

12 Young witts are soone seduced and alwaies apt

Notes. Internal evidence suggests this verse dates from the period before Raleigh's return to England from Guiana in 1618. The poem is also one of the first libels to attack the new royal favourite, George Villiers, Marquis of Buckingham, identifying him here with the pro-Spanish, pro-Catholic forces at court.

“The poore souldiers feare turned into policie”

Young witts are soone seduced and alwaies apt

to neglect danger till they be intrapt

Our Phaeton forsakes old Phœbus race¹

Anchises will not tread Eneas² trace

Ah, Ah my hart doth pant to heare and see

The devilish plott of Spanish trechery

Now doth the Buckingham³ with recreation

not affect the nimrodes⁴ of our nation

Our Fauns persued by currs that thirst for blood

Jesuits, Friers, monkes, that damned brood.

Alas poor Watt,⁵ thy hands to short to shunn

by turning them whom thou canst not outrunn

God preserve thee and we to doe thee good

Will trie our strength, and spend our dearest blood

Doe not sacrifice to Baal⁶ nor crave a bull⁷

But scorne the terrors of a Popish gull.

Swime with the Dolphin if thou art soe bent

Our hope is almost with expecting spent

Hast to thy shelter know this thy doome

Few freinds abroade close enemies at home.

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Source. Bodleian MS Rawl. D.1048, fol. 76v

¹ *Our Phaeton...race*: Phaeton, the son of Phoebus (Apollo, the sun god), drove the chariot of the sun off its usual course. The story of Phoebus and Phaeton was often used in Jacobean political poetry to depict disorder and misgovernment. It is possible that the allusion refers here to the young favourite Buckingham's dangerously growing influence on the course of political affairs. For a more certain use of the myth to criticize Buckingham's power, see "From such a face whose Excellence".

² *Anchises...Eneas*: Aeneas, the mythical Trojan founder of Rome, was the son of Anchises. This line may allude to the incident in Book 2 of Virgil's *Aeneid* in which Anchises at first refuses to abandon Troy, before changing his mind and being carried from the ruined city by his son. The specific political allusion here is harder to grasp, but should generally be taken as a criticism of royal failure to follow the specifically anti-Spanish policies advocated in the poem and personified by Raleigh.

³ *Buckingham*: George Villiers, appointed Earl of Buckingham in 1617, and Marquis of Buckingham early in 1618.

⁴ *nimrodes*: Genesis 10.9 describes Nimrod as "a mighty hunter before the Lord". Here Nimrod serves as a figure of Protestant militarism.

⁵ *Watt*: Walter Raleigh.

⁶ *sacrifice to Baal*: perform idolatrous worship to a false God (i.e. submit to the false religion of "popery").

⁷ *bull*: papal document.