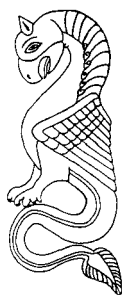


The Old English Life of St Nicholas with the Old English Life of St Giles

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St Nicholas: Old English Text

Hic incipit prologus de Sancto Nicholao episcopo 7 confessore

Witoðlice, ælc þære wyrhta þe unwislic wyrcc aginð to wyrccenne, ne mæg
beon feager ne staðelfæst geteald; ne eac þæt gewrit þe unwis mann onginð
3 to macigenne, ne bið hit na wislic to spreccanne ne god to understandenne.
Ne hæfst þu me ofte gebedon, leofe fæder Anastasi, þæt ic þe utarehte mid
Lædenlicre spræce þæs eadigestan Nicholaes gebyrtdida 7 his arwurðe lif, 7
6 þa manigfealde tacne þe drihten dyde þurh him. And ic Iohannes, Sanct[i]
Iauaries þeowe, þe eom nu gebunden mid diaconhade 7 þæs hades
unwurðe eom, þe geandwyrde mines lites andgytes þæt ic gewilnode
9 swiðor to leornigenne, þonne swilce þincg to writenne, forþon ic wat me to
beonne unscadwis on swa deorwudra spræca. Ac swa þeah, forþan
apostolican cwide þe þu hæfst on þon halgan Nicholae, ic nylle þe na beon
12 ungehersum. Bc ic ondræde gif ic hit onginne þæt þa godan mægstres
geond þas woruld me sculan getealan 7 eac unwurðia betwuxen heom.

Nu forþan ic bidde þe, arwurðe fæder Anastasi, þæt þu 7 ealle þine
15 gebroðre biddan þan ælmihtige Gode þæt he untene mine tunge 7
anopenige min andget to þises mannes spæce, eal swa he geopened þæs
cilde tunga 7 hit wel sprecole macað. Eac oððre stunde þonne his willa is,
18 he geopened þære dumben nytene muð to meniscere spæce; swa he mæg
eac minne muð geopenian þurh eowre bene gif his willa sy, þæt ic onginne
to herigenne mid Lædenlicre spæce.

21 Ic hit wille nu onginnen mid Godes fylste [p.172] eallum þam
mannum to wurðmente þe on him blissiað. Eac, ic bidde eadmodlice ealle
þa wise ræderes þe to þissere rædinge ganggað, þæt heo me ne fordeman
24 gif heom þær on aht mislicige, ac gemiltsigan hi, ic bidde, minre elde 7
minre gecynde. Gemunan heo eac hu ic eom nu fiftene gear on elde,
tydderlic of gecynde, swa þeah ic awrat þæs halgenes gebyrðtide 7 his
27 derewurðe lif 7 þa manigfealde tacne þe drihten dyde þurh him mid

Title in red minuscules

1 Witoðlice] *Red initial wyn*

1 wyrcc] wyrch (*corrected by scribe*)

6 sancti] *sanctus*

11 þe þu] þe þu þe þu *sic*.

- Lædenlicre spæce, eal swa Theodius, se heahfæder, hit awrat on greciscere tunge, 7 hit swa seodðan sænde þan ealdormen Theodore to wurðmente. Nu
30 leofe broðre, biddan we þisum direwurðen halege þæt he us to drihtne geþingie, 7 þæt we moton þurh his halige geearnunge þæs deofles costnunge wiðstandan 7 after þisum life þa ecan blisse underfangen.

Explicit prologus Sancti Nicholai. Incipit Vita

- 33 Se eadige Nicholaus of æþelan cynne wærð upasprungan, 7 he wunode on þære burh Patara gehaten. Witodlice, his fæder 7 his moder wæron æfre mid þan heagestan 7 mid þan betstan geteald inne þæra ilcan burh; ac þeah
36 þe hi wæron on swa mycelan wurðscipe wunigende, swa þeah hi hæfdon mare heare geþanc to þam upplican rice þonne ænige geglænge to hæbbone on eorðe. Hi fandodon hu hi hæbban mihton clæne lif betwuxon heom:
39 micel Godes gife wæs on heom, forþonþe hi cunnedon hu hi mihton heo selfe betst gehealdan fram flæsclicum lustum. 7 þa þa hi wæron on heora iugeðe ærest togædere gedon, 7 hi hæfdon begeton þis gesælige cild, þa
42 oftuge heo heom selfum ealle flæsclice lustes, 7 sohton to Godes huse swiðe gelome, 7 þær georne þancedon ure hlaforde Criste þæt he of heom geuðe cild to gestreonenne, 7 mid ealre eadmodnesse dæghwamlice heara bedu gefyldon. Witodlice, drihten geherde þa heora bena, 7 geteopede
45 heom be þam cilde þæt þæt heo æt him geornlice bædon, 7 he þa ateowde his mildheortnesse on þan cilde.
48 Eal swa hit geboren wearð 7 hit sucende wæs on his modor breoste, þa wæs he gewune ælce wo[d]nesdæge 7 ælce fridæge þæt he nolde sucan buton æne on dæg 7 belaf þonum swa forð to þam oðrum dæge. Soðlice, be
51 þisum Godes tacn wæs ateowod hu mære man he gewurpen scolde. He weox þa 7 ongan wel to þeonne; 7 eal swa he of cildhade to mare elde becom, þa ne cepte he nan þincg of þises middaneardes welon, ac wæs oðer
54 hwile mid his fæder 7 mid his moder, 7 oper hwile he eode ane to cirican; 7 swa hwæt swa he þærinne geherde rædan of halgan gewritum, eall he hit on his heorte behydde 7 fæste belaf on his gemynde.

Title in red minuscules

33 Se] *red initial S*

49 wodnesdæge] *wornesdæge*

50 buton] *huton (corrected by scribe)*

57 Ða gelamp hit þæt his fæder 7 his modor wæron of þisan life
gewitene, 7 he smeade þa on his gepance oft 7 gelome þæt ure hlaford Crist
60 cwæð on his godspelle: *Qui non renuntiauerit omnia que possidet, non*
potest nostris esse discipulis. Ðæt is: 'Se þe ne forwyrð eall þæt he ah, ne
mæg he naht beon min leornigccniht'. [p.173] Ða þohte he eall swa to
63 donne æfter þan halige Godes worde, ac he ondræd him manne ymbespæce
7 þæt hi sceoldon hine wurþian for swilce þingum, 7 hit þonne wære his
drihtne þæs þe ungetwenne. Eall þis he gepohte ane on his gepance 7 nolde
hit nanum mannum cyþen buto Gode anum, þe ealre manne þohtes symle
66 besceawað. Hine he bæd swiðe geornlice þæt he moste his eahte swa
befadian swa hit his drihtne licwurþest wære, þæt him ne arise nan heriunge
þærof fram mannum.

