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William Holgate.













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# RHODON AND IRIS.

*A*  
PASTORALL  
AS IT WAS PRE-  
sented at the FLORISTS  
Feast in *Normich,*  
*May 3. 1631.*

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*Vrbis & orbis gloria Flora.*

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LONDON:  
Printed for MICHAEL SPARKE, at the *...*  
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May, 1873.

1873



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To the right Worshipfull, Mr. N I-  
CHOLAS BACON of Gillingham,  
*Esquire.*

Noble Sir:



Onsidering your true affection to  
Poësie, which (no doubt) proceeds  
from your singular perfection in  
that art; seeing also how fervently  
you are addicted to a Speculation  
of the vertues and beauties of all flowers; I could  
not choose but present you with the patronage  
of this dramaticall peece, bringing this small sa-  
crifice to the Altar of your worth, as the little  
Birds (having nought else) were wont to bring  
their feathers, and the Bees their waxe, to the O-  
racle of *Apollo*.

*Yet though the worke doth crave nor Bayes, nor Cedar,  
But the mild censyre of agracious Reader.*

## *The Epistle Dedicatorie.*

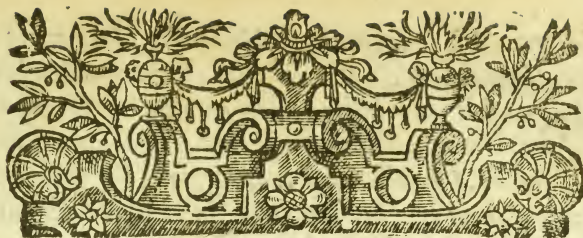
*This to the proudest Criticke I dare tell,  
It feares nor Frankincense, nor Mackerell;  
Nor terrible Tabacco, that consumes  
Atlanticke Volumes in his smothering fumes.*

But howsoever this small pittance may seeme unworthy your acceptance, yet expecting to find your worth a protection for my weaknesse, I repose my selfe in an assured hope of your favour, and rest till a more reall occasion may make you a more true owner of my service.

*Yours really,*

**R. A. KNEVET.**





## To his much respected friends, the Society of Florists.

Gentlemen,



O you I am to speake of the fairest of Vegetals,  
Flowers, the minions of the Spring, and for  
their beauties, deserving the title of terrestri-  
all starres, being of such excellency, that (if  
you will beleave the asseveration of the wisest  
and the best of the sonnes of men) you must  
grant that the wisest and happiest Prince that ever was, in all  
his glory, was not like one of them. And did not the omnipotent  
Architect of the Vniverse, place his Protoplast in a garden, as  
being the most convenient and pleasant habitation for Man, as  
yet unstained with with disobedience, and abstaining from the  
forbidden fruit? And was not this Eden so holy and pure a  
place, that Adam could no longer be Tenant there then he kept  
his innocency? If I should expatiate in the commendation of  
these glorious creatures (I feare) I should be brought into a maze  
whence I could not easily extricate my selfe; therefore I will re-  
ferre you that are desirous to be industrious in the indagation of  
heir vertues and beauties, to those large volumes that are now  
extant, wherein their natures are amply and exactly described.  
Now as concerning your feast, quod multi intectis oculis

conspiciunt. 'Tis true, Many sanctimonists, that like the men of China, thinke themselves wiser than all the world beside, doe inveigh against it (how iustly I know not) but as for my part, if I did thinke it might be any way preiudicial, either to politike, or morall society. I should detest it as deeply as the most zealous Heteroclite of them all. If it had any affinity with Bacchanalian riot, if Gluttony and Drunkennes ever found any entertainment there, I should utterly loath to name it: But since it is a meeting so civill, so unspotted, that Malice her selfe, had shee a brazen face, might blush to detract from it; since it is a feast celebrated by such a conflux of Gentlemen of birth and quality, in whose presence and commerce (I thinke) your Cities welfare partly consists: I cannot but commend it (though not so highly as it deserves) in spite of Ignorance or Envy.

But some there be that are so pure and sage,  
That they doe utterly abhorre a Stage,  
Because they would be still accounted holy,  
And know, the Stage doth oft bewray their folly:  
You could but wonder to see what distaste  
They tooke, to see an Hypocrite uncas'd:  
Oh had they power, they would the Author use  
As ill as Bacchus Priests did Orpheus.

These, out of their malicious discretion (having no other way to satisfie their uniuert envy) by meere misprisions, and under pretence that I should abuse a Corporation, would faine engage me in your Cities hatred, which although I account it one of the meanest disasters that can betide, yet I should thinke my selfe an unworthy man to doe any thing worthy of their hatred. But whereas they accuse me for taxing of some private persons, I am content to referre this controverisie to the arbitrement of any  
that.



that is ingenious. But this (as I tender my owne reputation, and  
Truth her selfe) I must tell ye, that should I spye villany shelter  
her selfe under a Scarlet Gowne, I durst be so bold as to spurne  
her with the left foot of contempt, though not be so prodigall of  
that small store the Muses have allotted me, as to spend a line  
upon so despicable a subiect.

---

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To the Booke and his worthy friend  
the AVTHOR.

**D**isperse and vindicate thy Makers merits,  
Late difest. em'd by Lynx ey'd censuring spirits;  
Whose captivated iudgements now may see,  
In this cleere glasse their owne deformitie;  
Whose malice found no cause to disrespect  
Thy worth, but 'cause it past their intellectu:  
My barren Muse cannot to life set forth  
Thy abstruse poesie, learning and worth:  
Th'abilities which in thy bosome lye,  
Will be admired of posterity:  
Wer't thou but truely knowne, thy worth would raise  
Thee and thy Muse: best Poets would with bayes  
Crown thy rich temples, and managre thy will,  
Would place thee highest on Parnassus hill.  
Blest be their names, thy Nectar Genius nourish:  
By such, delected poesie shall flourish.  
Let no Agnostus dare to read thy lines,  
Th'are made for those can iudge of high designs.

In unknowne waters lest I wade too farre,  
Let thy bright rising sunne eclipse my starre.

## To his friend the Author.

**M**ay none but Phabus kisse thy lines with sight,  
Hee'l doe thee right.  
Tis not for mortals once to dare to scanne,  
Thy height 'bove man.  
This speakes thy fellowship with supreme gods,  
There's naught puts oddes,  
But lifes eternitie: tush, thy lines shall be,  
A saintlike canon of thy memory.

Be bold then to the world, and dumbe that tongue  
That dares thee wrong:  
Yet thus give leave to vulgar braines to clap  
Agnostus cap  
Vpon their heads, whose braines doe much lesse crave,  
Then I deprave.  
Scorne blast their dwellings in simplicity  
That spit their poyson; none shall venome thee.

WILLIAM DENNYE.

---

## To his friend the Author.

**I** cannot but admire this Worke of thine,  
(Right worthy Author) that me thinkes each line  
Should zaine attention from a well tun'd Ear,  
And please the Eye of any shall appeare,  
That apprehends it: alwayes Ile attend  
To wish this Worke well, as a faithfull Friend.

JOHN MINGAY.





In Librum.

**E**N *Metamorphosis* dispar descendit in orbem  
illi, quam prisco descripsit tempore Naso :  
*Humanas vertit formas in florea Naso*  
*Corpora : sed noster contrà floralia vestit*  
*Corpora forma hominum, cantandus laude Poeta.*  
*Pingis (Naso) tuam Metamorphòsin Latiali*  
*Ample stilo : Nostrum hunc pellexit at Anglica penna.*  
*Anglica penna vehat sublimis ad aethera pennis*  
*Angelicis Anglum, qui tanta et talia fixit*  
*Hanc Metamorphòsin noster beet Author, et omnes*  
*Applaudant docti : veterem qua Naso haavit*  
*Voce suam, canat et redimitus tempora lauro.*  
*Iamque opus exegi, quod nec Iovis ira, nec ignis,*  
*Nec poterit ferrum, nec edax abolere vetustas.*

M.S.

Dramatis

## *Dramatis Personæ.*

RHODON.

ADANTHVS a friend to Rhodon.

MARTAGON.

CYNOSBATVS a friend to Martag.

ANTHOPHOTVS.

} *Shepherds.*

IRIS sister to Anthophotus.

VIOLETTA sister to Rhodon.

EGLANTINE sister to Cynosbatus.

PANAS a servant to Iris.

CLEMATIS a servant to Eglantine.

} *Shepherdesses.*

AGNOSTVS an Impostor.

PONERIA a Witch.

GLADIOLVS a Page to Eglantine.

FLORA.

*The Scene is Thessaly.*

# Prologue.

**C**andid Spectators, you that are invited  
To see the Lilly and the Rose united;  
Consider that this Comedy of ours,  
A Nosegay is compos'd of sundry flowers.  
Which we selected with some small expence  
Of time, to please each one that hath a sence:  
But if this glorious Cynicke crowne containes  
A head that wants a competence of braines,  
We could desire his absence, and be glad  
That one more wise his seat or standing had:  
Because experience shewes that such as he,  
The greatest enemies to science be:  
For what the Noddy cannot understand,  
He will seeke to disparage underhand,  
Branding eternall lines with blacke disgrace,  
Because they doe his numbers smothe surpassse.  
For this bold Criticke would have the world know it,  
That he no small foole is, though a small Poet.  
But with Icarean wings, why strives he thus,  
To mount Parnassus tops with Pegasus?  
When 'tis most meet that he with Asses meeke,  
His pasture at the Mountaines feet should seeke,  
On thistles wilde, and brakes there let him knabble,  
While Pegasus does make the skies his stable.  
But you (iudicious friends) that well discry  
The strength and worth of noble Poesie;  
That can discreetly iudge of what is done,  
We crave your favour and attention,  
And shall applaud the fortune of our Muse,  
If ought worth your acceptance we produce.





# R H O D O N AND FRIS.

## ACT. I. SCEN. I.

*Poneria, Agnostus.*

*Ag.* **T**S the worlds eye not yet asleepe?  
*Po.* Hath *love* not yet put on his starry night-cap?  
No; nor *Iuno* her spangl'd smocke!?

