

The Deluge- Noah and His Sons; Wakefield Pageant

M/F UA, Kn, QS

The Deluge – Noah and His Sons by Anonymous

Noah: Lord, homeward will I haste as fast as I may. My wife will I see and hear what she say. And I am afraid there will be some fray between us both; for she is full testy, for little oft angry; if anything wrong be, soon she is wroth. (*Noah's wife enters.*) God speed, dear wife, how fare ye?

Wife: Now, as ever might I thrive, the worst is when I see thee! Do tell me quickly, where hast thou thus long been? To death may we drive, or life, for thee, for want indeed. When we sweat or toil, thou doest what thou think, yet of meat and of drink have we much need.

N: Wife, we are hard put with tidings new.

W: But thou were worthy to be clad in Stafford blue! For thou art always afraid, be it false or true. But, God knows, I am led, and that may I rue full ill; For I dare be thy pledge, from evening unto morrow thou speakest ever of sorrow; God send thee for once thy fill!

N: Hold thy tongue, ram skit, or I shall make thee still!

W: By my thrift, if thou smite, I shall return the ill.

N: We shall try it at once. Have at thee, Jill! (*He strikes her.*) Upon the bone shall it bite.

W: Ah, so, marry! Thou smitest ill, but I suppose I shall not in thy debt get off this floor! Take thee here this thong to tie up thy hose. (*She strikes back.*)

N: Ah, wilt thou so? Marry, that is mine. (*Hits her.*)

W: Thou shalt have three for two I swear by God's pain! (*Hits back.*)

N: And I shall repay you those, in faith, ere long. (*Strikes her down.*)

W: Out upon thee, ho!

N: Thou canst both bite and whine with a howl.

W: Here shall no man stop thee; I pray thee go to! Full well if we miss thee, as ever have I peace. To spin will I now do.

N: Wey! Farewell, lo. But wife, pray for me busily until I come again unto thee.

W: For all thou wouldst prayest for me, well might I thrive.