

TSPEEL VAN SUSANNA

The Play of Susanna

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This play forms part of a collection, in manuscript, of the Chamber of Rhetoric *De Roode Roos* (The Red Rose), of the Brabant town of Hasselt.¹ It was performed in Hasselt at the fair on 24 September 1607. An inventory and a copy of the collection was made in 1611 by one Reinier Comans who classified the plays in two categories: *historiael spelen* and *spelen van sinnen*, i.e. plays based on historical, in this case biblical material, and moralities. Six of the plays dramatise material from the Old Testament; one is based on a parable and the story of Susanna is part of the apocryphal section of Daniel (13: 1–63).²

The play's structure follows a cyclical pattern well known from narratives of 'falsely-accused women': praise followed by accusations; condemnation followed by re-instatement. In Susanna's case her exemplary character and her happy relationship with her husband are emphasised but she nevertheless becomes the victim of two lecherous judges, Achas and Sedechias. Their plan is to blackmail her into having sex with them. They accost her when she is bathing in a secluded place where no one can hear her screams. When a servant appears they convince him that Susanna has been caught in adultery and she is put into a dungeon. Her accusers have little trouble in persuading Joachim that his wife has been unfaithful and Susanna is about to be put to death by stoning when Daniel appears. He cleverly tricks the two judges into an admission of Susanna's innocence and thus of their own guilt. They are executed (on stage) and Susanna is restored to her rightful position. She forgives everyone, her accusers and her too credulous husband, and the play ends with a condemnation of all false accusers.

Susanna, in her sustained virtue, her ultimate acceptance of God's will and her willingness to forgive, is a woman who is a model of idealised love and a mirror of chastity. However, the playwright has created a character which is not merely an embodiment of desirable female qualities. The passion with which Susanna expresses both her love for her husband and her despair at being falsely accused generates the real tension in the

message which the play conveys: women may be all that they should be and yet not be exempt from the evil of false accusers.

Joachim is a protagonist who remains merely an embodiment of a type: a husband contented, a husband betrayed, and a husband rejoicing in his wife's proven virtue. There is no condemnation of Joachim's credulity. This may be because that would not have contributed anything to the plot: the villains after all are the two judges and Joachim needs to be restored to his status of contented husband at the conclusion of the play. Achas and Sedechias by contrast are characters who come to life in their lust-driven criminal behaviour. Daniel's clever intervention is a *deus ex machina*: it is not Daniel but Susanna who is central to the message which the play conveys.

The importance of that message is underpinned by the portrayal of negative emotions and by their embodiment: the *sinnekens Quaet Ingheven* (Evil Inspiration) and *Vleeschelijcke Begertte* (Carnal Desire). They are emphatic in confirming Susanna's exceptional virtue and quick in identifying Achas and Sedechias as likely instruments of her downfall. What makes the rakes' progress credible and psychologically interesting is that they are, initially and briefly, her champions: fired up by her beauty, her perfection both physical and moral. The change to the realisation that they will only get what they want by force is proof of the moral weakness of the two men and of their immense hypocrisy. *Quaet Ingheven* and *Vleeschelijcke Begertte* are in effect the embodiment of this: they do not have to convince Achas and Sedechias of a particular cause of action. In this the play confirms that the role of *sinnekens* in later sixteenth-century plays is often less active than in earlier plays. However, the *sinnekens* are from the outset aware that they might have chosen an impossible target: Susanna may be impregnable in her virtue.

Indeed, they revise their objective: instead of expecting Susanna's downfall, they speculate about the 'just rewards' that the two false judges can expect: 'in the end they will fall into our hands' (line 408). Carnal Desire expresses the wish that he might be the clerk when the two are put on trial (lines 404–5). Before it gets that far however, the *sinnekens* briefly ally themselves with the judges when they drag Susanna from the dungeon, mock her cruelly (lines 470–97), tie her to the stake and urge the fetching of stones. No sooner has Daniel pointed the finger at Achas and Sedechias than the *sinnekens* become equally diligent in securing their capture and finally their execution. They have no allegiance except to the pursuit of evil.

The moral message at the end of the play is that, now that Susanna's case has come to a good ending, the number of villains should decline. A much broader issue, examined in the course of the play, is that of the distinctions and the boundaries between appearance and reality. Achas and Sedechias are, as it were, blindfolded by lust and unable to see that accusing Susanna will not be successful. Joachim's grip on reality is, as it turns out, easily weakened and Susanna's parents can not see beyond their own reality: that is, their pain in losing their daughter. Only Daniel and Susanna are clear-eyed and morally consistent. This enables Daniel to distinguish between guilt and innocence and Susanna to accept her fate and trust in God and eventually to forgive Joachim for his lack of trust.

It is a satisfying play in which moral rectitude and a firm grasp of reality reward the good and punish the wicked. We are not aware of any modern performance but the dramatic action and the characterisation are lively and would no doubt repay a modern production.

NOTES

1. *De Roode Roos. Zinnespelen en andere tooneelstukken der zestiende eeuw* edited O. van den Daele and F. van Veerdeghe (Bergen: Dequesne-Masquillier, 1889) 44–51.
2. Thomas Garter's *The Virtuous and Godly Susanna* was licensed for printing to Thomas Colwell by the Stationers' Company in 1569. No edition survives, if it was printed. In 1578 it was printed by Hugh Jackson, who had married Colwell's widow: see Malone Society Reprints edition by B. Ifor Evans and W.W. Greg (1937 for 1936) v. A French Susanna play is incorporated into *Le Mystère du Vieil Testament*, edited J. de Rothschild, 6 vols (Paris: Société des anciens textes français, 1880–1891) 5 188–228, lines 41002–41855. A Dutch version of a German Susanna play by Paul Rebhun exists in a printed edition of 1582 (Rees: Derick Wylicks van Santen): *Een Comedia ofte Speel van Susanna, Die Eerbaer ende Kuysche Vrouwe* ('A Comedy or play of Susanna, the Virtuous and Chaste Lady'). See also W.M.H. Hummlen *Repertorium van het rederijkersdrama 1500 – c. 1625* (Assen: van Gorcum, 1968) 116 and 275, and J.A. Worp 'Een comedia ofte speel van Susanna (1582)' in *Tijdschrift voor Nederlandse Taal en Letterkunde* 20 (1901) 29–32.

TSPEEL VAN SUSANNA

Personagens

JOACHIM
ACHAS
CAMERLINCK
SEDECHIAS
SUSANNA
QUAET INGEVEN
VLEESCHELYCKE BEGERTTE
DEEN CAMENIER
DANDER CAMENIER
EEN CNAPE
VADER
MOEDER
DANIEL
TGHEMEYN VOLCK

Achas, Joachim, Camerlinck, Sedechias uut.

ACHAS, een richter

Myn heeren, aengesien dat ghy na u playsantie
met Gode aenvert hebt, na slans usansie,
die hauwelycke ordonantie voer een joeushyt,
soe onderhout eerlycke aliantie
en syt rechtverdich als een balansie. 5
Goy accordantie hebt duer u hueshyt,
scout alle quaede aventurieushyt,
geen curieushyt en laet u bevangen,
eert den hauwelycken staet met reyn amorueshyt.
Die erm weesen en wilt niet prangen, 10
nie mant verstrangen, dits myn vercleren.
Vreest altyt Godt. Vliet die helsche slangen,
scout quay eeden, wilt doch niet sweren,
metter rechtverdichyt wilt u generen.
Dits myn begeren. Ick bidts u minlyck. 15
Volcht ock dese lesse, ghy dienaers uus heeren,

THE PLAY OF SUSANNA

Characters

JOACHIM
ACHAS
CHAMBERLAIN
SEDECHIAS
SUSANNA
EVIL SUGGESTION
CARNAL DESIRE
FIRST MAID
SECOND MAID
A SERVANT
FATHER
MOTHER
DANIEL
COMMON PEOPLE

Achas, Joachim, Chamberlain, and Sedechias enter.

ACHAS, a judge

My lords, since it has pleased you to accept
Before God, according to the custom of the country,
The ordinance of marriage as a joyous burden,
So maintain an honest alliance
And be as scrupulous as a balance. 5
Let your moral sense inspire harmony;
And avoid all bad, erroneous impulses;
Do not let yourself be led astray by curiosity,
Honour the state of matrimony with pure love.
Do not oppress those who are poor. 10
Do not persecute anyone: that's most important.
Fear God always. Flee from hellish serpents;
Shun false oaths and do not swear.
Conduct yourself according to justice. 15
That is my wish: warmly I urge you.
Follow this lesson, you servants of your Lord,

TSPEEL VAN SUSANNA

	soe wort u alle dinck van hem gewinlyck. Dus, myn heeren, weest hier op versinlyck. Ick bidts u inlyck, om u verblyen.	
JOACHIM	Myn heere, ick sal wesen alsoe beginlyck met myn huysvrouw, eerbaer tallen tyen.	20
SEDECHIAS	Vertroest den bedructen in alle syen, alle twistige pertyen wilt vereenen. Van dat u Godt verleent, wilt Hem gebenedyen: soe suldy welvaeren alteenen.	25
JOACHIM	Gheen maechden en wilt ontreenen, want een vercleenen waer u nakende. Nu, dats daer aff. Ghy verstaet wel myn meenen. Myn heeren, laet ons nu vruecht wesen makende, want ick in liefden soe ben blakende.	30
	Thert is hakende boven natuere. My en mach geen lyden wesen rakende overmits Susanna, die schoene figure. Ghy, myn camerlinck, rasch stect u duere. Met geenen erruere weest u nu moyende:	35
	gaet, haelt my myn vrouwe, schoen van coluere. Segt haer, hoe ick in haer liefde bin groyende, want haer by syn en is my niet vermoyende. Dus weest wech royende, wilt haer verclaren hoe ick bin hakende.	
CAMERLINCK	Ick wort my spoyende, myn heere, en maect geen beswaren: ick bin op ryse.	40
JOACHIM	Godt wil u bewaren, vruecht moet u naren tot elcken termyne. Och my dunct dat ick verdwyne als ick die soete medicyne niet en mach aenschouwen.	45
<i>Susanna uut.</i>		
SEDECHIAS	Myn heere, sy coemt.	
JOACHIM	Och, syt willecoem, scoenste van alle vrouwen, want na u compste heb ick gewacht. Myn herte dat lacht duer dit versamen.	50

	So you will gain everything from Him. Thus, my lords, take great care of this I pray you fervently so that great joy be yours!	
JOACHIM	My lord, that will be my principle, With my ever honourable wife.	20
SEDECHIAS	Give comfort to the oppressed everywhere. Bring together all warring factions. Praise God for all that he bestows on you: Thus you will for ever prosper.	25
JOACHIM	Do not violate virgins, Because you will risk humiliation. Now that's enough: you take my meaning. My lords, let us now be joyful Because I am ablaze with love: My heart is full of longing beyond measure. I will come to no harm Through Susanna's beauty and worth. Quick, my servant, be on your way Without fail, bestir yourself!	30 35
CHAMBERLAIN	Go and fetch my wife, who is so fair of face. Tell her how my love for her is growing Because her presence never fails to enchant me. Sail away, and declare to her How much I long for her. I'm going and I will bring her.	40
JOACHIM	My lord, do not worry: I'm on my way. May God keep you. May joy be with you as you go. Oh, I almost feel I will faint If that sweet medicine Were not in my sight.	45
<i>Susanna enters.</i>		
SEDECHIAS	Here she comes, my lord.	
JOACHIM	Oh, welcome, Fairest among women, Since I have longed for your coming. My heart rejoices Because of this meeting.	50

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SEDECHIAS	Tis minlyck om hooren.	
JOACHIM	Wie sout hem scamen vrindelyck met syn vrouwe en eerlyck couten?	
SEDECHIAS	Niemant, certeynlyck.	
JOACHIM	Coemt, lieff, wilt u verstouten, want u eygen blyve ick alle myn leven.	55
SUSANNA	En ick u ock, myn lieff, myn heere.	
JOACHIM	Bloeme verheven, stelt uut alle dolorueshyt. Maect solaes, aenvert alle joueshyt. Wat ghy hebben wilt, tsal u gebueren, tsy in abyten oft in pourtraictueren, in spelen oft dansen oft in musyken, in hoveren oft dier gelycken. Ghy en muecht niet wenschen als nu ten stonden: ten sal u geworden.	60
SUSANNA	Och, lieff, ghy houdt my gebonden met uwer grooter duecht die ghy my bewyst, want ick en bins niet werdich dat ghy my dus pryst. Maer die minst willick syn, myn man gepresen, als u arm dienersse.	65
JOACHIM	Neen, ten sal soe niet wesen. Dus spaert die redene, reyn vroulyck saet. Maer aengesien dat nu ter noenen wert gaet en dat ick den rechte moet geven audientie, soe gaet, nempt ruste na u intentie. U eerbaer seden my therte verjolysen. Liefde en eere moet ick u bewysen: een eerbaer vrouw is veel eeren werdich.	70
SUSANNA	Godt laet my daer in blyven volherdich. U blyff ick getrouw totter laester uuren, totdat die doot my sal thertte scueren.	75
		<i>Susanna in.</i>
JOACHIM	Wel, myn heeren, gaen wy nu ter salen. Het is wel den tyt, sonder dralen.	80
		<i>Int rechthuys ingeven.</i>

QUAET INGEVEN *I Verrader*

Waer blyfdy, cousinken?

