

THE TESTAMENT OF CRESSEID

A Sequel to Chaucer's *Troilus and Criseyde*

by
Robert Henryson
(c.1425-1506)

Lightly abridged and put into modern spelling
by
Michael Murphy

from the original, written in Scottish English

THE TESTAMENT OF CRESSEID

THE TESTAMENT OF CRESSEID

Robert Henryson

*Each of the first four stanzas here is given first in the original in medieval Scottish spelling ,
followed immediately by the same stanzas in modern spelling*

*Ane dooly sesoun to ane cairfull dyte
Suld correspond and be equivalent.
Richt sa it wes quhen I began to wryte
This tragedie; the wedder richt fervent
Quhen Aries, in middis of the Lent
Shouris of haill can fra the north discend
That scantly fra the cauld I nicht defend.*

1. A dooly season to a careful dyte
Should correspond and be equivalent.¹
Right so it was when I began to write
This tragedy; the weather right fervent
When Aries, in middle of the Lent
Showers of hail gan from the north descend
That scantly from the cold I might defend.

*dreary s. / care-filled song
the same*

*v. sharp, bitter
Spring
did send down
barely / defend (myself)*

*Yet nevertheles, within myn orature
I stude quhen Tytan had his bemis bricht
Withdrawin doun and sylit under cure
And fair Venus, the bewty of the nicht,
Uprais, and set unto the west full richt
Hir goldin face in oppositioun
Of god Phebus direct descending doun.*

¹ 1-2: "A dreary season should correspond to a sad poem." This opening contrasts with a more common medieval way of beginning a poem with a cheerful spring or summer, as in the **The Canterbury Tales**, for example, or **Piers Plowman**.

THE TESTAMENT OF CRESSEID

2. Yet ne'ertheless, within my orature
I stood when Titan has his beamis bright ¹
Withdrawin down and ceiled under cure
And fair Venus, the beauty of the night,
Uprose, and set unto the west full right
Her golden face in opposition
Of god Phoebus direct descending down.

study
(the sun)
hidden u. cover

Of=To

Throwout the glas hir bemis brast sa fair
That I micht see on every syde me by
The northin wind had purifyit the air,
And shed the misty cloudis fra the sky.
The froist freisit, the blastis bitterly
Fra pole Artyk came quhisling loud and shill
And causit me remuf aganis my will

3. Throughout the glass her beamis burst so fair
That I might see on every side me by
The northern wind had purified the air,
And shed the misty cloudis from the sky.
The frost freezèd, the blastis bitterly
From pole Arctic came whistling loud and shrill
And causéd me remove against my will.

through the window

For I traistit that Venus, lufis quene,
To quhom sum-tyme I hecht obedience,
My faidit hart of luf sho wald mak grene;
And therupon, with humbil reverence,
I thocht to pray hir hy magnificence;
But for greit cald as than I lattit was
And in my chalmer to the fyr can pass.

4. For I trusted that Venus, lovè's queen,
To whom sometime I het obedience,

promised

¹ *beamis*: beams: One feature of the original spelling has been fairly consistently retained for metrical reasons: the *-i-* in such words as *beamis* and *withdrawin* where Southern English would have had *-e-* and Modern English often nothing at all: *beams*, *withdrawn*. Where *-it* in the original represents *-ed* I have generally used the latter.

THE TESTAMENT OF CRESSEID

My faded heart of love she would make green;
And thereupon, with humble reverence,
I thought to pray her high magnificence;
But for great cold as then I letted was
And in my chamber to the fire gan pass.

by love
hindered
in=into / did walk

5. Though love be hot, yet in a man of age
It kindles not so soon as in youthhead
Of whom the blood is flowing in a rage,
And in the old the courage douf and dead
Of which the fire outward is best remed
To help by physic where that Nature failed
I am expert, for both I have assailed.

