## The Massacre at Paris by Christopher Marlowe M/M BS, S&S, R&D, Kn

94

THE MASSACRE AT PARIS

COSSIN, Captain of the Guard.

LOREINE [Leranne], a Protestant preacher,
SEROUNE [Masson de Rivers?],
RAMUS [Pierre de la Ramée], a Professor
of Eloquence and Philosophy in the Collège
de France,
TALEUS [Omer Talon], a Professor of Rhetoric, friend and
collaborator of Ramus.

QUEEN-MOTHER OF FRANCE [Catherine de Medici].

'OLD QUEEN' OF NAVARRE [Joan], mother of Henry, King of Navarre.

QUEEN OF NAVARRE [Margaret], daughter of Catherine; wife of Henry.

DUCHESS OF GUISE.

Wife of Seroune.

Maid to the Duchess of Guise.

Two Lords of Poland; a cutpurse; a friar [Jacques Clément?]; a surgeon; an apothecary; the English agent [Walsingham?]; other Protestants; schoolmasters, soldiers, 40 murderers, attendants, messengers.

Mornay's literary works were known in English translations, and Du Bartas' Canticle was translated in 1590, but Marlowe was of course dead before Du Bartas' La Semaine became a 'best seller' in Joshua Sylvester's English version Divine Weeks and Works.

23. Loreine] probably the reporter's confusion with Leranne; see scene vii and note.

# The Massacre at Paris With the Death of the Duke of Guise

[Sc. i]

Enter Charles the French king, [CATHERINE] the QUEEN-MOTHER, the KING OF NAVARRE, the PRINCE OF CONDY, the LORD HIGH ADMIRAL, and [MARGARET] the QUEEN OF NAVARRE, with others.

K. Char. Prince of Navarre, my honourable brother,
Prince Condy, and my good Lord Admiral,
I wish this union and religious league,
Knit in these hands, thus join'd in nuptial rites,
May not dissolve till death dissolve our lives,
And that the native sparks of princely love
That kindled first this motion in our hearts
May still be fuell'd in our progeny.

Nav. The many favours which Your Grace hath shown

From time to time, but specially in this,

10

o.2. Condy] O (Condye; elsewhere 'Condy'); Condé Oxberry. o.3. the Queen of Navarre] O; Margaret . . . [and] the Old Queen of Navarre Oxberry. 8. fuell'd] O (feweld).

<sup>1.</sup> brother] i.e., brother-in-law, as a consequence of the marriage just celebrated between Charles's sister, Margaret, and Henry of Navarre (August 1572).

<sup>3.</sup> religious league] The marriage was an attempt to avert further strife between Catholics and Protestants; and Varamund says that it was celebrated 'before' [in front of] the Cathedral of Notre Dame or in the porch, in a ceremony acceptable to both religions. This is why the bride and her Catholic relatives later (ll. 18 ff.) enter the Cathedral for a mass while the Protestant Navarre and his party remain outside.

<sup>6.</sup> native] natural (as in Ovid, I. xiv. 56, and 'the native hue of resolution', Ham., III. i. 84).

<sup>7.</sup> motion] desire, inclination.

<sup>8.</sup> fuell' d furnished with fuel and so kept burning (carrying on the image of 'sparks' and 'kindled').

[Sc. xxiv]

Sound drum and trumpets, and enter the KING OF FRANCE, and NAVARRE, EPERNOUN, BARTUS, PLESHÉ and Soldiers [and Attendants].

K. Henry. Brother of Navarre, I sorrow much

That ever I was prov'd your enemy,

And that the sweet and princely mind you bear

Was ever troubled with injurious wars.

I vow, as I am lawful King of France,

To recompense your reconciled love

With all the honours and affections

That ever I vouchsaf'd my dearest friends.

Nav. It is enough if that Navarre may be

Esteemed faithful to the King of France,

10

5

Whose service he may still command till death.

K. Henry. Thanks to my kingly brother of Navarre.

Then here we'll lie before Lutetia walls,

Girting this strumpet city with our siege,

Till, surfeiting with our afflicting arms,

15

Sc. xxiv.] Bullen. 13. Lutetia] as Dyce; Lucrecia O; Lutetia's Oxberry.

Scene xxiv.] The historical events portrayed here took place in 1589 at St Cloud, near Paris. The text does not make clear the full reasons for the alliance of Henry III and Navarre and their combining in this attack on Paris (which favoured the cause of the Guises): Henry was glad of Navarre as an ally because, after the murder of Guise, both the Sorbonne and the Pope had declared Henry to be no longer King of France. (This is why Henry asks his question at 1. 26.) Generally speaking, Marlowe keeps close to history in this final scene except that Navarre was not present when the King was murdered.

II. Whose] i.e., Navarre's.

he] i.e., the King.

13. lie] lay a siege, encamp.

Lutetia] the old name of Paris. The proper name is used attributively, as often in Dido.

14. strumpet] so called because it had proved faithless to the King, by espousing the cause of Guise.

15-16.] The image—not perfectly appropriate—is of the city's being given a surfeit or 'overdose' of warfare and therefore vomiting up its stomach (with a probable quibble on 'stomach' in the sense of 'pride'). For

She cast her hateful stomach to the earth.

#### Enter a Messenger.

Mess. And it please Your Majesty, here is a friar of the order of the Jacobins sent from the President of Paris, that craves access unto Your Grace.

K. Henry. Let him come in.

sc. xxiv]

[Exit Messenger.] 20

Enter Friar, with a letter.

Eper. I like not this friar's look:

'Twere not amiss, my Lord, if he were search'd.

K. Henry. Sweet Epernoun, our friars are holy men

And will not offer violence to their King

For all the wealth and treasure of the world.

Friar, thou dost acknowledge me thy King?