*Ag.* What, hath *Hesperus* forgot to light heavens tapers up?  
Or be the Charret wheelles of Night o're loaden  
with the leaden waights of sleepe,  
That she delays to throw her misty veyle  
upon the face of things?

*Po.* Blind Ignorance that grop' st in Cymirian darknesse,  
That lyst invelop'd in the shads of everlasting night,  
That want' st those glorious spectacles of Nature,  
Those Chrystalline spheres that should illumine  
Thy Microcosmus,  
Why dost thou thus maligne the guiltlesse light,  
She being the fairest Creature that Nature ever made?

*Ag.* I hate her because she is light: I say she is  
The Mistris of disquiet and unrest, and breeds  
More troubles in the world then one of my young

B

Hungry

Hungry Lawyers doth in a Common-wealth,  
Or a schismatical selfeconceited Coxcombe in an  
antient Corporation.

Oh that I could *Vlysses*-like burne out the eye  
Of that Celestiall *Polypheme*;

Or raise dull *Chaos* from *Demogorgons* Cell  
To quench the worlds unnecessary luminaries.

*Po.* Bold Ignorance, thou Idoll of these times  
That o're a woollen wit, oft wear'st a *Sattin* Cap;

And sometimes at our *Bacchanalian* feasts  
Appear'st as brave as a Canonickall Saint

In a *Kalender*: I hug thy resolution, stupid divell,  
That dost with generous malice amply supply

What is defective in thy intellect:

But if thou'lt give my faithfull Counsell leave

For to divert the torrent of thy wrath,

Then lend a facile care to my advice:

Bend not thy bootlesse hate against that Orbe of light,  
Whose mighty flames will scorch the impious wings

Of those Nocturnall birds, that shall attempt

With talons most prophane, to injure his bright beauty.

A meaner object than this, shall satisfie

Thy wrath, and my displeasure.

This is the day whereon the new society of

Florists, have determined to keepe their annual festivals:

Whose pompous Celebration hath wont to eclipse

All feasts besides: th' *Olympian* games,

And *Isthmian* playes, with all those Ludicrous

And Ludibrious Combats, are but meere Puppet playes

To this grand feast, for Art and nature both have try'd

To make this Feast surpasse all feasts beside.

Waite thy force with mine, then ten to one

# RHODON and IRIS.

We shall disturbe their mirth, e're we have done.  
*Ag.* Then mischief lend me all thy guilty nerves:  
Let flames of boundlesse fury quite dispell  
*Leibaan* dulnesse from my Clouded braine.  
Assist our great designe, ye subterraneous powers,  
That utterly abhorre to view the glaring light:  
Let not the weakenesse of my Craz'd intellectuals,  
Nor yet this loath'd deficiency of my sense,  
Be prejudiciall to the bent of our designe:  
*Poneria*, act thy part, for I am thine.

*Excuse.*

---

## ACT. I. SCEN. 2.

*Rhodon, Acanthus.*

*Ag.* (*Rhodon*) my honor'd, soule-united friend,  
Cast off that dusky melancholy veyle,  
Too vile a robe for thy majesticke brow,  
Blast not the pride of *Hyblas* happinesse  
With thy offensive passion.

*Rho.* Nay, good *Acanthus*, did love ere offend any?

*Aca.* And art not thou the map of loves calamity?  
Witnessse those cristall bowles of thy bright eyne,  
Which I have seene sweld up with brinish teares,  
Prepar'd for sorrowes bitter beverage:  
Witnessse those frequent tempests of thy sighes,  
Which made thy brest a fiery sea of dolour:  
Witnessse those palled cheekes, whose glorious hue  
*Aurora* late envy'd, and quite despairing



RHODON and IRIS.

To reach thy beauties height, with *Cupid* treated,  
 And him suborn'd to wound thy generous heart,  
 (Which no base passion ever durst assault)  
 That now like pale *Narcissus* on the brinke  
 Of the beguiling streame, thou lyest a dying.

*Rho.* I tell thee (brazen *Colosse*) marble statue,  
 Whose heart loves darts could never penetrate ;  
 Love is the Prince of all affections,  
 And like the element of fire transcends  
 His brothers in activity and splendour.

*Aca.* It is a fire indeed, that doth consume  
 All vertuous actions ; that feeds upon mens soules  
 Like the fiend *Eurynomus* upon dead carcases ;  
 That makes the microcosmus a meere Chaos.  
 It is the *Remora* of all noble enterprises,  
 And the *Lerna* in fenne which breeds a *Hydra*,  
 Crested with a thousand inconueniences.  
 Let me nere inherit more then my Fathers hempland,  
 Or nere be owner of more wit then some elder brothers,  
 If I thinke not *Cupid* the most pernicious deity  
 Among all the Olympian Senators.  
 Oh that I had but *Stentors* lungs,  
 To thunder out the vanity of that idoll.

*Rho.* Now I hope you have rail'd your self out of breath ;  
 And therefore I may now have time to speake :  
 Thus 'tis, deare friend *Acanthus*, I confesse  
 That once I lov'd the Lady *Eglantine*,  
 Whose rare endowments both of art and nature,  
 Well corresponding with high birth and fortune,  
 Did moderately attract my sincere love,  
 Which love conspiring with a strong desire,  
 To see the Customes of some forraine Nations,

And

And know the manners of people farre remote,  
 Made me to greet the Princely Dame  
 With a personall visitation.

Then my indulgent starres did me advise,  
 For to suspend my suit : whose Counsell I obey'd.  
 But trust me, friend, thou wert too much mistaken,  
 To thinke that love had scorch'd or sing'd so much  
 The wings of reason ; that I must needs fall,  
 And perish in the fornace of despaire.

Thou art a bad constructer of my thoughts,  
 If that thou think'st 'tis love which makes me sad :  
 Yea, thou, oft-times, dost take thy marks amisse,  
 To thinke me sad ; perhaps, when as my minde  
 (Uprais'd above the sphere of terrene things)  
 Is ravish'd with Celestiall Contemplation ;  
 For earthly passion hath no power at all  
 To worke upon an elevated soule.

Passions are starres to lower orbs confin'd ;  
 Scorching an earthly, not a heavenly mind.  
 Yet am I not so much a Stoicke, or a Stocke,  
 To plume the pinions of th'immortall soule,  
 Who while she's Cloyster'd in this Cell of Clay,  
 Moves with the wings of the affections :  
 But lest she, like to heedlesse *Icarus*,  
 Should soare too high a pitch ; or like young *Phaeton*,  
 Should shape her Course too low, *love* hath appointed  
 Wife Vertue for to regulate her flight.

Of these affections, love the Empresse is ;  
 Who, while she stands submisse to reasons lore,  
 Doth keepe the Fabricke of the little world in frame.

Love is the geniall goddesse, the *Lucina*  
 Which doth produce each honourable atchievement,

RHODON and IRIS.

Which this true axiome evidently proves,

*Nobilitas sub amore iacet.*

Had not the spritefull flames of love, egg'd on

That *Theban* Kilcrow mighty *Hercules*,

To brave adventures; he, perhaps, had dy'd

As much inglorious as did base *Thersites*.

Had not the faire *Andromache* beheld,

From *Troian* Towers, *Hectors* valiant acts

Among the *Greeks*, amid the *Phrygian* fields;

The gallant *Danies* of *Troy* then might, perchance,

Most justly have preferr'd *Achilles* farre before him.

'Tis this heroicall passion that incends

The sparkes of honour in each noble minde;

Making dull sluggards study industry;

And animating each unlearned head

To toyle in Arts and liberall Sciences,

Even to the high degree of rare proficiencie.

Then cease *Acanthus* with thy lawlesse tongue,

True loves Condition to maligne or wrong.

*Ac.* Thou zealous patron of the winged Boy,

Well hast thou pleaded thy blind Archers Case;

Pray *love* thou maist deserve a lusty fee

For this *Herculean* labour of thy tongue.

*Rho.* Surcease these malapert invectives, friend,

*Cupid* is arm'd with fire and arrowes keene,

To be avenc'd on those that shall him spleene.

*Ac.* When *Sol* shall make the Easterne Seas his bed,

When Wolves and Sheepe shall be together fed;

When Starres shall fall, and planets cease to wander,

When *Inno* proves a Bawd, and *Iupiter* a Pander;

When *Venus* shalt turn Chast, and *Bacchus* become sober,

When fruit in April's ripe, that blossom'd in October;

When



When Prodigals shall money lend on use,  
 And Usurers prove lavish and profuse ;  
 When Art shal be esteem'd, and golden pelfe laid down,  
 When Fame shal tel all truth, & Fortune cease to frown,  
 To *Cupids* yoke then I my necke will bow ;  
 Till then, I will not feare loves fatall blow.

*Rho.* Wert thou a meere spirit, then I confesse,  
 And thinke, this resolution might endure ;  
 But so long as thy soule weares robes of earth,  
 Lac'd all with veynes, that o're a *Grimson* deepe,  
 Set forth an *Azure* bright; needs must thy heart  
 Yeeld to the force of *Cupids* golden dart.

## ACT. I. SCEN. 3.

*Clematis, Eglantine.*

*Cle.* **O**H impotent desires, allay the sad consort  
 Of a sublime Fortune, whose most ambitious  
 Disdain to burne in simple Cottages, (flames  
 Loathing a hard unpolish'd bed ;  
 But Coveting to shine beneath a Canopy  
 Of rich *Sydonian* purple ; all imbroider'd  
 With purest gold, and orientall Pearles ;  
 In tessellated pavements, and gilded roofes,  
 Supported by proud artificiall Columnes,  
 Of polish'd Ivory and Marble ; doth love delight  
 There ; doth he, like a mighty Tyrant, rage,  
 Subverting the whole edifice of reason  
 With his impetuous conflagration :  
 That this is true, the gentle Shepherdesse

Faire

Faire *Eglantine* doth evidently shew :  
 For she, a sister to the great *Cynosbatus*,  
 Was Courted lately by the Shepheard *Rhodon* :  
 Whose suit she entertain'd with due respect,  
 Requiring love with love : but Fate (it seemes)  
 Not condescending that great *Hymen* should  
 Accomplish their desires ; forbade the Banes,  
 And *Rhodon* hath relinquished his suit ;  
 And is return'd to *Hybla* sweet ; whose flowry vales  
 Began to droope, and wither in his absence.  
 But *Eglantine* remains disconsolate ;  
 Like to a Turtle that hath lost her mate.  
 See where she comes, expressing in her face  
 A perfect Map of mellancholy :  
 I will retire, because I well descry,  
 Shee's out of love with all society.

