Shakespeare’s’s Perfect Crime
From Topless Queen To Feckless Armada To Godless Resurrection
Dramatist-Poet-Atheist-Spy
Christopher Marlowe Scripts Own Ingenious Escape from Fatal StarChamber Torture And Then: Transforms Into Shakespeare Two Weeks Later
Preface

The play you are about to read grew out of DIO’s investigation of long-simmering doubts regarding Shakespeare’s authorship of the works published nearly 4 centuries ago under his name.

That analysis, BardBeard, can be found at www.dioi.org/jq00.pdf, DIO Volume 18. (Delineation of this effort’s approaches: at p.26 below.)

One need not read past the raw, uninterpreted facts compiled at BardBeard’s p.3 to realize that Christopher Marlowe probably wrote the works of “Shakespeare”—but the rest of the investigation provides enlightening details regarding the history of the works as well as that of the passionate, often ridiculous warfare over the true author’s identity, a confusion originally and deliberately triggered (as you will see within) by the besieged Marlowe himself, ironically enough.

DR’s mother, Barbara Brooke Dennis Rawlins Avirett (1910/11/10–1990/1/24), was a gifted novelist (Hear the Cock Crow Dodd, Mead & Co, New York 1949) and a prominent Maryland poet, admired by no less than H.L. Mencken. Would she had lived to know her elder son’s briefly flickering historical-literary advent.

During his 9th decade.

Though the play is inevitably speculative in part, we hope you will enjoy DIO 26’s variously evidence-anchored reconstruction of the tense, bloody, epochal, and brilliantly serpentine reality behind the most successful & enduring of literary hoaxes.

Warning

The play is not primarily literary, but exploratory: in unequal shares detection, satire, probe, frolic, logic, goofiness, takeoff, revelation—closing with 2 verses of iambic pentameter. Shamelessly inconsistent in style, gravity, and historicity. Do not take all of it too seriously. Nor its centuries-belated vindication of Marlowe too lightly.

[Though 2014’s DIO 18 was praised by Marlovians, the play has not been so welcome, possibly [a] because of its intermittent superficial flippancy; and/or [b] because, to every capital charge the British Crown brought against Marlowe in 1593, DIO pleads him Guilty. How ironic that the only Marlowe crime The Crown omitted was the grandest of them all: deftly designing a convincing fake-death, appending a matchlessly devious dramatic finale, unplumbed for centuries after, in which he rose again — as William Shakespeare . . . .]
Getting Away With NonMurder

A 1586

A1 Fotheringhay Castle, England, October
Mary Stuart, formerly French royalty and Queen of Scots, now Queen Elizabeth's prisoner:

[Sneering at prayer]

Sir Francis Walsingham [of England's ruling Privy Council, funder and chief of Europe's ablest espionage ring, a spiry inspired by Elizabeth's guiding brain, Lord Burghley (Wm.Cecil), including London's top playwright Christopher "Kit" Marlowe (1564-1623) & primo-spy Robert Poley (both out of Cambridge University, as was Cecil), as well as Europe's smartest cryptographers; entering Mary's chamber, ecstatically preparing to gloat at his ring's having just busted the code of her loyalists' Babington Plot, which aimed at putting Mary on Elizabeth's throne]:

My lady —

Mary [startled, but settling into chair with forced calm]:

Walsingham:

Your prayer is right promptly half answered,
Though it is your scheme that I speak upon,
Since your degenerate life of deceit
Has at the last ensnared your Romish soul.

Mary:

My soul?!! Thanks be you credit a Catholic may have one. But speak you unmetrically of your mission.

Walsingham:

Heartily will I: know then that your spies' and assassins' code is broken. As thus your perversely-regicidal royalty's pretense to innocent piety. As indeed your very life.

Mary:

It is a comfort in my impotent dotage that Your Lordship's years of implications do surely echo as reliably and as tediously as ever.

Walsingham:

Your co-conspirator Babington is undone, as therefore is Your Highness — your very former highness. Of late years, Oxford & Cambridge — you've heard of them? — have bred the cleverest agents and brightest code-masters that ever ran craft through. Know you now that these have intercepted and decyphered your missives of late — which leave no doubt of your share in papists' tireless plots at murdering our divine monarch. The only comfort I offer is assurance that the headman's blade is painless — and sufficiently imminent that tedium will be the least of My Lady's woes.
B 1587: Mary Queen of Scots Goes Topless, Unleashing the Armada

B1 Royal Palace

Queen Elizabeth:
Again you lay before me a writ of execution. Why press me yet the more to murder my cousin Mary Stuart?

Spymaster Francis Walsingham:
To prevent yet further murders, with yours assuredly encompassed among them. You have for yet awhile seen her deviously coded missives directly advising and conspiring with the papist plotters for your assassination.

Charles Howard of Effingham:
Sir Francis speaks aright. Present delay could issue fatal not only to Your Majesty but to all who risk their lives and treasure to maintain the Crown and the Protestant Church of England, of which you are god’s sole legitimate pontiff. Remove the invincibly pious Catholic persona the papists long to enthron—

they’ve only her son to plop in your place
who’s more in love with his lad than his Lord.

Queen:
I like not the fratricidal deed, nonetheless, you prick me from inaction. I will sign, but on your score — for potentially fateful consequences yet unconsidered.

Walsingham:
I gladly accept, good and wise lady, and thank your soul for your seal. It will be finished. [Exit.]

B2 Fotheringhay Castle, February: Terror of the Blade

Mary [on the castle’s scaffold, as England’s nobility looks on]:
I die innocent and with nought but love and loyalty for my divinely anointed cousin.

Superprotestant among gentry [aside]:
Why then now before us, entertaining rote with rote?

Bladefall.

Executioner’s head-display fumbles, his everdramatic hand holding nought but Mary’s wig.]

— to come to a head.

Poley:
Mary dies to scare the heirs of England’s loyal papal past. So endeth terremony—theatre at Britain’s vilest pit. [Exeunt all but he, who kneels when none but his envisioned god can see.]

B3 St. Peter’s, Rome

Pope Sixtus V:
How will we resanctify rebel Britannium’s degraded soil? — fresh moist with the true queen’s sacred blood, poison’d by usurper Elizabeth’s undoing of martyr Babington’s holy toil! Decades of English heresy stretch on — commencing at saintly Mary Tudor’s death, grown bolder with the Protestant-sanctioned brigand Drake — even daring loot the Spanish crown’s most bullion-laden ship off Panama! For 30 years England’s return to Rome’s bosom has so oft seemed in-grasp, only to remain a damned mimin beyond. Excommunicating the bastard Elizabeth — who knights sea-thieves the more, the more they thrive! — had not immediate result, yet inspired invisible thousands of holy faithful to the wish of excising the heretical blemish she embodies. As did her schismatic father Henry VIII, unlawfully wed — who spawned unbaptized birth not just to her but to that lust-engendered English-pope fantasia — and stole our monastic booty to boot. Her sleep is ever punished by unshakable terror of assassination by any among our unperceived faithful.

