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The Tudor Facsimile Texts

The Nature of the  
Four Elements

Four Elements

*Printing, c. 1510-20*  
*Facsimile, 1908*

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*Date of Composition and Printing, c. 1510-20*

*Reproduced in Facsimile, 1908*





# The Tudor Facsimile Texts

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Vol. 85.

*Under the Supervision and Editorship of*

JOHN S. FARMER

## The Nature of the Four Elements

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# The Nature of the Four Elements

*The only known copy of the original of this facsimile came to the British Museum from the Garrick Collection. It is now numbered "643 b. 45, impf." Eight leaves are missing in the middle (Sig. D), and the conclusion is also lost. These lacunæ are indicated by inserted slips in the present edition.*

*The date of composition and printing may range between 1510 and 1520, but nothing is known nor can inferences be drawn with any degree of certainty. The author is unknown.*

*Mr. Herbert of the Manuscripts Department, British Museum, after comparing this reproduction with the original, says, "The whole collotype is extremely exact in its correspondence with the book, except for a very slightly greater thickness and blurriness throughout." This tendency to over-heaviness in printing, to a certain extent inseparable from collotype work, I hope to reduce to a minimum by using a slightly harder paper for future issues.*

JOHN S. FARMER.









**A** new interlude and a mery of the nature of the.iiij. elemente declarunge many proper poyntes of phylolophy naturall/and of dyuers straunge landys/and of dyuers straunge effectes & causis/whiche interlude ys of hole matter be playd wyl conteyne the space of an hour and a halfe/ but ys ye lyst ye may leue out muche of the sad mater as the messengers pte/and some of naturys parte and some of experyens pte & yet the matter wyl depend conueniently / and than it wyl not be paste the quarters of an hour of length.

**T**here folow the namys of the pleyers.

**T**he messengere / Nature naturate / Humahyte / Studyous desire / Sensuall appetyte / The tauer ner / Experyence / yngnozaunce / Also ys ye lyst ye may byynge in a dysgylsynge.

**T**here folow dyuers matters whiche be in this interlude conteynyed.

**O**f the sytuacyon of the.iiij. elemente that is to sey the yerth the water the ayre and fyre / & of theyr qualytele and propertele / and of the generacyon & corrupcyon of thynges made of & comyrtion of them

**A. i.**



**C**Of certeyn zclustons pynge y the yerth must  
ned be coude & y it hengyth in y mydd of the fyr  
mamēt / & y it is in circūferēce a boue. xxi. M. myle

**C**Of certeyn zclustons pynge that the see lyeth  
rounde vppon the yerth.

**C**Of certeyne poynt of cosmography / as how &  
where y see coueryth y yerth / & of dyuers straūge  
regyons & landys and whiche wey they lye / and of  
the new founde landys and y maner of y people.

**C**Of the generacyon and cause of stone & mettal  
and of plantis and herbys.

**C**Of the generacyon and cause of well spzyng &  
ryuers / and of the cause of hote fumys that come  
out of the of y yerth / and of y cause of the bathys  
of water in the yerth whiche be ppetually hote.

**C**Of the cause of the ebbe and flode of the see

**C**Of the cause of rayne snowe and hagle

**C**Of the cause of the wyndys and thonder

**C**Of the cause of the lyghtnyng of blasynng ster-  
rys and flamys fleyng in the ayre





**C** The messenger.

**U**ndoubtedly grace of the power deuynē  
whiche doth illumyne þ' world inuiron  
Preserue this audyēce and cause them to inclyne  
To charyte this is my petcyon  
For by your pacyens and suppoztacyon  
A lityll interlude late made and pzearyd  
Befoze your presenre here shall be declaryd  
Whiche of a few conclusyons is contriuyd  
And poynt of phylosophy naturall  
But though the matter be not so well declaryd  
As a great clerke coude do noz so substancyall  
yet the auctour hēreof requiryth you all  
Though he be yngnozant and can lityll skyll  
To regarde his only intent and good wyll  
Whiche in his mynde hath oft tymes ponderyd  
what nombze of bokē in oure tonge inaternall  
Of toyes and tryfellys be made and imprentyd  
And few of them of matter substancyall  
For though many make bokē yet binneth ye shall  
In our englyshe tonge fynde any workē  
Of connyngē that is regardyd by clerckē  
The grekē the roimaynis with many othēris  
In their moder tonge wrot workē excellent  
Than yf clerckē in this realme wolde take payn to  
I. ii.

