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Edited by Anna C. Paues

Excerpt

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PROLOGUE

God¹ made mankynde² aftur his owne ymage & lyk-
 nesse, & put hym in paradys þat was a lond of blysse, &
 3ef³ hym þat lond to haue y-woned þer-ynne euer more
 & neuer to han be ded, so þat he were buxom to hym & dyde
 what he bede hym and kepte trewliche⁴ his heste as he was 5
 y-holde by pure kynde. For man ne⁵ hadde no þing of hym-
 self, bote al þinge þat he hadde it was of Goddis 3efynge,
 boþe his owne beynge & his wonynge; and al þynge þat hym
 neded God graunteded hym, & forbode hym no þing, but
 þat he ne schulde noȝt eten of a tre þat was a-mydde⁶ 10
 paradys, þat was y-cleped⁷ a tre of knowynge boþe good &
 yuel. For God byhyȝte hym in certeyn, þat what day he
 ete of þis tre he schulde be deed; & of alle þe oþer trees
 of paradys God 3ef hym leue to ete. And for man ne schulde
 not ben alone in þis blysse, he made of man a womman, to 15
 ben his helpe, & to ben parsener of þis blysse, & seyde he[o]⁸
 schulde ben his wyf. God made also þe kynde angelis, &
 putte hem in þe blisse of heuene. & a-mong hem he made
 on, more wys, bryȝtere, & fayrere, & more of myȝt þan his
 felowes weren, & clep hym Lucyfer (þat is⁹ to seye, a berere 20
 of lyȝt)¹⁰. Bot whan þis Lucyfer was maad in al⁹ þis nobeleye
 & in blisse, he byheld hym-self so fayr, so myȝty, & so wys,

¹ The names *Maria*, *Jesus*, *Johannes* stand at the head of the MSS; fol.

1 S. P.

² *yn* nearly obliterated, S.³ *3af* P.⁴ *trewlich*. on

erasure, in darker ink, S.

⁵ *was* follows, crossed out in red ink, P.⁶ illegible, P.⁷ *eped* illegible, P.⁸ *she* with *sh* on erasure, S. þat 3he P.⁹ om. P.¹⁰ the gloss added at the bottom of the page, P.

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& ne þoʒte not how his God had y-maad hym so of noʒt, to
 ben in al þat blisse¹ in þe degre of² a seruaunt, to wor-
 schypen his God as a trewe seruaunt schulde; & of his
 fayrnesse he fel in-to a pryde, & sayde in his þouʒt, Y wole
 5 sette my sege in þe norþ, & y³ wole⁴ be lyche hym þat is
 heyʒest in heuene. & many angeles þat weren in heuene
 assenteden to þis þouʒt of pryde þat Lucyfer had conceyued.
 & þo³ God schewed hym what he was, and by whom he was
 y-maad of noʒt, & þo Lucyfer knew hym-self & knew his
 10 trespas þat he³ hadde y-don a-ʒeyn his God, he fel a-down
 fro þis blisse of heuene in-to þe deppeste⁵ sorowe & peyne of
 helle, þat was a dispeyr of forʒeuenesse of his synne þat
 he hadde y-don aʒeyns his God. & alle þilke angelis þat
 assenteden to hym fellyn down fro þe blisse of heuene in-to
 15 þe peynes of helle. Bote noʒt alle glyche⁶ depe: for þilke
 þat weren heyʒest in blysse, aftur þe doynge of hure trespas,
 þei weren deppest in peyne. For al hure wysdom, hure
 myʒt, & hure bryʒtnesse, þat encresed hure blisse, aftur þei
 hadden y-synned, encresed hure peyne: & þe grettest peyne
 20 þat þei hadden was dispeyr of forʒeuenesse of hure synne.
 For whan þei knewen how God hadde y-maad hem of noʒt, in
 so parfyt kynde as þei weren y-maad, & y-putte hem in
 blisse to hauen euere more y-dwelled þerynne, & þei of hure
 owne þouʒtes vnkyndeliche forsoken⁷ hure God, & wor-
 25 schupeden anoþer as god þat God hade y-maad of⁸ noʒt, þei
 fellen in-to sorowe for þis trespas, & þouʒten hure trespas so
 gret þat hem þoʒte God ne myʒte not forʒeuen hem hure
 trespas. & so þei fellen in-to dispeyr of forʒeuenesse, & þat⁹
 dispeyr is þe depe pitt of helle, in þe whiche lyþ Lucyfer &
 30 many opere of his felawes þat fellen wiþ hym from heuene.
 And þo Lucyfer was y-falle from blisse in-to peyne, he had
 enuye to mankynde þat wonyed in paradys, & þoʒte he
 wolde make man lese þe blysse of paradys, as he³ for his
 pryde had y-lost þe blysse of heuene. And so he made hym-
 35 self in þe lyknesse of an edder, & come to þe womman þat was