69 Under þan þe he þis wylc on his mode, þa wunode þær an god man
on þæra ilcan burh: se wæs swiðe spedig 7 swiðe wurðfull geteald betwux
þan æþelboren mannum, ac he wearð þæræfter swa hafeleas 7 swa swiðe
72 earm, þæt he næfde swa micel to Gode þæt he mihte his earne lif mide
forðbringen. He hæfde eac þreo dohtra, ealle mædene, 7 for heora
hafeleaste forhogode earne menn on heom to wifienne. Ða wolde heora
75 fæder læton heo beon horan þæt hi mihton his earne lif huru mid þan
forðbringan. Hwaet þa, buto þæt seo miccle sceame wearð cuð þa swa wid
swa seo burh wæs, 7 þæt folc hæfde miccle spæce þærymbe.

78 And eal swa se halige wer Nicholaus þæt geherde, þa hreaw him
swiðe se earne man 7 his dohtra þe wæron of æþele byrde gecuman; 7
þohte heom to helpone of þære æhte þe wæs þa get on his gewearde, þæt
81 seo unrihte dæde wurðe þurh þon niðer alegd, 7 þa mædene ne sceoldon
wurpen befyldre mid þan openlice hordome.

Witodlice, he nolde þæt hit ænig man witen sceolde buton Criste ane.
84 Hwaet, þa se Godes deorlingc ongan to besceawinne on hwilce time he hit
mihte swa digollice don þæt se þe hit habban sceolde ne mihte witon hwæt
he wære þe him god dyde. Ða cepte he anes times nihtes þa þa menn on
87 heora bedde wæron 7 hit swiðe gedrih wæs, 7 nam him þa god dæl goldes 7
geband hit innen anum clæpe, 7 for to þæs wrecces mannes huse, 7 wearp
þæt gold inn þurh anum eahþyrle wel stillice 7 eode sona aweg þæt hit nan
90 mann nyste.

67 his] 'h'is

86 him] hit (corrected by scribe)

On ærne morgan, þa se mann aras 7 gefand þæt gold þær þær hit
geworpan wæs, þa wundrede he him swa swiðe þæt he eall wiðerhypte, 7
93 ongan to weponne for fægennesse, 7 þancode his drihtene swiðe geornlice
þæt him swa mycel miltse wæs on besceawod for his lufan. Geaf þa sona
his heldesta dohter anum godum men to wife mid rihte wedlace, eal swa hit
96 gewunelic wæs mid cristenum mannum. And æfter þam, he ongan swiðe
geornlice to spyrigenne hwæt manne he wære þe him swa micel to gode
gedon hæfde.

99 Ða rædlice eft com se Godes þegn Nicholaus, wedigollice on niht, 7
gebrohte þan gode men eal swa micel gold eal swa he ær dyde, swa þæt hit
nan man nyste. Soðlice, eal swa hit dæg wæs 7 se man beseah on þæt gold,
102 þa ongan he eft to wepone for fægennesse 7 þus cwæð: [p.174] 'Drihten, ic
bidde þe þæt þu ateowige me, synfullum, hwæt he beo þe me swa fela gold
to hande bringað.' He cwæð eft: 'Witodlice, ic sceal wacian 7 slæp forberan
105 oðþæt se ælmihtiga God me atewige his mildheortnesse hwilc his þeowa is,
þe wunað onmang mannum 7 færð on clānnesse eal swa drihtnes engel.'

Ða æfter feawum dagum, com se eadiga Nicholaus on niht 7 gebroht
108 eft, þa þridan siðe, eal swa micel gold eal swa he ær dyde, 7 wearp hit into
þæs mannes huse, 7 hit feol swa hlude þæt se wrecce mann þærrihtes
awehte 7 hrædlice uparas, 7 arn æfter þan Godes deorlinge, 7 him þus to
111 cwæð: 'Wiðstand hlaford, wiðstand! For Gode, ic bidde þe þu me na læng
ne forfleo. Soðlice, ic hæbbe ofte gebedan to minum drihtene þæt ic þe mid
minum eagnum geseon moste.' 7 he oftoc hine þa 7 gecneow hine þeah þe
114 hit þeoster niht wære, 7 feol niðer 7 his fet cyste, 7 ongan swiðe to
wepenne. 7 se eadiga Nicholaus him mildelice forbæd to donne; eac he
bæd him swiðe georne þæt he næfre ne sceolde hit nanum menn cyðan
117 hwæt he him gedon hæfde þa hwile þe he on life wære, forþonþe he nolde
hæbben þærof ænig lof on þisum life, ac on heofone he þohte him gode
mede to geearnienne þærmide 7 to begytene.

120 Witodlice, he betæhte hine selfne dæghwamlice þan ælmihtigan
Gode, se þe scyfteð 7 dihteð ealle þincg swa hwanne swa he wile, 7 swa hu
swa he wile.

123 Witodlice, þa þe þis wæs eall þus gefaran, þa wearð se erchebisceop
dæd of þam godan burge þe is gehaten Mirrea; and eal swa þa bisceopes þe

115 Nicholaus] Nilholaus(?) (*corrected by scribe*)

119 geearnienne þærmide] *marked for transposition*

126 him under wæron geþeodde þis geherdon, þa ongunnon hi swiðe sarlice to
wepenne, forþanþe he wæs eallum mannum leof 7 wurð for his godum
geearnungum. Hig gegaderoden heom þa on anre stowe mid eallum heora
129 clercum, to þan þæt hio wolden sceawigen swilcne man to biscope þe
drihtnes licwurpe wære.

Ða wæs þær sum arwurpe bisceop betweenon heom: se wæs swa wis
þurh þæs halgan gastes gife, þæt ealle þa oðre bisceopes swa mycel to his
132 hræde abugon, þæt swa hwilcne man swa he næmnian wolde to þan
wurðmente, þone hi wolden ealle hæbban. Ða nolde se bisceop nænne man
næmnian þa gyt, ac bebead heom þreore dagene fæsten, 7 þæt hi sceoldan
135 biddan mid ealre geornfulnessse þam ælmihtigan Gode þæt he heom
ateowde, þurh his micclan mildheortnesse, hwilcne man his wille wære þæt
þær sceolde gefyllan þone stede betwuxan þan apostolan þe Iudas forleas.
138 Hi gewæntan þa mid ealre heorte to Criste swylce heom si mynegunge
wære of heofone gebodan, 7 bæden heora drihtne (þan þe is ece heorde
ealre manne) þæt he forsceawode heora neode, 7 þæt he heom nytwurðne
141 heorde ateowian sceolde 7 þe his sceap cuðe wel healdan.