Consyderyng that our tonge is now suffycient  
To expoun any hard sentence eydent  
They myght yf they wolde in our englyshe tonge  
Wryte woꝝkys of grauyte somtyme amonge  
¶ Foꝝ dyuers pꝛengnaunt wyttꝛ be in this lande  
As well of noble men as of meane estate  
Whiche nothyng but englyshe can vnderstande  
¶ Than yf connyng lateꝛ bokys were translate  
In to englyshe / wel toꝛrect and appꝛobate  
All subtell sciens in englyshe myght be lernyd  
As well as otheꝛ people in their owne tonge dyd  
¶ But now so it is that in our englyshe tonge  
Many one there is that can but rede & wryte  
Foꝝ his pleasure wyll oft pꝛesume amonge  
New bokys to compyle and balatꝛ to indyte  
Some of loue oꝝ otheꝛ matter not worth a myte  
Some to opteyn fauour wyll flatter and glose  
Some wryte curyous termeꝛ nothyng to purpose  
¶ Thus euery maꝛn after his fantesye  
Wyll wryte his consepte be it neuer so rude  
Be it vertuouꝛ bytyous wysedome oꝝ foly  
Wherfoꝛe to my purpose thus I conclude  
Why shold not than the auctour of this interlude  
Utter his owne fantesye and consepte also  
As well as dyuers otheꝛ now a dayes do  
¶ Foꝝ wysedome and foly is as it is takyn







For þ one callyth wysedome a nother callyth foly  
yet amonge moſte folke that man is holdyn  
moſte wyſe / whiche to be ryche ſtudyeth only  
But he that for a cōmyn welth byſyly  
ſtudyeth and laboryth and lyuyth by godd<sup>e</sup> lawe  
Except he wax ryche men count hym but a daw  
¶ So he that is ryche is euer honouryd  
All though he haue got it neuer ſo fallely  
The poze beyng neuer ſo wyſe is reprouyd  
This is the oppynyon moſte cōmynly  
Thow we out the worlde / and yet no reaſon why  
Therefore in my mynde whan that all ſuche dawis  
haue bablyd what they cā no force of .ii. ſtrauis  
¶ For euery man in reaſon thus ought to do  
To labour for his owne neceſſary lyuyng  
And than for the welth of his neyghbour alſo  
But what dyuyllyſh mynde haue they which muſig  
And labouryng all their lyff<sup>e</sup> do no nother thyng  
But byſge ryches to their owne poſſeſſyon  
Nothyng regardige their neyghbours diſtruccion  
¶ Yet all the ryches in the worlde that is  
Byſyly of the grounde by goddys ſendyng  
And by the labour of poze menys handys  
And though thou ryche mā haue therof þ kepynge  
yet is not this ryches of thy gettynge  
Nor oughtyſt not in reaſon to be preyſed þ more

For by other menys labour it is got before  
¶ A great wytted man may sone be enrychyd  
That laboryth and studyeth for riches only  
But how shall his cōscyens than be discharged  
For all clerke afferme that that man presely  
Whiche studyeth for his owne welth pryncypally  
Of god shall deserue but lytyll rewarde  
Except he the cōmyn welth somwhat regarde  
¶ So they sey that that man occupyed is  
For a cōmyn welth whiche is euer laborynge  
To relcve poze people with temporall goodys  
And that it is a cōmyn good act to bynge  
People from vyce and to vse good lyuynge  
Lyke wyse for a cōmyn welth occupyed is he  
That byngyth them to knowlege þ yngnozāt be  
¶ But man to knowe god is a dyffyculte  
Except by a meane he hym selfe inure  
Whiche is to knowe godd<sup>s</sup> creaturys that be  
As furst them that be of the grofyst nature  
And than to knowe them that be moze pure  
And so by lytyll and lytyll ascendynge  
To knowe godd<sup>s</sup> creaturys & meruculous werkige  
¶ And this wyse man at the last shall come to  
The knowlege of god and his hys mageste  
And so to lerne to do his dewte and also  
To deserue of his goodnes partener to be  
Wherfore in this woꝝk declaryd shall ye see





