



The Everyman theme in early modern drama

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What is a person's consolation at the end of her or his life? Who or what can be of help? At the end of the fifteenth century, in a changing society this question became more urgent. A Dutchman wrote a play on it, *Elckerlijc* (Everyman), which turned out to be very popular. It was translated into English, reworked into Latin, and the Latin versions were in their turn translated into German and these German translations into Dutch, which brought the theme back to its origin. How do all these versions of the Everyman play related, what are the specificities of each play, and how became this theme involved in the controversies of the times, especially the Reformation, and how are they related to dramas from classical Antiquity?

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