John Donne, 'Extasie', 'La Corona' Trinity College Library, MS R. 3. 12, pp. 224, 51

Transcription

Part 1

224

Diuine Poëms

La Corona.

Deigne at my hand this Crowne of prayer, and praise

Weau'd in my Low deuowt Melanchollie
Thou which of good, hast, yea art Treasurie
All changing, vnchang'd antient of dayes
But doe not with a vile Crowne gain'd, that giue mee
A Crowne of glorie which doth flower alwayes

The ends Crowne our works, but thou crown'st our ends
For at our end beginns our endless rest
This first last end nowe zealouslie possest
Which a strong sober thirst my Soule attends
Tis tyme that heart, and voice bee lifted high
Saluation to all that will is nigh. /

Annunciation

Saluation to all that will is nigh;
That alwayes is all euery where
Which cannot sinn, and yet all sinns must beare
Which cannot dye, yet cannot choose but dye
Loe faithfull virgin, yeilds himself to lye
In prison in thy wombe, and though hee there
Can take no sinn, nor thou giue, yet hee will weare
Taken from thence, flesh which Deaths force may trye
Ere, by the Spheres, tyme was created, thou
Wast in his mind, who is thy sonne, and brother
Whom thou conceiu'st conceiu'd; yea, thou art nowe
Thy Mothers maker, and thy Fathers Mother
Thou

Part 2

5

10

51./

Extasie

Where like a pillowe on a bed
A pregnant banck swell'd vp to rest
The violetts reclyning head
Satt wee two on anothers best

Our hands were firmely cimented With a fast balme which thence did springe Our eye-beames twisted, and did thred Our eyes vpon one double stringe.

Soe to intergrafte our hands, as yet
Was all our meanes to make vs one
And pictures on our eyes to gett
Was all our propagation

15 As twixt twoe equal Armyes, Fate
Suspends vncertaine victorie
Our Soules which to aduaunce their state
Were gone out, hunge twixt her, and mee

And whil'st our soules negotiate there
Wee like Sepulchrall Statues lay
All day the same our postures were
And wee said nothing all the day.

If any soe by loue refin'de
That hee soules language vnderstood
And by good Loue were growne all minde
Which in Conuenient distance stood

Hee

Transcription Conventions

- semi-diplomatic transcription
- lineation and indentation retained
- raised letters lowered, contractions expanded, and supplied letters italicised
- ampersand silently replaced by 'and'; and fossil thorn by 'th'
- virgule and diaeresis retained
- ff form of F not retained