First of the elementis the sytuacyon  
And of their effectis the caule and generacyon  
¶ And though some mē thynke this matter to hys  
And not mete for an audyence vnlearnyd  
¶ He thynke for man nothyng moze necessary  
¶ Than this to know though it be not vnyd  
¶ Nor a matter moze lowe can not be arguyd  
¶ For though the elementis goddys creaturis be  
yet they be most grosse and lowyst in degre  
¶ How dare men presume to be callyd clerke  
¶ By putyng of hys creaturis celestyall  
¶ As thyngys inuysyble and goddys hys warkys  
¶ And know not these vnyble thyngys inferyall  
¶ So they wolde know hys thyng & know nothig  
¶ Of the yerth here wheron they dayly be (at all  
¶ Noth the nature forme nor quantyte  
¶ ¶ Wherfoze it seemyth nothyng conuenyent  
¶ A man to study and his tyme to be stowe  
¶ First for the knowlege of hys thyng excellent  
¶ And of lyght matters beneth nothyng to know  
¶ As of these .iiij. elementis here below  
¶ whose effectis dayly appere here at eye  
¶ Such thig to know first / were most mete study  
¶ ¶ Whiche matter before your presence shortly  
¶ In this interlude here shall be declaryd  
¶ without great eloquence i tyme rudely  
¶ Because the compylor is but small learnyd

This worke with rethorik is not adournyd  
For perhappis in this matter muche eloquence  
Sholde make it teduous or hurt the sentence  
But because some folke be lpyll dysposyd  
To lannes but moze to myyth and sport  
This phylosophycall worke is myxyd  
With mery conseptis to gyue men cōfort  
And occasyon to cause them to resoꝛt  
To here this matter / wherto yf they take hede  
Some lernynge to them therof may pcede  
But they that shall nowe this matter declare  
Openly here vnto this audyence  
Beholde I prey you see where they are  
The pleyers begyn to appere in presence  
I se well it is tyme for me to go hens  
And so I wyll do / therfoze now shortly  
To god I cōmyt all this hole company

**C**hic intrat natura naturata huma-  
nyte & Studyous desire portās figurā

**Natura Naturata**

**T**he hye myghty most excellent of all  
The fountayn of goodnes verteu & cōnyng  
whiche is eternē of power most potencyall  
The pfeccyon and furst causy of euery thyng  
I meane that only hyc nature naturynge







Lo he by his goodnes hath ordeynyd and create  
He here his mynyster callyd nature naturate.  
¶ Wherfore I am the verey naturate nature  
The immediat mynyster for the preseruacyon  
Of euery thyng in his kynde to endure  
And cause of generacyon and corrupcion  
Of that thyng that is brought to destruccyon  
A nother thyng styll I brynge forth a gayne  
Thus wonderfly I worke and neuer in vayne  
¶ The great world be holde lo deuydyd woderfly  
In to two regions wherof on I call  
The etheriall region with the heuyns hie  
Conteynyng the planetys sterria & speris all  
The lower region callyd the elementall  
Conteynyng these .iiij. elementis be loo  
The fyre the ayre the water and yerth also  
¶ But yet the elementis and other bodyes all  
Beneth take theyr effectys and operacyons  
Of the bodyes in the region etheriall  
By theyr influens and constellacyons  
They cause here corrupcyons and generacyons  
For yf the mouyng a boue sholde ony cease  
Beneth sholde be nother increse noz decrese  
¶ These elementis of them selfe so synple be  
Unto dyuers formys can not be deuydyd  
yet they comyng to gyder dayly ye see

