

## 10. Interjections

1. The following **interjections proper** are found:

(a) /a/ 'o!, oh!, ah!'. Functions as a vocative particle causing lenition in the following noun (II.2(8)).

<a vester> 'o master' P.65b; <a thu> 'o God' P.246b; <A venen assos goky na gresyth thu|m lauarow> 'o woman, how foolish you are that you do not believe my words' O.173-74; <What vyngeans thys a pen pyst> 'what! vengeance on you, o blockhead' O.2641;

(b) /aha/ 'aha!'.

<aha belsebuc aha> 'Aha, Beelzebub! Aha' O.881;

(c) /dar/ 'what?, why?, eh?'. Used with /war/ 'aware, careful' in the expression /dar-war/ 'take heed' (see also /war-gas/, below):

<dar-war oun ma por3e> 'beware, so that he will be afraid' CE.25; <dar marrow yv syr vrry> 'ah! Sir Uriah is dead' O.2217;

(d) /ellas/ 'alas!'.

<tru a thu elhas elhas> 'sad, o God, alas, alas' P.246b; <Ellas gveles an termyn ov arluth pan wruk serry> 'alas, to see the time that I did anger my lord' O.351-52; <ellas lemyn pan-dra wraf> 'alas! Now what shall I do' O.1565;

(e) /farwel/ 'farewell', 'goodbye'.

<farwel ov arluth guella> 'farewell, my supreme lord' O.2165, 2289;

(f) /gromersi/ 'gramercy!, thanks!'. From OF *grant merci*, ME *graunt mercy* 'give thanks' (cf. Nance, CED).

<A das a nef gromercy> 'O Father of heaven, thanks' O.407; <gromersy arluth a brys rag the roow prest yv da> 'thanks, lord of worth, for your gifts are always good' O.2313-14;

(g) /hay/ 'ho!', used to attract attention.

<hay dew myr orth ov offryn> 'ho, God! Look at my offering' O.505;

(h) /heyl/ 'hail!'.

<heyl syr arluth lucifer> 'hail, sire, lord Lucifer' O.563; <Heyl ov arluth yn the se> 'hail, my lord, in your see' O.905;

(i) /how/ 'ho!', used to attract attention.

<how guereough cowethe> 'ho! Help, comrades' O.2477;

(j) /ogh/ 'ah!'.

<ogh trv trv my re behas> 'ah!, woe, woe! I have sinned' O.249; <ef a wra tyn the punssye may leuerry ogh ellas> 'he will severely punish you, so that you may say "Ah, alas!"' O.1527-28;

(k) /otta/, /awotta/ 'behold!'.<sup>1</sup>

<a-watta ef a gowsas agis mygtern ple me|ve> 'behold, he said, where your king is' P.147c; <a-wotta omma neb yll tempell du dowst|oll squardye> 'behold here one who can break God's temple all to dust' P.195cd; <a-wotta an le may-3|ese> 'behold the place in which he was' P.255d; <Adam otte an puskes> 'Adam, behold the fishes' O.117; <ov-otte vn purvers da lemyn wharfethys> 'see here a very good turn now come about' O.882-83;

This interjection, calling for attention, may also be used with the meaning 'hearken!, listen!':

<Otte voys mernans abel (...) ov kelwel a|n dor warnaf> 'hearken the blood of the death of Abel (...) calling upon me from the ground' O.577-79;

<sup>1</sup> For a possible etymology of this interjection see 5.6N.

(l) /out/ 'fie!, oh!'. Expressing dismay or dislike, always used with a conjugated form of the preposition /war/ 'on'. In ME *out(e) apon the* appears as an interjection with the meaning 'away!, fie on you!'

<A out warnes drok venen> 'O! Fie on you, wicked woman' O.221; <out warnough a thevv adla> 'fie on you! O two outlaws!' O.1499;

(m) /tru/ 'sad!, alas!, woe!'

<tru a thu elhas elhas> 'sad, o God, alas, alas' P.246b; <Tru go|vy ellas ellas bos marow adam ov thas> 'Ah, woe's me! Alas, alas! That Adam my father is dead' O.861-62; <Ellas moyses ogh tru tru shyndyys of gans cronek dv> 'Alas, Moses, oh sad, sad! I am ruined by a black toad' O.1777-78;

(n) /war-gas/ 'take heed', 'look out' (see also /dar(-war)/ above).