Cardinal:
If the protestant plague is not soon disinfected, the most trifling monarch aiming at prancing

Footnote:
(NB: author DR is assertively anti-smoking.) Stewart Young argues “boys” is an error for “booz”, which is contextually consistent. See Ros Barber Marlowe Papers 2012 pp.119&419.
tall before his subjects will add “Local Pope” to his titles. Ere long, you’ll be merely another
church among a potpourri of popery, equivalently insulted as no more than “bishop of Rome” —
and our business, as just the “Roman church”.

Pope:

Has slumber captured God Himself? Mary Stuart murdered! Elizabeth’s pirates fleeing
our fleets? We tire of waiting on Britain’s self-reform. Our merciful patience is strangled
to its end. Our wronged Spanish Emperor good Philip was&is rightful king of England,
as was church-blessed Conqueror William One, who invaded by sea to slay King Harold
low at Hastings, proving England’s capture can be effected — by one imbued with pious
legitimacy. We will grant good Philip all holy and lethal assistance he requires! Alert the
money-changers and en-trance our most ambitious nobles by lure: their common felicity in
henceforth advancing by lawful magic — indeed a leap above alchemy — necromancing a
modest gold investment into a large English estate and a peer’s title.

B4 Spanish Court

Spain’s King Philip II:

Do none remember that I was truly King of England ere King of Spain? — just as good
Mary Stuart was to be Queen of France ere flight to Scotland? Through the Catholic
diplomacy of Count Egmont¹ did I marry Queen Mary Tudor. Our ungratefully slandered
holy cleansing of protestant witchcraft foundered — thus “Bloody Mary” is her English
memory, so inopportune to our reborn cause. A generation past I was mere boy-prince of
Spain, ’en while manfully astride British soil as legitimate King of that since tragically
enlightened land, ere the ill-starred timing of my father’s death returned me to steer our
Spanish Empire just at Mary’s unfelicitous end. I pray hourly god might grant me —

Courtier [running in]:
your prayer is withstood answered! — a trusty omen. God’s true pontiff pledges full gold
enough shall sure be found, to mount the armed navy required for salvation of the blighted
isle. And the Duke of Parma clings loyal to your holy mission.

Philip:

Blessed trinity be thanked for newborn papal stokings — and English glories yet to be!
Prayers to these sure ends we now command across the realm. But then — hie us to work.
[Exeunt.]

C 1588

C1 Summer, Calais Coast: HMS Revenge Dares Confront the Armada
[Seabattle based on Drake’s non-existent “lost” fanciful rendition]

Sir Francis Drake:

These bloody Spanish locusts aim to steal our wares and lands, undo our reborn Christian
Church of England, and enslave all they do not murder — slaughtering as notoriously as
their Romish brothers at the Paris Massacre, when thousands of protestant Huguenots, not
at sanctuary in Walsingham’s embassy, were murdered by Mary Stuart’s cousin Guise.
Should some amongst us fall that England may thrive, our English dead and our cause will
live forevermore in legend. To the ends of their spans, the heroes who survive will be —
like unto those at Agincourt — the envy of all unlucky Englishmen who missed the passion
of our sea-history’s fiery pinnacle raging now before us. Where the Spanish fleet’s front

¹ Bloody Mary’s nuptial negotiator Egmont was later captured during a Spanish invasion of Holland,
when he couldn’t get-outta-town fast enough. Executed, he was posthumously transformed by Goethe’s
Egmont & its 10-part musical Beethoven dramatization, into a hero of religious freedom. Dedicated to
an appreciative Goethe, the music was exceptionally composed without fee by Beethoven, its Overture
an especially intense triumph of his legacy.

Drake:

Our petty fireships’ve frightened and lighted the Spanish force. It lies now beneath our
mightiest guns. Rapid reload be our English cannons’ hallmark. Answer the brigands’
sateless hunger! — Let them eat cannonballs! Ram them with fire! Burn the armers to
money­changers and en­trance our most ambitious nobles by lure: their common felicity in
henceforth advancing by lawful magic — indeed a leap above alchemy — necromancing a
modest gold investment into a large English estate and a peer’s title.

C2 HMS Ark Royal’s Celebration: Drake&Hawkins, Howard, Frobisher

Frobisher:

Time for well-earned toasting and boasting —

Drake:

Our navy, god’s new David, has slain low the invading Goliath. Let papal aggressions
henceforth be squandered at no more than yet­another doomed attack upon Sosigenes’
canonical calendar, timelessly timing our days since Caesar

Howard:

Our laurels.

Drake:

YesYes. I’d been afeard the gentility of prior gold-bought knighthood might unman me.
But Philip salvaged Drake from softhood by vouchsafing him a whole navy of tinder to his
guns, so granting Drake and his fellow boozers Drake and his fellow boozer cousin Hawkins a
nal glowing memorial of oating rewood gaudily beagged & aame. And a chance to tweak the beak of the
richest despot of them all.

Frobisher:

You’re scripting your legend already? Without the Armada-scattering storms, it wouldn’t’ve
been so easy.

Drake:

Easy?! Easier — Oh — Why quibble? We’ll get the credit. Hereabouts anyway. And we
did in truth risk our fortunes and very lives at venture grand, and for nobler cause than gold
— freedom from the Catholic Empire —

Hawkins:

— Drake dreams the nascent British Empire will boast greater freedom of dissent?

Howard:

Speak you of freedom? — who ran slaves in the Caribees and brought Africans in chain &
pain, to lifetime sentences in the armed jail that English America will be to them forever?

Hawkins [head hanging]:

You would adulate the worst —

Frobisher:

— you yourself brought up the theme of freedom

Hawkins:

— no, fellow-slaver Drake did the honors —
Drake:
— a theme that Jack had best not duel upon. My worthy crew comprised bold and liberated
slaves — in our ever-glorious Panamanian liberation of Philip’s stolen galleon-bullion.

Howard:
Talk of real gold near pyrites-infamous Frobisher is tactless — and unbalanced on the day
of his share of our lives’ most immortal success, which will sure set a knighthood atop
England’s memory of his discoveries of land in the arctic New World —

Hawkins:
— and Frobisher Bay. But the Armada we’ve repelled must leave a stain. It will so
quake England, you may count upon a protestant version of persecuting heretics. Not only
Catholics, but atheists, Puritans, perverts — dissenters will mute their tongues to keep them.
Persecutions will roll. With heads beside.

Drake:
As to your fearful prospect, I cheerily contend: the more we buccaneers splinter the Earth’s
empires and churches, the more’s the prospect one’ll someyear prize unchannelled speech
—as o brave new world!

C4 Rome in Gloom

Pope:
The Armada wrecked?!

Was this the farce that lost a thousand ships
And spurned the popeless powers of Brit’ium?

Their navy was but a quarter ours. all of you predicted: what-could-possibly-go-wrong!

Cardinal:
Only everything.

Pope:
Be not arch, but lay forth the grim details: How? How?

Cardinal:
Thanks to schismatic Continental Protestants, English bribes, negotiations, agents, and
spies, the soldiers due at Holland never fully came aboard, harried by sudden English raids.
Storms scattered our ships, whilst theirs proved swifter, nimbler — and tinier targets.

