

9. Conjunctions

1. The following words all function as conjunctions. They are given here simply in alphabetical order. For the mutations caused by some of the conjunctions, see II#.

2. /a/. Conditional: 'if'.

<Hag a pe yn-della> 'and if it were thus' P.73a; <a|ttebres (...) a|n wethen ha|y avalow> 'if you eat (...) of the tree with its apples' O.175-76; <a callen> 'if I might' O.2117;

3. /aban/.

(a) Temporal: 'since'.

<a-ban rug 3eugh (...) ow holye> 'since I caused you to follow me' P.50a; <hethyw yw an whefes dyth aban dalletheys gonys> 'today is the sixth day since I began to work' O.49-50; <bythqueth aban vef genys> 'eversince I was born' O.1731;

(b) Causal: 'since, because'.

<a-ban na-g|es a wothfe> 'since there is no one who would know' P.158d; <Aban gols|te wothy hy> 'because you listened to her' O.269; <Cafes moy thys aban res> 'since you have need of more' O.391;

4. /bys-pan/. Temporal: 'until'. Always followed by a verb.

<bys-pan ve marow> 'until he was dead' P.2d; <3o3o Ihesus (...) pylat bys-pan danvonas> 'until Pilate sent Jesus to him (...) ' P.110c; <bys-pan vons squyth> 'until they were weary' P.132a;

5. /del/.

(a) Comparative: 'as, like'. Used before finite verb forms and replacing the verbal particle.¹ Originally this was a noun meaning 'image, form, shape', as such it forms part of several other conjunctions with a similar meaning.

<be3ens guris 3e vynnas arluth du 3e voth del ve> 'let your will be done, lord God, as might be your wish' P.55b; <te a leuerys del yw> 'you have said (even) as it is' P.129d; <a|y veth del yw drehevys> 'how he is arisen from his grave' P.247c; <an re-ma yv oberys del vynsyn agan-honan> 'these are wrought as we ourselves willed' O.15-16; <del of dev a ras> 'as I am a God of grace' O.73; <ha|y lesky del yrghys ef> 'and the burning of it, as he ordered' O.442;

A repetitive use /del ... del .../ 'so ... so that ...' occurs also:

<del ys brewaf (...) del veth luen a bodrethes> 'I shall so beat her (...) so that she will be full of festering sores' O.2712-14;

(b) Causal: 'since (it is so that)':

<del russys moy a|m govys> 'as you did so much in my behalf' O.108; <a das del on the wythres (...) byth dynny nerth ha gveres> 'O father, since we are your handiwork (...) be strength and help to us' O.1069-71;

6./erna(g)/. Used immediately before verbs or infixed personal pronouns; the form in /-g/ before vowels.

¹ An exception to this rule seems to be <yln kerd dellma> 'in such a way' P.123b, in which this whole phrase is adverbial to the preceding verb <welse> 'she saw'. Another seeming exception occurs in <yln vaner del yn whas> P.232b, of which so far no definite translation has been offered. However, since this line is one syllable too short it seems likely that we should read */del yw/ here.

Temporal: 'until'.

<er-na fo cowethes gvres> 'until there be a (female) companion made' O.98; <benythe ny thof a|n plen er-na|n prenn|e> 'never shall I come from the (battle)field until he pay for it' O.2151-52;

7. /ha(g)/. The form /hag/ is used before vowels.

(a) Co-ordinative: 'and'.

<dyyskyn ha powes ha 3ymo dus nes> 'alight and rest and come closer to me' CE.3-4; <ag ol 3e vo3 hy a wra> 'and she will do all you wish' CE.20; <y|3 sens 3e vos meystres (...) hag arlu3es> 'hold yourself to be mistress (...) and lady' CE.31-32; <gans aga garm hag olua> 'by their outcry and lamentation' P.4b; <yn-tre du ha pehadur> 'between God and sinner' P.8b; <Ha|n ioull henna pan glewas> 'and when the devil heard that' P.11a; <me a worhemmyen encressyens ha bewens pel> 'I command that they increase and live long' O.46-47; <me a vyn mos the|n temple ha dev ena y worthy> 'I will go to the temple, and there worship God' O.1259-60;

(b) Correlative: 'both ... and', 'and ... and'.