Fri. Ay, my good Lord, and will die therein.

K. Henry. Then come thou near, and tell what news thou bring'st.

Fri. My Lord, the President of Paris greets Your Grace and sends his duty by these speedy lines, humbly craving 30 your gracious reply. [Gives letter.]

K. Henry. I'll read them, friar, and then I'll answer thee.

Fri. Sancte Jacobe, now have mercy upon me!

He stabs the King with a knife as he readeth the letter, and then the King getteth the knife and kills him.

Eper. O my Lord, let him live a while! K. Henry. No, let the villain die, and feel in hell

35

25

20. S.D.] Dyce. 29-31.] as O; My lord, / . . . grace, / . . . lines. / . . . reply. Oxberry. 31. S.D.] Dyce. 33. Jacobe] Dyce; Iacobus O. 35-6.] as Oxberry; probably prose O. (No, . . hell, / iust . . . trechery.)

<sup>&#</sup>x27;cast' cf. H<sub>5</sub>, III. ii, 57; 'hateful' may mean both 'hated' and 'full of hate'. 26.] See note above on scene xxiv.

<sup>30.</sup> speedy] possibly 'hasty, quick-written' (Bennett); more probably 'prompt'.

<sup>33.</sup> Jacobe] Again, as at viii. 11, Marlowe's Latin has been 'corrected'. Conceivably, however, O is right, in that Latin proper names, in semi-colloquial use, may not have been inflected in the vocative case.

SC. XXIV

Just torments for his treachery. Nav. What, is Your Highness hurt? K. Henry. Yes, Navarre, but not to death, I hope. Nav. God shield Your Grace from such a sudden death! Go call a surgeon hither straight. [Exit an Attendant.] K. Henry. What irreligious pagans' parts be these Of such as hold them of the holy church! Take hence that damned villain from my sight. [Attendants carry out the Friar's body.] Eper. Ah, had Your Highness let him live, We might have punish'd him to his deserts! 45

K. Henry. Sweet Epernoun, all rebels under heaven

Shall take example by his punishment

How they bear arms against their sovereign.

Go call the English agent hither straight.

[Exit an Attendant.]

I'll send my sister England news of this, And give her warning of her treacherous foes.

#### [Enter a Surgeon.]

Nav. Pleaseth Your Grace to let the surgeon search your wound? K. Henry. The wound, I warrant ye, is deep, my Lord.

Search, surgeon, and resolve me what thou see'st.

The Surgeon searcheth [the wound].

### Enter the English Agent.

Agent for England, send thy mistress word What this detested Jacobin hath done. Tell her, for all this, that I hope to live,

55

40. S.D.] Dyce. 43.1.] Dyce. 46-8.] as Oxberry; prose O. 47. his Oxberry, their O. 49.1.] Dyce. 51.1.] Oxberry. 52. wound ?] wound. O.

| SC. AAIV]          | THE MASSACKE AT PAKIS                                  | 101 |
|--------------------|--|-----|
| To wrack, and      | the papal monarch goes<br>antichristian kingdom falls. |     |
| These bloody h     | ands shall tear his triple crown                       | 60  |
| And fire accurs    | ed Rome about his ears.                                |     |
| I'll fire his craz | ed buildings, and incense                              |     |
| The papal towe     | ers to kiss the holy earth.                            |     |
| Navarre, give n    | ne thy hand: I here do swear                           |     |
| To ruinate that    | wicked Church of Rome                                  | 65  |
| That hatcheth      | up such bloody practices,                              |     |
| And here prote     | est eternal love to thee,                              |     |
| And to the Que     | een of England specially,                              |     |
| Whom God ha        | th bless'd for hating papistry.                        |     |
| Nav. These words   | revive my thoughts, and comforts me,                   | 70  |
| To see Your H      | ighness in this virtuous mind.                         | •   |
| K. Henry. Tell me, | surgeon, shall I live?                                 |     |
| Surg. Alas, my Lor | d, the wound is dangerous,                             |     |
|                    | icken with a poison'd knife.                           |     |
| K. Henry. A poison | n'd knife! What, shall the French King die             | 75  |
|                    | poison'd both at once?                                 | , - |
|                    | amned villain were alive again,                        |     |
| -                  | torture him with some new-found death!                 |     |
| _                  | th too good: the devil of hell                         |     |
| Torture his wid    | _  | 80  |
|                    | se him not, sith he is dead.                           | 50  |
| -                  | son works within my breast.                            |     |
| O, the fatal por   | oud works within my dicast.                            |     |

58-9.] conj. Malone, Oxberry; Which . . . wrack, / . . . falles. O. christian] O; th'antichristian Dyce<sup>2</sup>. 62. incense] O; enforce Dyce<sup>2</sup>. 63. holy] O; lowly Dyce. 70. comforts] O; comfort Oxberry. 73-4-] as Oxberry; prose O. 74, 75, 76. poison'd] poysoned O. O, that / That ... Dyce. 79-80.] This ed.; prose O; He ... good; / ... soull Oxberry. 81-3.] as Oxberry; prose O.

<sup>41.</sup> parts traits, characteristics.

<sup>42.]</sup> for men who consider themselves to belong to the holy church.

<sup>45.</sup> to] to the full extent of.

<sup>52.</sup> search] examine by probing (O.E.D. v. 8).

<sup>54.</sup> resolve] inform, tell.

<sup>62-3.]</sup> These lines are almost certainly a garbled version of two from a speech in Ed. II (I. iv. 100-I, with further conflation from v. i. 13). The O lines, however, make some sense and must stand. See Introduction, pp. lvi-lvii and lxxvi.

<sup>62.</sup> crazed unsound, shaky.

<sup>66.</sup> practices] plots, conspiracies.

<sup>78.</sup> new-found death] newly invented method of killing.