¹ fol. 1^b S. ² fol. 1^b P. ³ om. P. ⁴ changed to *wolde* by a later hand, S. *welc* P. ⁵ followed by *pet of helle*, crossed out. P. ⁶ a *lyche* P.
⁷ fol. 2 S. ⁸ fol. 2 P. ⁹ added above the line, P.

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more frele, more unkunynge þan was man, and axed hure why God had forbeden hem þat þei ne schulde noȝt ete of alle þe tren þat weren in paradys. & þe womman answered, & seyde, ‘We eteþ of þe tren þat beþ in paradys, bote of þe tre þat is a-myddre paradys we ne eteþ noȝt, lest we dyen.’⁵ þo seyde þe serpent, ‘Nay, dye schul ȝe noȝt, for God wot wel þat what day ȝe eten þer-of, ȝoure yen schulen ben opened, & ȝe schulen ben as goddis, knowynge boþe good & yuel.’ & þo þe womman seyð þat it was a good tre to eten of, &¹ fayr in seyng & lykyng to þe syȝt. & heo ete¹⁰ þer-of, & ȝaf hure housbonde þer-of; & he ete þer-of also. & þo hure yen were opened & þei seyen hem-self naked; & for schame þei maden hem breches² of leues to huyden³ wiþ hure membres; & þei wenten⁴ to huyden hem in paradys from þe syȝt of God. & þo God clep Adam & axed hym¹⁵ where he was; & Adam seyde, ‘Lord, for þat y was naked y hudde me from þi syȝt.’ & God seyde to hym, ‘Who schewed þe þat þou were naked? bote for þou ete of þe tre þat y forbedde þe þat þou ne schuldest ete þer-of.’ & þo seyde Adam, ‘þe womman þat þou ȝefe me to my felaw ȝef⁵ me²⁰ of þe tre, & y⁶ ete þer-of.’ And God seyde to þe womman, ‘Why duest þou þus?’ & heo⁷ seyde, ‘þe edder bygyled me, & y ete þer-of.’ & God seyde to þe serpent, ‘For þou hast y-do þus, þou art a-cursed a-mong alle þe beestes of þe erþe.’ & God seyde to þe womman, ‘Y wole multiþle þi²⁵ greuaunces & þi⁶ conceyfnges, & in sorow þou schalt⁸ brynge forþ chylþren, & vnder mannes power þou schalt ben, & he schal be þi lord.’ & God seyde to Adam, ‘For þou herde þi wyf & ete of þe tre þat y forbed⁹ þe, acursed be þe erþe in þi werk: in traueyle þou schalt eten of þe erþe alle þe dayes of³⁰ þi lyf. Breres & þornes þe erþe schal brynge þe forþ, and þou schalt eten herbes of þe erþe. In swot þou schalt ete þi bred, forto þou come aȝeyn in-to þe lond þat þou art y-take out of: for pouder þou art, & in-to¹⁰ pouder þou schalt be turned a-ȝeyn.’ þo God cloþed Adam and¹¹ Eue in cloþing of³⁵

¹ & a P. ² fol. 2^b P. ³ *heden hem P.* ⁴ fol. 2^b S. ⁵ *ȝaf P.*
⁶ om. P. ⁷ *ȝe P.* ⁸ *ben & he schal be þi lord* follows, crossed out, P.
⁹ *forbad P.* ¹⁰ *þe* follows, P. ¹¹ fol. 3 P.