<mollo3 den ha gour ha gwrek> 'the curse of man(kind), both man and woman' P.66c; <Dowr ha ler ha tan ha gwyns houl ha loer ha steyr kyffris> 'water and earth and fire and wind, sun and moon and stars likewise' P.211a; <hag a 3yghow hag a gleth> 'both to right and to left' P.236b, 242c; <Onan ha try on yn gvyr en tas ha|n map ha|n spyrys> 'one and three we are in truth, the father and the son and the spirit' O.3-4; <ha tus vyan ha tus vras> 'both small people and great people' O.1438;

8. /hedre/. Used only before /bewe/ 'to live' and verb forms of 'to be' beginning with a /b/. In both cases this conjunction causes lenition.

Temporal: 'while, as long as'.

<hedyr vywy> 'as long as you live' CE.32; <hedre vons y ov plenty> 'while they were laying a charge' P.33c; <vynytha hedre vywy vmma ny|m gvlyth arte> 'never, while you live, will you see me here again' O.243-44; <hedre vyns|y yn ov gulas> 'while they are in my kingdom' O.1503;

9. /ytho/. Consequential: 'then, in that case'. <dre laha (...) dampnowgh|a y3o> 'by law (...) condemn him then' P.99c; <ytho mygtern o|te se> 'then, you are a king' P.102c; <kerense sesar y-tho ny 3|e lemman beleny> 'the friendship of Caesar, then, it was not, but villainy' P.146b; <ytho bethyth mylyges> 'then you will be accused' O.311; <y|n guraf ytho scon y|n tor-ma> 'I will do it, then, at once at that time' O.1275;

10. /kepar-del/.

(a) Comparative: 'like, as'. Used before finite verb forms.

<be3ens kepar-del vynny> 'let it be as you wish' P.57d; <hy a 3anvonas a crist kepar-del welse> 'she sent a word about Christ as she had seen' P.123a; <drok 3en os kepar-del ves> 'an evil man you are, the way you have been' P.192a; <kepar-del fu|ve dremmas> 'inasmuch as he was a good man' O.864; <kepar-del fue thyn yrhys gans y das> 'as was enjoined upon us by his father' O.2375-76;

On two occasions in P, the adverb is split to incorporate the object of the verb:

<Kepar du del leuerys> 'as God so spoke' P.62a; <kepar lhesus del devys> 'even as Jesus grew' P.161d;²

(b) Causal: 'since (it is so that)':

² More literally these phrases may perhaps mean 'just like God as he spoke' and 'just like Jesus as he grew'.

<kepar-del os luen a ras venytha gorthyys re by del russys moy a|m govys> ‘as you are full of grace, forever be you worshipped, as you did so much in my behalf’ O.106-108;³

11. /kepar-ha/. Comparative: ‘just like’.

<worth ihesu ef a fecle kepar-ha pan ve hegar> ‘he feigned to Jesus as though he were loving’ P.40c; <kepar-ha te hy-3ew guris> ‘made just like you today’ P.172c;

12. /kepar-ha-del/. Comparative: ‘just like, as if’. Used before finite verb forms.

<kepar-ha-del wovyny> ‘just as he asked’ P.39c; <kepar-ha-del ens 3e|n gas> ‘just as if they were going to battle’ P.64b; <kepar-ha-del ven|a-ve an purra lader> ‘just as though I were the veriest thief’ P.74d;

13. /kyn(th)/. Used immediately before the verb, without a verbal particle. The form /kynth/ is used before vowels.

Concessive: ‘(al)though, even though’.

