

**Pii11 Sir, I your servant, (who have sett you free**

*Notes. Holstun (182) analyzes how Felton in this poem “proclaims his tyrannicidal affiliations, maintaining nominal piety and obedience as a civil subject while asserting his status as a divinely sanctioned tyrannicide”.*

“To Charles now great, alone, King of glorious Brittain. The bold-pious-Petition, of free-bound-  
Felton”

Sir, I your servant, (who have sett you free,  
Christs freeman am, your Prisoner though I bee)  
Have one good boone<sup>1</sup> to begg of our good King:  
Not libertie, nor life, nor noe such thing:  
But that you would Gods Mercie magnifie, 5  
For that salvation hee hath wrought by mee.  
For know (great Charles) how high thou honour’d art  
To bee but King of Mee, of soe stout<sup>2</sup> heart.  
One Angell slew one night (none left alive)  
Of hundred thousands fower-score and five.<sup>3</sup> 10  
I, with one stroke, thy Kingdomes all, and thee,  
With Millions (slaves) have sett at libertie.  
When David had Goliah cast to ground,<sup>4</sup>  
How full was Israels campe with joyfull sound?  
Their cause was lesse: your Joy, let it be more, 15  
Though I a thousand deaths should die therefore.  
If I had lives to lose, or daies to end,  
I would them all in such like service spend:  
All deathes I would contemne, my lives all being,  
My God to honour, my countrie free, and King. 20  
I know what Phinees did; and Hebers wife,  
And Ehud, Israells Judge, with Eglons life:<sup>5</sup>  
And I did heare, and see, and know, too well,

What Evill was done our English Israell:

And I had warrant seal'd, and sent from heaven

25

My worke to doe: And soe the blow is given:

Heere I may suffer: Sing I shall doe there;

And now condemn'd; then quit<sup>6</sup> I shall appeare.

And must I die? yet shall I live againe:

To dust I must; but I shall rise to Raigne.

30

My death is due to him who gave mee life:

And when I die, I pray may die all strife.

A happie life and death was graunted Mee,

To live for Peace, and die for Liberty.

**Source.** BL MS Sloane 826, fols. 195v-196r

**Other known sources.** Bodleian MS Rawl. Poet. 26, fol. 33r

Pii11

<sup>1</sup> *boone*: favour.

<sup>2</sup> *stout*: brave.

<sup>3</sup> *One Angell slew...fower-score and five*: allusion to the destruction of the Assyrians: "And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the Lord went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand" (2 Kings 19.35; cf. Isaiah 37.36).

<sup>4</sup> *When David had Goliah...ground*: reference to the boy David's defeat of the Philistine giant Goliath (1 Samuel 17).

<sup>5</sup> *I know what...with Eglons life*: having been compared to David, Felton is paralleled with three further divinely sanctioned assassins of foreign or tyrannical foes: Phineas, who averted God's wrath from the Israelites by slaying the Midianitish woman and the Israelite who had brought her (Numbers 25); Jael (or Yael), wife of Heber, who assassinated Sisera, commander of the tyrant Jabin's army, by driving a nail into his skull (Judges 4.17-24); and Ehud, raised up by God to assassinate the Moabitish tyrant Eglon (Judges 3.12-30).

<sup>6</sup> *quit*: acquitted.

---