Pope:
Failure will be my monument —

Cardinal:
— yet take heart, more holy tortuous paths to English power are even now explored; schemes
along many multiply even as we confer. And at least god’s Armada frightened the schismatic
devils, so trust that Elizabeth’s monopolistic owners will turn the screws upon dissent as
she ne’er did ere. From said panic’s spying, persecution, and torture, trust that yet more
plots will fester. I leave your Holiness with the comfort that between these and the fear of
yet further invasions, the bastard usurper’s crown will rest upon a skull ever-beehive-buzzy
with nightmare hauntings.

C5 1589 August 1: French Army Camp Outside Paris, Preparing Occupation

King Henry III of France:
As our army rests, I hear yet again that a Romish clique remains displeased that the Duke
of Guise died by our command of late. Know they not that his massacre of protestant
Huguenots degraded the glory of France?

Courtier:
Your majesty, a friar, Jacques Clément, beseeches your royal audience to discuss the very
point.

Henry:
Have the good friar approach that we may hear his desire.

Clément [approaches slowly, then rapidly]:
I protest the murder of Guise — thusly [lunges & stabs Henry].

Courtier:
Guards! Quick! [Bodyguards immediately kill Clément.]

Henry:
I am just scratched — but — cannot stand. [Collapses.]

Courtier:
The king faints — hang leery of the blade on chance of poison. No — the king is — dead.6

5 During his earlier Canadian explorations, Frobisher became known for bringing back to the queen
tons of fool’s-gold.
Clear the palace of all but peers and bloody guards. And — that it may step back from Paris — alert the army forthwith of our regicidal dis-a ster. Damned stars! [Exit.]

D 1593

D1 January, Marlowe at Thomas Kyd’s home

Marlowe:

Dear Kyd, who chose to live with me and be my love in kind-remembered past, know you that I dream upon a drama of the Guise limb of Mary Stuart’s unkillable killer-family-tree, which does yet seethe in hot frustration at failure of Ridolfí’s bungled plot to launch an early armeda for enorning Mary in Elizabeth’s stead. Sixteen years past, the Duke of Guise murdered protestants by the thousand at Paris and about — the Huguenot Massacree, inspiring our late cynosure Francis Walsingham to swear his eternal oath that papism would never foul this precious stone set in the silver sea, this blessed plot, this earth, this realm, this England — a pacem I must surely place into one among my British histories.

Kyd:

Unsurpassed bard, snuffless star to be, embodiment of dangerous indiscretion, your courage undoes me. Following Philip’s near miss, our perturbéd lords spy and herd all. Since jealous Greene hinted at your circle’s atheism five years past, rumors multiply of Marlowe’s scoffing at religion and sundry conventions, especially in Eros’ realm. Freethinker Raleigh’s blessing — and Thomas Walsingham’s maintenance of his uncle Francis’ spy-ring peerless — confers protection Olympian; and your most artful spying last year amongst the Dutch coinakers was of such service to the crown as to double that. Yet there is on Earth no bottomless well from which to draw infinite immunity.

Marlowe:

I thank you, Kyd, for your love’s concern, but know you that, being leagues ahead of my dull detractors’ wit, I a’ready plan escape, should the anachronistic farces of darkness descend upon me. Which returns me to the bloody Paris play I spoke upon. What think you of staging the history which, as ambassador to France, Sir Francis Walsingham witnessed close, when Paris’ fortunate few unmurdered Protestant Huguenots sought refuge in the English embassy?

Kyd:

Would that Sir Francis had lived to see that bold salvation resurrected — for enlightenment of papists in the pits.

Marlowe:

I change a fragment of the bloody tale, For a cause which may long lay unperceived: King Henry will murder his murderer.

Kyd:

Being unarmed, how would Henry kill?

Marlowe:

In the brief moments left him on this Earth, He’ll strip Clément of his envenomed blade, Heroically dispatching the papist, By the very device of his perfidy.

Kyd:

Dramatic purpose to history’s wrenching.

Marlowe:

Not my sole intent. But, enough shopchat; We loving playwrights now trade drama for dream. [Sexeunt]

D2 April, Marlowe’s Home

Marlowe:

Thanks to rumors birthed by the late Greene’s envy, whiffs of my heresies waft yet further abroad. Pursuant to escape from attendant dangers, I’ve counterbirthed an unfathomable plot, and am even now registering my greenest poem, Venus & Adonis, anonymously, 7 as launch of that design. Be patient — you’ll soon perceive the purpose.

Kyd:

Why suspend your own lover’s curiosity?

Marlowe:

All in good time.

Kyd:

But the worlds you conjure ensure your name’s immortality!

Marlowe:

I remind you: What’s in a name? Why fret o’er the bubble, Reputation? It is my inimitable spirit that shall reign immortal whatever the name.

Kyd:

What scheme you, that thy name is now of slight account?

Marlowe:

All in bad time. [Exeunt.]

D3 April, Raleigh & Marlowe Ponder Immigration, World Economy, & Atheism

Sir Walter Raleigh [doing tobacco]:

There’s waxing general hubbub on the heresy of our circle, and your verbal indiscretions trigger tremors to undo you. It is an essential of survival to learn that governments permit free speech only so long as it’s ineffectual. 8 Take public action against their schemes, and you’ll quick learn more of actual liberty in England than you’ll want to know, or I can impart or shield.

Marlowe [matching Raleigh’s smoke]:

I’ve discussed with profit said danger with our spier’s guide and benefactor Thomas Walsingham, who is like unto God in his goodness, power, and invisibility, differing solely in the mere detail of actually existing, a chance diversion stirring theological inquiry: Raleigh, how take the unearthly unearthly? 9 Such as [mock sotto voce] conveniently invisible eternity of Christian heaven, said to follow our puny mortal century, when blatantly, were it real, by the overpowering temporal ratio, we are infinitely more likely to be gloriously situated in its ethereal expanse than pinched within our proportionately zeroic sleep-rounded span upon this frantic earth.

Raleigh:

And why are the faithful, seeing the world’s evil, so prone to admit unsure, humble puzzlement at God’s Plan — ever-unfulfilled, millennium-after-millennium — while yet on like evidence so humbly, arrogantly, insistently, sure there is a god?

Marlowe:

How else maintain poor ragged knaves’ religious thrall, to gold-adorned princes’ unthralled dreams of wealth and empire? — absent just that flagrant contradiction in logic. Why else must governments invent and reinvent ecclesial mythology? — armedly proclaiming each successive version the infallible one at last — thus lethally shielding their fragile holy jests from the satan of reason, rendering doubt so villainous that men, who cannot in logical battle defend their faith therefrom, continue yet believing in and cleaving to the indefensible. Raleigh, if there be a more obvious fraud than religion, I would be enlightened by your

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10 That Marlowe thought Moses, Jesus, churches, etc., were frauds is part of spy-colleague Richard Baines’ 1593/5/27 testimony to the Privy Council. See §E1 below.
naming it.

Raleigh:
Are such off-the-cuff sacrileges inspired by taking the divinest of the New World’s tobacco deep?

Marlowe [starting yet another smoke]:
My robust health continues, inspired by your rich American bounty.

