

I21 Cease bootless teares, weepe not for him whose Death

Notes. Although the allusion to Samson in the final couplet positions Raleigh in the increasingly familiar role of militant Protestant hero, this poem, like “I knew thee but by fame and thy brave deedes” makes a claim to Raleigh’s significance as a writer.

Cease bootless teares, weepe not for him whose Death

made way to Heaven; for her that sent him breath,

Long liv’d hee Captive; now at Libertie

this world of woos turnd to felicitie

What, is hee gon: No, wee enioye him still

That learned worke,¹ (the Laurell of his quill)

shall live and blaze his fame, those only dye

That have no record to posteritie.

The end, the Life, the Eveninge crownes the Day

his Night surpast his morning every way,

For Samson like,² Dyinge hee vanguisht more

then all his life time hee had done before:

5

10

Source. Morgan MS MA 1057, p. 94

Other known sources. Raleigh, *Poems* 194; PRO SP 46/64, fol. 163

I21

¹ *That learned worke:* Raleigh’s *The History of the World* (1614).

² *Samson like:* Samson died as he pulled down a building upon himself, slaughtering numerous Philistines in the process. “And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein. So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life” (Judges 16.30).