<Kyn na-g|off den skenty| pur> ‘since I am not a right learned man’ P.8a; <Kyn fallens ol> ‘though all should fail’ P.49a; <kyn-3|o du> ‘though he was God’ P.163d; <moy kyn fennas the gafys> ‘even though you were minded to have more’ O.432; <kyn wyly mur wolowys na thout> ‘though you see great radiance, fear not’ O.717-18;

14. /lemen/. Adversative: ‘but, except for’.

<An peynys (...) ny ve ragtho y-honan lemmyn rag pobyll an bys> ‘the pains (...) were not for himself but for the people of the world’ P.6ab; <Mab den heb ken ys bara nyn-gleuas oll y vewnas lemman yn lavarow da (...)> ‘mankind by bread alone has not all its life, but in good words (...)’ P.12ab; <dybbry boys ef ny vynnas lymmyn pub-er|ol ole> ‘he would not eat food, but all the time wept’ P.87c; <ny vynnyth clewas (...) lemmyn mos the|n caletter the colon> ‘you will not hear (...), but will proceed in the hardness of your heart’ O.1523-25; <neffre na wrello dybry lemmyn flerye ha peddry kepar-ha seym py lyys haal> ‘that she may never [again] eat, but [that she may] stink and rot like fish-oil and mud of a marsh’ O.2706-08;

15. /ma/. Final: ‘so that’. See also /ma-na/, 16# below.

<ma|n geve marth a henna> ‘so that he wondered at that’ (lit. ‘so that he had wonder at that’) P.111b; <ma|n geffo tregva y|n nef> ‘that he might have a dwelling in heaven’ P.213b; <ma|gys byth luen edrege> ‘so that you will have full repentance’ O.348; <kyrhas a monnt tabor gueel a ras ma|n bethen drethe sylwans> ‘to bring from Mount Tabor the rods of grace, so that from them we may have salvation’ O.1956-57;

16. /ma-na/. Negative final: ‘(so) that not, lest’. See also /ma/, 15# above.

<ma|nno allo an tebell ogas 3ys bonas trylys> ‘lest the evil one may be turned near to you’ P.19d; <war crist y fons ov cronkye ma|nna|n geve goth na leyth na-g|esa worth y grevye> ‘at Christ they were striking so that he had not vein nor limb that was not distressing him’ P.132ab; <ma|na|n geffo ef sor bras> ‘[in such a way] that he did not get the wrath’ P.150b; <ma-na vons yn nep maner remmvys> ‘that they be not in any manner removed’ O.2044-45; <ma-na vy synsys coward> ‘lest you be held a coward’ O.2157;

³ The repeated /del/ in this sentence might here lead to a literal interpretation like ‘just as much are you full of grace (...) as you did on my behalf’, which would make God’s gracefulness dependent on his favourable action. (Cf. 9.5#)

17. /mar(a)/, /mar(a)s/. Used immediately before the verb, except when this is preceded by a negative particle.

Conditional: 'if'.

<mar co3es 3e les> 'if you know your advantage' CE.5; <genes mar-a plek> 'if it pleases you' CE.8; <mar-a|3 herg> 'if he commands you' CE.27; <mar-s|os mab du> 'if you are the son of God' P.11c, 14d; <mar calla (...) gu3yll 3|y gowsys tryle> 'if he might (...) cause his mind to change' P.15cd; <mara kyll 3e-worth an da 3e we3yll drok agan dry> 'if he can, from the good to bring us to do evil' P.21b; <Mara-s|ew 3e voth> 'if it is your will' P.55a; <mar ny wreth del lauaraf> 'if you do not as I say' O.490; <ny|s pyrth den mara peys pel> 'man cannot bear it if it lasts long' O.1082; <mar-s|es dor segh>, <mar-s|us dor segh> 'if there be dry land' O.1100, 1116;

18. /may(dh)/. The form /maydh/ is used before vowels. When used before a verb this conjunction replaces the verbal particle.

