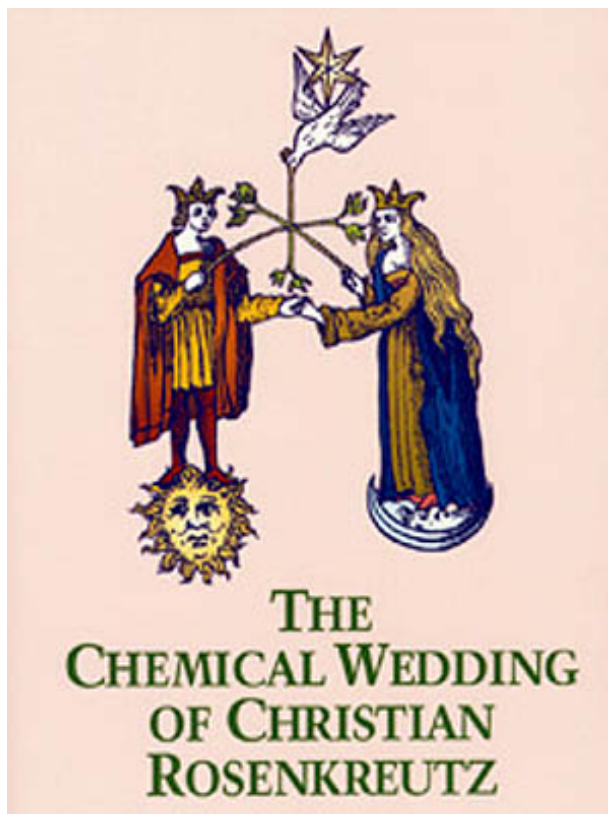
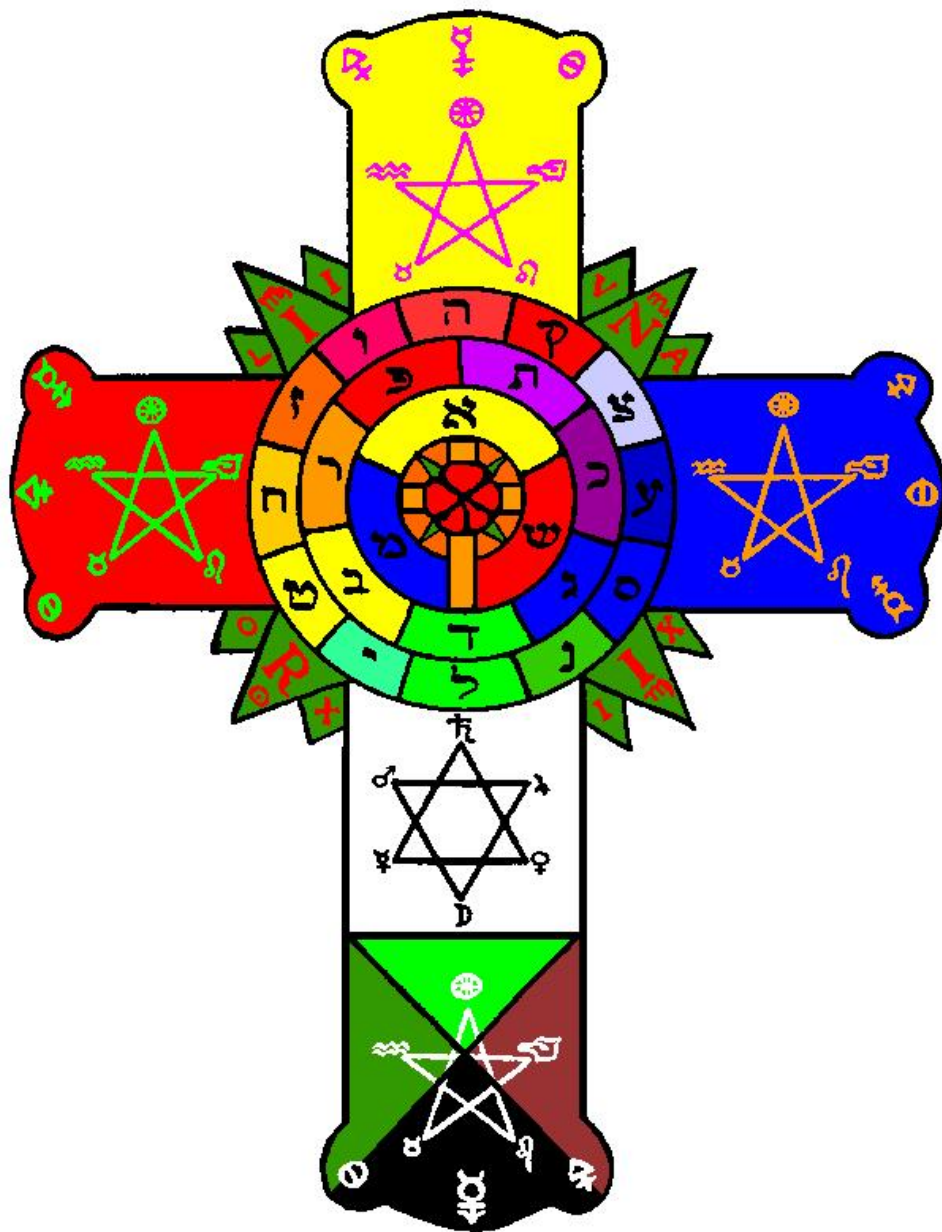


## The Chemical Wedding of Christian Rosenkreutz





Christian Rosenkruetz




THE ROSE CROSS LAMEN

*The Chymical Wedding was first published in German at Strasbourg in the year 1616. However, it supposed to have existed in manuscript as early as 1601-2. It was translated into English for the first time in 1690 by E. Foxcroft. This translation became the source for many of the modern attempts to improve the original. The translation presented here is that of E. Foxcroft. Footnotes: Andre Rotkiewicz, Latin translations: Carl Williams.*

## The Chymical Wedding of Christian Rosenkreutz

### The First Day

On an Evening before *Easter-Day*, I sate at a Table, and having (as my Custom was) in my humble Prayer sufficiently conversed with my Creator, and considered many great Mysteries (whereof the Father of Lights his Majesty had shewn me not a few) and being now ready to prepare in my Heart, together with my dear *Paschal Lamb*, a small unleavened, undefiled Cake; all on a sudden ariseth so horrible a Tempest, that I imagined no other but that through its mighty force, the Hill whereon my little House was founded, would flye in pieces. But in as much as this, and the like from the Devil (who had done me many a spight) was no new thing to me; I took courage, and persisted in my Meditation, till some body after an unusual manner, touched me on the Back; whereupon I was so hugely terrified, that I durst hardly look about me; yet I shewed my self as cheerful as (in the like Occurrences) humane frailty would permit; Now the same thing still twiching me several times by the Coat, I looked back, and behold it was a fair and glorious *Lady*, whose Garments were all *Skye-colour*, and curiously (like Heaven) bespangled with golden *Stars*, in her right Hand she bare a *Trumpet* of beaten Gold, whereon a Name was ingraven (which I could well read in) but am as yet forbidden to reveal it. In her left Hand she had a great bundle of *Letters of all Languages*, which she (as I afterwards understood) was to carry into all *Countries*. She had also large and beautiful *Wings*, full of *Eyes* throughout, wherewith she could mount aloft, and flye swifter than any *Eagle*. I might perhaps been able to take further notice of her, but because she staid so small time with me, and terror and amazement still possessed me, I was fain to be content. For as soon as I turned about, she turned her *Letters* over and over, and at length drew out a small one, which with great *Reverence* she laid down upon the Table, and without giving one word, departed from me. But in her mounting upward, she gave so mighty a *blast* on her gallant Trumpet, that the *whole Hill* echoed thereof, and for a full quarter of an hour after, I could hardly hear my own words.

In so unlooked for an adventure I was at a loss, how either to advise, or assist my poor self, and therefore fell upon my Knees, and *besought* my Creator to permit nothing contrary to my *Eternal Happiness* to befall me; whereupon with fear and trembling, I went to the Letter, which was now so heavy, as had it been meet Gold, it could hardly have been so weighty. Now as I was diligently viewing it, I found a little Seal, whereupon a curious Cross with this Inscription, In Hoc Signo  Vinces [1], was ingraven.

As soon as I espied this sign I was the more comforted, as not being ignorant that such a seal was little acceptable, and much less useful to the *Devil*. Whereupon I tenderly opened the Letter, and within it, in an *Azure* Field, in *Golden* Letters, found the following Verses written:--



"This day, this day, this, this  
The Royal Wedding is.  
Art thou thereto by birth inclined,  
And unto joy of God designed?  
Then mayest thou to the mountain tend,  
Whereon three stately Temples stand,  
And there see all from end to end.  
Keep watch, and ward,  
Thy self regard;  
Unless with diligence thou bathe,  
The Wedding can't thee harmless save;  
He will damage that here delays;  
Let him beware too light that weighs."

Underneath stood Sponsus and Sponsa. [2]

As soon as I had read this Letter, I was presently like to have fainted away, all my Hair stood on end, and a cold Sweat trickled down my whole Body. For although I well perceived that this was the appointed *Wedding*, whereof seven Years before I was acquainted in a *bodily* Vision, and which now so long time I had with great earnestness attended, and which lastly, by the account and calculation of the *Planets*, I had most diligently observed, I found so to be, yet could I never fore-see that it must happen under so grievous and perilous conditions. For whereas I before imagined that to be a well-come, and acceptable Guest, I needed only be ready to appear at the Wedding; I was now directed to Divine *Providence*, of which until this time I was never certain. I also found by my self, the more I *examined* my self, that in my Head there was nothing but gross mis-understanding, and blindness in mysterious things, so that I was not able to comprehend even those things which lay *under* my Feet, and which I daily conversed with, much less that I should be born to the searching out, and understanding of the Secrets of Nature; since in my opinion Nature might every where find a more *vertuous* Disciple, to whom to intrust her precious, though temporary, and changeable Treasures. I found also that my bodily behaviour, and outward good Conversation, and *Brotherly Love* toward my Neighbour, was not duly purged and cleansed; moreover the tickling of the Flesh manifested it self, whose affection was bent only to Pomp and Bravery, and Worldly Pride, and not to the good of mankind: And I was always contriving how by this art I might in a short time abundantly increase my profit and advantage, rear up stately Palaces, make my self an everlasting Name in the World, and other like *Carnal designs*. But the obscure Words concerning the

*Three Temples* did particularly afflict me, which I was not able to make out by any after-Speculation, and perhaps should not yet, had they not been wonderfully revealed to me. Thus sticking betwixt Hope and Fear, examining my self again and again, and finding only my own Frailty and *Impotency*, not being in any wise able to succour my self, and exceedingly amazed at the fore-mentioned threatning; at length I betook my self to my usual and most secure course; after I had finished my earnest and most fervent *Prayer*, I laid me down in my Bed, that so perchance my good *Angel* by the Divine permission might appear, and (as it had sometimes *formerly happened*) instruct me in this doubtful affair, which to the praise of God, my own good, and my Neighbours faithful and hearty warning and amendment did now likewise fall out. For I was yet scarce fallen asleep, when me-thought, I, together with a *numberless* multitude of men lay fettered with great Chains in a *dark Dungeon*, wherein without the least glimps of Light, we swarmed like Bees one over another, and thus rendred each others affliction more grievous. But although neither I, nor any of the rest could see one jot; yet I continually heard one heaving himself *above* the other, when his Chains or Fetters were become ever so little lighter, though none of us had much reason to shove up the other, since we were all *Captive Wretches*. Now as I with the rest had continued a good while in this affliction, and each was still reproaching the other with his blindness and captivity, at length we heard many *Trumpets* sounding together, and Kettle Drums beating so artificially thereto, that it even revived and rejoiced us in our Calamity. During this Noise the *cover* of the Dungeon was from above lifted up, and a little *light* let down unto us. Then first might truly have been discerned the bustle we kept, for all went pesle-mesle, and he who perchance had too much *heaved up* himself, was forced down again under the others Feet. In brief, each one strove to be *uppermost*, neither did I my self linger, but with my weighty Fetters slipt up from under the rest, and then heaved my self upon a *Stone*, which I laid hold of; howbeit, I was several times caught at by others, from whom yet as well as I might, with Hands and Feet I still guarded my self. For we imagined no other but that we should all be set at *Liberty*, which yet fell out quite otherwise. For after the Nobles who looked upon us from above through the Hole, had a while recreated themselves with this our strugling and lamenting, a certain *hoary-headed Ancient Man* called to us to be quiet, and having scarce obtained it, began (as I still remember) thus to say on.

"If wretched Mankind would forbear  
Themselves so to uphold,  
Then sure on them much good confer,  
My righteous Mother Could:  
But since the same will not insue,  
They must in Care and Sorrow rue,  
And still in Prison lie.  
Howbeit, my dear Mother will  
Their Follies ouer-see,  
Her choicest Goods permitting still

Too much in Light to be.  
Though very rarely it may seem  
That they may still keep some esteem,  
Which else would pass for Forgery.  
Wherefore in honour of the Feast  
We this day solemnizes  
That so her Grace may be increast,  
A good deed she'd devise.  
For now a Cord shall be let down,  
And whosoever can hang thereon,  
Shall freely be releast."

He had scarce done speaking, when an Antient *Matron* commanded her Servants to let down the Cord *seven times* into the Dungeon, and draw up whosoever could hang upon it. Good God! that I could sufficiently describe the hurry and disquiet that then arose amongst us; For every one strove to get to the Cord, and yet only hindred each other. But after seven Minutes a sign was given by a little Bell, whereupon at the *first Pull* the Servants drew up *four*. At that time I could not come near the Cord by much, having (as is before-mentioned) to my huge misfortune, betaken my self to a *Stone* at the Wall of the *Dungeon*, and thereby was disabled to get to the Cord which descended in the middle. The Cord was let down the second time, but divers, because their Chains were too *heavy*, and their Hands too *tender*, could not keep their hold on the Cord, but with themselves beat down *many another*, who else perhaps might have held fast enough; Nay, many an one was forcably *pulled off* by another, who yet could not himself get at it; so mutually *envious* were we even in this our great misery. But they of all others most moved my Compassion, whose weight was so heavy, that they tore their very hands from their Bodies, and yet could not get up. Thus it came to pass that at these five times very few were drawn up. For as soon as the sign was given, the Servants were so nimble at the draughts that the most part tumbled one upon another, and the Cord, this time especially, was drawn up very *empty*. Whereupon the greatest part, and even I my self, despaired of Redemption, and called upon *God* that he would have pity on us, and (if possible) deliver us out of this obscurity, who also then heard some of us: For when the Cord came down the sixth time, some of them hung themselves fast upon it; and Whilst in the drawing up, the Cord swung from one side to the other, it (perhaps by the will of God) came to me, which I suddainly catching, uppermost above all the rest, and so at length beyond hope came out; whereat I exceedingly rejoiced, so that I perceived not the *Wound*, which in the drawing up I received on my *Head* by a sharp Stone, till I with the rest who were released (as was always before done) was fain to help at the seventh and last pull, at which time through straining, the *Blood* ran down all over my Cloathes, which I nevertheless for joy regarded not Now when the last draught whereon the most of all hung, was finished; The Matron caused the Cord to be laid away, and willed her aged Son (at which I much wondred) to

bethought himself spoke, thus unto them.

"Ye Children dear  
All present here,  
What is but now compleat and done,  
Was long before resolved on:  
What er'r my Mother of great Grace  
To each on both sides here hath shown,  
May never Discontent misplace;  
The joyful time is drawing on,  
When every one shall equal be,  
None wealthy, none in penury.  
Who er'e receiveth great Commands  
Hath work enough to fill his Hands.  
Who er'e with much hath trusted been,  
'Tis well if he may save his skin.  
Wherefore your lamentations cease,  
What is't to waite for some few days?"

As soon as he had finished these Words, the Cover was again put to and locked down, and the Trumpets and Kettle-Drums began afresh, yet could not the noise thereof be so loud, but that the bitter Lamentation of the Prisoners which arose in the Dungeon was heard above all, which soon also caused my Eyes to *run-over*. Presently after the Ancient Matron, together with her Son sate down upon seats before prepared, and commanded the *Redeemed* should be told. Now as soon as she understood the number, and had written it down in a Gold-yellow Tablet, she demanded every ones Name, which were also written down by a little page; having viewed us all, one after another, she sighed, and spoke to her Son, so as I could well hear her, "Ah how hartily am I grieved for the poor Men in the Dungeon! I would to God I durst release them all," whereunto her Son replied; "It is Mother thus ordained of God, against whom we may not contend. In case we all of us were Lords, and possessed all the Goods upon Earth, and were seated at Table, who would there then be to be bring up the Service?" whereupon his Mother held her peace, but soon after she said; "Well, however, let these be freed from their Fetters; which was likewise presently done, and I, except a few was the last; yet could I not refrain, but (though I still looked upon the rest, bowed my self before the Antient Matron, and thanked God that through her, had graciously and fatherly vouch-safed to bring me out of such Darkness into the Light: After me the rest did likewise, to the satisfaction of the Matron. Lastly, to every one was given a piece of Gold for a Remembrance, and to spend by the way, on the one side whereof was stamped the rising Sun, on the other (as I remember) these three letters, *D.L.S.* [3] And therewith every one had License to depart, and was sent to his own Business with this annexed Intimation, *That We to the Glory of God should benefit our Neighbours*, and reserve in silence what we had been intrusted with, which we



Wounds which the Fetters had caused me, I could not well go forward, but halted on both Feet, which the Matron presently espying, laughing at it, and calling me again to her said thus to me, My Son, let not this defect afflict thee, but call to mind thy *Infirmities*, and therewith thank God who hath permitted thee even in this World, and in the state of thy imperfection to come into so *high* a light, and keep these wounds for my sake. Whereupon the Trumpets began again to sound, which so affrighted me that I *awoke*, and then first perceived that it was onely a *Dream*, which was so strongly impressed upon my imagination, that I was still perpetually troubled about it, and me thought I was yet sensible of the wounds on my feet. Howbeit, by all these things I well understood that God had vouchsafed that I should be present at this *mysterious and bidden Wedding*; wherefore with *Childlike* confidence I returned thanks to his *Divine* Majesty, & besought him, that he would further preserve me in his fear, that he would daily fill my Heart with Wisdom and Understanding, and at length graciously conduct me to the desired end. Hereupon I prepared my self for the *way*, put on my *white* linnen Coat, girded my Loyns, with a *Blood-red* Ribbon bound-cross-ways over my Shoulder: In my Hat I stuck *four red* Roses, that I might the sooner by this Token be taken notice of amongst the throng. For food I took *Bread*, Salt, and Water, which by the counsel of an understanding person I had at certain times used, not without profit, in the like occurrences. But before I parted from my *Cottage*, I first in this my dress, and wedding Garment, fell down upon my *Knees*, and besought *God*, that in case such a thing were, he would vouchsafe me a good issue. And thereupon in the presence of God I made a vow, that if any thing through his grace should be revealed unto me, I would employ it neither to my *own* honour nor authority in the World, but to the spreading of his *Name*, and the service of my *Neighbour*. And with this vow, and good hope I departed out of my Cell with joy.

### The Second Day

I was hardly got out of my Cell into a *Forrest*, when me thought that the whole *Heaven* and all the Elements had already trimmed themselves against this *Wedding*. For even the Birds in my opinion chanted more pleasantly then before, and the young Fawns skipped so merrily, that they rejoiced my *old Heart*, and moved me to sing: wherefore with a loud Voice I thus began:

"With mirth thou pretty Bird rejoice,  
Thy Maker's praise in-hanced.  
Lift up thy shrill and pleasant Voice,  
Thy God is high advanced.  
Thy food before he did provide,  
And gives it in a fitting side,  
Therewith be thou sufficed.  
Why should'st thou now unpleasant be,

Thy wrath against God venting!  
That he a little Bird made thee,  
Thy silly head tormenting?  
Because he made thee not a Man,  
O peace, he hath well thought thereon.  
Therewith be thou sufficed.  
What is't I'd have poor earthly worm,  
By God (as if He twere) inditing,  
That I should thus against Heaven storm  
To force great arts by fighting?  
God will out-braved be by none,  
Who's good for naught, may hence be  
gone,  
O man be herewith sufficed.  
That he no Caesar hath thee fram'd,  
To pine therefore is needless  
His Name perhaps thou hadst defamed  
Whereof he was not heedless.  
Most clear and bright Gods eyes do shine,  
He pierces to thy heart within,  
And cannot be deceived."

