

ElizabethanDrama.org

presents
a Theatre Script of

THE SUMMONING
of EVERYMAN
(with modernized words)

Anonymous

Written c. 1490-1510

Earliest Extant Complete Copy: c. 1520s

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THE SUMMONING
of EVERYMAN

ANONYMOUS

Written c. 1490-1510

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Personae Dramatis:

Everyman.

Messenger.

God.

Death.

Everyman's False Friends:

Fellowship.

Kindred.

Cousin.

Goods.

Everyman's True Friends:

Good Deeds.

Knowledge.

Confession.

Beauty.

Strength.

Discretion.

Five Wits.

Angel.

Doctor.

NOTES.

A. A One-Act Play?

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

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

B. A Slightly Modernized Script.

In this version of *Everyman*, we offer the reader or performer a script in which the language has been slightly modernized, to facilitate comprehension for the reader or the listener. Specifically, the following types of changes have been implemented:

(1) Middle English spellings of common modern words have been modernized: hence, this script prints *show* for the Middle English word *shew*; *hither* for *hider*; *mother* for *moder*; *reproof* for *reprefe*, etc.

(2) modern versions of words are substituted for Middle English words, in which the modification is greater than just simply changing a vowel or consonant: for example, this script prints *covetousness* for *covetise*, *account* for *count*, *righteousness* for *rightwiseness*, etc. On the other hand, Middle English words with no modern equivalents, such as *weet*, *wot* and *appaireth*, are retained.

(3) as readers of Elizabethan drama are aware, *and* was often used to mean *if*; in this script, *and* is replaced with *if* in these cases. Also, *or* was often used in Middle English to mean *ere*; here we make the substitution with the modern word.

C. Stage Directions.

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

THE SUMMONING
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ANONYMOUS

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

PROLOGUE.

Enter Messenger.

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



24

[Exit Messenger.]

ACT I.

Everyman is summoned to account for his life
before God.

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

Enter God.

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

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

44

Enter Death.

46

Death.

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

50

God.

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

58

[God withdraws.]

60

Death.

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

76

Enter Everyman, finely dressed.

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

80

Everyman.

82 Why askest thou? Wouldest thou weet?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Everyman.

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

Death.

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

146

Everyman.

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

Death.

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

Everyman.

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

Death.

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

176

Everyman.

178 O gracious God, in the high seat celestial,

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

Death.

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

Everyman.

192 I had wend so verily.

Death.

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

Everyman.

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

Death.

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

[Exit Death.]

Everyman.

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

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

ACT II.

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

Enter Fellowship.

1 ***Everyman.***

2 Well met, good Fellowship, and good morrow.

4 ***Fellowship.***

Everyman, good morrow, by this day: –

6 Sir, why lookest thou so piteously?

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

8 That I may help to remedy.

10 ***Everyman.***

Yea, good Fellowship, yea;

12 I am in great jeopardy.

14 ***Fellowship.***

My true friend, show to me your mind:

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

In the way of good company.

18

Everyman.

20 That was well spoken and lovingly.

22 ***Fellowship.***

Sir, I must needs know your heaviness:

24 I have pity to see you in any distress.

If any have you wronged, ye shall revenged be,

26 Though I on the ground be slain for thee,

Though that I know before that I should die.

28

Everyman.

30 Verily, Fellowship, gramercy.

32 ***Fellowship.***

Tush! by thy thanks I set not a straw;

34 Show me your grief, and say no more.

36 ***Everyman.***

If I my heart should to you break,

38 And then you to turn your mind from me,

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

40 Then should I ten times sorrier be.

42 ***Fellowship.***

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

82 **Everyman.**
Why, ye said, if I had need,
84 Ye would me never forsake, quick nor dead,
Though it were to hell truly.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Enter Kindred and Cousin.

188

Kindred.

190

Here be we now at your commandment:

192

Cousin, I pray you, show us your intent

In any wise, and not spare.

194

Cousin.

