

HET SPEL VAN DE V VROEDE ENDE
VAN DE V DWAEZE MAEGDEN

The Play of the Five Wise and the Five Foolish Virgins

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The manuscript of the *Maegden* was lost in the mid-nineteenth century, fortunately just after an edition had been published, in 1846 and the two later editions are based on the printed version of 1846.¹ It has been suggested that its author could have been the priest Jan van den Vivere which places the text in the first quarter of the sixteenth century. He was possibly the *factor* of the Oudenaarde Chamber of Rhetoric *De Kersauwe* (The Cherry Tree) and he was connected with the Church of Our Lady in Pamele, a borough of the Flemish city of Oudenaarde.² Both Pamele and Oudenaarde had a lively processional and dramatic culture.³

The play seems also to have a connection with the Convent of the 'Black' (Dominican) Sisters of Pamele.⁴ There has been some speculation whether it was intended for or performed by the nuns, especially in view of its genre. The high proportion of female roles could be significant in this respect. It is tempting to see the play as an expression of Catholic sentiment at a time when controversy in religious matters was commonplace.

The *Maegden* is based on the parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins as related in Matthew 25: 1–13. This parable is one of many connected with the Second Coming of Christ on the Day of Judgement (Matthew 24: 5). The Virgins formed the subject of a number of European plays for which Lynette Muir coined the phrase 'extra-liturgical plays'.⁵ In common with liturgical plays, these employ Latin and contain song, but they were not meant as part of a Mass. Two plays about the Ten Virgins show similarities with the *Maegden* in their use of speech and music in different languages: the eleventh-century *Sponsus* has a sung dialogue in Latin interspersed with Provençal, and the *Zehnjungfrauenpiel* (1321) from Eisenach was sung in Latin with spoken text in German. The *Maegden* has predominantly spoken text and elaborate staging indications in Dutch including references to liturgical song in Latin. It is quite unusual, in the drama of the Rhetoricians, to encounter a play with such a substantial liturgical element. One other example of a Rhetoricians play which closely follows the liturgy is *The Play of the Three Kings* (1498) from Delft. This was performed in the church with 'angels' singing the *Gloria* accompanied

by 'the great organ' and 'shepherds' playing.⁶ The need for a chorus in the Delft play and even more so in the *Maegden* points to a spectacular mode of presentation.⁷

All three plays emphasise the fate of the Foolish Virgins: they are not to be redeemed, insight has come too late.⁸ There are, however, many differences. The *Sponsus* expands the 13 verses of the parable into some 90 lines of song and speech whereas the *Zehnjungfrauenspiel* has c.500 lines of dialogue in German embedded in antiphons, hymns, and biblical texts, all in Latin. In the *Sponsus* none of the Virgins have individual rôles, they seem to sing and speak in a group of either the Wise or the Foolish Virgins; the merchants too speak as one voice. The scene where the Foolish Virgins try to buy oil occurs only in the *Sponsus* and the only other departure from the biblical parable is the final scene where the Foolish Virgins are thrown into hell by devils. The *Zehnjungfrauenspiel* is much more elaborate: each of the Virgins speaks individually and sometimes one of the Virgins sings solo. There are other solo singers: Our Lord, Christ, and Mary and different groups of singers: Angels and Virgins; Our Lord, Mary, and Angels; and the Wise or the Foolish Virgins. The *Zehnjungfrauenspiel*, like the *Maegden*, expands the action considerably with a banquet of the Foolish Virgins and, unlike the *Maegden*, with a great feast given by Our Lord. Apart from that Our Lady crowns the Wise Virgins and there is an extensive scene in which Our Lady and Lucifer try to influence Christ's decision with regard to the fate of the Foolish Virgins. The play ends with the shackling of the Foolish Virgins by the devils, followed by a long lament of each of the *fatua*. In the Epilogue the Foolish Virgins mingle with the audience whilst continuing their individually spoken laments. The *Maegden* is 812 lines long, including Prologue and Epilogue and extends the action with a very homely waffle-eating feast of the Foolish Virgins. They squander the time before the arrival of the Bridegroom with their preening and jockeying for position in preparation for their departure.

In the *Zehnjungfrauenspiel*, the Virgin Mary is shown to be powerless to avert the condemnation of the Foolish Virgins. In the *Maegden* the Bride seems to signify Ecclesia, not Maria, though the last staging indication states: 'Our Lord goes out first with the Angels, and then Maria with the Virgins, and they carry her cloak'. Our Lady's absence as *mediatrix* is an interesting omission. The devotion to the Mother of God was particularly strong in the Low Countries from the twelfth century onwards and showed itself in the processional and theatrical culture in a variety of ways. Many

devotional brotherhoods were dedicated to her and Chambers of Rhetoric continued this tradition. Some speculation might be allowed here: if the *Maegden* did indeed come into being in the first quarter of the sixteenth century, and not in the late fifteenth, as had often been supposed, then perhaps showing Our Lady in drama was felt to be controversial. On the other hand, the Rhetorician Cornelis Everaert wrote a number of Mary plays in the 1520s and '30s, in which Our Lady does not have a speaking part. There are later plays in which she does function as one of the characters.⁹ It may also be that there was a reluctance to show the Virgin as powerless; no play comes to mind in which that is the case.

The *Maegden* distinguish themselves from the earlier Virgins plays by the elaborate and humorous part given to the frivolity of the Foolish Virgins. Just as in a morality play, they indulge in gluttony; there is excessive attention to clothing and appearance and to matters of precedence: *Hoverdie's* clothes and hair, the table arrangement and the serving order are all lengthily discussed. Their names too would not have been out of place in a morality: *Tijtverlies* (Timewaster), *Roeckeloose* (Negligence), *Ydelglorie* (Vainglory), *Hoverdie* (Pride), and *Zottecollacie* (Foolish Talk). Every one of these allegorical figures comes to life with a separate identity on the stage, but individually and collectively they signify the frittering away of life on earth and the unpreparedness for the Day of Judgement.

The names of the Wise Virgins, *Vreese* (Fear), *Hope* (Hope), *Caritate* (Charity), *Ghelooove* (Faith), and *Ootmoedicheit* (Humility), create less individual allegorical identities but each has been given a distinctive part to play. *Vreese* (Fear of God)'s almost desperate longing to be nearer to God and the implied awareness of her earthbound existence is countered with hope, compassion, faith, and an awareness of God's boundless mercy by each of her companions in turn. When they encounter the Bridegroom and are elevated into His glory, each responds in language reminiscent of bridal mysticism but with reference to their individual identity. *Vreese*, for instance, declares herself now free of all fear, *Hope* never doubted that God would be merciful, Humility rejoices that notwithstanding her *snoothheit* (insignificance) she may enter the glory.

Music forms a very important part of the play: the Foolish Virgins sing a song, the many *Pausae* might have been filled with vocal and/or instrumental music¹⁰ and *Sanctus*, *Benedictus*, *Suscipe nos Domine*, and *Te deum laudamus* are sung. Very extensive staging indications are provided which, in particular in the encounter between the Bridegroom and the

Virgins creates an almost liturgical, hieratic atmosphere. The staging indications also imply a number of mansions with curtains¹¹ and a compartment for heaven and for hell. It is not clear whether heaven is elevated or hell formed by a hell-mouth or something indicating a pit.¹²

The devil scene is reminiscent of the fifteenth-century Dutch mystery play *Die eerste bliscap van Maria* (The First Joy of Our Lady) in the gloating devils and in the detailed description of the torments awaiting the unfortunate souls. Here too, the *Maegden* differ from the *Sponsus* or the *Zehnjungfrauenspiel* in the details provided. The devils have individual names, some familiar, *Lucyfer* and *Pelsabuic* (Belzebub), but others with an allegorical significance: *Scerpondersouc* (Sharp Interrogation) and *Quadenraedt* (Evil Counsel) indicate the horrible interrogation to which the Foolish Virgins are subjected and the ill-advisedness of their actions, their failing to get ready in time, their complete absorption in worldly matters.

The *Maegden* shows a fortuitous combination of elements from liturgical and extra-liturgical drama with aspects that had been developed in the drama of the Rhetoricians.

NOTES

1. *Het spel van de vyf vroede ende vyf dwaenze Maegden* edited Jules Ketele (Publications of the Maetschappij der Vlaemsche Bibliophilen, series 2: 6; Gent: 1846); *Middelnederlandsche Dramatische Poëzie* edited Pieter Leendertsz Jr, 2 vols (Bibliotheek van Middelnederlandsche Letterkunde 13–14; Leiden: Sijthoff, 1907) 2 388–422; and *Het spel van de V vroede ende van de V dwaenze Maegden* edited M. Hoebeke (Klassieken van de Nederlandse Letterkunde; The Hague: 1959). Our translation is based on Hoebeke's second edition of 1979.
2. B.A.M. Ramakers *Spelen en figuren: Toneelkunst en processiecultuur in Oudenaarde tussen Middeleeuwen en Moderne Tijd* (Amsterdam UP, 1996) 164–5.
3. See Ramakers (1996) 78–9 and *passim*.
4. See Hoebeke *V vroede* (1979) 10–12.
5. Lynette R. Muir *The Biblical Drama of Medieval Europe* (Cambridge UP, 1995) 28–30, 148–150.
6. Elsa Strietman 'The Low Countries' in *The Medieval European Stage, 500–1500* edited W. Tydeman (Cambridge UP, 2001) 527.
7. In the *Zehnjungfrauenspiel* there is a reference to a choir but it is not clear whether this is not a repetition of the previous group of singers, i.e. Our Lord, Mary, and the Angels.
8. Muir *Biblical Drama* 148–9.

9. For Cornelis Everaert's plays, see W.M.H. Hummelen *Repertorium van hert rederijkersdrama, 1500–1625* (Assen: van Gorcum, 1968) 15–28. *De menschwerdinghe Christi* by Reinier van den Putte, for instance, does have Our Lady as one of the dramatis personae, see Hummelen *Repertorium* 64.
10. After the staging indication following line 372, Hoverdie says: 'Do you hear that fearful trumpet?' (line 379). The staging indication after line 502 reads: *ende men speelt pause* ('a *pausa* is played'). See for the use and significance of *pause*, W.M.H. Hummelen 'Pause and Selete in the Bliscapen' in *Urban Theatre in the Low Countries, 1400–1625* edited Elsa Strietman and Peter Happé (Turnhout: Brepols, forthcoming).
11. See for instance the staging indications after line 14: 'Without opening [the curtains] the [Wise] Virgins come out'; after line 434: 'and [the curtains of] the heavens are opened'; after line 502: '... then the heaven is closed and the hell is opened'.
12. There is a curiously classical pagan reference to the ferrying of the condemned Virgins to hell by Scerpondersouc, line 730.

THE PLAY OF THE FIVE WISE AND THE FIVE FOOLISH VIRGINS

Characters

FEAR
HOPE
CHARITY
FAITH
HUMILITY
TIME-WASTER
NEGLIGENCE
PRIDE
VAINGLORY
FOOLISH TALK
THE BRIDEGROOM
LUCIFER
SHARP INVESTIGATION
EVIL COUNSEL
BEELZEBUB

Pause.

PROLOGUE

Noble, respectable lords and ladies,
Please listen, be silent and observe
A spiritual presentation, right and proper.
We should like to perform this for you
For your enjoyment and recreation: 5
We won't make it long, a short presentation,
Simple and plain, as is our intention,
Trusting your excellencies
That you will receive it favourably.
It will be about the Five Foolish and the Five Wise Maidens,
As it is told us in the Gospel. 11
I pray you all, take it to heart;
Please listen, be silent and reflect:
We'll start almost at once.

Pause.

Without moving the curtains, the [Wise] Virgins come out.

