.

b. The modern diphthong *ou* (as in *house*) was pronounced *oo* as in *moon*. Thus, *account* was pronounced *accoont*, and *would* as *woold*.

(2) Middle English was pronounced phonetically. This is why we have silent *e*'s in English: *love* was a disyllable *lo-ve*, and *worse* was pronounced *wor-se*. Also, the modern silent *gh* that appears in so many English words was originally pronounced as a guttural consonant, as in the German *nacht*: *brought* was pronounced *brokht*, for example.

Put the two rules together, and *nichte* (the modern *night*) becomes

neekh-te, and *knife* becomes *k-nee-fe*.

Having said all that, by the 16th century, the language was undergoing some major changes, foremost of which was the wonderful phenomenon known today as the **Great Vowel Shift**. This is the period when the sound of *i* changed, for some unknown reason, from an *ee* sound to the open *i* sound of *wife* and *time*, and *ou* changed from an *oo* sound to the modern *ou* of *house*.

Furthermore, the language became dramatically less phonetically pronounced. This is the reason English is easier to speak than to read for those learning the language: we simplified the pronunciations, but kept the old spellings!

At the time *Everyman* was written, the language was straddling the older and newer forms. Thus we cannot know exactly how the play would have sounded to an early 16th century audience, and pronunciation probably varied from actor to actor. And since the verse of the play is unmetrical, we cannot tease out the syllabification either.

(The syllabification of Chaucer's verse is much easier to discern, since he wrote most of it in strict iambic form).

C. This Script's Spelling.

All contemporary published versions of *Everyman* modernize the language: for example, *shew* is always printed as *show*, *moder* as *mother*, etc.

It is your editor's opinion, though, that something is lost when every early form of a word is modernized. As a result, you will find that in this edition of the play, we keep many of the early forms of the words, in order to give the reader at least a taste of the language as it would have sounded to a 16th century viewer. Hence, we preserve *er* for *or*, *hidder* for *hither*, and *journey* for *journe* where it is spelled so in the text so that it would rhyme with *say* or *delay*.

Obviously, such choices are to a large degree subjective, and we understand that because *run* is kept as *ren*, or *longer* as *lenger*, that it does not mean that you are experiencing the sound of the play exactly as a 16th century viewer would. But, as stated above, we feel this will enhance your appreciation, at least a bit, of the original language of the play.

D. Stage Directions.

Stage directions are adopted from the suggestions of various modern editors of *Everyman*. See the annotated version of the play for specific attributions.

THE SUMMONING
of EVERYMAN
ANONYMOUS

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HERE BEGINNETH A TREATISE HOW THE
HIGH FATHER OF HEAVEN SENDETH
DEATH TO SUMMON EVERY CREATURE
TO COME AND GIVE ACCOUNT OF THEIR
LIVES IN THIS WORLD, AND IS IN MANNER
OF A MORAL PLAY

PROLOGUE.

Enter Messenger.

1 ***Messenger.***
2 I pray you all give your audience,
3 And hear this matter with reverence,
4 By figure a moral play:
5 *The Summoning of Everyman* called it is,
6 That of our lives and ending shewes
7 How transitory we be all day.
8 This matter is wonders precious,
9 But the intent of it is more gracious,
10 And sweet to bear away.
11 The story saith: man, in the beginning
12 Look well, and take good heed to the ending,
13 Be you never so gay;
14 Ye think sin in the beginning full sweet,
15 Which in the end causeth thy soul to weep,
16 When the body lieth in clay.
17 Here shall you see how Fellowship and Jollity,
18 Both Strength, Pleasure, and Beauty
19 Will fade from thee as flower in May;
20 For ye shall hear how our Heaven King
21 Calleth Everyman to a general reckoning:
22 Give audience, and hear what he doth say.

24

[Exit Messenger.]

ACT I.

Everyman is summoned to account for his life
before God.

*Goods is sitting on the stage,
surrounded by bags and chests of money.
On another part of the stage, Good Deeds lies
weakly, amongst the pages of Everyman's
book of account.*

Enter God.

1 **God.**
2 I perceive here in my Majesty
How that all creatures be to me unkind,
4 Living without dread in worldly prosperity:
Of ghostly sight the people be so blind,
6 Drowned in sin, they know me not for their God;
In worldly riches is all their mind.
8 They fear not my rightwiseness, the sharp rod;
My law that I shewed, when I for them died;
10 They forget clean, and shedding of my blood red.
I hanged between two, it cannot be denied:
12 To get them life, I suffered to be dead;
I healed their feet, with thorns hurt was my head,
14 I could do no more than I did truly;
And now I see the people do clean forsake me:
16 They use the seven deadly sins dampnable,
As pride, covetise, wrath, and lechery
18 Now in the world be made commendable:
And thus they leave of angels the heavenly company.
20 Every man liveth so after his own pleasure,
And yet of their life they be nothing sure.
22 I see the more that I them forbear,
The worse they be fro year to year:
24 All that liveth appaireth fast.
Therefore I will in all the haste
26 Have a reckoning of every man's person;
For, and I leave the people thus alone
28 In their life and wicked tempests,
Verily they will become much worse than beasts;
30 For now one would by envy another up eat.
Charity they do all clean forget.
32 I hoped well that every man
In my glory should make his mansion,
34 And thereto I had them all elect;

36 But now I see, like traitors deject,
They thank me not for the pleasure that I to them meant,
Nor yet for their being that I them have lent.
38 I proffered the people great multitude of mercy,
And few there be that asketh it heartly:
40 They be so cumbered with worldly riches,
That needs on them I must do justice,
42 On every man living without fear. –
Where art thou, Death, thou mighty messenger?

44

Enter Death.

46

Death.

48 Almighty God, I am here at your will,
Your commandment to fulfil.

50

God.

52 Go thou to Everyman,
And shew him in my name
54 A pilgrimage he must on him take,
Which he in no wise may escape;
56 And that he bring with him a sure reckoning
Without delay or any tarrying.

