

## I20 I will not weepe for twere as great a sin

*Notes. This is accepted as the work of Henry King.*

“On the Death of Sir W. Rawley”

I will not weepe for twere as great a sin  
To shed a teare for thee, as to have binne  
An Actor in thy death: thy life and age  
Was but a various scene on fortunes stage.  
With whom thou tugg’st and strov’st even out of breath. 5  
In thy longe toyle nere master’d untill death.  
And thou despight of traynes<sup>1</sup> and cruell witt  
Thou didst at once subdue malice and it.  
I doe not then so blacke thy memorie  
To say I doe lament or pittie thee. 10  
Were I to choose a subject to bestow  
My pittie on, he should be one as low  
In spirit as desert, that durst not dye,  
But rather were content by slaverie  
To purchase life; or would I pittie those 15  
Thy most industrious and freindly foes,  
That when they thought to make thee scandalls story  
Wing’d thee with swifter flight for heaven and glory:  
They that by cuttinge of some wither’d dayes  
Which thou couldst spare, for to ecclipse thy prayse 20  
Yet gave it brighter, made thy aged fame  
Apppeare more white and fayre, then foule thy shame;  
And did promote an Execution  
Which but for them, Nature and age had donne.  
Such poore cheape thinges as these were onely borne

To live on Pittyes Almes to meane for scorne.

**Source.** BL Add. MS 22603, fols. 49v-50r

**Other known sources.** King 66; Raleigh, *Poems* 202; Bodleian MS CCC. 328, fol. 63r; Bodleian MS Eng. Poet. e.30, fol. 25r; Bodleian MS Malone 22, fol. 16r; Bodleian MS Rawl. D 954, fol. 35r; Bodleian MS Rawl. Poet. 209, fol. 9v; BL Add. MS 58215, fol. 24r; BL Add. MS 62134, fol. 12r; BL MS Harley 3910, fol. 28r; BL MS Harley 6057, fol. 35r; BL MS Lans. 777, fol. 65v; Folger MS V.a.125, fol. 7r; Folger MS V.a.319, fol. 23v; Folger MS V.a.322, p. 50; Rosenbach MS 239/22, fol. 50v

<sup>1</sup> *traynes*: trains, plots.

---