DE V VROEDE ENDE VAN DE V DWAEZE MAEGDEN

VREESE	Och, waer zal ic nu gaen om raet? Want al mijn begheeren daer toe staet Mijnen Heere, mijnen Godt te ghelieven boven al. Al ben ic noch in deertsche dal, Ic zaude gheerne mijn leven daer toe voughen Dat ic mijnen Godt zaude vernoughen, Maer boven al staet mij te zinne Zijn edele ghenouchelicke minne.	15 20
HOPE	Och, och! hoe zal ic daer toe gheraecken? Mijn gheminde suster, wij sullent wel maken: De Godlicke goethyet es zo groot, Hij en zal ons laten in geenen noot; Daer in staet te vullen mijn betrauwen, An Gods goethyt wil ic mij hauwen. Gheen desperacie en mach mij doen belet Mits de Gods gracie; die heb ic met, Dus leede ic mijn leven al in vrueghden. Godt gheve mij voort te gane in dueghden, Daer ic hem mede mach zijn bequame Ende leven, dat ic hem zij anghename In minnen ende in caritaten.	25 30 35
CARITATE	Dat doet mij alle eerdsche dinghen laten, Ic ben zo vol der godlicker minnen, Dat al mijn affectien van binnen Al te male werden berooft. Ic kent, hi es verre mijn overhooft. Och, of ic wiste dat hi mijns zochte, Ende ic hem ghelieven mochte! Ic kenne dat ic hem niet weerdich en ben; Mijn herte, mijn ziele es al om hem, Maer mijn cleenhyet es zo snoode, Ic scamps mij, dat ic hem dit noode. Mynne doet mij mijn zelfs vergheten. Hoe lange, hoe lange zal ic verbeten Ende zijns ontbeeren?	40 45
GHELOOVE	Naer Godlicke liefde staet al mijn begheeren; Daer ic alle wijlen zeer na pooghe, Maer zijn weerdicheit es soo hooghe, Dat icker voren ben bevreest. Hi es vader, zone ende helegghen gheest,	50

THE FIVE WISE AND THE FIVE FOOLISH VIRGINS

FEAR	O where shall I go now for advice? For all my desire is aimed To please my Lord, my God, above all. Even though I am still in this earthly vale I would gladly devote my life to All that would please my God,	15 20
HOPE	But above all I long for His noble, blessed love. Alas, alas, how shall I attain that? My beloved sister, we shall surely attain that: God's goodness is so great, He shall not leave us in any adversity; In that I put my trust completely, To God's goodness I will adhere. No despair will hinder me Thanks to God's grace; it is always mine Thus I live my life in joy. God grant that I can continue in virtue With which I may please him And live in such a way that I may delight him In love and in charity.	25 30 35
CHARITY	This is why I forsake all earthly things, That I am so full of the love of God, That I am altogether robbed Of all my other strong affections. I know that he is absolutely my Lord. If only I knew that he sought me And that I would be able to please him! I know that I am not worthy of him; My heart, my soul are both fixed upon him, But I signify so little That I am ashamed to offer him this. Love makes me forget myself. How long, how long must I linger here on earth And be without him?	40 45
FAITH	Towards God's love is all my desire; Towards that I always strive, But His worth is so great That I quail before it. He is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,	50

	Een warach Godt in drie persoonen.	55
	Zijn stede es in de hoogste troonen, Zyttende tzijs vaders rechter handt, Daer hi zijnen eenighen zone ut neder zandt In Marien, der maeghdelicker natuere, An nemende onse menschelicke figuree,	60
	In dit allendich dal vol zonden Huten welcken hij ons heeft ontbonden Met zijnder passie ende bitter doot, Heeft hi ons bracht ut alder noot.	65
	Houden wij dat vaste in ons memorie, Et zal ons leeden ter eewegher glorie, Daer leven ende vrueght es eewelicke.	
OOTMOEDICHEIT	Na dat wij minnen zo hoochelicke, Zo laet ons te gronde ons selven vercleenen Ende ghetijdelicke ons zonden beweenen,	70
	Want die licteeken van de wonden, Die wij voormaels ontvinghen bij de zonden, Duchtic dat zeere zal moghen meshaghen Den heere wyens minne dat ic draghe. Maer hij es onfermertich ende vloierende van gracie.	75
CARITATE	Nu gaen wij dan yevers in contemplacie, Daer wij ons hauden in eenicheden, Ende keeren ons ten devoten ghebeden. Nu gaen wij alle onverscheden;	80
	Ic zal ons in eene plaetse leeden, Daer zullen wij zijn uut alle gheruchten, In weenen, bidden ende ghezuchten.	
<i>Pausa.</i>		
<i>De wijse maeghden vertrecken; de dwase commen uut. Eerst:</i>		
TIJTVERLIES	In alle dinghen willic ghenoechte maken Ende stellen bi sijden alle zaeken,	85
	Die mijnder herten mochten bezuaren. Mij wondert hoe Roeckeloose, mijn zuster, mach varen Want in langhe en heb ic van hare niet ghehoort. Wat ic wachte, zu en comt niet voort, En al quamse, ic en heb niet ghereet;	90
	Dus willic wafelen gaen temperen, Godt weet, Op aventuere of zij quame. Ic wilde zo wel dat zijt vername.	

THE FIVE WISE AND THE FIVE FOOLISH VIRGINS

	One true God in Three Persons.	55
	His place is in the highest heaven Seated at his Father's right hand, From where He sent down His only Son Into Mary, the pure virgin, Donning our human nature	60
	In this wretched vale of sin From which He has delivered us. With His passion and bitter death He has freed us from all wretchedness. If we keep that firmly in our mind	65
HUMILITY	It will lead us into eternal glory Where life and joy are everlasting. Since we love so nobly, Let us submit ourselves entirely, And before it is too late weep for our sins.	70
	For the scars of the wounds, Which we formerly received through our sins, I fear might very much displease The Lord for whom I bear love. But He is merciful and overflowing with grace.	75
CHARITY	Now let us go somewhere to contemplate, Where we can be in solitude And apply ourselves to devout prayers. Now let us go all together; I will lead us to a place	80
	Where we will be secluded from the din of life, Whilst crying, praying, and sighing.	
	<i>Pause.</i>	
	<i>The Wise Virgins leave; the Foolish [Virgins] appear. First:</i>	
TIME-WASTER	I want to take pleasure in all things And put aside all those cares Which might burden my heart.	85
	I wonder how Negligence, my sister, is doing, I haven't heard from her for a long time. However long I wait, she doesn't come out, And even if she came, I am not ready yet; So I mean to make a batter for waffles, by God,	90
	On the off-chance that she'll come. I want her to feel welcome.	

	Wat? hanziet waer zij comt ghestreken.	
	Ja! hae, zij es zo mooylick te ghereken.	
	Roeckeloose, te goeder tijt sijdi hier gheraect.	95
ROECKELOOSE	Tijtverlies, wat goegheluc zittij en maect?	
TIJTVERLIES	Wat dinghen dat ic make?	
ROECKELOOSE	Wat jae; zijdi daer ter lucht ghezeten?	
TIJTVERLIES	Ic zaude gheerne wafelkens eten, En ziedi niet dat ic tempere? wildi met?	
ROECKELOOSE	Stechse voort; ja ic, wat wil ic bet?	100
	Daer en zaude ic niet gheerne achter bliven.	
TIJTVERLIES	Wel, wildi commen, wij sullen wat zots bedriven. Maer waer es suster Hooverdije?	
ROECKELOOSE	Zu es daer binnen gaeij ende blijc Ende heeft haer mooylic staen pallullen.	105
TIJTVERLIES	Of icse noodde en zaudse niet willen commen smullen?	
ROECKELOOSE	Godt weet, jaese, dat ware haer eenen vondt. Wil icse loopen halen?	
TIJTVERLIES	Ja ghij.	
ROECKELOOSE	<i>gaet, clopt</i> Ic looper omme ter stont. Hau sec, hau, joffer Hooverdie, zijdi niet thus?	109
HOVERDIE	Wie clopt daer also rudelic? Wat benedicete? ic hoore abuis.	
ROECKELOOSE	Ic ben Roeckeloose, u sustre, kendi mij niet?	
HOVERDIE	Zijdijt? Mij gaf wonder watter briet.	
ROECKELOOSE	Ja ic bent, joffrau Hoverdie.	
HOVERDIE	Staet ut den weghe, dat ic lije, En doet mij mooylic reverencie.	115
ROECKELOOSE	Hoe zal ic dat doen?	
HOVERDIE	Altoos nijghen in mijn presencie Ende bughen u knien.	
ROECKELOOSE	Eist aldus goedt?	
HOVERDIE	Nu nog eens, laet zyen.	
ROECKELOOSE	Nu ziet dan, voort leste, Dats mijn alder beste.	120
HOVERDIE	Godt gheve u een goet jaer, dats wel ghedaen.	
ROECKELOOSE	Nu comic om hu, ghij moet met mij gaen: Wij zijn ghenoot ten etene.	
HOVERDIE	Wye heeft ons ghenoodt?	
ROECKELOOSE	Tijtverlies, dats goet te wetene, Die zal ons backen wafelen.	125

THE FIVE WISE AND THE FIVE FOOLISH VIRGINS

Hey, here she comes hurrying along.
 Yes, it must be her, so beautifully dressed.
 Negligence, you've come just at the right moment. 95
 NEGLIGENCE Time-waster, my goodness, what are you doing?
 TIME-WASTER What am I doing?
 NEGLIGENCE Well, yes: are you just getting some fresh air?
 TIME-WASTER No, I'm dying for some waffles,
 Don't you see, I'm making the batter? Will you help?
 NEGLIGENCE Beat away; I can't think of anything nicer. 100
 I wouldn't want to be left out of this.
 TIME-WASTER Well, come on then, we'll do something frivolous.
 But where's our sister Pride?
 NEGLIGENCE She's in there, blithe and cheerful,
 And busy beautifying herself. 105
 TIME-WASTER If I asked her, wouldn't she like this too?
 NEGLIGENCE Heavens, yes: she'd love it!
 Shall I go and fetch her?
 TIME-WASTER Yes, do.
 NEGLIGENCE *goes and knocks* I'll do it at once.
 Hey, Miss Pride, aren't you at home?
 PRIDE Who's knocking so loudly? Is that Latin? Am I wrong?
 NEGLIGENCE I am Negligence, your sister, don't you know me? 111
 PRIDE Oh, it's you; I wondered what was brewing.
 NEGLIGENCE Yes, it's me, Miss Pride.
 PRIDE Get out of my way, so that I can pass,
 And show me due respect. 115
 NEGLIGENCE How shall I do that?
 PRIDE Always bow in my presence
 And bend your knees
 NEGLIGENCE Is this all right?
 PRIDE Do it again, let me see.
 NEGLIGENCE Well, look then, for the last time:
 This is the best I can do. 120
 PRIDE May God give you a good year, you did that well.
 NEGLIGENCE I came to get you; you must come with me.
 We're invited to a meal.
 PRIDE Who has invited us?
 NEGLIGENCE Time-waster: and isn't it nice,
 She's baking waffles for us? 125

DE V VROEDE ENDE VAN DE V DWAEZE MAEGDEN

HOVERDIE	Ic ben altoos gheerne een ter tafelen; Als men wilt, ic ben bereet saen. Ja maer, dat mijn pareersel zonder waen Al nistisch staet zonder letsel, ziet, Want ic en zaude ghelijden niet,	130
	Dat ic boven al niet ghepresen en waer In cyrhede ende in behaghelichiet claer. Ghij hebt mij gheclopt zo gheringhe, Dat ict niet al en mochte volbringhen; Daer om zegt mij in trauwen goet,	135
	Oft al op zijn gentste staet, metter spoet, Om van elcken wel bezien te zinne.	
ROECKELOOSE	Jaet, joffren Hoverdie, na de zinne mijne En zie icker gheen letten, staet gheel op deduete.	
HOVERDIE	Maer ziet men dat gaut wel van mijn tuterluten, Van mijn gordyrryen en van mijne tuiten al omme? Om dat men weten mach waer af ic komme En dat men mij biede reverencie ende eere?	140
ROECKELOOSE	Jaet, joffer Hoverdie, in allen keere Ziet men alomme blincken et gaut, Dat elcken behaghen mach diet anschaut, Zo dat ic niemant en weet us ghelicke.	145
HOVERDIE	Ja maer, wilt mij alomme wel bekijcken, Datter toch gheen stof, hoe cleene het zij, Of vuilicheit an mijn cleederen en zij, Ende trect dat haer van mijnder mauwe.	150
ROECKELOOSE	Geeren, joffer Hoverdie, op alle trauwe, Ghij zijt al scoone, ghelooves mij.	
HOVERDIE	Zo willic mij dan stellen te gane met dij, Naer dat ghij zegt dat ic wel ben bereet, Maer Ydelglorie moet ooc mede.	155
ROECKELOOSE	Dats waer, Godt weet.	
HOVERDIE	Ja, want wij en moghen niet zijn ghescheen.	
ROECKELOOSE	Ghij moeder commen onder ulien been; Roep se voort.	
HOVERDIE	Ydelglorie, mijn suster, hebdis niet ghehoort?	160
YDELGLORIE	Jaic, jaic, ic komme ter stont, zonder verbeyden.	
HOVERDIE	Nu comt, wij gaen ons alle vermeyden.	

