

Q6 Blame not thy wife, for what thy selfe hath wrought

Notes. This is one of two answer-poems, written in the voice of Castlehaven's wife, responding to the epitaph "I neade noe Trophies, to adorne my hearse". Herrup argues that both answer-poems "reversed the epitaph's moral trajectory", and "reinstated images created during the trial by the King's officials" (122).

"The Ladyes answer"

Blame not thy wife, for what thy selfe hath wrought

Thou causd thy hornes in forcing me to nought¹

For hadst thou beene but human, not A Beast

Thy Armes had bene Supporters to thy Creast

Nor needst you yet have had A Tombe, or Hearse

Besmear'd with thy sensuall life in verse

Who then would take such A Lord unto her bedd

That to gaine hornes himsefe, would loose his head

5

Source. BL Add. MS 22591, fol. 89r

Other known sources.² St. John's MS S.32, fol. 32v; WCRO MS 413, fol. 401

Q6

¹ *Thou causd...nought:* this line restates the accusation that Castlehaven had cuckolded himself by encouraging his servant Broadway to rape the Countess.

² Herrup (160) notes that copies of either this or "Its true you need noe trophees to your hearse" accompany copies of the Earl's "epitaph" in BL MS Lans. 491, fol. 229v; Yale Osborn MS b.126; and TCD MS 731.