This sang I now from the bottom of my Heart throughout the whole Forrest, so that it resounded from all parts, and the Hills repeated my last words, until at length I espyed a curious green Heath, whither I betook my self out of the *Forrest*. Upon this Heath stood three lovely tall *Cedars*, which by reason of their *breadth* afforded an excellent and desired *shade*, whereat I greatly rejoyced; for although I had not hitherto gone far, yet my earnest longing made me very faint, whereupon I hasted to the Trees to rest a little under them, but as soon as I came somewhat nigher, I espyed a *Tablet* fastned to one of them, on which (as afterwards I read) in curious Letters the following words were written:

"Hospes salve: si quid tibi forsitan de nuptiis Regis auditum, Verba haec perpende. Quatuor viarum optionem per nos tibi Sponsus offert, per quas omnes, modo non in devias delabaris, ad Regiam ejus aulam pervenire possis. Prima brevis est, sed periculosa, et quae te in varios scopulous deducet ex quibus vix te expedire licebit. Altera longior, quae circumducet te, non abducet, plana est et facilis, si te Magnetis auxilio neque ad dextrum, neque finistrum abduci patiaris. Tertia vere Regia est, quae per varias Regis nostri delicias et spectacula viam tibi reddet jucundam. Sed quod vix millesimo hactenus obtigit. Per quartam nemini hominum licebit ad Regiam pervenire, utpote quae consumens et non nisi corporibus incorruptibilibus conveniens est. Elige nunc ex tribus quam velis, et in ea constans permane. Scito autem quamcumque ingressus fueris, ab immutabili fato tibi ita destinatum, nec nisi cum maximo vitae periculo regredi fas esse. Haec sunt quae te scivisse voluimus; sed heus

cave ignores, quanto cum periculo te huic viae commiseris, nam si te vel minimi delicit contra Regis nostri leges nosti obnoxium, quaeso dum adhuc licet per eandem viam qua accessisti domum te confer quam citissime." [4]

As soon as I had read this Writing, all my joy was near vanished again, and I who before Sang merrily, began now inwardly to Lament. For although I saw all the *three* ways before me, and understood that hence forward it was vouchsafed me, to make choice of one of them; yet it troubled me that in case I went the stony and *rocky* way, I might get a miserable and deadly fall, or taking the *long* one, I might wander *out* of it through *by-ways*, or be otherway's detained in the great Journey. Neither durst I hope, that I amongst thousands should be the very He, who should choose the *Royal* way. I saw likewise the *Fourth* before me, but it was so invironed with *Fire* and *Exhalations*, that I durst not (by *much*) draw near it, and therefore again and again considered, whether I should return back, or take any of the ways before me. I well weighted my own *unworthiness*, but the Dream still comforted me, that I was delivered out of the Tower, and yet I durst not confidently rely upon a Dream; whereupon I was so variously perplexed, that for very great weariness, hunger and thirst seized me, whereupon I presently drew out my *Bread*, cut a slice of it, which a snow-white *Dove* of whom I was not aware, sitting upon the Tree, espyed and therewith (perhaps according to her wonted manner) came down, and betook her self very familiarly to me, to whom I willingly imparted my food, which she received, and so with her prettiness did again a little refresh me. But as soon as her enemy a most *black Raven* perceived it, he streight darted himself down upon the Dove, and taking no notice of me, would needs force away the Dove's meat, who could no otherwise guard her self but by *flight*; whereupon they both *together* flew toward the *South*, at which I was so hugely incensed and grieved, that without thinking what I did, I made hast after the filthy Raven, and so against my will ran into *one* of the forementioned ways a whole Fields length; and thus the Raven being chased *away*, and the Dove delivered, I then first observed what I had inconsiderately done, and that I was already entred into a way, from which under peril of great punishment I durst not retire. And though I had still herewith in some measure to comfort my self, yet that which was worst of all to me, was, that I had *left my Bag and Bread* at the *Tree*, and could never retrieve them: For as soon as I turned my self about, a *contrary* wind was so strong against me, that it was ready to fell me. But if I went forward on my way, I perceived no hinderance at all: From whence I could easily conclude, that it would cost me my life, in case I should set my self against the *Wind*, wherefore I patiently took up my cross, got up on my feet, and resolved, since so it must be, I would use my utmost endeavour to get to my Journeys end before night. Now although many apparent *byways* shewed themselves, yet I still proceeded with my *Compass*, and would not budge one step from the Meridian Line; howbeit the way was oftentimes so *rugged* and unpassable, that I was in no little doubt of it. On this way I constantly thought upon the *Dove* and *Raven*, and yet could not search out the meaning, until at length upon a high Hill afar off I espyed a stately Portal, to which not regarding how far it was distant both from me and the way I was in, I hasted, because the Sun had already *hid* himself under the

*Hills*, and I (by far) could elsewhere espy no abiding place, and this verily I ascribe only to God, who might well have permitted me to go forward in this way, and withheld my Eyes that so I might have gazed beside this Gate. To which (as was said) I now made mighty haste, and reached it by so much *Daylight*, as to take a very competent view of it. Now it was an exceeding *Royal* beautiful *Portal*, whereon were carved a multitude of most *noble Figures* and *Devices*, every one of which (as I afterwards learned) had its peculiar Signification; Above was fixed a pretty large *Tablet*, with these Words, *Procul hinc, procul ite profani Profaners* [5], and other things more, that I was earnestly forbidden to relate. Now as soon as I was come under the *Portal*, there streight stepped forth one in a *Sky-coloured* habit, whom I in friendly manner saluted, which though he thankfully returned, yet he instantly demanded of me my *Letter of Invitation*. O how glad was I that I had then brought it with me! For how easily might I have forgotten it (as it also chanced to others) as he himself told me! I quickly presented it, wherewith he was not only Satisfied, but (at which I much wondred) shewed me abundance of respect, saying, Come in my *Brother*, an acceptable Guest you are to me; and withal intreated me not to with-hold my Name from him. Now having replied, that I was a *Brother of the Red-Rosie Cross*, he both wondred, and seemed to rejoyce at it, and then proceeded thus:-- "My Brother have you nothing about you wherewith to purchase a token?" I answered my ability was small, but if he saw any thing about me he had a mind to, it was at his service. Now he having requested of me my *Bottle of Water*, and I granted it, he gives me a *golden* Token whereon stood no more but these two Letters, S. C., [6] intreating me that when it stood me in good stead, I would remember him. After which I asked him, how many were got in before me, which he also told me, and lastly out of meer Friendship gave me a *sealed Letter* to the second *Porter*. Now having lingered some time with him, the *Night* grew on: Whereupon a great *Beacon* upon the *Gates* was immediately fired, that so if any were still upon the way, he might make haste thither. But the way where it finished at the *Castle*, was on both sides inclosed with *Walls*, and planted with all sorts of excellent *Fruit-Trees*, and still on every third *Tree* on each side *Lanthorns* were hung up, wherein all the *Candles* were already lighted with a glorious *Torch* by a *beautiful Virgin*, habited in *Skye-colour*, which was so noble and Majestick a Spectacle, that I yet delayed somewhat *longer* than was requisite. But at length after sufficient *Information*, and an advantageous *Instruction*, I friendly departed from the first *Porter*. On the way, though I would gladly have known what was written in my *Letter*, yet since I had no reason to mistrust the *Porter*, I forbare my purpose, and so went on the way, until I came likewise to the *second Gate*, which although it was very like the other, yet was it adorned with *Images* & *mystick* significations. In the affixed *Tablet* stood *Date et dabitur vobis* [7]. Under this *Gate* lay a terrible grim *Lion* chain'd, who as soon as he espi'd me arose & made at me with great roaring; whereupon the second *Porter* who lay upon a *Stone* of *Marble*, awaked, and wished me not to be troubled or affrighted, and then drove back the *Lion*, and having received the *Letter* which I with trembling reached him, he read it, and with very great respect spake thus to me; Now well-come in Gods Name unto me the man whom of long time I would gladly have seen. Mean while he

also drew out a *token*, and asked me whether I could purchase it? But I having nothing else left but my *Salt*, presented it to him, which he thankfully accepted. Upon this token again stood only two Letters, namely, S. M. [8] Being now just about to enter discourse with him, it began to ring in the Castle, whereupon the Porter counselled me to run apace, or else all the paines and labour I had hitherto taken would serve to no purpose, for the *Lights* above began already to be *extinguished*; whereupon I dispatched with such haste that I heeded not the Porter, in such anguish was I, and truly it was but necessary, for I could not run so fast but that the Virgin, after whom all the *lights* were *put* out, was at my heels, and I should never have found the way, had not she with her Torch afforded me some light; I was more-over constrained to enter the very next to her, and the Gate was so suddenly clap't to, that a part of my *coate* was locked out, which I verily was forced to leave behind me; for neither I, nor they who stood ready without and called at the Gate could prevail with the Porter to *open* it again, but he delivered the Keys to the Virgin, who took them with her into the Court. Mean time I again surveyed the Gate, which now appeared so *rich*, as the whole World could not equal it; just by the Door were two Columns, on one of them stood a pleasant Figure with this Inscription, *Congrator* [9]. The other having its Countenance veiled was sad, and beneath was written, *Condoleo* [10]. In brief, the Inscriptions and Figures thereon, were so dark and mysterious, that the most dextrous man upon Earth could not have expounded them. But all these (if God permit) I shall e'er long publish and explain. Under this Gate I was again to give my Name, which was this last time written down in a little Vellum-Book, and immediately with the rest dispatched to the Lord *Bridegroom*. Here it was where I first received the *true* Guest token, which was somewhat less than the former, but yet much heavier, upon this stood these Letters S. P. N. [11] Besides this, a new pair of Shoes were given me, for the Floor of the Castle was laid with pure shining Marble; my *old Shoes* I was to give away to one of the Poor (whom I would) who sate in throngs, howbeit in very good order, under the Gate. I then bestowed them on an old man; after which two Pages with as many Torches, conducted me into a little Room; there they willed me to sit down on a Form, which I did, but they sticking their Torches in two holes, made in the Pavement, departed and left me thus sitting alone. Soon after I heard a noise, but saw nothing, and it proved to be certain men who stumbled in upon me; but since I could see nothing, I was fain to suffer, and attend what they would do with me; but presently perceiving them to be *Barbers*, I intreated them not to justle me so, for I was content to do whatever they desired, whereupon they quickly let me go, and so one of them (whom I could not yet see) fine and gently cut away the *Hair* round about from the *Crown of my* Head, but on my Forehead, Ears and Eyes he permitted my *Ice-grey* Locks to hang. In his first incounter (I must confess) I was ready to despair, for inasmuch as some of them shoved me so forceably, and I could yet see nothing, I could think no other but that God for my *Curiosity* had suffered me to miscarry. Now these invisible Barbers carefully gathered up the *Hair* which was cut off, and carried it away with them. After which the *two* Pages entred again, and heartily laughed at me for being so terrified. But they had scarce spoken a few Words with me, when again a little Bell began to ring;

which (as the Pages informed me) was to give notice for assembling; whereupon they willed me to rise, and through many Walks, Doors and winding Stairs lighted me into a spacious *Hall*. In this Room was a great multitude of guests, Emperors, Kings, Princes, and Lords, Noble and Ignoble, Rich, and Poor, and all sorts of People, at which I hugely marvelled, and thought to my self, ah, how gross a fool hast thou been to ingage upon this Journey with so much bitterness and toil, when (behold) here are even those fellows whom thou well know'st, and yet hadst never any reason to *esteem*. They are now all *here*, and thou with all thy Prayers and Supplications art hardly got in at last. This and more the Devil at that time injected, whom I notwithstanding (as well as I could) directed to the issue. Mean time one or other of my acquaintance here and there spake to me: Oh Brother *Rosencreutz!* art thou here too; yea, (my Brethren) replied I, the *Grace* of God hath helped me in also; at which they raised a mighty laughter, looking upon it as ridiculous that there should be need of *God* in so slight an occasion. Now having demanded each of them concerning his way, and found that most were forced to clamber over the *Rocks*, certain Trumpets (none of which we yet saw) began to sound to the Table, whereupon they all seated themselves, every one as he judged himself above the rest; so that for me and some other *sorry* Fellows there was hardly a *little Nook* left at the lower-most Table. Presently the two Pages entred, and one of them said Grace in so handsom and excellent a manner, as rejoyced the very Heart in my Body. Howbeit, certain great Sr *John's* made but little reckoning of them, but fleired and winked one at another, biting their Lips within their Hats, and using more the like unseemly Gestures. After this Meat was brought in, and albeit none could *be seen*, yet every thing was so orderly managed, that it seemed to me as if every Guest had had his proper Attendant. Now my Artists having somewhat recruited themselves, and the Wine having a little removed shame from their Hearts, they presently began to vaunt and brag of their *Abilities*: One would prove this, another that, and commonly the most sorry *Idiots* made the loudest noise. Ah, when I call to mind what *preternatural* and impossible enterprises I then heard, I am still ready to vomit at it. In fine, they never kept in their order, but when ever one Rascal here, another there, could insinuate himself in between the *Nobles*; Then pretended they the finishing of such *Adventures* as neither *Sampson*, nor yet *Hercules* with all their strength could ever have atchieved: This would discharge *Atlas* of his burden; The other would again draw forth the three-headed *Cerberus* out of Hell. In brief, every man had his own Prate, and yet the great *Lords* were so simple that they believed their pretenses, and the Rogues so audacious, that although one or other of them was here and there rapped over the Fingers with a Knife, yet they flinched not at it, but when any one perchance had filched a Gold-Chain, then would all hazard for the like. I saw one who heard the rustling of the Heavens: The second could see *Plato's* Ideas: A third could number *Democritus's* Atoms. There were also not a few pretenders to the *perpetual motion*. Many an one (in my opinion) had good *understanding*, but assumed too to much to himself, to his own destruction. Lastly, there was one also who would needs out of hand perswade us that he saw the *Servitors* who attended, and would still have pursued his Contention, had not one of those invisible waiters reached him so handsom a

cuff upon his lying Muzzle, that not only he, but many more who were by him, became as mute as Mice. But it best of all pleased me, that all those, of whom I had any *esteem*, were very quiet in their business, and made no loud cry of it, but acknowledged themselves to be *mis-understanding* men, to whom the mysteries of Nature were too high, and they themselves much too small. In this Tumult I had almost cursed the day wherein I came hither; For I could not but with anguish behold that those lewd vain People were above at the Board, but I in so *sorry* a place could not, however rest in quiet, one of these Rascals scornfully reproaching me for a motly Fool. Now I thought not that there was yet one Gate *behind*, through which we must pass, but imagined I was during the whole Wedding, to continue in this scorn, contempt and indignity, which yet I had at no time deserved, either of the Lord Bridegroom or the Bride; And therefore (in my opinion) he should have done well to have sought out some other Fool to his Wedding than me. Behold, to such *impatience* doth the Iniquity of this World reduce simple hearts. But this really was one part of my *Lameness*, whereof (as is before mentioned) I dreamed. And truly this clamour the longer it lasted, the more it increased. For there were already those who boasted of false and imaginary *Visions*, and would perswade us of palpably lying Dreams. Now there sate by me a very fine *quiet Man*, who oftentimes discoursed of excellent matters, at length he said, *Behold my Brother, if any one should now come who were willing to instruct these blockish People in the right way, would he be heard? No, verily, replied I. The world, said he, is now resolved (whatever comes on it) to be cheated, and cannot abide to give Ear to those who intend its good. Seest thou also that same Cocks-Comb, with what whimsical Figures and foolish conceits he allures others to him. There one makes Mouthes at the people with the unheard-of Mysterious Words. Yet believe me in this, the time is now coming when those shameful Lizards shall be plucked off, and all the World shall know what Vagabond Imposters were concealed behind them. Then perhaps that will be valued which at present is not esteemed.* Whilst he was thus speaking, and the clamour the longer it lasted, the worse it was, all on a suddain there began in the Hall such excellent and stately *Musick*, as all the days of my Life I never heard the like; whereupon every one held his peace, and attended what would become of it: Now there were in this Musick all sorts of *stringed* Instruments imaginable, which sounded together in such harmony, that I forgot my self, and sate so unmovable, that those who sate by me were amazed at me, and this lasted near half an hour, wherein none of us spake one word, For as soon as ever any one was about to open his Mouth, he got an unexpected blow, neither knew he from whence it came: Me thought since we were not permitted to see the Musicians, I should have been glad to view only all the Instruments they made use of. After half an hour this Musick *ceased* unexpectedly, and we could neither see *nor* hear any thing further. Presently after, before the Door of the Hall began a great *noise* sounding and beating of *Trumpets*, Shalms and Kettle-Drums, also Masterlike, as if the Emperor of *Rome* had been entring; whereupon the Door opened of it self, and then the noise of the Trumpets was so loud, that we were hardly able to indure it. Mean while (to my thinking) many thousand *small Tapers* came into the Hall, all which of themselves marched in so very exact an

order as altogether amazed us, till at last the two forementioned Pages with bright Torches, lighting in a most beautiful *Virgin*, all drawn on a gloriously gilded Triumphant Self-moving Throne, entred the Hall. It seemed to me she was the very same who before on the way kindled, and put out the Lights, and that these her Attendants were the very same whom she formerly placed at the Trees. She was not now as before in Skye-colour, but arrayed in a *snow-white* glittering Robe, which sparkled of pure Gold, and cast such a lustre that we durst not steadily behold it. Both the Pages were after the same manner habited (albeit somewhat more slightly); as soon as they were come into the middle of the Hall, & were descended from the Throne, all the small Taers made obeisance before her: Whereupon we all stood up from our Benches, yet every one staid in his own place. Now she having to us, and we again to her, shewed all Respect and Reverence; in a most pleasant Tone she began thus to speak;

"The King my Lord most gracious,  
Who now's not very far from us.  
As also his most lovely Bride,  
To him in troth and honour tied;  
Already, with great joy indued,  
Have your arrival hither viewed;  
And do to every one, and all  
Promise their Grace in special;  
And from their very Hearts desire,  
You may it at the time acquire;  
That so their future Nuptial joy  
May mixed be with none's annoy."

Hereupon with all her small Tapers she again courteously bowed, and presently after began thus:

In the Invitation writ, you know.  
That no man called was hereto  
Who of God's rarest gifts good store  
Had not received long before,  
Adorned with all requisites,  
As in such cases it befit's.  
How though they cannot well conceit  
That any man's so desperate,  
Under conditions so hard,  
Here to intrude without regard;  
Unless he have been first of all,  
Prepared for this Nuptial;  
And therefore in good hopes do dwell  
That with all you it will be well:  
Yet men are grown so bold, and rude,



Not weighing their ineptitude,  
As still to thrust themselves in place  
Whereto none of them called was:  
No Cocks-comb here himself may sell,  
No Rascal in with others steal;  
For they resolve without all let  
A Wedding pure to celebrate.  
So then the Artists for to weigh,  
Scales shall be fixt the ensuing day;  
Whereby each one may lightly find  
What he hath left at home behind.  
If here be any of that Rout  
Who have good cause themselves to doubt,  
Let him pack quickly hence aside;  
For that in case he longer bide,  
Of grace forlorn, and quite undone  
Betimes he must the Gantlet run:  
If any now his Conscience gall,  
He shall tonight be left in th' Hall  
And be again releast by morn,  
Yet so he hither never return.  
If any man have confidence,  
He with his waiter may go hence,  
Who shall him to his Chamber light  
Where he may rest in peace tonight;  
And there with praise await the Scale  
Or else his Sleep may chance to faile.  
The others here may take it well,  
For who aims what's possible,  
It were better much he hence had past,  
But of you all we will hope the best."

As soon as she had done speaking this, she again made reverence, and sprung cheerfully into her Throne, after which the Trumpets began again to sound, which yet was not of force to take from many their grievous Sighs. So they again conducted her invisibly away, but the most part of the small *Tapers* remained in the Room, and still one of them accompanied each of us. In such perturbation 'tis not well possible to express what pensive Thoughts and Gestures were amongst us. Yet the most part resolved to await the Scale, and in case things sorted not well, to depart (as they hoped) in peace. I had soon cast up my *reckoning*, and being my Conscience convinced me of all ignorance, and *unworthiness*, I purposed to stay with the rest in the Hall, and chose much rather to content my self with the Meal I had already taken, than to run the Risco of a *future repulse*. Now after that every one by his small Taper had

peculiar one) There staid *nine* of us, and amongst the rest he also, who *discoursed* with me before at the Table. But although our small Tapers left us not, yet soon after within an hours time one of the fore-mentioned Pages came in, and bringing a great bundle of *Cords* with him, first demanded of us whether we had concluded to stay there, which when we had with Sighs affirmed, he *bound* each of us in a several place, and so went away with our small Tapers, and left us poor Wretches in *Darkness*. Then first began some to perceive the imminent danger, and I my self could not refrain Tears. For although we were not forbidden to speak, yet *anguish* and *affliction* suffered none of us to utter one word. For the Cords were so wonderfully made, yet none could cut them, much less get them off his Feet: yet this comforted me, that still the future gain, of many an one, who had now betaken himself to rest, would prove very little to his satisfaction. But we by only one Nights Pennance might expiate all our presumption: till at length in my sorrowful thoughts I fell asleep; during which I had a *Dream*; Now although there be no great matter in it, yet I esteem it not impertinent to recount it: Me thought I was upon an high *Mountain*, and saw before me a great & large Valley, in this Valley were gathered together an unspeakable *multitude* of People, each of which had at his Head a *Thread*, by which he was hanged up towards Heaven, now one hung high, another low, some stood even quite upon the Earth. But in the Air there flew up and down an *ancient Man*, who had in his hand a pair of Sheers, wherewith here he *cut* one's, and there another's thread. Now he that was nigh the Earth was so much the readier, & fell without noise, but when it happened to one of the *high* ones, he fell, so that the Earth quaked. To some it came to pass that their Thread was so stretched, that they came to the Earth before the Thread was cut. I took pleasure in this tumbling, and it joyed me at the Heart, when he who had *over-exalted* himself in the Air, of his Wedding, got so shameful a fall, that it carried even some of his Neighbours along with him. In like manner it also rejoiced me, that he who had all this while kept himself *near the Earth*, could come down so fine and gently, that even his next men perceived it not. But being now in my highest fit of Jolity, I was unawares jogged by one of my fellow Captives, upon which I was awaked, and was very much discontented with him; Howbeit, I considered my Dream, and recounted it to my Brother, who lay by me on the other side; who was not dissatisfied with it, but hoped some Comfort might thereby be pretended. In such discourse we spent the remaining part of the Night, and with longing expected the Day.

