

Pi26 If good mens graces in heaven with them abide

Notes. Like “What once was said by valiant Tomyris”, this libel’s conclusion alludes to the infamous ballad against Buckingham, “Come heare, Lady Muses, and help mee to sing”, which includes the refrain, “The clean contrary way”. The opening three lines depend in part on a pun on grace, as both divine grace and the appropriate form of address for a duke.

If good mens graces in heaven with them abide,

Then sure the Duke his Grace is stept aside.

All rimers now make Musick of his Grace;

’Twere noe good part to play upon the base.

What fiddlers sung, now all may freely say,

The Duke is gone, the clean contrary way.

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Source. Bodleian MS Tanner 465, fol. 104r

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