

"Death"

By Katherine Philips

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Death.

1 How weak a Star doth rule Mankind,ⁿ⁰⁰¹,
2 Which owes its ruine to the same
3 Causes which Nature had design'd
4 To cherish and preserve the frame!

5 As Commonwealths may be secure, And so our bodies turn traitorous,ⁿ⁰⁰²
6 And no remote Invasion dread;
7 Yet may a sadder fall endure
8 From Traitors in their bosom bred:

9 So while we feel no violence,ⁿ⁰⁰³
10 And on our active Health do trust,
11 A secret hand,ⁿ⁰⁰⁴ doth snatch us hence,
12 And tumbles us into the dust,ⁿ⁰⁰⁵ .

13 Yet carelesly,ⁿ⁰⁰⁶ we run our race,
14 As if we could Death's summons wave;
15 And think not on the narrow space,ⁿ⁰⁰⁷
16 Between a Table and a Grave,ⁿ⁰⁰⁸ .

17 But since we cannot Death reprieve,
18 Our Souls and Fame we ought to mind,
19 For they our Bodies will survive;
20 That goes beyond, this stays behind.

21 If I be sure my Soul is safe,
22 And that my Actions will provide
23 My Tomb a nobler Epitaph,ⁿ⁰⁰⁹ ,
24 Then,ⁿ⁰¹⁰ that I onely liv'd and dy'd.

25 So that in various accidents
26 I Conscience may and Honour keep;
27 I with that ease and innocence
28 Shall die, as Infants go to sleep

Footnotes

- n001 Our sun compared to others in the universe is considered weak, and yet if it explodes mankind dies.
- a002 We don't fear outside violence but fear what is in our bodies. Such as mental illness, disease, or aging.
- n003 (DRAFT-I worry this is too interpretive)We are not privy to the knowledge of the world in that we can sense things for example a volcano erupting.
- n004 Death or time.
- n005 Biblical reference, we start as dust, and then return to dust.
- n006 (DRAFT)As if we are untouchable by death.
- n007 (DRAFT)The narrow space refers to the limited lifespan.
- n008 A table in which you theoretically enter the world on, and a grave in which you exit the world in.
- n009 An inscription or written tribute in memory of a person on a tombstone. Source: Oxford English Dictionary
- n010 (DRAFT) Is this supposed to read "then" or was this a mistake.