Wherof dyuers kyndes of thyngs be ingenderyd  
whiche thyngs est sonys whan they be coruptyd  
yche element I reduce to his furst estate  
So that nothyng can be viterly adnyhelate  
¶ For though the forme and facyon of any thyng  
That is a corpozall body be destroyed  
yet euery matter remaynyth in his beyng  
wherof it was furst made and fornyd  
For corupeyon of a body comyryd  
ys but the resolucyon by tyme and space  
Of euery element to his owne place  
¶ For who that wyll take any body corpozall  
And do what he can it to destroy  
To bryke it or grynde it into pouder small  
To washe to drowne to bren it or to dry  
yet the ayre and fyre therof naturally  
To their owne pper places wyll ascende  
The water to the water the yerth to y yerth tende  
¶ For yf hete or moysture of any thyng certayne  
By fyre or be water be consumyd  
yet yerth or allhes on yerth wyll remayne  
So the elements can neuere be destroyed  
For essencyally ther is nowat this tyde  
As muche fyre ayre water yerth as was  
Euer befoze this tyme nether more nor las  
¶ Wherfoze thou man now I speke to the





Remembre that thou art compound and create  
Of these elementis as other creaturis be  
yet they haue not all lyke noble estate  
For plantis and herbys growe and be insensate  
Beute bestis haue memozy and their wytt fyue  
But thou hast all those and soule intellectuē  
¶ So by reason of thyne vnderstandynge  
Thou hast domynyon of other bestis all  
And naturally thou sholdyst desire cōynge  
To knowe straunge effectes and causys naturall  
For he that studyeth for the lyfe bestyall  
As voluptuous pleasure and bodely rest  
I account hym neuer better than a best

¶ Humanyte.

¶ Excellent prynce and great lord nature  
I am thyne owne chylde and formyde instrument  
I beseeche thy grace take me to thy cure  
And teche me seche scyens thou thikyst expedyēt

¶ Nature.

¶ Than syth thou art so humble and beneuolent  
That thyng that is mete for thy capasyte  
And good for thy knowlege I shall instructe the  
¶ First of all thou must consyder and see  
These elementis whiche do yche ether penetrate  
And by contynual alteracyon they be  
Of them selfe dayly corruptyd and generate

The yerth as a poynt oz center is sytuatē  
In the myddē of the woꝛlde / with þ water Joynd  
with the ayre & fyre rounde & hole inuironyd  
¶ The yerth of it selfe is ponderous and heuy  
Colde and dry of his owne nature pper  
Some parte lyeth dry continually  
And parte therof coueryd ouer with water  
Some with the salt see some with freshe ryuer  
whiche yerth and the water to gyder with all  
So Joynd make a rounde fygure sperycall  
¶ So the water whiche is colde & moyst is foude  
In and vppon the yerth fyllynge the holones  
In dyuers partis llynge with þ yerth rounde  
yet the hyllys and mounteyns of þ yerth excelle  
Take nothyng of hit a way the roundnes  
In comparyson bycause they be so small  
No moze than the prikke do that be on a gall  
¶ The ayre whiche is hote and moyst also  
And the fyre whiche is euer hote and dry  
About the yerth and water Joyntly they go  
And compasse them euery where ozbycularly  
As the whyte a boute the yolke of an egg doth lye  
But the ayre in the lower parte mooste remainyth  
The fyre naturally to the hyper tendyth  
¶ The etheryall region whiche conteynyth  
The sterres and planetys and cucky spere







A bout the elementis daily mouyth  
And coueryth them rounde a bout euery where  
Euery sterre and spere in straunge maner  
Vppon his owne poles mouyth dyuersly  
Whiche now to declate were to longe to tary  
¶ The fyre and the ayre of their naturys be lyght  
Therefore they moue by naturall prouydence  
The water bycause it is ponderous in weyght  
Mouyth not naturally but by vyolence  
Of the sterres and planctes by whose influence  
The see is compellyd to ebbe and flowe daily  
And freshe waters to sprynge continually  
¶ And though y the water be greole and heuy  
yet nothyng so greole as the yerth is  
Therefore by hete it is vapozyd by lightly  
And in the ayre makyth cloudys and myste  
But as sone as euer that it greolely is  
Cederyd to gydet / it descendyth a gayne  
And causyth vppon y yerth hayle snow & rayne  
¶ The yerth because of his ponderosyte  
A voydyth equally the mouyng great  
Of all extremytes and sperys that be  
And tendyth to the place that is most quiet  
So in the myddys of all the sperys is set  
Formast abiect from all maner mouyng  
There naturally he restyth & mouyth nothyng