58

[God withdraws.]

60

Death.

62 Lord, I will in the world go ren overall,
And cruelly out-search both great and small:
64 Every man will I beset that liveth beastly,
Out of God's laws, and dreadeth not folly;
66 He that loveth riches I will strike with my dart,
His sight to blind, and fro Heaven to depart,
68 Except that alms be his good friend,
In hell for to dwell, world without end. –
70 Lo, yonder I see Everyman walking:
Full little he thinketh on my coming;
72 His mind is on fleshly lusts and his treasure,
And great pain it shall cause him to endure
74 Before the Lord Heaven King. –

76

Enter Everyman, finely dressed.

78 Everyman, stand still; whidder art thou going
Thus gaily? Hast thou thy Maker forget?

80

Everyman.

82 Why askest thou? Wouldest thou weet?

84 **Death.**
Yea, sir, I will shew you; in great haste I am send to thee
86 Fro God out of his Majesty.

88 **Everyman.**
What, sent to me?
90

92 **Death.**
Yea, certainly:
Though you have forget him here,
94 He thinketh on thee in the Heavenly spere,
As, or we depart, thou shalt know.
96

98 **Everyman.**
What desireth God of me?
100

102 **Death.**
That shall I shew thee:
A reckoning he will needs have,
Without any lenger respite.
104

106 **Everyman.**
To give a reckoning, longer leisure I crave:
This blind matter troubleth my wit.
108

110 **Death.**
On thee thou must take a long journey:
Therefore thy book of count with thee thou bring,
112 For turn again thou cannot by no way;
And look thou be sure of thy reckoning,
114 For before God thou shalt answer and shew
Thy many bad deeds, and good but a few;
116 How thou hast spent thy life, and in what wise,
Before the chief lord of paradise.
118 Have ado we were in that way,
For, weest thou well, thou shalt make none attorney.
120

122 **Everyman.**
Full unready I am such reckoning to give.
I know thee not: what messenger art thou?
124

126 **Death.**
I am Death, that no man dreadeth;
For every man I rest, and no man spareth,
128 For it is God's commandment
That all to me should be obedient.
130

Everyman.

132 O Death, thou comest when I had thee least in mind!
In thy power it lieth me to save:
134 Yet of my good will I give thee, if thou will be kind;
Yea, a thousand pound shalt thou have,
136 And defer this matter till another day.

Death.

Everyman, it may not be by no way:
140 I set not by gold, silver, nor riches,
Ne by pope, emperor, king, duke, ne princes;
142 For, and I would receive gifts great,
All the world I might get;
144 But my custom is clean contrary:
I give thee no respite: come hence, and not tarry.

146

Everyman.

148 Alas! shall I have no lenger respite?
I may say Death giveth no warning:
150 To think on thee, it maketh my heart seke;
For all unready is my book of reckoning. –
152 But, [for] twelve year and I might have abiding,
My counting-book I would make so clear,
154 That my reckoning I should not need to fear.
Wherefore, Death, I pray thee for God's mercy!
156 Spare me, till I be provided of remedy!

Death.

Thee availeth not to cry, weep, and pray;
160 But haste thee lightly, that thou were gone that journey,
And preve thy friends, if thou can:
162 For, weet thou well, the tide abideth no man,
And in the world each living creature
164 For Adam's sin must die of nature.

Everyman.

Death, if I should this pilgrimage take,
168 And my reckoning surely make,
Shew me, for Saint Charity,
170 Should I not come again shortly?

Death.

No, Everyman, and thou be once there,
174 Thou mayst never more come here,
Trust me verily.

176

Everyman.

178 O gracious God, in the high seat celestial,

180 Have mercy on me in this most need! –
181 Shall I have no company fro this vale terrestrial
182 Of mine acquaintance, that way me to lead?

Death.

184 Yea, if ony be so hardy
185 That would go with thee, and bear thee company. –
186 Hie thee that thou were gone to God's magnificence,
187 Thy reckoning to give before his presence. –
188 What, weenest thou thy live is given thee,
189 And thy worldly goods also?

Everyman.

192 I had wend so verily.

Death.

194 Nay, nay; it was but lend thee;
195 For, as soon as thou art go,
196 Another awhile shall have it, and then go therefro,
197 Even as thou hast done. –
198 Everyman, thou art mad: thou hast thy wits five,
199 And here on earth will not amend thy live;
200 For suddenly I do come.

Everyman.

204 O wretched caitiff, whedder shall I flee,
205 That I might escape this endless sorrow? –
206 Now, gentle Death, spare me till to-morrow,
207 That I may amend me
208 With good advisement.

Death.

210 Nay, thereto I will not consent,
211 Nor no man will I respite;
212 But to the heart suddenly I shall smite
213 Without ony advisement.
214 And now out of thy sight I will me hie;
215 See thou make thee ready shortly,
216 For thou mayst say, this is the day
217 That no man living may scape away.

[Exit Death.]

Everyman.

222 Alas! I may well weep with sighs deep.
223 Now have I no manner of company
224 To help me in my journey, and me to keep,
225 And also my writing is full unready.

How shall I do now for to excuse me?
228 I would to God I had never be get;
To my soul a full great profit it had be,
230 For now I fear pains huge and great. –
The time passeth: – Lord, help, that all wrought! –
232 For though I mourn, it availeth nought:
The day passeth, and is almost ago;
234 I wot not well what for to do.
To whom were I best my complaint to make? –
236 What, and I to Fellowship thereof spake,
And shewed him of this sudden chance!
238 For in him is all mine affiance:
We have in the world so many a day
240 Be good friends in sport and play. –
I see him yonder certainly;
242 I trust that he will bear me company,
Therefore to him will I speak to ease my sorrow.

ACT II.

Everyman calls on his friends, family and wealth to accompany him on his journey.