THE FIVE WISE AND THE FIVE FOOLISH VIRGINS

PRIDE	I'm always ready to eat; If you want to, I'll be ready soon. O, but do look at my finery. Is everything in good order? You see, I couldn't stand it	130
	If I weren't praised above everyone else For my beauty and my charms. You knocked so suddenly I couldn't get dressed in a hurry. So tell me in good faith,	135
NEGLIGENCE	If everything's just right, do say So that everyone will like what they see.	
PRIDE	O yes, Miss Pride, as far as I can see There's nothing amiss; it's all very pleasing. But can you see all the gold in my accessories, On my ribbons and all around my plaits, So that people will realise who I am, And offer me respect and honour?	140
NEGLIGENCE	Yes, Miss Pride, things are Glittering and shining all over you; It'll please everyone who sees it, And no one will have seen anything like it.	145
PRIDE	Yes, but please do check me all over That there isn't a spot of dirt, however small, Or a stain on any of my clothes; And brush those hairs off my sleeve.	150
NEGLIGENCE	Gladly, Miss Pride, and believe me, You really look splendid all over.	
PRIDE	Now I'll get ready to go with you Since you think I'm all right, But Vainglory must come with us too.	155
NEGLIGENCE	God knows that's true.	
PRIDE	Yes, because we can't be parted.	
NEGLIGENCE	Yes, you must both come together; Call her out.	
PRIDE	Vainglory, my sister, didn't you hear?	160
VAINGLORY	Yes, yes, I'm coming at once, without delay.	
PRIDE	Come now, we'll go and enjoy ourselves.	

DE V VROEDE ENDE VAN DE V DWAEZE MAEGDEN

- YDELGLORIE Ziet, ic ben hier.
 HOVERDIE Wey boeye! ghij staet wel fier;
 Certain, ken hadu bijna niet ghekent. 165
- YDELGLORIE Ic heb mij ghestelt zus gent
 Om dat mij elc zou prijzen.
 HOVERDIE Ghij moet hebben gracelicke wyshiet
 Ende mooi te proncken, al waerdi des briet.
 YDELGLORIE Proncken, daer ben ic de vanedrach.
 HOVERDIE Wat, dat es waer, ghij zijt den dut eraf. 170
 ROECKELOOSE Nu makes een comaf, en stellen wi ons te ghanghe.
 ZOTTECOLLACIE Mij dincke als bende ic langhe,
 Niement en zaude mijns ghedincken.
 Al zoudic op mijn een been pincken,
 Bij gaert! ic wilder nochtans met. 175
 Ic hebbe mijn zinnen alrede ghewet.
 ROECKELOOSE Zottecollacie, ghij waert binnen vergheten,
 Ghij moet commen helpen de wafelen eten;
 Wij en mueghen uwes niet ontbeeren. 179
- ZOTTECOLLACIE Wa, dats waer, Heere ! Nichte, maer dan de hoofd zueere.
 HOVERDIE Mijn zuster Ydelglorie, gaen wij onder ons tween?
 ROECKELOOSE Ic waut, ghijn dooght niet verscheen;
 Nu gaen wij voort alst betaempt.
- Gaet wat voort ende dan blijft staende.*
- TIJTVERLIES Wey boeye! nu werdic seer bescaempt,
 Want dit es de glorie met allen, 185
 Ende deze prondel wilt mij ooc ontvallen.
 Joffer Hoverdie, ic heet u feestelic willecom,
 met grooter weerden, nijghende al crom
 En buighende mijn knien tot bider eerden.
- HOVERDIE Godt weet, en daedijs niet, ic ghinck mijnre veerden. 190
 TIJTVERLIES Joffer Hoverdie, ic heb hu doen nooden ten etene.
 HOVERDIE Tijtverlies, staet op, tes mij ghedaen te wetene,
 Daer om ben ic hier ooc ghecommen spelen.
- Nu bringh men een becken om te duane.*
- TIJTVERLIES Joffer Hoverdie, bij uwen oerlove ghevraecht vele,
 Belieft uw handen te dwaenen. 195
 HOVERDIE Tijtverlies, dit zoude wel betaemen;
 Maer Ydelglorie, mijn suster, duaet vooren, ghij.

THE FIVE WISE AND THE FIVE FOOLISH VIRGINS

VAINGLORY	Look, here I am.	
PRIDE	Oho, madam! You do look good.	
	For sure, I almost didn't recognize you.	165
VAINGLORY	Well, I've done myself up so well	
	That everyone will praise me.	
PRIDE	You must have a lot of credit at the dressmaker's	
	To show off like this, as if you were rich.	
VAINGLORY	After all, showing vainglory is my forte.	
PRIDE	Yes, that's true, it suits you to a T.	170
NEGLIGENCE	Now that's enough of this, let's be on our way.	
FOOLISH TALK	However much longer I hung about here	
	I'm sure no one would notice me.	
	Even if I have to hop on one leg,	
	Bless me, I still want to go with them.	175
	I've really set my heart on it.	
NEGLIGENCE	Foolish Talk, we'd almost forgotten you,	
	You must come and help us eat some waffles;	179
	We can't do it without you.	
FOOLISH TALK	Good lord, that's true, cousin: that's the heart of the matter.	
PRIDE	Vainglory, my dear sister, shall we go off together?	
NEGLIGENCE	That's right: you two shouldn't be parted.	
	Now we can go in the right order.	
	<i>Moves a little forward and then stops [as Time-waster approaches].</i>	
TIME-WASTER	Goodness me, I begin to feel very embarrassed	185
	Because here come the posh folk,	
	And look what a state I'm in.	
	Lady Pride, you are most welcome indeed,	
	And, with greatest respect — see my curtsy —	
	I'm bending my knees to the very ground.	
PRIDE	God knows, if you didn't, I'd be off.	190
TIME-WASTER	Lady Pride, I have invited you to come for a meal.	
PRIDE	I knew that, Time-waster; you can get up now,	
	I have come here to be entertained.	
	<i>Now they bring a basin so that they can wash.</i>	
TIME-WASTER	Lady Pride, if it pleases you,	
	Be so good as to wash your hands?	195
PRIDE	Time-Waster, that is exactly as it should be:	
	But Vainglory, my dear sister, you wash first.	

DE V VROEDE ENDE VAN DE V DWAEZE MAEGDEN

YDELGLORIE	Bonnes paeyls! gaet ghij voren, ic comme hu bij.	
ZOTTECOLLACIE	Keri en benedicite! zullen wij hier langhe staen?	
HOVERDIE	Nu comt, laet ons alle tsaemen duanen.	200
YDELGLORIE	Bij uwer weerdicheden, dat en zal niet zijn; Joffer Hoverdie, ic biddu, duaet ghij voore mijn.	
ZOTTECOLLACIE	Wa also, also, ghij maect alle zo vele roeys, Laet ons dan dwaen naer ons pattooyts.	
TIJTVERLIES	Nu, laet ons gaen zitten ter tafelen; Maer ic en hebbe niet anders dan wafelen. Ende ons es brocht fijnen clareyt, Ghij en zijt niet ontfaen naer huwe weerdicheit, Of naer huwen hooghen staet.	205
HOVERDIE	Tijtverlies, dats wel ghesaet.	210
	<i>Hier stelt men de tafele met spijs daer op.</i>	
TIJTVERLIES, <i>al gaende.</i>	Nu gaen wij, joffer Hoverdie, Wij zullen ghenouchelic zijn ende blij, Ende maken goede chiere; Comt ende volght alle viere. Nu, joffer Hoverdie, gaet zitten vooren.	215
HOVERDIE	Ic zaude mij ooc anders lichtelic stooren; Nochtans moetic bewijsen mijn eerbaerheit: Suster Ydelglorie, comt sitten.	
YDELGLORIE	Dat en doen ic niet, voor waer ghezeit, Et ware groot onrecht; zit voren, wij volghen trecht.	
HOVERDIE	Nu ziet, ic doe dat ghij mij zegt. Compt, zidt bij mij.	220
YDELGLORIE	Orsa! wel an, ic comme u bij. Roeckeloose, mijn suster, zidt ende volght hier aen.	
ROECKELOOSE	Bij uwer werdigheit, Tijtverlies moet voren gaen.	
TIJTVERLIES	Dat en zal niet zijn; gaet ghij.	
ROECKELOOSE	Nu in Gods minne dan, ziet, Dats met orlove, en belght hu niet.	225
TIJTVERLIES	Nu commic hier bij hu zitten; Zottecollacie, Comt, zidt nevens mijne zije.	
ZOTTECOLLACIE	Wat, daer zal ic wel zitten; ziet, Ic doet zeer gheerne. Godt zeint ter maeltijt.	230
TIJTVERLIES	Joffer Hoverdie, tast toe ende eedt.	
HOVERDIE	Maer dat ghij hu selven niet en vergheet, Ic doet zeer wel.	

THE FIVE WISE AND THE FIVE FOOLISH VIRGINS

VAINGLORY	Pardonnez-moi, if you go first, I'll follow.	
FOOLISH TALK	Kyrie and benedicite! How long are we going to stand here?	
PRIDE	Come on, let's all wash together.	200
VAINGLORY	With respect, that can't be done; Lady Pride, I beg you, you go before me.	
FOOLISH TALK	Heavens above! You are making a song and dance: Let's wash and not be too posh.	
TIME-WASTER	Now, let's go and sit down at the table; You know I've only got waffles, But we've got some fine claret, Though I know it's not quite up to your standard, Fitting your high rank.	205
PRIDE	Time-Waster, that's quite right.	210
	<i>Here they arrange the table with the food on it.</i>	
TIME-WASTER	<i>bustling about</i> Now let's sit down, Lady Pride, We will be pleasant together, and happy, And make good cheer; Come now, the four of you, and sit down. Lady Pride, why don't you sit first.	215
PRIDE	I'd be put out if I didn't; But I must show my good manners: Sister Vainglory, you come and sit.	
VAINGLORY	I can't do that, it would be unseemly And quite out of order. You sit first, we'll follow.	
PRIDE	Now look at me, I do as I'm bid. Come, sit by me.	220
VAINGLORY	Fine! I'll sit next to you. Negligence, sister, do come and join us.	
NEGLIGENCE	According to rank, Time-Waster must come first.	
TIME-WASTER	No, no, you go.	
NEGLIGENCE	Now for the love of God, With your leave I'll sit: please don't take offence.	225
TIME-WASTER	I'll come and sit next to you: Foolish Talk, Come, you sit next to me.	
FOOLISH TALK	Fine, I'll be all right there; I'm quite happy. God bless this meal.	230
TIME-WASTER	Lady Pride, do help yourself.	
PRIDE	Now, don't forget to help yourself, I'm doing fine.	