### The Third Day

Now as soon as the lovely day was broken, and the bright Sun, having raised himself above the Hills, had again betaken himself, in the high Heaven, to his appointed office; My good Champions began to rise out of their Beds, and leisurely to make themselves ready unto the Inquisition. Whereupon, one after another, they came again into the Hall, and giving us a good morrow, demanded how we had Slept to Night; and having espied our Bonds, there were

some that reproved us for being so cowardly, and that we had not (much rather) as they, *hazarded upon* all adventures. Howbeit, some of them whose Hearts still smote them made no loud cry of the business. We excused our selves with our *ignorance*, hoping we should now soon be set at Liberty, and learn wit by this disgrace, that they on the contrary had not yet altogether escaped, & perhaps their greatest *danger* was still to be expected: At length each one being again assembled, the *Trumpets* began now again to sound & the Kettle Drums to beat as formerly, and we then imagined no other but that the Bridegroom was ready to present himself; which nevertheless was a huge mistake. For it was again the *yesterday's* Virgin who had arrayed her self all in *red* Velvet, and girded her self with a *white Scarfe*. Upon her Head she had a *green Wreath* of Laurel, which hugely became her. Her train was now no more of *small Tapers*, but consisted of two hundred Men in *Harnis*, who were all (like her) cloathed in *red* and *white*. Now as soon as they were alighted from the Throne, she comes streight to us Prisoners, and after she had Saluted us, she said in few words; That some of you have been sensible of your wretched condition is hugely pleasing to my most mighty Lord, and he is also resolved you shall fare the better for it; And having espied me in my Habit, she laughed and spake, good lack! hast thou also submitted thy self to the Yoke, I imagined thou wouldst have made thy self very smug; with which Words she caused my Eyes to run over. After which she commanded we should be unbound, and cuppled together and placed in a station where we might well behold the Scales. For, said she, it may yet fare better with them, than with the Presumptious, who yet stands here at Liberty. Mean time the Scales which were intirely of Gold were hung up in the midst of the Hall; There was also a little Table covered with red *Velvet*, and *seven weights* placed thereon. First of all stood a pretty great one, next four little ones; lastly, two great ones severally; And these Weights in proportion to their bulk were so *heavy*, that no man can believe or comprehend it: But each of the *Harnised men* had together with a naked Sword a *strong rope*; These she distributed according to the number of Weights into seven bands, and out of every band chose one for their proper weight; and then again sprung up into her high Throne. Now as soon as she had made her reverence, with a very *Shrill* Tone she began thus to speak:

Who into a Painters room does go  
And nothing does of painting know,  
Yet does in prating thereof, pride it;  
Shall be of all the World derided.  
Who into the Artist's order goes,  
And Hereunto was never chose;  
Yet with pretense of skill does pride it;  
Shall be of all the World derided.  
Who at a Wedding does appear,  
And yet was never intended there;  
Yet does in coming highly pride it;  
Shall be of all the World derided.

Who now into this Scale ascends,  
The weights not proving his fast Friends,  
And that it bounces so does ride it;  
Shall be of all the World derided.

As soon as the Virgin had done speaking, one of the Pages commanded each one to place himself according to his order, and one after another to step in: which one of the *Emperors* made no scruple of, but first of all bowed himself a little towards the Virgin, and afterwards in all his stately Attire went up: where upon *each* Captain laid in his weight; which (to the wonder of all) he stood out. But the *last* was too heavy for him, so that forth he must; and that with much anguish that (as it seemed to me) the Virgin her self had pitty on him, who also beckned to her people to hold their peace, yet was the good Emperor bound and delivered over to the Sixth band. Next him again came forth *another* Emperor, who stept hautilly into the Scale, and having a great *thick Book* under his Gown, he imagined not to fail; But being scarce able to abide the third weight, and being unmercifully flung down, and his Book in that affrightment flipping from him, all the Soldiers began to laugh, and he was delivered up bound to the third band. Thus it went also with some others of the Emperors, who were all shamefully laughed at and captived. After these comes forth a little *short Man* with a curled brown Beard *an Emperor* too, who after the usual reverence got up also, and held out so steadfastly, that me thought, and there been more weights ready, he would have outstood them; To whom the Virgin immediately arose, and bowed before him, causing him to put on a Gown of *red Velvet*, and at last reached him a branch of Laurel, having good store of them upon her Throne, upon the steps whereof she willed him to sit down. Now how, after him it fared with the rest of the Emperors, Kings and Lords, would be too long to recount; but I cannot leave unmentioned that few of those great *personages* held out. Howbeit sundry *eminent vertues* (beyond my hopes) were found in many. One could stand out this, the second another, some two, some three, four or five, but few could attain to the just perfection; but every one who failed, was miserably laughed at by the bands. After the Inquisition had also passed over the Gentry, the learned, and unlearned, and the rest, and in each condition perhaps *one*, it may be, *two*, but for the most part none, was found perfect, it came at length to those honest Gentlemen the vagabond *Cheaters*, and rascally *Lapidem Spitalanficum* makers, who were set upon the Scale with such scorn, that I my self for all my grief was ready to burst my Belly with laughing, neither could the very Prisoners themselves refrain. For the most part could not abide that severe trial, but with *Whips* and Scourges were jerked out of the Scale, and led to the other Prisoners, yet to a suiteable band. Thus of so great a throng so few remained, that I am ashamed to discover their number. Howbeit there were Persons of quality *also* amongst them, who notwithstanding were (like the rest) honoured with Velvet Robes and wreaths of Laurel.

The Inquisition being compleatly finished, and none but we poor coupled

hounds standing aside; At length one of the Captains stepped forth, and said, Gracious Madam, if it please your Ladyship let these poor men, who *acknowledged* their mis-understanding, be set upon the Scale also without their incurring any danger of penalty, and only for recreation's sake, if perchance any thing that is right may be found amongst them. In the first place I was in great perplexity, for in my anguish this was my only comfort, that I was not to stand in such ignominy, or to be lashed out of the Scale. For I nothing doubted but that many of the Prisoners wished that they had stay'd ten Nights with us in the Hall. Yet since the Virgin consented, so it must be, and we being untied were one after another set up: Now although the most part miscarried, yet they were neither laughed at, nor scourged, but peaceably placed on one side. My *Companion* was the fifth, who held out *bravely*, whereupon all, but especially the Captain who made the request for us, applauded him, and the Virgin shewed him the usual respect. After him again two more were dispatched in an instant. But I was the *eighth*; Now as soon as (with trembling) I stepped up, my Companion who already sat by in his *Velvet*, looked friendly upon me, and the Virgin her self smiled a little. But for as much as I out-stayed *all* the Weights, the Virgin commanded them to draw me up by force, wherefore three men moreover hung on the otherside of the Beam, and yet could nothing prevail. Whereupon one of the Pages immediately stood up, and cryed out exceeding loud, THAT IS HE: Upon which the other replied, *Then let* him gain his Liberty, which the Virgin accorded; and being received with due Ceremonies, The choice was given me to release *one of* the Captives, whosoever I pleased; Whereupon I made no long deliberation, but elected the *first* Emperor whom I had long pittied, who was immediately set free, and with all respect seated amongst us. Now the last being set up, and the Weights proving too heavy for him, in the mean while the Virgin espied my *Roses*, which I had taken out of my Hat into my Hands, and thereupon presently by her Page graciously requested them of me, which I readily sent her. And so this first Act was finished about *ten* in the fore-noon. Whereupon the Trumpets began to sound again, which nevertheless we could not as yet see. Mean time the Bands were to step aside with their Prisoners, and expect the judgment. After which a Council of the seven Captains and us was set, and the business was propounded by the Virgin as President, who desired each one to give his opinion, how the Prisoners were to be dealt with. The first opinion was. That they should all be put to *Death*, yet one more severely than another: namely those who had presumptuously intruded themselves contrary to the Express conditions; others would have them kept close prisoners. Both which pleased neither the *President*, nor me. At length by one of the Emperors (the same whom I had freed) my Companion, and my self the affair was brought to this point; That first of all the principal *Lords* should with a befitting respect be led out of the Castle; others might be carried out somewhat more scornfully. These would be stripped, and caused to run out naked; The fourth with Rods, Whips, or Dogs, should be hunted out. Those who the day before willingly surrendred themselves, might be suffered to depart without any blame. And last of all those Presumptuous ones, and they who behaved themselves so unseemly at Dinner the day before, should be punished in *Body and Life* according to each Mans demerit. This opinion

pleased the Virgin well, and obtained the upper hand. There was moreover another Dinner vouchsafed them, which they were soon acquainted with. But the Execution was deferred till twelve at noon, Herewith the *Senate arose*, and the *Virgin* also, together with her Attendants returned to her usual quarter; But the uppermost Table in the Room was allotted to us, they requesting us to take it in good part till the Business were fully dispatched. And then we should be conducted to the *Lord Bridegroom* and the *Bride*, with which we were at present well content. Mean time the Prisoners were again brought into the Hall, and each Man seated according to his Quality; they were likewise enjoined to behave themselves somewhat more civilly than they had done the day before, which yet they needed not to be have been admonished, for without this, they had already put up their pipes. And this I can boldly say, not with flattery, but in the love of truth, that commonly those persons who were of the *highest Rank*, best understood how to behave themselves in so unexpected a misfortune. Their Treatment was but indifferent, yet with respect, neither could they yet see their *Attendants*, but to us they were visible, whereat I was exceeding joyful. Now although Fortune had exalted us, yet we took not upon us more than the rest, advising them to be of good Cheer, the event would not be so ill. Now although they would gladly have understood the Sentence of us, yet we were so deeply obliged that none durst open his Mouth about it. Nevertheless we comforted them as well as we could, drinking with them to try if the Wine might make them any thing cheerfuller. Our Table was covered with *red Velvet*, beset with drinking-Cups of pure *Silver* and *Gold*; which the rest could not behold without amazement and very great anguish. But e'er we had seated our selves, in came the two Pages, presenting every one in the *Bride-groom's* behalf, the *Golden Fleece* with a flying *Lyon*, requesting us to wear them at the Table, and as became us, to observe the Reputation and Dignity of the Order, which his Majesty had now vouchsafed us, and should suddenly be ratified with sutable Ceremonies. This we received with profoundest submission, promising obediently to perform whatsoever his Majesty should please. Besides these, the noble Page had a Schedule, wherein we were set down in order. And for my part I should not otherwise be desirous to conceal my place, if perchance it might not be interpreted to Pride in me, which yet is expresly against the *fourth Weight*. Now because our entertainment was exceeding stately, we demanded one of the Pages, whether we might not have leave to send some choice bit to our Friends and Acquaintance, who making no difficulty of it, every one sent plentifully to his acquaintance by the waiters, howbeit they saw none of them; and forasmuch as they knew not whence it came, I was my *self* desirous to carry somewhat to one of them, but as soon as I was risen, one of the Waiters was presently at my Elbow, saying *He desired me to take friendly warning*, for in case one of the Pages had seen it, it would have come to the King's Ear, *who would certainly have taken it amiss of me; but since none had observed it but himself*, he purposed not to betray me, but that I ought for the time to come to have better regard to *the dignity of the order*: With which words the Servant did really so astonish me, that for a long time after I scarce moved upon my Seat, yet I returned him Thanks for his faithful warning, as well as in haste and affrightment I was able. Soon after the Drums began to beat again, to which we

were already accustomed: For we well knew it was the *Virgin*, wherefore we prepared our selves to receive her, who was now coming in with her usual Train, upon her high Seat, one of the Pages bearing before her a very tall Goblet of Gold. And the other, a Patent in Parchment: Being now after a marvellous *artificial* manner alighted from the Seat, she takes the Goblet from the Page, and presents the same in the King's behalf, saying, *That it was brought from his Majesty, and that in honour of him we should cause it to go round.* Upon the cover of this Goblet stood *Fortune* curiously cast in Gold, who had in her Hand a *red flying* Ensign, for which cause I drunk somewhat the more sadly, as having been but too well acquainted with *Fortune's* waywardness. But the *Virgin* as well as we, was adorned with the Golden *Fleece* and *Lyon*, whence I observed that perhaps she was the president of the Order. Wherefore we demanded of her how the Order might be named? she answered, That it was not yet seasonable to discover it, till the affair with the Prisoners were dispatched. And therefore their Eyes were still held; and what had hitherto happened to us, was to them only for an Offense and Scandal, although it were to be accounted as nothing, in regard of the honour that attended us. Hereupon she began to distinguish the *Patent* which the other Page held into two different parts, out of which about thus much was read before the first company.

*That they should confess that they had too lightly given Credit to false fictitious Books, had assumed too much to themselves, and so came into this Castle, albeit they were never invited into it, and perhaps the most part had presented themselves with design to make their Market here, and afterwards to live in the greater Pride and Lordliness; And thus one had seduced another, and plunged him into this disgrace and ignominy, wherefore they were deservedly to be soundly punished.*

Which they with great humility readily acknowledged, and gave their Hands upon it. After which a severe check was given to the rest, much to this purpose.

*That they very well knew, and were in their Consciences convinced, that they had forged false fictitious Books, had befooled others, and cheated them, and thereby had diminished Regal dignity amongst all. They knew in like manner what ungodly deceitful Figures they had made use of, in so much as they spared not even the Divine Trinity, but accustomed themselves to cheat People all the Country over. It was also now as clear as Day with what Practices they had endeavoured to ensnare the true Guests, and introduce the Ignorant: in like manner, that it was manifest to all the World, they they wallowed in open Whoredom, Adultery, Gluttony, and other Uncleanesses: All which was against the express Orders of our Kingdom. In brief, they knew they had disparaged Kingly Majesty, even amongst the common sort, and therefore they should confess themselves to be manifest convicted Vagabond-Cheaters, Knaves and Rascals, whereby they deserved to be cashiered from the company of civil People, and severely to be punished. The good Artists were loath to come to this Confession, but inasmuch as not only the *Virgin* her self threatned, and sware their death, but the other party also vehemently raged at them, and*

unanimously cried out, that they had most wickedly seduced them out of the Light: They at length, to prevent a huge misfortune, confessed the same with dolour, and yet withal alledged that what had herein happened was not to be animadverted upon them in the worst sense. For in as much as the *Lords* were absolutely resolved to get into the Castle, and had *promised* great sums of Money to that effect, each one had used all Graft to seize upon something, and so things were brought to that pass, as was now manifest before their Eyes. But that it succeeded not, "*They in their opinion had dis-deserved no more than the Lords themselves; As who should have had so much understanding as to consider that in case any one had been sure of getting in, he would not, in so great Peril, for the sake of a slight gain, have clambered over the Wall with them. Their Books also sold so mightily, that whoever had no other mean to maintain himself, was fain to ingage in such a Cousenage. They hoped moreover, that if a right Judgment were made, they should be found no way to have miscarried, as having behaved themselves towards the Lords, as became Servants, upon their earnest entreaty. But answer was made them, that his Royal Majesty had determined to punish all, and every man, albeit one more severely than another. For although what had been alledged by them was partly true, and therefore the Lords should not wholly be indulged yet they had good reason to prepare themselves for Death, who had so presumptuously obruded themselves, and perhaps seduced the more ignorant against their will; As likewise they who with false Books had violated Royal Majesty, as the same might be evinced out of their very Writings and Books.*

Hereupon many began most pitteously to lament, cry, weep, intreat, and prostrate themselves, all which notwithstanding could avail them nothing, and I much marvelled how the Virgin could be so resolute, when yet their misery caused *our Eyes* to run over, and moved our Compassion (although the most part of them had procured us much trouble, and vexation) For she presently dispatched her Page, who brought with him all the *Curiassiers* which had this day been appointed at the Scales, who were commanded each of them to take his own to him, and in an orderly Procession, so as still each Curiassier should go with one of the *Prisoners*, to conduct them into her great Garden. At which time each one so exactly recognised his own Man, that I marvelled at it. Leave also was likewise given to my yesterday *Companions* to go out into the Garden unbound, and to be present at the Execution of the Sentence. Now as soon as every Man was come forth, the Virgin mounted up into her *High Throne*, requesting us to sit down upon the Steps, and to appear at the Judgment, which we refused not, but left all standing upon the Table (except the Goblet, which the Virgin committed to the Pages keeping) and went forth in our Robes upon the Throne, which of it self *moved* so gently as if we had passed in the Air, till in this manner we came into the *Garden*, where we arose altogether. This Garden was not extraordinary curious, only it pleased me that the Trees were planted in so good order. Besides there ran in it a most costly *Fountain*, adorned with wonderful Figures and Inscriptions, and strange Characters, (which God willing I shall mention in a future *Book*) In this Garden was raised a wooden Scaffold, hung about with curiously painted figured Coverlets. Now there were four



*Galleries* made one over another, the first was more glorious than any of the rest, and therefore covered with a *white Taffata Curtain*, so that at that time we could not perceive who was behind it. The second was empty and uncovered. Again the two last were covered with *red* and *blew* Taffata. Now as soon as we were come to the Scaffold, the Virgin bowed her self *down* to the ground, at which we were mightily terrified: For we might easily guess that the *King* and *Queen* must not be far off; Now we also having duely performed our Reverence, The Virgin lead us up by the winding Stairs into the second Gallery, where she placed her self uppermost, and us in our former order. But how the *Emperor* whom I had released, behaved himself towards me, both at this time, as also before at the Table, I cannot, without slander of wicked Tongues, well relate. For he might well imagine in what Anguish and Sollicitude he now should have been, in case he were at present to attend the Judgment with such ignominy, and that only through *me* he had not attained such Dignity and Worthiness. Mean time the Virgin who first of all brought me the Invitation, and whom hitherto I had never since seen, stepped in; First she gave one blast upon her Trumpet, and then with a very loud Voice declared the Sentence in this manner.

*The Kings Majesty my most gracious Lord could from his heart wish, that all and every one here Assembled, had upon his Majesties Invitation presented themselves so qualified, as that they might (to his honour) with greatest frequency have adorned this his appointed Nuptial and joyful Feast. But since it hath otherwise pleased Almighty God, his Majesty hath not whereat to murmur, but must be forced, contrary to his own Inclination, to abide by the antient and laudable Constitutions of this Kingdom. But now, that his Majesty's innate Clemency may be celebrated over all the World, he hath thus far absolutely dealt with his Council and Estates, that the usual Sentence shall be considerably lenified. So that in the first place he is willing to vouchsafe to the Lords and Potentates, not only their lives intirely, but also freely and frankly to dismiss them; friendly and courteously intreating your Lordships not at all to take it in evil part that you cannot be present at his Majesties Feast of Honour; But to remember that there is notwithstanding more imposed upon your Lordships by God Almighty (who in the distribution of his Gifts hath an incomprehensible Consideration) than you can duely and easily sustain. Neither is your Reputation hereby prejudiced, although you be rejected by this our Order, since we cannot at once all of us, do all things. But for as much as your Lordships have been seduced by base Rascals, it shall not on their part, pass unrevenged. And furthermore his Majesty resolveth shortly to communicate with your Lordships a Catalogue of Hereticks or index Expurgatorius, that you may henceforward be able with better judgment to discern between the Good and the Evil. And because his Majesty e're long also purposeth to rummage his Library and offer up the seductive Writings to Vulcan, he friendly, humbly, and courteously intreats every one of your Lordships to put the same in Execution with your own, whereby it is to be hoped that all evil and Mischief may for the time to come be remedied. And you are withal to be admonished, never henceforth so inconsiderately to covet an entrance hither, least the former excuse of Seducers be taken from you, and*

*you fall into Disgrace and Contempt with all Men. In fine, for as much as the Estates of the Land have still somewhat to demand of your Lordships, his Majesty hopes that no Man will think much to redeem himself with a Chain or what else he hath about him, and so in friendly manner to depart from us, and through our safe conduct to betake himself home again.*

The others who stood not at the first, third, and fourth weight, *his Majesty will not so lightly dismiss.* But that they also may now experience his Majesty's gentleness, it is his Command, to strip them stark naked, and so send them forth.

Those who in the second and fifth weight were found too light, shall besides Stripping, be noted with one, two or more Brand-marks, according as each one was lighter, or heavier.

*They who were drawn up by the sixth or seventh, and not by the rest, shall be somewhat more graciously dealt withal, and so forward.* For unto every combination there was a certain punishment ordained, which were here too long to recount.

*They who yesterday separated themselves freely of their own accord, shall go out at Liberty without any blame.*

*Finally, the convicted vagabond-Cheaters who could move up none of the weights, shall as occasion serves, be punished in Body and Life, with the Sword, Halter, Water and Rods. And such Execution of Judgment shall be inviolably observed for an Example unto others.*

Herewith our Virgin *broke* her Wand, and the other who read the Sentence, blowed her Trumpet, and stepped with most profound Reverence towards those who stood behind the Curtain. But here I cannot omit to discover somewhat to the Reader concerning the number of our Prisoners; of whom those who weighed *one*, were *seven*; those who weighed *two*, were *twenty one*; they who *three*, *thirty five*; they who *four*, *thirty five*; those who *five*, *twenty one*; those who *six*, *seven*; but he that came to the *seventh*, and yet could not well raise it, He, was only one, and indeed the same whom I released. Besides, of them who wholly failed there were many: But of those who drew all the weights from the ground, but few. And these as they stood severally before us, so I diligently numbred, and noted them down in my Table-Book; And it is very admirable that amongst all those who weighed any thing, none was equal to another. For although amongst those who weighed three, there were thirty five, yet one of them weighed the first, *second*, and third, another the third, fourth, and *fifth*, a third, the fifth, sixth, and seventh and so on. It is likewise very wonderful that amongst one hundred twenty six who weighed any thing, none was equal to another; And I would very willingly name them all, with each Mans weight, were it not as yet forbidden me. But I hope it may hereafter be published with the *Interpretation*.

