

#### Pii4 The heavens approve brave Feltons resolution

*Notes.* This poem defends Felton's actions as "noe murther but an Execution", the exercise of justice on a poisoner who had murdered "right, religion, pyetye". Like a number of anti-Buckingham poets who had to wrestle with Charles I's responsibility for his favourite's misrule, the author of this verse is pulled toward some fairly critical remarks about the King in his concluding couplet.

"In Obitum Ducis"<sup>1</sup>

The heavens approve brave Feltons resolution  
that breath'd noe murther but an Execution  
in stabbinge him that stab'd a world of wightes<sup>2</sup>  
with poyson not with poyniards;<sup>3</sup> which were lightes  
to th'Cloudy state of our eclipsed nation  
late tortured by an upstart generation  
of snakeish vypers with their spawnie broode  
which had no sence of Ill noe touch of good.  
Thus hath the will of justice murdered thee  
that murthred right, religion, pyetye:  
The lawes in force agayne for hees in hell  
that broake those spyders webs composde soe well  
Oh that our prince those lawes would foster more  
then should we flourish as we did before.

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**Source.** Bodleian MS Eng. Poet. c.50, fol. 13v

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<sup>1</sup> *In Obitum Ducis*: "On the Death of the Duke".

<sup>2</sup> *wightes*: people.

<sup>3</sup> *stab'd a world...with poyniards*: allusion to the charge, first levelled in George Eglisham's 1626

*Forerunner of Revenge*, that Buckingham had poisoned King James I and several other prominent courtiers. A “poniard” is a type of dagger.

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