*Enter Eglant. with her Lute.*

*Eg.* Adresse thy selfe sweet warbling Instrument,  
 My sorrowes sad Companion ; to tune forth  
 Thy melancholly notes ; somewhat to flake  
 Those furious flames that scorch my tender heart.

*She sings and playes upon the Lute.*

*Vpon the blacke Rocke of despaire*  
*My youthfull ioyes are perish'd quite,*  
*My hopes are vanish'd into ayre,*  
*My day is turn'd to gloomy night :*  
*For since my Rhodon deare is gone,*  
*Hope, light, nor comfort, have I none:*

*A Cell, where grieffe the Landlord is,*  
*Shall be my palace of delight ;*

*Where*

## RHODON and IRIS.

Where I will wooe with votes and sighes,  
Sweet death to end my sorrowes quite;  
Since I have lost my Rhodon deare,  
Deaths fleshlesse armes why should I feare?

Enter  
Cle.

Cle. What time shal end thy sorrowes, sweetest *Eglantine*?

*Egl.* Such griefe as mine cannot be cur'd by time.

But when the gentle fates shall disembooue

My weary soule, and that Celestiall substance free

From irkesome manacles of clay; then may I finde,

If not a sweet repose in biest *Elysium*,

Yet some refrigeration in those shades,

Where *Dido* and *Hypsiphile* do wander.

Exit *Egl.*

Cle. Thou gentle goddesse of the woods & mountaines,

That in the woods and mountaines art ador'd,

The Maiden patronesse of chaste desires,

Who art for chastity renowned most,

Tresgrand *Diana*, who hast power to cure

The rankling wounds of *Cupids* golden arrowes;

Thy precious balsome deigne thou to apply,

Vnto the heart of wofull *Eglantine*;

Then we thy gracious favour will requite

With a yong Kid, than new false snow more white. exit.

---

### ACT. I. SCEN. 4.

*Cynosbatus, Martagon.*

Cy. MY honor'd friend, most noble *Martagon*,  
Who whilom didst with thy imperiall power  
Command the mountaines proud, and humble plaines



## RHODON and IRIS.

Of happy *Theffaly* : who hath eclips'd  
 The splendour of thy light, and clipp'd those wings  
 That aid ore-shade these fields from East to West.  
 Each Shepheard that was wont to feed his flocks  
 Vpon these fertile meads, was wont whilerc  
 To pay the tribute of his primeft lambs.  
 But now as one coup'd in an angle up,  
 Thou art compell'd to satisfie thy selfe,  
 With a small portion of that foveraignty  
 Which thou didst earft enjoy.

*Ma.* Deare friend *Cynosbatus*, if that the world  
 Had bin compos'd in a cubicke forme  
 And not orbicular ; or if this globe  
 Were destin'd to be ought else then fortunes ball,  
 By alterations racket banded to and fro ;  
 Then iustly might'st thou wonder to behold  
 My present state, so short of my precedent height.  
 Nor doth this monster, Change, beare sway alone,  
 Ore elements, men, beasts, and plants,  
 But those celestiaall bodies that are fram'd  
 Of purer constitutions, are compell'd  
 To be obedient to her awfull doome.  
 Reare up thy eyes unto the spangl'd cope,  
 And there behold *Ioves* starre-enchafed belt,  
 The glittering *Zodiacke* wonderfully chang'd  
 In a few thousand yeares :  
 For those fixt stars, which like a Diamond cleare,  
 Adorne the baudricke of the Thunderer,  
 Have wander'd from their former stations.  
 Witnesse the golden Ram who now is gone astray,  
 And shoulder'd hath the Cretian Bull ; and he  
 Those twins of *Iove* so sore hath butted,

That

That they have crush'd the Crab, and thrust him quite  
Into the den of the Nemæan Lyon.

Thus by the change of these superiour bodies,  
Strange alterations in the world are wrought,  
Great Empires maim'd, & Kingdoms brought to naught.

And that auspicious lampe, who freely lends  
His light to lesser fires, the prince of generation,  
Even *Sol* himselve, is five degrees declin'd,  
Since learned *Ptolome* did take his height.

But if Egyptian wisards we may trust,  
Who in Astrologie went to excell;  
By them tis told, that foure times they have seene  
That glorious Charrioter flit from his place:  
Twice hath he rose (they say) where now he sets,  
And twice declined where he now doth rise.

If these Celestiall powers, whose influence  
Commands terrestriall substances,  
Be object to mutation, then needs must  
Sublunar things, submit themselues to change.  
Then wonder not good friend *Cynosbatus*,  
To see my state and power diminish'd thus.

*Cy.* Tis true deare *Martagon*, experience shoves  
That alteration every day brings forth  
A new birth of effects.

*Ma.* But I prethe friend, satisfie me in one thing.

*Cy.* My bosome's yours, take from that Cabinet  
The choifest secret that can pleasure you:  
Tell me in what your will's to be resolu'd.

*Ma.* There is a rumour spred through *Thessaly*,  
That your faire sister, *Madame Eglantine*,  
Shall be espoused to the Shepheard *Rhodon*,  
The prince of all the Swaines that dwell on *Hybla*.

# RHODON and IRIS.

*Cy.* From no ill grounds this rumor sprang, though  
The Fates did crosse what was by us intended.

*Na.* Then there's no expectation of my Nuptial rites.

*Cy.* No; all's dissolv'd.

*Na.* I thanke my Starres for that.

*Cy.* Your reason, Noble friend.

*Ma.* A kin he is to that male spirited Dame,  
That stout Virago, that proud Shepherdesse  
Call'd *Violetta*: who complains of wrongs  
Late suffer'd at my hands:

And hee's the man by whom she hopes  
To be aveng'd on me, for this pretended injury;  
And had he matcht your sister, sweet *Eglantine*,  
Then might I have had cause for to suspect  
Your love not to be sound, since you accepted  
So great a foe of mine, for your neere friend.

*Cy.* Then I am glad the Fates would not agree  
That I should lose so true a friend as thee.

*Exeunt.*

---

## ACT. I. SCEN. 3.

*Rhodon. Anthophotus. Acanthus. Iris. Panace.*

*An.* Never till now, did my *Hymettus* flourish:  
More blest effects hath thy sweet presence wrought,  
(Honour'd *Rhodon*) then could have beene produc'd  
By moist-wing'd *Zephyrus*, or *Favonius*,  
Who fanns our flowers with his gentle breath.

*Rho.* Thankes, good *Anthophotus*:

*An.* Nor doth our sister *Iris* hold her selfe

*Meanely*



## RHODON and IRIS.

Meanely engag'd to you, for this your gracious visit,

*Rho.* To be the meanest servant of so sweet a saint,  
Is the full height and scope of my ambition.

*Ir.* Faire S<sup>r</sup>. I wish you would be pleas'd t'employ  
Your service on an object of more worth.

*Rho.* Dissemble not, admired Shepherdesse ;  
For thou art she, that art as farre beyond  
That light peece of beauty, *Hellen of Greece*,  
In outward perfections ; as shee was short of thee in  
inward graces.

Yea, had those fifty Kings that did for her  
Engage themselves in a long tedious warre,  
Seene but the Modell of thy rare beauty,  
Drawne by the hand of but a rude painter,  
Doubtlesse, they had their honours forfeited,  
And broke that sacred oath which they had tane.  
Their worke in hand they had relinquish'd quite,  
And left the walls of wretched *Troy* untoucht ;  
For each attracted with thy beauties splendor,  
No Seas nor perils would have left unpass,  
To finde thee in the furthest angle of the world.

*Ir.* Could my perfections, valu'd at the highest rate,  
But countervaile a dramme of your great worth,  
Then should I thinke my selfe borne under starres  
Most happy and auspicious.

*As.* Surcease your Complements, deare *Rhodon*,  
Let empty Caskes, and hollow Cymbals speake  
That ayrie language, which unworthy is  
Of your realities.

*Rho.* Pardon me, gentle Sir : this radiant starre,  
My judgements feeble eyes did dazle so,  
That I was forc'd to speake what passion did informe me.

# RHODON and IRIS.

*Enter a Messenger.*

*Messen.* Which is the Shepheard *Rhodon*?

*Rho.* I am the man.

*Messen.* Then you are he whom *Violetta* greets.

*Rho.* How fares my sifter?

*Messen.* This letter shall relate what I can never utter.

*Exit Messen.*

*Rho,* Pray *Iove* we have good newes, me thiaks I saw  
A pallid horrour setl'd in the face  
Of the sad Messenger : be't good or ill,  
We are resolu'd to see it, come what will.

*He opens and reads the Letter.*

*I Violetta much distrest  
By Martagon my mortall foe,  
Your succour humbly doe request,  
To set me free frrm servile woe.  
Our flowers he hath trampled on,  
Our Gardens turn'd to thicketts wilde ;  
Our fields and Meads he hath ore-run,  
That we are forc'd to live exil'd.  
We therefore doe your aide implore,  
Ys to our freedome to restore.*

Your distressed sifter,

*Violetta, Violetta.*

'Twas for no good, that the late shag hair'd Comet  
With his erected staring lookes, did over-looke  
Our frightened flocks, who all amaz'd poore wretches  
At such a horrid unexpected sight,  
Ere Hesperus gan from the west to peepe,

Halse

RHODON and IRIS.