Now this Judgment being read over, the Lords in the first place were well satisfied, because in such severity they durst not look for a mild sentence. For which cause they gave more than they were desired, and each one redeemed himself with Chains, Jewels, Gold, Monies and other things, as much as they had about them; and with reverence took leave. Now although the King's Servants were forbidden to jear any at his going away, yet some unlucky Birds could not hold laughing, and certainly it was sufficiently ridiculous to see them pack away with such speed, without once looking behind them. Some desired that the promised *Catalogue* might with the first be dispatched after them, and then they would take such order with their Books as should be pleasing to his Majesty; which was again assured. At the Door was given to each of them out of a Cup a *Draught* of FORGETFULNESS, that so he might have no further memory of misfortune.

After these the *Voluntiers* departed, who because of their ingenuity were suffered to pass, but yet so as never to return again in the same fashion, But if to them (as likewise to the others) any thing *further* were revealed, then they should be well-come Guests.

Mean while others were stripping, in which also an inequality (according to each mans demerit) was observ'd. Some were sent away naked, without other hurt. Others were driven out with small Bells. Some were scourged forth. In brief the punishments were so various, that I am not able to recount them all. In the end it came to the last also with whom somewhat a longer time was spent, for whilst some were hanging, some beheading, some forced to leap into the Water, and the rest otherwise dispatching, much time was consumed. Verily at this execution my Eyes ran over, not indeed in regard of the punishment, which they otherwise for their impudency well deserved, but in contemplation of *humane blindness*, in that we are continually busiing our selves in that which ever since the first Fall hath been hitherto *Sealed* up to us. Thus the Garden which so lately was quite full, was soon emptied; so that besides the Souldiers there was not a man left. Now as soon as this was done, and silence had been kept for the space of five minut's; There came forward a beautiful snow-*white Unicorn* with a golden coffer (having it in certain Letters) about his neck: In the same place he bowed himself down upon both his fore-feet, as if hereby he had shown honour to the Lyon, who stood so immoveably upon the fountain, that I took him to be of stone or brass, who immediately took the naked *Sword* which he bare in his Paw, and brake it in the middle in two, the pieces whereof to my thinking sunk into the *Fountain*: after which he so long roared, until a *white-Dove* brought a branch of *Olive* in her bill, which the Lyon devoured in an instant, and so was quieted. And so the Unicorn returned to his place with joy. Hereupon our Virgin lead us down again by the winding staires from the Scaffold, and so we again made our reverence toward the Curtain. We were to wash our hands and heads in the Fountain, and there a little while to wait in our order, till the King through a certain secret Gallery were again returned into his Hall, and then we also with choice Musick, Pomp, State and pleasant discourse were conducted into our former lodging: And this was done about four in the

afternoon. But that in the meanwhile the time might not seem too long to us, the Virgin bestowed on each of us a noble *Page*, who were not only richly habited, but also exceeding learned, so that they could so aptly discourse upon all subjects, that we had good reason to be ashamed of our selves. These were commanded to lead us up and down the Castle yet but into certain places and if possible, to *shorten* the time according to our desire. Mean time the Virgin took leave with this consolation, that at Supper she would be with us again, and after that celebrate the Ceremonies of the hanging up of the *Weights*, requesting that we would in patience Waite till the next day, for on the morrow we must be presented to the King. She being thus departed from us, each of us did what best pleased him. One part viewed the excellent paintings, which they copied out for themselves, and considered also what the wonderful Characters might signifie. Others were fain to recruit themselves again with *meat* and drink. I indeed caused my Page to conduct me (together with my Companion) up and *down* the Castle, of which walk it will never repent me as long as I have a day to live. For besides many other glorious Antiquities, the Royal *Sepulcher* was also shewed me, by which I learned more than is extant in *all Books*. There in the same place stands also the glorious *Phoenix* (of which two years since I published a particular small discourse) And am resolved (in case this my narration shall prove useful) to set forth several and peculiar Treatises, concerning the *Lyon, Eagle, Griffon, Falcon* and other like, together with their Draughts and Inscriptions. It grieves me also for my other Conforts, that they neglected such pretious Treasures. And yet I cannot but think it was the special will of God it should be so. I indeed reaped the most benefit by my Page, for according as each ones *genius* lay, so he led his intrusted into the quarters and places which were pleasing to him. Now the *Kyes* hereunto belonging were committed to my Page, and therefore this good Fortune happened to me before the rest; For although he invited others to come in, yet they imagining such *Tombs* to be only in the Churchyard, thought they should well enough get thither, when ever any thing was to be seen there. Neither shall these *Monuments* (as both of us copied and transcribed them) be *withheld* from my thankful Schollars. The other thing that was shewed us two was the Noble *Library* as it was altogether before the *Reformation*. Of which (albeit it rejoyces my Heart as often as I call it to mind) I have so much the less to say, because the *Catalogue* thereof is very shortly to be published. At the entry of this Room stands a great *Book*, the like whereof I never saw, in which all the Figures, Rooms, Portals, also all the Writings, Riddles and the like, to be seen in the whole Castle, are delineated. Now although we made some promise concerning *this* also, yet at present I must contain my self, and first learn to know the World better. In every Book stands its *Author* painted; whereof (as I understood) many were to be *burnt*, that so even their memory may be blotted out from amongst the Righteous. Now having taken a full view hereof, and being scarce gotten forth, another *Page* came running to us, and having whispered somewhat in our Pages ear, he delivered up the *Kyes* to him, who immediately carried them up the winding Stairs; But our Page was very much out of *Countenance*, and we setting hard upon him with Entreaties, He declared to us that the *King's Majesty* would by no means permit that either of the two,

namely the *Library* and *Sepulchers*, should be seen by any Man and therefore he besought us as we tendered his Life, to discover it to no Man, he having already utterly denied it: Whereupon both of us stood hovering between Joy and Fear, yet it continued in silence, and no Man made further inquiry about it. Thus in both places we consumed three hours, which does not at all repent me. Now although it had already stricken *Seven*, yet nothing was hitherto given us to *eat*, howbeit our hunger was easie to be abated by constant *Revivings*, and I could be well content to fast all my Life long with such Entertainment. About this time the Curious *Fountains*, Mines, and all kind of Art-Shops, were also shown us, of which there was none but surpassed all our Arts, though they should all be melted into one Mass. All their Chambers were built in *semi-circle*, that so they might have before their Eyes the costly Clock-work which was erected upon a fair Turret in the Center, and regulate themselves according to the course of the *Planets*, which were to be seen on it in a glorious manner. And hence I could easily conjecture wherein our *Artists* failed, howbeit its none of my duty to inform them. At length I came into a spacious Room (shown indeed to the rest a great while before) in the middle whereof stood a terrestrial Globe, whose Diameter contained thirty Foot, albeit near half of it, except a little which was covered with the steps, was let into the Earth. Two Men might readily turn this Globe about with all its Furniture, so that more of it was never to be seen, but so much as was above the Horizon. Now although I could easily conceive that this was of some special use, yet could I not understand whereto those *Ringlets* of Gold (which were upon it in several places) served; At which my Page laughed, and advised me to view them more narrowly. In brief, I found there *my native Country noted with Gold also*: Whereupon my Companion sought his, and found that so too. Now for as much as the same hapened in like manner to the rest who stood by, The Page told us of a certain that it was yesterday declared to the Kings Majest'y by their old *Atlas* (so is the Astronomer named) that all the gilded points did exactly answer to their native Countries, according as had been shown of each of them. And therefore He also, as soon as he perceived that I *undervalued my self* and that nevertheless there stood a Point upon my native Country, moved one of the Captains to intreat for us, that we should be set upon the Scale (without our Peril) at all Adventures; Especially seeing *one of our Native Countries had a notable good Mark*: And truly it was not without cause that He, the Page who had the greatest power of all the rest, was bestowed on me. For this I then returned him thanks, and immediately looked more diligently upon my native Country, and found more over that besides the *Ringlet*, there were also certain delicate *streaks* upon it, which nevertheless I would not be thought to speak to my own praise or glory. I saw much more too upon this Globe than I am willing to discover. Let each Man take into consideration why every City produceth not a Philosopher. After this he lead us quite into the Globe, which was thus made; On the Sea (there being a large square besides it) was a Tablet, whereon stood three Dedications, and the Author's name, which a Man might gently lift up and by a little joyned Board, go into the *Center*, which was capable of four Persons, being nothing but a round Board whereon we could sit and at ease by broaddaylight (it was now already dark) contemplate the Stars, to my thinking they were mere *Carbuncles* which

glittered in an agreeable order, and moved so gallantly, that I had scarce any mind ever to go out again, as the Page afterwards told the Virgin, with which she often twitted me: For it was already Supper time, and I had so much amused my self in the Globe, that I was almost the last at Table; wherefore I made no longer delay, but having again put on my *Gown* (which I had before layd aside) and stepping to the Table, the waiters treated me with so much reverence and honour, that for shame I durst not look up, and so unawares permitted the Virgin, who attended me on one side, to stand, which she soon perceiving twitched me by the Gown, and so led me to the table. To speak any further concerning the Musick, or the rest of that magnificent entertainment, I hold it needless both because it is not possible sufficiently to express it, and I have above reported it according to my power. In brief, there was nothing there but Art and Amaenity. Now after we had each to other related our employment since noon (howbeit, not a word was spoken of the Library and Monuments) being already merry with the Wine, the Virgin began thus: "My Lords, I have a great contention with one of my Sisters: In our Chamber we have an *Eagle*, Now we cherish him with such diligence, that each of us in disirous to be the best beloved, and upon that score have many a Squabble. On a day we concluded to go both together to him, and toward whom he should shew himself most friendly, hers should be properly be; this we did, and I (as commonly) bare in my hand a branch of Lawrel, but my Sister had none. Now as soon as he espyed us both, he immediately gave my Sister another branch which he had in his Beak, and offered at mine, which I gave him. Now each of us hereupon imagined her self to be best beloved of him; which way am I to resolve my self?" This modest proposal of the Virgin pleased us all mighty well, and each one would gladly have heard the Solution, but in as much as they all looked upon me, and desired to have the beginning from me, my mind was so extreamply confounded that I knew not what else to do with it but propound another in its stead, and therefore said, "Gracious Lady, your Ladyships question were easily to be resolved if one thing did not perplex me. I had two Companions, both which loved me exceedingly; now they being doubtful which of them was most dear to me, concluded to run to me unaware, and that he whom I should then embrace should be the right; this they did, yet one of them could not keep pace with the other, so he staid behind and wept, the other I embraced with amazement. Now when they had afterwards discovered the business to me, I knew not how to resolve my self, and have hitherto let it rest in this manner, until I may find some good advice herein." The Virgin wondered at it, and well observed where about I was, whereupon she replied, well then let us both be quit; and then desired the solution from the rest. But I had already made them wise. Wherefore the next began thus. "In the City where I live, a Virgin was lately condemned to death, but the Judge being something pittiful towards her, caused it to be proclaimed that if any man desired to become the Virgins Champions he should have free leave to do it. Now she had two Lovers, the one presently made himself ready, and came into the lists to expect his adversary, afterwards the other also presented himself, but coming somewhat too late, he resolved nevertheless to fight, and willingly suffer himself to be vanquished, that so the Virgin's life might be preserved, which also succeeded

according. *Whereupon each* challenged her: Now my Lords instruct me, to which of them of right belongeth she?" The Virgin could hold no longer, but said, I thought to have gained much information, and am my self gotten into the Net, but yet would gladly hear whether there be any more behind; "yes, that there is," answered the third, "a Stranger adventure hath not been yet recounted than that which happened to my self. In my Youth I loved a worthy Maid: Now that this my love might attain its wished end, I was fain to make use of an ancient Matron, who easily brought me to her. Now it happened that the Maid's Brethren came in upon us just as we three were together, who were in such a rage that they would have taken my Life, but upon my vehement Supplication, they at length forced me to swear to take each of them for a Year, to my wedded Wife. *Now tell me my Lords, should I take the old, or the young one first?*" We all laughed sufficiently at this riddle, and though some of them muttered one to another thereupon, yet none would undertake to unfold it. Hereupon the fourth began. "In a certain City there dwelt an honourable Lady, who was beloved of all, but especially by a young noble Man, who would needs be too importunate with her; at length she gave him this determination, that in case he would, in a cold Winter, lead her into a fair green Garden of Roses, then he should obtain, but if not, he must resolve never to see her more. The noble Man travelled into all Countries to find such a Man as might perform this, till at length he lite upon a little old Man that promised to do it for him, in case he would assure him of half his Estate; which he having consented to the other was as good as his word. Whereupon he invited the foresaid Lady home to his Garden, where contrary to her expectation she found all things green, pleasant and warm, and withal remembering her promise, she only requested that she might once more return to her Lord, to whom with Sighs and Tears she bewailed her lamentable condition: But for as much as he sufficiently perceived her faithfulness, he disdispatched her back to her Lover, who had so dearly purchased her, that she might give him Satisfaction. This Husband's integrity did so mightily affect the noble man, that he thought it a sin to touch so honest a Wife; so he sent her home again with honour to her Lord. Now the little Man perceiving such Faith in both these, would not, how poor soever he were, be the least, but restored the noble Man all his Goods again, and went his way. Now (my Lords) I know not which of these persons may have shown the greatest ingenuity?" Here our Tongues were quite cut off. Neither would the Virgin make any other reply, but only that another should go on. Wherefore the fifth, without delay, began. "My Lords, I desire not to make long work; who hath the greater joy, he that beholdeth what he loveth, or he that only thinketh on it?" He that beholdeth it, said the Virgin; "nay" answered I; hereupon arose a contest, wherefore the sixth called out, "My Lords I am to take a Wife; now I have before me a maid, a married Wife, and a Widdow; ease me of this doubt, and I will afterwards help to order the rest." "It goes well there," replied the seventh, "where a man hath his choice, but with me the case is otherwise; in my youth I loved a fair and vertuous Virgin from the bottom of my Heart, and she me in like manner: howbeit because of her Friends denial we could not come together in wedlock: Whereupon she was married to another, yet an honest and discreet Person, who maintained her honourably and with affection, until she came into the paines of

Child-birth, which went so hard with her that all thought she had been dead, so with much state, and great mourning she was interred. Now I thought with my self, during her Life thou couldst have no part in this Woman, but yet now dead as she is thou mayst embrace and Kiss her sufficiently; whereupon I took my Servant with me, who dug her up by Night; Now having opened the Coffin and locked her in my Arms, and feeling about her Heart, I found still some little motion in it, which increased more and more from my warmth, till at last I perceived that she was indeed still alive; wherefore I quietly bare her home, and after I had warmed her chilled Body with a costly Bath of Herbs, I committed her to my Mother until she brought forth a fair Son, whom (as the Mother) I caused faithfully to be nursed. After two days (she being then in a mighty amazement) I discovered to her all the forepassed affair, requesting her that for the time to come she would live with me as a Wife, against which she thus excepted, in case it should be grievous to her Husband who had well and honourably maintained her. But if it could otherwise be, she was the present obliged in love to one as well as the other. Now after two Months (being then to make a Journey elsewhere) I invited her Husband as a Guest, and amongst other things demanded of him, whether if his deceased Wife should come home again, he could be content to receive her, and he affirming it with Tears and Lamentations, at length I brought him his Wife together with his Son, and an account of all the forepassed business, intreating him to ratifie with his consent my fore-purposed espousals. After a long dispute he could not beat me from my right, but was fain to leave me the Wife. But still the contest was about the Son." Here the Virgin interrupted him, and said, "It makes me wonder how you could double the afflicted Mans grief." "How," answered he, "was I not then concerned?" Upon this there arose a dispute amongst us, yet the most part affirmed that he had done but right. "Nay," said he, "I freely returned him both his Wife and Son. Now tell me (my Lords) was my honesty, or this Man's joy the greater?" These words had so mightily cheared the Virgin that (as if it had been for the sake of these two) she caused a health to go round. After which the rest of the proposals went on somewhat perplexedly, so that I could not retain them all, yet this comes to my mind, that one said, that a few years before he had seen a Physitian, who bought a parcel of Wood against Winter, with which he warmed himself all Winter long; but as soon as the Spring returned he sold the very same Wood again, and so had the use of it for nothing: "Here must needs be skill," said the Virgin, "but the time is now past." "Yea," replied my Companion, "who ever understands not how to resolve all the Riddles, may give each Man notice of it by a proper Messenger, I conceive he will not be denied." At this time they began to say Grace, and we arose altogether from the Table, rather satisfied and merry than gluttoned; and it were to be wished that all *Invitations* and Feastings were thus to be kept. Having now taken some few turns up and down the Hall again, the Virgin asked us whether we desired to begin the Wedding. "Yes," said one, "noble and vertuous Lady"; whereupon she privately dispatched a Page, and yet in the mean time proceeded in discourse with us. In brief she was already become so familiar with us, that I adventured and requested her Name. The Virgin smiled at my Curiosity, but yet was not moved, but replied, "*My Name contains five and fifty, and yet hath only eight*



*Letters, the third is the third part of the fifth, which added to the sixth will produce a Number, whose root shall exceed the third it self by just the first, and it is the half of the fourth. Now the fifth and the seventh are equal, the last and the first are also equal, and make with the second as much as the sixth hath, which contains just four more than the third tripled. Now tell me, my Lord, how am I called?"* The answer was intricate enough to me, yet I left not off so, but said, "noble and vertuous Lady, may I not obtain one only Letter?" "Yea (said she) *that may well be done.*" "What then (replied I again) may the seventh contain?" "*It contains (said she) as many as there are Lords here.*" With this I was content, and easily found her Name, at which she was well pleased, with assurance that much *more* should yet be revealed to us. Mean time certain Virgins had made themselves ready, and came in with great Ceremony. First of all two Youths carried Lights before them, one of them was of a jocond Countenance, sprightly Eyes and gentile Proportion. The other lookt something angerly, whatever he would have, must be, as I afterwards perceived. After them first followed four Virgins; one looked shame-facedly towards the Earth, very humble in Behavior; The second also was a modest, bashful Virgin; The third, as she entered the Room seemed amazed at somewhat, and as I understood she cannot well abide where there is too *much Mirth*. The fourth brought with her certain small *wreaths*, thereby to manifest her Kindness and Liberality. After these four came two which were somewhat more gloriously Apparelled; they saluted us courteously; One of them had a Gown of *Skye* colour spangled with golden Stars; The others was *green*, beautified with red and white stripes. On their Heads they had thin flying *Tissaties*, which did most becomingly adorn them. At last came one alone, who had on her head a *Coronet*, but rather looked up towards Heaven, than towards Earth. We all thought it had been the *Bride*, but were much mistaken, although otherwise in Honour, Riches and State she much surpassed the Bride; and she afterwards ruled the whole Wedding. Now on this occasion we all followed our Virgin, and fell down on our Knees, howbeit she shewed her self extream humble, offering every one her hand, and admonishing us not to be too much surprized at this, for this was one of her smallest Bounties, but to lift up our Eyes to our Creator, and learn hereby to acknowledge his Omnipotency, and so proceed in our enterprised course, employing this Grace to the praise of God, and the good of Man. In sum, her words were quite different from those of our Virgin, who was somewhat *more worldly*. They pierced even through my Bones and Marrow. "*And thou,*" said she further to me, "*hast received more than others, see that thou also make a larger return.*" This to me was a very strange Sermon; for as soon as we saw the Virgins with the Musick, we immagined we must presently fall to Dancing, but that time was not as yet come. Now the Weights, whereof mention hath been before made, stood still in the same place, wherefore the Queen (I yet knew not who she was) commanded each Virgin to take up *one*, but to our Virgin she gave her own, which was the last and *greatest*, and commanded us to follow behind; our Majesty was then somewhat abated, for I well observed that our Virgin was but too good for us, & that we were not so highly reputed as we our selves were almost in part willing to phantasie. So we went behind in our order, and were brought into the first Chamber, where our

Virgin in the first place hang up the *Queen's* weight, during which an excellent spiritual Hymn was Sung; there was nothing costly in this Room save only certain curious little *Prayer Books* which should never be missing. In the midst was erected a Pulpit, very convenient for Prayer, where in the *Queen* kneeled down, about her we were all fain to kneel and pray after the Virgin, who read out of a Book, That this Wedding might tend to the Honour of God, and our own benefit. Afterwards we came into the second Chamber, where the *first Virgin* hung up her weight also, and so forward till all the Ceremonies were finished. Hereupon the *Queen* again presented her Hand to every one, and departed thence with her Virgin. Our President staid yet a while with us. But because it had been already two hours night, she would no longer detain us; me thought she was glad of our Company, yet she bid us good night, and wished us quiet rest, and so departed friendly, although *unwillingly* from us. Our Pages were well instructed in their business, and therefore shewed every Man his Chamber, and stayed also with us in another Pallet, that in case we wanted any thing we might make use of them. My Chamber (of the rest I am not able to speak) was royally furnished with rare *Tapistries*, and hung about with Paintings. But above all things I delighted in my Page, who was so excellently spoken, and experienced in the *arts*, that he yet spent me another hour, and it was half an hour after three when first I fell asleep. And this indeed was the first night that I slept in quiet, and yet a scurvy Dream would not suffer me to rest; For I was all the night troubled with a *Door* which I could not get open, but at last I did it. With these phantasies I passed the time, till at length towards day I awaked.