Soðlice, þa þa heo þurhwunodon þus on heora gebedum, þa geherde
se gode [p.175] biscop ane stæmne up of heofonum, 7 seo him bebead þæt
144 he sceolde gan to þære cirice gata, 7 þone mann þe he ærest geseawe on
uhten þider cuman 7 þone hi scolden halgian to biscope, 7 his name wære
gecleopod Nicholaus. Se bisceop þa hit gecyðde þan oðrom bisceopum
147 hwæt seo stæmne him bebodan hæfde, 7 cwæð þus to heom: 'Leofe broðra,
ge sculon biddan anrædlice ures drihtnes miltse her wiðinnen, 7 ic sceal
þærute geornlice cepnian þæt þe us God behaten hæfð.' Ða þa he to heom
150 þus gecweden hæfde, þa eode he ut 7 begemde þære ciricen gate mid
micelre lufa 7 mid haligre ieapscipe.

Witodlice, þa þa se uhte time com, þa efste se halige Nicholaus,
153 swilce he fram Gode selfe gesænt wære, ætfore eallum oðrum mannum
toweard þære circan. 7 eal swa se Godes deorlingc com to þære gate, þa
gefeng se biscop hine mid his handum 7 axode hine mid mycelre
156 eadmodnesse hwæt his nama wære. Se Godes man him andwyrde mid
gastlicere stæmne 7 mid niðer alotenum hæfde, 7 cwæð þæt he hete

144-5 on uhten] on 'uhten (*initial ti- expuncted*)

Nicholaus. Se bisceop cwæð þa to him: 'Cum nu, leofa cild, hider mid me,
159 forþonþe ic hæbbe sum þing digeles wið þe to specone.'

7 eal swa hi comen into þære cirican, þa clypode se biscop mid hludre
stæmne to eallum þan Godes þeowan, 7 þus cwæð: 'Sceawiað nu, leofe
162 broðra, þæt þæt drihten cwæð: *Quidcumque petieritis in nomine meo, credite quia accipietis & fiet uobis*. Ðæt is: 'Swa hwæt swa ge biddað on minum naman, gelefeð þæt ge hit sculon underfon 7 hit geweorð eow.'
165 Blissiað 7 fægnað nu forþonþe we hæbbeð nu underfangen þæt þæt we æt drihtne gebædon 7 þis is se ilca þe ge ymbe biddende wæron.' And eal swa heo hine geseawen, þa heroden hi ealle mid hludre stæmne þæs hælendes
168 nama, 7 wuldrodon on his mycclan mildheortnesse: biscopes wæron glæde forþonþe hi mosten begeton swylcne gefera; clereces fahnodon forþonþe God swilcne heorde heom geunnen hæfde. Hwæt wæs þær þa mare, buton
171 þæt hi setton hine on þone bisceopstol his unþances; 7 he hit lange wiðsoc, ac swa þeah hio bædon him swa lange þæt he heom þæs geteogðode, 7 þone bisceopdom underfeng.

174 Eornostlice, æfter þan þe he bisceop wæs geworden 7 hæfde þone wurðment on hande, þa wunode he swa þeah æfre forð on his micclan eadmodnesse 7 on þære ilcan godnesse þe he ær wæs to gewunod: he
177 wacode gelome on his gebedum 7 his licchame he gepinode mid fæstenum; glædlice he lærde menn to gode weorce 7 eadmodlice he underfeng þearfan widewan 7 stipcildum; 7 ealle þa þe mid earfoðnesse wæron geswæinte, he
180 besorgode, 7 healp heom eal swa hit his agen neode wære; ricum monnum he lærde þæt heo earmum mannum nan þing mid unrihte ne benamen; gif he gesawe ænige mann befeallen on ænige ungelympe, he gebette sona his
183 uneðnesse 7 hine [p.176] mildheortlice gefrefrode. Ðus weox his godnesse dæghwamlice mare 7 mare, 7 ealle men blissoden of swa gode biscope, 7 drihten hine gestrangode on manigfealdum mihtum. Ða wearð he swa mære
186 7 swa wurðfull þurh Godes wille, þæt he mihte gebetan ælces mannes sarignesse wære on lande, wære on sæ, 7 he cleopode þone halgan him to fultume, þærrihte he hine alesde of ealre his gedræfodnesse.

189 Ða gelamp hit on sumere tide þæt sume scipmen wurden swiðe færlice bestandene ut on þære sæ mid swa micclan storme þæt hi wendon

161 þan] 'þan'

180 hit] hu(?) (corrected by scribe)

180 wære] wæse (corrected by scribe)

192 þærrihtes ealle adrincan; eac hi wæron mid swa micclan cele fornumene,
swa micclan earðfoðnesse, þa cleopoden hi ealle mid hludre stæmne 7 þus
wæron cweþende: 'Eale! þu Godes þeowa Nicholæ, gif þa þingc syndon
195 soþe þe we ymbe þe geherd habbað, gecyð hit nu on us þæt we moton Gode
þancian 7 þe ures lifes alesednesse.' Witoðlice, onmang þam þe hi þus
cleopoden, þa ateowde heom an man 7 cwæð to heom: 'Ic eom her
198 forþonþe ge me cleopoden,' 7 þærrihtes he ongan heom to helpene on
rapum 7 on mæstum 7 on þan oðrum sciptauum swilce he wære an of
heom.

201 Ða næs hit naht lange æfter þan, þæt eall se storm feoll 7 seo sæ
wearð lipe 7 milde þurh heora sceppendes bebodu. 7 þa scipmen hreowen
þa forð mid micelre blisse, 7 comen þa hrædlice to þæra ilcan hæfene þe
204 heo to woldon. 7 eal swa hio wæron gegan upp on þæt land, þa axode hi
hwær se Godes þegn wære Nicolaus. Heom wearð þa gecydd þæt he wære
inne circan, 7 heo þæs Gode þancoden 7 eode þider inn. Soðlice, hi ne
207 gecniwen hine næfre ær, 7 swa þeah hi gecneowen hine swa hraðe swa hi
hine gesawen innen þære cirice, butan ælces mannes tæce. Heo feollan þa
to þæs halgan fotum 7 ongunnon ealle to weponne for fagennesse, 7
210 þancoden him swiðe inweardlice þæt hi wurpon þurh his helpe of deaþe
alesde, 7 tealdon him eall hu heom wæs gelumpon on þære sæ.