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beestes skynnes, & seyde, ‘Lo, Adam is y-maad as on of us,
 knowynge boþe good & yuel: and þerfore loke 3e now
 lest he take of þe tre of lyf & ete & lyue euere more.’
 & þo God putt hym out of þe blisse of paradys to worchen in
 5 þe erþe, & sette¹ to-fore paradys Cherubyn wiþ a brennenge
 swerd in his hond to kepe þe tre of lyf. & þo Adam knew
 his wyf, & heo² conceyued and brouȝte forþ a chyld þat þei
 clepen³ Caym. And aftur hym he brouȝte forþ an oþer⁴
 chyld, & hym þei clepen³ Abel: & so in proces of tyme þer
 10 comen of Adam & of his wyf muche⁵ pupel in þe worlde.
 Bote þei drowen to wykkednesse, & leueden goodnesse. &
 God, seyng⁶ þat man had drawen⁷ hym to wykkednesse in þe
 lond of blisse, & also in þe worlde þat was a lond of trauayle
 & of peyne, seyde hym a-þouȝt þat he had y-mad man. &
 15 for hure synne he þouȝte to take vengauce on hem⁸, &
 maken an ende of mankynde. & so he sende a gret flod, &
 dreynte þe worlde & alle þe men þat weren in þe worlde, save
 Noe & his wyf & his þre sones & hure wyfes, þat weren safed
 in Noes schyp þat God bede⁹ hym maken er þan þe flod
 20 come. & þo God seyȝ þe frelenesse of man, he by-hyȝte¹⁰ þat
 he ne wolde noȝt take such vengauce no more on man by
 flodes of watir; & in tokene of pees by-twene hym & man,
 he putte his reyn-bowe in þe cloudes of heuene, & þe streng
 toward þe erþe in tokene of pees bytween hym & man. For
 25 by-fore þat¹¹ flod was þer neuere reynbowe y-seyȝe.

“Seþþe euerych man¹² is y-holde by Cristis lawe of
 charite to louen his broþer as hym-selfe, 3e, þat han of Godes
 grace more knowynge þan we han þat beþ lewed & vn-
 kunnyng, beþ y-holde to techen us þinges þat beþ nedeful
 30 to þe hele of¹³ oure soules; þat is to seye, what þing is
 plesynge to God, & what displeseþ hym also. & y preye
 ȝow purcharite to techen us lewed men trewlyche þe soþe
 aftur oure axynge.”

“Broþer, y knowe wel þat y am holde by Cristis lawe
 35 to parforme þyn axynge; bote naþeles we beþ now so fer

¹ fol. 3 S. ² 3he P. ³ clepeden P. ⁴ noþer P. ⁵ mochel P. ⁶ ng in
 paler ink on erasure, S. ⁷ y drawen P. ⁸ him P. ⁹ bad P.
¹⁰ fol. 3^b P. ¹¹ lord follows, crossed out, P. ¹² mam P. ¹³ fol. 3^b S.

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y-fallen a-wey from Cristis lawe, þat ȝif¹ y wolde answere to þyn axynges y moste in cas vnderfonge þe deþ. & þou wost wel þat a man is y-holden to kepe² his lyf as longe as he may. & parawnter it is spedful to holden oure pes a whyle forto³ þat God foucheþ saf þat his wille be y-knowe: 5 for now þe worlde is ful of wykkednesse, & men han⁴ more desyr to lyfen in hure fleschlyche lustes in synne þan to plesen God in forsakyng synne. & y seye þis in certeyn, þat þe¹ comune of þe worlde haþ forsaken God & his hestes & heryeþ false goddes. & þat is to al mankynde a gret matere 10 of sorowe: to sen þe grete loue þat God haþ y-schewed to mankynde, & to sen on owre syde how lytel we loueþ hym aȝeynward.”

