

## A6 Go Eccho of the minde

*Notes. This is another poem written in answer to Raleigh's "Goe soule the bodies guest". Like "Courts scorne, states disgracinge", it has occasionally been attributed to Robert Devereux, 2nd Earl of Essex. Although May has noted that this verse has a sing-song metre which is similar to a poem written by Essex (DeVere 106-08), the case for this attribution is weak, and its authorship remains uncertain. Nonetheless, the poem's target is clearly Raleigh—a point made by the pun in the third line ("so rawe a lye"). Some copies even read this line as "that rude Rawly" (Raleigh, Poems 153).*

"Another answer made by an unknowne author"

Go Eccho of the minde

A careles truth protest

Make answer that so rawe a lye

Noe stomacke can disgest

for why the lies discente

Is ever base to tell

To us it came from Italye<sup>1</sup>

To them it came from hell

what reasons prove, confesse

what slaunder sayth, denye

Lett not untruth with triumphe passe

yett never give the lye.

Confesse in glitteringe courte

All is not gold doth shine

yet say that pure and much fine gold

Growes in that golden clime

Confesse that many tares<sup>2</sup>

May overspread the grownde

5

10

15

Yet saye within the fielde of golde  
Pure corne is to bee founde 20

Confesse some unjust judge  
The widdowes right delaye  
Yet say there ar some Samuells<sup>3</sup>  
That will not say her naye

Admitte some man of state 25  
Doe pitch his thoughts too high  
Is that a rule to all the rest  
Their loyalty to trye

Your witt is in the wayne  
your Autumne in the budd 30  
you argue from particulars  
your reason is not good.

And still that men may see  
Lesse reason to commend you  
I marvaile much amonge the rest 35  
How schools & arts offend you.

But why pursue I thus  
The waightles woords of winde  
The more the Crabb doth seeke to creepe<sup>4</sup>  
The more shee is behinde 40

In courte & commonwealth  
In church & countrey both  
what? nothinge good, but all so badd  
That every man may loath.

The farther that you raunge 45

your error is the wider  
The Bee sometime doth honey sucke  
But sure you are the spider.

And this my counsell is  
for that you want a name 50  
To seeke some corner in the darke  
To hide your selfe from shame.

There wrappe the silly<sup>5</sup> flye  
within your spitefull webbe  
But courte and church may coante<sup>6</sup> you well 55  
They ar at no such ebbe.

As quarrells once begunne  
Ar not so quickly ended  
So many faults ar founde  
But none so soone amended. 60

But when you come againe  
To give the worlde the lye  
I pray you teach them how to live  
And tell them how to dye.

**Source.** Bodleian MS Rawl. Poet. 212, fols. 90r-91r

**Other known sources.** DeVere 60; *Dr Farmer Chetham Manuscript* 118; Bodleian MS Rawl. Poet. 172, fol. 13r ; Doctor Williams's Library MS Jones B.60, p. 261 ; Folger MS V.a.103, fol. 67v

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<sup>1</sup> *from Italye*: allusion to the works of Machiavelli, whose association with political dissimulation and irreligion made the term "Machiavel" an Elizabethan synonym for a scheming villain.

<sup>2</sup> *tares*: a species of vetch, which occurred in corn-fields as a weed.

<sup>3</sup> *Samuells*: reference to Samuel, the Old Testament prophet and law-giver.

<sup>4</sup> *Crabb doth seeke to creepe*: like a crab's sidewise movement, the pen in the writer's hand moves across the page.

<sup>5</sup> *silly*: weak, helpless; deserving of pity.

<sup>6</sup> *coante*: a textual problem. This may be "coame", a verb meaning to split into fissures or gape open; however, some manuscripts read this word as "want" (i.e. court and Church can easily do without him (Raleigh, *Poems* 153)).

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