DE V VROEDE ENDE VAN DE V DWAEZE MAEGDEN

TIJTVERLIES	Neenic vrij.	
	Zuster Roeckeloose, gaet hem bij	235
	En steect u hand in de plateelen.	
ROECKELOOSE	Ic doet zo wel, ic heb hier een gheheele,	
	Maer Ydelglorie, mijn suster, eedt over qualic.	
YDELGLORIE	Bij den pajse, qualic?	
	Ic ete met allen wel.	
ZOTTECOLLACIE	Bij de lancken! ic stacker twee in mijn vel,	240
	Ja, al waert ooc noch veel meer.	
ROECKELOOSE	Ghij zegt wel, maer ghij dient mij te teer.	
	Ic bringhe u een vriendelicken dronct, joffer Hoverdie,	
	Bidden, dat Ydelglorie niet vergheten en zij.	
HOVERDIE	Ic wachs van hu nae jonstelicke zeden.	245
	Mijn zuster Ydelglorie, mij es voor u ghebeden.	
YDELGLORIE	Ic verwachs gheerne ter tit van nu.	
TIJTVERLIES	Zottecollacie, ic zie op hu.	
ZOTTECOLLACIE	Dat mercke ic wel.	
TIJTVERLIES	Ic meene hu ende niemant el.	250
ROECKELOOSE	Wie zal ons wat ghenouchelic voort bringhen?	
	Joffer Hoverdie, zuldi ons niet en lideken zinghen?	
TIJTVERLIES	Ic hadt haer ooc ghebeden, hadic ghedurst.	
HOVERDIE	Ailace, ic ben al vercaut op de burst;	
	Mijnen zanc en zaude niemende verhoeghen.	255
YDELGLORIE	Kene, ic bids u, een liken of twee.	
HOVERDIE	Ten zoude niet doghen;	
	Ic ben zoo verstoep, ken zaeghs hoe ut te bringhen.	
ROECKELOOSE	Ke benedicite! Gij plaeght zoo wel te zinghen,	
	Ende eist nu al ghedaen?	
HOVERDIE	Ic zegghu zeker, ten zou niet gaen.	260
	Ken kan ooc anders niet dan discant,	
	Ende hier en es niemant naer mijn hant.	
	Zingt ghij, ic stelle hu in mijn staen.	
ROECKELOOSE	Wa, iuste Heere, dat zoude mij wel afgaen!	
	Ydelglorie, zingt ghij ons iet.	265
YDELGLORIE	Ic zoude gheerne doen, maer plat hute, ken cans niet.	
TIJTVERLIES	Wat, ghij maect alle zo veel rooijis,	
	Ic zal gaen zinghen na mijn pattoys;	
	Zottecollacie, helpt mij ende zingt met.	
ZOTTECOLLACIE	Gheerne, maer ken can niet zinghen dan int fosset.	

THE FIVE WISE AND THE FIVE FOOLISH VIRGINS

TIME-WASTER	No, I can look after myself.	
	Sister Negligence, come on now	235
	And put your hand in the dishes.	
NEGLIGENCE	I'm doing fine, I've a whole waffle here,	
	But sister Vainglory, you're not eating properly.	
VAINGLORY	Pray what do you mean by 'properly'?	
	I'm eating very well.	
FOOLISH TALK	By God's flanks! I've gobbled up two,	240
	And it could well be a few more.	
NEGLIGENCE	That's right for you, but I can't manage that much.	
	Here's a friendly toast to you, Lady Pride;	
	I pray that Vainglory will not be forgotten.	244
PRIDE	That is good manners: I wouldn't expect anything else.	
	My sister Vainglory, I've been asked to toast you.	
VAINGLORY	I'm very pleased with that.	
TIME-WASTER	Foolish Talk, here's to you.	
FOOLISH TALK	So I see.	
TIME-WASTER	I mean you — no one else.	250
NEGLIGENCE	Who's going to amuse us with something nice?	
	Lady Pride, won't you give us a song?	
TIME-WASTER	I'd have asked her if I dared.	
PRIDE	Alas, I've a cold in my chest;	
	My singing won't please anyone.	255
VAINGLORY	Come, let me implore you — just a note or two.	
PRIDE	I can't possibly;	
	I'm so blocked up I can't produce a note.	
NEGLIGENCE	Bless me! You used to sing so well too,	
	You really can't manage it?	
PRIDE	I'm telling you, I can't possibly.	260
	I can only sing soprano	
	And there's no one here to harmonize with me.	
	You sing, you take my place.	
NEGLIGENCE	By the good Lord, I'd make a mess of it.	
	Vainglory, you sing something for us.	265
VAINGLORY	Oh, I would gladly, but frankly I'm not up to it.	
TIME-WASTER	My goodness, what a carry on,	
	I'll sing in my own humble way.	
	Foolish Talk, sing along with me.	
FOOLISH TALK	Gladly, but I can only sing falsetto.	270

TIJTVERLIES	Ja wel, dats mij ghenoeght.	271
ZOTTECOLLACIE	Heft ghij dan op, na hu gheuoecht,	
TIJTVERLIES	Ainsy que vous plaist. Nu hoert alle, want test doncker auweet.	
<i>Hier zinghen zij een versken of twee al te gaere.</i>		
HOVERDIE	Cest assees, cest assees! Tes al te coene.	275
TIJTVERLIES	Joffrau Hoverdie, ghelieft hu hier yet meer te doene? Ghij zijt hier soberlic ontfaen.	
HOVERDIE	Bij uwer weerdicheden, ic heb goede ciere ghedaen. Orsa sa! willen wij ons niet gaen verspachieren Ende eens onse zinnkens recreeren,	280
YDELGLORIE	Op dat onse spijsje te bet mach zyncken? Joffer Hoverdie, tsoude mij goet dincken, Dus laet ons gaen al tsamen Vreught antieren naer betamen;	
ROECKELOOSE	Maer waer willen wij heenen gaen? Zullen wij hier noch langhe staen? Gaen wij daert alder ghenoechelijcst mach wesen, In vergaderinghen of feesten ghepresen, Daer hebben wij vulle vrucht al teenen.	285
HOVERDIE	Daer ben ic liever dan yevers alleene, Ic slachte ooc den spreewen tallen tijden, Ic gae mij geern in den meesten hoop verblijden, Daer mach men alle fantasijen veriaghen.	290
TIJTVERLIES	Laet ons gaen henen zonder vertraghen; Gaet voren, joffer Hoverdie, naer hu gherieven, Wij volghen alle naer hu believeen. Mocht daer gheloot zijn van musijken!	295
ZOTTECOLLACIE	Op dat men ons alle wel mach bekijken, Want daer men musijke zal hantieren Vergadert volc van alle manieren, Naer de melodye, gheloot ofte clanc.	300
HOVERDIE	Nu volght mij alle, dit es ganc. Mijn zuster Ydelglorie, gaen wij tsamen.	
<i>Dan keertse haer omme na de drie ander.</i>		
	Gaet gijlieden te gader, naer tbetamen, Maer en comt mij emmers niet te bij,	305

THE FIVE WISE AND THE FIVE FOOLISH VIRGINS

TIME-WASTER	All right, that's fine by me.	
FOOLISH TALK	You start, just as you like.	
TIME-WASTER	Ainsi que vous plait. Listen everybody; it's a bit risqué.	
<i>Here they [Timewaster and Foolish Talk] sing a verse or two together.</i>		
PRIDE	C'est assez, c'est assez! It's a bit too frivolous.	275
TIME-WASTER	Lady Pride, is there anything else you'd like? You've had a very plain welcome.	
PRIDE	With your permission, I've done very well. Come on! Let's promenade a little, And refresh our spirits,	280
VAINGLORY	And let our dinner go down? Lady Pride, that seems a good plan; Let's all go together, And make merry, as is proper.	
NEGLIGENCE	But where shall we go? Are we going to stand about for long? Let's go where it'll be most pleasing; Perhaps there's a get-together or a feast somewhere That'll divert us.	285
PRIDE	Yes, that's where I'd rather be — not alone, I'm like the starlings — all the time, I love to enjoy myself in a crowd Where all one's worries can be chased away.	290
TIME-WASTER	Let's go off without more ado: You go first, Lady Pride, I beg you. We will follow if it pleases you. I hope there'll be some music!	295
FOOLISH TALK	I hope everyone will get a good look at us, Because where people make music All manner of folk will gather To listen to the melody, however it sounds.	300
PRIDE	Now follow me, all of you — let's go. My sister, Vainglory, we'll walk together.	
<i>Then she turns towards the other three.</i>		
	You three go together, as is fitting, But don't come anywhere near me,	305

DE V VROEDE ENDE VAN DE V DWAEZE MAEGDEN

- Op dat mijnen steert zijnen cours hebbe vrij,
 En dat ic mach gaen te mijnen ghemake.
- ROECKELOOSE Gaet, wij en zullen hu niet ghenaken.
- Pausa.*
De dwase maeghden vertrecken ende de vroede ontsteeken haer lampten binnen der pause. Als de pause ut es, zo spreekt Vreese dese navolghende sprake, staende in haer huiseken.
- VREESE Mij zusteren, staet op; laet ons lampten bezorghen,
 Want et naecket zeere den morghen, 310
 Dat den brudegoem commen zal.
- Nu gaen zij alle ute ende men scuuft die gordinen toe.*
- CARITATE Wij zijn bereet over al. .
 Ic heb mijn lampte ghevolt in overvloed ende mate
 Met goddelicker mynne der caritate.
 Naer de comste mijns brudegoems hebbic verlanghen;
 Zijn minne hut mij zo bevanghen, 316
 Als dat ic hier niet en can ghedueren
- HOPE Met vaster hope talder hueren
 Hebic mijn lampte ghepareert,
 In vaster betrauwen te hem waert ghekeert. 320
 Mij en mach deeren gheen desperacie:
 Ic ben onthauden mids der Gods gracie,
 Daer werde ic af gheconforteert.
 Godt zij ghedanct, gheloft, gheheert!
- GHELOOVE Met warachtich gheloove dat niet en falieert, 325
 Heb ic mijn lampte wel versiert;
 Tes een olye die zeere verclaert,
 Dus verwachtic mijnen brudegoem onvervaert.
- OOTMOEDICHEIT Met ootmoedighe kennesse al mijnder scult,
 Daer heb ic mijn lampte ooc mede gevult; 330
 Dats een olye, die Godt zeere versacht;
 Ic pijnse te bewaerne dach ende nacht.
 Wie se niet en heeft es ziende blendt,
 Want se es van alle dueghden tfondament.
 Hier mede gae ic mijnen brudegoem teghen, 335
 Want duer zijn gracie heb ic se vercreghen.

THE FIVE WISE AND THE FIVE FOOLISH VIRGINS

	So that you're not sitting on my tail, And I can walk without cramping my style.	
NEGLIGENCE	Go on then, we won't come near you.	
	<i>Pause.</i>	
	<i>The Foolish Virgins depart, and the Wise ones light their lamps during the Pause. When the Pause is over Fear speaks the following lines, standing in her mansion.</i>	
FEAR	Wake up, my sisters, let us care for our lamps, Because the morning is nigh On which the Bridegroom will come.	310
	<i>Now they all come out and the curtains are closed behind them.</i>	
CHARITY	We are prepared in all respects. I have filled my lamp just to the brim With the divine love of caritas. I am longing for the arrival of my bridegroom; I'm held in the grip of his love So that I cannot bear to wait any longer.	315
HOPE	With steadfast hope at all hours Have I prepared my lamp: I turn to him in perfect trust. No despair will beset me: I am safe in the midst of God's grace, And I am comforted by that. God be thanked, praised, and honoured!	320
FAITH	With true faith that does not falter, I have prepared my lamp well, With an oil that gives a clear light; So I await my bridegroom without fear.	325
HUMILITY	With humble acknowledgment of all my guilt, That's how I filled my own lamp; That's an oil which greatly pleases God; I'm determined to preserve it day and night. He who hasn't got it is virtually blind, Because this oil is the foundation of all virtue. With this I will approach my bridegroom, Because through his grace I have received it.	330 335