VLEESCHELYCKE BEGERTTE

Ick loop, ick meyn te versmachten!

INGEVEN

Wat raet met ons gonynken?

BEGERTTE

Vraget Nobis, onsen meester claer!

INGEVEN

Way, wy syn selffs valsch genoch, voerwaer!

Dus niemant en derff na ons coemste verlingen. 85

Hoort doch, alte wonderlyck dingen

liggen my opt herte. Die moet ick u verclaeren,
want om geen duecht ist dat wy varen!

Hoort vry na my, ten is geen abuys, siet!

BEGERTTE

Ja? Wat isser gaens?

INGEVEN

In dit huys, siet, 90

daer woent een die scoenste creature:

soe jent, soe fray, soe net van statuere.

Ter werelt en machmen vinden haers gelycke.

En omdat ick heet — hoort dees practycke! —

Quaet Ingeven, brocht icxse gern te valle, 95

by uwen rade.

BEGERTTE

Is dit gescalle!

Ick, *Vleeschelycke Begeerte*, sal u by staen.

INGEVEN

Siet dan wel toe!

BEGERTTE

Maect geen vermaen!

Laet my die bruyloft hebben op handen.

INGEVEN

Valscher en machmen vinden in alle landen 100

dan wy beyde. En syn telken keere.

BEGERTTE

Nu, nu! Veel roepens en is geen eere!

Dus laet ons valshyt sayen.

INGEVEN

En wat schoens verseeren!

BEGERTTE

Laetet bolleken drayen! 105

Ghy weet wel hoe sy dagelycx coemt roseren

in haeren hoff en alle vruecht ordineren

daer sy uut raept alle solaceringe.

Dus als sy coemt, hoort myn imagineringe,

dan sullen wy iemanden vast omgorden 110

en gespen die muts.

INGEVEN

Noyt beteren wint uut norden!

Maer segt op, laet sien eert wordt te late

EVIL SUGGESTION, *First Traitor*
 Where are you, little cousin?

CARNAL DESIRE
 I'm so rushed, I think I'll pass out.

SUGGESTION Well, what to do with our little bunny?
 DESIRE Ask Nobis, our master, after all.

SUGGESTION Why? Surely we ourselves are bad enough!
 And so no one is eagerly awaiting our arrival. 85
 Now listen, I want to get something really weird
 Off my chest: I've got to tell you,
 Because we're not really any good, are we?
 Mind you listen; I'm not kidding, you know!

DESIRE Oh yeah, what's going on?
 SUGGESTION In this house. see, 90
 There lives the most beautiful creature,
 So charming, so lovely, with such a neat figure,
 There's no one like her anywhere
 And because I am called — don't miss this —
Evil Suggestion, I'm all for bringing her down 95
 If you'll help me.

DESIRE Is this a boast?

SUGGESTION I, *Carnal Desire*, will give you a hand.
 SUGGESTION OK, keep your eyes open.
 DESIRE You don't need to tell me.
 I'll orchestrate this wedding.

SUGGESTION You won't find anyone falser anywhere 100
 Than the two of us, at any time.

DESIRE Now, now, boasting's not enough!
 Let's get down to brass tacks.

SUGGESTION We'll cook up something good.
 DESIRE Let's set the ball rolling. 105
 You know how she comes every day
 Into the garden to enjoy herself,
 Which gives her lots of pleasure:
 Well, when she comes — listen to my scheming —
 Then we'll set about sewing her up 110
 And closing the trap as well.

SUGGESTION There's no better wind from the north!
 But tell me, show me before it's too late.

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BEGERTTE	Ick weeter, seg ick, twee — by sinbelaudate! — diese niet noode en sien, soudick wanen.	
INGEVEN	Wie sout syn?	
BEGERTTE	Goy, twee rycke hanen die dagelycx verkeerem in Joachims huys.	115
INGEVEN	Wie macht doch wesen?	
BEGERTTE	Ghy maect my confuys! Ick salse u wel wysen, wildy wat beyen. Dus weet ick wel, laet sien, waer sy sal vervaren. En dan mochten sy wel, hoort myn verclaren, comen om haer te vinden ten toone int preel, haer wassende schoone.	120
INGEVEN	Daer toe moety my hulpen als <i>Quaet Ingeven</i> . Ke! In valsheden moet doch ons hert leven. Oft neen, wy bleven teenemael tondere. Suldyt soe cocken?	125
BEGERTTE	Ja, gevet u wondere? Wy en connen doch niet dan quaet volbringen: ghy heet doch <i>Quaet Ingeven</i> sonderlingen en ick <i>Vleeschelycke Begeerte</i> , soemen siet.	
INGEVEN	My dunct en quamen wy nergens ...	
BEGERTTE	Goey, men haelden ons niet!	130
	<i>Sedechias uut syn eygen huys.</i>	
INGEVEN	Dus weest secreet en swycht al stille. Hola! Sy syn daer, maect geen geschille! <i>Vleechelycke Begeerte</i> , besicht practycke.	
BEGERTTE	Ick salt wel macken als myns gelycke.	
INGEVEN	Maer laet ons hier duycken sonder huylen al en siet watter int eynde noch scuylen sal.	135
	<i>Sy duyken ter syden int groen.</i>	
SEDECHIAS	Myn hert is vol zeeren en buylen al. Van groote liefde ben ick geraect seere. Och, Susanna, Susanna! Isser ock een volmaect meere dan ghy? Och neent. In swerelts ronde my dunct niet dat men uws gelycx oyt vonde: schoon van coluer, fray van wesen, net van leden, eylaes, volmaect en eerbaer van seden. Dies ick sonder hope moet swaermoedich braken,	140

DESIRE I know, I say, two, by Saint Laudate,
Who wouldn't mind seeing her, I think.

SUGGESTION Who are they?

DESIRE Two rich roosters 115
Who are in Joachim's house every day.

SUGGESTION Well, who are they then?

DESIRE Hang on a bit;
I will make it clear in a jiffy.
I'm sure, you see, where she'll be.
Then they could, I'd have thought 120
Come and find her on show
In her garden bower, taking a bath.
Then you, as *Evil Suggestion*, have got to help me there.

SUGGESTION Christ, we've got to turn to evil ways:
If not, we're not doing our job. 125
You'll cook something up?

DESIRE Yes, are you surprised?
After all, sin is the only business we know.
After all you're called *Evil Suggestion*,
And I'm *Carnal Desire*, as anyone can see. 129

SUGGESTION I think we wouldn't get anywhere ...

DESIRE God knows, if people themselves didn't fetch us!
Sedechias comes out of his own house.

SUGGESTION So make yourself scarce and keep your mouth shut.
Oops! They're there: be quiet!
Now, *Carnal Desire*, do your worst.

DESIRE Watch me do my stuff.

SUGGESTION Let's hide her, without a sound, 135
And see what's yet to come.
They hide themselves in the bushes on the side.

SEDECHIAS My heart is full of sore spots and bruises.
I am smitten by a burning love.
O Susanna, Susanna! Is there anyone more perfect
Than you? Oh no. In the whole wide world 140
Your equal will never be found:
Beautiful colouring, exquisite in being, neat of figure,
Alas, absolutely virtuous.
Therefore without hope I have to wallow in melancholy,

TSPEEL VAN SUSANNA

Achas uut syn eygen huys.

	maer liefde doet my ingloedich blaken.	145
ACHAS	Ick moet aventueren! Die noot gheen wet heft. Eylaes! Myn hert meer en meer int verset beft duer liefde van die schoon Susan, ach! Och, wie doch oyt soe stercken man sach, die hem voer soe een schoonhyt mocht oyt beschermen. Haer volmaectheyden my thoot omswermen	151
SEDECHIAS	en nacht en dach my in onrust setten. Tsa, tsa! Ick sal met haer mynen lust wetten, het sy wien dat lieff oft leet valt. Holla, wie ist die daer soe heet calt?	155
	Tis doch Achas, myn compagnion goet. Hoe! Is hy ock verbernt in die son soet? Wel, myn heer, wat staede dus vol fantasyen? Siet! Tschynt, van u veyr alle verblyen vliet. My dunckt, tis liefde die u den noot doet.	160
ACHAS	Wat maecty anders hier? En by gans bloot voet! Ghy schynt ock soe wel als ick geraect syn. Waerom soude anders ock herwerts gebraect syn? Segt op! Laet sien, wat doet u dus deysen?	
SEDECHIAS	Die liefde verwint my, wat willick my vysen.	165
ACHAS	Hoe sou groot vier in my verborgen blyven? Al goet. Wy sullen die saeck tsamen met sorgen dryven, malcanderen hulp doen en aenleggen wysselyck, opdat wy in ons eer blyven prysselyck. Sy mueghen wel tsamen loten, fyn,	170
SEDECHIAS	die met eenen sop overgoten syn. Maer hoe sullen wyt voort handelen? Wy sullen stillekens in den bomgaert wandelen, haer daer verbeyen als sy haer gaet wassen. Die rest sullen wy na gelegenthyt passen.	175
	Cost wat can: wy sullense bewelmen. <i>Beyde int groen.</i>	
INGEVEN	Way, neefken, wat dunct u van die twee oude scelmen?	
BEGERTTE	En synt niet twee fray gesellen?	
INGEVEN	Waer me dat hun die oude boeven quellen!	

Achas comes out of his own house.

	But love makes me burn fiercely within.	145
	I must take a chance. Needs must when the devil drives.	
ACHAS	Alas! My heart is all of a quiver trying not to give in To love for the beautiful Susanna, oh dear!	
	Oh, was there ever a man so strong Who could shield himself from such beauty!	150
	Her perfections make my head dizzy, And make me restless night and day. Tcha, tcha! I'll whet my lust on her. Come hell or high water, love or sorrow.	
SEDECHIAS	He—llo, who is getting the hots?	155
	If it isn't my good friend Achas. By God, has he too got a touch of the sun? Well my lord, what fantasies are these? Look! You do seem to have lost your cool. Am I right? Is it love tormenting you?	160
	What else are you doing here?	
ACHAS	And by God's bare feet, You seem to be tarred with the same brush as me. Why else have you shown up here? Come on, tell! What's shaken you?	
SEDECHIAS	Love has conquered me; I can't deny it.	165
	How could such a great fire remain hidden in me?	
ACHAS	All right, we'll do it, organize this carefully together; We'll help each other, and wisely, So that our honour won't be in doubt. We may as well throw in our lot together,	170
	Since we have both been tarred by the same brush. But how shall we go about it?	
SEDECHIAS	We will stealthily hang around in the orchard And wait for her when she comes for her bath. And the rest we will make up as we go along.	175
	Come what may, we'll take her by storm.	

Both hide in the bushes.

SUGGESTION	Well, little cousin, what about these two old lechers?
DESIRE	Don't they make a nice pair?
SUGGESTION	Fancy those two old crooks tormenting themselves with that!

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BEGERTTE	Joachim machse wel voer vrinden achten!	180
INGEVEN	Jae, die hem syn eer versmachten!	
BEGERTTE	Maer neefken, wat dunct u van die stucken?	
INGEVEN	Ick vrees, dat hun niet en sal gelucken: Susanna is soe eerbaer en reyn van herten.	
BEGERTTE	Ke! En ben ick niet vol van quaeder perten?	185
	Ick sal tvier stocken met myn geveerte en vullense totten caecken met vleeschelycke begeerte: die niet aff en laet die moet verwinnen.	
INGEVEN	Twaer goet, maer sy heft al ander sinnen. Sy loept terstont tot Godt haer gequel stacken,	190
	Hem dienen en bidden, dit mocht wel quaet spel maken. Hoet loept, tis gebracht int beginnen.	
BEGERTTE	Tis lecht wiet int lest noch sal affspinnen. Op wien dat valt. Houwet voer geteekent: die duyvel ons in desen selden tot scay rekent.	195
<i>Pausa.</i>		
SUSANNA	Tis nu tyt. Alle dinck is nu groyende, elck bloemken lacht duer die sonne soet. Myn boemkens, myn bloemkens syn al bloyende; den dau is vloyende, het gras besproyende. Elck mochter hem in wassen als eenen vloet.	200
	Dus verhuecht myn bloet, als natuer doet. Gheenens tegenspoet en is my moyende. Des ick ben royende na mynen roosegaert. Gaet, haelt my dolie op cortte vaert: ick wil gaen wandelen in myn preel.	205
	Dus haest u geringe!	
DEEN CAMENIER	Tuwen dinst geheel.	
	Wat u belieft, jont u myn natuere.	
DANDER CAMENIER	Belieft u yet meer?	
SUSANNA	Neent, maer sluyt die duere.	
	Ick bevele my God, arm mensche van asschen. Ick wil my na doude costume gaen wasschen.	210
ACHAS	Siedyse wel sitten?	
SEDECHIAS	Hebt nu handen!	
ACHAS	Het sal nu juyst vitten.	
SEDECHIAS	Wy hebben broot in die tanden!	

