

Monastic Sign Language

Excerpts from *Notes 2*

1. Þis sindon þā tācna þe mon on mynstre healdan sceal, þær mon æfter regoles bebode swīgan haldan wile, and geornelīce mid godes fultume begyman sceal.
2. Gyf þē meolce lyste, þonne strocca þū þinne wynstran finger mid þinre swyþra handa þām gelīce swylce þū melce.
3. Gyf þū buteran habban wylle oððe smeoru, þonne strīc þū mid þrīm fingrum on þine innewardde hand.
4. Ðonne þū [sealt] habban wylle, þonne geþeoddum þinum þrīm fingrum hryse þine hand, swylce þū hwæt seltan wylle.
5. Huniges tācen is þæt þū sette þinne finger on þine tungan.
6. Ðonne þū drincan wylle, þonne lege þū þinne scetefinger andlang þines mūðes.
7. Bēores tācen is þæt þū gnīde þine hand on þā oþre.
8. Gyf þē wāteres genēodige, þonne dō þū swylce þū þine handa þwēan wille.
9. Ðonne þū sāpan [h]abban wille, þonne gnīd þū þine handa tōgædere.

4 sealt] scealt MS 9 habban] abban MS

Glossary

bebod (*1n*) order, command
butere (*wk f*) butter
fultum (*1m*) help, aid
begyman (*wk*) heed, observe
gelīce (*adv*) like
gnīdan (*i*) rub
hrisian (*wk*) shake
inneward (*adj*) inner

lystan (*wk impers*) please, want
mynstre (*1n*) monastery;
convent
regol (*1m*) rule
sāpe (*wk f*) soap
scytefinger (*1m*) index finger
smeoru (*1n*) lard
strīcan (*1*) stroke
stroccian (*wk*) stroke
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swīge (*wk f*) silence
swyþra (*adj*) right, right-hand
swylce (*adv/conj*) as though
tācen (*1n*) sign, signal
geþeodan (*wk*) join together
þonne (*adv/conj*) then; when
þwēan (*vi*) wash
winstre (*adj*) left, left-hand