<war-gas vy the thehesy gans morben bom trewysy> 'look out! Let me fly a grievous blow with a mallet' O.2703-04;

(o) /hwat/ 'what', a loan from OE *hvt*.

<What vyngeans thys a pen pyst> 'what! vengeance on you, o blockhead' O.2641;

2. Two of such proper interjections may be conjugated by adding suffixed personal pronouns (see also 5.6# and the Note there):

(a) /otta/, /awotta/ 'behold!'

1sg.: <ov-ote vy devethys arte the-dre> 'behold me, come home again' O.2212-13;

<otte|ve musurys da den yn bys ny|n musyr guel> 'behold me, measured well. No man in the world would measure it better' O.2513-14;

3sg.m.: <a-wotte|nse ow kelwell hely> 'behold him calling Elias' P.203b;

3sg.f.: <Adam otte|nsy vmma> 'Adam, behold her here' O.102;

1pl.: <ov-otte ny deuythys bys-y|n meneth> 'behold us, come to the mountain' O.1981-82;

(b) /go/ 'woe!'

1sg.: <go|vy pan welys eva> 'woe to me that I looked on Eve' O.621; <go|vy vyth ol ov pewe> 'woe me that I live at all' O.632;

3sg.m.: <gw|ef vyth pan ve|va genys> 'woe to him that ever he was born' P.43d; <drok 3en y|n gyth|na go|ef> 'a wicked man on that day, woe to him' P.259d; <go|ef a gollas an was> 'woe is he who lost the domain' O.754; <go|ef a ra the serry> 'woe to him who angers you' O.1016;

1pl.: <go|ny vyth pan veyn genys> 'woe to us that ever we were born' P.246a; <sav syr vrry ev lethys ha the votteler kekyfrys go|ny ragthe> 'but Sir Uriah is killed, and your butler as well; woe to us for them' O.2214-16; <ogh go|ny bones marow agan arluth> 'oh, woe to us, that he is dead, our lord' O.2365-66;

3. A number of other **interjectional phrases** occur also. These are:

(a) /abarth an jowl/ 'for the devil's sake'.

<dus yn-mes abarth an ioul> 'come out, for the devil's sake' O.2700;

(b) /awos an bys/ 'for the world'.

<ny gresaf awos an beys bos an hore whath marow> 'I do not believe, for the world, that the strumpet is yet dead' O.2752-53;

(c) /bi mi ballok/ 'by my ballock', an English interjection used by David's butler in O.

<Na lader by my ballok kyn fe vyth mar vras quallok na mar hovtyn a|y vody> 'he shall not steal, by my ballock, though he be ever so great a bull or so imposing of his body' O.2066-68;

(d) /dh'y lawe/ 'be he praised'.

<yn hanow dev d|y lawe> 'in the name of God, be he praised' O.1077; <yn onour dev th|y

lawe> 'in honour of God, be he praised' 0.1169;

(e) /gorkwyth/ 'mind!, be careful!'. Originally the 2sg.imp. of the verb \*/gorkwythe/ 'to mind, be very careful'.

<pylat Iustis o|te|se Ihesus gorweyth y dampnye> 'Pilate, you are a magistrate, take care to condemn Jesus' P.107b; <lymmyn gorqvyth y gare ha gweyth denatar na vy> 'now take heed to love him and beware lest you are unnatural' P.139d;

(f) /gwynn bys/ 'blessed (is the) world', an expression of great happiness. This phrase is conjugated by inserting possessive personal pronouns.

1sg.: <lemyn gvyn ov beys ov bos sonys> 'now my lot is happy, being blessed' 0.465-66;

<guyn ov bys kafus cummyas> 'I am happy to have permission' 0.750;

3sg.m.: <guyn y vys pan ve gynys a allo gul thys servys> 'blessed is his world, that he is born, who can do you service' 0.1476-77; <nep a|n gorthye guyn y veys> 'he who will worship him, blessed be his world' 0.1938;

1pl.: <arluth du gwyn agan bys> 'lord God, blessed [be] our world' P.4d; <Gvyn agan beys ov fryes> 'happy our lot, my husband' 0.411;

Sometimes the person is not expressed in the interjection itself and has to be inferred from the context:

<guyn veys a quellen vn-wyth an termyn> 'happy my lot if I might once see the time' 0.685;

<guyn vys bones thym fethys lafur ha duwon an bys> 'blessed my world, that for me is overcome the labour and sorrow of the world' 0.850;

(g) /lowene dhys/ 'greetings to you'. Literally 'joy to you'.