THE PLAY OF SUSANNA

DESIRE	Some friends Joachim has there!	180
SUGGESTION	Yes, they'll do for his honour!	
DESIRE	But cousin, how are things coming on?	
SUGGESTION	I'm afraid they won't be in luck. Susanna is much too honourable and pure of heart.	
DESIRE	Well, I've only just started.	185
	I will heat up the fire with my bellows, And fill them up to the eyeballs with carnal desire. He who never stops shall gain the victory.	
SUGGESTION	That's as may be, but she's got different ideas. She'll instantly appeal to God with her lament, Serving him and praying: that'll do us down.	190
	But however it ends up, we've made a start.	
DESIRE	It is easy to see who will draw the short straw, You can take it as read who'll succeed: The Devil, our master, looks after his own.	195
	<i>Pause.</i>	
SUSANNA	Now's the time. Everything's now growing. Every flower laughs, because the sun shines. My trees, my flowers are all in bloom, The flowing dew is drenching the grass. Everyone could bathe in it as in a stream.	200
	My blood is rejoicing in tune with nature. No adversity threatens me. That's why I'm enjoying my rose garden. Go, fetch my bath oil, as quick as you can. I'll go and wander in my bower.	205
	Do be quick!	
1 MAID	Entirely at your service, madam. Your wish is my command.	
2 MAID	Will that be all?	
SUSANNA	Yes, but shut the door. I commend myself to God, though I'm made of clay. I will take my bath as usual.	210
ACHAS	Look at her sitting there.	
SEDECHIAS	Let's get our hands on her!	
ACHAS	Now's the right moment.	
SEDECHIAS	We've got the bit between our teeth.	

TSPEEL VAN SUSANNA

ACHAS	Syt cloeck int dwerck!	215
SEDECHIAS	Wy syn haer te sterck: die minste van ons tween soudse alleen dwingen.	
ACHAS	Wy willent bestaen sonder veel dingen. Ick en can my geleyen in gheender manieren.	
	<i>Die richters staen op.</i>	
SEDECHIAS	Nu, voert ghy dwort.	
ACHAS	Ick salt bestieren.	220
	Dus wensch ick, dat wy mogen hebben behouwen reyse. Godt gruet u, vrouwe.	
SUSANNA	God loont u met peyse. Myn herte beswyct met desen aenscauwen. Hoe coemdy doch hier?	
ACHAS	O schoonste kersouwe die oyt ter werelt ontfinck leven!	225
	Ghy syt die werste in ons hertte gescreven boven enighe creatueren die nu leven. Dus moet ons hertte u goy jonst geven duer u vierige liefde, die ons dus dwinct, want thertte is metter doot geminct.	230
	Dus bidden wy: wilt onser ontfermen. Ghy syt verdoelt!	
SUSANNA		
SEDECHIAS	Aenhoort ons kermen. Den noot dwinct ons verre boven natuere.	
SUSANNA	Waer meyndy doch te syne?	
ACHAS	O schoone creature! Aengesien dat ghy hier alleen syt, soe begeren wy — en om dat ghy soe reen syt — met u, schoon lieff, ons genuchte heden.	235
SUSANNA	<i>staet op.</i> Ist dat u meeninghe?	
SEDECHIAS	Jaet, soetste van seden. My en raet wat ons in dende costen sal.	
ACHAS	Doeget doch willichlyck!	
SEDECHIAS	Ja, sonder gescal.	240
	Oft neen, wy sullent dan met fortsen crygen! Oft wy cocken u noch bitter vygen en seggen openbaerlyck — hoort ons vermonden — dat wy u hebben in overspel gevonden.	

THE PLAY OF SUSANNA

ACHAS Stick to it now. 215
 SEDECHIAS We are too strong for her.
 The weaker of us could force her.
 ACHAS We'll set about it without much delay.
 I can't hold myself back in any way.
The Judges stand up.
 SEDECHIAS Now you do the talking.
 ACHAS I'll manage it. 220
 And I wish that things will go our way..
 God bless you, madam.
 SUSANNA God send you His peace.
 My heart is in my mouth seeing them there.
 Where did you spring from?
 ACHAS O you, the most beautiful daisy,
 That ever was created on earth! 225
 You have made such a deep impression in our hearts
 More than any living thing.
 May our hearts give you great joy
 Because of the burning love which holds us in its grip,
 For our hearts are wounded to death. 230
 We implore you, have mercy on us.
 SUSANNA You must be mad!
 SEDECHIAS Listen to our groaning.
 Our passion forces us to act unnaturally.
 SUSANNA Where do you think you are?
 ACHAS O, beautiful creature,
 Seeing that you are here alone 235
 We desire — and because you're so pure —
 To have our will with you, you beautiful thing.
 SUSANNA *stands up.* Is that what you're after?
 SEDECHIAS Yes, my virtuous sweet,
 And I don't care a damn what it will cost us in the end.
 ACHAS You've simply got to give in.
 SEDECHIAS Yes, and quietly too; 240
 If not, we'll take it by force.
 ACHAS Or else we shall cook you even more bitter figs.
 And say publicly — listen to our revelation —
 That we caught you out in adultery.

TSPEEL VAN SUSANNA

	Soe suldy met allen u vrinden bescaempt syn en tot een scandelycke doot gepraemt syn. Ghy weet wel — Wat? Wildy als die dove sneven? — dat men ons, mannen, sal geloefe geven. Maer wildy onsen wille te desen keere dryven, soe suldy gerust en in u eere blyven.	245 250
SUSANNA	Wat segdy? O hemelsche vader, u hulpe doet my verwerven. Ick moet God vertornen oft scandelyck sterven. Maer liever heb ick menschelycke scande dan als overspelster te vallen in Gods handen. O God, syt myn hulpe in dees benauthyt!	255
ACHAS	Och Joachim, lieff man, wist ghy die stouthyt aen u eerbaer vrouwe van dese boeven! Tsa, tsa! Ten baet geen snoeven!	
	<i>Sy grypense met d'ermen.</i>	
SUSANNA	Dus hout ghy die handen. Ick sal beginnen.	
SEDECHIAS	Moort! Moort! Moort! Goy, daer met en suldy niet verwinnen. Wy sullen roepen alsoe wel als ghy. Her! Her! Spoyt u rasch te tye! Ick wets men sal u een ander sausken maken.	260
SUSANNA	Cracht! Cracht!	
ACHAS	Ja, doet op u caken!	
SUSANNA	Ghy sult eerlanck onsen wille gebruycken. O God, wilt doch die erde ontplyucken, Liever dan ick tegen u gebot doe.	265
SEDECHIAS	Ten baet gheen thieren!	
ACHAS	Ja, sluytet slot toe! Ick wedde, men sal u anders regeren. Wy sullen seggen, hoe ghy hebt gaen roseren met eenen jongelinck van xx jaren en hy u verfortseerde — dit sullen wy verclaren — op dees plaetse, alst nu wel is blyckelyck. En doen wyen saghen met u gelyckelyck soe hadden wy hem gerne gebrocht ter scanden, maer hy ontliep ons uutten handen. Dit sullen wy elcken te kinnen geven.	270 275

So then you, with all your friends, will be disgraced 245
 And dishonourable death will be inflicted upon you.
 You know very well — do you want to die a fool? —
 That people will believe us men.
 But if you yield to our demands
 Then you will be left in peace and honour. 250
 So what's it to be?

SUSANNA O heavenly father, please grant me your help.
 Either I anger God, or I die shamefully.
 But I prefer to incur human condemnation
 Rather than submit to God's wrath for adultery.
 O God, be my aid in this anguish! 255
 O Joachim, beloved husband, if you knew of this malice
 Inflicted upon your honourable wife by these villains!

ACHAS Now, now! No use resisting!
They grab her by the arms.

 You grab her hands and I'll get on with it.
 SUSANNA Murder! Murder! Murder!
 SEDECHIAS Christ, that'll do you no good. 260
 We can holler as much as you.
 Here, here, come on, come on, pin her down quickly.
 I bet we'll get a different tune out of you.

SUSANNA Rape! Rape!
 ACHAS Go on, scream!
 You'll soon have to do what we want. 265

SUSANNA O God, please let the earth swallow me,
 Rather than I break your commandment.

SEDECHIAS It's no use creating.
 ACHAS Shut your mouth!
 Or else it will be worse for you afterwards.
 We shall tell people how you've been dallying 270
 With a young man, twenty years old;
 And how he forced you — we'll explain it so —
 On this very spot, as is now quite obvious.
 And when we saw him with you in that way,
 We would willingly have brought him to trial, 275
 But he slipped through our hands:
 We will make this clear to everyone.

TSPEEL VAN SUSANNA

SEDECHIAS	Hoordyt, segt, vuyle?	
SUSANNA	O hemelsche vader verheven, die elcken dleven hebt gegeven, coemt my beneven eer ick verlast sy.	280
	Ick sien, ten baet al niet gegeven. Dus werd ick liever ter doot gedreven en genoemen tleven — hier op past vry — dan ick mesdoen soude.	
SEDECHIAS	Hout die hant vast, ghy!	
<i>Worpsse neder.</i>		
	Ick salse ons juyst hier henen leggen.	285
SUSANNA	Mort! Mort! Mort!	
ACHAS	Roept wel styff! Soe mach menter weeten besceet aff.	
SUSANNA	Mort! Mort! Mort!	
EEN CNAPE	Ick vaege mynen sweet aff. Ick hoor vast roepen, ick en weet waert is.	290
SUSANNA	Cracht! Cracht!	
EEN CNAPE	Myn herte beswaert is mits dat ick die stemme noch hebbe gehoord. Het dunct my Susanna.	
ACHIAS	Coemt voort! Coemt voort! Hulpt ons die mesdadighe vangen!	295
<i>Nota: Achas en Sedechias gesien hebbende den knecht, sullen op springen om den jongelinc quansus te vangen.</i>		
EEN CNAPE	Wat isser gaens?	
SEDECHIAS	Arger dan slangen, dobbelder en was noyt gevonden! Hier is Susanna, vol valsheden, gebonden. Ghy en hoorde u daghe noyt diesgelycke.	
EEN CNAPE	Ontbeyt, hoe mach dit wesen?	
ACHAS	Die dobbelste practycke heft sy gevonden, opt cortte verhalen.	300
SUSANNA	Ghy segt uwen wille.	
SEDECHIAS	Swycht! Ick sal u betalen. Ghy en syt niet wert dat ghy spreekken sout soe vuele.	
ACHAS	Sietse my doch staen, die vrouwe van den quartspuele. Stopt u backhuys en hout uwen snatere! Suldy niet swygen?	305

THE PLAY OF SUSANNA

SEDECHIAS Do you hear that, you bitch?
 SUSANNA O heavenly Father above,
 Who has given life to everyone,
 Come to help me before I am hurt. 280
 I can see it's useless to resist.
 I would rather be brought to my death
 And lose my life — hear my plea —
 Than I should do wrong.

SEDECHIAS You, hold her hands tight!
Throws her down.

SUSANNA I'll throw her down right here. 285
 MURDER! MURDER! MURDER!
 ACHAS Go on, scream: we want everyone to know.
 SUSANNA Murder! Murder! Murder!
 A SERVANT [*outside the garden*] I am wiping away my sweat.
 I hear this shouting. Where does it come from? 290

SUSANNA Rape! Rape!
 A SERVANT I'm very frightened,
 Because I have heard this voice before.
 I think it's Susanna.

ACHAS Come here, come here!
 Help us to capture the criminal. 295

Note: Achas and Sedechias, who have seen the Servant, will jump up as if to catch the young man immediately.

A SERVANT What's going on here?
 SEDECHIAS Worse than snakes!
 There was never a craftier one!
 Here is Susanna, full of treachery, tied up.
 You never heard anything like it in all your days.

A SERVANT Wait, how can this be?
 ACHAS It's the cleverest trick 300
 That she's played, to put it bluntly.
 SUSANNA You're making it up to suit yourselves
 SEDECHIAS Quiet! You'll pay for this.
 It's not up to you to tell such foul tales.

ACHAS Look at her standing there like a gambling whore.
 Shut your mouth and stop your cackling. 305
 Will you be quiet?

TSPEEL VAN SUSANNA

SEDECHIAS	Werpse in dwaeter! This scay en jammere dat ghy dus lange leeft, ghy quay cladde!	
SUSANNA	Och, myn herte sneeft want icx onschuldich bin wat sy my aenleggen.	
ACHAS	Hoort! Hoort! Ick salt u opt cort vermaen seggen. Myn bloet vervalt als icker om peyse! Omtrent die noene soe waeren wy op reyse, Myn geselle ende ick — dus moety verstant slypen — Doen was by haer een jongelinc.	310
SEDECHIAS	En ick woude hem metter hant grypen maer hy ontliiep ons. Dus ist al gebuert. En hy was met haer int preel, ongetruert doende als amoreuse pleghen. Ist niet soe?	315
ACHAS	Sy en seyter niet tegen: dus kint sy haer int dwerck syn mesdadich.	
SEDECHIAS	Sy was haer tweedere.	
ACHAS	In liefden gestadich!	320
SEDECHIAS	Twas al: tkint sal voer syn jaer gaen. Dit waeren wy siende.	
ACHAS	En daerom wou icker naer gaen om doverdaet, die ick haer sach bedryven.	
SEDECHIAS	Och sy heft bescaempt allen eerbaer wyven. Dus laetse ons vangen, sonder veel dralens.	325
ACHAS	Souden wyt al seggen?	
SEDECHIAS	Wy behoeffden veel verhalens.	
	<i>Knape heel bedroeft in.</i>	
	Dus setse daer binnen tot morgen. Ick sal haer coren om een myte besorgen.	
ACHAS	Waer is Joachim?	
SEDECHIAS	Ja, thertte mach hem beven, mach icken spreecken wel te dege.	330
ACHAS	Hoe is hy meshout!	
SEDECHIAS	Hy is uiten wege.	
	<i>Sedechias, Susanna inden kercker.</i>	
	Dus en laet ons hier niet langer toeven. Laetse voer haer weelde wat lydens proeven.	