Enter Fellowship.

1 ***Everyman.***

2 Well met, good Fellowship, and good morrow.

4 ***Fellowship.***

Everyman, good morrow, by this day: –

6 Sir, why lookest thou so piteously?

If anything be amiss, I pray thee, me say,

8 That I may help to remedy.

10 ***Everyman.***

Yea, good Fellowship, yea;

12 I am in great jeopardy.

14 ***Fellowship.***

My true friend, shew to me your mind:

16 I will not forsake thee, to my live's end,

In the way of good company.

18

Everyman.

20 That was well spoken and lovingly.

22 ***Fellowship.***

Sir, I must needs know your heaviness:

24 I have pity to see you in ony distress.

If ony have you wronged, ye shall revenged be,

26 Though I on the ground be slain for thee,

Though that I know before that I should die.

28

Everyman.

30 Verily, Fellowship, gramercy.

32 ***Fellowship.***

Tush! by thy thanks I set not a straw;

34 Shew me your grief, and say no more.

36 ***Everyman.***

If I my heart should to you break,

38 And then you to turn your mind fro me,

And would not me comfort, when ye hear me speak,

40 Then should I ten times sorrier be.

42 ***Fellowship.***

44 Sir, I say as I will do in deed.

46 **Everyman.**
Then be you a good friend at need;
I have found you true here-before.

48 **Fellowship.**
50 And so ye shall evermore;
For in faith, and thou go to hell,
52 I will not forsake thee by the way.

54 **Everyman.**
Ye speak like a good friend, I believe you well;
56 I shall deserve it, and I may.

58 **Fellowship.**
I speak of no deserving, by this day:
60 For he that will say and nothing do,
Is not worthy with good company to go;
62 Therefore shew me the grief of your mind,
As to your friend most loving and kind.

64 **Everyman.**
66 I shall shew you how it is:
Comanded I am to go a journey,
68 A long way, hard and dangerous,
And give a strait count without delay
70 Before the High Judge Adonai;
Wherefore, I pray you, bear me company,
72 As ye have promised in this journey.

74 **Fellowship.**
That is matter indeed: promise is duty;
76 But, and I should take such a vyage on me,
I know it well, it should be to my pain;
78 Also it make me afeared certain.
But let us take counsel here as well as we can,
80 For your words would fear a strong man.

82 **Everyman.**
Why, ye said, if I had need,
84 Ye would me never forsake, quick ne dead,
Though it were to hell truly.

86 **Fellowship.**
88 So I said certainly;
But such pleasures be set aside, the sooth to say,
90 And also if we took such a journey,

92 | When should we come again?
93 | **Everyman.**
94 | Nay, never again till the day of dome.
95 | **Fellowship.**
96 | In faith, then will not I come there.
97 | Who hath you these tidings brought?
98 | **Everyman.**
99 | Indeed, Death was with me here.
100 | **Fellowship.**
101 | Now, by God that all hath bought,
102 | If Death were the messenger,
103 | For no man that is living to-day,
104 | I will not go that loath journey,
105 | Not for the fadder that begat me.
106 | **Everyman.**
107 | Ye promised otherwise, pardie.
108 | **Fellowship.**
109 | I wot well I say so truly:
110 | And yet, if thou wilt eat and drink, and make good cheer,
111 | Or haunt to women the lusty company,
112 | I would not forsake you, while the day is clear,
113 | Trust me verily.
114 | **Everyman.**
115 | Yea, thereto ye would be ready;
116 | To go to mirth, solace and play,
117 | Your mind will sooner apply,
118 | Than to bear me company in my long journey.
119 | **Fellowship.**
120 | Now, in good faith, I will not that way;
121 | But, and thou will murder, or any man kill,
122 | In that I will help thee with a good will.
123 | **Everyman.**
124 | Oh, that is a simple advise indeed. –
125 | Gentle fellow, help me in my necessity:
126 | We have loved long, and now I need.
127 | And now, gentle Fellowship, remember me.
128 | **Fellowship.**
129 | Whedder ye have loved me or no,

140 By Saint John, I will not with thee go.

142 **Everyman.**
Yet, I pray thee, take the labour, and do so much for me,
144 To bring me forward, for Saint Charity,
And comfort me, till I come without the town.

146 **Fellowship.**
Nay, and thou would give me a new gown,
148 I will not a foot with thee go;
But, and thou had tarried, I would not have left thee so. –
150 And as now God speed thee in thy journey!
For from thee I will depart, as fast as I may.

152 **Everyman.**
154 Whedder away, Fellowship? will thou forsake me?

156 **Fellowship.**
Yea, by my fay; to God I betake thee.

158 **Everyman.**
160 Farewell, good Fellowship; for thee my heart is sore:
Adieu forever, I shall see thee no more.

162 **Fellowship.**
164 In faith, Everyman, farewell now at the end:
For you I will remember that parting is mourning,
166
[Exit Fellowship.]

168 **Everyman.**
170 Alack! shall we thus depart in deed? –
Ah, Lady, help! without ony more comfort,
172 Lo, Fellowship forsaketh me in my most need.
For help in this world, whedder shall I resort?
174 Fellowship here before with me would merry make,
And now little sorrow for me doth he take.
176 It is said, "in prosperity men friends may find,
Which in adversity be full unkind."
178 Now whedder for succour shall I flee,
Sith that Fellowship hath forsaken me? –
180 To my kinsmen I will truly,
Praying them to help me in my necessity;
182 I believe that they will do so,
For kind will creep where it may not go.
184 I will go say, for yonder I see them go: –
Where be ye now, my friends and kinsmen?
186

Enter Kindred and Cousin.

188

Kindred.

190

Here be we now at your commandment:

192

Cousin, I pray you, shew us your intent

194

In ony wise, and not spare.

194

Cousin.

196

Yea, Everyman, and to us declare

198

If ye be disposed to go ony whidder;

200

For, weet you well, [we] will live and die togidder.

