

**D10 He nowe is deade, from whome men fledd**

*Notes.* The target of this verse is not made fully explicit, but the poem's allegation that its subject died of syphilis, and its placement in Bodleian MS Tanner 299 in a section dominated by libels on Cecil, suggests the late Lord Treasurer is the intended victim.

He nowe is deade, from whome men fledd

As from the sickness

But justice lives, and to him gives

His due with quickness

Pittie his prayse, in these oure dayes

5

Shoulde be forgotten

Noe, lett that Jewe, bee still in viewe

Though he bee rotten,

Lett noe disgrace in any case

or spight forgett him

10

That whilst he stood in place so good

Noe worth could gett him

For all his freinds he had base ends

To which he usd'e them

And having donne, when they were gone

15

He soe abusde them

But yet his wench, gave him the French<sup>1</sup>

Before the parting

For which he is deade, and wrapt in leade<sup>2</sup>

To sure for starting.

20

Now lett the rest, so high he blest

To have like places

Soe nobly live, that men them give

Noe such disgraces.

**Source.** BL MS Egerton 2230, fols. 34v-35r

**Other known sources.** Bodleian MS Tanner 299, fol. 11v

D10

<sup>1</sup> *French:* common slang term for syphilis in this period.

<sup>2</sup> *wrapt in leade:* the bodies of the rich were encased in lead to contain the stench of decay during funerals that often occurred some time after death.