**M**arke well now how I haue the sheetyd & tolde  
Of euery element the very sptuacyon  
And qualyte, wherfoze this fygyre beholde  
Foz a moze manyfest demonstracyon  
And by cause thou sholdyst not put to oblyuon  
My doctryne / this man callyd studyous desire  
With the shall haue contynuall habytacyon  
The styll to exhort moze scyens to adquire  
**F**oz y moze y thou desyrest to know any thyngs  
Therin thou semyst the moze a man to be  
Foz that man that desireth no maner conyng  
All that wyle no better than a best is he  
why ben the eyes made but only to see  
The leggyes to bere the body of a creature  
So euery thyng is made to do his nature  
**S**o lyke wyle reason wit and vnderstondyng  
ys gguen to the man foz that thou sholdyst i dede  
knowe thy maker & cause of thyne owne beyng  
And what y wolde is & wherof thou doest pcedde  
wherfoze it be houyth the of betey nede  
The cause of thyng? suerst foz to lerne  
And than to knowe & laude the hye god eterne

**H**umanyte.

**O** glorious lord and prynce moste pleasant  
Greatly am I now holdyn vnto the  
So to illumyne my mynd that was yngnoyant





with such noble doctryne as thou hast here shewed  
wherfore I promise vpon my fydelyte (me  
My dyligence to do to kepe in memozy  
And the for to honour skyll ppetually

### ¶ Studyous desire

¶ And syth it hath pleased thy grace to admyt  
Me vpon this man to gyue attendaunce  
with thy doctryne here shewed I shall obkyn his  
And dayly put hym in remembraunce (wyt  
His courage and desyre I shall also inhaunce  
So that his felicyte shall be most of all  
To study and to serche for causys naturall

### ¶ Nature.

¶ Well than for a season I will departe  
Leuyng you to gyder here both twayne  
what I haue shewid man prync well in thyn here  
And marke well this fygyre þ here shall remaine  
wherby thou maist perceyue many thynges moze  
Concernyng þ matter I spake of before (playn  
And whan that I shall resort here a gayne  
Of hys poynt of conyng I shall shew þ moze

### ¶ Studyous desire.

¶ Now humanyte call to your memozy  
The conyng poynt that nature hath declared  
And though he haue shewed dyuers poits & many  
Of the elementis so wonderly formed

yet many other causys there are wolde be lernyd  
As to knowe the generacyon of thyngs all  
Here in the yerth / how they be ingendryd  
As herbys plantys well spryngs ston and metall

**C**Humanyte.

**C**hose thyngs to knowe for me be full expediēt  
But yet i thole poynnt whiche nature late she wyd  
By mynde in them as yet is not cōtent (me  
For I can nō maner wyse perceyue nor see  
Nor proue by reason why the yerth sholde be  
In the mydd of y fymament hengyng so small  
And the yerth with the water to be rounde with all

**C**Studyous desire.

**C**he thynkyth my selfe as to some of those poynnt  
I coude gyue a suffycient solucyon  
For first of all thou must nedys graunt this  
That the yerth is so depe and botom hath non  
Or els there is some grole thyng hit stōdyth vpon  
Or els that it hangyth thou must nedys consent  
Eyn in the mydd of the fymament

**C**Humanyte.

**C**what than go forth with thyne argument

**C**Studyous desire.

**C**hā marke well in y day or in a wynters nyght  
The sone and mone and sterris celestvall  
In the est first they do apere to thy syght







**A**fter in the west they do downe fall  
**A** rayne in the morowe next of all  
**W**ith .xxiiiij. houres they be come Just  
**T**o the east poirt again where thou sawist them furd  
**C**an yf the erthe shulde be of endles depnes  
**O**r shulde stande vpon any other grole thynge  
**I**t shulde be an impedymēt dowtles  
**T**o the sone mone and steris in theyr mouynge  
**T**hey shulde not so in the est agayne sprynge  
**T**herfoze in reason it semyth moste conuenyent  
**T**he yerth to hange in y<sup>e</sup> myddē of the firmamēt  
**H**umanyte.