ardor reduced
remedy
medicine
assayed, tried

6. I mended the fire and bakéd (?) me about,¹
Then took a drink my spirits to comfórt,
And armed me well from the cold thereout.
To cut the winter night and make it short
I took a quire (and left all other sport),
Written by worthy Chaucer glorious,
Of fair Cresseid and lusty Troilus.

warmed myself?
book / recreation

7. And there I found that after Diomed
Receivèd had that lady bright of hue
How Troilus near out of his wit abraid
And weepèd sore with visage pale of hue
For which wanhope his tears gan renew
While esperance rejoicèd him again.
Thus while in joy he livèd, while in pain.

went
face / color
despair
hope
now ... now

8. Of her behest he had great comforting,
Trusting to Troy that she should make retour,
Which he desirèd most of earthly thing,
Forwhy she was his only paramour.
But when he saw passèd both day and hour
Of her 'gaincome, then sorrows gan oppress

promise
return
Because
return (again come)

¹ *Beiket me about* seems to mean that he warmed himself at the fire, turning around to warm (bake?) himself behind.

TESTAMENT OF CRESSEID

His woeful heart in care and heaviness.

9. Of his distress me needs not to rehearse, *retell*
For worthy Chaucer in the same book,
In goodly terms and in jolly verse *accomplished*
Compiled has his cares, whoe'er will look. *Recounted*
To break my sleep another quire I took
In which I found the fatal destiny
Of fair Cresseid that ended wretchedly.

10. Who wot if all that Chaucer wrote was true? *knows*
Nor I wot not if this narration
Be authorized or feigned of the new *composed anew*
By some poet through his invention
Made to report the lamentation
And woeful end of this lusty Cresseid,
And what distress she tholèd, and what deid. *suffered / death*

11. When Diomed had all his appetite
And more fulfillèd of this fair lady, *satisfied*
Upon another he set his whole delight,
And sent to her a libel of repudy, *bill of divorce*
And her excluded from his company.
Then desolate she walkèd up and down,
And -- some men say -- into the court common. *prostitution*

12. O fair Cresseid, the flower and A per se *A-1, the best*
Of Troy and Greece, how wast thou fortunate *destined by Fortune*
To change in filth all thy femininity *orig: feminitee*
And be with fleshly lust so maculate *stained*
And go among the Greeks early and late
So gigolo-like, taking thy foul pleasance. *So like a whore*
I have pity thee should fall such mischance. *(that on) thee*

13. Yet, ne'ertheless, whate'er men deem or say
In scornful language of thy brittleness, *frailty*
I shall excuse, as far forth as I may,
Thy womanhood, thy wisdom and fairness *beauty*
The which Fortune has put in such distress
As her pleased, and nothing through the guilt
Of thee, through wicked language to be spilt. *disgraced*

TESTAMENT OF CRESSEID

14. This fair lady, in this wise destitute *this way*
Of all comfort and consolation
Right privily, but fellowship, on foot, *without company*
Disguisèd, passèd far out of the town
A mile or two unto a mansion
Builded full gay, where her father Calchas *beautifully / C. [lived]*
Who then among the Greekis dwelling was.

15. When he her saw, the cause he gan enquire *did enquire*
Of her coming. She said, sighing full sore:
"From Diomed had gotten his desire,
He waxed weary, and would of me no more."
Quod Calchas: "Daughter, weep thou not therefor;
Peraventure, all comis for the best.
Welcome to me! Thou art full dear a guest."

16. This old Calchas, after the law was tho, *as the law was then*
Was keeper of the temple as a priest
In which Venus and her son Cupido
Were honored, and his chamber was them next. *next to*
To which Cresseid with bale enough in breast *sorrow*
Usèd to pass her prayers for to say.
Till at the last upon a solemn day

17. As custom was, the people far and near
Before the noon unto the temple went
With sacrifice devout in their manner.
But still Cresseid, heavy in her intent
Into the kirk would not herself present
For giving to the people any deeming *church*
Of her expulse from Diomedè the king, *For [fear of] g. / inkling*
expulsion