Ða cwæð se eadiga wer to heom: 'Leofe broðra, ne wene ge na þæt
213 hit swa gewurðe þurh mine mihte, ac God, þurh his gewunelicere miltse,
eow alesde for þam godum geleafan þe ge to him hæfdon. Soðlice,
dæghwamlice we beoð gesweinte for urum synnum, 7 swa þeah gif we
216 gecerran willað, mid ealre mægne, to ure mildheortan drihtene, sone he us
gemiltsað 7 alest of eallum þan yfelum þe us an becymð. And forþon, leofe
broðra, ne wandige naht wel to donne, eadmodnesse to folgiene, 7
219 wreccum mannum bliðelice to helponne, 7 gelefed hu mycel mægn hæfð
clæne geleafa 7 soþa gebedu to drihtene. Witodlice, ure ealdefæder Adam,
siððan he wæs geworpen ut of Paradyse for his misdæda into þisum
222 middanearde, nis [p.177] nan þincg gode swa gecweme swa him is ælnessa
gif man hit ne deð na for þisra worulda wuldra.' Ðus eadmodlice tihte se
225 bletsunge.

- Eft, hit gelamp þurh Godes forsceawunge, þæt mycel hunger wearð
on þan lande þe se halige wer onwunode, forþonþe þæt ungeleaffulle folc
228 nolde geheran þan rihtan geleafan þe se eadiga Nicolaus heom wæs symle
tæcende. Soðlice, forþonþe^e ofteah se ælmihtige God heom heora corn 7
eac ealle oðre goda swa þæt hi nan þingc næfdon of hwan hi libben mihton.
231 Ða wearð þær micel unrotnesse betwuxan þan folce, 7 comen þa rædlice 7
gesohten þas halgenes fet, 7 bæden hine swiðe inweardlice þæt he heom to
drihten geþingode. Ða andwyrde se Godes man 7 cwæð þæt he wolde heom
234 foreþingan, gif hi wolden lufian heora drihten of ealra heortan. Hi cwæden
þa, mid wependre stæmne, þæt heo wolden healdon ealle þa þing þe
drihtene licwurðe wæron.
- 237 Hwæt þa, se Godes deorling Nicolaus eode into drihtenes temple, 7
gebæd swiðe geornlice for þæt earme folc 7 þurhwunode þa swa lange on
his gebedum, þæt man com 7 cydde him þæt þær wære gecumene wel
240 manega scipes up æt þære hæfene þe is gecleopod Adriaticum, 7 þa wæron
wel gehladone mid hwæte. Ða se Godes man þis geherde, he eode þa
swiftlice þider 7 þus cwæð to þan scipmannum: 'Eale ge Godes freond,
243 tyðið me ane bene þe ic wille bidden æt eow.' Hi andwyrdon 7 cwædon þæt
hi wolde þæt bliðelice don. Se halige wer cwæð: 'Ðis landfolc is wel neh
dead of hungre, 7 ic com nu hider forþan þæt ic wolde biddan æt eow
246 sumne fultum of eowre corne, þæt þis earme folc mid ealle ne forwurðe.'
Hi andwyrdon 7 cwædon: 'Eala þu arwurpe fæder, ne durre we na wanian
þi[s]ne hwæte forþonþe me hine mæt swiðe nêrulice us an hand æt
249 Alexandria, 7 we hine sculon eal swa nêrulice on gemeten þæs caseres
þeningmannum.' Ða cwæð se biscop eft: 'Leofe gebroðra, typiað me huru
of æghwilce scipe an hundred gemitte hwæte gif ge na mare nelleð, þæt þis
252 earme folc furþor ne losige, 7 ic behate eow fullice þurh mines drihtnes
gife, þæt ge næfre þe læsse ne sculon habben þonne ge ham cumað 7 hine
betæcen ongean sculon.'
- 255 Witoðlice, eal swa þa scipmen þis geherdon, hi wæron swiðe
ofwundredo, 7 þohten hwæþer hit æfre swa mihte gewurþen 7 æt læsten
him gelefdon, 7 gecyðedon him þæs þe he to heom gewilnedo. Hi mætan

226 Eft] *Large red initial E*

229 forþonþe] forþonþ sic.

248 þisne] þirne

258 him þa upp of æghwylcum scipe an hundræd mihtte hwætes, 7 eal swa
hrape swa þæt wæs gedon, swa heom com god weder 7 mid spedigum
winde segledon ham to Constantinopole.

261 Soðlice, eal swa heo ham wæren gecumene, þa mæten hi þæt corn ut
of heora scipen; eal swa hi hit underfengon æt Alexandrian, þa funden hi
264 hit eal swa fullice swilc þær an corn nære fram gedon. Hi ongunnon þa
ealle to wepenne for fægennesse, 7 tealton þa [p.178] eal þæs caseres
mannum hu hit wæs geworden, 7 eal swa heo þæt geherdon, þa ongunnon
267 hi ealle Gode to herigenne mid manigfealdum blitsungum. Eale! Hu
wunderlic þingc we geherdon nu of þisum corne, ac mare wunder gewearð
of þan dæle þe mid þan halgan were belæfde. Soðlice, se arwurpe Nicolaus
todælde þæt corn þe he begeoten hæfde ælc man be þan þe he neode hæfde,
270 7 se ælmihtiga God gemanifylte þæt litle corn swa swiðe on his handum
þæt eall þæt landfolc hæfdon genoh ofer eall þæt gear; 7 eac hi seowan
heora land of þan ilcan corne, 7 hit weox heom to manigfealdum
273 wæstmum.

Witodlice, he nolde gefafigen þæt ænig hæpengeld wære gewurðed
on þære scire Licia siððen he wærð gehalgod to biscope, ac he todræfde
276 eall þæs deofles weorc: he aflagde ut of his biscoprice ealle þa hæpena
godes 7 ealle þa drymen 7 þa wiccen þe he æfre ofaxian mihte; eac he
afyrsede þa scandfulla gydena Diana of þan lande, 7 eall hire wurðment he
279 todræfde mid his drihtenes fultume. Ða wearð se deofol swiðe yrrre ongean
þan halgan were Nicolae, 7 þohte fela yfela þing ongean his deorwurða
geswince þe he symle geswanc for his drihtnes gewillan. Soðlice, he ne swa
282 næfre to swincenne ymbe þæt earne folc þe se awergode gast hæfde fæste
begripan, oðþæt he hi alesde of þæs deofles anwealde, 7 forþon, he þohte
þa sum þingc yfeles ongean þan Godes þegne.

