

## I12 What Worlds of people hath death conquered

*Notes.* This relatively rare epitaph on Raleigh is collected, in each known manuscript source, with other pieces on the same subject.

What Worlds of people hath death conquered  
Since he first aynd to take away thy head?  
And yet, for all his toyle, & Broken strength,  
he gloryes to have gotten thee at length,  
more then all them; his wonted Sythe & dart,  
because thou knewst them well, he layd apart;  
and with a Battell Axe,<sup>1</sup> on purpose edgd,  
he steales behind, and Cheates thee of thy head.  
A Coward Conquest, to redeeme thy shame,  
If thou be'st valiant, come, & meete his fame.

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**Source.** BL Add. MS 33998, fol. 96v

**Other known sources.** Raleigh, *Poems* 198; Bodleian MS Eng. Poet. c.50, fol. 31v

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<sup>1</sup> *Battell Axe*: i.e. the executioner's axe.

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