Halfe empty, did retire unto their folds againe :  
 Nor were those idle fires which late we saw,  
 Hang like a flaming canopie above us,  
 When we did walke the round about our folds,  
 To keepe the warwolfe from our Lambs by night.  
 But is't possible that man should be so savage,  
 To vent his rage upon a silly woman ?

*An.* It is no wonder gentle sir at all :  
 For when *Prometheus* form'd his man of clay,  
 Tis said that he did to his stomacke adde,  
 The raging fury of a Lyon fierce.

*Rho.* Tis true : but histories report that a Lyon did,  
 The suppliant Getulian virgin spare,  
 Scorning to make so innocent a creature  
 His pray or quarry.

*An.* Foule shame and infamy it is, god wot,  
 That manly might should women weake oppose,  
 Whom they by right for life ought to defend.

*Acan.* (*Rhodon*) doe thou but say Amen : and I will in  
 An instant raise our spritefull youth,  
 And lead them on with such a vigorous force  
 Against the most unhumane *Martagon* ;  
 That we will pull the Craven from his nest,  
 Disrobing him of all his borrowed plumes,  
 And repossessing *Violetta* of her owne.

*Rho.* In actions of such consequence as this,  
 We must not be too precipitious,  
 Mature deliberation must conclude  
 What shall be done in such a maine designe :  
 The stately Steed that with a full careere  
 Attempts to mount the brow of the steepe hill,  
 Oft breaks his winde, ere he can reach the height.



RHODON and IRIS.

But the slow snayle without or harme, or perill,  
 In time ascends unto the mountaines top,  
 For that true love we owe to *Thessaly*,  
 In which affection all we are ingag'd;  
 We by a friendly treaty will endeavour  
 To bring th' usurper to a restitution.  
 But if the Olive branch will doe no good,  
 Then let the scourge of warre it selfe disclose;  
 They that our friendship scorne, must be our foes.

*An.* And if my right hand faile to second thee,  
 Then for a Peasant let me counted be.

*Excunt Rho. Antbo. Iris.*

*Banace offers to goe out, and is stayed by Acanthus.*

*Ac.* Nay, stay faire Nimph, I would request  
 A private Conference with you.

*Pa.* If that I could with my affaires dispense,  
 I gladly should imbrace your Conference:  
 But my occasions bid mee hast away;  
 Sweet S<sup>r</sup>, adieu; I can no longer stay. *Exit Pa.*

*Ac.* I that of late was made of *Scythian* snow,  
 And *Hyperborean* ice, am now quite thaw'd  
 In the uncessant flames of hot desire.  
 A new *Vesuvius* burnes within my brest,  
 But shall I overturne those noble trophies  
 Which I most firmly have on vertue founded;  
 Or shall I singe the wings of reason so,  
 In the outragious flames of passion;  
 That I must needs fall downe and perish quite  
 In the blacke hideous gulfe of deepe despaire,  
 No: no: I will not,  
 Of this I am resolv'd whatso're befall,  
 Or not to love too much, or not at all.

*Exit.*

ACT

## ACT. 2. SCEN. 1.

*Poneria: Agnostus.*

*po.* **B**Old foolish wickednesse is that  
 Which walks by day, expos'd to the world's eie;  
 Sinne is the daughter of the darkeſt night,  
 And therefore doth abhorre to come to light.  
 Give me that cole blacke sinne that can lye hid.  
 Vnder the candid robes of ſeeing ſanctity;  
 Which dares put out the perſpicacious eyes  
 Of thoſe that ſhall attempt to find her out.  
 Come dull *Agnostus*, let us diſguiſe our ſelves  
 And be prepar'd to act ſome ſtratagem  
 To eclipse the glory of theſe feſtivals.

*She puts on the garment.*

This robe of vertue doth belong to me;  
 This goodly vaile ſhall hide my blacke intents.  
 Thus perſonated, I durſt undertake  
 To rend a well woven ſtate in factious peeces;  
 To win the cares of mighty Potentates;  
 And hood-winke Kings, that they ſhould neither ſee  
 To doe what's iuſt, nor heare the pitteous cries  
 Of thoſe that are oppreſt.  
 But that thou, *Agnostus*, maiſt ſecond my deſignes,  
 'Tis very fit thou ſhouldeſt be thus accouter'd.

*Ag.* My deare *Poneria*, I am yours.*Shee puts on his beard.*

*po.* Then firſt unto thy chin we muſt apply  
 This Philoſophicall beefeome.  
 Now is the old proverbe really perform'd,

# RHODON and IRIS.

More haire than wit.

How like a Senator he lookes?

What a world of gravity's harbour'd in that beard?

Surely the world can take him for no other

Than the third *Cato* that should fall from heaven.

But here's the Ensigne of learning,

The badge of the seven Liberal Sciences,

*Opereulum ingenij*, the silken Case of wit,

The Cap of knowledge; Clap this upon thy

Empty hog shead, put this on, and then thy head

Will become a *Helicon*, and thy braine a *Pyrene*.

*He puts on the Cap.*

*Ag.* It fits me exceeding well.

*Po.* Dost not perceive thy head begin to ake

With meeere abundance of knowledge?

(vines,

*Ag.* Now, me thinks, I could confute a Colledge of Di-

A Synod of Doctors, a Lycaëum of Philosophers;

Yet me thinks my braines are not right,

And somewhat too weake to maintaine a paradox.

*Po.* Away fond idiot, doe not conceit

That this Cap can infuse any thing reall into thy pate,

That is uncapable of all art and science.

Under the protection of this Cap, thou maist be bold

To traduce thy betters, to censure the best,

To decide controversies without discretion,

To torment all companies with thy discourse,

And weary eares of yron with thy impertinences;

Doe but weare this head-peece over the Coyse of

Selfe-conceit (alwayes provided) that thou forget'st

Not to leave off a brazen face; and I dare

Vndertake it, thou in a short time, shalt gaine

More respect (especially among *Plebeian Coxcombs*)

Then



# RHODON and IRIS.

Then euer *Pythagoras*, had of his auditors.

*Ag.* I am thy slave, divine *Poneria* :  
Oh admirable rare Artift that I am !

*Po.* But yet, me thinkes, there's somewhat else to doe  
To make thee more accomplish'd and compleat.  
'Slight, the politicall gowne ; I had as cleane forgot it,  
As the time since I lost my mayden-head.  
Here'tis : dispatch. and put it on,  
And then be reputed both grave,—  
Learn'd, and wise.

Doubtlesse it will become thee exceeding well:

*He puts on the Gowne.*

Now lookes he not like a maine stud of a Corporation ?

*Ag.* How heavy is the burthen of authority ?

*Po.* 'Tis true, authority is heavy, I confesse,  
But not so heavy but an Ass may beare't.  
Since now, *Agnostus*, that we are well fitted  
With habits meet, to act what we intend ;  
Thou seeming like a grave and learned Sire ;  
Though thou indeed then that bee'st nothing lesse,  
And I like to a vertuous maiden dight,  
Though I all vertue deeply doe abhorre ;  
We thus disguis'd, will all the world delude,  
And set the flowers at ods among themselves,  
That they in civill enmities embroyl'd,  
Shall of their pride and gloryes be dispoyl'd.

*Exeunt.*

# RHODON and IRIS.

## ACT. 2, SCEN. 2.

*Martagon, Cynosbatius.*

*Ma.* **T**O hinder the conjunction of those starres,  
We must try all our skill, *Cynosbatius.*

*Cy.* I jealous am of their maligne aspect,  
And therefore hold it best to take away  
That cause which may produce such bad effects;  
For I shall never cease t'applaud his skill,  
That in the shell, the Cockatrice doth kill.

*Ma.* The Serpent will be hatch'd, I shrewdly feare,  
E're we the mischief can prevent, if thus  
We should delay to act our purposes:  
For late, a certaine rumor, through my eare,  
Did strike me to the heart; when 'twas reported  
That *Rhodon* on *Hymettus* hill was seene;  
Where by *Anthophotus*, and his sister *Iris*,  
He was with such solemnity receiu'd,  
That all surmise there is a match intended  
Betweene the Shepheard *Rhodon* and faire *Iris*.

*Cy.* If once they be conjoyn'd in *Hymens* rites,  
Then all our toyle's ridiculous and vaine;  
For *Hymens* obligations are (we see)  
Seldome by any cancell'd, but by death.

*Ma.* Then let us set some Stratagem abroach,  
The Cords of their new amity to breake.  
The tender twig may easily be broke,  
But who's so strong to bow the sturdy Oke.  
Our friends will say (if we procrastinate)  
That, like the *Trojans*, we were wise too late.

*Exeunt*  
ACT.

## ACT. 2. SCEN. 3.

*Eglantine sola.*

Since that the gods will not my woe redresse,  
 Since men are altogether pittilesse,  
 Ye silent ghosts unto my plaints give eare;  
 Give eare (I say, ye ghosts) if ghosts can heare:  
 And listento my plaints that doe excell  
 The dol'rous tune of ravish'd Philomel:  
 Now let *Ixions* wheele stand still a while,  
 Let *Danaus* daughters now surcease their toyle:  
 Let *Sisyphus* rest on his restlesse stone,  
 Let not the Apples flye from *Plotas* sonne;  
 And let the full gorg'd Vultur cease to teare  
 The growing liver of the ravisher;  
 Let these behold my sorrowes, and confesse  
 Their paines doe farre come short of my distresse.  
 Were I but Lady of more wealthy store  
 Then e're the Sunne beheld; or had I more  
 Then *Midas* e're desir'd; I would (in brieft)  
 Give all to be deliver'd from this griefe.  
 Rocks of rich Indian pearle, stores pay'd with gemmes,  
 Mountaines of gold, and Empires Diadems,  
 These would I give, yea, and my selfe to boot,  
 My selfe and these prostrating at his foot,  
 To enioy him whom I so dearly love.  
 Aye me, fond love, that art a sweet sower evill,  
 A pleasant torture, a well-favour'd devill.  
 But why doe I, weake wretch, prolong my griefe?  
 Why doe I live, since death affords reliefe?



