

## L2 Now let us rejoyce sing Peans all

*Notes.* This poem is one of three circulating translations of James I's Latin verse on Buckingham's appointment as Lord Admiral, "Buckinghamus (Io) maris est praefectus et idem" (James VI and I 2.176). Buckingham was originally appointed in October 1618, as a partner to the current Lord Admiral, Charles Howard, Earl of Nottingham, but assumed sole responsibility as Lord Admiral in January 1619. As the poem notes, Buckingham already held the position of Master of the Horse, to which he had been appointed in 1616. In manuscript sources the poem is occasionally transcribed in both Latin and English versions, and is occasionally (but not always) attributed to James. The other translations are "O Joyfull newse for Buckingham is nowe" and "Io to Buckingham great Admiral".

Now let us rejoyce sing Peans<sup>1</sup> all

For Buckingham is now made Admirall

And he that rules the horse<sup>2</sup> our strength by land

Our strength by sea the Navy doth command:

Soe in the heavenly Courte that selfe same God

Neptune<sup>3</sup> I meane that with his three tooth'd Rod<sup>4</sup>

Brought forth the horse<sup>5</sup> doth with the same appease

The raging fury of the boysterous seas<sup>6</sup>

Why then should any grudge that favour graces

The merritt of one person with two places

Since it is soe amongst the states of heaven

Where none dare doubt but things are carried even.

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**Source.** BL MS Egerton 2725, fol. 37v

**Other known sources.** *James VI and I* 2.176; BL MS Harley 791, fol. 49r; BL MS Harley 1221, fol. 74v; BL MS Harley 6038, fol. 18v; BL MS Harley 7316, fol. 6v; John Rylands MS Eng. 410, fol. 27v; Houghton MS Eng. 1278, item 10

- <sup>1</sup> *Peans*: paeans; songs of praise (originally hymns to Apollo, “Io paean”).
  - <sup>2</sup> *he that rules the horse*: referring to Buckingham’s office as Master of the Horse.
  - <sup>3</sup> *Neptune*: god of the sea.
  - <sup>4</sup> *three tooth’d Rod*: Neptune’s three-pointed spear or trident.
  - <sup>5</sup> *Brought forth the horse*: in myth, Neptune was the creator of the first horse.
  - <sup>6</sup> *with the same appease...boysterous seas*: Neptune calmed the sea as his horses pulled his chariot across the waves.
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