**T**hyne argument in y<sup>e</sup> poynt doth me cōfōude  
**T**hat thou hast made but yet it puytht not ryght  
**T**hat the yerth by reason shulde be rounde  
**F**oz though y<sup>e</sup> firmament with his steris byght  
**C**ompas aboute the yerth eche day and nyght  
**Y**et the yerthe may be playne paduentre  
**Q**uadrant triangle oz some other fygure  
**S**tudyouse desyre.

**T**hat it can not be playne I shall well pue the  
**B**e cause the steris that a ryse in the orient  
**A**ppere moze soner to them that there be  
**T**han to the other dwellynge in the occident

**B. i.**

The eclipse is therof a playne experymente  
Of the sone or mone which whane it dothe fy  
Is neuer one tyme of the day in placys all  
Yet the eclipys generally is alwaye  
In the hole worlde as one tyme beyng  
But whan we that dwell here see it in þ mydday  
They in the west partis see it in the moornyng  
And they in the est beholde it in the euenyng  
And why that holde so be no cause can be found  
But onely by reason that the yerthe is rownde

**Humanyte .**

That reason proueth the yerth at the lest  
One wayes to be rownde I cannot gayne say  
As for to accompt frome the est to the west  
But yet not withstondyng all that it may  
Lese hys rowndenesse by some other waye

**Studious desyre .**

Na no doubt yt is rownde euery where  
which I coulde proue thou shoudest not say nay  
yf I had therto any tyme and lesse  
But I knowe a man callyd experyens  
Of dyuers instrumentys is neuer without  
Cowde proue all these poyntys & yet by his scyes  
Can tell how many myle the erthe is a bowte





in many other straunge cōclusiōs no doubt  
Hys instrumentys cowde shew thē to certayn  
at euery rude carter shold them playne playn

**H**umanyte.

Now wolde to god I had y man now here  
For the contembtacyon of my mynde

**S**tudyons desyre.

Cyf ye wyl I shall for hym enquire  
And byynge hym beder yf I can hym fynde

**H**umanyte.

Then myght I say ye were to me ryght kynde

**S**tudyous desyre.

I shall assay by god that me dere bought  
For cunnyng is the thyng y wolde be fought

**S**ensuall apetyte.

well hpet quod hykman when y he smot  
Hys wyffe on the buttock with a bere pott  
Aha now god euy n sole god euy n

It is euen the knaue that I wene  
Hast thou done thy babelyng

**S**tudyous desyre.

Cy pe raduenture what than

**S**ensuall apetyte.

Thā hold downe thy hede lyke a pety mā & take



This wyse hym depraue.

**Sen.** Though he loke neuer so well  
I promyse you he hath a <sup>small</sup> wysewode smell

**Dir.** Why so I pray you tell

**Det.** For he sauereth lyke a knaue

**St.** Holde your peale for ye mys take me  
what I trowe that ye wolde make me  
Lyke to one of your kyn

**Sen.** Marke for here ye not how boldly  
He rallyth me knaue agayne by polycy  
The deuyl pull of his skyn

I wolde he were hangyd by the throte  
For by the messe I loue hym not  
we two can neuer agree

I am content for with you to tary

And I am for you so necessary

ye can not lyue without me

**Dir.** why for I can what man be ye

**Det.** I am callyd sensuall apetyte

All creaturs to me delyste

I comforte the wyttys syue

The rallyng smellng & leryng

I refresh the syght and felyng

To all creaturs a lyue

For when the body werith hongry  
For lacke of fode or ellys thursty  
Then with drynkes pleasaunt  
I restore hym out of payne  
And oft refreshe nature agayne  
With delicate vyand  
With pleasaunte sound of armonye  
The herpynge alwaye I satysfy  
I hate this well reporte  
The smellynge with swete odour  
And the syght with pleasaunte fygour  
And colours I comforte  
The felynge that is so pleasaunte  
Of every member fote or hande  
What pleasure therein can be  
By the towchynge of soft & harde  
Of hote or colde nought in regarde  
Excepte it come by me  
Hu. Then I cannot see the contrary  
But ye are for me full necessary  
And ryght conuenient.  
Stu. ye sye beware yet what ye do  
For yf you forsake my company so  
Lorde nature wyll not be contente.