## RHODON and IRIS.

Doe thou (sweet ponyard) all my sorrowes ease,  
That art a medicine for all grievances,  
Assist my hand, thou goddesse of revenge,  
That on my selfe, I may my selfe avenge.

*Enter Poneria and Agnostus.*

*Po.* Hold, hold thy hand, faire Shepheardesse,  
Attempt not to commit a fact so horrid.

*Eg.* What Fury sent you hither, Caitiffes vile,  
Thusto prolong my sorrow, and my toyle.

*Po.* No Fury, but your happy Genius  
Brought us to these uncomfortable shades,  
For to prevent your mischievous intent,

*Eg.* Death is a plaister for all ills (they say)  
What mischief then can be in death, I pray.

*Po.* 'Tis true; death is a mortall wound that cures all  
Of body, and of mind: it is the soules potion. (wounds  
That purgeth her from corporall pollution:  
But you must not your owne Physician prove,  
Nor be the Doctor, and the Patient too:  
For if thy soule be sickly, and grow weary  
Of this unwholesome earthly habitation,  
Because this ayres spiffitude suits not  
With her Celestiall Constitution,  
She must not like a bankrupt Tenant prove,  
That flies by night from an unprofitable Farme,  
Before the terme of his Lease be expir'd:  
But stay till heaven shall give her egress free  
Vnto the haven of rest and happinesse.

*Eg.* Were I not plunged in a grievous plight,  
Perhaps I would not thinke thy counsell light.

*Po.* Art not thou the sister of *Cynobatus*,  
Lord of the silver mines, and golden mountaines.

And

## RHODON and IRIS.

And art not thou as faire a Shepheardesse  
As trips upon the plaines of *Thessaly*?

*Eg.* For being great, I am malign'd by Fate,  
For being faire, I am unfortunate.

*Po.* I know thy sorrowes, sweetest *Eglantine*;  
Thy *Rhodons* absence hath wrought all thy woe,  
Who now, they say, doth beauteous *Iris* court.  
But if thou wilt make me thy instrument,  
I'll undertake to breake the match,  
If not, renew the love which earst he bare to thee.

*Eg.* Doe this, and I will live (*Poneria*)

To give thy merit ample satisfaction.

I will adore thy skill, and thee adorne

With what may make thee famous through all *Thessaly*.

*Po.* Then banish all these melancholly thoughts,  
And decke thy selfe in thy most sumptuous weeds.  
Make hast unto the Fane of gentle *Venus*,

A payre of Turtles of a snowy hue,

Vpon her altars offer thou to her,

And her beseech to intercede for thee

Vnto her angry boy: Then shalt thou finde

The god and goddesse to true lovers kinde.

*Eg.* My deare *Poneria*, I am truly thine.

But tell me, I prethe, what grave *Sr.* is this

That lookes like one of *Greeces* Sages;

His reverent Countenance makes me surmise

That he's a man of sublime qualities.

*Po.* He is but what he seemes, faire Shepheardesse:

His head's the officine of art; his tongue

The oracle of truth; he is the man

Whom onely Nature hath vouchsaf'd to make

Her privy Counsellour.

## RHODON and IRIS.

Those abstruse secrets which no mortall eye  
 Did ever view, he plainly can discry;  
 He is the man that's destin'd to find out  
 That grand mysterious secret, in whose discovery  
 So many bold adventrous wits have perished:  
 I meane th'*Elixar*, the Philosophers precious stone.  
 He is the man who by strange policies  
 Can breake the strong Confederacies of Kings,  
 And overthrow more Empires by his plots,  
 Then mighty *Alexander* er'e did by strength:  
*Agnostus* is his name, renown'd no lesse  
 For honesty, than skill in Sciences.

*Eg.* His silence argues something extraordinary.

*Ag* Belphegor, Zazel, Astragoth, Golguth,  
 Machon Malortor.

*Egl.* offers to flye away, and is stayed by *Po.*

*Eg.* Aye me, *Poveria*.

*Po.* *Agnostus*, not a word more for thy life.

Stay, stay, sweet *Eglantine*, and dread no harme,  
 This is the language which the *Persian Magi* us'd  
 When they with their familiars did converse,  
 To which he is so frequently accustom'd,  
 That oft he speakes it e're he be aware.

(*Agnostus*) vouchsafe to use your native language,  
 That *Eglantine* may know what you are.

I hope you know your lesson, *Aside.*  
 Twice twenty times and ten, &c.

*Ag.* Twice twenty times and ten, hath Titan run  
 Quite through the Zodiacke, since I begun  
 To converse with wise fiends, that I might get  
 The golden key of Natures Cabinet.  
 By industry I got immortall fame,

For



## RHODON *and* IRIS.

For ignorance begets contempt and shame :  
So perfect in the Magicke Arts I grew,  
That natures secrets most abstruse I knew ;  
The spirits of ayre and earth did me dread,  
And did at my venite come with speed ;  
The silly ghosts from graves I did forth call.  
The earth I make to bellow, starres to fall.  
The world at my great awfull charmes did quake,  
Nature her selfe for very feare did shake :  
To change midday to midnight, or to cause  
Estiuall snowes, or breake the vipers iawes,  
Or to drive rivers backe to their spring heads,  
And make seas stand unmov'd, or to strike dead  
The vernall blossome, or the haruest eare :  
A man would thinke these strange conclusions were,  
But I account them of small weight : I know  
The use of hearbes, and whatsoever grow ;  
The cause to the effect I can apply,  
And worke strange things by hidden sympathies.  
I doe exactly know the compositions  
Of unctious Philters, and loves potions :  
Figures, suspensions, and ligations,  
Characters and suffumigations.  
For I the vertues of all simples know  
From whence ; effects that seeme impossible I show.  
The gall of shreeke Owles, & harsh night Ravens tongus  
Guts of Panthers, and Chamelions lungs,  
A blacke Buls eyes, a speckled toads dry'd head,  
Frankincense, camphire, and white poppie-seed ;  
Poyfenous Melanthion, and a white Cocks blood,  
Sweet Myrthe, Bay-berries, precious balsome wood,  
A Harts marrow that hath devour'd a snake,

## RHODON and IRIS.

And scalpes which from a wilde beaſts jawes we take,  
The bone that lyes ith' left ſide of a Frogge,  
A ſtone that is bitten with a mad dogge.  
The Mandrake root, the blood of a blacke Cat,  
A Turtles liver, the braines of a Batt,  
Hyænas heart, the Cockatrices blood,  
That are againſt ſo many evils good :  
The haire of a thiefe that hangs on a tree ;  
The nailes of ſhips that wracked be,  
The blood of a wretched man that was flaine,  
The eyes of a Dragon and Weafels braines.  
Theſe precious ſimples, and a thouſand more  
I could produce ; I have them all in ſtore :  
And though they ſeeme to men meere trifling things,  
Each one (I vow) ore'weighes ranſomes of Kings.  
The blindneſſe of theſe times cannot diſcrie  
The vertues rare that in theſe ſimples lye.

*Po.* Enough *Agnostus* : Now faire Shepherdſſe,  
I hope you have a faire expreſſion  
Of this learn'd mans ſublime deſert, and art ?

*Eg.* I doe admire his ſkill, and ſee (by happe)  
Good ſtuffe may be beneath a fatten Cap.

*Exeunt.*

---

## ACT. 2. SCEN. 4.

*Rhodon, Martagon, Violetta, Acanthus.*

*Rho.* **K** Now *Martagon*, that as no dynaſties can ſtand,  
No Empires long ſubſiſt, unleſſe they be  
Supported by the Columnes of true equity :  
So ſhall that government of thine decay,

Since

## RHODON *and* IRIS.

Since thy oppression makes the weake a pray.

*Mar.* Tis no oppression for to punish those,  
That have transgress the Lawes, as I suppose.

*Vio.* The lawes (Colossus) proud, uniuert tyrant,  
That dost observe nor equity nor law,  
But by the torrent of ambition hurri'd,  
Dost act what lawlesse passion prompts thee to:  
What Lawes have I transgress? it is thy might,  
That into seeming wrong hath chang'd our right:  
Had Fortune beene as just as was our cause,  
We that are censur'd now for breach of Lawes,  
Maugre thy viprous hate, had now bin free,  
And for thy foule injustice censur'd thee.

*Mar.* And is your pride *Virago* still so high?  
That it doth over-top your misery.  
Cann't sorrow strike thee dumbe, can no disaster,  
The liberty of thy tongue over-master.

*Ac.* Nay, be assur'd (proud man) not any smart,  
Can cure the courage of a valiant heart:  
No force a heart of adamant can breake;  
And loosers must, and shall have leave to speake:

*Rho.* No more *Acanthus*: heare me *Martagon*:  
Wilt thou give *Violetta* what's her owne?  
Wilt thou restore her right and due possessions?  
And make a recompence for all oppressions,  
That happy peace with joy and plenty crown'd,  
May in the fields of *Thessaly* be found?

*Mar.* This will I doe,  
When seas shall be drunke dry by *Phæbus* beames,  
And when the lesser starres shall drinke the streames.  
This will I doe,  
When of my life and freedome I am weary,



## RHODON and IRIS.

*Non minor est virtus quam quæ vere parva tueri.*

*Ac.* Before this guiltlesse woman shall endure  
Such shamefull injuries : thy selfe assure  
Ile empty all these azure rivulets  
Of their virmillion streames ; and quite discharge  
This contemn'd bulke of mine, of living ayre ;  
And stretch'd upon the gelid bed of death,  
Ile to the world this Epitaph bequeath,  
Here lyes a Swaine that spent his deereſt blood,  
To kill a Tyrant for a Virgins good.

*Ma.* Bold heroe doe thy worst, what I have won  
I nere will part withall till life be done.

