The beginning of Chaucer’s Tale of Melibee

967: A yong man called Melibeeus, myghty and riche, bigat upon his wyf, that called was Prudence, a doghter which that called was Sophie./
968: Upon a day bifel that he for his desport is amusement
went into the feeldes hem to pleye./ His wyf
969: and eek his doghter hath he left inwith his hous, of which the dores weren faste yshette./ Thre
970: of his olde foes han it espyed, and setten laddres to the walles of his hous, and by wyndowes
971: been entred,/ and betten his wyf, been entred, and betten his wyf,
971: and wounded his doghter with fyve mortal and wounded his doghter with fyve mortal
woundes in fyve sondry places, -- / this is to
972: seyn, in hir feet, in hire handes, in hir erys, in seyn, in hir feet, in hire handes, in hir erys, in
972: hir nose, and in hire mouth, -- and leften hire hir nose, and in hire mouth, -- and leften hire
973: for deed, and wenten awey./ for deed, and wenten awey./
973: Whan Melibeus retourned was into his hous, Whan Melibeus retourned was into his hous,
973: and saugh al this meschief, he, lyk a mad man, and saugh al this meschief, he, lyk a mad man,
974: rentynge his clothes, gan to wepe and crie./ rentynge his clothes, gan to wepe and crie./
974: Prudence, his wyf, as ferforth as she dorste, Prudence, his wyf, as ferforth as she dorste,
974: bisoghte hym of his wepyng for to stynte;/ but bisoghte hym of his wepyng for to stynte;/ but
975: nat forthy he gan to crie and wepen nat forthy he gan to crie and wepen
975: evere lenger the moore./ evere lenger the moore./
976: This noble wyf Prudence remembred This noble wyf Prudence remembred
976: hire upon the sentence of Ovide, in his book hire upon the sentence of Ovide, in his book
976: that cleped is the Remedie of Love, where as that cleped is the Remedie of Love, where as
977: he seith/ he is a fool that destourbeth the
977: mooder to wepen in the deeth of hire child, mooder to wepen in the deeth of hire child,
978: til she have wept hir fille as for a certein tyme;/ til she have wept hir fille as for a certein tyme;/
978: and thanne shal man doon his diligence with and thanne shal man doon his diligence with
978: amyable wordes hire to reconforte, and preye amyable wordes hire to reconforte, and preye
979: hire of hir wepyng for to stynte./ For which hire of hir wepyng for to stynte./ For which
979: resoun this noble wyf prudence suffred hir resoun this noble wyf prudence suffred hir
979: housbonde for to wepe and crie as for a certein housbonde for to wepe and crie as for a certein
980: space;/ and whan she saugh hir tyme, she space;/ and whan she saugh hir tyme, she
980: seyde hym in this wise: “Allas, my lord,” quod seyde hym in this wise: “Allas, my lord,” quod
980: she, “Why make ye youreself for to be she, “Why make ye youreself for to be
981: lyk a fool?/ For sothe it aperteneth nat lyk a fool?/ For sothe it aperteneth nat
982: to a wys man to maken swich a sorwe./ to a wys man to maken swich a sorwe./
982: Youre doghter, with the grace of god, shal Youre doghter, with the grace of god, shal
983: warisshe and escape./ warisshe and escape./