18. But passed into a secret orature *room*
Where she might weep her woeful destiny.
Behind her back she closèd fast the door
And on her knees bare fell down in hee. *in haste*
Upon Cupid and Venus angrily
She crièd out, and said in this same wise:
"Alas that ever I made you sacrifice. *[to] you*

19. "You gave me once a divine rèsponsail *promise*
That I should be the flower of love in Troy;

TESTAMENT OF CRESSEID

Now am I made an unworthy outwail, *outcast*
 And all to care translated is my joy. *changed*
 Who shall me guide? Who shall me now convoy *protect*
 Since I from Diomed and noble Troilus
 Am clean excluded as abject odious?

20. "O false Cupid, is none to wite but thou *to blame*
 And thy mother, of love the blind goddess.
 You caused me always understand and trow *believe*
 The seed of love was sowèn in my face
 And ay grew green through your supply and grace. *constantly*
 But now, alas, that seed with frost is slain
 And I by lovers left, and all forlain." *forlorn, abandoned*

21. When this was said, down in an ecstasy *trance*
 Ravished in spirit, into a dream she fell,
 And by appearance heard, where she did lie,
 Cupid the king ringing a silver bell
 Which men might hear from heaven into hell
 At whose sound, before Cupid appears
 The seven planets descending from their spheres.¹

.....
 22. Venus was there present, that goddess gay, *beautiful*
 Her son's quarrel for to defend, and make
 Her own complaint, clad in a nice array *beautiful garment*
 The one half green, the other half sable black,
 White hair as gold, combed and shed aback *flowing behind*
 But in her face seemèd great variance:
 Whiles perfect truth, and whilis inconstance. *Sometimes*

23. Under smiling she was dissimulate *deceitful*
 Provocative with blenkis amorous, *looks*
 And suddenly changed and alterate, *altered*
 Angry as any serpent venomous,
 Right pungitive with wordis odious. *sharp*

¹ 21.6: *appears* can be used correctly with a plural subject in this dialect.
 After 21.7 and again after 24.7 several stanzas of the original are omitted, a rather tedious catalogue of the appearance and attributes of other gods /planets: Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, Phoebus, Mercury and the Moon.

TESTAMENT OF CRESSEID

Thus variant was she, who list take keep,
With one eye laughs, and with the other weeps

24. In tokening that all fleshly paramour, *sexual love*
Which Venus has in rule and governance,
Is sometimes sweet, sometimes bitter and sour,
Right unstable and full of variance,
Mingled with careful joy and false pleasance, *care-filled*
Now hot, now cold, now blithe, now full of woe, *happy*
Now green as leaf, now withered and ago. *gone*

.....
25. "Lo," quod Cupid, "who will blaspheme the name *whoever*
Of his own god, either in word or deed,
To all [the] gods he does both lak and shame, *insult*
And should have bitter painis to his meed. *reward*
I say this by yonder wretch Cresseid *by = about*
The which through me was sometime flower of love *The which = who*
Me and my mother starkly gan reprove, ¹

26. " Saying, of her great infelicity *unhappiness*
I was the cause; and my mother Venus
A blind goddess her called, that might not see,
With slander and defame injurious.
Thus her living unclean and lecherous
She would return on me and on my mother *blame*
To whom I show my grace above all other. *respect*

27. "And since you are all seven deificate *deified*
Participants of divine sapience, *wisdom*
This great injury done to our high estate *rank*
Methink with pain we should make recompense. *retribution*
Was never to gods done such violence;
As well for you as for myself I say.
Therefore, go help to revenge, I you pray."