Raleigh [lighting up own next smoke]:
Our exalted — and exorbitantly profitable — drug we import from ‘cross the sea, while the ever avaricious mercantile forces now capturing England’s Privy helm do instead import foreigners from neighbor Holland, though of suspect loyalty to my Lady’s Church, and enfeebling to native labor’s wages.

Marlowe:
Hollanders have dike-blocked floods for centuries, yet cannot sense our apprehension while flooding us with scabs?

Raleigh:
Why am I alone the Privy Councillor sensing danger in the worker wave from Holland?

Marlowe:
Beyond their own years, our gain-grabber merchants care not for the future of the realm —

Raleigh:
— or even the future they leave their own offspring.

Marlowe:
Nothing slays a dear land of plenty swifter than undear labor plenty —

Raleigh:
— slyly cheating the very lure of wealth that lights our workers’ energy — by injecting into England foreign workers

Marlowe:
— swordlessly surrendering an isle not otherwise invaded with success since our Norman forbears. Little surprise the Council suppresses atheism, hoping under-rewarded workers envision wages after death from Jesus’ justice.

Raleigh:
Amongst the Privy Councillors the pinnacle of risibility is their oft-parroted mercantile lamentation that our nation’s finances will collapse without alien labor.

Marlowe [laughing]:
If otherwise no enterprise may rise,
Then it must follow as the night the day:
The world entire’s economy must swoon
Absent desperate workers from the Moon!

Raleigh [guffawing]:
The economic theory of the sky!
Yet when will Holland’s scabflow-tide be damned?

Marlowe:
When one will risk forever to be damned.

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11 See DIO 16 = www.dio.org/jg04.pdf §4 §G7. Actually, Henry VII had successfully invaded England by sea (1485), and William III was later to do likewise (1688).

12 See, e.g., New York Times editorial 2004/1/9 on the US economy’s dependence upon dirty jobs being cheaply done by “desperate” alien workers. Of course, the cash-strapped NTT only stays alive due to (a fact rarely cited in the US’ Free Press) loans from Lebanese businessman Carlos Slim, richest man in Mexico. Two questions: [1] when the NTT found itself running out of fiscal credit, why did it have to endanger its journalistic credit by seeking funds not from Warren Buffet or Bill Gates, but from the richest man in a narco-state, with connexions to an Islamic area of the world? [2] If the NTT is commendably (if belatedly) concerned to investigate foreign influence upon the US government, why is it silently unconcerned about foreign influence upon itself?

D4 April

Dungeon Rackmaster [torturing Kyd for information]:
Dutch church doors littered asudden — with threats against our new Dutch labor, frighting through spectre of Parisian Huguenots’ ill fate — the documents signed Tamburlaine, title of the premier play of your colleague and once-bedmate, who cuddled close in bestial sin.

Kyd [Rack-stretched]:
I swear by all holy that I know nothing of the Dutch Church Libels.

Rackman:
Wrong song.

To your blasphemous ilk, nought is holy.

Kyd [alternately fainting & screaming]:
How can I speak when pain does blank my mind?

Marlowe

Hollanders have dike-blocked floods for centuries, yet cannot sense our apprehension while ooding us with scabs?

Rackman

Wrong song.

Why am I alone the Privy Councillor sensing danger in the worker wave from Holland?

Raleigh

Beyond their own years, our gain-grabber merchants care not for the future of the realm —

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Yet when will Holland’s scabflow-tide be damned?

Marlowe:
When one will risk forever to be damned.
Marlowe’s heretical infection must be more than blunted. It must be reversed, sent fleeing, expunged — punished so overwhelmingly, so hideously as to warn other blasphemers of the hellfire fate awaiting corruptors of youth.

Lord Robert Cecil:
Marlowe is like myself of common origin and now a multilingualist through Cambridge University. He is indeed heretical, yet the whole Raleigh circle is so but nevertheless is genially tholed. Marlowe differs in his revolutionary passion for action which by his vision would uplift men and protect the realm. True he has, against Raleigh’s advice, far overstepped proper bounds in public discourse, but Essex and I — who accord on little else — do ask for consideration of Marlowe’s learned and unprecedentedly beautiful literary contributions, to this nation’s lasting grandeur.

Rob’t Devereux Earl of Essex:
Just a passing thought: since Marlowe’s atheism is — as we all do solemnly swear — assuredly false, why not refute him instead of racking him?

Archbishop:
Is it not safer for the realm if both medicines are brought forth against the illness of doubt?

Essex:
I know not what came over me. Unguarded speech in Elizabeth’s England?! — What was I unguardedly thinking?

Archbishop:
A cautionary rhyme to certain overcertain sarcastic lords — from an amateur and professional politician: those of careless tongue lose their heads ere longue —
Council: [muffled snickers at wannabe poet]

Archbishop:
— I quake when I sense in this very company the slightest zephyrs of mercy towards that satanic libertine, who cannot merely burn but first must be tortured long, to shake names and blare emphatic humiliation for his sins, impressing the wages of heresy upon our realm’s infirm. Let us retire for the day on the instance of this vile apostate, but determined that our next conclave must demand a swift start to his unwit end.

Essex [aside]:
A divine whose rhymes would be hooted from a nursery — fixed at lowing the highest poet of the world.

[Exeunt.]

E2 Shortly After, Theatre District Pub
Publisher Edward Blount:
Kit! — Thanks be, for you yet remain at large.

Marlowe [puffing-exhausted from sprinting unrecognized through slum alleys to meet Blount in secret]:
Dodging through darkways, tripping o’er my tongue (a turn of phrase I’ll turn again to gain). {Hamlet 3.2.}
Ignoring Raleigh’s many warnings, thus My time upon this English earth is short. The Privy Council meets to doom my voice, Thus let me quick impart what Blount needs know.

Blount:
Count me in as long promised, dear valued friend, unequalled creator. You’ve asked that Venus be published right away under shadowy userer Shakespeare’s name, with your justly-concocted and politic dedication to young Earl of Southampton, protege of powerful Essex, old Walsingham’s son-in-law.

Marlowe [handing ms to Blount]:
This my unpolished but long-promised play Massacre at Paris, I leave with you.

Blount:
But, as you wish, your plays beyond must be anonymous for the nonce. And if the veriest rumor of your salvation airs a few years hence, fellow Cantab Francis Meres stands alert to overnight ascribe the lot to Shakespeare, while of equal sudden George Chapman releases your completed pseudo-incomplete poem Hero & Leander to remind all that Marlowe is surely dead. We’ll trust the confluence is not over-stark.16

Marlowe [still breathless]:
On the morrow, east of London, at Deptford port on the Thames’ south bank, after appearing in town, I’m to flee by conveniently closeby vessel. I connive in the soon-after sham-shame wreckage of my name. I may never return to my home, my family, my friends. And my loves. But my craft I’ll not abandon, if you but help as we agreed. Walsingham will fund scribes, thus the plays I’ll send from the Continent will go pristine to the players absent trace of my hand. Of my latest play, Massacre at Paris, I ask that you retain a leaf in my hand as a last token of the real Marlowe — trusting Massacre to be staged anon, rendering credible tomorrow’s like-scripted blade-reversal game — and to clue remote posterity to my most deadly play, Marlowe’s own Deptford demise! Though roughly hewn, Massacre will succeed on Protestant rage and synergised mayhem.