<lowene 3ys a vester> 'greetings to you, o master' P.65b; <lowene 3ys te yw 3eyn mygtern rys yw 3e wor3ye> 'greetings! You are king to us, you must be honoured' P.137c;

<lowene the flour an beys> 'joy to the flower of the world' (spoken to Pharaoh) 0.1541; <ov arluth lowene thys> 'my lord, joy to you' 0.2211, 2303;

(h) /re dew (an) tas/ 'by God the Father'.

<banneth sewes boteler an dewes yv da ha cler re dev an tas> 'may a blessing follow, butler! The drink is good and clear, by God the Father' 0.1917-19; <re dev tas ov arluth ker (...) my a vyth pur parys thys> 'by God the Father, my dear lord, (...) I will be quite ready for you' 0.2274-76;

(i) /re iovyn/ 'by Jove'.

<mar-a|th caffaf re iovyn y|th lathaf> 'if I find you, by Jove, I will kill you' 0.1532-33;

(j) /re'm fay/ 'by my faith'.

<ny welys tekke ru|m fay bythqueth aban vef genys> 'I have not seen finer, by my faith, ever since I was born' 0.1730-31; <ru|m fey hon yv cusyl fyn> 'by my faith, that is fine counsel' 0.2041;

This same interjection occurs also once in English in a macaronic sentence: <the ras compys by my fay> 'excellently straight, by my faith' 0.2455. It rhymes with another English interjection (<be thys day>) in 0.2458.

(k) /re'm lowte/ 'by my loyalty'.

<ty re|n lathes ru|m lowte> 'you have killed him, by my faith' 0.611; <my a|n te thys ru|m loute> 'I swear it to you, by my loyalty' 0.2124;

(l) /re'm pen/ 'by my head'.

<my a|n taluyth thyugh ru|m pen> 'I will repay it to you, by my head' 0.2387;

(m) /re'm peryl/ 'by my peril'.

<my a|d car mur ru|m peryl> 'I love you much, by my peril' 0.2154;

(n) /re'n arldh dew/ 'by the lord God'.

<my a|n tregh re|n arluth dev> 'I will cut it, by the lord God' 0.2537;

(o) /re synt gylmyn/ 'by St. Gylmyn'.

<syr arluth re synt gylmyn my a wra the worhemmy> 'sire, lord, by St. Gylmyn, I will

perform your command' O.2413-14;  
 (p) /ren ow dhas/ 'by my father'.  
 <lelle ethen ren ov thas leuerel ny won ple fe> 'a more faithful bird, by my father, I cannot say where there might be' O.1111-12;  
 (q) /tan ow fyth/ 'on my faith'.  
 <hen yv an crys tan ov feth> 'that is the middle, on my faith' O.2534;  
 (r) /war an gres my a'n te/ 'on my faith, I swear it'.  
 <war en grey3 my|a|n|te nag vs y far a|n par3-ma 3e pons tamar> 'on my faith, I swear it, she has no pear on this side of the Tamar-bridge' CE.16-18;  
 (s) /war ow ene(v)/ 'on my soul'.  
 <byth ny yllyn tremene an mor-ma war ov ene> 'never shall we be able to cross this sea, on my soul' O.1648-49; <Nag eugh why war ov ene theworthef vy bynythe> 'you shall not go, on my soul, from me ever' O.2179-80{B};  
 (t) /war ow fyth/ 'on my faith'.  
 <ny vannaff aga gu3yll war of fyth> 'I will not make them, on my faith' P.155d; <my a offryn (...) chapon da war ov fyth> 'I will offer a fine chapon, on my faith' O.1205-06;  
 (u) /war ow lowte/ 'on my loyalty'.  
 <ny gaffen war ov loute compose pren yn nep le> 'we could not find, on my loyalty, a straighter tree in any place' O.2576-77;

Even longer interjectional phrases occur, especially as expressions of abuse. Good examples are those from the discussion in O between the carpenters cutting the beam which will later become the cross: <ancombrynsy war the ben> 'confusion on your head' O.2517, and <an jawl re|th ewno th|y glas> 'may the devil adjust you to his belly' O.2527.