DE V VROEDE ENDE VAN DE V DWAEZE MAEGDEN

- VREESE Met allen rechte ben ic verhueght,
 Want ons es naekende groete vrueght.
 Met discrecie ende bij beschee
 Ic mijn lampte met olye gheree, 340
 Vol Godlicke vreesse, die mij heeft behauden
 Ende heeft mij bracht ter eewigher vraden;
 Ic hebse ghegaert in al mijn leven,
 Nu zalse mij groote clærheit gheven.
 Gaen wij nu slaepen ende rusten; 345
 Wij zijn al bereet, ons mach wel lusten.
- Nu gaen zij zitten slapen voer haerlieder huis, ghekeert totten volcke.*
Pausa.
Die dwase maeghden bringhen lampten met cleenen lichte.
- TIJTVERLIES Roeckeloose, het es hier al bij wuite.
 ROECKELOOSE Hoe zo?
- TIJTVERLIES Ic kicke in mijn lampte en vinde de olie al uute.
 ROECKELOOSE Ic stae ooc in mijn lampte en zien, 350
 Ic en vinder niet in van bedien.
- HOVERDIE Ic hebbe ooc ghescrept ende ghescript
 Ende ben al ut ghetapt.
 Ic en vinder niet in.
- YDELGLORIE Syet, de mijne es ooc al huit.
 HOVERDIE Wij hebbens alle een cranc ghewin!
- ZOTTECOLLACIE Ons dinghen en dooghen al niet eenen bodt; 355
 Wat zullen wij doen? Wij werden al zodt.
- TIJTVERLIES Mijn lieve zusteren, hebt goeden moet,
 Ende en wederslaet hu dus zeere niet;
 Hebben wij licht, het ware al goet,
 Al en hebben wij der olye niet. 360
- HOVERDIE Een lampte berrent dicwils wel also clær
 Met cleenen voedsele, wilt mij verstaen,
 Als een ander doet, tes openbaer,
 Die al vol olyen was ghedaen.
- YDELGLORIE Costen wij ons lampten doch zo ghevoeden, 365
 Dat zij voor de menschen mochten scinen clær,
 Al en waren zij niet ghelic den vroeden,
 Daer om en gavic niet voorwaer.
- ROECKELOOSE Ic hope zij zal wel dueren tot morghen;
 Laet ons gaen rusten metten vroeden 370

THE FIVE WISE AND THE FIVE FOOLISH VIRGINS

FEAR I am quite justified in being happy
 Because great joy is approaching us.
 With discretion and with modesty,
 I have prepared my lamp with oil, 340
 Full of the fear of God, which has protected me
 And has brought me to eternal joys;
 I have gathered them all my life,
 Now they will give me great clarity.
 Let us now go to sleep and rest; 345
 We are all prepared and we may enjoy it.

*Now they go to sit and sleep in front of their house, facing the people.
 Pause.
 The Foolish Virgins bring lamps with feeble light.*

TIME-WASTER Negligence, everything is going wrong.
 NEGLIGENCE Why is that?
 TIME-WASTER I'm looking in my lamp and the oil is all gone.
 NEGLIGENCE I'm also looking in my lamp, 350
 And it's completely empty.
 PRIDE I have looked and tilted it
 And it's completely empty.
 I can't find any oil in it.
 VAINGLORY Oh, look, mine's gone out too.
 PRIDE This won't do us any good!
 FOOLISH TALK Our efforts aren't worth a penny; 355
 What are we to do? We're going completely mad.
 TIME-WASTER My dear sisters, cheer up,
 And don't get so terribly frightened;
 Even if it were only a little light, we'd be all right, 360
 Even though we do not have the oil.
 PRIDE A lamp often burns just as clear
 With little fuel, believe me,
 As another — it's well known —
 Which has been filled full with oil.
 VAINGLORY If we could fill our lamps in such a way 365
 That people would see them shine clearly,
 Even if they weren't quite like those of the Wise,
 Then I wouldn't be worried about it.
 NEGLIGENCE I hope they'll last till tomorrow; 370
 Let us go and rest like the Wise Maidens,

En van ons werpen alle zoerghen,
Blivende voert an met goeden moeden.

Dan gaen de dwaese ooc zitten slapen ter slinker zijde neffens de vroede ende haer lampten falgieren.

Pausa.

Hier hut men eene curte pause; dan maecter een varlic gheluit ende zij werde alle ontwaect, maer zy bliven zittende. Dan roept men met luider stemme dese navolghende spracke, maer diet spreect en ziet men niet.

Hoert, hoert over al! ic bringhe een nieu ghebodt:
Die overglorieuse almoghende Godt,
Die een verghere es van alle zonden 375
Es hu naeckend in curten stonden.
Tes dien brudegoem; de bruidt comt hem te ghemoete,
Van allere qualen bringt hij hu boete.

Pausa.

De vroede knielen de wilen voer hemelric ende verscieren hare lampten met meerder lichte, ende de dwase staen.

HOVERDIE Amij, amij, en hoort ghij niet dat vervarlic trompet,
Dwelc alle menschen roept ten oordeel? Wij moeten daer met;
Want onser consciencien zal werden openghedaen, 381
Ende wij zullen loen naer onse wercken ontfanen.

YDELGLORIE Amij, amij! Lacen, wat ons ghesciet!
Want dat scheen te zijne es nu niet.

TIJTVERLIES Wee mij! wat zal ic nu te hande slaen, 385
Want al ons licht es hut ghegaen?

ROECKELOOSE Och Godt, hoe deerlic es mij dit ansien;
Ic en weet niet wat van ons zal ghescien.

ZOTTECOLLACIE Wij mueghen ons wel bedroeven.

HOVERDIE Wilden ons de vroede mede deelen!

ZOTTECOLLACIE Laet ons proeven. 390

YDELGLORIE Gaen wij terstont!
Ic vreesse tzal hemlieden gheven bont,
Maer nochtans laet ons gaen bezien
Of ons eneghe gracie mochte ghescien.

Pausa.

Dan gaen zij totten vroeden met ghemacke, niet zegghende tot dat Ootmoedicheit ende Caritate gesproken hebben, de vroede maeghden staen ende keeren hemlieden totten volcke ende

THE FIVE WISE AND THE FIVE FOOLISH VIRGINS

And throw away all cares,
And remain hopeful from now on.

Then the Foolish ones also sit down and sleep on the left-hand side next to the Wise ones, and their lamps go out.

Pause.

Here they have a short pause; then somebody makes a fearful noise and they all wake up, but stay seated. Then someone with a loud voice calls out the following words, but remains invisible during the speech:

[VOICE] Listen, listen! I bring a new announcement:
The ever-glorious and almighty God,
Who enquires into all sins 375
Will be approaching you in a little while.
This is the Bridegroom; the Bride comes to meet him,
He brings you the remedy for all evils.

Pause.

Meanwhile the wise ones kneel in front of the realm of heaven and turn up their lamps, and the foolish ones stand up.

PRIDE Woe is me! Woe is me! Do you hear that fearful trumpet,
Which calls all people to judgement? We have to go too;
Because our consciences will be exposed 381
And we will all receive our just deserts.

VAINGLORY Woe is me! Woe is me! Alas, what will happen to us,
For that which seemed to be now is not?

TIME-WASTER Woe! What shall I do now, 385
Because our lights have all gone out?

NEGLIGENCE O God, what a terrible sight this is;
I do not know what will happen to us.

FOOLISH TALK We have good reason to be sad.

PRIDE If only the Wise Maidens would share with us!

FOOLISH TALK Let us try. 390

VAINGLORY Let's go immediately!
I fear that they will be shocked,
But nevertheless let us go and see
Whether we may be given any grace.

Pause.

Then they quickly go to the wise ones not saying anything until Humility and Charity have spoken. The Wise Virgins stand and turn towards the people and

- OOTMOEDICHEIT *spreect*: O mijn susteren, de brudegoem
 heeft ons zijn compste te weten ghedaen,
 Hier om, laet ons alle hem te ghemoete gaen, 396
 Met dieper ootmoedicheit ende kennisse
 onser cleenheden,
 Ende met hoogher verstanisse zijnder goetheden.
- CARITATE Dus sijn wij alle bereet met grooter vrueghden,
 Want duer Gods gracie sijn ons lampten
 verciert vol dueghden, 400
 Ende met berrenden minne al raiende claer;
 Gaen wij hem teghen ende volghen hem naer.
- Nu keeren hem de dwase maeghden totten vroeden, hemlieden biddende en zeggghen:*
- ROECKELOOSE O Caritate, o weerde vrouwe,
 Ic bidde u op alle trauwe,
 Dat ghij mij van huwer olye wilt deelen met. 405
- CARITATE Ken mach u niet gheven, tsoude mij doen belet,
 Ken hebber niet ghenouch om hu ende mij,
 Maer gaet ten vercoopers ende coopter dij.
- TIJTVERLIES O heilige Hope, ic bidde hu op alle bede,
 Deelt mij van uwer olyen mede. 410
- HOPE Mijn olye en mueghdi niet verwerven,
 Ic moetse behauden, ken machse niet derven;
 Ic en hebber niet ghenoech om ons been,
 Maer gaet ten vercoopers ende doet hu ander bereen.
- HOVERDIE O heleghe Vreese, tbeghinsel der dueght,
 Deelt mij van uwer olyen, of ghi mueght? 415
- VREESE Dat ghij mij bidt es bede verloren,
 Mijn olye moet ic selve oorboren;
 Ten mocht ons beede niet profiteren,
 Dus en can ic u niet ghesustyneren. 420
- YDELGLORIE O salich Gheloeve, dwelc niet en mach vergaen,
 Deelt mij van uwer olye eenen traen.
- GHELOOVE Mijn olye en mach ic u niet gheven,
 Want ic daer zonder niet en mach leven;
 Ghi hebt ghebeit al veel te laet, 425
 Dus radic hu dat ghij elders gaet.
- ZOTTECOLLACIE Ootmoedicheit, zalighe maeght,
 Deelt mij van uwer olye, die ben versaeght.

THE FIVE WISE AND THE FIVE FOOLISH VIRGINS

HUMILITY	<i>speaks:</i> O my sisters, the bridegroom has announced his arrival to us;	
	Therefore let us all go and meet him,	396
	In deepest humility and in the knowledge of our insignificance,	
	And with profound understanding of his goodness.	
CHARITY	Therefore we are all ready in great joy Because by God's grace our lamps are filled to the brim with virtue,	400
	And shining clearly with rays of blazing love; Let us go towards him and follow him closely.	
	<i>Now the Foolish Virgins turn towards the Wise ones imploring them saying:</i>	
NEGLIGENCE	O Charity, worthy lady, Trusting in you, I implore you, Please share your oil with me.	405
CHARITY	I cannot give any to you, without harming myself. I do not have enough for both you and me, But go to the merchants and buy yourself some.	
TIME-WASTER	Blessed Hope, I implore you with all my might Share some of your oil with me.	410
HOPE	My oil cannot be yours; I must keep it, I cannot do without it. I haven't got enough for us both, But go to the merchants and order some more .	
PRIDE	O holy Fear, origin of virtue,	415
FEAR	Share with me your oil, if it pleases you? That which you ask for is in vain, I need my oil for my own use; It would not profit both of us, Thus I cannot be of any help to you.	420
VAINGLORY	Blessed Faith, which cannot perish, Share with me a drop of your oil.	
FAITH	My oil I cannot give you, For without it I cannot live. You have delayed too long:	425
FOOLISH TALK	Therefore I advise you to go somewhere else. Humility, blessed virgin, Share your oil with me, because I am frightened.	

OOTMOEDICHEIT	Zottecollacie, ten mach niet zijn, Ic moeder mede verchieren de lampte mijn; Mijn olye en mach u niet gheschien. Gaet liever ten vercoopers ende coopter ulien.	430
ZOTTECOLLACIE	Nu comt dan ende laet ons coopen gaen, Oft anders wij in grooten prijckel staen.	434

Pausa.

Dan gaen zij van daer ende de vroede gaen den brudegoem teghen ende men scuift den hemel open ende men zingt Sanctus. Die wijle zit onse Heere ende de bruidt voor onsen heere met blijscepe van contemplacie, ende twee inghelen van beede zijden werpen wierooc.

VREESE	Ontfangt mij, Heere, na dijn huutsprake ende ic zal leven; Mijn langhe verbeiden bidt dat met vreesen, willet mij vergheven.	
HOPE	Dijne ruecke zoet heb ic midts hopen van verren beceven; Ontfanght mij, Heere, na dijn huutsprake, ende ic zal leven.	
CARITATE	Doet mij voortmeer zonder eenich middel den minne ghesmaken, Ontfangt mij, Heere, ende ic zal leven, naer dijn huutspraken.	
GHELOOVE	Ontfangt mij, Heere, na dijn huutsprake, ende ic zal leven; Mijn ziele hebic met vasten gheloove tot dijn verheven.	
OOTMOEDICHEIT	Mids dlanghe verbeien en wilic mij, Heere, niet confonderen, Met uwer presentie, wilt mijn cleenheit voort sustinueren.	