“[L]efe⁵ broþer, y trowe ful wel þat þe worlde lyfeþ in muche wykkednesse of synne. Bote y trowe þat many men, ȝef 15 þei knewen how þei myȝten plesen hure God, þei ne wolde not spare for drede of no man, ne for loue nouþer, to don þing þat were to his plesynge. And y trowe þat oure God be so good & so mercyful⁶, þat, ȝif we knowlechen to hym oure synnes, and forþynketh oure trespas, & ben in ful wille to 20 offenden hym no more, þan oure hope is þat he wole forȝeuen us oure trespas ȝif we axen mercy. For so he seyde⁷ by Ezechyel þe prophete, & also by⁸ Dauid in þe Sauter, & by Jeremye also; & Crist seyde also, þat he ne wolde⁹ noȝt a synful mannes deþ, bote þat he be turned from¹⁰ his synne 25 and lyfe. And oure hope is þat euere more his grace is redy to hem þat axeþ his grace, & putteþ in hym al hure¹¹ trust. And¹² y trowe þat he wolde, þat men wysten how þei shulden plesen hym. For he sende his sone þat was his wysdom adown in-to þe world¹³, to techen mankynde how þei schulden 30 plesen his Fadur. Bote y trowe, for men weren to wordlyche, þei ne hadde¹⁴ no safer in his techynge; & y trowe ful wel þat for men han y-trust more in hure owne¹⁵ wysdom þan in

¹ om. P. ² to kepe in the margin, first corrector's hand, S. ³ tyl P.
⁴ fol. 4 P. ⁵ The rubric in S is an I. ⁶ fol. 4 S.
⁷ de nearly effaced, S. ⁸ be P. ⁹ de on erasure, S. ¹⁰ fro P.
¹¹ oure P. ¹² fol. 4^b P. ¹³ word P. ¹⁴ hedde P. ¹⁵ In paler ink in the margin, S. om. P.

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Godes wysdom, þerfore God haþ y-let hem so longe y-worþe,
 þat we beþ þoroȝ hure wysdom y-fallen into synne: þat we
 mowen knowe wel þat mannes wysdom ne is bote folye.
 For y trowe þat verrey wysdom be to drede God, and verrey
 5 vnderstondynge to gon away from synne, & so seiþ Iob.
 Bote he seiþ þat þis wysdom ne is noȝt y-founde in þe lond
 of men þat [l]yf[e]þ¹ softelyche. & y trowe þat [ʒ]if [w]e²
 turne to God in al oure herte, þanne he w[o]l³ be [ʒ]-founde[n]⁴
 of us, as he seiþ by Ieremye his prophete. [And y]⁵ byleue
 10 wel þat for loue þat he haþ to m[an]kynde⁶ he wole brynge
 us out of þis myschef⁷ of synne, ʒif we desyreþ it wiþ ful herte
 & trewe. Ne we ne schuleþ not drede þe multitude of oure
 enemyes, ne hure myȝt, ne hure wysdom, ʒif oure God wole
 ben oure helpe: For he is myȝty wiþ-oute ende; his-wysdom
 15 is endeles; his⁸ loue & his mercy is euermore redy to hem
 þat clepeþ hym to⁹ sokour in hure tribulacyoun. & so we
 oure-selfe beþ þe enchesoun of þe meschef þat we beþ y-fallen
 ynne. And ʒif he seiȝ¹⁰ us desyren helpe, he ne wolde noȝt
 faylen us at oure gret nede. & broþer, be þou syker þat þe
 20 k[n]owyngge þat þou hast of þe meschefes of þe worlde¹¹
 is onlyche of Godes grace & noȝt of þi desyryngge. & y rede
 þou¹² ne huyde it noȝt from ous, þat fayn wolden y-knowen¹³
 hem & amende oure lyfing¹⁴, lest þou be holden a false seruauant
 to God in þe day of dome, for huydyngge of þi lordes tresour
 25 þat þou schuldest chaffare wiþ to encrese þi lordes tresoure.
 & who þat is false in lytel, who¹⁵ wole¹⁶ taken him¹⁷ þing þat is
 of grettere valew? & God, þat is a ryȝtful lorde, wole þrowen
 his vnprofytabel seruauantes in þe day of hure acountes in his
 derke presoun of helle, whan his profytabel seruauantes, þat
 30 han encresed þe goodes þat þei hadde to kepe, schulen ben