(a) Causative: '(so) that'.

<may fo 3e thu> 'that it may be for God' P.1d; <oll y sor may fe gevys> 'that all his wrath might be remitted' P.9a; <an ioul ynno re drecse may-3|o gweth agis cronek> 'the devil had dwelt in him so that he was worse than a toad' P.47d; <may rys y vonas le3ys> 'for/by which he has to be killed' (lit. 'that necessitates his being slain') P.141c, 143b; <rak synsy glaw awartha the|n nor veys may fe dyllys> 'to hold the rain above, so that it may be sent forth to the earth' O.23-24; <may-th|yv ov dyv-vregh terrys> 'so that my arms are broken' O.688;

(b) Temporal: 'when'. Referring to a certain point in time which is specified in the same sentence.

<en gyth o deyow hablys may fenne ihesus sopye> 'the day was Maundy Thursday on which Jesus wished to sup' P.41c; <may fyth an begel kyllys> 'when the shepherd shall be taken' P.48c; <may fyth torrow benegis bythqueth na allas em3on> 'when wombs will be blessed that could never conceive' P.169c; <may whrussons cam dremene (...) y [a] vylyk an prys> 'that (or 'when') they did evilly transgress, they will curse the time' O.337-38; <may fo rys vn deyth a due guthyl crous annethe y> 'a day will come when there will be need to make a cross of them' O.1951-52;

(c) Local: 'where'.

<a|n vghelder ma-3|ese> 'from the height at which he was' P.5b; <y|n pow may-th|e> 'wherever he went' (lit. 'in the country where he went') P.25a; <3e wreck pylat may-3|ese> 'to Pilate's wife, where she was' P.122b; <y|n keth forth-na may kyrthys> 'on that same road on which I walked' O.713; <yn plath may mons y a sef> 'in the place where they are they shall stand' O.2091;

19. /mes/. Adversative: 'but'.

<wy yv glan a bub fylte mas nyn-i|ough ol da> 'you are clean of every vileness, but you are not at all good' P.47b; <mes y 3ewsys (...) a|n trylya 3e3a> 'but his godhead (...) turned him to it' P.54c; <mes be3ens guris 3e vynnas> 'but let your will be done' P.55b; <rag nyns|ough mas dev lorel> 'for you are but two vagrants' O.1504; <mes (...) y a dynagh (...) aga dvow myleges> 'but (...) they will reject (...) their accursed gods' O.1838-40;

20. /na(g)/. The form /nag/ is used before vowels. In P this conjunction is used only in negative sentences. In O it occurs in affirmative sentences also.⁴

(a) Separative: 'nor'.

<nyn-i|ough ol da na whek> 'you are not at all good, nor sweet' P.47b; <dusteneow drok na da ny reys 3ynny 3e welas> 'witnesses, bad or good, we need not go to seek' P.94cd; <goth na leyth na-g|esa worth y grevye na war y gorff wek tam-vyth> 'vein nor limb that was not distressing him, nor on his sweet body any part' P.132bc; <Aual na wrellen dybbry na mos oges the|n wethen> 'an apple we should not eat, nor go near the tree' O.183-84; <na|m buef the wruthyl genes yn kyk nag in knes> 'that I have not had to do with you, in flesh nor in fell' O.658-659;

(b) Co-ordinative or correlative: 'or', 'as well'.

<kynyuer den vs y|n wlas na tra yn bys ov pewe> 'as many men as are in the land, as well as things alive in the world' O.1029-30; <Emperour na myghtern glas na sodon> 'emperor, or king of the land, or sultan' O.2055-56;

A variant form is /na-nyll (...) na(g)/ 'neither nor', which occurs at the beginning of a sentence when there is a choice of no more than two. Originally, /nyll/ in this construction is the pronominal /yll/ 'the one', with the /n/ of the article (cf. 5.23#).

