

“Chaucers Wordes Unto Adam, His Owne Scriveyn”

Adam scriveyn, if ever it thee bifalle
Boece or Troylus for to wryten newe,
Under thy longe lokkes thou most have the scalle,
But after my makying thow wryte more trewe;
So ofte adaye I mot thy werk renewe, 5
It to correcte and eke to rubbe and scrape,
And al is thorough thy negligence and rape.

2 **Boece** Chaucer’s Middle English translation of *The Consolation of Philosophy*, the best known work by the Roman author Boethius (477-524)

2 **Troylus** Chaucer’s *Troilus and Criysede*, his retelling of a tragic love story set during the Trojan war, and based on an Italian poem by Giovanni Boccaccio

3 **longe lokkes** long locks (of hair)

3 **scalle** a scaly eruption of the scalp

5 **mot** might

6 **eke** also

6 **scrape**: erase (by scraping the parchment)

7 **rape**: haste

The Riverside Chaucer, Third Edition, ed. Larry D. Benson (Oxford: Oxford U P, 1987)