THE PLAY OF SUSANNA

SEDECHIAS Throw her into the water.
It's a shame and pity you've lived so long,
You evil whore!

SUSANNA O my heart fails me,
For I am innocent of what they allege.

ACHAS Now listen to me: I'll keep it short. 310
My blood curdles when I think about it.
About noon as we went by
My companion and I — put your mind to it —
There was a young man with her here.

SEDECHIAS And I was about to grab him
But he ran off; that's what happened. 315
And he was with her in the bower, quite happily
Doing what lovers like doing:
Isn't that so?

ACHAS She can't deny it:
She knows what she is guilty of.

SEDECHIAS They were both at it ...

ACHAS In love's sweet dream! 320
That's all: the child will be walking within the year.

SEDECHIAS That is what we saw.

ACHAS And that's why I went up to them,
Because of the shameful deed I saw her commit.

SEDECHIAS Oh, she has disgraced all chaste wives.
So let us seize her without further ado. 325

ACHAS If we were to tell it all ...

SEDECHIAS It would take some telling!
The Servant goes off sadly.
Lock her up till morning.
I'll see she gets her just deserts.

ACHAS Where is Joachim?

SEDECHIAS His heart may well tremble
If I were to tell him the truth. 330

ACHAS What a mockery of a marriage!

SEDECHIAS He doesn't know it yet:
Sedechias puts Susanna in the dungeon.
Let's not stay here any longer.
Let her suffer a bit for her fun and games.

Achas, Sedechias in. Elc int syne.

SUSANNA in den kercker:

O Adonay, God, soe schriftuere blyct
die Godt der ontfermhertichyt syt. 335
Vertroest my, erme, hout my bevryt.
Vertroest my nu, wantick bin benyt,
soe elck wel weet ter werelt wyt.
Ick bin gevangen sonder respyt.
Ick en hebs niet connen refuseren. 340
Geeft my voer dees scande eewich jolyt.
Aen u moet ick t'vonnisse appelleren,
ist dat ick noch mach domineren.
U dinersse sal ick wesen tot in myn doot.
Dus bidt ick u, sonder cesseren: 345
troost den mestroostighen in synder noot.
Troest den bedructen, hoochste van rade.
Hulpe doch allen die u begerich syn.
Heb ick u yet mesdaen, ick bidt u genade.
Ick begeer u hulpe vroeck en spade. 350
Myn leven willick aen u verterich syn.
Alle ydel gedachten wil ick verswerich syn,
ten minsten dat ghy my wilt behulpich wesen.
Ghy syt myn advocaet, ick laet u geberich syn.
Dus bidt ick u, wilt myn quale genesen 355
want ghy syt warachtich God gepresen.
Geeft my troost duer u milthyt groet,
soe dat ick mach seggen, als voere, mits desen:
troost den mestroestigen in synder noot.
Troest my, arme gevanghene vrouwe. 360
Verlost my van desen bloedighen ghieren.
Verlost my, God, schoon van aenschouwe.
Verlost my uut desen tot mynen behouwe.
Verlost my van dees valsche dieren.
Wilt my doch beystaen in alle manieren 365
tot dat gebleken is myn justitie.
Weest myns ontfermich, aenhoort myn crairen
want my is nakende een swaer punitie..

Achas and Sedechias each return to their own houses.

SUSANNA *in the dungeon:*

O God Adonai, as scripture shows,
Thou art God of mercy, 335

Console me, poor thing, sustain my liberty.
Console me now because I am beset by envy
As everyone in the world knows well.

I have been imprisoned without redress,
I have not been able to avoid it. 340

Give me eternal joy instead of this shame.
To you I must appeal against this judgement,
Only then could I still prevail.

I shall be your servant unflinching until my death.
Thus I beg you without cease 345

Console the disconsolate in time of need.

Console the oppressed, you Spirit of Wisdom.
Help all who are in need of you.

If I have done you wrong, I implore your pardon.
I am in need of your help, early and late: 350

I would sacrifice my life for you.

All worldly thoughts will I forswear
If you should be willing to help me.

You are my advocate; I put my trust in you.
Thus I beg you, put right my wrongs, 355

For you are truly praised as God.

Give me consolation through your great benevolence,
So that I can say the same as before:

Console the disconsolate in time of need.

Console me, wretched woman in prison. 360

Liberate me from these bloody vultures.

Liberate me, God, who art beautiful to behold.

Liberate me from this for my salvation.

Liberate me from these false creatures.

Please stand by me whatever happens 365

Until my innocence has been proven.

Have mercy on me, hear my prayer,

For great punishment is coming upon me.

	Ick bidt u, versoect hun malitie en wilt veranderen hun quaethyt bloot.	370
	Doet hun, o God, u godlycke admonitie: troest den mestroestigen in synder noot.	
	Prince, warachtich God, hoochste verheven, maect my volstantich tegen desen weder stoot.	375
	Ick bidts u, wilt my troest nu geven want om troest soe roep ick ter uuterster noot.	
INGEVEN	Neve!	
BEGERTTE	Cousynken!	
INGEVEN	Van groeter vruecht waen ick myn sinnen gemissen!	
BEGERTTE	Ke! Laet u houwen!	
INGEVEN	Ick waen my te bepissen!	
	En saechdy niet hoe sy hun int werck hadden?	
BEGERTTE	Ja ick, sekere!	
INGEVEN	Maer tsyn al cladden!	380
	Ick hoep, sy en sullens hun niet bedancken.	
BEGERTTE	Ick souts wel derren wedden.	
INGEVEN	Die gelt doet op ons wisselbancken, hy moch hem bat die keel aff steecken met eenen beroesten messe.	
BEGERTTE	Wy syn valsch van treken	
	want ten is geen duecht daer wy om uut syn.	385
INGEVEN	Die van u sou willen die bruyt syn, die ginck hem bat in die see verdrincken!	
BEGERTTE	Tis doch al quaet, dat wy dincken. En laet ons malcanderen niet veel verwyten.	
INGEVEN	Cousynken!	
BEGERTTE	Neefken!	
INGEVEN	Hoe ginckxse cryten	390
	doen syse wouwen gaen vercrachten.	
BEGERTTE	Sy riep al: moort!	
INGEVEN	Sy dede veel clachten maer sy waren in dwerck al even dappere.	
BEGERTTE	Tsal quaelyck uut coemen.	
INGEVEN	Als een roytappere daer die soch vol jongen ter kelder gaet.	395

I pray you avert their malice
 And transform their blatant evil. 370
 Issue to them, O God, your divine admonition.
 Console the disconsolate in time of need.

Prince, very God, exalted above all,
 Make me steadfast against this adversity.
 I pray you now give me consolation 375
 Because I call for consolation in my extremity.

SUGGESTION Little nephew!
 DESIRE Little cousin!
 SUGGESTION I am so pleased I think I'll go mad!
 DESIRE Contain yourself, by Christ!
 SUGGESTION I think I'll wet myself!
 Did you not see how they went to work?
 DESIRE Sure I did.
 SUGGESTION But they are just clods. 380
 I hope they'll get no joy from it.
 DESIRE I'll put money on that.
 SUGGESTION He who puts money into our exchange
 Might as well cut his own throat
 With a rusty knife.

DESIRE We are false in our tricks
 Because we're not out for virtue. 385
 SUGGESTION Whoever would like to be your bride
 Would do better to drown herself in the sea.

DESIRE Everything we think is evil;
 We can't carp at each other.

SUGGESTION Little cousin!
 DESIRE Little nephew!
 SUGGESTION What a racket she made 390
 When they tried to rape her!
 DESIRE She yelled blue murder.
 SUGGESTION Didn't she wail!
 But she couldn't put them off.

DESIRE It'll all end in tears.
 SUGGESTION Just like an old sow
 Who dies full of piglets. 395

TSPEEL VAN SUSANNA

BEGERTTE	Sy synt nochtans clagen.	
INGEVEN	Dats een cleyn daet.	
	Ons valschyt en bleeff noyt verholen.	
BEGERTTE	Wy syn wel geleert!	
INGEVEN	Al en lagen wy noyt ter scholen.	
	Ick ben <i>Quaet Ingeven</i> , vol van feneyne, en ben ick niet?	
BEGERTTE	<i>Teyse vous, cousyne,</i>	400
	ickt wets ghy sult eerlanck een ander vernemen.	
INGEVEN	Waer om?	
BEGERTTE	Wy coemen al tot onser temen.	
	Ick hoep sy sullen geloent naet dwerck worden.	
INGEVEN	Segt doch!	
BEGERTTE	Ick sal die clerck worden	
	alsmen hun sal gaen examineren.	405
INGEVEN	Sy sullen een quay not craken.	
BEGERTTE	Dats by ons informeren.	
	Dus laet ons duyken hier besyen.	
	Sy sullen in deynde tonsen handen bedyen.	
	<i>In bey.</i>	
JOACHIM	<i>met die syne uut.</i>	
	Wel, hoe ben ick dus? Wats dit voer sententie?	
	Mynen moet ontvalt my duer dees persequeringe.	410
	Alle vruecht is my nu een penitentie.	
	My wilt begeben myn eloquentie.	
	Alle myn intentie is murmuringhe.	
	Geen hoveringhe oft vruechs hanteringhe	
	en mach my vermaken duer tquaet ingeven.	415
	Maer pyne is my nu alle solaceringhe.	
	Myn hert is my benaut en dom, siet!	
	Ick bin beswaert, ick en weet den waerom niet.	
	Ick vrees dat my ongeluck naken moet.	
CAMERLINCK	Heere, stelt u tevreden.	
JOACHIM	Och, waeren die saecken goet?	420
CAMERLINCK	Heere, dit syn maer ydele dinghen.	
	En hout sulcx maer voer bueselinghen:	
	Sedt uiten sinne alsulcke swaerhyt.	
JOACHIM	Ick weet wel, ghy segt die waerhyt.	

DESIRE But they're still complaining.
 SUGGESTION That's nothing.
 Our trickery won't stay hidden
 DESIRE We are a learned pair.
 SUGGESTION Even though we never went to school.
 I am *Evil Suggestion*, full of venom; 400
 Am I not?
 DESIRE *Taisez-vous, mon cousin,*
 I bet I'm as good as you.
 SUGGESTION Why?
 DESIRE We are getting to our goal.
 I hope they will get their just deserts.
 SUGGESTION Go on then!
 DESIRE I will be the clerk
 When it comes to questioning. 405
 SUGGESTION It'll be a hard nut to crack.
 DESIRE It's all our doing.
 Let us hide ourselves here.
 In the end their fate's in our hands.
 Both go off.

JOACHIM *enters with his attendants.*
 Why do I feel like this? What has come upon me?
 My courage fails because of this persecution. 410
 All joy has changed into suffering.
 I am losing all my eloquence.
 My whole mind is voicing unease.
 No pride or joy is left
 To bolster me through this evil suggestion. 415
 Pain is now all that I have.
 Look, my heart is so oppressed and feels doomed!
 I am so depressed; I don't know why.
 I fear that misfortune is drawing near.

CHAMBERLAIN Lord, be content.
 JOACHIM O, if only I could! 420
 CHAMBERLAIN Lord, these are but trivial things.
 Consider them to be nonsense.
 Dismiss such worry from your mind.
 JOACHIM I know what you say is right.

	Ten is, by avontuere, maer swaermoedich voetsel die cause daer van.	425
CAMERLINCK	Hier coemt versoetsele.	
	<i>Achas Sedechias uut.</i>	
	U heeren coemen, maect een verblydinghe.	
JOACHIM	Hoe coemdy gelooopen!	
ACHAS	Al quay tydinghe, eerwerdighe heere, maer wilt tevreden syn.	
JOACHIM	Wat isser gaens?	
ACHAS	Wy en connen noulycx uitspreken die reden fyn.	430
	Nochtans, wy moetent u wel verclaeren.	
JOACHIM	Ick hope, tis al goet met myn vrouwe.	
SEDECHIAS	Ke! Laetse varen!	
	Arger en was ter werelt noyt gevonden.	
JOACHIM	Wat heftse bedreven?	
ACHAS	Vaet myn orconden: overspel! Dus hebben wyse vast in ons handen.	435
JOACHIM	Overspel?	
ACHAS	Ja.	
JOACHIM	Och, wat scanden is my nu nakende duer dees nieu mare!	
SEDECHIAS	Alle man weet!	
ACHAS	Tis int clare; dus laet haer geven haer punitie.	
JOACHIM	Och, wat moet ick hooren!	
SEDECHIAS	Noyt meerder malitie!	440
JOACHIM	Ay, valsche vrouwe! Ghy hadt my certeyn geloeft u trouwe dwelck ick wel heb in mynen behouwe doen ick u eerstwerff sach.	
	Maer sy verdwynt als bloesel by couwe.	445
	Dies in my coemt soe groeten rouwe, nacht ende dach.	
	Och, ick hiel u getrouwe, suyver kersouwe, maer ghy syt verkeert als loot by gouwe.	
	Ick en weet dit leggen in wat vouwe.	450
	Dus ick wel seggen mach: 'O wee! O wach, dat ick u oyt sach!'	