202

Kindred.

204

In wealthe and woe we will with you hold,

206

For over his kin a man may be bold.

208

Everyman.

210

Gramercy, my friends and kinsmen kind;

212

Now shall I shew you the grief of my mind:

214

I was commanded by a messenger,

216

That is an high king's chief officer;

218

He bad me go on pilgrimage to my pain,

220

But I know well I shall never come again.

222

Also I must give a reckoning strait,

224

For I have a great enemy that hath me in wait,

226

Which intendeth me for to hinder.

228

Kindred.

230

What account is that which ye must render?

232

That would I know.

234

Everyman.

236

Of all my works I must shew,

238

How I have lived, and my days spent;

240

Also of ill deeds that I have used

242

In my time, sith life was me lent,

244

And of all virtues that I have refused:

246

Therefore, I pray you, go thidder with me

248

To help to make mine account, for Saint Charity.

250

Cousin.

252

What, to go thidder? Is that the matter?

254

Nay, Everyman, I had liever fast bread and water

256

All this five year and more.

258

Everyman.

260

Alas, that ever I was bore!

262

For now shall I never be merry,

264

Everyman.

266

Alas, that ever I was bore!

268

For now shall I never be merry,

270

For now shall I never be merry,

236 | If that you forsake me.

Kindred.

238 | Ah, sir! what, ye be a merry man!
Take good heart to you, and make no moan.
240 | But one thing I warn you, by Saint Anne,
As for me ye shall go alone.

242 |

Everyman.

244 | My cousin, will you not with me go?

246 | **Cousin.**

No, by our lady, I have the cramp in my toe:
248 | Trust not to me, for, so God me speed,
I will deceive you in your most need.

250 |

Kindred.

252 | It availeth not us to tice:
Ye shall have my maid with all my hert:
254 | She loveth to go to feasts, there to be nice,
And to dance, and abroad to stert;
256 | I will give her leave to help you in that journey,
If that you and she may agree.

258 |

Everyman.

260 | Now shew me the very effect of your mind:
Will you go with me, or abide behind?

262 |

Kindred.

264 | Abide behind! yea, that will I, and I may;
Therefore farewell till another day.

266 |

[Exit Kindred.]

268 |

Everyman.

270 | How should I be merry or glad?
For fair promises men to me make,
272 | But, when I have most need, they me forsake;
I am deceived, that maketh me sad.

274 |

Cousin.

276 | Cousin Everyman, farewell now,
For verily I will not go with you;
278 | Also of mine own [life] an unready reckoning
I have to account, therefore I make tarrying;
280 | Now God keep thee, for now I go.

282 |

[Exit Cousin.]

284 **Everyman.**

Ah, Jesus, is all come hereto?

286 Lo, fair words maketh fools fain;

They promise, and nothing will do certayne.

288 My kinsmen promised me faithfully

For to abide with me steadfastly;

290 And now fast away do they flee.

Even so Fellowship promised me.

292 What friend were best me of to provide?

I lose my time here longer to abide; –

294 Yet in my mind a thing there is:

All my life I have loved riches;

296 If that my Good now help me might,

It would make my heart full light.

298 I will speak to him in this distress: –

Where art thou, my Goods and Riches?

300

[*Goods speaks from a corner.*]

302

Goods.

304 Who calleth me? Everyman? what, hast thou haste?

I lie here in corners trussed and piled so high,

306 And in chests I am locked so fast,

Also sacked in bags, thou mayst see with thine eye,

308 I cannot steer; in packs low I lie!

What would ye have, lightly me say.

310

Everyman.

312 Come hidder, Good, in all the haste thou may;

For of counsel I must desire thee.

314

[*Goods comes forward.*]

316

Goods.

318 Sir, and ye in the world have sorrow or adversity,

That can I help you to remedy shortly.

320

Everyman.

322 It is another disease that grieveth me,

In this world it is not: I tell thee so,

324 I am sent for another way to go,

To give a strait account general

326 Before the highest Jupiter of all:

And all my life I have had my pleasure in thee,

328 Therefore I pray thee now go with me;

For, peradventure, thou mayst before God Almighty

330 My reckoning help to clean and purify:
For it is said ever among,
332 That money maketh all right that is wrong.

334 **Goods.**

Nay, Everyman, I sing another song:
336 I follow no man in such vyages,
For, and I went with thee,
338 Thou shoulds fare much the worse for me:
For because on me thou did set thy mind,
340 Thy reckoning I have made blotted and blind,
That thine account thou cannot make truly,
342 And that hast thou for the love of me.

344 **Everyman.**

That would grieve me full sore,
346 When I should come to that fearful answer: –
Up, let us go thither togidder.

348

Goods.

350 Nay, not so: I am too brittle, I may not endure;
I will follow [no] man one foot, be ye sure.

352

Everyman.

354 Alas! I have thee loved, and had great pleasure
All my life-days on good and treasure.

356

Goods.

358 That is to thy dampnation without lesing,
For my love is contrary to the love everlasting;
360 But if thou had me loved moderately during,
As to the poor give part of me,
362 Then shouldest thou not in this dolour be,
Nor in this great sorrow and care.

364

Everyman.

366 Lo, now was I deceived, or I was ware,
And all I may weet spending of time.

368

Goods.

370 What, weenest thou that I am thine?

372 **Everyman.**

I had went so.

374

Goods.

376 Nay, Everyman, I say no:
As for a while I was lent thee;

378 | A season thou hast had me in prosperity.
My condition is man's soul to kill:
380 | If I save one, a thousand I do spill.
Weenest thou that I will follow thee?
382 | Nay, fro this world not, verily.

384 | **Everyman.**
I had wend otherwise.

386 | **Goods.**
388 | Therefore to thy soul Good is a thief,
For when thou art dead, this is my guise,
390 | Another to deceive in the same wise,
As I have done thee, and all to his soul's reprefe.