¹ The syntax is *[And who] harshly did reprove me and my mother.*

TESTAMENT OF CRESSEID

28. Mercurius to Cupid gave answer ¹
And said: "Sir king, my counsel is that ye
Refer you to the highest planet here
And take to him the lowest of degree
The pain of Cresseid for to modify: *decide*
As god Saturn with him take Cynthia."
"I am content," quod he, "to take they twa." *them two*
29. Then thus proceeded Saturn and the Moon *decided*
When they the matter ripely had digest *carefully considered*
For the despite to Cupid she had done *offence*
And to Venus, open and manifest,
In all her life with pain to be oppressed ²
And torment sore, with sickness incurable
And to all lovers be abominable.
30. This doleful sentence Saturn took in hand,
And passèd down where careful Cressid lay *care-filled*
And on her head he laid a frosty wand,
Then lawfully in this wise gan he say: *like a judge*
"Thy great fairness and all thy beauty gay,
Thy wanton blood and eke thy golden hair *hot blood*
Here I exclude from thee for evermore.
31. "I change thy mirth into melánocholy,
Which is the mother of all pensiveness;
Thy moisture and thy heat in cold and dry; *into*
Thine insolence, thy play and wantonness
To great dis-ease; thy pomp and thy riches
In mortal need. And great penurity *into*
Thou suffer shall, and as a beggar die."
32. O cruel Saturn, froward and angry, *perverse*
Hard is thy doom, and too malicious. *judgement*
On fair Cresseid why hast thou no mercy,

¹ Mercury's suggestion is this: that the highest planet (Saturn) take the lowest (Cynthia, the Moon) and let these two decide Cresseid's punishment.

² The sentence is that "for her whole life she shall be oppressed with severe pain and torment, with incurable sickness, and that she be repulsive to all lovers."

TESTAMENT OF CRESSEID

- Who was so sweet, gentle and amorous!
 Withdraw thy sentence and be gracious
 As thou wast never; so showest through thy deed
 A wrackful sentence given on fair Cresseid. ¹ *vengeful*
33. Then Cynthia, when Saturn passed away,
 Out of her seat descended down belive *went away*
 And read a bill on Cresseid where she lay *quickly*
 Containing this sentence definitive: *document to*
 “From health of body I thee now deprive
 And to thy sickness shall be no recure *cure*
 But in doloúr thy dayis to endure. *sorrow*
34. “Thy crystal eyes mingled with blood I make,
 Thy voice so clear--unpleasant, hoarse and hace *bloodshot*
 Thy lusty lyre o'erspread with spots black *[I make] rough*
 And lumpis haw appearing on thy face. *lovely neck*
 Where thou com'st, each man shall flee the place. *livid*
 Thus shalt thou go begging from house to house
 With cup and clapper like a lazarus.” *leper*
35. This dooly dream, this ugly vision *dreary*
 Brought to an end, Cresseid from it awoke, *having come to*
 And all that court and convocation
 Vanished away. Then rose she up and took
 A polished glass, and her shadow could look, *image looked at*
 And when she saw her face so deformate,
 If she in heart was woe enough, God wate! *God knows*
36. Weeping full sore: “Lo, what it is,” quod she,
 “With froward language for to move and stir *complaining*
 Our crabbéd gods, and so is seen in me. *peevish*
 My blaspheming now have I bought full dear.
 All earthly joy and mirth I set a-rear. *behind*
 Alas this day. Alas this woeful tide, *time*
 When I began with my goddis to chide!” *gods*

¹ Saturn is known as the planet or god of cruelty and destructiveness, as shown even by his sentence on Cresseid. Knowing this, the poet professes to ask for mercy for Cresseid from one who has never been known to show mercy (*be gracious as thou wast never*)

TESTAMENT OF CRESSEID

37. By this was said, a child came from the hall
 To warn Cresseid that supper was ready,
 First knockèd at the door, and then could call:
 “Madame, your father bids you come in hee.
 He has marvel so long on gruff you lie,
 And says, ‘Your beadis be too long somdeal.
 The goddis wot all your intent full well.’ ”

When

did call
in haste
prostrate
prayers / somewhat
know

39. Quod she: “Fair child, go to my father dear,
 And pray him come to speak with me anon.”
 And so he did, and said: “Daughter, what cheer?”
 “Alas,” quod she, “father, my mirth is gone.”
 “How so,” quod he, and she gan all expone
 As I have told, the vengeance and the wrack
 For her trespass Cupid on her could take.