It is, perhaps, only a figment of imagination 425
 Which has caused it.
 CHAMBERLAIN Here comes a remedy.
Achas and Sedechias enter.
 Your lords are coming who will cheer you up.
 JOACHIM Why are you hurrying?
 ACHAS It's because of bad news,
 Noble lord, but be calm.
 JOACHIM What's going on?
 ACHAS We can barely tell you the truth. 430
 But nevertheless we will have to explain it to you.
 JOACHIM I hope all is well with my wife.
 SEDECHIAS Christ, get rid of her!
 There never was a worse one in the world.
 JOACHIM What has she done?
 ACHAS Listen to my tale:
 Adultery! That's why we locked her up. 435
 Adultery?
 JOACHIM Yes.
 JOACHIM Oh, this terrible news
 Brings great shame to me!
 SEDECHIAS Everyone knows it.
 ACHAS There's no doubt about it:
 So let's give her her punishment.
 JOACHIM Oh, what a terrible thing to hear!
 SEDECHIAS Never greater malice! 440
 JOACHIM O false woman!
 You had certainly promised me your loyalty,
 Which indeed I have in my keeping
 From when I first saw you.
 But it disappears like bloom in the frost. 445
 Therefore such great misery wells up in me
 Night and day.
 Oh, I thought you loyal, pure cherry,
 But you have changed from gold into lead.
 I don't know how to explain this. 450
 So I may well say 'Oh, woe is me,
 That I ever set eyes on you!'

TSPEEL VAN SUSANNA

SEDECHIAS	Hoort, ten baet geen gelach; want by haerder valshyt heft sy u ontvlogen.	
ACHAS	Tis seker waer.	
SEDECHIAS	Ten is niet geloghen.	
	Dus doetse halen en laetse verwysen.	455
ACHAS	Haelt die dienaers!	
CAMERLINCK	Ick sal gaen bysen. Droefhyt moet my int hertte rysen. My dunct, sy staen ons hier en wachten. Compt by de heeren.	
<i>Sinnen uut.</i>		
INGEVEN	Wel, hoogste van geslachten, onsen dienst en derff hy niet sparen. God gruets u, myn heeren.	460
ACHAS	Hoort ons verclaren. Gaet, haest u raschelyck, sonder beswaren: haelt Susanna. Aensiet geen misbaren, maer doetse naren hier int gesichte, want al saetse op Godts outaren, soe salse als ander mesdadige varen en corten haer jaeren mits haerder tichte. Dus, ghy dienaers, syt int werck lichte en bringse rasselyck voer ons hier vuere.	465
SEDECHIAS	Sult ghyse wel bringen?	
BEGERTTE	Ja wy, wel te cuere, al waersy xv mannen sterckere.	470
SEDECHIAS	Haeltse dan daer binnen uutten kerckere. Sy sal eerlanck haer levens quyt syn.	
INGEVEN	Wel gerne, heere.	
ACHAS	Ja, want tsal u profyt syn. En aensiet geen kermen, cryten noch clagen.	475
BEGERTTE	Wiltse niet gaen dan?	
INGEVEN	Soe sullen wyse dragen! Ons en raect wiens huys dat bernt, achermen.	
<i>Joachim, Achas, Sedechias int recthuys.</i>		
	Te minsten, dat wy ons aen die coelen wermen!	
<i>[Susanna uut.]</i>		

SEDECHIAS	Listen, it's no use lamenting; Because of her falseness she has given you the slip.	
ACHAS	That's for sure.	
SEDECHIAS	That's not a lie.	
	Let her be fetched and condemned.	455
ACHAS	Call the servants.	
CHAMBERLAIN	I shall go and fetch them! My heart must give way to sorrow: Ah, there they are waiting for us. Come to the lords.	
	<i>Sinnekens enter.</i>	
SUGGESTION	Well, the noblest of lords, He cannot do without our service. God greet you, my lords.	460
ACHAS	Listen to our explanation. Go, in haste, and without delay Fetch Susanna. Don't pay any attention to her tears, But bring her in so that we can see her, Because even if she was sitting on God's altar She must endure punishment like any other criminal, And this accusation will shorten her years. So, you servants, be quick and do your work And bring her speedily before us.	465
SEDECHIAS	Are you bringing her now?	
DESIRE	Yes, as you wish, Even though she were stronger than fifteen men.	470
SEDECHIAS	Fetch her out from the dungeon; Before long her life will be over.	
SUGGESTION	Gladly, lord.	
ACHAS	Yes, it'll be to your advantage.	
DESIRE	Take no notice of groaning, weeping, or lamenting. What if she doesn't want to come?	475
SUGGESTION	Then we'll carry her; We don't care whose house is burning — tough. <i>Joachim, Achas, and Sedechias go into the Court Room.</i> At least we'll warm ourselves on the coals.	
	<i>[Susanna enters.]</i>	

TSPEEL VAN SUSANNA

BEGERTTE	Tscynt, die tranen haer uuten oghen springhen.	
INGEVEN	Goeden dach, myn vrouwe.	
BEGERTTE	Cont ghy wel singhen?	480
	Ghy hebt een poesken kempaet geten.	
	Coemt, gaet met ons.	
SUSANNA	O godelycke secreten,	
	die hemel en erde gemaect hebt van nyt,	
	weest myns gedachtich in dit verdriet.	
	Den tyt die naect, cort is die uure.	485
INGEVEN	Nu, maket corts!	
BEGERTTE	Ja, stect u duere!	
	U en sal niet baten popelen oft lesen.	
SUSANNA	O geminde vrinden, wilt myns genadich wesen.	
	Ontfermt u mynder creatueren mits desen	
	want aders en pesen my nu verstyven.	490
	In my is nu sulken rouwe geresen,	
	dat icx en mach in geenen dagen genesen,	
	duer tvalsch bedryven.	
INGEVEN	Sult ghy al den dach dus staen kyven?	
	Ick en heb myn daghe noyt uws gelycx gehoort!	495
BEGERTTE	Suldy vlues coemen!	
INGEVEN	Way, coemt voort!	
	Die heeren souwen ons staen verbeyen.	
SUSANNA	Ick volge u nu; Godt moet my geleyen.	
	Gode beveel ick my, dies al is machtich.	
	Ick bidt U, God, weest myns gedachtich.	500
	<i>Als Susanna geleyt wordt sal noch ander volck uut coemen om te hooren en sien.</i>	
ACHAS	Sy coemt hier gaende.	
SEDECHIAS	Dat doetse sekere!	
ACHAS	Hoe isse bescaemt!	
SEDECHIAS	Als een quekere	
	die metten vincken haelt syn voetsele.	
SUSANNA <i>huilende</i>	Weest myns genadich!	
JOACHIM	Ay, arch gebroetsele!	
	My is te wers dat ick u aenschauwe.	505
	Ick hiel u voer die getrautste vrouwe	
	die men vinden mocht opder erden,	
	maer het blyct contrarie.	

THE PLAY OF SUSANNA

DESIRE It seems as if the tears spring from her eyes.
SUGGESTION Good day, my lady.
DESIRE It's time for the canary to sing? 480
 You've eaten enough hemp seed.
 Come along with us.
SUSANNA O divine mystery,
 Which has made heaven and earth out of nothing,
 Have pity on me in my sorrow.
 The time is near, the hour is brief. 485
SUGGESTION Now hurry up!
DESIRE Go on, get a move on!
 Praying or reading won't help you at all.
SUSANNA O dearest friends, show mercy to me.
 Have pity on my mortal state,
 For my veins and muscles are stiffening. 490
 Such sorrow is rising up in me,
 That I shall not be cured of it in all my days,
 Because of this cruel plot.
SUGGESTION Are you going to stand there all day sounding off?
 I haven't heard anything like it in all my days! 495
DESIRE Get a move on!
SUGGESTION Come on, then!
 The lords are waiting for us.
SUSANNA I'll follow you; may God now guide me.
 I commend myself to almighty God.
 I pray you, God, have mercy on me. 500
As Susanna is led away other people will now come to hear and see her.
ACHAS Here she comes.
SEDECHIAS She certainly does.
ACHAS How she is ashamed!
SEDECHIAS As a gambler
 Who gets his food by dicing.
SUSANNA *weeping* Have mercy on me!
JOACHIM O child of the devil!
 It makes me sick to see you. 505
 I thought you to be the most loyal wife
 To be found on earth,
 But you are quite the opposite.

TSPEEL VAN SUSANNA

SUSANNA	By uwer eerwerden, myn heer, myn man, ick ben belogen.	
ACHAS	Ghy licht, seg ick, valschelyck!	
SUSANNA	Ick ben bedrogen!	510
	Ick bidts u, wilt my doch hooren spreken.	
SEDECHIAS	Tis om niet.	
ACHAS	Way, segt op, laet sien.	
	Versien een luegene soe ghy op wege syt.	
JOACHIM	My dunct, dat ghy bescaempt te dege syt. Dus maket cort, sonder lang te dralene.	515
	Ghy en weet wat seggen?	
SEDECHIAS	Goy, sy hevet noch te halene!	
	Geringe! Laet haer haer sententie geven.	
SUSANNA	Ick bidts u, wilt my audientie geven. Doen ick ginck wandelen — dus ist gebuert — met mynen maechdekens ongetruert,	520
	in mynen boemgaert, na myn costuyme, daer was ick alleene te mynen beruyme, meenende my te wasschen, soe elc wel weet. Dat weer was lustich, die sonne was heet. Soe sant ick myn boden om des my gebrack.	525
	Dus int omsien ick seer ontstack, omdat ick dees heeren sach by my. Ick was bescaemt — och, vaet myn bely — want ick haers daer niet en was gewoene. Doen wouwen sy my vercrachten met gedoene, omdat ick niet en woude doen des sy begeerden.	530
JOACHIM	Soe hebbense my gevanghen. Souwen die heeren van sulker werden tot soe leelycker daet syn verblent? Dats ongelooftyck!	
SEDECHIAS	Wy syn wel voer anders bekend,	534
	En sach ick u niet met eenen jongelinck converseren?	
SUSANNA	Neen ghy, certeynlyck.	
SEDECHIAS	Ick wilt ten heyligen sweren dat hy by u lach en roseerde; hy custen, hy toecten, by u boeleerde: dit was ick siende, by mynder trouwen. Waest nyt waer?	

THE PLAY OF SUSANNA

SUSANNA I swear by your honour
 My lord, my husband, I have been maligned.

ACHAS I say you're lying through your teeth!

SUSANNA I have been deceived. 510
 I beg you to hear me speak.

SEDECHIAS It won't help.

ACHAS Well, speak up, let's hear it.
 Embellish your tissue of lies as you go.

JOACHIM You should be thoroughly ashamed of yourself.
 Keep it short, and don't spin it out. 515
 You do not know what to say?

SEDECHIAS God, she's got to dredge something up!
 Come on, let's pronounce her sentence.

SUSANNA I beg you, please allow me a hearing.
 When I went for a walk — this is what happened —
 With my cheerful maidservants 520
 In my orchard, as I am wont to do,
 There was I alone, in my bower,
 Planning to bathe, as everyone knows I do.
 The weather was lovely, the sun was hot,
 So I sent my servant to bring what I needed. 525
 When I looked round I was horrified
 Because suddenly I saw those lords near me.
 I was abashed — you must understand —
 For I didn't expect to see them there at all.
 Then they actually tried to take me by force, 530
 Because I wouldn't give in to what they wanted.
 And that's how they trapped me.

JOACHIM Would men of such distinction
 Be blind enough to do such an ugly deed?
 That's not to be believed!

SEDECHIAS That's not our reputation.
 Didn't I see you chatting up some young man? 535

SUSANNA No, you couldn't have.

SEDECHIAS I'll swear by all that is holy
 He lay with you and enjoyed you;
 He kissed and cuddled you, and you made love:
 I saw it myself, on my word of honour.
 Wasn't it so?

