

Piers Plowman

Piers Plowman: 8 major manuscripts

Manuscript C (Cambridge University Library LL.4.14) Passus tercius de visione

Now is Mede the maide . and na ma of hem alle
With bedelles and with baillifs . brought before the kyng
The kyng called a clerke . kan I naught his name
4 To take mede the maide . and make hir at ese
I schal assaie hir my-self . and sotheliche appose
What man of molde . that hir were leuest
And if sho worche by my wit . and my wille folwe
8 I wole for-gyue hir this gilte . so me god help

Manuscript F (Oxford CCC MS 201) Incipit Passus Quartus.

NOw is Meede þe Mayde / & no mo of alle.
I-browht by-fore þe kyng / with bedel & bayly.
A-non þe kyng kallid a Clerk / y knowe not his name.
4 To take Meede þe Maide / & make hire at ese [*]
But y wille hire first a-say3e / & sotilly hire apose.
What wy3e of þis world / þat she were levest.
& if she wirche be my wit / & my wille folwe.
8 I wil for-gyve hire þe gyltis / so me god helpe.

Manuscript G (Cambridge University Library GG.4.31) Explicit tercius passus de visione

Now ys mede the meyde and no mo off theym all
wyth bedeles and baylyffes broght before the kyng
the kyng called a clerke I know not hys name
4 to take mede þe meyden & make hyr att easse
I shall assey hyr my-selfe & sothlyche apposen
watt man vpon mold that hyr were levest
and yff she worche by my wytt & my wyll folowe
8 I wyll forgyve hyr thys gylt so me god helpe

Manuscript Hm (Huntington Library MS 128)

Now is mede the mayde . and nomo of hem alle
wyth Bedelles and wyth baylyfs . brouht bifore the kyng
The kyng callede a clerk . ne can y nough his name
4 To take mede the mayde . and make here at ese
I schall assaye here my-selfe . and so?li appose
what man vpon molde . that here were leuste
And 3if s3e wurche by wytt . and my wyll folowe
8 y wol for3yue hyre this gylt . so me god helpe
Manuscript L (Bodley Laud Misc. 581)
Passus Tercius

Now is Mede þe Maide . and namo of hem alle
With bedellus & wiþ bayllyues . brou3t bifore þe kyng
The kyng called a clerke . can I nou3t his name
4 To take Mede þe mayde . and make hire at ese
I shal assaye hir my-self . and sothelich appose
What man of þis molde . þat hire were leuste
And if she worche bi my witte . and my wille folwe
8 I wil forgyue hir þis gilte . so me god help

Manuscript M (BL Additional 35287) Passus tercius

Now is [*] Mede þe mayde . and namo of hem alle
With bedellus and Baillifs . brou3t bifore þe kyng
þe kyng called a Clerk . can I nou3t his name.
4 To take mede þe mayde . and make hire at ese
I shal assaien hire my self ; and sotheliche appose.
What man of þis molde ; þat hire were leuste
And if she worche by my wit ; and my wille folwe
8 I wyl forgyf hire þis gilt ; so me god helpe.

Manuscript R (Bodley Rawlinson Poetry 38) Passus tercius de visione petri plowman. vt supra &cetera

Now is mede þe mayde ; and namo of hem alle.
With bedelus and with bayliues ; y-brou3t by-for þ
þe kyng called a clerke ; can I nou3t his name.
4 To take mede þe mayde ; and maken hire at ese.
I schal assay hire myselue ; and couthliche appose.
What man of þis world ; þat hire were leust.
And if heo wurche be my witte ; and my wille folwe.
8 I wile for-gyue hire þis gultes ; so me god helpe.

Manuscript W (Cambridge Trinity College B.15.17) Passus tercius de visione vt supra

Now is Mede þe mayde . and namo of hem alle
Wiþ Bedeles and with baillies . brou3t bifore þe kyng
The kyng called a clerk . kan I no3t his name
4 To take Mede þe maide . and maken hire at ese
I shal assayen hire my-self . and soopliche appose
What man of þis moolde . þat hire were leust
And if she werche bi wit . and my wil folwe
8 I wol forgyuen hire þis gilt . so me god helpe