<Na-nyl oges nag yn pel> 'neither near nor far' O.1141; <the thev plos|te-gey ny re na|n-nyl thyn bos na dewes> 'your foul God of yours does not give either food or drink to us' O.1809-10;

Before an adjective /na/ seems to act merely as an emphasising particle, strengthening the negative particle preceding the verb. The most convenient translation in such a construction is 'any' (apparently, the adjective should not necessarily be a comparative form, though this is most frequently the case):

<ny vynnaf orta bones na pel ena yn dyses> 'I do not wish them to be any longer there in misery' O.1431-32; <mesk ov pobel ny vynnaf na fella agas gothaf> 'among my people I will not any longer suffer you' O.1594-95;

21. /pan/. Always immediately precedes the verb.

(a) Temporal: 'when'.

<pan gemert kyg a werhas> 'when he took the flesh of a virgin' P.3b; <3e|n bys pan deyskynnas> 'when he descended to the world' P.5b; <pan yn provas> 'when he tested it' P.6d; <ha|n bewnans pan y|n kyllly the|n dor ty a dreyl arte> 'and when you lose life, to the earth you shall turn again' O.63-64; <pan vo termyn deuythys> 'when the time is come' O.813;

(b) Causal: 'since'.

<pan vons-y kefis mar wan> 'since they were found so weak' P.6b; <y demptye pan prederis> 'since he thought to tempt him' P.19b; <pan omsettyas 3e demptye gu3yll pegh neb na ylly> 'since he set himself to tempt one who could not commit sin' P.20d; <A out warnes drok venen worto pan wrussys cole> 'Oh, out upon you, wicked woman, since you did listen to him' O.221-22; <pan russys thotho dybry> 'since you made him eat' O.283;

22. /par-del/. Comparative: 'just as, as'.

<par-del won lauaraff 3ys> 'as I can, I will tell you' P.8a; <ihesus crist par-del vynnas> 'Jesus Christ, even as he wished' P.11d; <par-del on try hag onan> 'even as we are three and one' O.12;

⁴ For the similar use of MB *na(g)* in affirmative sentences, see HMB.193.

23. /po/, /bo/, /py/.

(a) Alternative: 'or'.

<may fes le3ys bo delyffris 3e-wary> 'that you should [either] be killed or set free' P.144d; <Nang|o hanter dyth (...) po moy> 'it was now midday (...) or more' P.209a; <Nyns|yw da (...) bones vn den y-honan heb cowyth py cowethes> 'it is not good (...) that a man should be alone without a male companion or a female companion' O.93-95; <war geyn lowarn py brathky> 'on the back of a fox or a hound' O.895; <bo ken ny fythyth sylwys> 'or else you will not be saved' O.1510;

(b) Correlative: 'either (...) or'.

<bo clevas bo peth kescar po dre breson presonys> 'whether sickness or dispersion of wealth or imprisoned by a prison' P.24c; <te a wo3ye 3e-hono pe dre gen re ves guarnys> 'did you know it yourself, or were you informed by others' P.101b; <pe-nyle (...) a|vyth delyffris po cryst (...) po barabas> 'which (...) shall be set free, either Christ (...) or Barabas' P.125cd;

Note. Like its MB equivalent *pe*, these forms come from the 3sg.pr./past subj. of the verb 'to be' (cf. 6.9#). The original meaning is 'be it', 'were it' (see also HMB.192N.2 and Brown, 271). This origin can still be seen in the phrase <be|va den yonk bo den coth> 'be it a young man or an old man' P.175c, where /be/ clearly is used as a verb with a suffixed double pronoun to indicate the subject (cf. 5.7), while /bo/ is a conjunction.

24. /saw/ 'but'. In P this form occurs only as a preposition 'save, except, only'. In ORD /saw/ is found both as a conjunction and a preposition (7.42#)

<my a ra saw dus yn clor> 'I will (do), but come quickly' O.203; <saw guet may wrylly cresy> 'but mind that you do believe' O.1784;