392 | **Everyman.**
394 | O false Good, cursed thou be:
Thou traitor to God, thou hast deceived me,
396 | And caught me in thy snare.

398 | **Goods.**
Marry, thou brought thyself in care,
400 | Whereof I am right glad:
I must needs laugh, I cannot be sad.

402 | **Everyman.**
404 | Ah, Good, thou hast had long my heartily love;
I gave thee that which should be the Lord's above.
406 | But wilt thou not go with me indeed?
I pray thee truth to say.

408 | **Goods.**
410 | No, so God me speed;
Therefore farewell, and have good day.

412 | [Exit Goods.]
414 |

Everyman.
416 | O, to whom shall I make my moan,
For to go with me in that heavy journey?
418 | First Fellowship he said he would with me gone;
His words were very pleasant and gay,
420 | But afterward he left me alone.
Then spake I to my kinsmen all in despair,
422 | And also they gave me words fair,
They lacked no fair speaking;
424 | But all forsake me in the ending.
Then went I to my Goods that I loved best,

426 | In hope to have found comfort, but there had I least:
For my Goods sharply did me tell,
428 | That he bringeth many into hell.
Then of myself I was ashamed,
430 | And so I am worthy to be blamed:
Thus may I well myself hate.
432 | Of whom shall I now counsel take?
I think that I shall never speed,
434 | Till that I go to my Good Deed;
But, alas! she is so weak,
436 | That she can nother go nor speak:
Yet will I venter on her now. –

ACT III.

Everyman is joined by Good Deeds, and,
with the help of Knowledge, receives God's Grace.

1 **Everyman.**

2 My Good Deeds, where be you?

4 [Good Deeds speaks from the ground.]

6 **Good Deeds.**

Here I lie cold in the ground;

8 Thy sins have me so sore bound,

That I cannot stere.

10

Everyman.

12 O Good Deeds, I stand in fear;

I must you pray of counsel,

14 For help now should come right well.

16 **Good Deeds.**

Everyman, I have understanding

18 That ye be summoned account to make

Before Messias of Jerusalem King:

20 And you do by me, that journey with you will I take.

22 **Everyman.**

Therefore I come to you my moan to make:

24 I pray you, that ye will go with me.

26 **Good Deeds.**

I would full fain, but I cannot stand verily.

28

Everyman.

30 Why, is there onything on you fall?

32 **Good Deeds.**

Yea, sir, I may thank you of all:

34 If ye had parfitly cheered me,

Your book of count full ready had be. –

36 Look, the books of your works and deeds eke

As how they lie under the feet,

38 To your soul's heaviness.

40 [Everyman tries to read book of deeds.]

42 **Everyman.**

Our Lord Jesus help me,

44 For one letter herein can I not see.

46 **Good Deeds.**

There is a blind reckoning in time of distress!

48

Everyman.

50 Good Deeds, I pray you, help me in this need,

Or else I am for ever dampnèd indeed!

52

Therefore help me to make reckoning

Before the Redeemer of all thing,

54

That king is, and was, and ever shall.

56 **Good Deeds.**

Everyman, I am sorry of your fall,

58

And fain would I help you, and I were able.

60 **Everyman.**

Good Deeds, your counsel, I pray you, give me.

62

Good Deeds.

64

That shall I do verily,

Though that on my feet I may not go:

66

I have a sister that shall with you also,

Called Knowledge, which shall with you abide,

68

To help you to make that dreadful reckoning.

70

[Enter Knowledge.]

72 **Knowledge.**

Everyman, I will go with thee, and be thy guide,

74

In thy most need to go by thy side.

76 **Everyman.**

In good condition I am now in every thing,

78

And am whole content with this good thing:

Thanked be God my Creator.

80

Good Deeds.

82

And when he hath brought you there

Where thou shalt heal thee of thy smart,

84

Then go you with your reckoning and your good deeds togidder,

For to make thee joyful at the heart

86

Before the blessed Trinity.

88 **Everyman.**

My Good Deeds, gramercy:

90

I am well content certainly

With your words sweet.

92

Knowledge.

94 | Now go we togidder lovingly
 To Confession, that cleansing river.

96

Everyman.

98 | For joy I weep: I would we there were;
 But I pray you, give me cognition:
 100 | Where dwelleth that holy man Confession?

102 | **Knowledge.**

In the house of salvation;
 104 | We shall find him in that place,
 That shall us comfort by God's grace. –

106

[*Confession enters;*

108

Knowledge takes Everyman to Confession.]

110 | Lo, this is Confession: kneel down, and ask mercy;
 For he is in good conceit with God Almighty.

112

Everyman. [*To Confession*]

114 | O glorious fountain that all uncleanness doth clarify,
 Wash fro me the spots of vice unclean,
 116 | That on me no sin may be seen;
 I come with Knowledge for my redemption,
 118 | Redempt with heart and full contrition,
 For I am commanded a pilgrimage to take,
 120 | And great accounts before God to make.
 Now I pray you, Shrift, moder of salvation,
 122 | Help my Good Deeds for my piteous exclamation.

124 | **Confession.**

I know your sorrow well, Everyman:
 126 | Because with Knowledge ye come to me,
 I will you comfort as well as I can;
 128 | And a precious jewel I will give thee,
 Called *penance*, voider of adversity:
 130 | Therewith shall your body chastised be
 With abstinence and perseverance in God's service;
 132 | Here shall you receive that scourge of me,

134

[*Confession shows scourge.*]

136 | Which is penance strong that ye must endure.
 Remember thy Saviour was scourged for thee
 138 | With sharp scourges, and suffered it patiently:
 So must thou, or thou scape that painful pilgrimage. –
 140 | Knowledge, keep him in this vyage,
 And by that time Good Deeds will be with thee; –

142

[*Confession gives scourge to Knowledge.*]

144

[*To Everyman*] But in anywise be sicker of mercy,
 146 For your time draweth fast; and ye will saved be,
 Ask God mercy, and he will grant truly:
 148 When with the scourge of penance man doth him bind,
 The oil of forgiveness then shall he find.