#### The Fourth Day

I Still lay in my Bed, and leisurely survieghed all the noble Images and Figures up and down about my Chamber, during which on a sudden I heard the *Musick* of Coronets, as if they had been already in Procession. My Page skipped out of the Bed as if he had been at his wits end, and looked more like one dead than living; In what case I then was, is easily immaginable, for, said he, "*The rest are already presented to the King*"; I knew not what else to do, but weep out-right, and Curss my own sloathfulness; yet I dressed my self, but my Page was ready long before me, and ran out of the Chamber to see how affairs might yet stand. But he soon returned, and brought with him this joyful news, that the time indeed was not yet but only I had over-*slept* my Breakfast, they being unwilling to waken me because of my Age; But that now it was time for me to go with him to the *Fountain* where the most part were assembled; With this Consolation my Spirit returned again, wherefore I was soon ready with my Habit, and went after the Page to the Fountain in the aforementioned Garden, where I found that the *Lyon* instead of his Sword had a pretty large Tablet by him. Now having well viewed it, I found that it was taken out of the ancient Monuments, and placed here for some especial Honour. The Inscription was somewhat worn out with age, and therefore I am minded to set it down here, as it is, and give every one

leave to consider it.

HERMES PRINCEPS.  
POST TOT ILLATA  
GENERI HUMANO DAMNA,  
DEI CONSILIO:  
ARTISQUE ADMINICULO,  
MEDICINA SALUBRIS FACTUR  
HEIC FLUO

*Bibat ex me qui potest: lavet, qui vult: turbet  
qui audet:*

BIBITE FRATRES, ET VIVITE.

☉:XXIIC: ☽

[12]

This Writing might well be read and understood, and may therefore fitly be here placed, because easier than any of the rest:

Now after we had first washed our selves out of the Fountain, and every Man had taken a draught out of an intirely Golden Cup, we were once more again to follow the Virgin into the Hall, and there put on new Apparel, which was all of Cloth of *Gold* gloriously set out with Flowers. There was also given to every one another Golden *Fleece*, which was set about with pretious Stones, and various Workmanship according to the utmost skill of each Artificer. On it hung a weighty Medal of Gold, whereon were figured the *Sun* and *Moon* in opposition; but on the other side stood this Poesie,

*The light of the Moon shall be as the light of the Sun, and the light of the Sun shall be seven times lighter than at present.*

But our former Jewels were layed in a little Casket, and committed to one of the Waiters. After this the Virgin lead us out in our order, where the Musitians waited ready at the door, all apparalled in *red Velvet* with white Guards. After which a *Door* (which I never saw open before) to the Royal winding-Stairs was unlocked; There the Virgin led us together with the Musick, up *three hundred sixty fiue* Stairs, there we saw nothing but what was of extream costly and artificial Workmanship; and still the further we went, the more glorious still was the Furniture, until at length at the top we came under a *painted* Arch, where the *sixty* Virgins attended us, all Richly Apparelled; Now as soon as they had bowed to us, and we as well as we could, had returned our reverence, our Musitians were dispatched away, who fain to go down the winding-Stairs again, the Door being shut after them. After this a little Bell was tolled; then came in a beautiful Virgin who brought every one a wreath of Laurel; But our Virgins had Branches given them: Mean while a Curtain was drawn up; Where I saw the

*King and Queen* as they sate there in their Majesty, and had not the yesterday *Queen* so faithfully warned me, I should have forgotten my self, and have equalled this unspeakable glory to Heaven. For besides that the Room glistered of meer Gold and pretious Stones; the *Queen's Robes* were moreover so made that I was not able to behold them. And whereas I before esteemed any thing for handsom, here all things so much surpassed the rest, as the Stars in Heaven are elevated. In the mean time the *Virgin* stept in, and so each of the *Virgins* taking one of us by the hand, with most profound Reverence presented us to the *King*: Whereupon the *Virgin* began thus to speak.

*"That to honour your Royal Majesties, (most gracious King and Queen) these Lords here present have adventured hither with peril of Body and Life; your Majesties have reason to rejoyce, especially since the greatest part are qualified for the inlarging of your Majesties Estates and Empire, as you will find the same by a most gracious and particular examination of each of them. Herewith I was desirous thus to have them in Humility presented to your Majesties, with most humble suit to discharge me of this my Commission, and most graciously to take sufficient information from each of them, concerning both my Actions and Omissions."*

Hereupon she laid down her Branch upon the ground. Now it would have been very fitting for one of us to have put in and spoken somewhat on this occasion, but seeing we were all troubled with the *falling* of the *Uvula*, at length the old *Atlas* stept forward and spoke on the *King's* behalf;

*"Their Royal Majesties do most graciously rejoyce at your arrival, and will that their Royal Grace be assured to all, and every Man: And with thy Administration, gentle Virgin, they are most graciously satisfied, & accordingly a Royal Reward shall therefore be provided for thee; yet it is still their intention, that thou shalt this day also continue with them, in as much as they have no reason to mistrust thee."*

Hereupon the *Virgin* humbly took up the Branch again. And so we for this first time were to step aside with our *Virgin*. This room was square on the front, five times broader than it was long; but towards the West it had a great Arch like a Porch, wherein stood in circle three glorious Royal *Thrones*, yet the middle-most was somewhat higher than the rest. Now in each Throne sate two persons, in the first sate a very antient *King* with a gray Beard, yet his Consort was extraordinary fair and young. In the third Throne sate a black *King* of middle Age, and by him a daintyold Matron, not Crowned, but covered with a Vail. But in the middle sate the two *young* Persons, who tho' they had likewise Wreaths of Laurel upon their Heads, yet over them hung a large and costly *Crown*. Now albeit they were not at this time so fair as I had before imagined to my self, yet so it was to be. Behind them on a round Form sat for the most part antient Men, yet none of them (at which I wondered) had any Sword, or other Weapon about him, Neither saw I any other Life-guard, but certain *Virgins* which were with us the day before, who sate on the sides of the Arch: Here can I not pass in silence

how the little *Cupid* flew to and again there, but for the most part he hovered and played the wanton about the great *Crown*; sometimes he seated himself in between the two Lovers, somewhat smiling upon them with his Bow. Nay, sometimes he made as if he would shoot one of us; In brief, this *Knave* was so full of his waggery, that he would not spare even the *little Birds* which in multitudes flew up and down the Room, but tormented them all he could. The Virgins also had their pastimes with him, but whensoever they could catch him, it was not so easie a matter for him to get *from them* again. Thus this little *Knave* made all the sport and mirth. Before the *Queen* stood a small, but unpressibly curious *Altar*: wherein lay a *Book* covered with black *Velvet*, only a little over-layed with *Gold*; by this stood a small Taper in an *Ivory Candlestick*, now although it were very *small*, yet it burnt *continually*, and stood in that manner, that had not *Cupid*, in sport, now and then puffed upon it, we could not have conceived it to be Fire. By this stood a Sphere or Celestial Globe, which of its self turned clearly about. Next this, a small striking-Watch, by that a little Christal Pipe or *Syphon-Fountain*, out of which perpetually ran a clear *blood-red Liquor*; and last of all a Scull, or *Death's Head*; in this was a *white Serpent*, which was of such a length, that though she crept circle-wise about the rest of it, yet her Taile still remained in one of the Eye-holes, until her Head again entered at the other, so she never stirred from her Scull, unless it happened that *Cupid* twitched a little at her, for then she slipt in so suddenly, that we all could not choose but marvel at it: Together with this *Altar*, there were up and down the Room wonderful Images, which moved themselves, as if they had been alive, and had so strange a contrivance, that it would be impossible for me to relate it all: likewise as we were passing out, there began such a marvellous kind of vocal Musick, that I could not certainly tell, whether it were performed by the Virgins who yet stayed behind, or by the Images themselves. Now we being for this time satisfied, went thence with our Virgins, who, the Musicians being already present, led us down the winding Stairs again, but the Door was diligently locked and bolted. As soon as we were come again into the Hall; one of the Virgins began: "*I wonder, Sister, that you durst adventure your self amongst so many Persons*": "*My Sister,*" replied our President, "*I am fearful of none so much as of this Man,*" pointing at me; This speech went to the Heart of me: For I well understood that she mocked at my *Age*, and indeed I was the oldest of them all. Yet she comforted me again with promise. That in case I behaved my self well towards her, she would easily rid me of this burden. Mean time a Collation was again brought in, and every one's Virgin seated by him, who well knew how to shorten the time with handsome discourses: But what their discourses and sports were I dare not blab out of School. But most of the questions were about the Arts, whereby I could lightly gather that both young and old were conversant in the Sciences. But still it run in my thoughts how I might become young again, whereupon I was somewhat the sadder; This the Virgin perceived, and therefore began, "*I dare lay anything, if I lye with him to night, he shall be pleasanter in the morning.*" Hereupon they began to laugh, and albeit I blushed all over, yet I was fain to laugh too at my own ill-luck. Now there was one there that had a mind to return my disgrace again upon the Virgin; whereupon he said, "*I hope not only we, but the Virgins too themselves*

*will bear witness in behalf of our Brother, that our Lady President hath promised her self to be his Bedfellow to Night": "I should be well content with it," replied the Virgin, "if I had no reason to be afraid of these my Sisters, there would be no hold with them should I cause the best and handsomest for my self, against their will." My Sister presently began another, "We find hereby that thy high Office makes thee not proud; wherefore if by thy permission we might by lot part the Lords here present, amongst us, for Bed-fellows, thou shouldst with our good-will have such a Prerogative." We let this pass for a Jeast, and began again to discourse together. But our Virgin could not leave tormenting us, and therefore began again, "My Lords, how if we should Permit Fourtune to decide which of us must lie together to Night?" "Well," said I, "if it may be no otherwise, we cannot refuse such a proffer." Now because it was concluded to make this tryal after Meat, we resolved to sit no longer at Table, so we arose, and each one walked up and down with his Virgin. "Nay," said the Virgin, "It shall not be so yet, but let us see how Fortune will couple us"; upon which we were separated asunder: But now first arose a dispute how the business should be carried, but this was only a premediated device, for the Virgin instantly made the proposal that we should mix our selves together in a Ring, and that she beginning to count from her self, the *seventh*, was to be content with the folling *seventh*, whether it were a Virgin, or man; for our parts we were not aware of any craft, and therefore permitted it so to be; but when we thought we had very well mingled our selves, the Virgins nevertheless were so subtil, that each one knew her station before-hand: The Virgin began to reckon, the seventh next her was again a Virgin, the third seventh a Virgin likewise, and this happened so long till (to our amazement) all the *Virgins* came forth, and *none of us* was hit; Thus we poor pittiful Wretches remained standing alone, and were moreover forced to suffer our selves to be *jeared* too, and confess we were very handsomely couzened. In short, who ever had seen us in our order, might sooner have expected the Skye to fall, then that it should never have come to our turn. Herewith our sport was at an end, and we were fain to satisfie our selves with the Virgins Waggery. In the interm, the little wanton *Cupid* came also in unto us; But because he presented himself on behalf of their Royal Majesties, and delivered us a Health (as from them) out of a golden Cup, and was to call our Virgins to the King, withal declaring he could at this time tarry no longer with them, we could not sufficiently sport our selves with him: So with a due return of our most humble thanks we let him flye forth again. Now because (in the interm) the mirth began to fall into my Consort's Feet, and the Virgins were nothing sorry to see it, they quickly lead up a civil Dance, whom I rather beheld with pleasure, then assisted. For my Mercurialists were so ready with their Postures, as if they had been long of the Trade. After some few Dances our president came in again, and told us how the Artists and Students had offered themselves to their Royal Majesties, for their Honour and Pleasure, before their departure to act a Merry Comedy; and if we thought good to be present at it, and to waite upon their Royal Majesties to the House of the *Sun*, it would be acceptable to them, and they would most graciously acknowledge it: Hereupon in the first place we returned our most humble thanks for the Honour vouchsafed us, not only so, but moreover most submissively tendered*

our small service, which the Virgin related again, and presently brought word to attend their Royal Majesties (in our order) in the Gallery, whither we were soon led, and staid not long there; for the Royal Procession was just ready, yet without any Musick at all. The unknown Queen who was Yesterday with us, went foremost, with a small and costly Coronet, apparrelled in *white Sattin*, she carried nothing but a small Crucifix which was made of a Pearl, and this very day wrought between the young King and his Bride. After her went the six fore-mentioned Virgins in two ranks, who carried the King's Jewels belonging to the little Altar: next to these came the three Kings. The Bridegroom was in the midst of them in a plain dress, only in *black Sattin*, after the Italian Mode. He had on a small round black Hat, with a little black pointed Feather, which he courteously put off to us, thereby to signifie his favour towards us. To him we bowed our selves, as also to the first, as we had been before instructed. After the Kings came the three Queens, two whereof were richly habited, only she in the middle went likewise all in *black*, and Cupid held up her Train; after this intimation was given to us to follow, and after us the Virgins, till at last old *Atlas* brought up the rear. In such Procession, through many stately Walks, we at length came to the House of the *Sun*, there next to the King and Queen, upon a richly furnished Scaffold, to behold the fore-ordained Comedy: We indeed though Separated, stood on the right Hand of the Kings, but the Virgins on the left, except those, to whom the Royal Ensignes were committed. To them was allotted a peculiar standing at top of all. But the rest of the attendants were fain to stand below between the columns, and therewith to be content. Now because there are many remarkable Passages in this Comedy, I will not omit in brief to run it over.

First of all came forth a very *ancient* King, with some Servants; before whose *Throne* was brought a little *Chest*, with mention that it was found upon the Water, Now it being opened, there appeared in it a lovely *Babe*, together with certain Jewels, and a small Letter of Parchment sealed, and superscribed to the King. Which the King therefore presently opened, and having read it, wept; and then declared to his Servants how injuriously the King of the *Moores* had deprived his Aunt of her Country, and had exstinguished all the Royal Seed even to his Infant, with the Daughter of which Country he had now purposed to have matched his Son. Hereupon he Swore to maintain perpetual enmity with the *Moore*, and his Allies; and to revenge this upon him; and therewith commanded that the Child should be tenderly nursed, and to make preparation against the *Moore*. Now this provision and the discipline of the young Lady (who after she was a little grown up was committed to an ancient Tutor) continued all the first *Act*; with many very fine and laudable sports besides.

In the interlude a *Lyon* and *Griffon* were set at one another, to fight, and the *Lyon* got the victory; which was also a pretty sight.

In the second *Act*, the *Moore*, a very black treacherous Fellow, came forth also; who having with vexation understood that his Murder was discovered, and that too a little Lady was craftily stolen from him; began thereupon to consult how

by stratagem he might be able to encounter so powerful an adversary, whereof he was at length advised by certain *Fugitives* who by reason of Famine fled to him: So the young Lady contrary to all mens expectation, fell again into his Hands: Whom, had he not been wonderfully deceived by his own Servants, he had like to have caused to be slain. Thus this *Act* too was concluded with a marvelous triumph of the *Moore*.

In the third *Act* a great *Army* on the King's party was raised against the *Moore*, and put under the conduct of an antient valiant Knight, who fell into the *Moore's* Country, till at length he forcibly rescued the young *Lady* out of the Tower, and Apparrelled her a new. After this in a *trice* they erected a glorious Scaffold, and placed their young Lady upon it: presently came *twelve Royal* Embassadors, amongst whom the fore-mentioned Knight made a Speech, alledging that the King his most gracious Lord had not only heretofore delivered her from death, and even hitherto caused her to be royally brought up (though she had not behaved her self altogether as became her) But moreover his Royal Majesty had, before others, elected her, to be a Spouse for the young *Lord* his Son; and most graciously desired that the said espousals might be really executed in case they would be sworn to his Majesty upon the following Articles. Hereupon out of a Patent he caused certain glorious conditions to be read, which if it were not too long, were well worthy to be here recounted. In brief, the young Lady took an Oath inviolably to observe the same; returning thanks withal in most seemly sort for this so high a Grace. Whereupon they began to sing to the Praise of God, of the King, and the young Lady; and so for this time departed.

For sport, in the mean while, the four Beasts of *Daniel*, as he saw them in the Vision, and hath at large described them, were brought in, all which had its certain *signification*.

In the fourth *Act* the young Lady was again *restored* to her lost Kingdom, and *Crowned*, and for a space, in this array, conducted about the place with extraordinary joy: after this many and various Embassadors presented themselves, not only to wish her prosperity, but also to behold her Glory. Yet it was not long that she preserved her Integrity, but soon began again to look wantonly about her, and to wink at the Embassadors and Lords; wherein she truly acted her part to the Life.

These her manners were soon known to the *Moore*, who would by no means neglect such an opportunity, and because her Steward had not sufficient regard to her, she was easily blinded with great promises, so that she had no good confidence in her King, but privily submitted her self to the intire disposal of the *Moore*. Hereupon the *Moore* made haste, and having (by her consent) gotten her into his Hands, he gave her good words so long till all her Kingdom had subjected it self to him: After which in the third Scene of this *Act*, he caused her to be led forth, and first to be stript stark naked, and then upon a scurvy wooden Scaffold to be bound to a Post, and well scourged, and at last sentenced



to *Death*. This was so woful a Spectacle, that it made the Eyes of many to run over. Hereupon thus *naked* as she was, she was cast into Prison, there to expect her Death, which was to be procured by *Poyson*, which yet killed her not, but made her Leprous all over: Thus this *Act* was for the most part lamentable.

Between, they brought forth *Nebuchadnezzar's* Image, which was adorn'd with all manner of Arms, on the Head, Breast, Belly, Legs and Feet, and the like; of which too more shall be spoken in the future explication.

In the fifth *Act* the young King was acquainted with all that had passed between the *Moore* and his future Spouse, who first interceded with his Father for her, intreating that she might not be left in that condition; which his Father having agreed to, Embassadors were dispatched to comfort her in her Sickness and Captivity, but yet withal to give her notice of her inconsideratedness. But she would not yet receive them, but consented to be the *Moore's Concubine*, which was also done, and the young King was acquainted with it.

After this comes a band of Fools, each of which brought with him a Cudgel, where with in a trice they made a great Globe of the World, and soon undid it again. It was fine sportive Phantasie.

In the sixth *Act* the young King resolved to bid battle to the *Moore*, which also was done. And albeit the *Moore* was discomfitted, yet all held the young King too for dead. At length he came to himself again, released his Spouse, and committed her to his Steward and Chaplain.

The first whereof tormented her mightily; at last the leaf turned over, and the Priest was so insolently wicked, that he would needs be above all, until the same was reported to the young King, who hastily dispatched one who broke the Neck of the Priest's mightiness, and adorned the Bride in some measure for the Nuptials.

After the *Act* a vast artificial *Elephant* was brought forth. He carried a great Tower with Musitians: which was also well-pleasing to all.

In the last *Act* the Bride-groom appeared in such pomp as is not well to be believed, and I was amazed how it was brought to pass: The Bride met him in the like Solemnity. Whereupon all the People cried out *VIVAT SPONSUS, VIVAT SPONSA* [13]. So that by this Comedy they did with all congratulate our King and Queen in the most stately manner: Which (as I well observed) pleased them most extraordinary well.

At length they made some passes about the stage in such Procession, till at last they altogether began thus to Sing.

I

This time full of love  
Does our joy much improve  
Because of the King's Nuptial;  
And therefore let's sing  
That from all parts it ring,  
Blest be he that granted us all.

II

The Bride most exquisitely fair,  
Whom we attended with long care  
To him in troth's now plighted:  
We fully have at length obtained  
The same for which we did contend:  
He's happy, that's fore-sighted.

III

Now the Parents Kind and good  
By intreaties are subdued:  
Long enough in hold was she mewed;  
In honour increase,  
Till thousands arise  
And spring from your own proper Blood.