Pausa.

Dan gaet den brudegoem hemlieden teghen ende zy bliven knielende.

DEN BRUDEGOEM	Nu comt mijn utvercoren bruden, Ghij zult met mij vereent zijn huden; Comt, mijn duven, ghij zijt al schoone, Ic zal hu gaen leeden in mijnen throone, Daer zult ghij eeuwelic regneren. Met vrueghde zal ic hu daer crooneren Ende met eewegher minne in mi belucken, In zoeter weelden zaldi mijns ghebruucken, Want ghi alle strijden hebt verwonnen, Ende als bloiende roosen in der zonnen zijdi volbloeyt in mijnder minnen: Nu comt, mijn uutvercoren vriendinnen, En volght mi in mijns vaders rijke, Daer zuldi volbloeyen eewelicke.	445 450 455
CARITATE	O vlammeende vier, o lichtende lantern, Mij en staet niet langhe us tonbeeren.	460

THE FIVE WISE AND THE FIVE FOOLISH VIRGINS

HUMILITY Foolish Talk, that cannot be;
 I have to enhance my lamp with it. 430
 You cannot share my oil.
 Go to the merchants instead and buy yourself some.
 FOOLISH TALK Come, let us go and buy some,
 Or else we will be in great danger.

Pause.

Then they leave and the Wise ones go towards the Bridegroom and the heavens are opened up and Sanctus is sung. Meanwhile Our Lord is seated and the Bride sits in front of Our Lord contemplating him joyously, and two angels on either side swing censers.

FEAR Receive me, Lord, according to your judgement, and I shall live;
 After my long wait, I fearfully beg you, please forgive me.
 HOPE Your odour of sanctity I have perceived from afar through hope;
 Receive me, Lord, according to your judgement, and I shall live.
 CHARITY Enable me from now on to experience love directly; 439
 Receive me, Lord, and I shall live according to your judgement.
 FAITH Receive me, lord, according to your judgement, and I shall live;
 I have raised up my soul to you with steady faith. 442
 HUMILITY My long wait, Lord, has not confounded me,
 Henceforward with your presence sustain my insignificance.

Pause.

Then the Bridegroom goes towards them and they remain kneeling.

THE BRIDEGROOM Now come, my chosen bride, 445
 You will be united with me;
 Come, my doves, you are all fair,
 I shall lead you to my throne
 Where you shall reign for ever.
 I shall crown you there with joy, 450
 And keep you in eternal love.
 Through me you will experience sweetest bliss,
 Because you have triumphed in all battles;
 And like roses blooming in the sun,
 You have come to full flowering in my love; 455
 Now come, my chosen friends,
 And follow me into my Father's kingdom,
 There you will flourish for ever.
 CHARITY O fire aflame, O lantern of light,
 I can resist you no longer. 460

- Want mijn aderen zijn al ontploken,
 Ende in mijnre herten haudic beloken
 Dijn glorieuse Godlicke minne.
- DEN BRUDEGOEM Nu comt, mijn brut, mijn cuenighinne,
 Ghi zult met mi ten hemel varen, 465
 Daer zal ic u bloet mijn indue verclaren.
- Dit zegghende neemti Caritate op, ende dan blijftij daer staende.*
- VREESE O alder hooghste goetheit, vol alder ghenaden,
 Van aller belemmerthede vindic mij ontladen,
 Ic werde verhueght in uwer presencie;
 Dus love ic hu met danbarigher reverencie. 470
- Den Brudegoem heft dese op, als dander, ende voert elc besonder die daer
 naer volghen, elc als zij ghesproken heeft.*
- DEN BRUDEGOEM Nu zijt ghetroost en wel te vreden,
 Want alle tempeest es duer gheleden;
 Nu zuldi bezitten dat hemelsche lant.
- HOPE O almachtich God, die over al hebt doverhant,
 Mij heeft zeer verlanct naer huwer anscauwen, 475
 Want nooit en constic hu mestrauwen
 Om dat hu goetheit es so groot.
- DEN BRUDEGOEM Die zuldi bevinden claer ende bloot,
 In mijn vaders huis zal ic hu leeden,
 Nemmermeer en werdi van mij verscheeden. 480
- GHELOOVE O afgrondighe wijsheit, vol caritaten,
 Daer ic mij altoos toe hebbe verlaten
 Zonder cesseeren al in mijn leven,
 Dijne goetheit hebic wel beceven,
 Daer ic hu zonder verlaet af dancke. 485
- DEN BRUDEGOEM Nu comt, mijn duve, mijn wijngaertrancke,
 Comt, volght mi in mijns vaders hof,
 Want mij es zo ghenouchlic dijnen lof.
- OOTMOEDICHEIT O ghevroucheliker prieel der reinder jueght,
 Vol alre zoetheden, vol alder dueght, 490
 Van uwer presencie wert mij zo wel,
 Machic hu behauden, ken gheer niet el,
 Maer mijn snoothheit es zo cleene.
- DEN BRUDEGOEM Nu comt, mijn duve, ghi zijt die ic meene,
 Want uwen reenen, ootmoedicghen gront 495

THE FIVE WISE AND THE FIVE FOOLISH VIRGINS

My body is wide open to you.
 And in my heart I hold enclosed
 Your glorious divine love.

THE BRIDEGROOM Now come, my bride, my queen,
 You shall journey to heaven with me, 465
 There I will plainly reveal myself to you.

Saying this, [the Bridegroom] lifts Charity up, and then He remains standing there.

FEAR O highest goodness of all, filled with all mercy,
 I find myself unburdened from all cares,
 I become overjoyed in your presence;
 Thus I praise you with grateful reverence. 470

The Bridegroom lifts this one up, like the other, and then every one following thereafter, each after she has spoken.

BRIDEGROOM Now be comforted and well contented,
 For all misery is now past;
 Now you will possess the heavenly realm.

HOPE O Almighty God, who reigns over all,
 I have long desired to behold you; 475
 For never could I doubt you,
 Because your goodness is so great.

BRIDEGROOM That you shall experience clearly and plainly;
 I shall lead you into my father's house.
 Nevermore will you be parted from me. 480

FAITH Unfathomable wisdom, full of love,
 In whom I have always put my trust
 Without ceasing, at any time of my life,
 I have cherished your goodness,
 For which I now thank you without end. 485

BRIDEGROOM Now come, my dove, the branch of my vine,
 Come follow me into my father's garden,
 For your praise pleases me so much.

HUMILITY O joyous bower of pure youth,
 Filled with all sweetness, full of all virtue, 490
 Your presence fills me with joy;
 If I can behold you I will not desire anything else,
 For I am of so little account.

BRIDEGROOM Now come, my dove, the branch of my vine,
 For your pure, humble character 495

Heeft mi behaeght in alder stont.
 Nu volght mi alle, zonder verscheeden,
 Ter eewigher vrueght zal ic u leeden,
 Daer zuldi ontfaen uwe croone.
 Comt, weerde brudekens, ghi sijt alle scoone, 500
 De inghelen verwachten ons met jubiliacie,
 Nu ontsla ic u van alle tribulacie.

Nu gaet hi ten hemele, ende die vroede maeghden nijghen hem toe, ende als hij in den hemel es, zo staet den brudegoem ende bruut ende dander knielen alle, ende de inghelen gheven het wieroc tot dat Benedictus hut es; dan staen de inghelen op ende de vroede blijven knielende ende zinghen: Suscipe nos Domine.

Hier croont hij Caritate ende steect haer een vingherlinc an de hant, ende voort alle dander, een tegader, binnen der pause.

Als zij alle ghecroont zijn, zo gaet den brudegoem zitten ende de bruut neffens hem; dan zingt men Te deum laudamus, Sanctus, ende dan knielen si alle, maer de brudegoem blijft alleene zittende.

Pausa.

Als Te deum ghesonghen es dan gaen de vroede voer den brudegoem zitten op et bancsken ende men speelt pause; daer naer scuift men den hemele toe, ende de helle gaet open.

LUCYFER Waer zijdi alle, ghi quade valanten?
 Stelt hu te wercke als cloucke sersanten,
 Daer esser ons nu wel vijfve ontspronghen 505
 Die ons lyedeken niet en hebben ghesonghen,
 Waer omme dat ic zeer toornich ben,
 Ende ic en mach mij niet vreden an hem;
 Maer daer zijnder noch veel achter bleven,
 Doet dat mij die dan werden ghegheven, 510
 Dat ic daer mijn scade an mach verhalen,
 Ic zalt hulieden hardde wel betalen.
 Maer eist datsi hulieden ontspringhen,
 Ic zal hulieden zo swaerlic dwynghen
 Als dat ghijs hulieden niet en zult beloven. 515
 Scerponderzouc, ic stelle hu hier boven;
 Ziet dat ghijt wel met Sathanas bewaert,
 En bringtse mij alle vrij onghespaert,
 Zo zal ic hu dan hooghelic crooneren.

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Has pleased me at all times.
Now follow me, all of you, keeping together;
I shall lead you into eternal joy,
And there you shall receive your crown.
Come cherished little brides, all of you are fair, 500
The angels await us with jubilation:
I now free you from all care.

Now he goes to heaven and the Wise Virgins bow towards him, and when he is in heaven, the Bridegroom and Bride stand, and all the others kneel, and the Angels swing incense until the Bridegroom is finished. The Angels get up and the Wise Virgins remain kneeling and sing Suscipe nos Domine.

Here he crowns Charity and puts a ring on her finger, and then does the same with all the others, one at a time within the Pause.

When they are all crowned the Bridegroom sits down and the Bride next to him. Then they sing Te Deum laudamus, Sanctus, and then they all kneel, but the Bridegroom alone remains seated.

Pause.

When Te Deum has been sung the Wise Virgins go and sit on a little bench in front of the Bridegroom and a Pause is played; then the heaven is closed, and the hell is opened up.

LUCIFER Where are you all, you evil devils?
Get to work like the sly servants you are;
We may have lost five of them 505
Who haven't sung our song,
And I'm very angry about that,
But I can't avenge myself on them.
But a whole lot of them have remained behind,
So take care that those are going to be given to me, 510
So that I can make good my loss:
I shall reward you handsomely for that.
But if they should escape you
Then I shall punish you so severely,
That you won't believe yourselves. 515
Sharp Interrogation, you are in charge;
See that you manage it well with Satan,
And bring all of them to me immediately:
Then I shall crown you supremely.

SCERPONDERSOUC	Lucifer, ghij sult noch wel gauderen: Wij zullense alle zo sceerpelic angaen, Dat ghijse noch wel zalt ontfaen, Weedre hemlieden lief es oft leet.	520
LUCYFER	Spoedt hu, den loon werdt saen bereet.	
<i>Pausa.</i>		
<i>Dan sluit men de helle, ende de dwaese commen voert ende spreken.</i>		
TIJTVERLIES	Joffer Hoverdie, zuldi zaen zijn bereet?	525
HOVERDIE	Ja wij, ja wij, wij hebben olye ghecocht, Godtweet, Die herde claer es ende fijn; Ic hope wij zullen alle willecomen zijn.	
YDELGLORIE	Laet ons dan haestelic gaen metter spoet Bij den anderen maegden, die zijn vroet, Op dat wij met hemlieden int paradijs gheraken Ende deeweghe vrueghde des hemels smaken.	530
ZOTTECOLLACIE	Mach ons dat ghebueren voorwaer, Zo hebben wij nu hemelrick ende ooc hier naer.	
HOVERDIE	Ailace! ic duchte ten zal ons niet gheskien, Want ic en zie hier niemant van hemlien; De poorte des hemels es vaste ghesloten, Dus werd mijn herte met drucken doergoten; Die maeghden zijn binnen in vrueghden groot, En wij hier buten in grooter noot.	535 540
ROECKELOOSE	Wat! Laet ons cloppen ende besien: Ons mochte mescijn noch gracie gheskien.	
<i>Pausa.</i>		
<i>Dan gaense alle regghelincs voer hemelrijc knielen ende weder zo spreect</i>		
DEN BRUDEGOEM	Wie clopt daer noch te deser huere?	
ROECKELOOSE	O Heere, Heere! doet ons open de duere Des hemels en wilt ons in laten!	545
DEN BRUDEGOEM	Hu roepen, hu bidden en mach niet baten, Want roeckeloos heeft gheweest hu leven.	
TIJTVERLIES	Genadeghen Heere, wilt uwen troost ons gheven, Doet ons open de poorte des leven, Wij zijn allendelic hier buten ghebleven.	550
DEN BRUDEGOEM	Ken mach verhooren niet hu bede; Gaet wech, ghij en hebt hier gheene stede.	