Yea, Everyman, and to us declare

196

If ye be disposed to go any whither;

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

198

Kindred.

200

In wealth and woe we will with you hold,

For over his kin a man may be bold.

202

Everyman.

204

Gramercy, my friends and kinsmen kind;

Now shall I show you the grief of my mind:

206

I was commanded by a messenger,

That is an high king's chief officer;

208

He bade me go on pilgrimage to my pain,

But I know well I shall never come again.

210

Also I must give a reckoning strait,

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

212

Which intendeth me for to hinder.

214

Kindred.

What account is that which ye must render?

216

That would I know.

218

Everyman.

Of all my works I must show,

220

How I have lived, and my days spent;

Also of ill deeds that I have used

222

In my time, since life was me lent,

And of all virtues that I have refused:

224

Therefore, I pray you, go thither with me

To help to make mine account, for Saint Charity.

226

Cousin.

228

What, to go thither? Is that the matter?

Nay, Everyman, I had liever fast bread and water

230

All this five year and more.

232

Everyman.

Alas, that ever I was born!

234

For now shall I never be merry,

236 | If that you forsake me.

Kindred.

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

242 |

Everyman.

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

246 | **Cousin.**

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

250 |

Kindred.

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

258 |

Everyman.

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

262 |

Kindred.

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

266 |

[Exit Kindred.]

268 |

Everyman.

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

274 |

Cousin.

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

282 |

[Exit Cousin.]

284 **Everyman.**
Ah, Jesus, is all come hereto?
286 Lo, fair words maketh fools fain;
They promise, and nothing will do certain.
288 My kinsmen promised me faithfully
For to abide with me steadfastly;
290 And now fast away do they flee.
Even so Fellowship promised me.
292 What friend were best me of to provide?
I lose my time here longer to abide; –
294 Yet in my mind a thing there is:
All my life I have loved riches;
296 If that my Goods now help me might,
It would make my heart full light.
298 I will speak to him in this distress: –
Where art thou, my Goods and Riches?

300
[Goods speaks from a corner.]

302
Goods.
304 Who calleth me? Everyman? what, hast thou haste?
I lie here in corners trussed and piled so high,
306 And in chests I am locked so fast,
Also sacked in bags, thou mayst see with thine eye,
308 I cannot stir; in packs low I lie!
What would ye have, lightly me say.

310
Everyman.
312 Come hither, Good, in all the haste thou may;
For of counsel I must desire thee.

314
[Goods comes forward.]

316
Goods.
318 Sir, if ye in the world have sorrow or adversity,
That can I help you to remedy shortly.

320
Everyman.
322 It is another disease that grieveth me,
In this world it is not: I tell thee so,
324 I am sent for another way to go,
To give a strait account general
326 Before the highest Jupiter of all:
And all my life I have had my pleasure in thee,
328 Therefore I pray thee now go with me;
For, peradventure, thou mayst before God Almighty

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

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

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

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

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

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

364 **Everyman.**
366 Lo, now was I deceived, ere I was ware,
And all I may weet spending of time.

368 **Goods.**
370 What, weenest thou that I am thine?

372 **Everyman.**
I had went so.

374 **Goods.**
376 Nay, Everyman, I say no:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Exit Goods.]

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

424 | But all forsake me in the ending.
Then went I to my Goods that I loved best,
426 | In hope to have found comfort, but there had I least:
For my Goods sharply did me tell,
428 | That he bringeth many into hell.
Then of myself I was ashamed,
430 | And so I am worthy to be blamed:
Thus may I well myself hate.
432 | Of whom shall I now counsel take?
I think that I shall never speed,
434 | Till that I go to my Good Deed;
But, alas! she is so weak,
436 | That she can neither go nor speak:
Yet will I venture on her now. —

ACT III.

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

1 **Everyman.**

2 My Good Deeds, where be you?

4 [Good Deeds speaks from the ground.]

6 **Good Deeds.**

Here I lie cold in the ground;

8 Thy sins have me so sore bound,

That I cannot stir.