TSPEEL VAN SUSANNA

ACHAS	Ick wilt ten heyiligen houwen en noch meer dat ick wel vercleren sal: soe sach ict vast ane.	540
SEDECHIAS	Ick lietse geberen al, totdat wy heymelyck quamen in gedrongen. En mits hy jonck en sterck was is hy ons ontsprongen, al sou hy versmachten.	545
ACHAS	Ke! Hy most ons wel sien!	
SEDECHIAS	Iemant moest ons wel wachten! Anders hadden wy hem wel gevanghen.	
JOACHIM	Eylaes, na die doot mach ick wel verlangen! Och, dat ghy u tot sulck werck stelde!	
TGEMEYN VOLCK	Sy moet gesteent worden!	
SEDECHIAS	Twaer jaemer, dat mense hilde. Dus laetse hebben cortte expeditie.	550
ACHAS	Sy en wouwen ons nyt noemen.	
SEDECHIAS	Daerom hadse suspitie. Soe dobbel was sy met haerder booshyt.	
ACHAS	Sy is vals!	
SEDECHIAS	Sy huycet van looshyt! Dus heere, laetet vonnisse vercleren.	555
ACHAS	Bintse vaste!	
[SEDECHIAS]	Ja, soe en mach sy ons nyt deren. Wy hebben genoch tverstant begrepen.	
TGEMEYN VOLCK	Sy moet sterven!	
	<i>Susanna weenden seere.</i>	
JOACHIM	Ja, tis verloren gepepen: ick geloeve haer bat dan u alleene.	
SUSANNA	Och, moet ick sterven die doot gemeene? Soe maect my slevens doch een eynde sonder lange quaele.	560
JOACHIM	Hadt doch in tyts gesorcht voer desen alende, die u nu seer haest gebueren mach.	
SUSANNA	Och, syt myns genadich.	
SEDECHIAS	En bidt om geen verdrach. Den wet van Moyses moet onderhouwen syn.	565
ACHAS	Overspelders moeten, oft man oft vrouwen syn, die doot sterven.	

THE PLAY OF SUSANNA

ACHAS	I'll swear to it by all that's holy; And I can add something else. I'm certain I saw it.	540
SEDECHIAS	I let them carry on, Until we came stealthily into the bower. But because he was young and strong he evaded us, Even though he risked his life.	545
ACHAS	Heavens! He must have spotted us!	
SEDECHIAS	Someone else must have interfered! Otherwise we'd have captured him.	
JOACHIM	Alas, I may well long for death! Oh, that you've let yourself in for such a thing!	
COMMON PEOPLE	She should be stoned!	
SEDECHIAS	It's a pity to wait. Let her have short shrift.	550
ACHAS	She didn't want to give him away to us.	
SEDECHIAS	That's why she was crafty. Her wickedness was twofold.	
ACHAS	She is cunning!	
SEDECHIAS	She is full of deceit! So, lords, let's give judgement.	555
ACHAS	Tie her up securely.	
[SEDECHIAS]	Yes; then she can't harm us. It's quite clear what she's done.	
COMMON PEOPLE	She has to die. <i>Susanna weeps piteously.</i>	
JOACHIM	Yes, it's no making a song and dance; I believe them, rather than you on your own.	
SUSANNA	Oh, do I have to die a shameful death? Then make my life come to an end Without further torment.	560
JOACHIM	If only you had prevented this misery Which is about to be unleashed on you!	
SUSANNA	Oh, have mercy on me.	
SEDECHIAS	And don't pray for further mercy: The law of Moses must be maintained.	565
ACHAS	Adulterers, either men or women, have to Die this death.	

TSPEEL VAN SUSANNA

SEDECHIAS	Soe gelyck sy sterven wilt, soe mach sy wel beven.	
SUSANNA	Nu sien ick wel, dat ghy my bederven wilt. Ick beveel my God in synen handen.	
BEGERTTE	Wat salmen haer doen?	
ACHAS	Haelt steenen in manden.	570
SEDECHIAS	Men salse met steenen gaen doot worpen, gelyck men in alle steden en dorpen die overspelders nu doet.	
JOACHIM	Och, my verandert hert, sin en bloet! Daer coemt altyt iemand int truerich gespan, ras. My docht, dat ick die geluckichste man was met die schoonste van alle Israeliten. Maer elaes! Nu sietmen tgeluck vervlieten. Haer eerbaer duecht, docht my, en was nyt om gelycken. Scand, spyt en liefde doen my thert beswycken. Noyt meerder verdriet!	575 580
[Vader en Moeder uut.]		
ACHAS	Tis tyt te volbringen die wet gescreven Met Susanna.	
VADER en MOEDER tsamen	Wat heftse bedreven?	
SEDECHIAS	Sy is valsch int begin. Sy is fenyniger dan een spin. Sy en is nyt wert dat sy oyt geboren was. Uit haer vloet quaethyt uit ende in.	585
JOACHIM	Och, sy is bevonden anders dan sy te voren was — dwelck my swaer om hooren was, segge ick certeynlyck, want sy een werck bestaen heft, dwelck is vileynlyck.	589
MOEDER	Och, wat is datte?	
JOACHIM	Sy is gemeynlyck bevonden schandelyck in overspel claer.	
VADER	In overspel?	
ACHAS	Ja, voerwaer.	
MOEDER	O moederlycke hert, maect nu mesbaer. Vringt nu u handen, trect uut u haer, beweent jaer dat ick oyt was geboren. Och, valt nu op my alle pynen swaer?	595

THE PLAY OF SUSANNA

SEDECHIAS So she will have to die,
 And well she may tremble.

SUSANNA Now I see that you will destroy me;
 I commend myself into the hands of God.

DESIRE What are they going to do?

ACHAS Fetch stones in baskets. 570

SEDECHIAS They're going to kill her by throwing stones,
 Just as in all towns and villages
 Happens now to adulterers.

JOACHIM Ah, my heart, mind and blood change!
 How quickly does one fall into misery. 575
 I thought I was the happiest of men,
 With the most beautiful of all Israelites.
 But alas, now we see fortune flee away.
 Her chaste virtue I thought unequalled.
 Shame, spite, and love destroy my heart; 580
 Never greater grief!

[*Father and Mother enter.*]

ACHAS It is time to perform the letter of the law
 With Susanna.

FATHER *and* MOTHER *together* What has she done?

SEDECHIAS She is false, to begin with;
 She is more venomous than a spider;
 She is not worthy to have been born. 585
 From her flows evil, out and in.

JOACHIM Oh, she is found to be other than she was before —
 Which was very difficult for me to hear —
 I say this with certainty —
 Because she has done a deed that is vile. 590

MOTHER Oh, is that possible?

JOACHIM She is publicly
 Found shamefully in flagrant adultery.

FATHER In adultery!

ACHAS Yes, certainly.

MOTHER O motherly heart, now must you cry out.
 Wring your hands now, tear out your hair; 595
 Lament the year that I was ever born.
 Are all heavy pains descending upon me?

TSPEEL VAN SUSANNA

	Opent u, erde, swelcht my inne sonder vaer. Doot, coemt my naer, ick bidts u te voren. Och, myn dochter die ick hadt uutvercoren moet ick nu hooren verwysen plat. 600
	My dunct, ick sal my selver verschooren want redene en hout in my geen stadt. O Susanna, die waert myn verborgen scadt, ghy maect my doogen van tranen nat. 605
	Ghy maect myn sinnen moede en mat. Ick en sie vinster oft gat duer tswaer gequel. Och, als ick u aensach, my was te bat. Maer nu is gekeert der fortunen radt, des ick moet gaen den mestroostrigen pat, 610 verdwynende als een roeseblat, dwelck geworpen wort in een stinckende vat. Dus rout my den staet die ick besat; Vaetet gewaghen.
SUSANNA	O moeder, laet staen u clagen, ghy vernieudt myn pyn, myn swaere plagen. 615 Wilt wat verdragen op dit termeyn. Al ist dat ick den last van druck moet dragen, ick hoep ick sal noch troost bejagen want hoep versoet wat myn pyn. 620
	Al ist nu dus, en wilt daerom nyt drove syn. Het valsch fenyn sal noch worden verbeter. Ick bins onschuldich, O moeder myn, dus verblyt wat u droevich aenschyn. 625
VADER	Al moetick voer die werelt geblaemt dryven, die op Godt betrouet en sal nyt bescaemt blyven. Ick hoep, ghy sult die waerhyt noch weten.
	O dochter, ick claecht den hemelschen secreten, dat ick dus moet in dit ongenoch syn duer dit hooren.
SEDECHIAS	Nu salt schier genoch syn. 630 Aenhoort uws dochters laeste sententie. Nu hoort en swycht, elc geve nu audientie. Ick wyse Susanna, verstaet wel die sake, dat men u sal binden aen eenen stake ende u steenen sal tuwen ongemake 635

Open up, earth, swallow me without fear.
 Death, come near to me, I beg you approach.
 Oh, my daughter, who to me was excelling, 600
 Now I must hear her directly condemned.
 I think I will tear myself apart
 Because reason cannot keep its place.
 O Susanna, who was my hidden treasure,
 You make my eyes wet with tears. 605
 You make my senses tired and dulled.
 I don't see a way to escape from this torment.
 Oh, when I beheld you, my heart leapt.
 But now the wheel of fortune has turned,
 And I must take the road of misery 610
 Disappearing like a rose petal
 Which was thrown into a stinking barrel.
 Thus I mourn my former state;
 Be sure of that.
 SUSANNA Mother, let your laments cease. 615
 You renew my pain, my heavy torments.
 For the time being try to bear this.
 Even though I must endure the burden of oppression
 I hope I shall now find consolation,
 Because hope sweetens my pain a little. 620
 Even though this is how it is now, don't be sad about it.
 This false poison will be made harmless.
 I am innocent, O my mother,
 So make your sorrowful face a little happier. 624
 Even though I may continue to be blamed by the world,
 Those who trust in God shall not remain shamed.
 I hope you will get to know the truth.
 FATHER O daughter, I complain to the heavenly mystery
 That I have to be in such misery
 Because of what I have heard.
 SEDECHIAS Enough of that! 630
 Listen to your daughter's last words.
 Now be quiet and pay attention, everybody;
 I know Susanna, understand well,
 That you will be bound to a stake
 And stones will pain you 635

TSPEEL VAN SUSANNA

voer die scande die ghy hebt bewesen.
 Dus, ghy dienaers, leytse wech mits desen.
 Wat dunct u allen?

TGEMEYN VOLCK Het moet soe wesen.

MOEDER Och, hoe sal ick genesen? 640
 My ontvallen nu aders en pesen.
 O godelyck wesen, wilt doch nu syn haer advocaet!

SUSANNA O vreeseloese conscientie, fenynich saet,
 hoe hebby by valsheden gegeven raet,
 dat ick moet sterven in desen staet,
 sonder myn schult oft sonder mesdaet! 645
 Des my verdwynt alle myn gelaet
 en alle vruecht my van den hertten slaet
 duer die sententie die my int herte gaet,
 want ick totter doot toe nu bin versmaet
 onnoselycke by twee verraders quaet, 650
 die in valscheden syn soe intrecaet,
 dat men niet vinden mach haers gelycke.
 Want sy syn in valsheden soe abstinaet,
 wachtende na myn doot als een gierich fraet.
 Des my die tranen loopen verre buyten dycke. 655
 O moederlyck herte, nu sulken druck ontfaet,
 omdat op my gevallen is desen haet
 myns mans, eylaes, by valscher practycke.
 Maer nochtans, so hout hy den hoochsten graet.
 Al verlaet hy my als oneerbaer vuyl verwaet, 660
 ick vergevet hem al, den soeten graenaet,
 hem biddende met worden delicaet
 dat hy myns doch wil ontfermen
 en aenhooren wil myn deerlyck kermen.

ACHAS Nu maket cort, ten baet geen achermen. 665
 Uwen tyt sal haest wesen vervult.

MOEDER O dochter, moety sterven?

SUSANNA Jaick, moeder, sonder myn scult.
 Dus neem ick orloff, myn moederlyck keest.
 Och dit sceyden doet my beven aldermeest.
 Vaderlyck geest, noyt hert en leet sulck tempeest 670
 als dat my nu leydt in dit foreest,
 duer tgene dat my nu is nakende,

THE PLAY OF SUSANNA

For the shame you have brought upon yourself.
 Thus, you servants, lead her away now.
 What think you all?

COMMON PEOPLE It has to be like this.

MOTHER How shall I recover?
 My veins and sinews fail me. 640
 Divine Spirit, now be her advocate!

SUSANNA O rash conscience, poisonous seed,
 How you have given a judgement by falsehood,
 So that I must die in this condition
 Without guilt and without crime! 645
 All my composure disappears
 And all joy slips away from my heart
 Because of the sentence which pierces my heart.
 Now I am now shamefully condemned to death
 And innocently, by two evil traitors. 650
 They are so intricate in their falsehood
 That no one can find their like anywhere.
 They are so obstinate in falsehood,
 Waiting now for my death with ghoulish desire.
 So my tears now burst all bounds. 655
 O motherly heart, now you are feeling such anguish,
 Because I am the victim of my husband's hatred
 Alas, by a villainous plot.
 But I hold him in greatest respect,
 Even if he deserts me as if I were an outcast. 660
 I forgive him everything, who is sweetest to me,
 Imploring him with delicate words
 That he will have mercy on me,
 And hear my pitiful groaning.

ACHAS Now hurry up, no more lamenting. 665
 Your time is nearly up.

MOTHER O daughter, must you die?

SUSANNA Yes, mother, without being guilty.
 So I take my leave of you, my truest mother.
 This is the parting which makes me tremble most!
 Fatherly spirit, never heart suffered such tempest 670
 As this which now awaits me in the wilderness,
 Because of that which is now approaching.

TSPEEL VAN SUSANNA

want myn hert is soe cleyn geteest,
omdat ick moet sterven dus scandelyck
duer een valsche sententie viandelyck. 675
Adieu vaeder, adieu moeder, syt droefhyt stakende:
God sal myn troost syn.

