

### G3 The worst is tould the best is hide

*Notes. This six-line extract from “Mee thought I walked in a dreame” was so widely circulated that it deserves to be considered as a separate poem in its own right.*

The worst is tould the best is hide  
Kyngs know not all I would they did  
What if my husband once have erdd,  
Men more to blame are more preferrd.<sup>1</sup>  
He that offends not doth not lyve  
Hee erde but once, once Kynge forgive.

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**Source.** CCRO MS CR 63/2/19, fol. 3r

**Other known sources.** Bodleian MS Ashmole 781, p. 131; Bodleian MS CCC 327, fol. 23v; Bodleian MS Eng. Poet. e.14, fol. 88v; Bodleian MS Malone 16, fol. 20r; Bodleian MS Sancroft 53, p. 52; BL MS Egerton 923, fol. 11r

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<sup>1</sup> *Men more to blame...preferrd:* in transcribing the poem, William Davenport inserts here the marginal note: “Lord Howard chamb: / Lord Somerset et multis aliis” (i.e. Thomas Howard, Earl of Suffolk, Lord Chamberlain (until July 1614), and Robert Carr, Earl of Somerset, the royal favourite).

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