10

Everyman.

12 O Good Deeds, I stand in fear;

I must you pray of counsel,

14 For help now should come right well.

16 **Good Deeds.**

Everyman, I have understanding

18 That ye be summoned account to make

Before Messiah of Jerusalem King:

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

22 **Everyman.**

Therefore I come to you my moan to make:

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

26 **Good Deeds.**

I would full fain, but I cannot stand verily.

28

Everyman.

30 Why, is there anything on you fall?

32 **Good Deeds.**

Yea, sir, I may thank you of all:

34 If ye had perfectly cheered me,

Your book of account full ready had be. —

36 Look, the books of your works and deeds eke

As how they lie under the feet,

38 To your soul's heaviness.

40 [Everyman tries to read book of deeds.]

42 **Everyman.**

Our Lord Jesus help me,

44 For one letter herein can I not see.

46 **Good Deeds.**
There is a blind reckoning in time of distress!

48 **Everyman.**
50 Good Deeds, I pray you, help me in this need,
Or else I am forever damned indeed!
52 Therefore help me to make reckoning
Before the Redeemer of all thing,
54 That king is, and was, and ever shall.

56 **Good Deeds.**
Everyman, I am sorry of your fall,
58 And fain would I help you, if I were able.

60 **Everyman.**
Good Deeds, your counsel, I pray you, give me.

62 **Good Deeds.**
64 That shall I do verily,
Though that on my feet I may not go:
66 I have a sister that shall with you also,
Called Knowledge, which shall with you abide,
68 To help you to make that dreadful reckoning.

70 [Enter Knowledge.]

72 **Knowledge.**
Everyman, I will go with thee, and be thy guide,
74 In thy most need to go by thy side.

76 **Everyman.**
In good condition I am now in every thing,
78 And am whole content with this good thing:
Thanked be God my Creator.

80 **Good Deeds.**
82 And when he hath brought you there
Where thou shalt heal thee of thy smart,
84 Then go you with your reckoning and your good deeds together,
For to make thee joyful at the heart
86 Before the blessed Trinity.

88 **Everyman.**
My Good Deeds, gramercy:
90 I am well content certainly
With your words sweet.

92 **Knowledge.**

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

96

Everyman.

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

102 | **Knowledge.**

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

106

[*Confession enters;*

108

Knowledge takes Everyman to Confession.]

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

112

Everyman. [*To Confession*]

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

124 | **Confession.**

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

134

[*Confession shows scourge.*]

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

142

[*Confession gives scourge to Knowledge.*]

144

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

150

Everyman.

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

156

Knowledge.

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

162

Everyman.

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

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

192 [Knowledge gives scourge to Everyman.]

194 **Knowledge.**

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

198

Everyman.

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

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

206

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

212

[Good Deeds rises from the ground.]

214

Good Deeds.

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

220

Knowledge.

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

226

Everyman.

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

230

[Everyman scourges himself again.]

232

Good Deeds.

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

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

240 **Everyman.**

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

244 **Knowledge.**

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

252 *[Knowledge gives garment to Everyman.]*

254 **Everyman.**

Gentle Knowledge, what do ye it call?

256

Knowledge.

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

264 **Good Deeds.**

Everyman, will you wear it for your heal?

266

[Everyman puts on the garment of sorrow.]

268

Everyman.

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

274

[Good Deeds takes up the book of account.]

276

Good Deeds.

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

280 **Everyman.**

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

284 **Knowledge.**

Nay, Everyman, that will we not certain.

286 |
288 | **Good Deeds.**
290 | Yet must thou lead with thee
292 | Three persons of great might.
294 | **Everyman.**
296 | Who should they be?
298 | **Good Deeds.**
300 | Discretion and Strength they hight,
302 | And thy Beauty may not abide behind.
304 | **Knowledge.**
306 | Also ye must call to mind
308 | Your Five Wits as for your councillors.
310 | **Good Deeds.**
312 | You must have them ready at all hours.
314 | **Everyman.**
How shall I get them hither?
Knowledge.
You must call them all together,
And they will hear you incontinent.
Everyman.
My friends, come hither, and be present,
Discretion, Strength, my Five Wits and Beauty.