150

Everyman.

152 Thanked be God for his gracious work,
 For now I will my penance begin:
 154 This hath rejoiced and lighted my heart,
 Though the knots be painful and hard within.

156

Knowledge.

158 Everyman, look your penance that ye fulfil,
 What pain that ever it to you be;
 160 And Knowledge shall give you counsel at will,
 How your account ye shall make clearly.

162

Everyman.

164 O eternal God, O heavenly figure,
 O way of rightwiseness, O goodly vision,
 166 Which descended down in a virgin pure,
 Because he would Everyman redeem,
 168 Which Adam forfeited by his disobedience,
 O blessed Godhead, elect and high Divine,
 170 Forgive me my grievous offence;
 Here I cry thee mercy in this presence!
 172 O ghostly treasure, O ransomer and redeemer!
 Of all the world hope and conduyter,
 174 Mirror of joy, foundatour of mercy,
 Which enlumineth Heaven and earth thereby:
 176 Hear my clamorous complaint, though it late be;
 Receive my prayers unworthy in this heavy life;
 178 Though I be a sinner most abominable,
 Yet let my name be written in Moyses' table. –
 180 O Mary, pray to the Maker of all thing
 Me for to help at my ending,
 182 And save me fro the power of my enemy,
 For Death assaileth me strongly.
 184 And, Lady, that I may by mean of thy prayer
 Of your son's glory to be partiner,
 186 By the mean of his passion I it crave;
 I beseech you help my soul to save. –
 188 Knowledge, give me the scourge of penance:

190 My flesh therewith shall give acquittance;
191 I will now begin, if God give me grace.

192 [Knowledge gives scourge to Everyman.]

194 **Knowledge.**

195 Everyman, God give you time and space!
196 Thus I bequeath you in the hands of our Saviour;
197 Now may you make your reckoning sure.

198

Everyman.

199 In the name of all the Holy Trinity,
200 My body punished sore shall be:
201 Take this, body, for the sin of the flesh; –

202 [Everyman removes his fine clothes
203 and whips himself.]

206

207 Also thou delightest to go gay and fresh;
208 And in the way of dampnation thou did me bring:
209 Therefore suffer now strokes and punishing. –
210 Now of penance I will wade the water clear,
211 To save me from Purgatory, that sharp fire.

212

[Good Deeds rises from the ground.]

214

Good Deeds.

215 I thank God, now I can walk and go,
216 And am delivered of my sickness and woe;
217 Therefore with Everyman I will go, and not spare:
218 His good works I will help him to declare.

220

Knowledge.

221 Now, Everyman, be merry and glad:
222 Your Good Deeds cometh now, ye may not be sad.
223 Now is your Good Deeds whole and sound,
224 Going upright upon the ground.

226

Everyman.

225 My heart is light, and shall be evermore;
226 Now will I smite faster than I did before.

230

[Everyman scourges himself again.]

232

Good Deeds.

233 Everyman pilgrim, my special friend,
234 Blessed be thou without end,
235 For thee is preparete the eternal glory:

238 Ye have me made whole and sound;
Therefore I will bide by thee in every stound.

240 **Everyman.**

Welcome, my Good Deeds, now I hear thy voice;
242 I weep for very sweetness of love.

244 **Knowledge.**

Be no more sad, but ever rejoice;
246 God seeth thy living in his trone above.
Put on this garment to thy behove,
248 Which is wet with your tears,
Or else before God you may it miss,
250 When ye to your journey's end come shall.

252 *[Knowledge gives garment to Everyman.]*

254 **Everyman.**

Gentle Knowledge, what do ye it call?

256

Knowledge.

258 It is a garment of sorrow,
From pain it will you borrow:
260 Contrition it is,
That getteth forgiveness;
262 It pleaseth God passing well.

264 **Good Deeds.**

Everyman, will you wear it for your hele?

266

[Everyman puts on the garment of sorrow.]

268

Everyman.

270 Now blessed be Jesu, Mary's son,
For now have I on true contrition;
272 And let us go now without tarrying. –
Good Deeds, have we clear our reckoning?

274

[Good Deeds takes up the book of account.]

276

Good Deeds.

278 Yea, indeed, I have [it] here.

280 **Everyman.**

Then I trust we need not fear;
282 Now, friends, let us not part in twain.

284 **Knowledge.**

Nay, Everyman, that will we not certain.

286

Good Deeds.

288

Yet must thou lead with thee
Three persons of great might.

290

Everyman.

292

Who should they be?

294

Good Deeds.

296

Discretion and Strength they hight,
And thy Beauty may not abide behind.

298

Knowledge.

300

Also ye must call to mind
Your Five Wits as for your councillors.

302

Good Deeds.

304

You must have them ready at all hours.

306

Everyman.

308

How shall I get them hidder?

310

Knowledge.

312

You must call them all togidder,
And they will hear you incontinent.

314

Everyman.

My friends, come hidder, and be present,
Discretion, Strength, my Five Wits and Beauty.

ACT IV.

Everyman is joined by his personal attributes.

Enter Beauty, Strength, Discretion and Five Wits.

1 **Beauty.** [*To Good Deeds*]

2 Here at your will we be all ready;
3 What will ye that we should do?

4

Good Deeds.

6 That ye would with Everyman go,
7 And help him in his pilgrimage:
8 Advise you, will ye with him or not in that vyage?

10 **Strength.**

11 We will bring him all thidder
12 To his help and comfort, ye may believe me.

14 **Discretion.**

15 So will we go with him all togidder.

16

Everyman.

18 Almighty God, loved might Thou be!
19 I give Thee laud that I have hidder brought
20 Strength, Discretion, Beauty, and Five Wits; lack I nought.
21 And my Good Deeds, with Knowledge clear,
22 All be in my company at my will here;
23 I desire no more to my business.

