This passage is an extract from the beginning of *De Liflade and te Passiun of Seinte Juliene*, a life of St. Juliana composed c. 1200 in Herefordshire, in the West Midland dialect.

Þes ȝunge mon Eleusis, þat þus þus þes pell þe king, hefde iunne feolahschipe to Affrican, ant þes ipunet ofte to cumen þið him to his in ant iseon his dohter. As he hefde en-chere bihaladen spīðe ȝeorne hire utnume feire ant freoliche ȝuheðe, felde him ipundet inpið in his heorte þið þe flan þe of luue fleoð, swa þet him þuhte þet ne mahte he nanes-peis þiðute þe lechnunge of hire luue libben. Ant efter lutle stunde þiðute long steuene þes himself sonde to Affrican hire feader, ant bisohte him ȝeorne þet he hire ȝeue him.

Glossary

ant    conj
    and
ah     conj
    but
bicumen  verb
    to become, suit
bihalden  verb
    past part of *bihalden* 'to see, behold'
bisohete  verb
    3 sg past of *bisechen* 'to seek'
bone    noun
    request, prayer
burde    noun
    lady, damsel
chirche    noun
    church
daheð    noun
    daytime *euch daheðes dei* 'every day-long day, every single day'
dei    noun
    day
dohter    noun
    daughter
after prep
   after
en-chere adv
   once, on a certain occasion
eode verb
   3 sg past of gan 'to go'
euch adj
   each, every
defader noun
   father
defir adj
   fair, comely
defelde verb
   3 sg past of felen 'to feel'
defolahscip noun
   friendship
deflan pl noun
   arrows
fleoð verb
   pl pres of fleon 'to fly'
defreo-iboren adj
   nobly born
defrolich adj
   beautiful
ʒeorne adv
   eagerly, earnestly
ʒetede verb
   3 sg past of ʒettin 'to say yes to, grant'
ʒeue verb
   3 sg pres subj of ʒeuen 'to give'
ʒuheðe noun
youth

3ung adj
young

ha pro
she

hedef verb
3rd sg past of of hebben 'to have'

heorte noun
heart

hit pro
it

i, in prep
in

ihondsald verb
past part of hondsellen 'to promise, betrothe'

in noun
lodging, house

inpiðo adv
within, inside

iseon verb
to see

iunne verb
past part of unnen 'to grant'

ipundet verb
past part of wunden 'to wound'

ipunet verb
past part of wunien 'to be accustomed'

lare noun
teaching, instruction

lechnunge noun
healing, medicine, remedy
learnin  verb
   to learn
libben  verb
   to live
lutel  adj
   little
luue  noun
   love
luuede  verb
   3 sg past of luuien 'to love'
mahte  verb
   3rd sg past of mei 'can, be able'
meast  adv
   most (superlative of mare)
menskin  verb
   to honor
mon  noun
   man
nanes-weis  adv
   in no way (note adverbial use of gen sg)
na  adj
   no
ne  adv
   not
ofte  adv
   often
sonde  noun
   messenger
sone  adv
   soon
steuen  noun
fixed period; wiðute long steuene ‘at an early date’

stund noun
a space of time

spa adv
so, thus

spiðe adv
very, very much

treopliche adv
faithfully, loyally

trukeðo verb
3 sg pres of trukien 'to fail, desert'

truste verb
3 sg past of trusten 'to trust in, rely on'

trusteðo verb
3 sg pres of trusten 'to trust in, rely on'

þah conj
though, although

þat demonstrative and relative pro
that, who

þe def article
the

þe, þet relative pro
which

þes demonstrative
this

þet conj
that

þing noun
thing

þuhte impersonal verb
3 sg past of þuchen 'it seems'
bus  adv
    thus, in this way
unpil  noun
    displeasure  hire unpil  'against her will'
utnume  adv
    exceptionally, exceedingly
palde  verb
    3 sg past of pullen 'to wish, want, will'
    3 sg past subj 'would'
pel(l)  adv
    well
pere  verb
    3 sg subj past of beon ‘to be’
pes  verb
    was
piste  verb
    3 sg past of witen 'to know'
pið  prep
    with
piðute  prep
    without
porld  noun
    world