After this thanks were returned, and the Comedy was finished with joy, and the particular good liking of the Royal Persons wherefore, (the Evening also being already hard by) they departed together in their fore-mentioned order: But we were to attend the Royal Persons up the winding Stairs into the forementioned Hall, where the Tables were already richly furnished, and this was the first time that we were invited to the Kings table. The little Altar was placed in the midst of the Hall, and the six fore-named Royal Ensignes were laid on it. At this time the young King behaved himself very graciously towards us, but yet he could not be heartily Merry; But howbeit he now and then discoursed a little with us, yet he often sighed, at which the little Cupid only mocked, and playd his waggish tricks. The old King and Queen were very serious, only the *Wife* of one of the ancient Kings was gay enough, the cause whereof I yet understood not. During this, the Royal Persons took up the first Table, at the second we only Sate. At the third, some of the principal Virgins placed themselves: The rest of the Virgins, and Men, were all fain to wait. This was performed with such state and solemn stilness, that I am affraid to make many words of it. Here I cannot leave untouched how that all the Royal Persons, before Meat, attired themselves in *Snow-white* glittering Garments, and so sate down to Table. Over the Table hang the fore-mentioned great Golden Crown, the pretious Stones whereof,

all the Lights were kindled at the *small Taper* upon the Altar; what the reason was I did not certainly know. But this I took very good notice of, that the young King frequently sent Meat to the white *Serpent* upon the little Altar, which caused me to muse. Almost all the Prattle at this Banquet was made by little Cupid, who could not leave us (and me indeed especially) untormented. He was perpetually producing some *Strange* matter. However, there was no considerable Mirth, all went silently on: from whence I, by my self, could imagin some great imminent Peril. For there was no Musick at all heard; but if we were demanded any thing, we were fain to give short round answers, and so let it rest. In short, all things had so strange a face, that the *sweat began* to trickle down all over my Body; and I am apt to believe that the stout-heartedst Man alive would then have lost his courage. Supper being now almost ended, the young King commanded the Book to be reached him from the little Altar. This he opened, and caused it once again by an old Man to be propounded to us, whether we resolved to abide with him in *Prosperity* and Adversity; which we having with trembling consented to, he further cause us sadly to be demanded, whether we would give him our Hands on it, which, when we could find no evasion, was fain so to be. Hereupon one after another arose, and with his own Hand writ himself down in this Book, When this also was performed, the little *Christal Fountain*, together with a very small Christal Glass was brought near, out of which all the Royal Persons one after *another Drank*, afterwards it was reached to us too, and so forward to all Persons, and this was called, *the Draught of Silence*. Hereupon all the Royal Persons presented us their Hands, declaring that in case we did not now stick to them, we should now and *never more* hereafter see them; which verily made our Eyes run over. But our president engaged her self and promised very largely on our behalf, which gave them Satisfaction. Mean time a little Bell was tolled, at which all the Royal Persons waxed so mighty bleak, that we were ready utterly to despair. They quickly put off their *white* Garments again, and put on intirely *black* ones; The whole Hall likewise was hung about with black Velvet, the Floor was covered with black Velvet, with which also the Ceiling above (all this being before Prepared) was over-spread. After that the Tables were also removed away, and all had seated themselves round about upon the Form, and we also had put on *black* habits, in comes our President again, who was before gone out, and brought with her six black Taffeta Scarffs, with which she bound the *six Royal* Persons Eyes. Now when they could no longer see, there were immediately brought in by the Servants six covered *Coffins*, and set down in the Hall, also a low black Seat placed in the midst. Finally, there steps in a very *cole-black* tall Man, who bare in his hand a sharp Ax. Now after that the old King had been first brought to the Seat, his *Head* was instantly whipt off, and wrapped up in a black Cloth, but the *Blood* was received into a great *golden Goblet*, and placed with him in this Coffin that stood by, which being covered, was set aside. Thus it went with the rest also, so that I thought it would at length have come to me too, but it did not; For as soon as the *six Royal Persons* were Beheaded, the black Man went out again; after whom another followed, who Beheaded *him* too just before the Door, and brought back his Head together with the Ax, which were laid in a little Chest. This indeed to me seemed a bloody Wedding, but

because I could not tell what would yet be the event, I was fain for that time to captivate my understanding until I were further resolved.

For the Virgin too, seeing that some of us were faint-hearted and wept, bid us be content. For, said she to us, "*The Life* of these standeth now in your hands, and in case you follow me, this Death shall make *many alive*." Herewith she intimated we should go sleep, & trouble our selves no further on our part, for they should be sure to have their due right; And so she bad us all good night, saying, *That she must watch the dead Corps this night*: We did so, and were each of us conducted by our Pages into our Lodgings. My Page talked with me of sundry and various matters (which I still very well remember) and gave me cause enough to admire at his understanding: But his intention was to lull me asleep, which at last I well observed, whereupon I made as though I was fast asleep, but no sleep came into my Eyes, and I could not put the Beheaded out of my mind. Now my Lodging was directly over against the great *Lake*, so that I could well look upon it, the Windows being nigh the Bed. About midnight, as soon as it had struck twelve, on a sudden I espied on the *Lake* a great *Fire*, wherefore out of fear I quickly opened the Window to see what would become of it; Then from far I saw seven *Ships* making forward, which were all stuck full of Lights. Above on the top of each of them hovered a *Flame*, that passed to and fro, and sometimes descended quite down, so that I could lightly judge that it must needs be the *Spirits* of the Beheaded. Now these *Ships* gently approached to Land, and each of them had no more than one Mariner. As soon as they were now gotten to Shore, I presently espied our Virgin with a *Torch* going towards the *Ships*, after whom the six covered Coffins, together with the little Chest, were carried; and each of them privily laid in a *Ship*. Wherefore I awaked my Page too, who hugely thanked me, for having run much up and down all the day, he might quite have overslept this, tho' he well knew it. Now as soon as the Coffins were laid in the *Ships*, all the Lights *were* extinguished, and the six *Flames* passed back together over the *Lake*, so that there was no more but one Light in each *Ship* for a Watch. There were also some hundreds of Watchmen who had encamped themselves on the Shore, and sent the Virgin back again into the Castle, who carefully bolted all up again; so that I could well judge that there was nothing more to be done this night, but that we must expect the day; so we again betook our selves to rest. And I only of all my Company had a Chamber towards the Lake, and saw this, so that now I was also extream weary, and so fell asleep in my manifold Speculations.

### The Fifth Day

The night was over, and the dear wished for day broken, when hastily I got me out of the Bed, more desirous to learn what might yet insue, than that I had: sufficiently slept; Now after that I had put on my Cloaths, and according to my custom was gone down the Stairs, it was still too early, and I found no body else in the Hall, wherefore I intreated my Page to lead me a little about in the Castle,

and shew me somewhat that was rare, who was now (as always) willing, and presently lead me down certain steps under ground, to a great iron Door, on which the following Words in great Copper Letters, were fixed.

Ե՛Ր ՏՂԳ ԺՐԳԱՃՐՕ՛  
 Ե՛Ր ԵՆՎՍ Ե՛Ր ՏՂԳ ԺՐԳԱՃՐՕ՛  
 Ե՛Ր ԵՆՎՍ Ե՛Ր ՏՂԳ ԺՐԳԱՃՐՕ՛  
 Ե՛Ր ԵՆՎՍ Ե՛Ր ՏՂԳ ԺՐԳԱՃՐՕ՛

[14]

This I thus copied, and set down in my Table-Book. NOW after this Door was opened, the Page led me by the hand though a very dark Passage, till we came again to a very little Door, that was now only put too, For (as the Page informed me) it was first opened but yesterday when the Coffins were taken out, and had not been since shut. Now as soon as we stepped in, I espied the most pretious thing that Nature ever created: For this Vault had no other light but from certain huge great *Carbuncles*; And this (as I was informed) was the *King's Treasury*. But the most glorious and principal thing, that I here saw, was a *Sepulcher* (which stood in the middle) so rich that I wondred it was no better guarded: whereunto the Page answered me, *That I had good reason to be thankful to my Planet, by whose influence it was, that I had now seen certain pieces which no humane Eye else (except the King's Family) had ever had a view of.* This Sepulcher was *triangular*, and had in the middle of it a Kettle of polished Copper, the rest was of pure Gold and pretious Stones; In the Kettle stood an Angel, who held in his Arms an unknown Tree, from which it continually dropped Fruit into the Kettle; and as oft as the Fruit fell into the Kettle, it turned into *Water* too, and ran out from thence into three small Golden Kettles standing by. This little Altar was supported by these three Animals, an *Eagle*, and *Ox* and a *Lyon*, which stood on an exceeding costly Base. I asked my Page what this might signifie; "*Here,*" said he, "*lies Buried Lady Venus, that Beauty which hath undone many a great Man, both in Fourtune, Honour, Blessing and Prosperity.*" After which he shewed me a Copper Door on the Pavement. "*Here (said he) if you please, we may go further down*"; "*I still follow you*" (replied I) so I went down the steps, where it was exceeding dark, but the Page immediately opened a little Chest, wherein stood a small *ever-burning Taper*, at which he Kindled one of the many Torches which lay by. I was mightily terrified, and seriously asked how he durst do this? He gave me for answer. *As long as the Royal Persons are still at rest, I have nothing to fear.* Herewith I espied a rich Bed ready made, hung about with curious Curtains, one of which he drew, where I saw the *Lady Venus stark-naked* for he heaved up the Coverlets too) lying there in such Beauty, and a fashion so surprizing, that I was almost besides my self, neither do I yet know whether it was a piece thus Carved, or an humane Corps that lay dead there; For

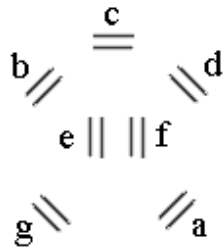
she was altogether immoveable, and yet I durst not touch her. So she was agin covered, and the Curtain drawn before her, yet she was still (as it were) in my Eye. But I soon espyed behind the Bed a Tablet, on which it was thus written.

wxö 6p fsvhg öpzöpb  
dxvös wvsg vösspöbb  
vpsbñiöpsö, wpsöpyh  
xvf wvhpö vöb pzö  
öuqps öpzö pzöpb  
köözöb

[15]

I asked my Page concerning this Writing, but he laughed, with promise that I should know it too. So he putting out the Torch, we again ascended: Then I better viewed all the little Doors, and first found, that on every corner there burned a small Taper of *Pyrites*, of which I had before taken no notice; for the Fire was so clear, that it looked much liker a Stone than a Taper. From this heat the Tree was forced continually to *melt*, yet it still produced new Fruit. "*Now behold* (said the Page) *what I heard revealed to the King by Atlas, When the Tree* (said he) *shall be quite melted down, Then shall Lady Venus awake, and be the Mother of a King.*" Whilst he was thus speaking, in flew the little Cupid, who at first was somewhat abashed at our presence, but seeing us both look more like the Dead then the Living, he could not at length refrain from Laughing, *Demanded what Spirit had brought me thither*, whom I with trembling answered, that I had lost my way in the Castle, and was by chance come hither, and that the Page likewise had been looking up and down for me, and at last lited upon me here, I hoped he would not take it amiss. "*Nay then 'tis well enough yet,*" said Cupid, "*my old busie Gransir, but you might lightly have served me a scurvy trick, had you been aware of this Door. Now I must look better to it,*" and so he put a strong Lock on the Copper Door, where we before descended. I thanked God that he lited upon us no sooner, my Page too was the more jocond, because I had so well helped him at this pinch. "*Yet can I not* (said Cupid) *let it pass unrevenged, that you were so near stumbling upon my dear Mother;*" with that he put the point of his Dart into one of the little Tapers, and heating it a little, pricked me with it on the hand, which at that time I little regarded, but was glad that it went so well with us, and that we came off without further danger. Meantime my Companions were gotten out of Bed too, and were again returned into the Hall. To whom I also joyned my self, making as if I were then first risen. After Cupid had carefully made all fast again, he came likewise to us, and would needs have me shew him my hand, where he still found a little drop of blood, at which he heartily laughed, and bad the rest have a care of me, I would shortly end my days. We all wondred how Cupid could be so merry, and have no sence at all of the yesterday's sad passages. But he was no what troubled. Now our President had in the mean time made her self ready for the Journey, coming in all in *black Velvet*, yet she still bare her branch of Laurel, her Virgins too had their Branches. Now all things being in

readiness, the Virgin bid us first drink somewhat, and then presently prepare for the procession: wherefore we made no long tarrying, but followed her out of the Hall into the Court. In the Court stood six Coffins, and my Companions thought no other but that the six Royal Persons lay in them, but I well observed the device. Yet I knew not what was to be done with these other. By each Coffin were eight *muffled* Men. Now as soon as the Musick went (it was so mournful and dolesome a tune, that I was astonished at it) they took up the Coffins, and we (as we were ordered) were fain to go after them into the formentioned Garden, in the midst of which was erected a wooden Edifice, having round about the Roof a glorious Crown, and standing upon *seven* Columns; within it were formed six Sepulchers, and by each of them a stone, but in the middle it had a round hollow rising stone: In these Graves the Coffins were quietly and with many Cerimonies layed: The stones were shoved over them, and they shut fast. But the little Chest was to lie in the middle. Herewith were my Companions deceived, for they imagined no other but that the Dead Corps were there. Upon the top of all there was a great Flag, having a *Phoenix painted* on it, perhaps therewith the more to delude us. Here I had great occasion to thank God that I had seen more than the rest. Now after the Funerals were done, the Virgin, having placed her self upon the middle-most Stone, made a short Oration, *That we should be constant to our engagements, and not repine at the pains we were hereafter to undergo, but be helpful in restoring the present buried Royal Persons to Life again, and therefore without delay to rise up with her, to make a Journey to the Tower of Olympus, to fetch from thence Medicines useful and necessary for this purpose.* This we soon agreed to, and followed her through another little door quite to the Shore. There the seven fore-mentioned *Ships* stood all empty; on which all the Virgins stuck up their *Laurel Branches*, and after they had distributed us in the six Ships, they caused us in Gods name thus to begin our Voyage, and looked upon us as long as they could have us in sight, after which they with all the Watch-men returned into the Castle. Our Ships had each of them a peculiar device. Five of them indeed had the five *regular Bodies*, each a several one, but mine in which the Virgin too sate, carried a Globe. Thus we sailed on in a singular order, and each had only two Mariners. Foremost went the Ship *a*, [16] in which, as I conceive the *Moor* lay, in this were *twelve Musitians*, who played excellent well, its device was a Pyramid. Next followed three a breast, *b*, *c*, and *d*, in which we were disposed, I sate in *c*. In the midst behind these came the two fairest and stateliest Ships, *e* and *f*, stuck about with many Branches of Laurel, having no Passengers in them; their Flags were the *Sun* and *Moon*. But in the rear only one Ship *g*, in this were *Forty Virgins*. Now being thus passed over this Lake, we first came through a narrow Arm, into the right Sea, where all the Syrens, Nymphs, and Sea-Goddesses had attended us; wherefore they immediately dispatched a Sea-Nymph to us to deliver their Present and Offering of Honour to the Wedding.



It was a costly, great, set, round, and Orient Pearl; the like to which hath not at any time been seen, either in ours, or yet in the new World. Now the Virgin having friendly received it, the Nymph further intreated that audience might be given to their Divertisements, and to make a little stand, which the Virgin was content to do, and commanded the two great Ships to stand into the middle, and with the rest to incompass them in *Pentagon*.<sup>[17]</sup> After which the Nymphs fell into a ring about them, and with a most delicate sweet voice began thus to sing.

I

There is nothing better here below,  
 Than beauteous, noble, Love;  
 Whereby we like to God do grow,  
 And none to grief do move.  
 Wherefore let's chant it to the King,  
 That all the sea thereof may ring.  
 We question; answer you.

II

What was it that at first us made  
 It was Love.  
 And what hath Grace afresh conveyed?  
 It is Love.  
 Whence wasn't (pray tell us) we were born?  
 Of Love  
 How came we then again forlorn?  
 Sans Love.

III

Who was it (say) that us conceived?  
 It was. Love.  
 Who Suckled, Nursed, and Relieved?  
 It was Love.  
 What is it we to our parents owe?



It is Love.  
What do they us such kindness show?  
Of Love.

IV

Who gathers in the Victory?  
It is Love.  
Can Love by search obtained be?  
By Love.  
How may a Man good works perform?  
Through Love.  
Who into one can two transform?  
It is Love.

V

Then let our Song sound,  
Untill it's Eccho rebound.  
To Loves honour and praise,  
Which may ever increase  
With our noble Princes, the King,  
and the Queen,  
The Soul is departed,  
Their bodies are within.

VI

And as long as we live,  
God graciously give;  
That as great love and Amity,  
They bear each other mightily;  
So we likewise, by Loves own Flame,  
May reconjoyn them once again.

VII

Then this annoy  
Into great Joy  
(If many thousand younglings deign)  
Shall change, and ever so remain.

They having with most admirable concert and melody finished this Song, I no more Wondred at *Uliesses* for stopping the liars of his Companions; for I seemed to my self the most unhappy man alive, that Nature had not made me too so

Sail from thence; wherefore the Nymphs too after they had been presented with a long *red Scarff* for a gratuity; went off, and dispersed themselves in the Sea. I was at this time sensible, that *Cupid* began to work with me too, which yet tended but very little to my Credit, and for as much as my giddiness is likely to be nothing beneficial to the Reader, I am resolved to let it rest as it is. But this was the very wound that in the first Book I received on the head in a Dream: and let every one take warning by me of loitering about *Venus's Bed*, for *Cupid* can by no means brook it. After some Hours, having in friendly discourses made a good way, we came within Ken of the Tower of *Olympus*, wherefore the Virgin commanded by the discharge of some Pieces to give the signal of our approach, which was also done; And immediately we espyed a great *white* Flag thrust out, and a small gilded Pinnacle sent forth to meet us. Now as soon as this was come to us, we perceived in it a very ancient man, the Warden of the Tower, with certain Guards cloathed in *white*, of whom we were Friendly received, and so conducted to the Tower. This Tower was Situated upon an *Island* exactly *square*, which was invironed with a *Wall* so firm and thick, that I my self counted two *hundred and sixty* passes over. On the other side of the wall was a fine Meadow with certain little Gardens, in which grew strange, and to me unknown, Fruits; and then again an inner *Wall* round about the Tower. The Tower of it self was just as if *seven round* Towers had been built one by another, yet the middlemost was somewhat the higher, and within they all entred one into another, and had seven Storys one above another. Being thus come to the Gates of the Tower, we were led a little aside on the *Wall*, that so, as I well observed, the Coffins might be brought into the Tower without our taking notice; of this the rest knew nothing. This being done, we were conducted into the Tower at the very bottom, which albeit it were excellently painted, yet we had here littil recreation, for this was nothing but a *Laboratory*, where we were fain to beat and wash Plants, and pretious Stones, and all Sorts of Things, and extract their Juice and Essence, and put up the same in Glasses, and deliver them to be laid up. And truly our Virgin was so busie with us, and so full of her directions, that she knew how to give each of us employment enough, so that in this *Island* we were fain to be meer *drudges*, till we had atcheived all that was necessary for the restoring of the Beheaded Bodies. Meantime (as I afterwards understood) three Virgins were in the first Apartment washing the Corps with all diligence. Now having at *length almost* done with this our preparation, nothing more was brought us, but some broath with a little draught of Wine, whereby I well observed, that we were not here for our pleasure; for when we had finished our days work too, every one had only a *Mattress* laid on the Ground for him, wherewith we were to content our selves. For my part I was not very much troubled with sleep, and therefore walked out into the Garden, and at length came as far as the *Wall*; and because the Heaven was at that time very clear, I could well drive away the time in contemplating the *Stars*; By chance I came to a great pair of *Stone-Stairs*, which led up to the top of the *Wall*. And because the Moon shone very bright, I was so much the more confident, and went up, and looked too a little upon the Sea, which was now exceeding calm; and thus having good opportunity to consider better of Astronomy, I found that this present Night there would happen such a conjunction of the Planets, the

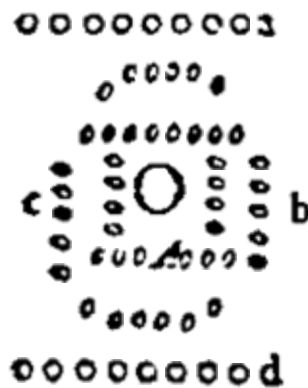
like to which was not otherwise suddenly to be observed. Now having looked a good little into the Sea, and it being just about Midnight, as soon as it had struck Twelve, I beheld from far the *Seven Flames* passing over Sea hitherward, and betaking themselves to the top of the Spire of the Tower. This made me somewhat affraid; for as soon as the Flames had settled themselves, the Winds arose, and began to make the Sea very Tempestuous. The Moon also was Covered with clouds, and my joy ended with such fear, that I had scarce time enough to hit upon the Stairs again, and begake my self again to the Tower. Now whether the Flames tarried any longer, or passed away again, I cannot say: For in this obscurity I durst no more venture abroad: So I laid me down upon my Mattress, and there being besides in the *Laboratory* a pleasant and gently purling Fountain, I fell a Sleep so much the sooner. And thus this fifth day too was concluded with Wonders.

### The Sixth Day

Next morning, after we had awakend one another, we sate together a while to discourse what might yet be the event of things. For some were of opinion that they should all be in livened again together. Others contradicted it, because the decease of the ancients was not only to *restore* life, but increase too to the young ones. Some imagined that they were not put to death, but that others were beheaded in their stead. We having now talked together a pretty long while in comes the Old Man to us, and first saluting us, looks about him to see if all things were ready, and the processes enough done. We had herein so behaved our selves, that he had no fault to find with our diligence, whereupon he placed all the Glasses together, and put them into a case. Presently come certain youths bringing with them some Ladders, Ropes, and large Wings, which they laid down before us, and departed. Then the old Man began thus: "*My Dear Sons, one of these three things must each of you this day constantly bear about with him. Now it is free for you either to make a choice of one of them, or to cast lots about it.*" We replied, we would choose. "*Nay*"; said he, "*let it rather go by lot.*" Hereupon he made three little Schedules, in one he writ *Ladder*, on the second *Rope*, on the third *Wings*; These he laid in an Hat, and each man must draw, and whatever he happened upon, that was to be his. Those who got the *Ropes*, imagined themselves to be in the best case, but I chanced on a *Ladder* which hugely afflicted me, for it was twelve-foot long, and pretty weighty, and I must be forced to carry it, whereas the others could handsomly coyle their Ropes about them: and as for the *Wings*, the old Man joyned them so nearly on to the third sort, as if they had grown upon them. Hereupon he turned the Cock, and then the Fountain ran no longer, and we were fain to remove it, from the middle out of the way. After all things were carried off, he taking with him the Casket with the Glasses, took leave, and locked the Door fast after him, so that we imagined no other but that we had been imprisoned in this Tower. But it was hardly a quarter of an Hour before a round Hole at the very *top* was uncovered, where we saw our Virgin, who called

to us, and bad us good Morrow, desiring us to come up. They with the Wings were instantly above through the hole. Only they with the Ropes were in evil plight.