at once

explain
punishment
offence / did take

39. He lookèd on her ugly leper face
 The which before was white as lily flower.
 Wringing his hands, oft-times he said Alas!
 That he had lived to see that woeful hour.
 For he knew well that there was no succour
 To her sickness, and that doubled his pain.
 Thus was there care enough betwixt them twain.

help

trouble / two

40. When they together mournèd had full long,
 Quod Cresseid: “Father, I would not be kenned.
 Therefore, in secret wise you let me gang
 To yon hospital at the townè's end,
 And thither some meat for charity me send
 To live upon, for all mirth on this eard
 Is from me gone. Such is my wicked wierd.”

recognized
go

food
earth
fate

41. Then in a mantle and a beaver hat,
 With cup and clapper, wonder privily
 He opened a secret gate, and out thereat
 Conveyed her that no man should espy,
 Unto a village half a mile thereby,
 Delivered her in at the spittal house,
 And daily sent her part of his almous.

very secretly

from there
hospital
alms

42. Some knew her well, and some had no knowledge
 Of her because she was so deformèd

TESTAMENT OF CRESSEID

With boils black o'erspread in her visage
And her fair color faded and alterèd.
Yet they presumèd for her high regret
And still mourning, she was of noble kin.
With better will, therefore, they took her in.

*from her deep grief
quiet or constant*

43. The day passèd, and Phoebus went to rest,
The clouds black o'erwhelmèd all the sky.
God wot if Cressid was a sorrowful guest
Seeing that uncouth fare and harbory.
But meat or drink she dressèd her to lie
In a dark corner of the house alone,
And in this wise weeping she made her moan:

*God knows
coarse food & shelter
Without food / prepared*

44. "O sop of sorrow sunken into care,
O caitiff Cresseid, now and evermore,
Gone is thy joy and all thy mirth on earth
Of all blitheness now art thou blackened bare.
There is no salve may save thee of thy sore.
Fell is thy fortune, wicked is thy weird
Thy bliss is banished, and thy bale on breard.
Under the earth, God, if I graven were,
Where none of Greece nor yet of Troy might hear." ¹

*steeped in
outcast

joy / totally stripped
medicine
Bad / fate
thy grief grows
would that I were buried*

45. "Where is thy chamber, wantonly beseen,
With burly bed and bankours 'broidered bene,²
Spices and wines to thy collation,
The cups all of gold and silver sheen,
The sweetè meatis served on platis clean
With saffron sauce of a good season,

*luxuriously decorated
lovely / covers / embroidered well
food
bright*

¹ Cresseid's lament is expressed in nine-line stanzas different from the seven-line rhyme royal of the narrative part of the poem. Beginning with stanza 45 the lament takes the form of the "Ubi sunt" theme, a trope common in the Middle Ages, commenting on the transience of worldly pleasures, and the mortality of great rulers and great beauties. It derives from the phrase "Ubi sunt qui ante nos fuerunt?: Where are those who went before us?" Its best known modern representative is Rosetti's "Ballad of Dead Ladies" and its refrain "But where are the snows of yesteryear?", a version of a poem by the medieval French poet Francois Villon.

² "With lovely bed and covers embroidered well".

TESTAMENT OF CRESSEID

Thy gay garments, with many a goodly gown,
Thy pleasant lawn pinned with golden preen?
All is a-rear, thy great royal renown.

*pretty
linen / brooch
behind*

46. "Where is thy garden, with the grasses gay
And freshè flowers which the queen Flora
Had painted pleasantly in every pane
Where thou wast wont full merrily in May
To walk and take the dew by it was day,
And hear the merle and mavis many a one;
With ladies fair in carrolling to go
To see the royal renks in their array
In garments gay garnished in every grane?"