285 Ða com se deofol on anre nihte to sumum dreomen þa wæron
swiðlice gelærde on eallum yfelum dædum, 7 het heom þæt hi sceoldon
hwætlice gearwian ane cynnes ele þe is gecleopod Mediacon. Soðlice, þæt
288 ilce ele is swa mihtig 7 swa strangc, þæt swa hwæt swa hit ontæcþ,
þærrihtes hit eall forbærnð. Ða drymen dydon þa eal swa se scocca heom
bebead: gearwedon þa rædlice þæt ele 7 betæhte hit þan deofle. 7 se deofol
291 hine þa selfne gehiwode swylce he an eald wif wære, 7 for into þære sæ, 7

258 mihtte] mih't'te

260 winde] written over erasure

com rowende on anum bate to sume scip full mannum þe wolden secan þæt
halige mynster þæs halgan Nicholaes mid heora ælmessan. Se scucca for
294 eac swa litellice [swa heo] eac þider faren wolde, 7 cwæð þus to heom:
'Leofa broðra, ic geseo þæt ge fundiað toward þam hlaforde Nicolae, 7 ic
eac earme wrecce wolde faran mid eow þider 7 his bletsunge hæbban gif ic
297 nu mihte, ac me stænt nu oþer neode an, þæt ic æt þisum ceare ne mæg
þider faran. Nu hæbbe ic her an litel ele þæt ic wolde þærmide lacnian þam
Godes freond forþonþe min geþanc is swiðe mycel to him weard, 7 ic bidde
300 eow, leofe freond, þæt ge bringan þis litle lac to his mynstre, 7 smyriað þa
wages eall onbuton þærmide on mine gemynde.' Ða scipmen andwyrdon 7
sædon þæt hi wolden þæt bliðelice don. Se scucce þærrihtes betæhte þæt
303 manfulle ele, 7 hreow fram heom 7 rædlice aðwan of heore gesihþe.

Soðlice, þa scipmen ne cuðon nan þingc [p.179] of þan facne, ac
reowan heom forðwærd swa swa heo ær dydon mid mycelre
306 bileh<w>itnesse. And þa þa heo ane litle hwile gerowen hæfdon, þa
gesawen heo færllice an scip ful manna þa wæron swiðe fægre gehiwode, 7
on middan heom eallum, sæt an man swiðe gelic Nicolao, se ongan heom
309 sona to acsigenne, 7 þus cwæð: 'Eale ge goda men, hwæt wæs þæt wif þe
litle ær spræc wið eow?' Ða men him þærrihtes tealden hwæt heo spræc to
heom, 7 hwæt heom betæht hæfde, 7 ateowden him eac þæt ele. And he
312 cwæð eft to heom: 'Witodlice, þæt wif þe spæc þus to eow, þæt wæs seo
unseofulle gydena Diana, 7 gif ge willað witen hwæt se ele is þe hi eow on
hande sealde, þonne awyrpe ge hit nu rædlice fram eow ut into þære sæ.'

315 Hi dydon þa hwætlice eal swa heom getæht wæs; 7 sona swa þæt ele
toc on þæt wæter, þa aras þær upp swiðe mycel fyr 7 seo sæ bærnde lange
hwile. (Soðlice, þæt wæs ongan rihtum gecynde!) And eal swa þa scipmen
318 þæt wunder beheoldan, þa wurdan þa scype swa fyr totwæmde ægþer fram
oðren þæt heo ne mihton ofcleopigen þa oðre menn ne eac ofaxien hwæt he
wære, se þe wið heom spæc. Ac ferde þa forð al swa heo ær gemynt
321 hæfdon, 7 eallum þan mannum þe heo gemetton, hi tealdon hu heom
gelumpan wæs.

Eac, þa þa heo comen to þan Godes þeowe Nicolaum, þa cwæden hi
324 ealle on anre stefne to him: 'Soðlice, þu eart se mann þe us ateowdest þæt

306 bilehwitnesse] bilchitnesse

tacen innen þære sæ. Soðlice þu eart riht Godes þeow, 7 fo[r] þinre godra
geearnunga we wurdon alesde fram þæs deofles costnunge.' 7 þa þa hi þus
327 hæfdon gesæd, þa tealdom hi him eall be endebyrdnesse, hu heom
gelumpon wæs. Ða se eadiga Nicolaus þas þincg geherd hæfde, þa ongan he
Gode to herigenne eal swa his gewune wæs, 7 lærde þa men þæt heo
330 geornlice heo selfe Gode betæhten, 7 he geaf heom his bletsunge 7 hi foran
þa mid bliðum mode fram him to heora agena æpele.

Þa gelamp hit rædlice æfter þon, þæt an scirfolc, þe is gecleopod
333 Attraiphala, wearð swiðe wiðerweard ongan þan casere Constantino, 7 swa
modige þæt hi noldon gedon him nan þære gehersumnesse þe ealle oðre
þeoda dydon, ac æfre wiðcwædan his healice bebodu. Witodlice, eal swa se
336 casere þis geherde, þa het he beodan ut micel scipferda 7 bebead his þreom
begnum, þære nama wæron þus geclypode, Nepotianus, Ursus, Arpilatio,
þæt heo foran to þan lande Frigiam 7 steordan þæt folc þe wæs wiðerweard
339 ongan God 7 ongan him. Hi dydan þa eal swa se casere heom bebead, 7
eal swa þæt scipferde wæs eal gegaderod, þa ferdon hio forð on þa sæ 7
hæfde swiðe god weder 7 fægre sæ on to færenne.

Ac þa þa hi comen to þære sæ þe is wið þan lande þe se hlaford
Nicolaus onwunode, þa weox swa strang wind ongan heom þæt hi na
furþor ne mihton, ac wurþen gedrifene into þære hæfene Adriaticum heora
345 unþances, 7 eodon upp on þæt land. Sume hi eodon þa to þæt ceapstowe 7
bereafoden þær þæt landfolc. 7 eal swa heo þæt unriht dydon, þa wearð hit
hrædlice [p.180] gecydd þan Godes men Nicolao þanen ofer þreom milen
348 inne þære burh Patera. Soðlice, eal swa hraðe swa he þis geherde, þa eode
he swiðe efstlice 7 gecneow þær þæs caseres þry dirlingas, Nepotianum 7
Ursum 7 Arpilatium, 7 cyste heo 7 þus cwæð: 'Leofa broðra, hwæðer come
351 ge hider — mid sibbe oððe to gefeohte?' Hi andwyrdon: 'Hlaford, mid
sibbe we comen hider, ac we sculen faren to Frigiam on þæs caseres ærnde
7 gebygen þæt wiðerwearde folc to him mid Godes fylste 7 mid þinen, ac
354 we ne magon nu na furðar forþonþe strancg wind us hæfð hider gewrecan.
Nu bidde we þe, leofe fæder, þæt þu us fultumige mid þinum gebedum, þæt
we þas þincg to wurðlican ende gebringan moton.' Se Godes mann bæd

325 for] fon

332 þa] *red initial þ*

332 scirfolc] sciffolc (*corrected by scribe*)

339-40 bebead 7 eal swa] *written over erasure*

344 furþor] furþon (*corrected by scribe*)

357 heom þa, swiðe eadmodlice, þæt hio sceoldan gesteoran heora cnihtan fram
ælcere saca, 7 ferdon siððan mid him to þære burh Patera þæt hi his
bledsunge þær underfengon. Ða þreo þegnes dydon þa rædlice eal swa se
360 biscop heom bebæd: forbudon þæt geflit 7 dyden þæt ælc man hæfde his
agen æhte.