THE FIVE WISE AND THE FIVE FOOLISH VIRGINS

SHARP INTERROGATION Lucifer, you have cause for jubilation: 520
 We will set about them so sharply
 That you will have them in your power,
 Whether they like it or not.

LUCIFER Make haste, the reward will soon be prepared.
Pause.
Then the hell is closed, and the Foolish Virgins come out and speak.

TIME-WASTER Lady Pride, will you soon be ready? 525
 PRIDE Yes we are! Yes we are! We've brought oil, God knows,
 Which is beautifully clear and fine;
 I hope we will all be made very welcome.

VAINGLORY Let us then go quickly and make haste
 To the other virgins, who are wise, 530
 So that we may enter Paradise together,
 And thus taste the joy of heaven with them.

FOOLISH TALK If that happens to us,
 Then we will gain heaven now and forever.

PRIDE Alas! I fear we will not make it, 535
 For I can't see any of them here;
 The gate of heaven is firmly closed,
 And my heart is filled with fear.
 Those virgins are inside in great joy
 And we here outside in great misery. 540

NEGLIGENCE What? Let us knock and see what happens;
 Perhaps we may yet receive some mercy.
Pause.
Then they all kneel before heaven in a row and then the Bridegroom speaks again.

BRIDEGROOM Who is still knocking there at this hour?
 NEGLIGENCE O Lord, Lord, have the door of heaven
 Opened for us, and please let us in! 545

BRIDEGROOM Your calling and your begging cannot help you,
 For you have been negligent all your life.

TIME-WASTER Merciful Lord, please give us your solace,
 And open for us the gate of life;
 We are stuck outside here miserably. 550

BRIDEGROOM I cannot listen to your plea;
 Go away, there is no place for you here.

	Heeft mij ghebracht in groeter noet. Van alle dueghden maecte sij mij bloet, Zu hielt mij in mijne ieuht; Daer hebic mij ijdelic inne verheught.	
	Al mach ic ooc eeneghe dueght hebben ghedaen, Ic begheerder prijs voer den menschen tontfaen. Wee mij! Waer henen zal ic mij keeren? Want dat zalich ende minlic anscijn Ons Heeren, En mach ic nemmermeer anscauden, Ic moete nu derven deeweghe vraden; Dus heeft mij ijdel glorie bedorven. Hadic in mijne moeders lichaem ghestorven, Zo en waeric niet commen tot deser allenden. Och, werwaert zal ic mij nu gaen wenden, Want vol drucs ben ic van binnen!	595 600
TIJTVERLIES	Ay mij, ay mij! wat zal ic beghinnen? Ic hebbe verloren deighen leven mijn Ghelijc het water loopt in den Rijn, Ende ben vergaen ghelicker wijs Dat de zonne doet smelten het ijs. Ter derlicker huere was ic gheboren, Mijnen edelen tijt hebic verloren; Dien en mach ic nemmermeer verhalen. Van rauwe moet mij therte falen Ende al mijn zinnen moeten ghebreken, Ken can mijnen druc niet utghespreken; Den rauwe quelt mijn ziele van binnen, Och, wat zal ic nu gaen beghinnen? Het valt mij al teghen van alle zijden! Dit comt mij toe mids de verloren tijden. Vennicheit, droefheit ende bittere noot, Die verpersen mijn herte al totter doot, Ailaes, ach arme! Wat zal ic maken?	605 610 615 620
ZOTTECOLLACIE	Wee! zotte collacie ende ijdel spraken Hebben mij in groeter noot ghebracht. Maer wel te spade ben ic bedacht, In grooter allende ben ic ghezoncken, Met alre droefheit ben ic duerdroncken, Ende vol smerten es mijnen moet.	625

THE FIVE WISE AND THE FIVE FOOLISH VIRGINS

Has brought me into great misery.
 She robbed me of all virtues,
 She held me in her power in my youth;
 And I mistakenly found pleasure in that.
 Even if I practised any virtue, 595
 I expected people to praise me for it.
 Woe is me! Where shall I turn?
 For that holy and blessed countenance of Our Lord,
 I can never more behold.
 I must now be without eternal joy 600
 Because vainglory has corrupted me.
 Had I died in my mother's womb,
 I would not have sunk so low.
 O where shall I go now
 For I am full of the fear of the Lord! 605
 TIME-WASTER Alas! Alas! What shall I do?
 I myself have wasted my life,
 Like the water draining into the Rhine;
 And I have disappeared in the same way,
 As the sun melts the ice. 610
 I was born in an evil hour;
 I have squandered the best of my time
 That I can never more recover.
 My heart will fail from remorse,
 And all my senses will fade away, 615
 I cannot put my fear into words;
 Distress torments the very core of my soul,
 I what shall I go and do now?
 I am beset on all sides!
 This is my just desert for wasting time. 620
 Torments, sadness, and bitter grief
 Oppress my heart unto death.
 Alas! Poor me! What shall I do now?
 FOOLISH TALK Alas! Foolish talk and idle speech
 Have brought me into great misery. 625
 But too late have I come to know this:
 I have sunk into great despair.
 I am drenched with sadness,
 And full of torment is my heart.

Ic hebbe verloren het euwech goet, 630
 Met ijdel woorden ende met quade.
 Ay lacen! mijnen rauw comt te spade;
 Dit hebben mij dijdele spraken ghedaen,
 Dat ic dat gruelic vonnes heb ontfaen.
 HOVERDIE Wee mij! Mijn hope es wederslegghen. 635
 Fortune es mij alomme teghen,
 Alle troost heeft mij ghelaten,
 Vermeledijde hoverdie en mach mij niet meer baten.
 Ic diese zo lustelic hebbe ghehantiert,
 Ben in haer nette nu wel ghepiert, 640
 Mids dat ic tprijckel niet en becief.
 Alle die mij heerden hadic lief,
 Wee mij, daer was ic gheerne bij.
 Ic vinde mij bedroghen, aylaes, ay mij!
 Waer zijn mijn vrienden ende groet ghezinden, 645
 Die mij sceen zo zeere minden,
 Ende naer mij quamen met groote hoopen?
 Zij zijn mij nu al afgheloopen;
 Ic vinde mij rontomme int verdriet.
 Aylacen, het was al min dan niet. 650
 Ic ben een vat der donckerheden
 Vervult met alle zeerecheden.
 Mochte hemel ende eerde zincken op mij,
 Ende ic van dese vonnesse mocht wezen vrij!
 Hadic hier voermals in ootmoedicheden 655
 Anroepen de moeder der ontfermicheden,
 Zij hadde mij in mijnen noot ansien;
 Maer lace, neenic, ken weet waer vlien,
 Het es nu al met mij ghedaen,
 Ic moet nu loon voer mijn weercken ontfaen. 660
 Och, nimmer en mach ic troost verwerven,
 Gods rijcke moetic ewelic derven!

Pausa.

Hier beghinnen hemlieden de duvels te ghelatene, sprekende tot den dwasen maegden.

SCERPONDERZOECK Woeschai! noijt blijder van alle de daghen mijn!
 Poey, poy! ach, ach, ai, ken wyste wat bedrijvende zijn
 Dan ghenoclic te springhen op en neere. 665
 Gi ziet toch, heere, dit is mijn weere.
 Waer zijn zij nu, dese ijdele tuiten?

THE FIVE WISE AND THE FIVE FOOLISH VIRGINS

I have lost the eternal goodness 630
 Through idle words and evil speech.
 Alas, my remorse has come too late;
 My idle speeches have ensured
 That I have received this horrifying judgement.
 PRIDE Woe is me! My hope is now overturned. 635
 Fortune is all against me;
 All consolation has fled away.
 Cursed pride will no longer profit me.
 I who have harboured it so freely
 Am now completely enmeshed in its net, 640
 Because I did not perceive the peril I was in.
 All who honoured me I cherished:
 Alas, I did so revel in that!
 And now I find myself deceived. Alas!
 Where are my friends and admirers? 645
 They seemingly loved me so much,
 And came towards me in great droves.
 Now they have all forsaken me;
 I find myself surrounded by grief.
 Alas, it all meant less than nothing. 650
 I am a pool of darkness
 Filled with all manner of sorrows.
 Let heaven and earth overwhelm me,
 Could I but escape from this judgement!
 If I had before now in all humility 655
 Called upon the Mother of Mercy,
 She would have heard me in my need.
 But alas, I did not: now I know not where to flee.
 Now it is all over with me;
 I must now receive my just deserts. 660
 O never more will I receive solace,
 I will forever have to be outside God's realm!

Pause.

Here the devils begin an uproar speaking to the Foolish Virgins.

SHARP INVESTIGATION I was never happier in all my days!
 Ho, ho, ha, ha, aieeee! I didn't know what to do
 Other than jumping up and down gleefully. 665
 As you see, my lords, this is my métier.
 Where are they now, these idle trollops?

- Wat hau! haer lampten zijn huite,
 Dat hebic vernomen herdde wel,
 Daer om comme ic gheloopen zeer snel. 670
 Mach ic met haerlieden doen mijn wille,
 Ic zalt hemlieden loonen, zwijght al stille;
 Ic zalse gaen slepen met mijn ghesellen
 In den afgront van der hellen,
 Ende worghen se bij der kelen. 675
 Tspel en zal ons niet vervelen,
 Daer om zo wilic derwaerts gaen.
- HOVERDIE Ay mij, wat zal ic te hande slaen?
 Mijn leden dincken mij al verdwijnen.
- SCERPONDERSOUC Ten baet noch kaermen noch huilen van pijnen, 680
 Laet ons nu gaen al metter spoet;
 Ghi hebt ghedregen zeer hooghen moet,
 Daer vooren zuldi loon ontfaen.
- QUADENRAET Scerpondersouc, hoe macht hier staen?
 Ons meester heeft naar hu groot verlanghen. 685
- SCERPONDERSOUC Ziet, Quadenraet, wij hebbent hier te ganghe,
 Zegt dat ons meester ons comme bij,
 Wij hebbent hier al ghewonnen vrij.
- QUADENRAET Dat zal hem dincken met allen goet.
 Ic gaet hem condeghen metter spoet, 690
 Ic loope hastelic wederomme.
- SCERPONDERSOUC Gaet, zeght hem haestelic dati comme.
- QUADENRAET Wat, Lucyfer, meester, hau! spoet hu zeere,
 Het werdt al onse met volle keere.
- LUCYFER Scerponderzouc, te goeder tit 695
 Zidi ghegaen, dies hebbic jolijt!
- SCERPONDERSOUC Wij hebbender vijfve in de nette ghevaen,
 Ic hope wij zullender noch ander bij bringhen.
 Bereet de plaetse, ic comme zeer saen;
 Zij conen zo wel ons liedeken zinghen. 700
- LUCYFER Ic comme hu bij tot haren verdriete,
 Wij sullense nu gaen doen te niete.
 Al hebben zij gheweest so fier,
 Wij sullense gaen braen in thelsche vier.
- SCERPONDERSOUC Alle tsamen met huye ende met haer! 705
 Sij sullen noch hebben tormenten swaer.