*Rho.* Tenacious Tyrant, in whose flinty heart  
Nor equity, nor justice ere had part :  
Assure thy selfe thy guilty soule shall feele  
Revengeſ hand, arm'd with a scourge of Steele. *exunt.*

---

### ACT. 3. SCEN. I.

*Clematis Solo.*

**W**ELL, if I were but once rid of her service,  
If I ever seru'd love-sicke miſtris againe,  
I would feed all my life time on *Agnus Castus*,  
And give all the world leave to let me dye a maid :  
I even ſpoyl'd a good mother wit  
With beating my head about these knick knacks,  
Which my miſtris, Madam *Eglantine*  
Hath enioyn'd me to procure her,  
For now ſeduc'd by the old bawd *Poneria*,  
She thinks to recover her old ſweet-heart *Rhodon*.

*Here*

## RHODON *and* IRIS.

Here is a Catalogue as tedious as a Taylors bill,  
Of all the devices which I am commanded to provide,  
*videlicet* :

Chaines, coronets, pendans, bracelets and eare-rings,  
Pins, girdles, spangles, embroyderies, rings,  
Shadowes, rebatos, ribbands, ruffes, cuffes and fals :  
Scarfes, feathers, fans, maskes, muffes, laces and cals ;  
Thin tiffanies, copweb-lawne and fardingals,  
Sweet-bals, vayles, wimples, glassees, crisping-pins ;  
Pots, oyntments, combs, with poking-sticks & bodkins ;  
Coyfes, gorgets, fringes, rowles, fillets and haire-laces ;  
Silks, damasks, velvet, tinsels, cloth of gold,  
And tiffue, with colours of a hundreth fold.

*Enter  
Gladiolus*

But in her tyres so new fangl'd is she,  
That which doth with her humour now agree,  
To morrow she dislikes, now doth she sweare,  
That a loose body is the neatest weare ;  
But ere an houre be gone, she will protest  
A strait gowne graces her proportion best :  
Now cals she for a boistrous fardingall,  
Then to her hips shele have her garments fall :  
Now doth she praise a sleeve that's long and wide,  
Yet by and by that fashion doth deride :  
Sometimes sh'applauds a pavement-sweeping traine,  
And presently dispraiseth it againe.  
Now she commends a shallow band so small,  
That it may seeme scarce any band at all ;  
But soone to a new fancy doth she reele,  
And cals for one as big as a coach-wheele :  
She'le weare a flowry coronet to day,  
The symbol of her beauties sad decay ;  
To morrow she a wauing plume will try,

## RHODON and IRIS.

The embleme of all female lenitie,  
Now in her hat, then in her haire she's drest,  
For of all fashions she thinks change the best.

*Gla.* Good fellow seruant, honest *Clematis*,  
Let me conclude thy tedious tale with this;  
I say the restlesse sea and flitting winde,  
Are constant in respect of women kinde.

*Cle.* Nor in her weeds alone is she so nice,  
But rich perfumes she buyes at any price.  
Storax and Spiknard she burnes in her Chamber,  
And daubes her selfe with Civit, Muske and Amber.  
With limbecks, viols, pots, her Closer's fill'd,  
Full of strange liquors by rare art distill'd:  
She hath Vermilion and Antimony,  
Cerule and sublimated Mercury.  
Waters she hath to make her face to shine;  
Confections eke to clarifie her skin;  
Lipsalues, and cloathes of a pure scarlet dye  
She hath, which to her cheekes she doth apply:  
Oyntments wherewith she pargets ore her face,  
And lustrifies her beauties dying grace.  
She waters for the Morpewes doth compose,  
And many other things, as strange as those;  
Some made of Daffadils, some of lees,  
Of scarwolfe some, and some of rinds of trees,  
With Centory, sower Grapes, and Tarragon,  
She maketh many a strange lotion:  
Her skin she can both supple and refine,  
With iuyce of Lemons and with Turpentine:  
The marrow of the Hernshaw and the Deere,  
She takes likewise to make her skin looke cleere:  
Sweet waters she distils, which she composes



## RHODON ~~and~~ IRIS.

Of flowers of Oranges, Woodbine or Roses:  
The vertue of Iefmine and three-leav'd grasse,  
She doth imprifon in a brittle glaffe,  
With Civet, Muske, and odours farre more rare,  
These liquors sweet incorporated are:  
Lees she can make which turne a haire that's old  
Or colour'd ill, into a hue of gold.  
Of horses, beares, cats, camels, conies, snakes,  
Whales, Herons, bittours, strange oyles she makes,  
With which dame natures errors she corrects,  
Vfing arts helpe to fupply all defects.  
She in the milke of Affes bathes her skin,  
As did the beautifull *Poppea*, when  
She tempted *Nero* to forfake the bed  
Of great *OEtavia*, and her felfe to wed.

*Gla.* If there be any Gentlewoman here,  
That will with gracious acceptation use  
The fervice of a tatling Chambermaid,  
I would aduife her to make choice of this *Frisketta*,  
That is as chafte as *Helen*, or *Corinthian Laïs*,  
As chary of bewraying fecrets as was *Echo*:  
Oh she would prove a rare Privie Councillour  
In fome great Ladies privie Chamber.  
The perpetuall motion for which Artifts have fo labor'd  
Is discover'd no where fo plainly as in her tongue,  
Which fcarce finds any leifure to reft,  
No not when she is afleepe:  
But of her curtefie she is fo charitable,  
And fo heroically magnificent,  
That she will both vouchsafe to commiferate  
The lowe eftate of an humble groome of the ftable,  
And alfo fatisfie the defire.

RHODON and IRIS.

Of a high and mighty Gentleman-usher  
 In a kisse or any other amorous encounter :  
 Gentlemen beleeue me in few, she is a pearle,  
 Whose worth the age cannot value.  
 If there be any Gentleman here  
 That will bestow a small pension upon her,  
 With a kisse or two once a fortnight,  
 To make her his intelligencer of state  
 In his wives common-wealth ;  
 I will undertake he shall be able to make good  
 A faction against his wife,  
 Had she an Amazons stomacke, a Zenobia's,  
 Or a Xanthippes tongue.

*Cl.* Out you prating Parachito,  
 Come you hither to abuse me.  
 Take this for your paines.

*She strikes  
 him.*

*Gla.* Now thank thy stars, that with a female signature  
 Did stampe thy sexe, audacious strumpet,  
 Shall I draw ? no, now I thinke c nt I will not ;  
 For reason and experience shewes, that no man  
 Ere gain'd repute by drawing gainst a woman.

*Cl.* Stripling, dost thinke I feare a naked blade ;  
 Ile meete thee where thou dar'st, and whip thee too  
 For thy unruly tongue, thy sawcinesse.

*Gla.* Well minion, remember this,  
 If I dee not cry you quit for this abuse,  
 Then let me nere be trusted :  
 Your Mistris shall know how you have us'd me,  
 So she shall.

*Cl.* Skippiake tell what you can, I weigh't not this,  
 Ile make you know that you have done amisse. *exiunt.*

A C T.

## ACT. 3: SCEN. 2.

*Peneria, Eglantine.**Po.* Forget you not the powder for your breath,*Eg.* I tooke a dram of it this morning,  
According to your appointment.*Po.* Your pallid cheeke requires, in mine opinion,  
A deeper tincture of vermilion.*Eg.* And I am of the same minde :  
But 'twas my Maids fault.I thinke she goes about utterly to undoe me :  
She is as good a servant as ere was  
Married to the whipping-post.*Po.* I tell you true I would not for twenty crownes  
That *Rhodon* had seene you with this face.  
That Ceruse on your brow is extremely dull,  
There is no lustre, no resplendency in it.  
S'light I have seene often times a stain'd cloath  
Over a smoakie chimney in an Alehouse  
Present me with a better face.*Eg.* Nay, I could not for my heart perswade  
The wicked pertinacious harlot,  
To lay more colour on then pleased her fancy ;  
Bat if I live I will cashiere the queane.*Po.* If you doe not, you are no friend to your selfe.*Eg.* How lik' st thou the colour of my haire.*Po.* Oh that is exceedingly well dyde.*Eg.* Me thinks the hue is not high enough.*Po.* Nay, pardon me Madam : tis passing well.

The browne hue is the most incomparable colour



## RHODON and IRIS.

For a haire of all other.

Those golden wires that on faire Hero's sholders dan.

And those faire flaxen threds that made *Ioue* (gl)

Dote upon faire *Nonacrine*,

May not be compar'd with the lovely browne.

*Eg.* Discreet *Poneria*, thy wise approbation

Doth give my fancy ample satisfaction.

But heare me *Poneria*, will you undertake

That I shall meet with the Shepheard *Rhodon*,

As you oft have promis'd me.

*Po.* Faire shepheardesse I will.

*Eg.* But 'tis a thing impossible I feare.

*Po.* Why so good *Eglantine*?

*Eg.* Because I heare he deeply is ingag'd

To *Iris*, that proud Damself of Hymettus.

*Po.* I grant he is: and since things are thus,

I will so act my part, that his new love

Shall be the meanes to renew that good will

That hath bin heretofore twixt him and you.

*Eg.* Nor *Circes* drugs, nor all *Plysses* wits,

I tell thee Beldame, can accomplish this.

*Po.* Good daughter undervalue not my skill,

For 'tis contriv'd how it shall be effected,

And to satisfie thy curiosity,

I will declare how I have laid the plot.

*Eg.* I prethe bleffe my eares with this relation.

*Po.* I will a message beare in *Iris* name,

Vnto the Shepheard *Rhodon*, which shall shew,

That she desires an am'rous interview

With him, in such a privacy

That day must not be guilty of it:

A solitary glade shall be the place,

Where

## RHODON and IRIS.

Where you protected by the veile of conscious night,  
Instead of *Iris* shall present your selfe  
Vnto the Shepheard *Rhodon*,  
Whom you shall entertaine with sweet discourse,  
And so comport your selfe, that he shall thinke,  
You are his dearest *Iris*.

But to assure him yours, I have provided  
A precious Philter of rare efficacy,  
Compos'd according to the rudiments of art:  
This shall you cause him to carouse  
As water of inestimable worth.  
Which done, he is your owne ;  
And *Iris* then shall be forgotten cleane,  
As one whom he had nere scarce knowne or seene.

*Eg.* Tis bravely plotted sweet *Poncria* :  
But what houre wilt thou allot for this designe.

