

### Piii21 Reader when these dumbe stones have told

*Notes. This is the second of two elegies on Buckingham written by Thomas Carew and first printed in his 1640 Poems. (See also “When in the brazen leaves of fame”.) G. Hammond (51-53) provides interesting readings of both poems, while McRae (Literature, 184-85) considers this poem in the context of royalist poetry of the 1630s.*

Reader when these dumbe stones have told

in borrowed speech what guest they hold

thou shalt confesse, the vaine pursuite

of humane glory yeelds noe fruite

but an untimely grave, if fate

could constant happines create

her ministers fortune and worth

had here that miracle brought forth;

They fixt this Childe of honour, where

noe roome was left for hope, or feare

of more or lesse, so high so great

his growth was, yet so safe his seate;

safe in his Loyall heart and ends,

safe in the Circle of his friends,

safe in his native valiant spirit,

by favour safe, and safe by meritt;

safe by the stampe of nature which

did strength with shape and grace enrich;

safe in the cheerefull courtesies

of flowing gesture, speech and eyes,

safe in his bounties which were more

proportion'd to his minde then store;

Yea though for vertue he becomes

involved himselfe in borrowed summes

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safe in his cares, he leaves betray'd  
noe friend engaged, noe debt unpay'd;  
But though the starres conspire to shower  
upon one head the united power  
of all their graces, if their dyre

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Aspects must other breasts inspire  
with vicious thoughts, A murd'ers knife  
may cutt, as here, their darlings life;  
who can be happy then if nature must  
to make one happy man make all men Just?

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**Source.** BL MS Harley 6917, fol. 21r-v

**Other known sources.** Carew, *Poems* 98; Carew, *Poems of Thomas Carew* 58; Bodleian MS Don. b.9, fol. 33v; Rosenbach MS 1083/17, fol. 65v