MOEDER O doot weest my rakende.
Thert en machs niet langer lyden.

SUSANNA Adieu vader ende moeder.
VADER Adieu allen myn verblyden.

SUSANNA O moederlyck hertte, wilt u wat vermyden 680
en bidt voer my, arm sondige creatuere.
MOEDER O sceeden, sceeden!
INGEVEN Rasch, stect u duere!
VADER Och, wilt doch wat beyen.
BEGERTTE Ja? Wat waert dan?
SEDECHIAS Ten baet geen screyen,
685 noch suchten, noch kermen, noch kussen.
SUSANNA O moederlyck hert, wilt u wat sussen
en wilt u kermen wat bedwinghen.
Ick hoep myn droefhyt sal noch met vruecht mingen.

ACHAS Syt cloeck in u ambacht en neemt haer dleven.
INGEVEN Ick bid u, wilt my doch die doot vergeven 690
die ick u aendoen moet voer u mesdaet.
SUSANNA Ick vergeeft u gerne.
CAMERLINCK O vrouwelyck saet,
Duer dit sien moet ick my vereenen.

SUSANNA Syt doch te vreden en wilt nyt weenen, 694
myn vrinden. Godt sal my, hoep ick, vlues ontfangen:
en bedroeft u nyt.

CAMERLINCK God help u uut verstrangen.
Eylaes, dat u doot aldus gelegen is.

SEDECHIAS Nu, stect u duer, al ist dat u tegen is.
U en baet hier geen geslach van handen.

SUSANNA Och, laet my spreken. En bindt ghy u banden, 700
ten sal my niet letten.

Bintse aende stak.

INGEVEN Her, steenen met manden!
En spaert u tonge, ghy soutse verslyten!

My heart is now destroyed,
 It is a scandal that I must die
 Through a false devilish accusation. 675
 Adieu, father! Adieu, mother! Cease your sadness;
 God will be my consolation.

MOTHER O death, come close to me.
 My heart can no longer suffer this.

SUSANNA Adieu, father and mother!
 FATHER Adieu, all my joy.

SUSANNA Mother mine, take heart a little; 680
 And pray for me, poor sinful creature.

MOTHER A terrible parting!
 SUGGESTION Quickly, don't hang about!
 FATHER Oh, stay a while.
 DESIRE What is it now?
 SEDECHIAS It's no use crying,
 Nor sighing, nor groaning, nor kissing. 685
 SUSANNA O motherly heart, be somewhat calmer;
 Try to restrain your lamenting a little.
 I hope my sadness will still be mingled with joy.

ACHAS Be competent in your craft and take her life.
 SUGGESTION I pray you, forgive me for the death 690
 I must inflict on you for your crime.

SUSANNA I gladly forgive you.
 CHAMBERLAIN O my poor lady,
 I am horrified to witness this.

SUSANNA Be content, and do not cry,
 My friends. God will receive me swiftly I hope; 695
 Do not be sad.

CHAMBERLAIN God save you from this predicament.
 Alas, that your death occurs in this way.

SEDECHIAS Now come on, even though you don't want to.
 No amount of wringing of hands will do any good.

SUSANNA Oh, let me speak. Even if you bind me with ropes, 700
 It will not prevent me.

Bind her to the stake.

SUGGESTION Here are baskets full of stones.
 Save your tongue, you'll wear it out.

TSPEEL VAN SUSANNA

Die wyle Susanna sprect sullen die dienaers futselen in die mande met die steenen.

SUSANNA O vrouwen, wacht u voer dees ipocryten!
 Weechse van u, die u eere verbyten
 want sy verwyten meer dan hun is kinlyck. 705
 Weest doch versinlyck.
 Benauthyt begint myn hertte te beryden,
 den moet wilt my nu sincken.
 Die doot begint my te bestryden.
 O God, wilt mynder doch gedincken 710
 want thertte sal verdrincken metter natueren.
 Dus bevel ick myn siele U, God, als vuere.
 Doet op die duere
 van Uwen hemelschen rycke.

Daniel uut.

DANIEL Ick moet nu sterven, arm mensche van slycke. 715
 Hout oppe! Hout oppe!

JOACHIM Wat, ou! Wat sal desen jongelinck gebreken?
 Wats u begeren?

DANIEL Ick moet u spreken.

Aldus bid ick u, wilt wat vertoeven.

JOACHIM Wat wildy hebben?

DANIEL Vangt dees boeven,
 vermaledyt geslecht van Chanaan! 720
 Haer scoenhyt heft haer bedroghen.

JOACHIM Wat raest die man!

DANIEL Ten is niet gelogen!
 Sy hebbent wel uut haers moeders borst gesogen.

Dus wiltse vangen sonder meer worden.
 Ja, soudy aldus donnoosel bloot vermoorden 725
 daer sy die saken is onschuldich?
 Mer Susanna, weest wat verduldich.
 Ick hoep aen God, u sal blyscap naken.
 Geeft u beyde gevanghen!

Vangse.

ACHAS Wat wildy maken?

Meyndy dat wy die saken syn deelachtich? 730

DANIEL En maect geen worden!

Whilst Susanna is talking, the Servants are busy with the baskets of stones.

SUSANNA O women, be on guard against such hypocrites!
 Send away those who destroy your honour
 Because they accuse you with no evidence. 705
 Therefore be sensible.
 Fear begins to take hold of my heart,
 My courage begins to sink.
 Death begins to overwhelm me.
 O God, remember me in your thought, 710
 Or else in the way of nature my heart will perish.
 Thus I commend my soul to you, God, as before.
 Open the door
 Of your heavenly realm.

Daniel enters.

DANIEL Now I must die, poor mortal that I am. 715
 Stop! Stop!

JOACHIM What's this? What's the matter with this young man?
 What is it you want?

DANIEL I must talk to you.

JOACHIM I pray you, do not go on with this.

DANIEL What do you want?

JOACHIM Seize these criminals,
 Cursed tribe of Canaan! 720
 Her beauty has entangled them.

JOACHIM What's he raving about?

DANIEL It's not I who's lying.
 It's they who have sucked it out of their mothers' breast.
 Arrest them without further ado.

JOACHIM Would you in this way murder innocent blood 725
 Whilst she is not guilty of these matters?

DANIEL But Susanna, have a little patience.
 I hope to God joy will approach you.
 You two, give yourselves up!

He arrests them.

ACHAS What are you doing?

DANIEL Do you mean we are responsible for this? 730

DANIEL Don't waste your words.

TSPEEL VAN SUSANNA

BEGERTTE	Want ghy syt cakelachtich!	
	Dus gaet met ons, u sal groet verseeren naken.	
SEDECHIAS	Wat suldy ons doen?	
INGEVEN	Wy sullen u heeren maken	
	oft ghy sout int lest blyven tondere.	
JOACHIM	Duer dit sien ick my verwondere.	735
CAMERLINCK	Och, ick ock, myn heere.	
DANIEL	Leytse elck besondere	
	en laet ons die saken wel overleggen.	
SUSANNA	O, wie sydy? Wilt my doch dat seggen.	
	Myn hert beswyct duer dees verblydinge.	
CAMERLINCK	O God, dits wel een blyde tydinge.	740
	Joachim, meester, en wilt nyt trueren!	
JOACHIM	Ick en weet wat peysen.	
CAMERLINCK	Dus salt gebueren.	
	Tonrecht salse syn gecondemneert.	
DANIEL	Hoe ist gesciet?	
JOACHIM	Twort u gedeclareert,	
	edel jongelinck van blyden aenschauwe.	745
	Ick hadt gegeven Susanna myn trouwe	
	want icxse hiel voer goet en gestadich.	
	Maer in doverspel vindicxse mesdadich,	
	alsoe myn heeren hebben bevonden,	
	dat sy met oncuysht was gebonden	750
	secretelyck met eenen jongelinck int preel.	
	Dus wortse gewesen ter doot geheel,	
	metten volcke al int gemeyn.	
DANIEL	Sy ist onschuldich;	
	dus en laet ons hier nyt langer beyen.	
	Ick salse, quets wel, uut rechten eer wy scheyen.	755
	<i>Quaet Ingeven en Vleeschelycke Begertte coemen uut en twe.</i>	
INGEVEN	Myn heeren, sy syn vast. Het torngelt is verdient.	
JOACHIM	Wat is u meeninghe, wys gheingient?	
	Hoe suldy dees sake eerst overleggen?	
	Dat wist ick gerne.	
DANIEL	Ick salt u seggen.	
	My en twyfelt nyt, sy sullent besterven.	760
JOACHIM	Ja? Hoe soe?	

DESIRE	You really are clucking away!	
	We'll take charge of you: you've got it coming!	
SEDECHIAS	What are you going to do with us?	
SUGGESTION	We shall make heroes of you;	
	But in the end you'll pay for it.	
JOACHIM	Seeing this I am greatly astonished.	735
CHAMBERLAIN	Me too, my lord.	
DANIEL	Keep them separated,	
	And let us investigate this matter fully.	
SUSANNA	Who are you? Tell me that.	
	My heart is giving away before this joy.	
CHAMBERLAIN	O God, this is a happy tidings!	740
	Joachim, master, there's no need to be sad!	
JOACHIM	I don't know what to think.	
CHAMBERLAIN	This is what'll happen:	
	This injustice will be condemned.	
DANIEL	How did it happen?	
JOACHIM	It will be explained to you,	
	Noble youth of happy countenance.	745
	I had given Susanna my trust	
	Because I deemed her good and faithful.	
	But I find her in sinful adultery,	
	As my lords have discovered,	
	That she was behaving unchastely	750
	Secretly, with a young man in the bower.	
	Because of that she has been condemned to death	
	By all the people.	
DANIEL	She is innocent;	
	So let us not delay any longer.	
	Be sure, I shall judge them before we part.	755
	<i>Carnal Desire and Evil Suggestion enter together.</i>	
SUGGESTION	My lords, they are secure. They will pay their prison expenses.	
JOACHIM	What is your opinion? How was it done?	
	How would you begin to explain the matter?	
	That I would like to know.	
DANIEL	I shall tell you.	
	I have no doubt they will pay with their lives.	760
JOACHIM	Yes, but how?	

TSPEEL VAN SUSANNA

DANIEL Haer booshyt salse bederven
metter hulpen van God almachtich.
Dus wilse halen, die boeven onsachtich,
maer bringse besonder, in verschyden plaetsen.

INGEVEN Cousynken!

BEGERTTE Neefken!

INGEVEN Tgaet nu op scaetsen! 765

Tis nu heel ontstelt!

BEGERTTE En waerom?

INGEVEN Tjan, tis al qualyck gespelt.
Die heete liefde blyft hem in die kele steken.

DANIEL Rasch, dienaers, bringt hier eenen.

BEGERTTE Ten sal aen my niet gebreken.
Wy sullen loopen, al waeren wy hasen.

INGEVEN Wat sal hy seggen?

BEGERTTE Wat sal hy prasen? 770

Ick hoop, sy en sullens haer niet beloven.
Waer sydy, meestere?

Bringt Achas uut.

INGEVEN Coemt uut en oven!
Men sal u een lesken lesen.

BEGERTTE Her! Gaet met ons.

INGEVEN Ghy sult genesen.
Myn heeren, hy is hier daer ghy na haecte. 775

BEGERTTE Sieten staen broncken!

DANIEL Ay, valsche geracte,
die verraden hebt die kinders van Israhel!
Dus seg ick u, ick bin Daniel,
die u nu vrage, verstaet dit wort nu:
onder wat boom saechdy, segt voort nu, 780
dese vrouwe haer besondighen?

ACHAS Ick salt u seggen.

DANIEL Willet my condighen
want die waerhyt sal u ontvliegen.
Dus laet hooren, ghy en sult my nyt bedrieghen.

ACHAS Ick sachse bey, moet ict reveleren, 785
onder eenen crieckeboem tsamen converseren.
Dus weety tslot van mynen motyve.