Blount: Your Greek slithers among your English.

Marlowe:
Another play I think upon is the oft-told tale of Denmark’s Hamlet. My Hamlet will be Marlowe’s apogee! — bearing my grandest soliloquies, and as a touch, it will end in yet another blade-trade, akin to Massacre’s final scene, as vengeful assassin Laertes’ poisoned fatal foil deals death to Hamlet — then is scufed to the hand of the doom’ed victim, who with same delivers quietus to his would-slayer slayer. Future poets must ultimately perceive that our thrice-tapped blade-flip device was as fictional at Deptford as for Massacre & Hamlet.

Blount: If parallels are not perceived at first, they’re sure to be ere the end of man.

Marlowe:
Years hence when final revisions crown plays of my dying days, dear Walsingham and our newfound dark rich friend have put funds ahead for release of all in folio, with you as

15 Massacre’s unfinished state is discussed for its significance at www.dioi.org/ji00.pdf, DIO 18 §P2. The play’s incomplete messiness makes no sense if it was staged in 1593 January as anti-Marlovian Nicholl held. The correct 1594 January date is obvious to a calendrist: idem.
16 The confluence came to pass 59 later, in 1598. See www.dioi.org/ji00.pdf DIO 18 §§L5-L9. [Note added 2020/9/19. An unanticipated advance produced by the Marlovian solution: The long-notorious confusion, regarding which First Folio plays were or weren’t really Shakespeare’s, now evaporates upon realization that the collection was prepared by the author himself; Marlowe evidently consulting with his executor Blount (www.dioi.org/ji00.pdf §S37), preparer of 1623’s First Folio (well after Shakespeare’s 1616 death): ALL 36 PLAYS were exclusively by the same proud creator — and grateful debtor to Shakespeare’s crucial fronting&funding.]
17 Folger Library holds such, which some assert could be direct from Marlowe. Re spotlessness of the Shakespeare plays (as delivered to the players), Diana Price Shakespeare’s Unorthodox Biography 2001 London p.199 recognizes the analogy to Mozart’s MSS — and its obvious implication: www.dioi.org/ji00.pdf DIO 18 §T26.
publisher. If danger has passed for present agents of my flight, my name goes upon the folio cover — else put my front upon the front. By then, I will be he.

Blount:
As I now prepare to settle your estate, I must inquire: is it too transparent that said immortal volume be arranged and published under the eye of the accursèd Marlowe’s executor, myself? Shakespeare’s unremarkability, and his debut right upon the heels of your banishment-vanishment, are clues which more than suffice to reveal the dangerous truth in time. Why tie a skyrocket to these?

Marlowe:
Merely more clues left to posterity, enlightening those who follow wise William of Occam in the path of reason and discovery. Yet the Privy Council’s documentary secrecy and our Deptford guile will leave no tangible trail, thus the mass of those impoverished minds who require such instruction will fourth-wit be nosed by our genius into accepting my extinction, guided into petrimmunity from mere evidence, improbability, inconsistency, and logic against it, whatever gifted detectors may unravel in centuries to come. Just as we wish! — for now all snug in aggressors’ sanguine maws, ’til long past our fraternity’s flight to the grave’s eternal security. If Council’s usual privityance holds, few or none will relate Marlowe’s exit to Shakespeare’s entrance. But if — as likely — Archbishop Whitgift imparts the slightest glimpse of Council’s lately doings to his holy colleagues for their glee and pulpit fury, my public demise becomes as solid as it were tombstone.

Blount:
Then Shakespeare’s credit may be fixed for all time.

Marlowe:
I’ll not forget your advice and partshare, in our ennobling of the souls of our epoch, and past same. Keep you well — and hope and look for my return. [Exit.]

F Dagger&Cloak of Blood — and Jesus’ Resurrectile Disfunction

F1 May 29 Night at Eleanor Bull’s Guesthouse: Poley, Skeres, Frizer

Poley [ecstatically swelling]:
So — our Walsingham ring to the rescue yet again. Like unto prior grand deeds! And this job’s quicker — a few hours work instead of years. And far easier, just a standard cloak&dagger bit: saving a single person from the Church of England — instead of a whole nation from the Church of Rome. BUT . . . whom we rescue for the ages is one I’m proud to own as fellow Cantab, colleague, and friend — the sublimest poet that was ever on this Earth. And is not Poley the most blessèd spy in all sneakdom’s annals? — that Fate should DOUBLE grant grand spy-enterprise? My prior pride in saving England yields now to greater glory yet, in saving works that will outlive the British empire, enduring "for all time!" — wrought from dream to substance through our spymate, nonpareil creator Kit Marlowe.

Skeres:
And you fill my cup of pride with thanks as well, for I entered life lower than Poley and am even yet a mere errand-errant. Thus will my felicity at celestial elevation be the greater. Poley:
Now down to it. Skeres, you have the dagger, hammer, and body that I ordered be brought? Skeres:
As reliably as ever was.

[18 Ben Jonson’s preface to the 1623 First Folio (The First Folio of Shakespeare, prepared by Charlton Hinman, Norton, NYC 1968, pp.9-10) p.10. [DIO’s copy of this reproduction was left to us by our late lifetime friend R.L.Smith. The present play’s several quotes from Marlowe are verbatim from the First Folio. (Editions of the plays that are commonly read today exhibit occasional divergences from the 1623 original.)] (Question-in-passing: what do you call someone half as bright as a half-wit?)

[From Blumenfeld pp.211, 218, & 240.]

Poley:
Recall we thought first of sampling corpses from the resurrectionists, but with plague o’erwhelming London, the notion died. Instead, sufficient invisible coin from on high in apt invisible hands, has produced the corpse of like-aged and like-persecuted John Penry, freshly hanged nearby, just hours ago on our convenient sudden, for a long lingering charge of sedition.

Skeres:
But what’s your plan?

Poley:
I counseled, but it’s mostly Kit’s deeply devious scheme — he’s been concocting fiction and plots for years, so who more apt?

Ingram Frizer [of Thos. Walsingham’s household]:
Why call me into this?

Skeres & Frizer [in exaggeratedly-hanghead downcast chorus]:
Oh —

Poley:
Kit’s idea being to put himself beyond not just the reach of the vengeful law but the very thought of same, by convincing all that he is dead, so there be no point in seeking for him. Only if that fraud succeeds is Marlowe truly free.

Skeres [smiling]:
Thus the man-shell corpse before us.

Frizer:
What need we a dagger if he’s already done? And how can subterfuge succeed with a face not Marlowe’s?

Poley:
Marlowe’s first answer to your double protests is singular: “Oh, death’s a great disguiser.”