¹ *yf y* filled in by a later hand; the top of the *l* is still visible, S. *lyueþ* P. ² *yf ye* filled in by a later hand, S. *ʒif we* P. ³ *wil* in a later hand, S. *wel* P. ⁴ *þe founder* in the same late hand, S. *y founden* with *y* added later, P. ⁵ *&* (effaced) *þat* filled in by the same late hand, S. and *y* P. ⁶ *mkynde* filled in, S. *mankynde* P. ⁷ fol. 4^b S. ⁸ fol. 5 P. ⁹ *to his* P. ¹⁰ *seiþ* P. ¹¹ *word* P. ¹² *þat þu* P. ¹³ *it i known* with the 2^d *i* added above the line, P. ¹⁴ *ig* on erasure, S. *lyfes* P. ¹⁵ crossed out in red ink, P. ¹⁶ *wel he* P. ¹⁷ inserted in a later hand, S. om. P.

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y-put in more worschupful offyces¹ in þe blisse of heuene. & how myzt þou seye þat þou art in charite, þat hast plente of Goddes goodes in þi kepynge, & sest us þat beþ þi breþeren in perel of deþ of soule for defaute of suche goodes & þou closest þyn inwardnesse from us? þink², þat³ þouþ þou departe wiþ 5 us of þi⁴ tresour, þou schalt raþere wynne þan lese. & þer ne is non so coueytous a man of þe worldes goodes, þat he ne wolde bleþelyche zeuen his goodes to nedy men, zif he hopede to wynne in his zefyng; ne þou ne schuldest nozt spare for drede of þi deþ, to tellen us a trewþe to brynge us out⁵ of 10 meschef of þe deþ of oure soule. For in [þe]⁶ olde testament þe children of Israel putten hem-self in perele of deþ to brynge hure breþeren out of bodylych meschefes. Oure Lord God also put hym-self in perel of deþ, & vnderfong þe deþ, to brynge us þat were his seruantes out of meschef of synne: 15 & zef oure Lord putte his soule for his serfautes, it is skylful þat on broþer putte his soule for his breþeren: For þat axeþ þe⁷ lawe of charite þat Crist tauzte here on erþe, boþe in word & dede. & þink how Crist seiþ, þat who þat loueþ his fadur, his moder, his wyf, oþer his owne lyf abouen 20 hym, he ne is nozt worþi to hym: &, who þat loueþ his lyf in þis worlde, he schal lesyn his lyf. & siþþe þou seyst þat þe pepel haþ forsaken God & his hestes, and worschupeþ false goddes, it mot folewe nedlyche þat God is mucche [v]n-worschuped⁸: & þanne zif þou lofest God ofer alle oþere þinges, þou 25 most ben aboute to encresen his worschupe in⁹ drawynge þi breþeren from synne, & techynge hem how þei schulen plese God in kepynge his hestes¹⁰. & broþer, y preye þe for þe loue þat þou schuldest haue to God & to þi breþeren, þat þou answeere trewelyche to þinges þat y wole axen þe to hele of 30 my soule & of oþer mennes soules þat beþ lewedere þan þou art. & zif þou ne wylt nozt, oure hope is þat God wole enformen ous by sum oþer trewe seruant of his; & we preyen hym to deme þe ryzt, bytwene ous & þe¹¹ in þe dredeful day of dome, bote zif þou trewelyche answeere to oure axynges.” 35

¹ *offys* P.² nearly effaced, S. *þing* P.³ fol. 5 S.⁴ fol. 5^b P.⁵ om. P.⁶ *þe* P.⁷ *þe* altered from *þat*, P.⁸ *on* on erasure, S.*vnworscheped* P.⁹ fol. 6 P.¹⁰ fol. 5^b S.¹¹ om. P.

