

**D13 You say that Malefacit was dead:**

*Notes.* Although Cecil is not explicitly identified in the poem, the sole extant copy is transcribed as part of a collection of anti-Cecil verse. The last line's reference to "stinking evill" also matches the much-repeated and politically resonant allegation that Cecil's final illness produced a foul bodily stench.

You say that Malefacit<sup>1</sup> was dead:

Some wicked Spirit brake the thread

I sweare thou wert a witty divell,

To flie from such a stinking evill.

**Source.** Bodleian MS Tanner 299, fol. 12r

D13

<sup>1</sup> *Malefacit*: literally The Evil Doer.

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