

## L9 From a Gipsie in the morneing

*Notes.* In the only known source of this poem, it is attributed to “B. Johnson”. While it is heavily based on a song in Jonson’s masque, *The Gypsies Metamorphosed* (Jonson 367-69), the poem translates Jonson’s prayer for the wellbeing of “our sovereign” into a prayer for “great Buckinghame”. The poem’s tone is inscrutable: it may be read as a sincere panegyric on Buckingham, or it may instead be taken as an ironic comment on the increasingly monarchical status assumed by the Duke (who had sponsored Jonson’s masque). The scribe’s appreciation of satire is evident throughout the manuscript in which this piece is found. Notably, a few pages after this poem there is a copy of the more popular appropriation of Jonson’s song, “*From such a face whose Excellence*”.

From a Gipsie in the morneing [m. note: “seeing”]

or a paire of Squirt<sup>1</sup> eyes turneing

From the goblyn & the Specter

From a drunckard though with Nectar

From a rampant smocke that yches

To bee puting on the breeches

Wheresoe’re they have a beinge

Blesse great Buckinghame & his seeing

5

From ymproper serious toyes [m. note: “heareing”]

From a Lawyers three part noies

From ympertinence lyke a drumme

Beate att dynner in the roome

From a tonge without a Fyle

All of phrases and noe style

From a Fiddle out of tune

As a Cuckoe is in June

From the Candlesticks of Loathburie<sup>2</sup>

or the lewd pure wines<sup>3</sup> of banbury<sup>4</sup>

Both the tymes & yeaes out weareing

10

15

Blesse great Buckingham his heareing	20
From birdlyme tarre & from all pitch	[m. note: "Feeling"]
From dyrtie doxes & theire ytch	
From the bristles of a hogge	
From the Ringworme of a dogge	
From the Court-shippe of a bryer	25
From St Anthonies old fyre <sup>5</sup>	
From a nedle pin or thorne	
From bad even or bad morne	
If hee bee druncke & a reelinge	
Blesse great Buckingham his feeleing	30
From a lousie tynkers sheete	[m. note: "Smelling"]
From stinking toes of Carriers Feete	
From a lady that doth breath	
worse above then underneath	
From the dyet & the knowledge	35
of the Studients in beares Colledge <sup>6</sup>	
From Tobacco with the type	
of the devills glister pipe <sup>7</sup>	
Or a stinke or stinkes excelling	
A Fishmonger and his dwelling	40
Blesse great Buckingham & his smelling	
From gapeing oysters & fryed fishe	[m. note: "Tasteing"]
From a Sowes baby in a dish	
From any portion of Swine	
From bad venison, & worse wine	45
From Ling <sup>8</sup> what Cooke soe ere yt boyle	
Or what else may keepe man fasteing	
Blesse great Buckingham his tasteing	

A recapitulacion

Blesse him to from all offences

in his sporte & in his sences

From a hare to crosse his waye

From a fall, or fowle day

Blesse him heaven, and grant him longe

To be the burthen of my songe

50

**Source.** St. John's MS S.32, fols. 27v-28v

L9

<sup>1</sup> *Squirt*: probable scribal error; read "squint".

<sup>2</sup> *Loathburie*: Lothbury; area of London associated with iron foundries.

<sup>3</sup> *wines*: probable scribal error; read "wives".

<sup>4</sup> *banbury*: town in Oxfordshire known for Puritanism.

<sup>5</sup> *St Anthonies old fyre*: St. Anthony's Fire is a term for erysipelas, a disease with symptoms including skin inflammation.

<sup>6</sup> *the Studients...Colledge*: i.e. the bears in the bear-garden.

<sup>7</sup> *glister pipe*: a tube for the delivery of an enema ("glister").

<sup>8</sup> *Ling*: a kind of fish.

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