Skeres:
(how true! — I’m sad)

Poley:
— and you may add to it by dagger. Marlowe’s plan is that we simulate a brawl on the morrow at this port of Deptford on the Thames, from whose strand he’ll sail downriver straight to Europe, just as soon he’s shown himself to Mistress Bull and sundry, and slipped away the few yards to the dock and embarked. We then stab the corpse’s face to cloak identity in blood&mutilation, raise alarm, and present the coroner with the bloody result, so that he and all who hear of this will be justly and absolutely sure that Marlowe is dead, among other things.

[19 Among Peter Fary’s wealth of Marlovian contributions (www2.prestel.co.uk/ety/biog.htm) is the tempting theory that the entire fake-horrid-death escape plan was pre-agreed-upon from England’s rulership, as a compromise between those who wished private preservation of a unique talent and those who required publicly perceived punishment of heresy & treason. Wellknown dissenter John Penry’s death on the eve of Marlowe’s “death” is the provocative discovery of David More (while Editor of The Marlovian). See Blumenfeld pp.211, 218, & 240.]

[20 Measure for Measure 4.2.]

[21 Blumenfeld p.219. (Deptford was the port where Henry Hudson’s ship returned home in 1611.)]
neglecting that their chain of herded attachment to said proposition is only as strong as its weakest link: the body's IDENTIFICATION. Which must be by us, his friends — who better? True, the trick's cruder than magic-for-idiots, but — watch it work. Not just on coroner Danby but on weaklink-blind generations to come.

Skeres:
But isn't facial damage's purpose too obvious? — who stabs someone in the face? We should balance the head-blow with a flock to the torso.

Poley:
The blow must be but one,22 for Frizer to dodge indictment for killing an unarmed man. One blow be forgivable hot passion, leaving accident credible. More speaks vengeful murder. For that symmetry of blows you rightly seek, slight sanguine scarring on Frizer's crown will suffice.

Frizer [grumpily]:
So now I'm to bleed, too? For symmetry? —

Poley:
— even if coroner Danby hasn't been turned by coin of Walsingham or other, consider: as thousands of plague-stilled corpses flow daily past, he'll not pause a minute over any one among them. Have courage and take comfort from the omen of Marlowe's bail-freedom — signifying his high friends o'ereing these epochal events. For surely the least likely part of Marlowe's scheme is not our present corpse & tools but the bailing of a traitor — yet it is already done. Our simple successes must follow that impossible success.

Skeres:
Impart the simulation Kit has scripted.

Poley:
We'll report a wrangle 'twixt Frizer and Marlowe over a bill of fare, and Kit asks that his own rôle in it be as humiliating as we can devise. Both in order that it satisfy the archbishop's bloodthirst — and that it seem incredible Kit would conspire at so fatally and vilely destroying his name.

Poley:
Frizer:
Such as it is.

Skeres:
Was.

Poley:
A nice touch is his advice to report that his own23 dagger was left at home, so only one blade be in play, which ensures the match of Frizer's to the wound. Having stolen backturned Frizer's dagger, Marlowe will be damned for stabbing an unarmed man from behind, multiplying disgrace by disgrace. Then, following his latest (other) play's regal precedent at Massacre at Paris' end, Frizer will seize the dagger from Marlowe's hand and stab him once in the brow.

Skeres:
How can one stab atop the face be passed off as fatal? — especially with Frizer's headblood so trickling.

Poley:
True, the brow is hard; but blood-flow and brain-ooze from there will mask already-shattered face beyond cognizance — and the hanging's ropeburn beyond notice. A belated truce must occur in a trice; for after we bellow thespian horror, witnesses unbribed may quick invade our play. And an unbribed man can never be trusted.

Skeres [smugly chuckling]:
I ponder several score pounds further insurances of our trustworth.

22 See www.dioi.org/ji00.pdf §E12 [2].

F2 Deptford Garden May 30

Marlowe:
We have walked for hours in this peaceful garden that I be placed as at Deptford by many eyes, ere the peaceless play to be performed this day.

Poley:
It's not done yet, but your corpse is at hand, and your latest tragedy's serpentine plot rehearsed.

Marlowe:
When you tell the tale of my craven slices upon Frizer's hindscalp, remember that Poley & Skeres must be said to have flanked Frizer in parallel upon a supping table's bench, so that in no wise could he take flight, not fore nor aft, neither left nor right — thus will his defensive tale sure whisk him from jail forthwith.

We are not unaware of the care your scheme has taken to shield our lives.

Marlowe:
I am thrice honored by my dear friends.

Poley:
Your thanks are nothing beside we players' privilege, as actors in the most crucial and flawlessly designed of all theatre creations, a great reckoning in a little room25 — upon the eternal stage of the universe.

Marlowe:
Given our guile, and the surety that centuries — and we — will pass before the coroner's record will light, revealing that the witnesses to the corpse's identity were the realm's most skilled and devious liars, as Babington's end attests —

Poley [beaming]:
— I blush with pride —

Skeres [joyfully]:
— I second the blush —

Marlowe:
— 'twill be the next millennium ere the secret be induced and known to all, when it cannot harm unseen heroes of centuries past.

Skeres [to Marlowe]:
Fellow dissembler, you've inversely done the crime that all say none can do: you have created the perfect non-murder.

25 Touchstone in As You Like It 3.3.
Poley:
Those jealous of creative gifts ever beyond their longing, say those merely dream who cannot
do. Thus Kit’s pristine achievement, that we few now dare & share, refutes said slander for
time — albeit in secret for centuries hence. What irony can exceed our triumph when
the greatest of all literary dreamers has in real life designed what will ultimately, when
properly placed among outed successes, become famous as the most durably impenetrable
crime ever wrought!

Marlowe:
You sully my soul even while felicitating same with pride’s corrupting joy. Yet alas it is
time I slip to ship, though my tears of happiness — at breathing yet — are braided with
those of melancholy. Will ever I set eyes upon green England more? When shall we
dine again? Shall we ever, indeed? Farewell, perhaps forever, as I trade Winter’s
dreammare of incipient extinction through all eternity, for Spring’s fresh prospect of freedom
secure to conjure dreamatic poemusical flights, at last realizing the hope of unhindered and
municently sponsored retirement from ungrateful mundanity, taking passage to my own
creative heaven’s gate. This by good assurance of noble lovers of pioneer fashioning of the
English language, Walsingham — and a newfound benefactor, a lender who’s been around
the theatre, and whose name might even acquire a mimim of passing recognition from our
venture. You’ll know it soon enough. Eternal parting thanks to my boldest saviours, those
who’ve leaped jointly high to outdo god himself, to out-Jesus Jesus. I, atheist Christopher
Marlowe, will rise from death. Jesus never did, his alleged post-Easter furtive indoor
invisibility risibly excused as GOD’s fear of the human police! — he that was said to
have repulsed already Dis himself, now succumbing to Resurrectelle Dis-function? Sure
had he returned to life on Easter Sunday his reborn self would in triumph have
marshed godboldly through the streets of Jerusalem, mounting the Mount of Olives, marvellated
at by all who’d shared the horror of witnessing his sure-fatal crucifixion, thereby curtailing
centuries of religious slaughter by converting the world to Christianity forthwith.

Poley:
How can the faithful go years, decades, whole lifetimes believing the Christian myth,
while never pausing for two successive minutes to ponder the obvious implications of its
paradoxes?