24

Strength.

25 And I, Strength, will by you stand in distress,
26 Though thou would in battle fight on the ground.

28

Five Wits.

29 And though it were through the world round,
30 We will not depart for sweet ne for sour.

32

Beauty.

33 No more will I unto death's hour,
34 Whatsoever thereof befall.

36

Discretion.

37 Everyman, advise you first of all,
38 Go with a good advisement and deliberation;
39 We all give you virtuous monition
40 That all shall be well.

42

Everyman.

44

My friends, hearken what I will tell:
I pray God reward you in His Heaven spere.

46

Now hearken all that be here,
For I will make my testament

48

Here before you all present:
In alms half my good I will give with my hands twain

50

In the way of charity with good intent,
And the other half still shall remain

52

In queath, to be returned there it ought to be;
This I do in despite of the fiend of hell,

54

To go quite out of his parell,
Ever after this day.

56

Knowledge.

58

Everyman, hearken what I say:
Go to priesthood, I you advise,
60 And receive of him in ony wise
The holy sacrament and ointment togidder,
62 Then shortly see ye turn again hidder;
We will all abide you here.

64

Five Wits.

66

Yea, Everyman, hie you that ye ready were:
There is no emperor, king, duke, ne baron,
68 That from God hath commission
As hath the least priest in the world being;
70 For of the blessed sacraments pure and benign,
He beareth the keys, and thereof hath the cure
72 For man's redemption, it is ever sure,
Which God for our soul's medicine
74 Gave us out of his heart with great pain,
Here in this transitory life for thee and me.

76

The blessed sacraments seven there be:
Baptism, confirmation, with priesthood good,
78 And the sacrament of God's precious flesh and blood,
Marriage, the holy extreme unction, and penance;
80 These seven be good to have in remembrance,
Gracious sacraments of high divinity.

82

Everyman.

84

Fain would I receive that holy body,
And meekly to my ghostly fadder I will go.

86

Five Wits.

88

Everyman, that is the best that ye can do:

90 God will you to salvation bring,
 For priesthood exceedeth all other thing.
 To us holy scripture they do teach,
 92 And converteth man fro sin Heaven to reach;
 God hath to them more power given
 94 Than to ony angel that is in Heaven:
 With five words he may consecrate
 96 God's body in flesh and blood to take,
 And handleth his Maker between his hands;
 98 The priest bindeth and unbindeth all bands
 Both in earth and in Heaven; –
 100 Thou ministers all the sacraments seven;
 Though we kiss thy feet, thou were worthy:
 102 Thou art surgeon that cureth sin deadly;
 No remedy may we find under God,
 104 But all only priesthood. –
 Everyman, God gave priest[s] that dignity,
 106 And setteth them in his stead among us to be:
 Thus be they above angels in degree.

108

*[Everyman goes to the Priest
 to receive the last sacraments.]*

110

112 **Knowledge.**

If priests be good, it is so surely;
 114 But when Jesu hanged on the cross with great smart,
 There he gave us out of his blessed heart
 116 The same sacrament in great torment.
 He sold them not to us, that Lord omnipotent:
 118 Therefore Saint Peter the Apostle doth say,
 That Jesus' curse hath all they,
 120 Which God their Saviour do buy or sell,
 Or they for ony money do take or tell.
 122 Sinful priests giveth the sinners example bad:
 Their children sitteth by other men's fires, I have hard,
 124 And some haunteth women's company,
 With unclean life, as lusts of lechery;
 126 These be with sin made blind.

128 **Five Wits.**

I trust to God, no such may we find:
 130 Therefore let us priesthood honour,
 And follow their doctrine for our soul's succour;
 132 We be their sheep, and they shepherds be,
 By whom we all be kept in surety. –
 134 Peace! for yonder I see Everyman come,
 Which hath made true satisfaction.

136

Good Deeds.

138 Methink it is he indeed.

140

Re-Enter Everyman carrying a crucifix.

142

Everyman.

Now Jesu be your alder speed!

144

I have received the sacrament for my redemption,
And then mine extreme unction;

146

Blessed be all they that counselled me to take it. –
And now, friends, let us go without longer respite;

148

I thank God that ye have tarried so long.
Now set each of you on this rod your hond,

150

And shortly follow me;
I go before, there I would be:

152

God be our guide.

154

[They grasp the crucifix in turn.]

156

Strength.Everyman, we will not fro you go,
Till ye have done this vyage long.

158

160

Discretion.

I, Discretion, will bide by you also.

162

Knowledge.

164

And though this pilgrimage be never so strong,
I will never part you fro:

166

Everyman, I will be as sure by thee
As ever I did by Judas Maccabee.

ACT V.

His account book ready, Everyman dies and
goes to meet God, accompanied only by Good Deeds.

[*Everyman comes to his grave.*]

1 ***Everyman.***

2 Alas! I am so faint I may not stand,
My limmes under me doth fold; –
4 Friends, let us not turn again to this land,
Not for all the world's gold;
6 For into this cave must I creep,
And turn to the earth, and there to sleep.

8

Beauty.

10 What, into this grave? Alas!

12 ***Everyman.***

Yea, there shall ye consume more and less.

14

Beauty.

16 And what, should I smoder here?

18 ***Everyman.***

Yea, by my faith, and never more appear;
20 In this world live no more we shall,
But in Heaven before the highest Lord of all.

22

Beauty.

24 I cross out all this: adieu, by Saint Johan;
I take my tap in my lap, and am gone.

26

Everyman.

28 What, Beauty? whidder will ye?

30 ***Beauty.***

Peace! I am deaf, I look not behind me,
32 Not and thou wouldest give me all the gold in thy chest.

34

[*Exit Beauty.*]

36 ***Everyman.***

Alas! whereto may I trust?
38 Beauty goth fast away fro me:
She promised with me to live and die.