For as soon as ever one of us was up, he was commanded to draw up the Ladder to him. At last each mans Rope was hanged on an Iron Hook, so every one was fain to climb up by his Rope as well as he could, which indeed was not compassed without Blisters. Now as soon as we were all well up, the hole was again covered, and we were friendly received by the Virgin. This Room was the whole breadth of the Tower it self, having *Six* very stately *Vestries* a little raised above the Room, and to be entred by the ascent of three Steps. In these *Vestries* we were distributed, there to pray for the Life of the King and Queen, meanwhile the Virgin went in and out at the little Door a, till we had done. For as soon as our process was absolved, there was brought in, and placed in the middle through the little Door, by twelve persons (which were formerly our Musicians) a wonderful thing of a *longish* shape, which my Companions took only to be a Fountain. But I well observed that the *Corps's* lay in it, for the inner Chest was of an oval Figure, so large that Six Persons might well lie in it one by another. After which they again went forth, fetched their Instruments, and conducted in our Virgin, together with her she-attendants, with a most delicate noise of Musick. The Virgin carried a little Casket, but the rest only Branches, and small Lamps, and some too lighted Torches. The Torches were immediately given into our Hands, and we were to stand about the Fountain in this order.



First stood the *Virgin A* with her attendants in a Ring round about with the Lamps & branches *c*, next stood we with our Torches *b*, then the *Musicians a* in a long rank, last of all the rest of the Virgins *d* in another long rank too. Now whence the Virgins came, or whether they dwelt in the Castle, or whether they were brought in by night, I know not, for all their Faces were covered with delicate white Linnen, so that I could not know any of them. Hereupon the Virgin opened the Casket, in which there was a round thing wrapped up in a piece of green double Taffata. This she laid in the uppermost Kettle, and then covered it with the lid, which was full of holes, and had besides a Rim, on which she poured in some of the Water which we had the day before prepared, whence the Fountain began immediately to run, and through four small Pipes to drive

into the little Kettle; beneath the undermost Kettle there were many sharp points, on which the Virgins stuck their Lamps, that so the heat might come to the Kettle, and make the Water Seeth. Now the Water beginning to Simper, by many little holes at *a*, it fell in upon the Bodies, and was so hot, that it *dissolved* them all, and turned them *into* Liquor. But what the above said round wrapt up thing was, my Companions knew not, but I understood that it was the Moor's Head, from which the Water conceived so great heat. At *b* round about the great Kettle, there were again many holes, in which they stuck their Branches; now whether this was done of necessity, or only for Ceremony, I know not; However these Branches were continually besprinkled by the Fountain, whence it afterwards dropt somewhat of a deeper *Yellow* into the Kettle. This lasted for near two Hours, that the Fountain still constantly ran of it self; but yet the longer, the fainter it was. Mean time the Musitians went their way, and we walked up and down in the Room; and truly the Room was so made, that we had opportunity enough to pass away our tirne: There was, for Images, Paintings, Clock-works, Organs, Springing Fountains, and the like, nothing forgotten. Now it was near the time that the Fountain ceased, and would run no longer: upon which the Virgin commanded a round Golden Globe to be brought. But at the bottom of the Fountain there was a Tap, by which she let out all the matter that was dissolved by those hot Drops (whereof certain quarts were then *very Red*) into the Globe. The rest of the Water which remained above in the Kettle, was poured out. And so this Fountain (which was now become much lighter) was again carried forth. Now whether it was opened abroad, or whether any thing of the Bodies that was further useful, yet remained, I dare not certainly say: But this I know, that the Water that was emptied into the Globe was much *heavier* then six, or yet more of us were well able to bear, albeit for its bulk it should have seemed not too heavy for one man. Now this Globe being with much ado gotten out of Doors, we again sate alone. But I perceiving a trampling over head, had an Eye to my Ladder. Hear one might take notice of the strange opinions my Companions had concerning this Fountain: For they not imagining but that the Bodies lay in the Garden of the Castle, knew not what to make of this kind of working, but I thanked God that I awaked in so opportune a time, and saw that which helped me the better in all the Virgins business. After one quarter of an hour the cover above was again lifted of, and we commanded to come up, which was done as before with Wings, Ladders, and Ropes. And it did not a little vex me, that whereas the Virgins could go up another way, we were fain to take so much toil; yet I could well judge there must be some *special* reason in it, and we must leave somewhat for the *Old Man* to do too. For even those with the Wings had no advantage by them but when they were to mount through the Hole. Now being gotten up thither also, and the Hole shut again, I saw the Globe hanging by a strong Chain in the middle of the Room. In this Room was nothing else but meer Windows, and still between two *Windows* there was a Door, which was covered with nothing but a great polished Looking-Glass; and these Windows and Looking-Glasses were so optically opposed one to another, that although the Sun (which now shined exceeding bright) beat only upon one Door, yet (after the Windows towards the Sun were opened, and the Doors before the Looking-Glasses drawn

aside) in all quarters of the Room there was nothing but Suns, which by artificial *Refractions* beat upon the whole golden Globe hanging in the midst; and for as much as the same (besides that brightness) was polished, it gave such a Lustre, that none of us could open our Eyes, but were therefore forced to look out at Windows till the Globe was well heated, and brought to the desired effect. Here I may well avow that in these Mirrours I have seen the most wonderful Spectacle that ever Nature brought to light; for there were Suns in all places, and the Globe in the middle shined yet and Callings, although he was none of our Fraternity, yet brighter, so that, but for one twinkling of an Eye, we could no more indure it than the Sun it self. At length the Virgin commanded to shut up the Looking-Glasses again, and to make fast the Windows, and so let the Globe cool again a little; and this was done about seven of the Clock. Wherefore we thought good, since we might now have leisure a little to refresh our selves with a Breakfast: This Treatment again was right Philosophical, and we had no need to be affraid of Intemperance, yet we had no want. And the hope of the future joy (with which the Virgin continually comforted us) made us so jocond that we regarded not any pains, or inconvenience. And this I can truly say too concerning my Companions of high quality, that their minds never ran after their *Kitchin or Table*, but their pleasure was only to attend upon this adventurous Phisick, and hence to contemplate the Creator's Wisdom and Omnipotency. After we had taken our Refection, we again settled our selves to work, for the Globe was sufficiently cooled; which with toil and labour we were to lift off the Chain and set upon the Floor. Now the dispute was how to get the Globe in sunder, for we were commanded to divide the same in the midst. The conclusion was that a sharp pointed Diamond would best do it. Now when we had thus opened the Globe, there was nothing of *redness* more to be seen, but a lovely great snow-white Egg: It most mightily rejoyced us, that this was so well brought to pass. For the Virgin was in perpetuall care, least the Shell might still be too tender. We stood round about this Egg as jocond as if we our selves had laid it. But the Virgin made it presently be carried forth, and departed her self too from us again, and (as all ways) locked the Door to. But what she did abroad with the Egg, or whether it were some way privately handled, I know not, neither do I believe it. Yet we were again to pause together for one quarter of an hour, till the third hole were opened, and we by means of our instruments were come upon the fourth Stone or Floor. In this Room we found a great Copper Kettle filled with *yellow Sand*, which was warmed with a gentle Fire, afterwards the Egg was raked up in it, that it might therein come to perfect maturity. This Kettle was exactly square, upon one side stood these two verses, Writ in great Letters.

O. BLI. TO. BIT. MI. LI.  
KANT. I. VOLT. BIT. TO. GOLT. [18]

On the second side were these three words.

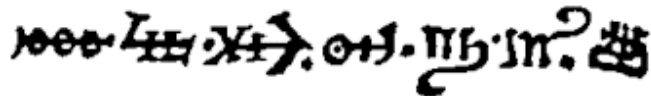
SANITAS. NIX. HASTA. [19]

The third had no more but this one word.

F.I.A.T. [20]

But on the hindermost part stood an entire inscription running thus.

QUOD  
Ignis: Aer: Aqua: Terra:  
SANCTIS REGUM ET  
REGINARUM NOSTR:  
Cineribus Eripere non potuerunt.  
Fidelis Chymicorum Turba  
IN HANC URNAM  
Contulit.  
A.D.



[21]

Now whether the Sand or Egg were hereby meant, I leave to the learned to dispute, yet do I my part, and omit nothing undeclared. Our Egg being now ready was taken out; But it needed no cracking, for the *Bird* that was in it soon freed himself, and shewed himself very jocond, yet he looked very Bloody and unshapen: We first set him upon the warm Sand, so the Virgin commanded that before we gave him any thing to eat, we should be sure to make him fast, otherwise he would give us all work enough. This being done too, food was brought him, which surely was nothing else than the *Blood* of the Beheaded, deluted again with prepared water, by which the Bird grew so fast under our eyes, that we well saw why the Virgin gave us such warning of him. He bit and scratcht so devillishly about him, that could he have had his will upon any of us, he would soon have dispatched him. Now he was wholly *black*, and wild, wherefore other meat was brought him, perhaps the blood of another of the *Royal Persons*, whereupon all his black Feathers moulted again, and instead of them there grew out Snow-*white-Feathers*. He was somewhat tamer too, and suffered himself to be more tractable, nevertheless we did not yet trust him. At the third feeding his Feathers began to be so curiously *coloured*, that in all my Life I never saw the like colours for Beauty. He was also exceeding tame, and behaved himself so friendly with us, that (the Virgin consenting) we released him from his Captivity. "*Tis now reason* (began our Virgin) *since by your diligence, and our old man's consent, the Bird has attained both his Life, and the highest Perfection, that he be also joyfully Consecrated by us.*" Herewith she commanded to bring in Dinner, and that we should again refresh our selves, since the most troublesome part of our Work was now over, and it was fit we should begin to enjoy our passed Labours. We began to make our selves merry together. Howbeit we had still all our Mourning Cloaths on, which seemed somewhat reproachful to our Mirth. Now the Virgin was perpetually inquisitive, perhaps to find to which of us her future purpose might prove serviceable. But

her discourse was for the most part about *melting*; and it pleased her well when one seemed expert in such compendious Manuals, as do peculiarly commend an Artist. This Dinner lasted not above three quarters of an hour; which we yet for the most part spent with our Bird, whom we were fain constantly to feed with his meat: But he still continued much at the same growth. After Dinner we were not long suffered to digest our Meat; but after that the Virgin together with the Bird was departed from us. The fifth Room was set open to us, whither we got too after the former manner, and tendred our Service. In this Room a Bath was prepared for our Bird, which was so coloured with a fine white Powder, that it had the appearance of meer Milk. Now it was at first cool when the Bird was set into it: He was mighty well pleased with it, drinking of it, and pleasantly sporting in it. But after it began to heat by reason of the Lamps that were placed under it, we had enough to do to keep him in the Bath. We therefore clapt a cover on the Kettle, and suffered him to thrust his head out through a hole, till he had in this sort lost all his Feathers in this Bath, and was as smooth as a newborn Child, yet the heat did him no further harm, at which I much marvelled; for in this Bath the Feathers were quite consumed, and the Bath was thereby tinged into *blew*; at length we gave the Bird air, who of himself sprung out of the Kettle, and was so glitteringly smooth, that it was a pleasure to behold it. But because he was still somewhat wild, we were fain to put a collar, with a Chain, about his Neck, and so led him up and down the Room. Mean time a strong Fire was made under the Kettle, and the Bath sodden away till it all came to a *blew* Stone, which we took out, and having first pounded it, we were afterwards fain to grind it on a Stone, and finally with this colour to paint the Bird's whole Skin over: Now he lookt much more strangely, for he was all *blew*, except the head, which remained *white*. Herewith our work on this Story too was performed; And we (after the Virgin with her *blew* Bird was departed from us) were called up through the hole to the sixth Story; which was done too, there we were mightily troubled, for in the midst a little Altar, every way like that in the King's Hall above described, was placed. Upon which stood the six fore-mentioned *particulars*, and he him self (the Bird) made the *seventh*. First of all the little *Fountain* was set before him, out of which he drunk a good draught, after wards he pecked upon the *white* Serpent until she bled mightily. This Blood we were to receive into a Golden Cup, and pour it down the *Birds* Throat, who was mighty averse from it, then we dipt the *Serpents* head in the *Fountain*, upon which she again revived, and crept into her *Deaths-head*, so that I saw her no more for a long time after. Mean time the Sphere turned constantly on, until it made the desired conjunction. Immediately the watch Struck one, upon which there was a going another *conjunction*. Then the Watch struck two. Finally, whilst we were observing the third conjunction, and the same was indicated by the Watch, the poor Bird of himself submissively laid down his Neck upon the Book, and willingly suffered his Head (by one of us thereto chosen by lot) to be *smitten off*. Howbeit he yielded not one drop of *Blood*, till he was opened on the Breast, and then the *Blood* spun out so fresh and clear as if it had been a Fountain of Rubies. His Death went to the heart of us, and yet we might well judge, that a naked Bird would stand us in little stead. So we let it rest, and removed the little Altar away and assisted the Virgin to



burn the Body (together with the little Tablet hanging by) to Ashes, with Fire kindled at the little *Taper*; afterwards to cleanse the same several times, and to lay them in a Box of Cypress-Wood. Here I cannot conceal what a trick I and three more were served; After we had thus diligently taken up the Ashes, The Virgin began to speak thus.

*"My Lords, we are here in the sixth Room, and have only one more before us, in which our trouble will be at an end, and then we shall return home again to our Castle, to awaken our most gracious Lords and Ladies. Now albeit I could heartily wish, that all of you, as you are here together, had behaved your selves in such sort, that I might have given you Commendations to our most renowned King and Queen, and you have obtained a suitable Reward; yet because, contrary to my desire, I have found amongst you these four (herewith she pointed at me and three more) lazy and sluggish Labourators, and yet according to my good-will to all and every one, am not willing to deliver them up to condign punishment; However, that such Negligence may not remain wholly unpunished, I am purposed thus concerning them, that they shall only be excluded from the future seventh and most Glorious action of all the rest, and so too they shall incur no further blame from their Royal Majesties."*

In what a case we now were at this Speech, I leave others to consider: For the Virgin so well knew how to keep her countenance, that the Water soon ran over our Baskets, and we esteemed our selves the most unhappy of all men. After this the Virgin by one of her Maids (whereof there were many always at hand) caused the Musicians to be fetched, who were with Cornets to blow us out of Doors with such scorn and derision that they themselves could hardly sound for *laughing*. But it did *particularly* mightily afflict us that the *Virgin* so vehemently laughed at our *weeping, anger & impatience*, and that there might well perhaps be some amongst our Companions who were glad of this our misfortune. But it proved otherwise. For as soon as we were come out at the Door, the Musicians bid us be of good cheere and follow them up the winding Staires; They led us up to the seventh Floor under the Roof, where we found the *old Man*, whom we had not hitherto seen, standing upon a little round *Furnace*. He received us friendly, and heartily congratulated us, that we were hereto chosen by the Virgin; but after he understood the affright we had conceived, his belly was ready to burst with Laughing, that we had taken such good Fortune so hainously. Hence said he, My Dear Sons learn, *That Man never knoweth how well God intendeth him*. During this discourse the Virgin also with her little *Box* came running in, who (after she had sufficiently laughed at us) emptied her Ashes out into another Vessel, and filled hers again with other matter, saying, she must now go cast a Mist before the other Artists Eyes, that we in the mean time should obey the old Lord in whatsoever he commanded us, and not remit our former diligence. Herewith she departed from us into the seventh Room whither she called our Companions. Now what she first did with them there, I cannot tell, for they were not only most earnestly forbidden to speak of it, but we too by reason of our business, durst not peep on them through the Ceiling. But this was our work, we were to *moisten* the Ashes with our fore-prepared

*Water* till they became altogether like a very thin Dough. After which we set the matter over the Fire, till it was well *heated*, then we cast it thus hot as it was into two *little* forms or moulds, and so let it cool a little (here we had leisure to look a while upon our Companions through certain crevices made in the Floor) they were now very busie at a Furnace, & each was himself fain to blow up the Fire with a pipe, and they stood thus blowing about it, as if they were herein wondrously preferred before us. And this blowing lasted so long till our old Man roused us to our work again; So that I cannot say what was done afterwards. We having opened our little forms, there appeared two beautiful bright and almost *Transparent* little Images, the like to which Mans Eye never saw, a Male and a Female, each of them only *four* inches long; and that which most mightily surprised me, was, that they were not hard, but limber and fleshy, as other human Bodies, yet had they no Life: So that I do most assuredly believe that the Lady *Venus's* Image was also made after some such way. These Angelically fair Babes we first laid upon two little Sattin Cushonets, and beheld them a good while, till we were almost besotted upon so exquisite an object. The old Lord warned us to forbear, and continually to instill the *Blood* of the Bird (which had been received into a little Golden Cup) drop after drop into the Mouths of the little Images, from whence they apparently to the Eye *encreased*; and whereas they were before very small, they were now (according to proportion) much more beautiful; so that worthily all Limners ought to have been here, and have been ashamed of their Art in respect of these productions of Nature. Now they began to grow so *big*, that we lifted from the little Cushonets, and were fain to lay them upon a long Table, which was covered with white Velvet. The old man also commanded us to cover them over up to the Breast with a piece of the fine *white double* Taffata, which because of their unspeakable beauty, almost went against us; but that I may be brief, before we had in this manner quite spent the *Blood*, they were already in their perfect *full* growth, they had Goldyellow curled Hair, and the above-mentioned figure of *Venus* was nothing to them. But there was not yet any natural warmth, or sensibility in them, they were dead Figures, yet of a lively and natural colour: and since care was to be taken that they grew not too great, the old Man would not permit any thing more to be given them, but quite covered their Faces too with the Silk, and caused the Table to be *stuck* round about with Torches. Here I must warn the Reader that he imagine not these Lights to have been of *necessity*, for the old Man's intent hereby, was only that we should not observe when the *Soul* entred into them, as indeed we should not have taken notice of it, in case I had not twice before seen the *Flames*; However, I permitted the other three to remain in their belief, neither did the old Man know that I had seen any thing more. Hereupon he bid us sit down on a Bench over against the Table: presently the Virgin came in too with the Musick and all furniture, and carried two curious white Garments, the like to which I had never seen in the Castle, neither can I describe them, for I thought no other but that they were meer *Christal*, but they were gentle, and not transparent, so that I cannot speak of them. These she laid down upon a Table, and after she had disposed her Virgins upon a Bench round about, she and the old Man began many *Legerdemain* tricks about the Table, which was done only to *Blind* us. This (as I told you) was managed under the roof, which

was wonderfully formed, for on the inside it was arched into seven Hemispheres, of which the middlemost was somewhat the highest, and had at top a little round hole, which was nevertheless shut, and was observed by none else. After many Ceremonies, stept in *six* Virgins, each of which bare a large Trumpet, which were rouled about with a green glittering and burning material like a wreath, one of which the old Man took, and after he had removed some of the lights at top, and uncovered their Faces, he placed one of the Trumpets upon the *Mouth* of one of the Bodies in such manner, that the upper and wider part of it was directed just against the forementioned hole. Here my Companions always looked upon the Images, but I had other thoughts; for as soon as the foliage or wreath about the shank of the Trumpet was kindled, I saw the hole *at top* open, and a bright *stream* of Fire shooting down *the* Tube, and passing into the Body: whereupon the hole was again covered, and the Trumpet removed. With this device my Companions were deluded, so that they imagined that life came into the Image by means of the *Fire* of the foliage, for as soon as he received the *Soul* he twinckled with his Eyes, howbeit he scarce stirred. The second time he placed another Tube upon its Mouth, and kindled it again, and the Soul was let *down* through the Tube. This was repeated upon each of them *three* times, after which all the Lights were extinguished and carried away. The Velvet Carpets of the Table were cast together over them, and immediately a travilling Bed was unlocked and made ready, into which thus wrapped up they were born, and so after the Carpets were taken off them, they were neatly laid by each other, where with the Curtains drawn before them, they slept a good while. (Now was it also time for the Virgin to see how our other Artists behaved themselves, they were well pleased, because (as the Virgin afterwards informed me) they were to *work in Gold*, which is indeed a piece also of this art, but not the most *Principal*, most necessary, and best: They had indeed too a part of these *Ashes*, so that they imagined no other, but that the whole Bird was provided for the sake of *Gold*, and that life must thereby be restored to the deceased) during which we sate very still, attending when our married couple would awake, thus about half an hour was spent. For then the wanton *Cupid* presented himself again, and, after he had saluted us all, flew to them behind the Curtain, tormenting them so long till they awaked. This happened to them with very great amazement, for they imagined no other but that they had hitherto slept from the very hour in which they were beheaded. *Cupid*, after he had awaked them, and renewed their acquaintance one with another, stepped a side a little, and permitted them both somewhat better to *recruit* themselves, mean time playing his tricks with us; and at length he would needs have the *Musick* fetcht to be somewhat the merrier. Not long after the Virgin her self comes: And after she had most humbly saluted the young King and Queen (who found themselves somewhat faint) and kissed their hands, she brought them the two forementioned curious *Garments*, which they put on, and so stepped forth. Now there were already prepared two very curious *Chaires*, wherein they placed themselves: and so were by us with most profound Reverence congratulated; for which the King in his own Person most graciously returned his thanks, and again *re-assured* us of all Grace. It was already about five of Clock, wherefore they could make no longer stay, but as soon as ever the

chiefest of their furniture could be laden, we were to attend the young Royal Persons down the winding Stairs, through all Doors and watches unto the Ship, in which they imbarqued themselves, together with certain Virgins, and Cupid, and sailed so mighty swift that we soon lost sight of them, yet they were met (as I was informed) by certain stately Ships: Thus in four Hours time they had made many *Leagues* out at Sea. After five of Clock the Musicians were charged to carry all things back again to the Ships, and to make themselves ready for the Voyage. But because this was somewhat long a doing, the old *Lord* commanded forth a party of his concealed Soldiers, who had hitherto been planted in the Wall, so that we had taken no notice of any of them, whereby I observed that this Tower was well provided against opposition. Now these Soldiers made quick work with our stuff, so that no more remained further to be done, but to go to Supper. Now the Table being compleatly furnished, the Virgin brings us again to our Companions where we were to carry our selves as if we had truly been in a Lamentable condition, and forbear laughing. But they were always smiling one upon another, howbeit some of them too simpathized with us. At this Supper the old *Lord* was with us too, who was a most sharp Inspector over us: For none could propound any thing so discreetly, but that he knew how either to confute it, or amend it, or at least to give some good document upon it. I learned most by this *Lord*, and it were very good that each one would apply himself to him, and take notice of his procedure, for then things would not so often, and so untowardly Miscarry. After we had taken our nocturnal defection, the old Lord led us into his Closets of Rarities, which were here and there dispersed amongst the Bulworks, where we saw such wonderful productions of Nature, and other things too which man's wit in imitation of Nature had invented, that we needed a Year more sufficiently to surveigh them: Thus we spent a good part of the Night by Candle-light. At last, because we were more inclined to Sleep than see many Rarities, we were lodged in Rooms in the Wall, where we had not only costly good Beds, but also besides extra-ordinary handsom Chambers, which made us the more wonder why we were the day before forced to undergo so many hardships. In this Chamber I had good rest; and being for the most part without care, and weary with continual Labour, the gentle rushing of the Sea helped me to a sound and sweet Sleep, for I continued in one Dream from eleven of Clock till eight in the morning.

