

# "Death"

By Katherine Philips

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## Death.

1 How weak a Star doth rule Mankind, <sup>Star</sup>,  
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,  
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,  
10 And on our active Health do trust,  
11 A secret hand doth snatch us hence,  
12 And tumbles us into the dust.  
  
13 Yet carelesly we run our race,  
14 As if we could Death's summons wave;  
15 And think not on the narrow space, <sup>narrow\_space</sup>  
16 Between a Table and a Grave.  
  
17 But since we cannot Death relieve,  
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, <sup>Epitaph</sup>  
24 Then that I onely liv'd and dy'd.  
  
25 So that in various accidents, <sup>Accidents</sup>  
26 I Conscience may and Honour keep;  
27 I with that ease and innocence  
28 Shall die, as Infants go to sleep.

## Footnotes

Star Compared to the universe's other stars, the sun was considered weak.

narrow\_spaca limited lifespan; from the table, where life begins, to the grave, where it ends.

Epitaph A tribute written in memory of a deceased person, often as an inscription on a tombstone (Oxford English Dictionary).

Accident Events that happen by chance or without expectation. Sometimes with a negative connotation, as in being unfortunate or unforeseen (Oxford English Dictionary).