ACT IV.

Everyman is joined by his personal attributes.

Enter Beauty, Strength, Discretion and Five Wits.

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

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

4

Good Deeds.

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

10 **Strength.**

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

14 **Discretion.**

So will we go with him all together.

16

Everyman.

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

24

Strength.

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

28

Five Wits.

30 And though it were through the world round,
We will not depart for sweet nor for sour.

32

Beauty.

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

36

Discretion.

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

42

Everyman.

44

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

46

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

48

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

50

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

52

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

54

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

56

Knowledge.

58

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

64

Five Wits.

66

Yea, Everyman, hie you that ye ready were:
There is no emperor, king, duke, nor baron,
68 That from God hath commission
As hath the least priest in the world being;
70 For of the blessed sacraments pure and benign,
He beareth the keys, and thereof hath the cure
72 For man's redemption, it is ever sure,
Which God for our soul's medicine
74 Gave us out of his heart with great pain,
Here in this transitory life for thee and me.

76

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

82

Everyman.

84

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

86

Five Wits.

88

Everyman, that is the best that ye can do:

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

108

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

110

112 ***Knowledge.***

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

128 ***Five Wits.***

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

136

Good Deeds.

138 Methink it is he indeed.

140

Re-Enter Everyman carrying a crucifix.

142

Everyman.

Now Jesus be your alder speed!

144

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

146

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

148

I thank God that ye have tarried so long.

Now set each of you on this rood your hand,

150

And shortly follow me;

I go before, there I would be:

152

God be our guide.

154

[They grasp the crucifix in turn.]

156

Strength.

Everyman, we will not from you go,

158

Till ye have done this voyage long.

160

Discretion.

I, Discretion, will bide by you also.

162

Knowledge.

164

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

166

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

ACT V.

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

[*Everyman comes to his grave.*]

1 ***Everyman.***

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

8

Beauty.

10 What, into this grave? Alas!

12 ***Everyman.***

Yea, there shall ye consume more and less.

14

Beauty.

16 And what, should I smother here?

18 ***Everyman.***

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

22

Beauty.

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

26

Everyman.

28 What, Beauty? whither will ye?

30 ***Beauty.***

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

34

[*Exit Beauty.*]

36 ***Everyman.***

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

40

Strength.

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

44

Everyman.

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

48

Strength.

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

54 | **Everyman.**

Ye would ever bide by me, ye said.

56

Strength.

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

62

Everyman.

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

66

Strength.

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

72

[Exit Strength.]

74

Everyman.

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

82 | **Discretion.**

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

86 | **Everyman.**

Why, Discretion, will ye forsake me?

88

Discretion.

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

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

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

102 | *[Exit Discretion.]*

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

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

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

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

122 | *[Exit Five Wits.]*

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

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

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

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

140 | But not yet for no manner of danger.

142 | **Everyman.**

Gramercy, Knowledge, with all my heart.

144 |

Knowledge.

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

148 |

Everyman.

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

156 |

Good Deeds.

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

162 |

Everyman.

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

166 |

Good Deeds.

168 | Fear not, I will speak for thee.

170 | **Everyman.**

Here I cry, God mercy!

172 |

Good Deeds.

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

176 |

Everyman.

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

186 |

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

188

Knowledge.

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

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

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

196

[Enter Angel.]

198

The Angel.

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

202 Because of thy singular virtue.

Now the soul is taken the body from,

204 Thy reckoning is crystal clear;

Now shalt thou into the heavenly sphere,

206 Unto the which all ye shall come

That liveth well, after the day of doom.

208

[Exeunt Knowledge and Angel.]

EPILOGUE.

Enter Doctor.

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

THUS ENDETH THIS MORAL PLAY
OF EVERYMAN.

FINIS.