“Broþer, þou hast a-gast me sumwhat wiþ þyn argumentys.
 For þouȝ þou ne hafe noȝt y-ben a-mong clerkes at scole, þi
 skelis þat þou makest beþ y-founded in loue þat is a-bofe
 resoun þat clerkes vseþ in scole : & per fore it is hard for me
 5 to aȝeynstonde þyn¹ skelys & þyn axynge. For þe argument
 of loue meuyd God to make þe worlde of noȝt, & man aftur
 his owne lyknesse, & to putten hym in paradys, to hauen
 y-woned þere in blysse euere wiþ-uten ende, so þat man
 wolde kepen h[i]s² hestes. & whan man had broken þe heste
 10 of his God þorow þe temptacyoun of þe defel, he was worþi
 by þe argument of resoun to hafe y-lost his cuntray euere
 wiþ-uten ende³ for so gret a trespas. Bote lofe made an
 argument for man, & put hym out of⁴ his cuntray vnder þe
 power of þe defel, in þe worlde, to chasten hym for his trespas,
 15 & afturward to bryng hym⁵ out of þe defeles þraldom in-to
 his owne cuntray. Aȝeyn þis was a strong argument of lofe :
 & so God at⁶ þe⁷ tyme þat he sauȝ man ben⁸ ful⁹ fer y-falle
 into þe deueles þraldom, he ches hym a pepel þat weren
 Israelis children, to techen hem how þei schulden comen
 20 aȝeyn to hure cuntray þat was hure kynde herytage, out of þe
 þraldom þat þei weren fallen in þorouȝ synne. Bote for as
 muche as man was þat tyme vnkunnyng, vnmyȝty also⁸, & þe
 defel was fel & myȝty⁸ þat hadde man in his þraldom, God
 tauȝte man a lessoun to drede hym ouer alle opere þinges &
 25 forsaken alle false goddes. & for þese children of Israel
 schulde parfytlyche knowen hure lessoun, he suffred hem ben
 in gret þraldom vnder Pharao þat was kyng of Egypt. & þo
 þei cryeden to God þat he schulde brynge hem out of þraldom ;
 & he for loue herde hure crienge, [&]⁹ sauȝ hure tribulacyoun,
 30 and sende Moyses his serfaunt & Aaron his broþer to brynge
 hem out of Egypt toward hure owne cuntray. & for þei
 schulden knowe þat þer ne was no God bote he, he harded
 Pharaoes herte þat was kyng of Egypt, þat he ne wolde¹⁰ not
 delyferen his pepel out of his þraldom bote by myȝt &
 35 strengþe. & so God dude wondres & merueyls in Egypt

¹ þe P. ² hes in the margin, 1st corrector, S. ³ fol. 6^b P.
⁴ om. P. ⁵ fol. 6 S. ⁶ þat P. ⁷ yben P. ⁸ also...myȝty added
 at the bottom of the page. P. ⁹ in S. & P. ¹⁰ fol. 7 P.

PROLOGUE

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by-fore Pharao, þat non oþer god ne myȝte do to schewen his myȝt; & afterward he ladde hem out of Egypt by a wylderness, & bede¹ hem þei ne schulde noȝt dreden² hure enemyes: For he wolde fyȝte for hem aȝeyn hure enemyes. & so Pharao was wroþ þat þe children of Israel were passed out of his seruyse, & toke his [h]oste³, & pursuede Godes pepel in-to desert to hafe y-brouȝt hem aȝeyn in-to Egypt. & þo God lad his puple ofer þe see wiþ-uten schyp, for he made hem a weye in þe see, & made þe watyr in boþe half of hem stonden upryȝt as walles: & þei passeden ofer drye. & 10 Pharao come after hem þe same weye, & was⁴ adreynt in þe see & al his ost wiþ hym.”

“And þo he ladde hem in⁵ desert, & ȝaf hem a lawe by Moyses his seruauȝt; & he wrote hym-selfe ten hestes of his lawe in twey tables of ston, in tokenynge þat his puples 15 hertes were þat tyme hard as stonys. Þis lawe was a lawe of drede, to techen hem dreden hym ofer alle oþere þinges; & he⁶ bede¹ hem kepen his lawe whan þei comen in-to hure cuntray þat he hade by-hoten⁷ sumtyme, for he fonde hym a trewe serfaunt. & ȝef⁶ þei kepten his hestes, he byhyȝte hem 20 þat alle hure enemyes on eferych syde schulden drede hem & be serfauntes to hem. He bede¹ hem þat þei schulden not drede þe power of hure enemyes, for he hym-self wolde fyȝte fore hem & ben chefenteyn of hure ost. & so God lade hem in-to þe lond of byhest. Þus þoroȝ an argument of loue God 25 almyȝty þoroȝ hys myȝt delyferyd his pepel out of bodylyche þraldom, & brouȝte hem in-to a plenteuous cuntray of alle þynge þat hem neded to hure bodylyche lyflode. And⁸ so nedilyche y þat am his serfaunt & þi broþer mot graunte þyn argument of loue, & parforme þyn axynge by my power: 30 For þi loue haþ ouercome my resoun. & þerfore axe nouþe⁹ what þou wylt.”