*Po.* Provide your selfe to meet him in the mirtle grove  
Vpon cleven at night.

*Eg.* Very good.

*Po.* Now Ile to *Rhodon* goe, and him invite,  
To meet you at the appointed place this night.

*Eg.* Now most auspicious be thy stars and mine,  
Let all good lucke attend our great designe. *exeunt.*

---

## ACT. 2. SCEN. 3.

*Martagon, Cynosbatus.*

*Cy.* **B**Ut is the angry swaine (sai'st thou) so hot,  
Is *Rhodon* growne so zealous in his sisters cause?

*Ma.* If that his actions with his words agree,

## RHODON *and* IRIS.

I must expect a sodaine storme.

*Cy.* I am resolu'd to take part in thy fortunes,  
Be they the worst that ere to any fell. (hand)

*Ma.* Thanks noble friend, then here lets ioyne our  
In signe of most unseparable bands.

*Cy.* But there's *Acanthus* a iolly swaine,  
He frets (they say) like a furious Mirmidon.

*Ma.* In braving language he exceeded so,  
That *Martagon* nere saw so bold a foe,  
Surcharg'd with swelling passion, he did vowe  
To take a full revenge on me and you.

*Cy.* And is the youth so fill'd with valrous heate?  
Who would have thought the frozen mountaines could  
Have bred so brave a hot-spurre.

*Ma.* These raging Lyons must, *Cynosbatu*s,  
Be undermin'd by some egregious sleight;  
We must pitch some strong toile for these fierce Beasts,  
Where we may take them captive at our pleasure:  
For if we should assaile them openly,  
Much perill then we might incurre thereby.

*Cy.* What thy high iudgement shall conclude to doe,  
I am resolv'd to condiscend unto.

*Ma.* Then heare what I propound. *Cynosbatu*s,  
Within a place nigh hand, resides  
A Beldam much renown'd for sacred skill  
In magicke mysteries.  
She with her awfull Charmes wents to call forth  
All sorts of noysome Creatures that are bred  
In Sandy *Lybia*, or cold *Scythia*,  
From whom she takes her choyce of poyson strong:  
The Herbs which grow on precipitious *Erix*,  
She with her bloody Sicke crops:

And



## RHODON and IRIS.

And whatsoever poysonous weed springs on  
The craggy top of snowy *Caucasus*,  
That's sprinkled with the bloud of wise *Prometheus*,  
She carefully selects;

Those venomes which the warlike *Medians*, and  
The nimble *Parthians*, or *Arabians* rich,  
Use to annoynt their deadly shafts withall.  
She doth by Moone-light gather;

Each Herbe that in this fertile vernall season  
Puts forth its head from *Opse*s pregnant bosome  
She searches for; whether the same be bred  
In the cold Forrest of *Hercynea*,

Or in the deserts of parch'd *Africa*,  
What flower so'e're doth in his seed or root  
Strange causes of great mischiefc nourish,  
She never faileth to finde out:

Whether the same on bankes of *Tigris* growes,  
Or on the sun-burnt brinke of warme *Hydaspes*,  
Whose golden channels pau'd with precious stones;  
Some of these herbes she doth by twilight gather,  
At midnight some, and some at breake of day.

Nor is she ignorant how to apply  
The panting heart of the dull melancholy *Owle*,  
Or the breathing entrailles cut from a living *Cat*.

The proudest Swaine that lives in *Thessaly*  
Is glad to be obsequious to her will;

For in her power it is to cure or kill.

Vnto this reverent Sybill let us goe,

And her advice request in this designe;

By her instructions let us our actions regulate,

Providing for our owne security:

She can divine of all events, and tell

Whether

# RHODON and IRIS.

Whether things shall succeed or ill or well.

*Cy.* What thy sound judgement thinks fit to be done,  
I condescend to, noble *Martagon*.

---

## ACT. 3. SCEN. 4.

*Rhodon, Anthophotus, Acanthus.*

*Rho.* **S**ince that the proud usurper *Martagon*  
Will not restore what he hath tane away  
By force and injury from *Violetta*,  
We are resolu'd to put on lawfull armes,  
To swage the pride of that great *Termagant*;  
That of his prowesse doth so vainly vaunt.  
Therefore deere friends addresse your selves to shew  
Your true and faithfull fortitudes, for know  
An ignominious peace may not compare,  
With any iust and honourable warre.

*An.* Out upon this Fabian valour,  
These tedious cunctations: I tell thee *Rhodon*,  
I must needs chide thee for our losse of time.  
My troopes are all in perfect readinesse,  
And long to meet their foes in open field;  
If we deliberate a day longer  
The edge of their valour (I feare) will be quite taken off.

*Rho.* Now sie upon that valour which depends  
On circumstance of time or place,  
Tis relative vertue, that like glasse is brittle,  
Whose force soone dyes and perfects very little.

*Ac.* Now recollect thy spirits *Rhodon*,  
Let Spartan resolution spread it selfe

Into

## RHODON and IRIS.

Into each angle of thy noble heart.  
For now our hostile forces are assembled,  
Covering the fields from *Ossa* to *Olympus*.  
Their painted banners with the windes are playing :  
Their pamper'd coursers thunder on the plaines :  
The splendor of their glistring armes repels  
The bashfull sun-beames backe unto the clouds.  
Their bellowing drums and trumpets shrill,  
Doe many sad corrantos sound,  
Which danger grim and sprawling death must dance.  
Now therefore *Rhodon*, doe reflect thy eye  
Upon the glories of thy ancestours,  
And strive by emulation to transcend  
Those trophies which were yet nere paralleld.

*An.* Surcease this needlesse talke, let us to action,  
The losse of time consisteth in protraction.

*Rho.* You r noble courages, endeared friends,  
A good event to our designs portends.

*exunt.*

---

## ACT. 3. SCEN. 5.

*Martagon, Cynosbatus.*

*Ma.* **V** Within the precincts of this grove *Pomeria*  
Here nightly she hath coventicles (dwels,  
With her wise spirits; see how the trees are carv'd  
With Magicall mysterious characters,  
See how the fiery fiends with their frequent resort have  
Scorch'd the leaves, and chang'd the  
Merry livery of the spring into a mournfull hue.  
Behold the grasse dyde with the swarthy gore

Of



# RHODON and IRIS.

Of some great sacrifice, that late was offer'd up  
To the infernall powers.

*Cy.* The blacke aspect of this strange uncouth place  
Doth make my heart to quake.

*Ma.* Within a vault hewne from the stony bowels,  
Of yon high precipitious rocke she dwels.  
Cheere up (*Cynosbatus*) and come away,  
Let's to her Cell, and Ile shew thee the way.

---

## ACT. 4: SCEN. I.

*Iris, Panace, Violetta.*

*Ir.* **C**Urst was the wight that did in murder first  
Embrue his guilty hands : curst was that hand  
Which first was taught by damned hellish art  
To forge the killing blade in Vulcans flames:  
What raging fury raignes in mortall breasts,  
That man should man pursue with deadly hate ;  
Oh what maglignant power hath defac'd,  
That specious image of the gods above ?  
Who hath inspir'd man with that bestiall quality  
Of murderous revenge ?  
The Lybian Lyons seldome are at oddes,  
The Tygers of Hyrcania doe agree,  
But man to man's become a very divell :  
That Thracian god which is delighted most  
With humane sacrifices, is now ador'd ;  
Blood-thirsty *Mars* now beares the onely sway,  
Who direfull devastations doth affect,  
Peace hath forfooke the earth, and fell debate

Shaking

## RHODON and IRIS.

Shaking his batter'd armes, now stalketh every where,  
I hop'd for nuptials sweet, of late, but now  
I may have cause to feare a funerall.

*Hymen* affrighted with the confus'd noyse  
Of brutish warre, is fled I know not whither.  
My dearest *Rhodon* must depart from me,  
And in the field ingage his tender Corps  
To all extremities of death, of wounds, of danger,  
Of sicknesse and unrest:

*Vi.* Strike not the ayre with this vaine language, *Iris*,  
Wound not thy soule with these unseemely plaints,  
But be content to wait the will of *Ioue*,  
Who will crowne our designs with blest successe.  
For in a cause that's honest, iust, and right,  
The gods themselves will take up armes and fight.

*Ir.* Then oh ye powers, that are the grand protectors  
Of *Hyblas* happinesse and welfare; (taines;  
Whether ye doe delight in our flower-crown'd moun,  
Our od'rous vales, or in our Christall fountains,  
Your gracious favour I implore, besceching you  
To gard the person of my dearest *Rhodon*;  
Fond woman, how forgetfull have I bin?  
Here is a gemme whose price doth farre transcend  
All estimation: my faithfull *Panace*  
Deliver't thou unto my gentle Shepheard,  
And pray him weare it for my sake.

*Pa.* Madam, I will.

*Ir.* It from the bowels of a Cocke was tane,  
And who so weares the same (as wise men say)  
Shall ever be victorious in warre.

*Vio.* Commend me to my brother, gentle nymph,  
And beare this token of my love to him:

## RHODON *and* IRIS.

It is the precious herbe call'd Lattice,  
Which whosoever weares shall never want  
Sufficient sustenance both for himselfe and his ;  
Besides, it frustrates quite the divellish force  
Of strongest poy sons or enchantments. *exit Pan.*  
Now *Iris*, let us haste to Floras fane,  
With our devotions let's importune her,  
These horrid sturs and troublous broiles to cease,  
That we againe may live in happy peace. *exunt.*

---

### ACT. 4. SCEN. 2.

*Martagon, Cynosbatus, Poneria.*

*Ma.* **D**ivineſt Matron ; god-inspired Sybill  
Doe this, and be what thou canſt deſire.

*Po.* Doubt not great *Martagon* but I will effect it.

*Ma.* Now deere *Cynosbatus* let us prepare  
To reſiſt th'impreſſion of our foes :

Since that our powerfull forces ready ſtand,  
To be obedient to our great command.

