The Atheists Tragedie by Cyril Tourneur M/M BS, S&S, SmS, R&D

IV. 3 [17–53]

M/M BS, S&S, SMS, R&D
As this of happinesse. And here's an end
Of both. Now both their states are equall. O
That Man, with so much labour should aspire
To worldly height; when in the humble earth,
The world's condition's at the best! Or scorne
Inferiour men; since to be lower then
A worme, is to be higher then a King!

Bora. Then fall and rise.

Discharges .- Giues false fire.

Charl. What villaines hand was that? Saue thee or thou shalt perish.

They fight.

Bora. Zownes vnsau'd I thinke.

Charl. What? Haue I kill'd him? whatsoe'er thou beest

I would thy hand had prosper'd. For I was

Vnsit to liue, and well prepar'd to die.

What shall I doe? accuse my selfe. Submit

Me to the law, and that will quickly end

This violent encrease of miserie.

But t'is a murther to be accessarie

To mine owne death. I will not. I will take

This opportunitie to scape. It may

Be Heau'n reserues me to some better end. Exit CHARLEMONT.

Enter Snuffe and Soquette into the Churchyard.

Soqu. Nay good Sir; I dare not. In good sooth I come of a generation both by Father and Mother, that were all as fruitfull as Costard-mongers wives.

Snu. Tush then, a Timpanie is the greatest danger can be fear'd. Their fruitfulnesse turnes but to a certaine kind of flegmatique windie disease.

Soqu. I must put my vnderstanding to your trust Sir. I would be loath to be deceiu'd.

Snu. No, conceiue; thou sha't not. Yet thou shalt profit by my instruction too. My bodie is not euery day drawne dry wench.

Soqu. Yet mee thinkes Sir, your want of vse should rather make your body like a Well; the lesser t'is drawne, the sooner it growes dry.

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Snu. Thou shalt try that instantly.

Soqu. But we want place and opportunity.

Snu. We have both. This is the backe side of the House which the superstitious call Saint Winifred's Church; and is verily a convenient vnfrequented place.—Where vnder the close Curtaines of the night—

Soqu. You purpose i' the darke to make me light.

Pulles out a sheete, a haire, and a beard.

But what ha' you there?

Snu. This disguise is for securitie sake wench. There's a talke thou know'st, that the Ghoast of olde Montferrers walks. In this Church he was buried. Now if any stranger fall vpon vs before our businesse be ended; in this disguise I shall be taken for that Ghoast; and neuer be call'd to examination I warrant thee. Thus wee shall scape both prevention and discoverie. How doe I looke in this habite wench?

Soq. So like a Ghost, that not withstanding I have som fore-knowledge of you, you make my haire stand almost on end.

Snu. I will try how I can kisse in this beard.—O fie, fie, fie. I will put it off; and then kisse; and then put it on. I can doe the rest without kissing.

Enter Charlemont doubtfully with his sword drawne, is upon them before they are aware. They runne out divers waies, and leave the disguise.

Charl. What ha' wee heere? a Sheete? a haire? a beard? What end was this disguise intended for? No matter what. I'le not expostulate
The purpose of a friendly accident.
Perhaps it may accommodate my scape.—
I feare I am pursued. For more assurance,
I'le hide mee heere i' th Charnell house;
This conuocation house of dead mens sculles.——

To get into the Charnell house, he takes holde of a Death's head; it slips and staggers him.

Death's head! deceiu'st my hold? Such is the trust to all mortalitie.

Hides bimselfe in the Charnell house.