Of hym ye shall neuer lethe good thyng  
Nother vertu noz no other conyng  
This dare I well say

Sen. Mary auant knaue I the desyre  
Byde nature for byde hym my company  
what sayst thou therto speke openly

Hu. As for that I know well nay

Sen. No by god I am ryght sure  
For he knoweth well no creature  
without me can lyue one day

Hu. Syr I pray you be contente  
It is not vtterly myne intente  
your company to exyle  
But onely to haue comunycacyon  
And a pastyme of recreacyon  
with this man for a whyle

Stu. Well for your pleasure I will departe

Sen. Now go knaue go I bestow thy hart  
The deuyll sende the forwarde

Sen. Now by my trowth I meruell gretly  
That euer ye wolde vse the company  
So myche of suche a knaue  
for yf ye do no nother thyng  
But euer study and to be meryng

As he wolde haue you it wyll you byynge  
At the last vnto your graue  
Eye shulde eue; study pꝛyncypall  
Foz to comfozt your lyfe naturall  
With metis and dꝛynkes dilycate  
And other pastymes & pleasures a monge  
Daulynge laughynge oꝝ plelaunt longe  
This is mete foz your estate

**Hu.** Because ye sey so I you pꝛmyse  
That I haue musyd & studyed such wyse  
He thynketh my wyttes wery  
By nature desyreth some restesshyng  
And also I haue ben so longe fastyng  
That I am somwhat hongry

**Sen.** Well than wyll ye go with me  
To a tauerne where ye shall se  
Good pastaunce & at your lyberte  
Haue what so euer ye wyll

**Hu.** I am content so foz to do  
Yf that ye wyll not fro me go  
But kepe me company wyll

**Sen.** Copany qd a/ye y I shall poynt deuyle  
And also do you good and trew seruyce  
And therto I plyght my trouthe





And yf that I euer forlake you  
I pray god the deuyl take you  
Hu. O Mary I thanke you for that othe  
Sen. O mylchylfe on it my tonge loo  
wylt trypp somtyme what so euer I do  
But ye wot what I mene well  
Hu. O ye no forre let this matter passe  
But seydest eui now thou knewyst where  
A good tauerne to make solas (was  
where is that I prey the tell  
Sen. O Mary at the doze euyr here by  
yf we call any thyng on hye  
The tauerner wylt answere  
Hu. O prey the than call for hym now  
Sen. O Mary I wylt / How tauerner how  
why doste thou not appere  
Tauern O who is that calleth so hastily  
ney. I shrew thyne hert speke softely  
I tell the I am not here  
Sen. O Chan I be shrewd page of thyne age  
Come hyther knaue for thyne auantage  
why makyst thou hlt so to w  
Ca. O for myne auantage mary thā I come  
Beware syz how let me haue come  
As here I am what seyest thou

**Sen.** Warty thus here is a gentylman I say  
That nother ete no; dranke this day  
Therfoz tell me I the praye  
yf thou haue any good wyne

**Ca.** ye shall haue spayneshe wyne & gascogn  
Rose coloure whyt claret rampyon  
Tye capryck and maluesyne  
Sak raspyce alycaunt runney  
Gyke ipocrase new made clary  
Suche as ye neuer had  
Foz yf ye drynke a draught o; too  
yt wyl make you o; ye thens go  
By gogge body starke madde

**Sen.** I wot thou art not without good wyne  
But here is a gentylmā hath lyst to dync  
Canst thou get hym any good mete

**Ca.** what mete maystet wolde ye haue

**Hu.** I care not so god me lau e

So that it be holsome to ete

I wolde we had a good steyd capon

**Sen.** As fo; capons ye can gette none

The kyngys taker toke vpeche one

I wot well there is none to get







**Ca.** Though all rapons be gone what than  
yet I can get you a stewed hen  
That is redy dyght.  
**Hu.** yf she be fat yt wyll do well  
**Ca.** fat oꝛ lene I cannot tell  
But as foꝛ this I wot well  
She lay at the stewes all nyght.  
**Hu.** Thou art a mad gest be this lyght.  
**Sen.** ye syꝛ it is a felow that neuer saylys  
But cāll get my mayster a dyshe of qua-  
lmal byꝛdes swalowes oꝛ wagtayle  
They be lyght of dygestyon.  
**Ca.** Lyght of dysgestyon foꝛ what reason  
**Sen.** foꝛ physyk putteth this reason therta  
Bycause those byꝛdes fle to a fro  
And be continuall mouynge  
**Ca.** Then know I a lyghter mete than y  
**Hu.** I pray the tell me what  
**Ca.** yf ye wyll nedys know at short & longe  
It is euyñ a womans tounge  
foꝛ that is euer sterynge  
**Hu.** Syꝛ I pray the let suche fanteses be  
And come heder nere & harke to me  
And do after my byddyng.