“Broþer, y þanke ȝou of ȝoure goode wylle, and God contynue ȝou þerynne¹⁰ & encrece ȝoure connynge to answe

¹ *bad* P.² fol. 6^b S.³ *h* erased before the *o*, S. *hoste* P.⁴ *he was* P.⁵ *into* P.⁶ *om.* P.⁷ fol. 7^b P.⁸ fol. 7 S.⁹ *nouȝ* P.¹⁰ *you therein* repeated in the margin in a xvith century hand, S.

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Excerpt

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to myn axynges. & seþþe 3e han of 3oure owne fre wylle
y-tolde me of þis olde testament, how God brou3te his pepel
out of þraldom, I pray 3ow þat 3e telle me what manere lawe
he 3ef¹ pepel to plesen hym by, & whom he ordeyned to
5 techen his pepel þe lawe, and wheþer þe pupel kepten his
lawe whylys þei weren in wyldernesse, oþer non duden. And
telle me also hou² longe þei lyfeden in wyldernesse er þan
he bro3te hem in-to þe lond þat he hadde byhoten hem.”
“Suster³, God lad his pupel bysydes þe hul⁴ of Synay þat
10 is in desert bytwene Egypt & hure owne contray, & þere he
made þe pepel dwellen⁵ bysydes þe hul. & he toke to hym
in-to þe hul Moyses, his seruaunt, and seyde þis⁶, ‘þou schalt
seye to þe children of Israel, 3e 3ou-selfen han y-sey what y⁷
ha[u]e⁸ do to men of Egipt, & how⁹ y haue bore 3ou up on
15 egles wynges, & y-take¹⁰ 3ou to my-self; & 3ef 3e kepen myn
hestes, 3e schullen ben my pupel of alle puples.’ þes¹¹
wordes¹² Moyses spak to þe pepel; & þei answerden þat þei¹³
wolden do alle þinges¹⁴ [þat God bad hem do]¹⁵. & God seyde,
3if þei wolden ben his¹⁶ pepel & kepen his¹⁶ hestes, he wolde
20 ben hure God and brynge hem to hure contray: and¹⁷ þe
pupel assenteden. & seyden þat þei wolden. Bote þei beden
God þat he wolde speke to hem by Moyses his serfaunt, what
were his wylle, and þei wolden don alle þinge þat he¹⁸ bade
hem. For þei seyden, 3ef God speke to hem, þei ne my3te
25 no3t lyfe for þe dredfulnesse of his speche wolde maken hem
dye. þo Moyses wroot hure lawe, as God had y-beden hym,
how þei schulden lyfen eferichone wiþ oþer; & 3if þei breken
þe¹⁹ lawe, he ordeyned domes to demen hem aftur þe²⁰
quante of hure trespas. God also hade y-chosen hym þe
30 kynrede of Leui to ben his serfautes in þe tabernacle boþe
ny3t & day: & of þat kynrede he chees hym Aaron & his

· ¹ 3af P. ² fol. 8 S. ³ underlined in P. ⁴ u changed into y
by a later hand, S. ⁵ to dwellen P. ⁶ to þis P. to erased in S.
⁷ on erasure, S. ⁸ have in the margin, 1st corrector, S. ⁹ in the margin,
with caret to mark insertion, S. ¹⁰ take P. ¹¹ e on erasure, S. þus P.
¹² wōrdes expunged; ōr looks as if inserted later, S. when in paler ink in
the margin, P. ¹³ in the margin, 1st corr. S. ¹⁴ s on erasure, S.
þinge P. ¹⁵ Thus in P. om. S. ¹⁶ is P. ¹⁷ fol. 7^b S.
¹⁸ in the margin, 1st corr. S. ¹⁹ fol. 8^b P. ²⁰ here P.