THE FIVE WISE AND THE FIVE FOOLISH VIRGINS

Hey ho! Their lamps are out,
That I have certainly noticed.
Therefore I come, running very quickly. 670
So that I can have my way with them,
I shall pay them out. Be quiet all of you!
With my companions I shall go and drag them
Into the abyss of hell,
And strangle them by the throat. 675
This game will not bore us,
And therefore I want to get at them.
PRIDE Alas! What am I to do?
My limbs seem to give way beneath me.
SHARP INVESTIGATION It's no use groaning or crying with pain, 680
Let's get a move on;
You have displayed great arrogance,
And for that you will receive your wages.
EVIL COUNSEL Sharp Investigation, how are things here?
Our master is greatly in need of you. 685
SHARP INVESTIGATION Evil Counsel, we've got it going here;
Tell our master to come to us.
We've triumphed here, for sure.
EVIL COUNSEL That he will thoroughly appreciate.
I will announce this to him with all speed; 690
I'm going back at once.
SHARP INVESTIGATION Do, tell him that he should come with all haste.
EVIL COUNSEL Hey, Lucifer, master, hey! come quickly;
It's going to be all ours, by the bucketful.
LUCIFER Sharp Investigation, you've come 695
In good time. I'm delighted!
SHARP INVESTIGATION We've caught five in our net,
And I hope we can catch a few more.
Prepare the place. I'll come quite soon;
They sing our little tune so well. 700
LUCIFER I'll join with you for their damnation.
We will now destroy them completely.
Even if they've been ever so proud,
We will go and roast them in the fires of hell.
SHARP INVESTIGATION All of them together, skin and bones! 705
They will be tormented grievously.

- LUCYFER Ras! brinct mij die joffere vol hoverdie gheswollen,
 Die willic subijt gaen rollen
 In dhelsche stec, 709
 Daer men niet en berrent dan sulfer ende gloyende pec;
 Haren hoverdeghen bec wert daer haest gheciert.
 Zondach noch mestdach en heeft zu gheviert;
 Ic zalse te niete doen met mijn venijnighe clauwen.
- HOVERDIE Och! hoe zwaer es mij dit anschijn te anscauwen,
 Haddic toch ditte gheweten te voren! 715
- LUCYFER Tes te late dat ghi nu daerom dynct, ghi vuil sletere:
 Haddi dit overdacht van te voren,
 De simpele ootmoedicheit ware hu nu betere
 Dan hoverdien ende pompernyen,
 Maer het dochten hu doen al fantazyen. 720
 Hu blancketten ende hu ghestrijcsele,
 Hu pareeren ende hu gheprijcsele,
 Ende al dijn ijdel vernuft pareseeren,
 Ten mach hu niet met allen proffytteren.
 Zonder cessereren zoldi branden vroech ende spade, 725
 Over hu en compt nemmer ghenade;
 Dus werpse daer binnen in de gloeyende colen.
- QUADENRAET Her, her met haer, ter helscher scolen!
 Sleepse ten afgronde met huye en haren.
- SCERPONDERSOUC Wel, wel! ic gaese nu over varen. 730
- LUCYFER Wa! Ydelglorie, zijt willecomme,
 Want ghij hebt mij ghedient ter meenigher somme,
 Als ghij ghinct glorieuslic al wispelen ende wayende,
 Ende op hu teentjes gentelic drayende,
 Ende doen ghij, als een venijnich serpent, 735
 Hu zelve maectet zeer dunne ende gent,
 Gaende gherynckt, verchiert met selver en gaudt,
 Als of ghij den keyser van den lande hadt ghetraudt.
 Niet dan de menschen te behaghen, dat was hu hende;
 Ghij peynsde dat hu niemant en kende, 740
 Maer ghi waert verdoolt en dwazelic ingient,
 Dus hebdi hier duere deewich verdriet verdient.
 Hu en weetic nu gheenen anderen raet
 Dan dat ghij het helsche vier voor uwen loon ontfaet.

THE FIVE WISE AND THE FIVE FOOLISH VIRGINS

LUCIFER Quick, bring me that lady swollen with pride:
 I want to roll her immediately
 Into that hellish place,
 Where they burn nothing but sulphur and glowing pitch:
 Her proud chops will soon be decorated there. 711
 Sunday nor mass day has she celebrated;
 I shall destroy her with my venomous claws.

PRIDE Oh! how horrifying is it to behold Lucifer's face!
 If only I had known this before! 715

LUCIFER It's too late to think about it now, you filthy bitch:
 If you had thought about this earlier,
 Then simple humility would have been better
 Than pride, pomp, and circumstance.
 But all that simple humility seemed to you just foolish.
 Your powders and your creams, 721
 Your adornments and accessories,
 And all the display of your vain tricks,
 All this profits you not a whit.
 You will certainly burn early and late incessantly; 725
 You will never receive mercy;
 So throw her into the glowing coals.

EVIL COUNSEL Here, here, with her into the hellish academy!
 Drag her to the pit by her skin and hair.

SHARP INVESTIGATION Well, well, I will now be their ferryman. 730

LUCIFER O Vainglory, be welcome,
 For you have served me many a time
 When you went showing off, all turning and swaying,
 Pirouetting gently on your little toes.
 And when you, like a venomous serpent, 735
 Made yourself very thin and graceful
 Going about with rings, adorned with silver and gold,
 As if you had married the emperor of the country.
 All you aimed at was to please people.
 You thought no one saw through you, 740
 But you were on the wrong track and foolishly mistaken,
 And so you have deserved eternal torment.
 And now there is absolutely nothing for it
 But that you are rewarded with hellfire.

DE V VROEDE ENDE VAN DE V DWAEZE MAEGDEN

YDELGLORIE	Och! of ic nooint en hadde gheleeft Zo en hadic ooc niet in zonde ghesneeft.	745
QUADENRAET	Tes nu te late om penitencie, Compt en onfangt nu dijn sententie; Wij zullen hu leeren ons liedeken zinghen, Wij zullen er vroilic op dansen ende springhen.	750
LUCYFER	Voert, voert met dese quade scijte, Maect ons van dese luffe quijte!	
SCERPONDERSOUC	Werdt ghedaen, Meester, hu ghebot, Ic gase werpen in eenen zienden pot.	
LUCYFER	Hau, Roeckeloose, hoe zijdi hier gheraect? Hoe hebdi hu dinghen aldus ghemaect Ende int raboy messelic ghesteken, Den tijt us levens roeckeloos versleten? Met de hoverdie waerdi gheerne een, Om schossen en brassen waerdi licht te been.	755 760
ROECKELOOSE	O allendighe creature, wats mij ghesciet, Dat ic mij vinde in dit verdriet? Wee mij, ic moet in deewich torment zonder aflaten.	
LUCYFER	Wat, quaet jaer! hoe zuldi hu ghelaeten?	
PELSABUIC	Beidt, Meester, laet mij met haer ghewerden, Ic zalse gaen met voeten terden!	765
LUCYFER	Comt herwaerts, au! ghij Tijtverlies, Want zeer neerstich hebdi ghedaen dat ic hu inblies, Dwelc was juist naer mijn kas eenpaer; Een paternoster te lesene viel u veel te swaer, Maer om te dansen ende te oueeren gheele nachten lanck, Daer toe en waerdi niet te cranck. Dwas wel uwen danck, zulcs mocht men beseffen, Maer aen den zanc der deugden en wildi niet heffen; Dat docht hu al tateringhe ende groot dangier, Dus leetse van hier in het eewich vier.	770 775
TIJTVERLIES	Ay, mijn herte es in grooter persse! Och! hadic in tijts mijn olye mueghen verversen.	
LUCYFER	Ach, ach, ay! zaudt ghij bet hebben ghevaren? Ghi hebt mij ghedient zo vele jaren!	780
PELSABUIC	Comt hier, hau! Tijtverlies, ziedi niet dat ic wincke? Ic zal hu in dien afgrond der hellen zincken.	

THE FIVE WISE AND THE FIVE FOOLISH VIRGINS

VAINGLORY	Oh, that I had never been born!	745
	Then I would not have perished in sin.	
EVIL COUNSEL	Even being penitent is now too late:	
	Come and receive your sentence.	
	We shall teach you to sing our little tune,	
	And we shall dance and jump to it cheerfully.	750
LUCIFER	Away, away with this evil rubbish;	
	Let's get rid of this bitch!	
SHARP INVESTIGATION	No sooner said, master, than done:	
	I will throw her into a boiling pot.	
LUCIFER	Hey, Negligence, how did you end up here?	755
	How have you so managed your affairs,	
	And misjudged the traffic of the world,	
	And so negligently wasted the time of your life?	
	You gladly joined yourself with Pride:	
	It was easy to get you to drink and guzzle.	760
NEGLIGENCE	O miserable creature, what has happened to me,	
	That I find myself in this grief?	
	Alas! I shall be condemned to endless torments.	
LUCIFER	What, you evil devil! What a racket you are making!	
BEELZEBUB	Wait, master, let me see to her.	765
	I will trample her with my feet.	
LUCIFER	Come here now, you, Time-waster,	
	For you have done diligently what I inspired,	
	Which was just according to my intention.	
	To read a <i>Paternoster</i> was much too difficult for you	770
	But to dance and feast night after night,	
	That was not too much.	
	That was what you wanted and everyone knew it,	
	But you did not want to sing the song of the virtues.	
	That seemed all nonsense to you, and affectation:	775
	So take her from here to the eternal fire.	
TIME-WASTER	My heart is in great extremity!	
	Oh, if only I had replenished my oil in time.	
LUCIFER	Would that have helped you at all?	
	You've served me for so many years.	780
BEELZEBUB	Come here, hey! Don't you see me beckoning?	
	I shall sink you here in the abyss of hell.	

DE V VROEDE ENDE VAN DE V DWAEZE MAEGDEN

LUCYFER Willecomme, Zottecollacie, mijne vriendinne bijzonder,
Waer hebdi zo langhe ghedraelt, hebic wonder.
Zijdi nu gheel tonder? Coendij niet met allen 785
Hu verwecken? En alle zaken waren hu te bekallen ...

[Hier ontbreken eenige versen.]

PELSABUIC Achaj, achije! wij gaense beghecken,
Wij gaense tsollen ende hutrecken;
Het zal haer jammerlic zeere vervelen.
Adie! dits thende van onsen spelen. 790

Pausa.

CONCLUSIE Eerwerdighe heeren ende vrouwen,
Wij bidden hu dat ghij dit wilt onthauwen,
Die hier al tsamen vergadert zijt
Ende als pilgrims de weerlt doerlijt. 795
En laet hu doch ooc niet vervelen

Van de simpelheden van onsen spelen.
Wij kennen dat es opt ruitste ghesciet;
Twas jonsteghe minne die ons dat riet
Tuwer allere vreught ende recreacie, 800
Wel betrouwende der Godlicker gracie,

Dat ghij sult breeder considereren,
Wat onse simpelheit mach declareren,
Ende hu in tijts hier voren verhoeden,
Eer ghij gheslegghen werdt metten roeden. 805
Dus bidden wij hu, neemt exempel hier an,

Ende wilt hu wachten van zonden voert dan,
Hu consciencie wilt houden onbevleect en puere,
Want ghij en weet noch dach noch huere
Wanneer den heere commen sal,
Die nederdaelde in deertsche dal. 810
Hij verleent hu alle vroed ende wijs

Zijn zoete hemelsch paradijs.

Amen.

Pausa.

Finis

*Dan gaen zij met vreughde huut: Onsen Heere voren metten inghelen ende
Maria daer naer metten maeghden, ende men draeght haren mantel.*

THE FIVE WISE AND THE FIVE FOOLISH VIRGINS

LUCIFER Welcome, Foolish Talk, my special friend;
Where have you tarried so long, I wonder?
Are you now completely trapped? Couldn't you stir yourself
A bit? And all things were to be talked over ... 786

[lacuna]

BEELZEBUB Ay yai yai! We will mock them,
We will tease them and stretch them;
They will be right sick of it.
Adieu! This is the end of all our games. 790

Pause.

CONCLUSION Noble lords and ladies,
We pray you to remember this,
You who are all here gathered together,
And traverse the world as pilgrims.
And do not let yourselves be put off 795
With the simplicity of our playing.
We know it is but rough and ready;
It was gracious love which prompted us
For the joy and recreation of you all,
Trusting firmly in God's grace, 800
That you will fully consider the implication
Which in our simple way we have revealed,
And guard yourselves in plenty of time
Before you are beaten with rods.
So we pray you, take this as an example, 805
And refrain from sin from now on;
Keep your conscience pure and immaculate,
For you know neither day nor hour
On which the Lord will come.
He who descended to this earthly vale, 810
Benign and wise, grants all of you
His sweet heavenly paradise.

Amen

Pause.

Finis

Then they go away joyfully: Our Lord first with the Angels, and then Maria with the Virgins, and they carry her cloak.