*beautiful
goddess of flowers
flower bed

when
blackbird & thrush
singing
people
decorated in e. way*

47 "Thy great triumphant fame and high honour
Where thou wast called of earthly wights the flower,
All is decayed, thy weird is weltered so
Thy high estate is turned in darkness dour.
Thy leper lodge take for thy burly bower,
And for thy bed take now a bunch of straw.
For walèd wine and meatis thou haddest tho
Take moulèd bread, perry and cider sour.
But cup and clapper, now is all ago.

*people
fate is changed

lovely

select / then
mouldy / perry = a drink
But = except for / gone*

48. "My clear voice and my courtly carrolling
Where I was wont with ladies for to sing,
Is rauc as rook, ful hideous, hoarse and hace.
My pleasant port all others precelling
Of lustiness I was held most conding,
Now is deformed the figure of my face
To look on it no lede now liking has.
Soppèd in site I say with sore sighing,
Lodgèd among the leper lede: Alas,

*raucous / h. & rough
features / excelling
love / worthy

no man
Steeped in sorrow
leper folk*

49. "O ladies fair of Troy and Greece, attend
My misery, which none may comprehend,
My frivol fortune, my infelicity,
My great mischief, which no man can amend.
Beware in time; approaches near the end,
And in your mind a mirror make of me.
As I am now, peráventure that ye,
For all your might, may come to that same end,

*listen

changed / unhappiness*

TESTAMENT OF CRESSEID

Or else worse, if any worse may be.

50. “Naught is your fairness but a fading flower,
Naught is your famous laud and high honour
But wind inflate in other mennè's ears;
Your rosy red to rotting shall return.
Example make of me in your memoúr,
Who of such thingis woeful witness bears,
All wealth in earth away as wind it wears.
Beware therefore; approaches near the hour.
Fortune is fickle when she begins and steers.”

*Nothing
praise
men's
memory
departs
begins to stir (or steer)*

51. Thus chiding with her dreary destiny,
Weeping she woke the night from end to end,
But all in vain. Her dool, her care-ful cry
Might not remede, not yet her mourning mend.
A leper lady rose, and to her went
And said: “Why spurnest thou against the wall
To slay thyself and mend nothing at all?”

*remained awake
sorrow
be a remedy
knock yourself
improve*

52. Since that thy weeping doubles but thy woe,
I counsel thee, make virtue of a need.
Go learn to clap thy clapper to and fro
And live after the law of leper lede.”
There was no boot, but forth with them she yede
From place to place, while cold and hunger sore
Compellèd her to be a rank beggar.

*leper folk
remedy / went
abject*

53. That samè time of Troy the garrison
Which had to chieftain worthy Troilus,
Through jeopardy of war had stricken down
Knights of Greece in number marvelous.
With great triúmph and laud victorious
Again to Troy right royally they rode
The way where Cresseid with the lepers bode.

*chance
praise
waited*

54. Seeing that company come, all with one steven
They gave a cry and shook [their] cups good speed,
Said: “Worthy lords, for Godè's love of heaven,
To us lepers part of your almis deeds.”

*voice
quickly
for love of God in h.
(give) part*

TESTAMENT OF CRESSEID

Then to their cry noble Troilus took heed,
Having pity, near by the place gan pass
Where Cressid sat, not witting what she was.

*did pass
not knowing*

55. Then upon him she cast up both her een,
And with a blink it came into his thought
That he sometime her face before had seen,
But she was in such plight he knew her not.
Yet then her look into his mind it brought
The sweet visage and amorous blinking
Of fair Cresseid, sometime his own darling.

*eyes
glance

glances
at one time*

56. A spark of love that to his heart could spring
And kindled all his body in a fire
With hot fever; a sweat and trembling
Him took while he was ready to expire.
To bear his shield his breast began to tire.
Within a while he changed many a hue,
And ne'ertheless, not one another knew.