TSPEEL VAN SUSANNA

DANIEL	Ghy licht valschelyck van bedryve! Dus suldy sterven eer morgen noene.	
JOACHIM	O jongelinck, my staet u hueshyt te doene.	790
INGEVEN	Hout desen staende, ick sal den anderen halen.	
DANIEL	Wel dan, gaet.	
BEGERTTE	Ja, sonder dralen.	
SUSANNA	God sal aenhooren, hoop ick, myn bede ende maken nu vrede, daer was discoort.	795
	Sonder u wyshyt en was ick niet verhoort, maer men stiet my voort als eenen rovere.	
DANIEL	Hy en wordes hem geen belovere.	
INGEVEN	Myn heeren, hier is dandere.	
DANIEL	Hoort u sententie lesen.	800
	Arger dan Lucifer mach wesen, valscher dan oyt sonne oft maen bescheen, scender van vrouwen, valscher ingien: dus druckich ween is u nu nakende.	
	Maer segt my, waer saechdy dees vrouwe reen met eenen jongelinck int preel alleen, dat sy malcanderen waren rakende? Wilt ons dat seggen.	805
SEDECHIAS	Ick wort u nakende, maer u sprake is myn wort stakende duer u scarpe worden die ghy ruert.	810
DANIEL	Onder wat boom saechdyt?	
SEDECHIAS	Onder een eycke ist gebuert. Dus ongetruert was ict aenschouwelyck en omdat sy geheeten was soe getrouwelyck, soe wort my flouwelyck om Joachims wille.	815
	Dus gaeft haer onwert en sprack seer bouwelyck, doen wyse aenverden.	
DANIEL	Ghy licht seer grouwelyck, ghy vermaledyde gevysden geest! Dus suldyt besterven, creatuere onghევრეest, want eenen goeden leest heb ick tot uwen lyve vonden.	820

TSPEEL VAN SUSANNA

	Joachim, nu hoerdyt wel na syn vermonden, hoe hy hem selver heft gebonden ter rechter punitie, want deerste sprack, hoort haer nequitie,	825
	soe ghy allen gehoort hebt certeynlyck: onder eenen crieckeboem waren sy gemeynlyck. En dese seyt vileynlyck, twas een eycke claer. Nu wordy wel huer valschyt gewaer.	830
	Dus, vrinden eerbaer, laetse ter doot verwysen.	
	<i>ACHAS valt op syn knien.</i>	
	Och, myns lyfs genay!	
DANIEL	Wilt van der erden rysen want op u en heb ick geen ontfermen: dus spaert u worden.	
SEDECHIAS	Aylaecen! Wachermen!	835
DANIEL	Och, dat wy vleeschelycke begeerte oyt stelden te werke! Geringhe, leytsse binnen desen percke en maect gereetscap sonder dralen. Men sal haer loon na werck betalen.	
JOACHIM	O edel jongelinck van hooger speculatiën, ick val u te voete tuwer gratiën. Alle myn habitatiën willick u verleenē. Ende u, vercorene wyff van hooger natiën, vergeeft my, dat ick duer tsviants temptatiën	840
	u woude doen met oneere sterven. Ick bids u, vergevet my duer myn weenen. Och, vermaledyt moeten sy syn totten beenen die my dees sake hebben aengepresen!	845
	Ay, valsch verraders van Chanaam geresen, u versaeck ick mits desen ten eewighen daghen, dat ghy my dees bloeme uutgelesen soe valschelyck hebt met worden bedragen.	850
	[<i>Tot Daniel</i>] Dus bid ick u, aenhoort myn clagen	855

Joachim, listen to this tale,
 How he's set himself up,
 For just the right punishment.
 For the one claimed — listen to this evil 825
 As you've all clearly heard —
 That they were together under a cherry tree.
 And this scoundrel tells us
 It was definitely an oak.
 Now you understand their treachery. 830
 So, honourable friends,
 Let's put them to death.

ACHAS falls on his knees.

DANIEL Oh, have mercy on me.
 Get up from the ground
 For I have no pity for you:
 So save your breath.

SEDECHIAS Alas! Woe is me! 835

DANIEL Oh, why did we ever give in to carnal desire?
 Quickly, keep them securely in this place
 And get everything ready without delay.
 They shall receive their just deserts.

JOACHIM O noble young man of great wisdom, 840
 I fall at your feet in great respect.
 With all my estate
 I will entrust you.
 And you, excellent wife, nobly born,
 Forgive me that I, because of the devil's temptation, 845
 Would have caused you to die in dishonour.
 I pray you to forgive me, mark my tears.
 Oh, may they be cursed to their very bones
 Who have incited me in this way.
 Ah, false traitors, begotten in Canaan, 850
 I reject you hereby
 For evermore
 Because you have so besmirched for me
 This exquisite flower with evil words.
 [*To Daniel*] I pray you listen to my charge, 855

TSPEEL VAN SUSANNA

	en wilt verjaghen van my dees quay partye.	
SUSANNA	Ryst van der erden, staet neven myn sye. This al vergeven dat ghy hebt mesdaen. Dus en maect daer aff geen vermaen maer laet ons leven altyt gerustelyck.	860
INGEVEN	Myn heeren, synse niet gebonden lustelyck? Wat dunct u, willen wyse gaen expedieren?	
DANIEL	Geringe, werpse met steenen sonder cessereren en bringse ter doot.	865
BEGERTTE <i>werp</i>	Hy heeft ommers datte!	
INGEVEN	Hout! Keert ommers dien stoot, en geeft ons den bal weder sonder sneven!	
ACHAS	Eylaes, hadden wy wederstaen quaet ingeven en vleeschelycke begeerte. O wee! O wach!	
INGEVEN	Dits nu wel te tye.	
BEGERTTE	Tcoemt te spay dit geclach.	870
	Dus hout u backhuys en peyst op u siele.	
INGEVEN	Ghy had bat stil geseten.	
BEGERTTE	Ja, oft gesponnen metten wiele want dees prophetie had ick wel lang te voeren geseyt.	
DANIEL	Dus sullen sy al varen,	
SUSANNA	die doen oneerbaerhyt oft eenighe vrouwen nemen haer eere.	875
INGEVEN	Wy haesten ons seere. Hout dat en datte! Ten baet geen beven.	
BEGERTTE	Myn heeren, sy syn doot.	
INGEVEN	Wy hebben hun genoemen dleven: dus laetse ons dragen daer sy behooren.	
JOACHIM	God sant u hier.	
DANIEL	Vrindt uutvercoren,	880
	God en heft noyt syn dienaers verlaten.	
SUSANNA	Och, gheert sydy van ons boven alle staten, want ick waer doot en had ghy gedaen.	
JOACHIM	Vergeeft my doch myn grammelyck vermaen want u coemste was haer behauwenisse.	885
DANIEL	Vreest altyt God en hebt in aenschouwenisse die duecht die Hy u heft bewesen.	

TSPEEL VAN SUSANNA

VADER	Och, gebenedyt soe moet die uuere wesen dat ghy hier quaemt!	
MOEDER	Ick bin al genesen; aders en alle myn pesen die syn nu, Godt loff, al verresen. Alle druck is nu van my gejaecht. Ick bin vertroost daer ick was geplaecht.	890
JOACHIM	Loff God die verlost hebt, u godlycke natuere, die kinderen van Israhel die waren in getruere. Loff die verlost hebt, na scriftuere beleyen, die kinderen uutten viere; dats claer. Loff die ons gestelt hebt met verblyen. Loff, wien ick love met hertten eenpaer. Loff, die almachtich God is, hoochste geboren. Loff seg ick U toe want ic vint nu waer: die in U betrouwen en laet Ghy niet verloren.	895 900
SUSANNA	Loff, die Hester en Mardocheum bewaerde en aen Amon duer tverdienen syn straffe naerde. Loff, die my verlost van die schandelycke doot. Loff vader, loff soene, loff heylich geest soot. Loff, myn eenige toevlucht in der noot. Loff, levende fontyne, die voer die dorstighe vloed. Loff, werste hoochste God uutvercoren. U seg ick loff, vader, want ict ock seggen moet: die in U betrouwen en laety niet verloren.	905 910
VADER	Loff, die de sonne Uwer bermhertichyt heb doen schynen. Loff, die den siecken geeft medecynen. Loff, die ons vertroost hebt, O God almachtich. Loff, die donsuldige hebt bevryt. Loff, die gestraft hebt die booshyt verachtich. Loff, die de bedroeffde hebt verblyt. Loff God, boven der engelen choren. Loff moet ick U seggen taller tyt: die in U betrouwen en laety nyt verloren.	915 920
DANIEL	Prince, en aensiet nyt ons negligentie. Verleent ons allen een goy sententie. U bermhertichyt passeert alle U wercken. U seg ick loff voer alle weldadichyt	

THE PLAY OF SUSANNA

FATHER Oh, blessed be the hour
That you came here!

MOTHER I am completely restored;
All my veins and sinews 890
Thank God, are now well again.
All oppression has been driven away.
I am consoled where I was burdened.

JOACHIM Praise God who has delivered through his divine nature,
The children of Israel who were in misery. 895
Praise him who has delivered, according to scripture,
The children from the fire, that's clear.
Praise him who has brought us to joy.
Praise him whom I love with undivided heart.
Praise the almighty God, the noblest of all. 900
I praise you because I find it is true:
Those who trust in you, you would not let perish.

SUSANNA Praise him who guarded Hester and Mardocheus
And made Haman suffer his just deserts.
Praise him who saved me from a shameful death. 905
Praise Father, praise Son, praise gracious Holy Ghost.
Praise my only refuge in need.
Praise the living fountain which flows for the thirsty.
Praise God who is most worthy and excellent.
I give you praise, Father, because I must also say: 910
Those who trust in you, you would not let perish.

FATHER Praise him who caused the sun of your mercy to shine.
Praise him who gives medicine to the sick.
Praise him who has consoled us, O Almighty God.
Praise him who has delivered the innocent. 915
Praise him who has destroyed despicable evil.
Praise him who has heartened the sorrowful.
Praise God above the choirs of angels.
Praise him, I say to you at all times:
Those who trust in you, you would not let perish. 920

DANIEL Prince, do not hold our inadequacies against us.
Confer on us all a gracious judgement.
Your mercy surpasses all your works.
I give you praise for all benevolence,

TSPEEL VAN SUSANNA

	die Ghy nu gethoent hebt voer leecken en clercken, 925 duer U godlycke groote genadichyt Loff sy U, o God, na en voren. U love ick, U pryse ick in gestadichyt: die in U betrouwen en laetty niet verloren.	
VADER <i>tot Daniel</i>	Och, gebenedyt soe moet die moeder syn die u droech tot elcker uuere.	
DANIEL	Vrinden, this genoch, 931 maer loeft Hem die my hier heft gesonden. Ick en bins niet werdich.	
MOEDER	U duecht en is niet om gronden.	
DANIEL	Hout altyt vrede als man en wyff moet. 935	
JOACHIM	Och, ja wy.	
SUSANNA	Van myn eer en leven syt ghy dmotyff, soet!	
JOACHIM	Die heer wil u loen syn sonderlinghen.	
VADER	God moest hem doch herwert bringen omdatse deser saken seer onschuldich was en datse eerbaer en u gehuldich was. 940	
DANIEL	Neempt alle hier een exempel, met eerbaerhyt, aen Susanna, den spiegel van eerbaerhyt om te volgen naer.	
JOACHIM	Aen die oude boeven spiegelt u ock, voerwaer, aen hun valshyt en straffe openbaer 945 om te schauwen.	
VADER	Waert datmen nu, tsyn mannen oft vrouwen, alsoe met justitie brocht in benouwen om overspelen. 949	
SUSANNA	Ja, en die huns naesten eer en faem uut booshyt stelen en valsche eeden als honden belen om daerme te hinderen ...	
MOEDER	Tgetal van die boeven sou wel haest minderen. Syt God bevolen, heeren, mannen, vrouwen, en kinderen.	

FINIS

Gespelt anno 1607 op Hasselt kermisse maendachs den 24 7bre.

Lanck -1115.

Is noch gespeelt anno 1637.

THE PLAY OF SUSANNA

Which you have now shown before laymen and clerks
 Through your divine, great mercy. 926
 Praise you, O God, now and forever.
 I love you and I praise you for ever:
 Those who trust in you, you would not let perish.

FATHER Blessed be the Mother who bore you, 930
 to Daniel For ever and ever.

DANIEL Friends, this is enough;
 Rather praise him who sent me here:
 I am not worthy of it.

MOTHER Your virtue is not to be fathomed.
 DANIEL Keep peace for ever
 As man and wife should. 935

JOACHIM Indeed we will.
 SUSANNA You are the upholder of my honour and life.
 JOACHIM May the Lord richly reward you.
 FATHER God had to bring him hither
 Because she was innocent of these evils,
 And because she was chaste and faithful to you. 940

DANIEL Let all here take an example and a lesson
 From Susanna, the mirror of chastity,
 And follow it closely.

JOACHIM Also take example from those old villains,
 In their falseness and public punishment 945
 As something to be shunned.

FATHER And I hope that you, men or women,
 Would now, as the law demands, be in fear
 Of adultery.

SUSANNA Yes, and those who steal honour and fame 950
 And swear false oaths, barking like dogs,
 In order to create mischief ...

MOTHER The number of those villains should now decline.
 Be commended to God, lords, men, women, and children.

FINIS

Performed in the year 1607 at Hasselt fair Monday 24 September.

1115 lines long.

Performed again in the year 1637.

NOTES TO THE TEXT

- 82 *bunny* Probably lewd, referring to Susanna.
- 83 *Nobis* Possibly derived from *nabisso* (Ital.) hell, and so used for the devil, as in *nobiscroech*, hell, and the devil's inn.
- 99 This is a general expression for managing something, but in this case it also refers to the projected 'wedding' of Susanna to the elders.
- 380 *cladde* mud or dirt; can also be used for a shabby or disreputable woman.
- 414-5 The evil suggestion is that which has been generated by the Sinnekens.
- 551 It is not Susanna who has been deceived but Joachim and others.
- 553 Sedechias is accusing Susanna of adultery and also of trying to conceal her lover.
- 642 *conscience* is ironic.
- 663-4 Joachim does not sit formally in judgement on Susanna, but accepts the accusations of Achas and Sedechias without question.
- 746 *trouwe* may imply the marriage oath as well his having trusted her implicitly.