

## B6 Water thy plaints with grace divine

*Notes. This libel on Raleigh's 1603 fall and treason trial plays on a shorter, religious poem, attributed posthumously to Raleigh himself. The latter poem reads: "Water thy plants with grace devine, and hope to live for aye / Then to thy saviour Christe incline, in him make stedfast stay / Rawe is the reason that doth lye within an Atheists head / Which saith the soule of man doth dye, when that the boddies dead" (Raleigh, Poems 137).*

Water<sup>1</sup> thy plaints with grace divine

and trust in God for aye

And to thy saviour Christ incline

in him make stedfast staye.

Rawe is the reason that doth lie,<sup>2</sup>

within thy treacherous head,

To say the soule of Man doth die

when that the Corpse is dead.<sup>3</sup>

5

Nowe may you see the soodaine fall,

of him that thought to clime full hie,

A man well knowne unto you all

whose state you see doth stand Rawlie,<sup>4</sup>

10

Time did he take when time did serve,

now is his time neare spent,

Even for him selfe he craved still

and never would relent.

15

For he hath run a retchless<sup>5</sup> race,

which now hath brought him to disgrace

You that do see his soodaine fall

a warninge be it to you all

20

**Source.** BL Add. MS 22601, fol. 63v

**Other known sources.** Raleigh, *Poems* 187; Bodleian MS Ashmole 781, p. 163; Brotherton MS Lt. q. 9, fol. 17r

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- <sup>1</sup> *Water*: there is a possible pun here, as “Walter” was often pronounced “Water” or “Watter”.
  - <sup>2</sup> *Rawe...lie*: punning on Raleigh’s name, typically pronounced “Raw-lee”.
  - <sup>3</sup> *To say the soule...Corpse is dead*: Raleigh and his circle had been suspected of atheism in the 1590s. A 1594 investigation explored whether they did in fact believe in the mortality of the soul, the atheistical belief alleged by this couplet. The prosecution at Raleigh’s treason trial revived the old suspicions.
  - <sup>4</sup> *Rawlie*: punning again on the pronunciation of Raleigh’s name.
  - <sup>5</sup> *retchless*: i.e. reckless.
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