*did spring

until he
short space / color
the other*

57. For knightly pity, and memorial
Of fair Cresseid, a girdle gan he take,
A purse of gold and many a gay jewell,
And in the skirt of Cressid down gan swake.
Then rode away, and not a word he spake,
Pensive in heart while he came to the town
And for great care ofsithes almost fell down.

*belt he took
beautiful
did throw

until
often*

58. The leper folk to Cressid then gan draw
To see the equal distribution
Of the alms, but when the gold they saw
Each one to other privily gan roun,
And said: "Yon lord has more affection
Howe'er it be, unto yon lazaress
Than to us all. We know by his almess."

*did approach

secretly whispered
that female leper
alms*

59. "What lord is yon?" quod she. "Have you no fell
Has done to us such great humanity?"
"Yes," quod a leper man. "I know him well.
Sir Troilus it is, gentle and free."
When Cressid understood that it was he,
Stiffer than steel there start a bitter stound
Throughout her heart, and fell down to the ground.

*yon=that / knowledge
(who) has

there shot / pain*

TESTAMENT OF CRESSEID

60. When she o'ercame, with sighing sore and sad,
With many a care-ful cry she called: "Ochone!
Now is my breast with stormy stoundis stad,
Wrappèd in woe, a wretch full will of wone"
Then swooned she oft ere she could refrain,
And ever in her swooning cried she thus:
"O false Cresseid, and true knight Troilus.

revived
Alas! (Gaelic)
beset with storm of pain
utterly hope-less

61. "Thy love, thy loyalty, and thy gentleness
I counted small in my prosperity,
So efflate was I in my wantonness,
And climbed upon the fickle wheel so high.
All faith and love I promised to thee
Was in itself fickle and frivolous.
O false Cresseid, and true knight Troilus.

puffed up
wheel of Fortune
All the faith

62. "For love of me thou kept good continence,
Honest and chaste in conversation,
Of all women protector and defence
Thou wast, and helpèd their opiniõn.
My mind, in fleshly foul affection
Was inclinèd to lustis lecherous.
Fie! False Cresseid, and true knight Troilus."

sexual restraint

reputation

63. When this was said, with paper she sat down,
And in this manner made her testament:
"Here I beteach my corpse and carrion
With wormis and with toadis to be rent.
My cup and clapper and my ornaments
And all my gold the leper folk shall have
When I am dead, to bury me in grave.

her will
bequeath
eaten

64. "This royal ring, set with this ruby red
Which Troilus in drury to me sent
To him again I leave it when I'm dead
To make my care-ful death unto him kend.
Thus I conclude shortly and make an end.
My spirit I leave to Diane where she dwells
To walk with her in waste woods and wells.

token of love

known

(goddess of chastity & hunting)

65. "O Diomed, thou hast both brooch and belt
Which Troilus me gave in tokening
Of his true love." And with that word she swelt.
And some one leper-man took off the ring,
Syn buried her withouten tarrying.

fell (dead)

Then / delay

TESTAMENT OF CRESSEID

To Troilus forthwith the ring he bare,
And of Cresseid the death he gan declare.

*carried
did relate*

66. When he had heard her great infirmity,
Her legacy and lamentation,
And how she ended in such poverty,
He swelt for woe, and fell down in a swoon.
For great sorrow his heart to burst was bound.
Sighing full sadly said: "I can no more.
She was untrue, and woe is me therefore."

*became weak
ready to break*

67. Some said he made a tomb of marble gray
And wrote her name and superscription,
And laid it on her grave where that she lay,
In golden letters, containing this reasón:
"Lo, fair ladies, Cresseid of Troy town,
Sometime counted the flower of womanhead,
Under this stone, late leper, she lies dead."

*an inscription
statement*

68. Now, worthy women, in this ballad short
Made for your worship and instruction
Of charity I 'monish and exhort:
Ming not your love with false deception.
Bear in your mind this short conclusion
Of fair Cresseid as I have said before.
Since she is dead I speak of her no more.

*admonish
Mingle*

**Here ends
The Testament of Cresseid**