Witodlice, eal swa þis wæs þus gedon, þa comen sume men þær to
363 þan biscope 7 sædon þus to him: 'Hlaford biscop, geond me læt þry iunga
men to slege 7 eal þæt folc sarlice bemænð þæt þu þær ne eart, forþon gif
þu þær wære, þonne noldest þu naht gefasian þæt hit swa gewurðe. Soðlice,
366 heora deað is deorlice geboht æt þan aldormen, 7 hi bið gedemde to deaðe
butan ælcen gylte.' Ða se eadiga Nicolaus þis unriht geherde, þa bæd he
þan þrim þegnum þæt hi sceoldan gan mid him þider; 7 he swa dydon.

369 7 eal swa hi comen wiðinne þære burh to anum stede se is geclypod
Leonthi, þa axode se biscope hwæper þa þreo iunge men leofedon þa get þe
wæron fordemde to deaðe. Ða burhmen him andsweroden 7 þus cwædon:
372 'Efst nu, arwurðe fæder, swiðe, forþan mid Godes fylste þu finst heo get
libbende on Dioscheres Stræte.'

Se biscop 7 þa þegnes urnen þa swiðe efstlice þiderweard; 7 eal swa
375 hio comen to þære stræte þær þe hi wæron, þa wæron hi gelædde þanon. Se
Godes man axode eft hwider hi wæron gelædde 7 me him andswarode:
'Hlaford, nu me hi lædað ut æt þære portgate 7 swa forð to þære
378 cwealmstowe þe is geclypod Bisrano.' Ða se halige wer þæt geherde, þa
ongan he eft swiðe to eornenne þeah þe he werig wære; 7 eal swa he com to
þære cwealmstowe, þa geseah he þa iunge men sittan on heora cneowan 7
381 heora eahne wæron gebundene 7 se cwellere stod mid agotenum swurde
ofer heora bara sweora. Hwæt þa, se Godes deorling Nicolaus arn swiþe
deorflice uppan þan cwellere 7 abræd þæt nacode swurd of his handum, 7
384 bæd þæt he scolde hine ofslean for heom. Soðlice, nan þæra cwellere ne
dorste an word cleopigen ongean his willan forþon þe hi wusten ful wel þæt
he wæs swiðe licwurðe þam ælmihtigan Gode. Se biscop unband þa rædlice
387 þa iunglinges, 7 gelædde hi forð mid him. 7 eal þæt folc him æfter folgoden
oððæt hi becomen to þæs ealdormannes botlan Eustachii, se þe hæfde ær
fordemed þa þreo [p.181] iunglinges to deaðe.

390 7 eal swa se ealdorman geseah þone bisceop, þa eode he swiðe
efstlice ongean him, 7 gegrette hine, ac se bisceop nolde underfangen his
gretinge, ac cwæð þus to him mid mycelre wræððe: 'Eala þu Godes feond!
393 Hu dærst þu besceawien on minne andwlite þe þus micel yfel hæfst
gefremmed? Eala þu wealhreowesta mann ælces Godes ungemyndig! For
hwi ne þohtest þu hwæt þæt halige writt us bebytt: þæt we ne sculon na
396 fordemen rihtwise men to deaðe?'

Se eorl Eustachius him andwyrde 7 cwæð: 'Hlaford, for hwi preatest
þu me þus swiðe? Soðlice, ic nam naht swa scyldig of þisum gylte swa
399 beoð þas burh gerefan, Symonides 7 Eudoxius, forþonþe heo bið æfre geare
men to acwellene.' Ða cwæð se eadiga Nicolaus: 'Eala þu gitsera 7 ealra
manne forcuðost! Ic wat ful wel þæt Symonides ne Eudoxius ne neddan þe
402 þæt þu þas unsceaðie iunglingles to deaðe forðemdest, ac þu self heo
beleawdest to deaðe þurh þinre micelan grædignesse þe þu hæfst to golde 7
to selfre. Soðlice, ic secge þe, þæt hit sceal beon gecydd þan casere hu þu
405 todælst his cynerice, 7 hu þu selst unscyldige men to deaðe, 7 hu þu
forstelst his gold 7 his seolfer, 7 ealne þone wurðment þe he self hæbben
sceolde; 7 æfter þon þe he þis unriht hæfð geherd, he sceal nimen rihte lage
408 of þe.'

Ða se eorl Eustachius þas strange spæce geherde, þa bæd he
Nepotianum 7 Ursum 7 Arpilatien þæt heo geþingoden him to þan biscope:
411 7 hi þa swa dydon mid ealre geornfulnesse. Hwæt þa, se Godes mann wearð
gefrefrod mid þæs halgan gastes gife 7 ealle his wræððe þærrihtes niðer
alegde, 7 for þære þegna bene, he forgeaf þan eorle Eustachio eall þone
414 gylt.

Soðlice, æfter þisum, eode se biscop ham to þære burh Patera 7 þa
preo þegnas ætan 7 druncon þær mid him; 7 æfter þære gereordunge he
417 gebletsode heo, 7 swa mid his halgan bletsunge heo him fram gewændon.
Hi foran þa mid bliðum mode to heora scipe, 7 se eadiga Nicholaus bæd for
heom to drihtene þæt hi moston sundfullice becuman to þan lande Frigiam;
420 eac he bæd swiðe inweardlice for þæt dysige folc þe wunedo on Frigiam
þæt God sceolde awænde heora mod to his willan: 7 drihten geherde
mildelice his bene 7 ageaf þan þrim þegnan gode gewyderu, 7 hi segledan
423 forð mid spedigum winde oððæt hi becomen into Frigiam mid eallum þæs

390 ealdorman] ealdonman(?) (corrected by scribe)

399 gerefan] ge'refan' (gewaran subpuncted)

caseres here. 7 eal swa raðe swa þæt landfolc þis geherde, þa sændon hi
hire bodan to þam þreom þegnum 7 cydde heom þæt hi woldon hersumian
426 þan casere eal swa oðre þeode dydon.

Ða þa Nepotianus 7 Ursus 7 Arpilatio þis geherdon, þa wæron hi
swiðe bliðe 7 þæs Gode þancodon 7 þan halgan Nicolao þe heom hæfde to
429 drihtene swa mildelice geþingod. Hi foran þa ofer eall þæt land mid fullan
griðe, 7 nænne man ne ofslogen, ac geheoldon heore hande ungewæmmede
wiðutan ælce blodgyte; hi tobræcen ealle hæþengeldas 7 mid fyre
432 forbærnden; 7 upparærdon Godes lof 7 bebuden þan [p.182] folce þæt hi
fullice forsocen þone deofol 7 eall his weorc 7 Gode geoffrodon licwurðe
lac; 7 hi dydo[n] eal swa heom beboden wæs.