Marlowe:
Do none wonder that among the disciples, Judas alone was so cast down by Jesus’ secret
life of luxury, that the mere man Judas brought the Earth-god Jesus to apprehension, arrest,
torture, and death?

Poley:
Was Judas not the turncoat of legend
but rather he who truly loved mankind,
asking why money spent on ointment dear for merry Mary massage might not be better devoted to alleviating poverty? — Judas ironically suffering perpetual calumny for a higher and more sympathetic ethic than the terrestrial god’s cold and ponderable plea [fn 28] that poverty was eternal on Earth but he was not. And was Judas’ soon-after death any more voluntary than Penry’s? Or was it an enraged racket’s vengeance for loss of its plebeian magic-show’s premier attraction?

Marlowe [Socratically]:
Too-unconsidered points, good Robert, worthy of your agile Cantab mind — to which I
owe as well my slipping torture, as the Christian god could not.

Poley [swelling]:
Enlightened skepticism is but part of Marlowe’s precious and thankfully undaggered brain.
The privy privilege of friendship with and salvation of England’s sublimest mind, is Poley’s
apotheosis eternal — though here alloyed by Kit’s departure, and awareness that my life’s
epochal but ever-hidden glories now crest, their highest deeds fulfilled.

Marlowe:
My creations hence arise from exalted fervor in memory of our fast and daring brotherhood,
which saved England from Philip’s grasp and now preserves my font of poesy for enrichment of all generations to be. 

[Exit.]

F3 Later Same Day at Bull Guesthouse

Skeres [entering, yelling in panic to Poley]:
Robert, we may be undone — and headed for the headless! I heard rumor of Kit at the strand, espy embarking!

Poley:
Tremble not. Why think you we four earlier this day feasted at the pub aboard Drake’s circumglobé’ed ship, the Golden Hind, so happily retired to honoured display at Deptford? We scotch rumor by charging loose witnesses with wine-inspiration confusion of one ship and another. I trow and will ensure that memory of immortal Marlowe, upon his final day of life, boarding the Golden Hind — not his true escape ship — will last through the centuries. Skeres, we must now prepare the corpse.

Skeres [thus calmed — and soon busy hammering dagger into Penry’s skull]:
Skulls are harder than you imagine; but also brittle — so IT SPLITS —
Frizer:
— NO, IT EXPLODES! [as Penry’s brains gush, right eyeball protrudes but stays put]
Skeres:
Yet of what value are Poley’s pledges of reward? — when e’en an eyeball’s promised
dangle disappoints —

Poley:
— take then your pay in brains — right there aplenty! —
Frizer:
— and Nick could use ‘em. Now to symmetric stabbing of my head. Bleed me as you must
but leave no ows that may prove fatal to my patal beauty.

Skeres:
Can our grizzled Frizer be now jester to our little court? Can stage glory be distant far?
Frizer:
Must I be bled and mocked upon the selfsame day, o brutes of cutpurse, Skeres? Faint you yet before mirrors?

Poley [lightly stabbing the back of Frizer’s head]:
Ah, fresh blood for the enhancement of our corpse.

Frizer:
I sense going white from drainage! Hand me one of Skeres’ abandoned mirrors —

Poley:
— your infantile jests at danger betoken fear — yet have courage. Thanks to Kit’s hail, we are halflplus home, even as in hours so little past the starting gate. It’s nigh time to raise the house. Ready? — HELP!
Skeres&Frizer:
HELP!

26 The possibility that underworld-god Dis [Hades or Pluto] ultimately retained Jesus in the Earth is so anathema to Christians that the gospels explain Jesus’ post-resurrection public non-visibility as from his intimidation by the mortal govt. Odd for god. (Likely reacting to natural doubt on the point, the post-gospels book of Acts transparently tried to deny Jesus’ shyness after Easter. A bit late.)
27 See DIO 8 §5 = www.doi.org/0805.pdf [C2].
29 Nathan Dews History of Deptford . . . Deptford 1883 p.124. (The 1797 mutiny-ship Hermione was pointedly memory-holed at Deptford c.1805.)
30 Bakeless 1:183. (The use of 2 fellow spies as witnesses to the fake killing of a 3rd is key to Graham Greene’s 1949 British film, The Third Man.)
Innkeeper Eleanor Bull [bursting in]:
What mischief now, my ever-loutish lot?  
Frizer:
Oh! — a hideous accident! — our dear friend Kit Marlowe lies wounded. He moves not. Summon help!
Bull [checking pulse]:
Wounded? He’s dead! Horrible! The worst. Just what a respectable innkeeper needs — a bloody scandal.
Skeres:
Real blood anyways — Poley [in command]: — stifle the pathetic jests, and get the bulls to Bull’s.  [Exeunt.]

G  Prophesied Resurrection: Atheist Easter

G1 Coroner & Jury Gathered
Poley [quietly to Skeres & Frizer]:
Let me do the talk. Adding to jurymen’s aversion to vision of eyeball-horror, further distraction from the crux of identification to minutiae of brawl-mechanics will fog and slumber the court. Watch me and learn.
Coroner Wm. Danby [glowering — officially]:
How did the killing happen? Be brief.
Poley:
Your Lordship, this poor bloody vessel held once the soul of our friend Kit — that is to say Christopher Marlowe — who, inflamed over cost of our repast, did hotly pounce upon our friend Ingram Frizer who defended himself too well, to his sorrow. We bring the dagger that Marlowe snatched a’sudden from Frizer’s sheath, ferally striking his crown. Bleeding Frizer was so pinned fore&aft ‘twixt table and bench, while blocked left&right by friends Nicholas Skeres and myself seated on either side, that he could not retreat; strong Frizer grabbed frail Kit’s blade and when pushing him away did accidentally strike without intent as to either place or part of dagger. By chance it happened that the point was forward and by further chance it struck at forehead near eye, with the sad and horrid result laid before us.

Danby:
Excess detail hardly answers our charge of brevity. Once Marlowe was disarmed, killing him was needless. Defendant Frizer’s several accidents seem improbable in series. I will have him held for further weighing of his story’s truth, though I see no sure proof of ill intent towards his friend. Bailiffs quick remove this rotting remnant ere it fouls the court more. We will preserve in script full tale of these gymnastic events at Deptford.
Poley [lip-motionless aside to Frizer, sotto-voce]:
Did I not predict that diversion from the beam of identity-fraud to the mote of brawl-nits would succeed? You’ll be out in a month. And lifetime secure
[Exeunt.]