Soo puruey ys a dyner euyr of the most  
Of all mauer dyllhes both lod and roste  
That thou canst get spate for no colle  
yf thou make thye course

**Ca.** ¶ Chau ye get nocher gose nor swane  
But a dyllhe of dreggs a dyllhe of brate  
A dyllhe of draffe and I trowe than  
ye can not get thye worse

**Hu.** ¶ What hors on woldest thou puruey  
Bian draffe a stynkyng dregge I ley  
I holde the mad I trowe

**Ca.** ¶ Godes hallyon sayd ye not thus  
That I shulde puruey you thye course  
And thele be course Inowe (dyllhes)

**Hu.** ¶ The course dyllhes qd a  
what mad sole thou mys takest me clene  
I se well thou wotest not what I mene  
And vnderstandyst a mys  
I mene this wyle I wolde haue the  
To puruey mete so great plente  
That thou sholdyst of necessitye  
Serue them at thye courlys  
¶ That is to vnderstande at one wyde  
Thou woldest bynyge them vnto þ boz





At thye severall tymes

Ca. What than I se well ye will make a feste

Du. Ye by the rope evyn with the grettest

Sen. By my trowth than do ye best

Evyn after my mynde

But ye must haue moze company.

Du. That is trewe and so wolde I glad-

If I knewe any to fynde

Sen. Why will ye folowe my counsell

Du. Ye

Sen. Than we will haue lytell nell

A pper wenche she daunsith well

And Jane with the blacke lace

we will haue bounsyngge hesse also

And two or thre proper wenchis mo

Right fey and smotter of face

Du. How be it so thou art launce here

Ca. Tha I pceue ye will make gode chere

Du. Why what shulde I els do

Ca. If ye thynke so best than will I

Go before and make all thynge redy

Agayne ye come therto

Du. Mary I praye the do so

Ca. Than farewell syz soz I am gone

**Hu.** And we shall folow the anon  
without any tarryng

**Sen.** Then it is best sy; ye make halt  
foz ye shall spende here but tyme i wast  
And do no nother thyng

**Hu.** Cyl ye wyll let vs goo by and by

**Sen.** I pray you be it foz I am redy  
No man better wyllynge

**Exeat Sen. & Hu.** Intrat **Erpiés. & Stu.**  
Now colyn experpens as I may say  
ye are ryght welcom to this contrey  
without any faryng.

**Erpiés** Sy; I thanke you therof hertely  
And I am as glad of your company  
As any man lyuyng.

**Stu.** Sy; I vnderstonde that ye haue be  
In many a straunge countree  
And haue had grete fylcrite  
Straunge causes to seke and fynde

**Er.** Ryght farr sy; I haue rydden & gone  
And seen straunge thynges many one  
In affryk/europe and ynde  
Bothe est & west I haue ben farr  
North also and seen the south ster







Bothe by see and lande  
And ben in sondry nacyns  
with peple of dyuers condycyns  
Haruelous to vnderstonde.

Stu.

Syz yf a man haue suche cozage  
Or deuocyon in pylgrymage  
Iherusalem vnto

For to accompt the nexte way  
How many myle is it I you pray

Ex.

From hens theder to goo

Syz as for all suche questyons  
Of townes to know the sytuacyon

How ferf they be a sunder  
And other poyntes of cosmogryfy  
ye shall neuer lerne then moze surely

Then by that fygure yonder  
For who that fygure dyd fyrst deuyle  
It semeth well he was wylf

And perfyte in this seyens  
For bothe the se and lande also  
Lye trew and iust as they holde do

I know by experyens.

Stu.

who thynke you brought here this fygure

Ex.

I wot not