435 Witodlice, eall swa þa þreo þegnas hæfdon gesett þæt land swa swa hi
hit hæbban wolden to þæs caseres wurðscipe, þa gewænton hi ongear to
Constantinopole. 7 sona swa se casere Constantinus geherde þæt hi þær neh
438 wæron, þa eode he ut of þære burh mid micclan folce ongear Nepotianum
7 Ursum 7 Arpilationem, 7 underfeng hio mid micclan wurðscipe. Se
casere gewurðedo hi þa swiðe 7 gelufedo hio swylce hi his agene cild
441 wæron, 7 eall þæt folc blissode for heora sige 7 eac þe swiðer þæt hi
næfdon þær nænne mann ofslagen.

Ða wæron þær sume yfele geþancode menn þa þe hæfdon micelne nið
444 ongear þa þri þegnes 7 þohten swiðe geornlice hu hi mihton heora
wurðscipe gelitlian 7 hi mid ealle fordon. Hi eodon þa on sume dæge to
þam aldormenn, Ablaium, se wæs hegost 7 mihtigost under þan casere, 7
447 ongunnon hi to wregenne mid manegum leasungum. 7 æt laste hi sædon on
heom þæt hi wæron ymbe þæs caseres swicdome, 7 þæt sceolde hrædlice
wurðon cuð eallum mannum. Ða se aldormann Ablaius þis geherde, he
450 wearð swiðe ofwundrad 7 heom naht ne gelefde. Hi noldon swa þeah
forlætan heora yfelnesse ac budon him gold 7 seolfor 7 feola oðra
gersumen, 7 gewænton hine swa to heora manfulnesse 7 to þæra unsceaðira
453 manna swicdome.

Ablaius eode þa into þan casere swilce he swiðe sarig wære, 7 þus
cwæð to him: 'Eale þu min deorewurðe hlaford, warne þe nu rædlice wið
456 þine þreom þegnum þe þu sændest on þinre ærnde to Frigiam. Soðlice, hi
þænceð dæg 7 niht ymbe þinne swicdom, 7 hio behateð micelne rice ælc

434 dydon] dydol

459 þære manne þe heom þærto fultumian willað.' Ða cwæð se casere: 'Be
hwan wast þu hit swa soðlice?' Se manfulle Ablaius cwæð: 'Hlaford, ic
hit geherde of heora agenum mannum on niht þær þær hi hit stillice
462 runedon betweoxen heom.' Hwæt, se casere him soðlice gelefde eal swa
his eldestum 7 deorwurðestan mannum, 7 het þa rædlice nimen Nepotianum
7 Ursum 7 Arpilationem, wiðuton ælce gylte, 7 on cwarterne bescufan 7
þærinne fæste belucen. 7 hit wearð þa swa gedon.

465 Soðlice, eall swa þa forsædon wregeres geaxoden þæt þa þegnes
wæron gesette on quarterne 7 næron þa gett ofslagene, þa wæron hi swiðe
sarige, 7 comen eft rædlice to þam manfullum Ablaium 7 brohten him
468 micelne lac, 7 þus cwæðon to him: 'Hlaford, for hwi leton ge libben eowre
fynd swa lange þæt hi næron þærihtes ofslagone? Wende ge þæt ge mihton
þus godne ende don on heom buton ge hi mid ealle ofslogen? Soðlice,
471 buton hio þær aðor wurðon fordon, hit eow sceal sare hreowan, 7 þonne ge
læst wenað, ge sculon wurðon beswicone.' Ða wearð Ablaius swiðe yrre 7
eode to þan casere 7 him þus to cwæð: 'Hlaford, þa þreo cnihtes þe þu hete
474 don innto þam cwarterne, hy nelleð [p.183] get swa þeah forlæton heora
unræd, ac wændeð swiðe geornlice dægges 7 nihtes to heora rædgifen, 7
biddað þæt heo on þe færlice behræson 7 þe ofslean.' Hwæt þa, se casere
477 wærð swa yrre swilce he his agene deað ætforen him geseage, 7 het þa
rædlice acwellan þa þreo unsceaðige cnihtes.

Ða se Ablaius þis wunder geherde, þa wearð he swiðe bliðe, 7 sænde
480 to Hylarianum, þe bewiste þæt cwarterne, 7 het him þæt he hæfde geare þa
þri cnihtes onsundrig fram oðrum mannum þæt he hio þæs oðres nihtes
dearnelice ofslean mihte.

483 Witodlice, eal swa Hilarius þis geherde, þa wearð he swiðe sarig 7
arn toforen to þan cwarterne 7 cwæð to þan cnihtum mid micclum wope:
'Walawa þæt ic eow æfre æfre geseah! Walawa þæt we sculen todæg beon
486 swa sarlice gesundrode!' Ða axoden heo for hwan hio swa spæcon.
Hylarianus heom andwyrde 7 cwæð þæt þær wæs færlice gecuman word
fram þan casere þæt heo sceolden beon ofslagene þæs ilcan nihtes: '7
489 forþan ic bidde eow þæt ge forestihten eowre þingc þa hwile þe ge first
hæbbeð, þe læs ge willeð þonne ge ne magon.'

Soðlice, eal swa þas cnihtes þisne grimlicne cwide geherden, þa
492 cwæðon hi mid micelre gimerunge: 'Walawa! Hwa geherde æfre þus
mycele grimnesse, þæt we sculon nu sweltan eal swa utlages 7 þæt we ne

moton nanre ladunge beon wurðe?' Ða onmang þæt heo swa sarig wæron,
495 þa bepohte Nepotianus, se æpela cniht, hu se eadiga Nicolaus alesde þa þreo
iunge cnihtes fram þara manne hande þe heo ofslean woldon; 7 eal swa he
þis bepohte, þa gebæd he hine to drihtene mid wepindre stæmne 7 þus
498 cwæð: 'Hlaford Crist, help us earmungum 7 geher ure bene for Sæintes
Nicolaes geearmunga, þines þeowen, 7 ales us fram þes swurdes ecge eal
swa þu alesdest þa þreo cnihtes for his lufan æt Patera, þære burh, þær þer
501 þe we onloceden. Drihten, we geleafað soðlice, þeah þin þeowa her ne be
lichamlice mid us, swa þeah he mæg beon gastlice swa hwær swa he wile, 7
þurh þinre gife, he mæg helpen eallum þan þe him to cleopieð mid godre
504 heorte: 7 þu, hlaford God, help us nu þurh his bene.' Ðus bæd Nepotianus
him to Gode, 7 begen his geferan forð mid him, 7 æfre hio cleopoden mid
wependre stæmne, þus cwepende: 'Hlaford Sancte Nicolae, help us 7
507 geteoðe us þæt we þe gett geseon moton 7 þine halige fett cyssen.'