G2 June 12: Shakespeare’s Entrance 13 Days After Marlowe’s Exit

Queen’s Servant Richard Stonley [browsing in London bookstalls]:
Storekeeper, who’s this fresh author? William something. Let’s see: William Shakespeare. We owe it to the Walsingham family that Marlowe did not suffer the same early extinction as snuffed one of Beethoven, whose isolation by near-deafness led to orchestral music’s prime creative revolution. (Similarly, an astonishing number of English words were born during the tense Elizabethan period.) Ere his exile, badboy Marlowe was playcraft’s free spirit, much as badboy Caravaggio was painting’s. Never heard of him, but browsing through his Venus & Adonis I am exalted by wordight never approached but by Marlowe’s mighty line. How can one of no prior appearance — nor membership in any intellectual circle known to me in London — arise a phoenix from a vacuum? As steeply as suddenly, his verses soar in verbal music — and maturity! — at the uranian heights of those vouchsafed us by the most divine of all prior bards! And this, so strangely, appearing under two weeks33 after the hitherto-incomparable Marlowe’s death.
BookStoreOwner:
So lamented by our poets.
Stonley:
So huzzahed by our divines, who a’ready thunder to their flocks, savouring God’s awful vengeance upon scoffers at His power.
Owner [anachronistically]:
Marlowe’s woes trigger prelates to snigger
He died of a surfeit of just deserts. The poem you peruse was registered without author last April but bears at outset a since-appended dedication, by our newfound poet Shakespeare, to Essex’ boy, Earl of Southampton, announcing Venus as Shakespeare’s first creation.
Stonley:
Such deftness — as if he’d been writing for years!

G3 September 22: Stonley’s Mansion

Stonley:
What make you of nature-gifted rustic Shakespeare’s lightning dawn?

Venus & Adonis
Venus:
Ere his exile, badboy Marlowe was playcraft’s free spirit, much as badboy Caravaggio was painting’s.

Stonley:
Whitman, and Justice Stevens. Hughes’ observation on word-music revolutionary Marlowe reminds one of Beethoven, whose isolation by near-deafness led to orchestral music’s prime creative revolution.

Benedict Jonson:
Many wonder at Stratford’s enigma, who keeps to self, and pens no missives, 

Stonley:
Distraction from the crux of identication to minutiae of brawl-nits will fog and blight the court. Watch me and learn.

Jonson:
More to the point, how would Shakespeare be schooled at all while in the lack of Latin? — which be the common language of instruction36 at all our grammar schools.

33 The dedication that prefaces Shakespeare’s Venus&Adonis specifies it’s his 1st34 publication. That it hit the street under 2 weeks after Marlowe’s disappearance is acknowledged even by the Stratfordians’ leading anti-Marlowan, Chas. Nicholl (at Paul Edmondson & Stanley Wells, Eds., Shakespeare Beyond Doubt U.Cambridge 2013 p.29), who passes off the segue as just an “apparent chronological neatness”. But unbulgible Ted Hughes (England’s Poet Laureate 1984-1998) perceives the obvious while commenting on creativity vs worldliness and celebrity: “The way to really develop as a writer is to make yourself a political outcast, so that you have to live in secret. This is how Marlowe developed into Shakespeare.” (Quoted at Barber p.v.) Hughes is one of numerous authors and jurists who have realized for over a century that Shakespeare never wrote a play: e.g., Twain, H.James, Hawthorne, Whitman, and Justice Stevens. Hughes’ observation on word-music revolutionary Marlowe reminds one of Beethoven, whose isolation by near-deafness led to orchestral music’s prime creative revolution. (Similarly, an astonishing number of English words were born during the tense Elizabethan period.) Ere his exile, badboy Marlowe was playcraft’s free spirit, much as badboy Caravaggio was painting’s. We owe it to the Walsingham family that Marlowe did not suffer the same early extinction as snuffed Caravaggio in 1610 at age 37, even while Marlowe lived on to cap his career with the Tempest the following year — when also appeared the 1611 King James Version of the Bible, for which it’s possible Marlowe provided anonymous assistance. (Note pre-US 1611’s duo-contribution to US families centuries later: www.dioi.org/jo00.pdf §X31.)
34 Jonson op cit [fn 18] p.9; Price op cit pp.187&211.
36 Carol Rutter at Edmondson & Wells op cit p.135. First connexion to Jonson’s Latin-Greek testimony (fn 34): Rawlins Bardbeard §3.
Shakespeare’s Perfect Crime

DIO 26 2021/1/14 Dennis Rawlins

Stonley:
Some divine a front though none explain it.
Why the creator’s flight into darkness?
Jonson:
How shall we ever know, when all are feared to publish doubt, Shakespeare being wealthy and famously litigious?
Stonley:
Know you geo-geography’s curiosity that the first precise extant measure of the girth of Earth appeared at the very time AND place when and where Alexandria’s wondrous lighthouse was raised half a stade as the clouds above the harbor isle of Pharos? — a flame-capped pylon gargantuanly towering, to signal ships as distant as 202 stades at sea, whilst ingeniously yet yielding Earth’s radius from the square of that very farthest37 of its light’s seallevel sightability. Is it not [winking at Jonson] a like wonder of time AND38 place that London’s blank verse pioneer39 Kit Marlowe’s lyric blaze, feared snuffed to eternity, has, in our selfsame town of London — within 4 miles and 2 weeks of where and when it died — reflamed to lofty metric life in an ere-unknown genius? And he but a countrybred lucranelier!
Jonson [returning wink]:
True-blessed are we that shadowy entities let not our loss be longstanding. As we are uplifted by Shakespeare’s honey tongued-verse, it is transcendentally as if

We worship at a godless Easter fest
As dear dead muse Kit Marlowe resurrects. [Curtain.]

The above play’s words are Elizabethan-era almost exclusively, but the style departs at will. All quotes from “Shakespeare” plays are directly from the original 1623 First Folio. DIO requests forbearance of occasional blatant borrowings from or takeoffs on Marlowe (whose gift for language we couldn’t even pretend to approach), all of which are easily recognized by experts. This is not just literature but (slightly loose) historical dramedy. [See www.dioi.org/ji00.pdf, DIO’s book Bard’s Beard, contending Marlowe’s authorship of Shakespeare’s corpus, by the criteria of science & epistemological philosophy of science, with fully detailed source citations & abundant cross-references for readers’ convenience.]

37 See Griffith Observer 2018 August www.dioi.org/g828.pdf pp.9-16, or www.dioi.org/e01.pdf pp.3-12, reconstructing architect Sostratos’ intent to build the Pharos exactly 300 feet (or 1/2 a stade) high, so that the square of its visibility distance, 202 stades, would yield Earth’s radius, 40800 stades (Greek-conventionally rounded to the nearest 100 stades). At 14th glance, this will sound dimensionally impossible to scientists, who ought to check the cited source’s eq.21 to understand how & why it works so neatly — and to see how atmospheric refraction would enhance the empirical result by 6/5, which is almost exactly the long-wheelspinningly-debated error in the 19%-high Sostratos-Eratosthenes-Strabo Earth-circumference, 256000 stades (Archive for History of Exact Sciences 26.3:211-219, 1982; Griffith Observer, op cit p.14). Airbent horizontal light’s inverse effect (5/6, not 6/5) on later ancient Earth-measure (by double-sunsets: Rawlins, Amer.J.Physics 47:126-128, 1979) produced an under-estimate, 180000 stades (attributed to Poseidonios, c.50 BC), which endured so long as to influence Columbus, over 1000 years later. Through the 1990s, the double-sunset method of Earth-measure was applied-physics example #1 in the standard physics textbook Halliday, Resnick, & Walker, with frontispiece sunset photo & generous credit to DR.


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