### The Seventh Day

After eight of clock I awaked, and quickly made my self ready, being desirous to return again into the Tower, but the dark passages in the Wall were so many, and various, that I wandred a good while before I could find the way out. The same happened to the rest too, till at last we all met again in the neather most Vault, and habits intirely *yellow* were given us, together with our golden Fleeces. At that time the Virgin declared to us that we were Knights of the *GOLDEN STONE*, of which we were before ignorant. After we had now thus made our selves ready, and taken our Breakfast, the old Man presented each of

us with a medal of Gold; on the one side stood these Words,

AR. NAT. MI. [22]

On the other these,

TEM. NA. F. [23]

Exhorting us moreover we should entreprize nothing beyond and against this token of remembrance. Herewith we went forth to the Sea, where our Ships lay so richly equipped, that it was not well possible but that such brave things must first have been brought thither. The Ships were *twelve in number*, six of ours, and six of the old Lord's, who caused his Ships to be freighted with well appointed Soldiers. But he betook himself, to us, into our Ship, where we all were together; In the first the Musicians Seated themselves, of which the old Lord had also a great number, they sailed before us to shorten the time. Our Flags were the *twelve Celestial Signs*, and we sate in *Libra*; besides other things, our Ship had also a noble and curious Clock, which shewed us all the *Minutes*. The Sea too was so calm, that it was a singular pleasure to Sail. But that which surpassed all the rest, was the old Man's discourse, who so well knew how to pass away our time with wonderful Histories, that I could have been content to Sail with him all my Life long. Mean time the Ships passed on amain, for before we had sailed two hours the Mariner told us that he already saw the whole Lake almost covered with Ships, by which we could conjecture they were come out to meet us, which also proved true: For as soon, as we were gotten out of the Sea into the Lake by the forementioned River, there presently stood in to us five hundred Ships, one of which sparkled with mere Gold and pretious Stones, in which sate the King and Queen, together with other Lords, Ladies, and Virgins of high Birth. As soon as they were well in Ken of us the pieces were discharged on both sides, and there was such a din of Trumpets, Shalms, and Kettle Drums that all the Ships upon the Sea capered again. Finally, as soon as we came near they brought about our Ships together, and so made a stand, Immediately the old *Atlas* stepped forth on the King's behalf, making a short, but handsom oration, wherein he wellcomed us, and demanded whether the Royal Presents were in readiness. The rest of my Companions were in an huge amazement, whence this King should arise, for they imagined no other but that they must again *awaken* him. We suffered them to continue in their wonderment, and carried our selves as if it seemed strange to us too. After *Atlas's* oration out steps our old Man, making somewhat a larger reply, wherein he wished the King and Queen all happiness and increase, after which he delivered up a curious small Casket, but what was in it, I know not; only it was committed to Cupid, who hovered between them both, to keep. After the oration was finished, they again let off a joyful Volle of Shot, and so we sailed on a good time together, till at length we arrived at another Shore. This was near the first Gate at which I first entred: At this place again there attended a great Multitude of the King's Family together with some hundreds of Horses. Now as soon as we were come to shore, and disembarqued, the King and Queen presented their

Hands to all of us one with another with singular kindness; and so we were to get up on Horseback. Here I desire to have the Reader friendly intreated not to interpret the following Narration to any vain glory or pride of mine, but to credit me thus far, that if there had not been a special necessity in it, I could very well have utterly concealed this honour which was shewed me. We were all one after another distributed amongst the Lords. But our *old* Lord, and I most unworthy, were to ride even with *the* King, each of us bearing a snow *white* Ensign, with a Red Cross: I indeed was made use of because of my Age, for we both had long *grey* Beards, and Hair. I had besides fastened my token round about my Hat, of which the young King soon took notice, and *demande*d if I were he, who could at the Gate redeem these tokens? I answered in most humble manner, "Yea." But he laughed on me, saying, *There* henceforth needed no Ceremony; I was HIS Father. Then he asked me, *Wherewith* I had redeemed them? I replied, with *Water* and Salt: whereupon he wondred who had made me so wise; upon which I grew somewhat more confident, and recounted unto to him how it had happened to me with my *Bread*, the Dove, and the Raven, and he was pleased with it, and said expresly, *That it must needs be, that God had herein vouch safed me* a singular happiness. Herewith we came to the first gate where the Porter with the blew Cloaths waited, who bare in his Hand a supplication. Now as soon as he spied me even with the King, he delivered me the *supplication*, most humbly beseeching me to mention his ingenuity towards me before the King: Now in the first place I demanded of the King, what the condition of this *Porter* was? who friendly answered me, *That he was a very famous and rare Astrologer, and always in high regard with the Lord his Father. But* having on a time committed a fault against Venus, and beheld her in her *Bed of rest*, This punishment was therefore imposed upon him, that he should so long wait at the first Gate, till some one should release him from thence. I replied, may he then be released? *Yes*, said the King, *if any one can be found that hath as highly transgressed as himself, he must stand in his stead, and the other shall be free.* This word went to my Heart, for my Conscience convinced me that I was the offender, yet I held my peace, & herewith delivered the supplication. As soon as he had read it, he was mightily terrified, so that the Queen, who (with our Virgins, and that other Queen besides, of whom I made mention at the hanging of the Weights) rid just behind us observed it, & therefore asked him, what this Letter might signifie. But he had no mind that he should take notice of it, but putting up the Paper, began to discourse of other matters, till thus in about three hours time we came quite to the Castle, where we alighted, and waited upon the King into his forementioned Hall. Immediately the King called for the old *Atlas* to come to him in a little Closet, and shewed him the writing, who made no long tarrying, but rid out again to the Porter to take better Cognizance of the matter. After which the young King with his Spouse, and other Lords, Ladies and Virgins sate down. Then began our Virgin highly to commend the diligence we had used, and the pains and labour we had undergone, requesting we might be royally rewarded, and that she henceforward might be permitted to enjoy the benefit of her commission. Then the old Lord stood up too, and attested that all that the Virgin had spoken was true, and that it was but equity that we should both on both parts be

contented. Hereupon we were to step out a little; and it was concluded that each man should make some possible wish, and accordingly obtain it; for it was not to be doubted, but that those of *understanding* would also make the *best* wish: So we were to consider of it till after Supper. Mean time the King and Queen for recreations sake, began to fall to play together. It looked not unlike Chesse, only it had other Laws; for it was the *Vertues* and Vices one against another, where it might ingeniously be observed with what Plots the Vices lay in *wait* for the Vertues, and how to re-encounter them again. This was so properly and artfully performed, that it were to be wished, that we had the like game too. During the game, in comes *Atlas* again, and makes his report in private, yet I blushed all over. For my Conscience gave me no rest; after which the King presented me the supplication to read, and Contents whereof were much to this purpose: First he wished the King prosperity, and increase; that his seed might be spread abroad far and wide: Afterwards he remonstrated that the time was now accomplished, wherein according to the Royal promise he ought to be *released*. Because *Venus* was already uncovered by one of his Guests, for his observations could not lie to him. And that if his Majesty would please to make a strict and diligent enquiry, he would find that she had been uncovered, and in case this should not prove to be so, he would be content to remain before the Gate all days of his life. Then he sued in the most humble manner, that upon peril of Body and Life he might be permitted to be present at this Nights supper, he was in good hopes to spy out the very Offender, and obtain his wished freedom. This was expresly and handsomly indicted, by which I could well perceive his ingenuity, but it was too sharp for me, and I could well have endured never to have seen it. Now I was casting in my mind whether he might perchance be helped through my wish, so I asked the King, whether he might not be released some other way: No, replied the King, because there is a special consideration in the business. However, for this Night, we may well gratifie him in his desire; so he sent one forth to fetch him in. Mean time the Tables were prepared in a spacious Room, in which we had never been before, which was so compleat, and in such manner contrived, that it is not possible for me only to begin to describe it. Into this we were conducted with singular Pomp, and Ceremony. Cupid was not at this time present. For (as I was informed) the disgrace which had happened to his Mother, had somewhat angered him. In brief, my offence, and the Supplication which was delivered were an occasion of much sadness, for the King was in perplexity how to make inquisition amongst his Guests, and the more because thus even they too, who were yet ignorant of the matter, would come to the knowledge of it. So he caused the Porter himself, who was already come, to make his strict surveigh, and shewed himself as pleasnat as he was able. Howbeit at length they began again to be merry, and to bespeak one another with all sorts of recreative and profitable discourses. Now how the treatment and other Ceremonies were then performed, it is not necessary to declare, since it is neither the Reader's concern, nor serviceable to my design. But all exceeded more in art, and human invention, than that we were overcharged with drinking. And this was the last, and noblest Meal at which I was present. After the Bancket the Tables were suddainly taken away, and certain curious Chairs placed round about in circle, in which we together

with the King, and Queen, both their old Men, the Ladies and Virgins, were to sit. After which a very handsom Page opened the above-mentioned glorious little Book, when *Atlas* immediately placing himself in the midst, began to bespeak us to the ensuing purpose. That his Royal Majesty had not yet committed to oblivion the service we had done him, and how carefully we had attended our duty, and therefore by way of retribution had elected all and each of the Knights of the Golden Stone. That it was therefore further necessary not only once again to oblige our selves towards his Royal Majesty, but to vow too upon the following Articles, and then his Royal Majesty would likewise know how to behave himself towards his liege People. Upon which he caused the Page to read over the Articles: which were these.

I. You my Lords the Knights, shall swear, that you shall at no time ascribe your order either unto any *Devil* or Spirit, but only to God your *Creator*, and his hand-maid *Nature*.

II. That you will Abominate all Whoredom, Incontinency and Uncleaness, and not defile your order with such Vices.

III. That you through your Talents will be ready to assist all that are worthy, and have need of them.

IV. That you desire not to employ this honour to worldly Pride and high Authority.

V. That you shall not be willing to live longer than God will have you.

At this last Article we could not choose but laugh sufficiently, and it may well have been placed after the rest, only for a conceit. Now being to vow to them all by the King's Scepter, we were afterwards with the usual Ceremonies installed Knights, and amongst other Priviledges set over *Ignorance, Poverty, and Sickness*; to handle them at our pleasure. And this was afterwards ratified in a little Chappel (whither we were conducted in all Procession) and thanks returned to God for it. Where I also at that time to the honour of God hung up my Golden Fleece and Hat, and left them there for an eternal memorial. And because every one was there to write his Name, I writ thus;

Summa Scientia nihil Scire,  
Fr. CHRISTIANUS ROSENCREUTZ.  
Eques aurei Lapidis.  
Anno. 1459. [24]

Others writ otherwise, and truly each as seemed him good. After which we were again brought into the Hall, where being sate down, we were admonished quickly to bethink our selves what every one would wish. But the King and his party retired into a little Closet, there to give audience to our wishes. Now each man was called in severally, so that I cannot speak of any man's proper wish, I thought nothing could be more praise-worthy than in honour of my order to demonstrbite some laudable vertue. And found too that none at present voted be more famous, and cost me more Trouble than *Gratitude*. Wherefore not regarding that I might well have wished somewhat more dear and agreeable to



my self, I vanquished my self, and concluded, even with my own peril, to free the *Porter* my Benefactor. Wherefore being now called in, I was first of all demanded, whether, having read the supplication, I had observed, or suspected nothing concerning the offender? upon which I began undauntedly to relate how all the business had passed. How through Ignorance I fell into that mistake, and so offered my self to undergo all that I had thereby demerited. The King, and the rest of the Lords wondered mightily at so un-hoped for confession, and so wished me to step aside a little. Now as soon as I was called for in again, *Atlas* declared to me, that although it were grievous to the King's Majesty, that I whom he loved above others, was fallen into such a mischance, yet because it was not possible for him to Transgress his ancient usages, he knew not how else to absolve me, but that the other must be at Liberty, and I placed in his stead, yet he would hope that some other would soon be apprehended, that so I might be able to go home again. However, no release was to be hoped for, till the Marriage Feast of his future Son. This Sentence had near cost me my life, and I first hated my self and my twatling Tongue, in that I could not hold my peace, yet at last I took courage, and because I considered there was no remedy, I related how this Porter had bestowed a token on me, and commended me to the other, by whose assistance I stood upon the Scale, and so was made partaker of all the honour and joy already received. And therefore now it was but equal that I should shew my self grateful to my Benefactor: and because the same could no way else be done, I returned thanks for the sentence, and was willing gladly to sustain some inconvenience for his sake, who had been helpful to me in coming to so high place. But if by my wish any thing might be effected, I wished my self at home again, and that so he by me, and I by my wish might be at Liberty. Answer was made me, that the wishing stretched not so far. However I might well wish him free. Yet it was very pleasing to his Royal Majesty, that I had behaved my self so generously herein, but he was affraid I might still be ignorant, into what a miserable condition I had plunged my self through this my curiosity. Hereupon the good man was pronounced free, and I with a sad heart was fain to step aside. After me the rest were called for too, who came jocundly out again, which was still more to my smart; for I imagined no other, but that I must finish my life under the Gate. I had also many pensive thoughts running up and down in my Head, what I should yet undertake, and wherewith to spend the time, at length I considered that I was now old, and according to the course of nature, had few years more to live: And that this anguish and melancholy Life would easily dispatch me, and then my doorkeeping would be at an end: And that by a most happy Sleep I might quickly bring my self into the Grave. I had sundry of these thoughts, Sometimes it vexed me that I had seen such galant things, and must be *robbed* of them. Sometimes it rejoyced me that yet before my end I had been accepted to all joy, and should not be forced so shamefully to depart. This was the last and worst shock that I sustained; During these my Cogitations the rest were ready. Wherefore after they had received a good night from the King and Lords, each one was conducted into his Lodging. But I most wretched Man had no body to shew me the way, and yet must moreover suffer my self to be tormented, and that I might be certain of my future function, I was fain to put

on the Ring, which the other had before worn. Finally, the King exhorted me, that since this was now the last time I was like to see him in this manner: I should however behave my self according to my place, and not against the order: Upon which he took me also in his Arms, and *kissed* me, all which I so understood, as if in the morning I must sit at my Gate. Now after they had all a while spoken friendly to me, and at last presented their Hands, committing me to the divine protection: I was by both the old Men, the Lord of the Tower, and *Atlas* conducted into a glorious Lodging, in which stood three Beds, and each of us lay in one of them, where we yet spent almost two, & c.

Here are wanting about two Leaves in quarto, and he (the Author hereof) whereas he imagined he must in the morning be Door-Keeper, returned home.

FINIS.

*Footnotes:*

[1] *"In this sign you will conquer."*

[2] *"Bridegroom and Bride"*

[3] *The three letters D.L.S. may stand for: "Deus Lux Solis, vel Deo Laus Semper" which can be translated as: "God is the light of the sun" or "Praise to God forever" (also, "Praise always to God").*

[4] *"Good day stranger: If perhaps you heard something concerning the wedding of the King, consider these Words. Through us the Bridegroom offers you a choice of four ways, by all those, if only you do not sink into the by-ways, you are able to come to his Royal court. The first is short but dangerous, and that one will lead you into rocky places, from which you will scarcely be allowed to hasten. The second is longer, and which will lead you about, it will not lead you away, it is flat and easy, if you allow yourself to be led away neither right nor left by the help of the Magnet. The third is truly Royal, which through the various delights and spectacles of our King, will render a pleasing journey to you. But which so far scarcely befell to one in a thousand. By the fourth, no man will be allowed to come to the Court, since that one is consuming and is only suitable to incorruptible bodies. Choose now from the three that one you wish, and remain steady on that. However, know whichever you have begun, it is so determined for you by immutable fate, and not to be permissible to return unless with great danger to life. These are what we wish to have known to you, but hey, beware, you may not know with how much danger you committed yourself to this way, for if it entices you, even very little, to be recognized obnoxious against the laws of our King. I beg, while it is still permitted, bring yourself home as soon as possible by the same way that you approached."*

[5] *"Procul hinc, procul ite profani Profaners"* which can be translated as: "Go

*far away, far from here."*

[6] The two letters S.C. may stand for: "*Sanctitate Constantia. Sponsus Charus. Spes Caritas*" which can be translated as: "*Constancy by holiness. Beloved bridegroom. Hope, Charity.*"

[7] "*Date et dabitur vobis*" translates as "*Give and it will be given to you.*"

[8] The two letters S.M. may stand for: "*Studio merentis. Sponso mittendus. Sal Mineralis. Sal Menstrualis*" which can be translated as: "*By the study of a deserving man. To be given to the bridegroom. Mineral salt. Menstrual salt.*"

[9] "*Congratulor*" translates as "*I congratulate.*"

[10] "*Condoleo*" translates as "*I condole.*"

[11] The letters S.P.N. may stand for: "*Sponsi praesentandus nuptiis. Salus per naturam*" which can be translated as: "*To be given at the bridegroom's wedding. Healing through nature. (Also, Salvation through nature)*"

[12] This whole inscription can be translated as:

*"Prince Hermes,  
After so many injuries  
caused to the human race,  
a wholesome medicine is being made  
by the counsel of God  
and the assistance of Art  
here I flow*

*He, who can, drinks from me: who desires, washes: who dares, disturbs:  
Drink, brothers, and live.*

*(1378)"*

[13] "*The bridegroom lives, the bride lives.*"

[14] This inscription, which translation is found in the paragraph that follows it, reads:

*"Here Lies Buried  
VENUS  
that Beauty which hath undone  
many a great man  
both in fortune, honor, blessing  
and prosperity."*

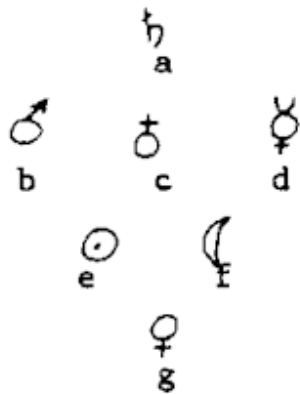
[15] Again, this inscription's translation is found in the paragraph that follows it. It reads:

*"When the fruit of my  
tree shall be quite melted down  
then I shall awake and  
be the mother of a  
KING"*

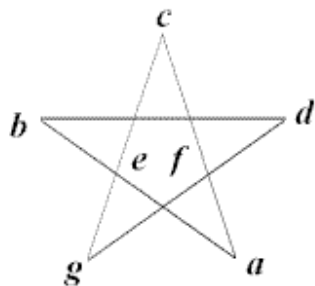
[16] The translator's note on this page depicts the ships in the following order:

**a**  
 ||  
**b || c || d ||**  
**e || f ||**  
**g ||**

The following graph shows today's common symbolical representation of the ships.



[17] The pentagon can be rendered as:



[18] This can be translated as:

*"Oh, do not cease praying, my beloved.*

*If it pleases you, pray then for gold."*

[19] "SANITAS. NIX. HASTA" can be translated as: *"Healing is depended on the lance" or "Health. Snow. Lance."*

[20] "F.I.A.T." translates to: *"So be it."*

[21] This inscription and glyph may be translated as:

*" What*

*fire, air, water and earth*

*are not able to rescue from the holy ashes*

*of our kings and queens*

*the host of faithful alchemists has collected*

*into this urn.*

*In the year of the Lord  
1459"*

(the right side of the bottom glyph with date has the letters "P.H.M.D." which can be interpreted as "Paracelsus Hohenheimensis, Medicinae Doctor.")

[22] "Ars naturae ministra" which can be translated as: "Art is the priestess (or: hand-maiden) of nature."

[23] "Temporis natura filia"

which can be translated as:

"Nature is the daughter of Time"

[24] This inscription can be translated as:

"The Highest Knowledge is to Know nothing"

Brother Christian Rosencreutz

Knight of the golden Stone

In the year 1459 "