Ða gelamp hit on þære oðre niht, þæt se casere 7 Ablaius gesawen
begen ane gesihðe on swefone. Ðam casere þuhte þæt se eadige Nicolaus
510 come to him 7 þus wæs cwepende: 'Constantine, for hwi hete þu don þa þri
unsceadige men on cwarterne 7 heo to deaðe forðemdest? Aris nu rædlice
7 hat heo alesan; and gif þu elles dest 7 me swa forsiht, ic bidde þone
513 heofonlicen casere þæt he arære uppon þe micel gefeoht 7 læton þe þær
beon ofslagen 7 agifen þin flæsc deorum 7 fugelum.' Ða cwæð se casere:
'Hwæt eart þu, swa dystig man, þæt þu come nu into me on þisum time 7
516 me swa openlice gepreast?' 'Ic eom se synfulle Nicholaus, erchebisceop
on Mirrea.' [p.184]

7 mid þisum wordum he gewænte to Ablaium 7 him þus to cwæð:
519 'Ðu witlease mann, hwilc neod wæs þe þæt þu forwregdest þa þreo
unsceadige cnihtes to deaðe? Aris nu rædlice 7 do þæt me heo læte ut of
þan cwærterne; 7 gif þu þis ne dest, ic bidde þone heofonlicne cyningc þæt
522 he læte þinne lichame wyrnum to mete 7 eallum þan mannum þe þe to
langiað sculon eac sweltan on sarlicum deaðe.' Ablaius cwæð mid
dreorigum mode: 'Hwæt eart þu þe me þus openlice preast?' He cwæð: 'Ic
525 eom Nicolaus, archebisceop of Mirrea.' 7 mid þan ilcan worde, he
gewænde fram him. Soðlice, æfter þisum, wearð se casere aweht 7 se
manfulle Ablaius eal swa, 7 heora ægþer oðrum his swefen rædlice arehte.
528 7 sona swa hit dæg wæs, þa het se casere lædan þa þreo cnihtes ut of þan
cwarterne: 7 hit wearð þa swa gedon.

Hi wurdon þa rædlice gebrohte ætforan þan casere, 7 eal swa he heo
531 geseah, þa cwæð he to heom mid mycelre wræððre: 'Secgeð me mid
hwilcum wiccecræfte geswægnen us to niht on swefene?' Witoðlice, eal
534 him nan andswære. Se casere cwæð eft: 'Geopeniað us eowre drycræftes!' Nepotianus
þa andwyrde ane for heom eallum, 7 þus cwæð: 'Hlaford
Constantine, to soðan þinge we þe secgað, þæt we nane wiccecræftes ne
537 cunnon, ne næfre nane ne geleornedon. Eac, we nabbað geworht nan þære
gylte ongean þe ne ongean þinum folce þæt we sceolden fore deaðes
sweltan.'

540 Se casere cwæð: 'Cunne ge ænigne mann þe hatte Nicolaus?' Soðlice,
eal swa hraðe swa hi geherdan næmnian Nicolaum, swa hio ahofen upp
heora handa 7 mid hludre stefne cwædan: 'Gebletsod si þu drihten, þu þe
543 helpst eallum þan þe on þe fæstlice gelefað: þu help us eac nu 7 ales us of
þeosum leasungum þurh þines þeowan gecearnunge Nicolaes, eal swa þu
hulpe þan þreom iunglingan on ure gesihðe.' Se casere heo gestilde þa, 7
546 het heo openlice secgan hwæt heo mænden 7 hwæt se Nicolaus wære.

Da ongan Nepotianus to tellanne þan casere eall be þan halegan
Nicolao: hu hi comen to him 7 hu he þa iunge cnihtes alesde of deaðe; 7 hu
549 bilehwit man he wæs on godnesse; 7 hu heo ealle þa niht to him cleopoden
7 hu mildheortlice he hæfde heom þa geholpen. Hwæt, þa se casere wearð
swiðe ofwundrod eal swa he þas spæce geherde, 7 cwæð to heom: 'Farað
552 nu rædlice to þan Godes þeowa 7 þanciað him 7 eac Gode, þe eow þurh
hine alesde, 7 bringað him þas lac of minre healfe to Cristes þenunge.' Ðæt
wæron twegen gyldene candelsticcan 7 ænne gyldene hnæpp mid þan
555 deorcynnestum gymmum gefrætwod, 7 ane Cristes boc eal besmided mid
deorwurðan golde 7 mid gimstanum gesett; 7 his gewritt forð mid þan lace,
biddende þan Godes menn þæt he him gemiltsode to þan þæt he him æfre
558 ma gehersumian wolde, 7 for him to drihtne gebiddan 7 for his rices
sundfulnessse.

Heo dydon þa eal swa se casere heom bebead: foren to þan hlaforde
561 Nicolaum. 7 sona swa heo hine gesegen, heo feollan niðer to þære eorðan 7
cysten his fett mid micclan [p.185] wope, 7 þus wæron cweðende: 'Eale þu

530 he heo] heo he *sic.* (marked for transposition)

554 candelsticcan] cahdelsticcan (corrected by scribe)

555 gefrætwod] -f- written over erasure.

Godes freond Nicolae! Soðlice, þu eart to herigenne of ealre manne muðe
564 forþonþe þu eart ealre manne helpind on sæ 7 on lande. Soðlice, þurh þe we
sind alesde fram deaðe to life.' Heo tealdon him þa eall be endebyrdnesse
hu hie hæfdon gefaren 7 geafen him þæs caseres lac 7 his gewrit. 7 eal swa
567 he þis geherde 7 geseah, þa hof he upp his handa to heofonum 7 ongan to
herigenne Gode, þus cweþende: 'Micel eart þu, hlaford God, 7 micel is þin
mihte, 7 þin wisdom næfð nan getæl. Ðu eart welig on eallum þingum 7 þu
570 ane eart ealre manne heorte.'

Soðlice, eal swa he þas þingc gesæd hæfde, þa bewende he hine to
þan þrim cnihtum 7 bodedu heom lange stude ymbe Godes rice 7 lærde heo
573 hu heo sceolden dæla heora æhte þærfum, 7 hu hio sceolden libben heora lif
on þissere worulde. Hwæt þa, butan eal swa se eadiga wer hæfde his spæce
geendod, þa let he heo þadian 7 sceran of heora side locces þe heom wæron
576 on gewexane inne þan cwearterne 7 scydde heo siððan eall mid niwen
scrude, 7 het heo þa faren ongear mid sibbe to þan casere Constantine.

Ða cnihtes dyden þa eal swa se Godes mann heom bebed: foran þa
579 ongear to þære burh Constantinopolim, blitsigende on drihtene 7 on þone
halgan Nicolae.

578 bebed] *written over erasure.*

580 halgan] *written over erasure.*