

TRUTH

Balade de Bon Conseyl

Flee fro the prees and dwelle with sothfastnesse;
Suffyce unto thy thing, though it be small,
For hord hath hate, and climbing tikelnesse,
Prees hath envye, and wele blent overall.
Savour no more than thee bihove shal, 5
Reule wel thyself that other folk canst rede,
And trouthe thee shal deliver, it is no drede.

Tempest thee noght al croked to redresse
In trust of hir that turneth as a bal;
Gret reste stant in litel besinesse. 10
Be war therfore to sporne ayeyns an al,
Stryve not, as doth the crokke with the wal.
Daunte thyself, that dauntest otheres dede,
And trouthe thee shal deliver, it is no drede.

That thee is sent, receive in buxumnesse; 15
The wrestling for this world axeth a fal.
Here is non hoom, her nis but wilderness:
Forth, pilgrim, forth! Forth, beste, out of thy stal!
Know thy contree, look up, thank God of al;
Hold the heye wey and lat thy gost thee lede, 20
And throuthe thee shal deliver, it is no drede.

Envoy

Therefore, thou Vache, leve thyn old wrecchednesse;
Unto the world leve now to be thral.
Crye him mercy, that of his hy goodness
Made thee of noght, and in especial 25
Draw unto him, and pray in general
For thee, and eek for other, hevenlich mede;
And trouthe thee shal deliver, it is no drede.

Explicit Le bon counseill de G. Chaucer.

1 **prees** crowd; 2 **thyng** possessions; 3 **hord** avarice, **tikelnesse** instability;
4 **blent** deceives; 7 **deliver** set free; 8 **Tempest thee** trouble yourself,
croked crooked; 9 **bal** Fortune's wheel; 11 **sporne** kick, **al** awl; 12 **crokke** crock;
13 **Daunte** overcome, **dede** deeds; 15 **buxumnesse** obedience;
20 **hey weye** highway; 22 **Vache** cow or Sir Philip de la Vache?; **leve** leave off;
27 **mede** reward.