40

Strength.

42 | Everyman, I will thee also forsake and deny:
Thy game liketh me not at all.

44

Everyman.

46 | Why then ye will forsake me all: –
Strength, tarry a little space.

48

Strength.

50 | Nay, sir, by the rod of grace,
I will hie me from thee fast,
52 | Though thou weep to thy heart to brast.

54 | **Everyman.**

Ye would ever bide by me, ye said.

56

Strength.

58 | Yea, I have you fer enough conveyed:
Ye be old enough, I understand,
60 | Your pilgrimage to take on hand;
I repent me that I hidder came.

62

Everyman.

64 | Strength, you to displease I am to blame;
Will ye break promise that is debt?

66

Strength.

68 | In faith, I care not;
Thou art but a fool to complain:
70 | You spend your speech and waste your brain;
Go, thrist thee into the ground.

72

[Exit Strength.]

74

Everyman.

76 | I had wend surer I should you have found: –
He that trusteth in his Strength,
78 | She him deceiveth at the length;
Both Strength and Beauty forsaketh me,
80 | Yet they promised me fair and lovingly.

82 | **Discretion.**

Everyman, I will after Strength be gone;
84 | As for me, I will leave you alone.

86 | **Everyman.**

Why, Discretion, will ye forsake me?

88

Discretion.

90 | Yea, in faith, I will go fro thee;
For when Strength goth before,
92 | I follow after evermore.

94 | **Everyman.**
Yet, I pray thee, for love of the Trinity,
96 | Look in my grave once piteously.

98 | **Discretion.**
Nay, so nigh will I not come. –
100 | Farewell, everychone.

102 | *[Exit Discretion.]*

104 | **Everyman.**
O, all thing faileth, save God alone,
106 | Beauty, Strength, and Discretion:
For, when Death bloweth his blast,
108 | They all ren fro me full fast.

110 | **Five Wits.**
Everyman, my leave now of thee I take;
112 | I will follow the other, for here I thee forsake.

114 | **Everyman.**
Alas! then may I wail and weep,
116 | For I took you for my best friend.

118 | **Five Wits.**
I will no lenger thee keep:
120 | Now farewell, and there an end.

122 | *[Exit Five Wits.]*

124 | **Everyman.**
O, Jesu, help! all hath forsaken me.

126 | **Good Deeds.**
128 | Nay, Everyman, I will bide with thee,
I will not forsake thee indeed;
130 | Thou shalt find me a good friend at need.

132 | **Everyman.**
Gramercy, Good Deeds, now may I true friends see.
134 | They have forsaken me everychone:
I loved them better than my good deeds alone. –
136 | Knowledge, will ye forsake me also?

138 | **Knowledge.**
Yea, Everyman, when ye to death shall go;

140 | But not yet for no manner of danger.

142 | **Everyman.**

Gramercy, Knowledge, with all my heart.

144 |

Knowledge.

146 | Nay, yet I will not from here depart,
Till I see where ye shall be come.

148 |

Everyman.

150 | Methink, alas! that I must be gone
To make my reckoning, and my debts pay,
152 | For I see my time is nigh spent away. –
Take ensample, all ye that this do hear or see,
154 | How they that I love best do forsake me,
Except my Good Deeds, that bideth truly.

156 |

Good Deeds.

158 | All earthly things is but vanity:
Beauty, Strength, and Discretion do man forsake,
160 | Foolish friends and kinsmen, that fair spake;
All fleeth save Good Deeds, and that am I.

162 |

Everyman.

164 | Have mercy on me, God most mighty,
And stand by me, thou moder and maid Mary.

166 |

Good Deeds.

168 | Fear not, I will speak for thee.

170 | **Everyman.**

Here I cry, God mercy!

172 |

Good Deeds.

174 | Short our end and minish our pain:
Let us go, and never come again.

176 |

Everyman.

178 | Into thy hands, Lord, my soul I commend:
Receive it, Lord, that it be not lost.
180 | As thou me boughtest, so me defend,
And save me from the fiend's boast,
182 | That I may appear with that blessed host
That shall be saved at the day of dome:
184 | *In manus tuas*, of mights most,
For ever *commendo spiritum meum*.

186 |

[*Everyman and Good Deeds sink into the grave.*]

188

Knowledge.

190 Now hath he suffered that we all shall endure,
The Good Deeds shall make all sure.

192 Now hath he made ending:
Methinketh that I hear angels sing,

194 And make great joy and melody,
Where Everyman's soul received shall be.

196

[Enter Angel.]

198

The Angel.

200 Come, excellent elect spouse to Jesu,
Here above thou shalt go,

202 Because of thy singular virtue.

Now the soul is taken the body fro,

204 Thy reckoning is crystal clear;

Now shalt thou into the heavenly spere,

206 Unto the which all ye shall come

That liveth well, after the day of dome.

208

[Exeunt Knowledge and Angel.]

EPILOGUE.

Enter Doctor.

1 **Doctor.**
2 This moral all men may have in mind:
Ye hearers, take it of worth, old and young,
4 And forsake Pride, for he deceiveth you in the end;
And remember, Beauty, Five Wits, Strength, and Discretion,
6 They all at the last do every man forsake,
Save his Good Deeds, there doth he take.
8 But beware, and they be small,
Before God he hath no help at all;
10 None excuse may be there for every man.
Alas, how shall he do than?
12 For after death amends may no man make,
For then mercy and pity doth him forsake;
14 If his reckoning be not clear, when he doth come,
God will say, *Ite, maledicti, in ignem eternum;*
16 And he that hath his account whole and sound,
High in Heaven he shall be crowned;
18 Unto which place God bring us all thidder,
That we may live body and soul togidder;
20 Thereto help the Trinity:
Amen, say ye, for Saint Charity.

THUS ENDETH THIS MORAL PLAY
OF EVERYMAN.

FINIS.