*Cy.* With thee I am reſolu'd to ſpend my breath,  
Indifferent in the choice of life or death. *exunt Ma. Cy.*

*Po.* *Agnostus* come forth : blacke cloud of ignorance,  
Advance thy leaden pate, dull **Camell**.

*Ag.* I cannot brooke this thin and piercing ayre :

*Po.* Thou ſonne of ſleepe ; that hat'ſt the lightſome day,  
Clap on thy ſpectacles of iudgement, and behold  
How I have plaid my part.

Thou flow'ſt with gall (*Agnostus*) I confeſſe,  
But thou haſt a braine intolerably dry,



## RHODON and IRIS.

As empty of wit, as the world is of conscience.

*Ag.* What hast pluck'd up the flowers by the roots,  
Or is all *Theffaly* in a combustion?

*Po.* Surcharg'd with deepe despite and viprous hate,  
Their forces they against each other bend. (bated)

*Ag.* Then I hope their painted pride shal quickly be a-  
*Po.* But I have a plot, old plumbeous dotard,  
To crop the proudest flower that growes  
In *Hybla* or *Hymettus*.

*Ag.* *Poneria*, I adore thy art and wisedome.

*Po.* This glasse containes a rare confectign:  
Tis vipers bloud mix'd with the juyce of *Aconite*:  
This is the *Philter*, the sweet love-potion  
Which *Eglantine* poore love-sick foole,  
Must commend to the *Shepherd Rhodon*,  
Who this night by my appointment,  
Is to meet her in the mirtle grove, under the  
Name of *Iris*: now Ile to *Eglantine*,  
And blesse her longing eares with these glad tidings.

*Ag.* Oh great profound *Poneria*: never yet  
Was any that could parallell thy wit. *exeunt.*

---

### ACT. 4. SCEN. 3.

*Rhodon, Acanthus.*

*Rho.* **W**Hat houre of night is't friend *Acanthus*?  
*Ac.* Th'elevnth at least: for see *Orion* hath  
Advanced very high his starry locks in our horizon.

*Rho.* Me thinks the stars looke very ruddy,  
As if they did portend tempestuous weather.

## RHODON and IRIS.

*Ac.* They doe but blush to see what crimes are acted  
By mortall under covert of the night.

*Rho.* Saw'st thou yon star that Northward fell.

*Ac.* I saw the blazing meteor stoupe,  
And bend his course toward the humble Center.

*Rho.* This seem'd a glorious, and resplendent star,  
Yet was it but a grosse ill temperd meteor.  
This meteor seem'd as if it had bin fix'd  
In an orbe for a perpetuity,

Yet in a moment is it fallen, thou seest,  
And who regards this foolish and ignoble fire,  
Or looks upon the place from whence it fell.

*Ac.* He that by honourable meanes is rais'd,  
And hath his seat establish'd on the square  
Of never sliding vettue, cannot fall.

*Rho.* But if young *Phaeton* shall undertake  
To guide the Charret of the great *Apollo*,  
And in that action shall miscarry, so  
That the whole universe shall be ingag'd  
To utter ruine and destruction,  
Then ought great *love* to have a speciall care  
For to preserve and keepe the common good.  
And if he shall dismount the Chariotter,  
And with a deadly blow lay him along,  
The world then for his iustice shall thanke *love*,  
And *Phaetons* foole-hardinesse reprove.

*Ac.* Who dares contest with *love*, or question what  
His Sovereaign-highnesse shall doe or determine.

*Enter Egl. Poneria.*

*Rh.* Tis altogether wicked & uniuert : (*Acanthus*) retire.  
For now me thinkes I see a glimpse of *Iris*,  
Who promised to meet me here this night.

*Exit Ac.*

Loe

## RHODON and IRIS.

Loe how the lustre of her beauty penetrates  
The envyoues clouds of these nocturnall shades.

*Po.* See yonder the beguiled lover walkes  
In vaine, expecting the comming of his deare *Iris*;  
Now, *Eglantine* remember my instructions,  
Have a care that your tongue betray you not.

Be not too talkative in any case.

Forget not the posture I so oft told you of,  
Vnder pretence that these cold nightly dewes are  
Offensive, you may knit your veile more close,  
And conceale your feature.

*Eg.* *Poneria*, retire: I will addresse my selfe unto him.

*Po.* But be sure you perswade him to take the  
Potion before he sleepes; (taines.  
You'll remember those vertues which I told you it con-  
Forget not to declare them amply.

*Eg.* Make no doubt on't: thou hast arm'd me  
For all affaies. *Exit Po.*

*Rho.* Thou brightest star that shin'st this night,  
Auspitious be thy influence to thy *Rhodon*.  
My dearest *Iris*, I am surcharg'd with ioy  
To meet thee here.

*Eg.* (Deare *Rhodon*) who, like the vernall Sunne,  
Dost lend refreshing heats to my affections.  
Tak't not amisse, that I have chose this houre  
And unfrequented place t' enjoy thy company.

*Po.* Sweet *Iris* know that I esteeme this houre of night,  
Since I enjoy thy sweet society,  
'Bove all the dayes that I e're hitherto beheld.

*Eg.* But from a maidens modesty (faire Sir)  
It may seeme much to derogate,  
To be abroad so late at night.



## RHODON and IRIS.

*Rho.* Since no immodest act is here intended,  
The time cannot be prejudiciall  
To thy unstained modesty.

*Eg.* Great pittie tis indeed, Sir, that true love  
Should be disparag'd, because 'tis so true.

*Rho.* I tell thee, I till now was never happy :  
All those delights which I ere saw before,  
Were but meere transitory dreames,  
Compar'd with that felicity which now I finde.

*Eg.* The sodaine newes of this late kindled warre,  
Wherein I heare (to my great grieve) you are ingag'd,  
Made me transgresse the bounds of modesty so farre,  
That I desir'd once more to see your face,  
Ere your departure to the field of danger.

*Rho:* Since my good fortune and thy constant love  
Have ioy'd me once againe with thy sweet presence,  
I blesse my lot, and to the field will hasten,  
As ready to out-face danger, as scorne death ;  
And if I there finde fortunate successe,  
Of all my good Ile count thee patronesse.

*Eg.* And here on you I doe bestow this viall,  
Which such a precious dosis doth containe,  
That it doth farre exceed the height of value.  
It is a potion made by wondrous art,  
Nectar is no more comparable to it,  
Then Bonniclabar is to Husquobath ;  
And Aurum potable is as far short of it,  
As poore Metheglin is of rich Canary :  
All the confections even from the lowest degree  
Of Sage-ale, to the height of Aqua-Celestis,  
Are no more like it then the beere of the Low-countrie.  
Is to the High-country wine :

## RHODON *and* IRIS.

A dram of it taken before you goe to bed  
Cheeres the heart, prevents the Incubus  
And all frightfull dreames; cheeres the blood,  
Comforts the stomacke, dispels all collickes,  
Cures all aches, repayres the liver, helps  
The lungs, rectifies the braine, quencheth  
All the senses, strengthens the memory, refresheth  
The spirits.

Taken fasting it breaks the stone in bladder  
Or kidnyes, cures the gout, expels a quartane ague:  
Outwardly apply'd it kills the gangrene,  
And destroyes the wolfe, heales all sorts of wounds,  
Bruises, boyles, and sores.

And not to use more multiplicity of words,  
I tell you gentle *Rhodon* you shall finde,  
It cures all griefes of body and of minde.

*Rho.* (Faile one) verball expreffion cannot shew  
What I to thee for this great gift doe owe:  
But till for all I full requitall make,  
My constant love thou for a pledge shalt take.

*Eg.* But (gentle Sir) although your constitution  
So well attemper'd seemes, that no disease  
Can either hurt or over-throw your health,  
Yet if my counsell might prevaile with you,  
I should perswade you to make tryall of this  
Rare water this night before you sleepe.

*Rho.* Since thou vouchsaf'st to be my kinde Physician,  
For this time I will act a patients part,  
And ere that sleepe shall with his leaden keyes  
Locke up the portals of my drowfie eyes,  
Ile taste of this most precious liquor:  
But lest the gealed moisture of the night

Should

## RHODON and IRIS.

Should preiudice thy health, (*sweet Iris*)  
Let me conduct thee homeward.

*Eg.* Since these nocturnall distillations  
May be offensive to your health (*sweet Rhodon*)  
I will be well contented to be gone,  
Though wondrous loth from you to part so soone.

*Rho.* But in my absence be assur'd of this,  
That *Rhodons* heart in thy possession is. *Exeunt.*

---

### ACT. 4: SCEN. 4.

*Panace Sola.*

**V** Upon this shady banke with laurels crown'd,  
The gentle Shepheard *Rhodon* dwels :  
His Cottage seated is upon a Cristall River,  
The sweetest streame that e're in valley crept.  
Two pretious presents I to him must beare :  
The one from his true love, the beaut'ous *Iris*,  
And that's a gemme of admirable vertue ;  
The bounty of the Easterne mines could ne're bestow  
A Jewell of such worth as this ;  
Which from the entrailles of a Cocke was ripp'd ;  
For whosoever shall possesse the same ;  
Shall be invincible in fight.  
But his deare Sister, lovely *Violetta*,  
Commends to him this admirable plant,  
The noblest herbe that e're in garden grew.  
For, setting many pretious properties aside,  
It is the best and strongest antidote :  
That Art or Nature ever made.



No deadly poyson can withstand its power,  
 But is expulst by it with great facility.  
 These noble gifts besecming well  
 Both the receivers and the givers qualities,  
 I will deliver to the honour'd Swaine.

exil.

## ACT. 4. SCEN. 5.

*Martagon, Cynosbatus, Poneria,*

*Ma.* Sage Dame, how fares thy grand designe?  
 Dost thinke thy plot will take?

*Po.* Nay, if you doubt it, I wish it nere might take.  
 Have I made hell a partie in the action,  
 And laid such snares, that more then humane force  
 Cannot withstand my well knit stratagem;  
 Yet will you still torment me with these doubts?

*Ma.* Nay gentle mother, be not so impatient.

*Po.* You tempt my patience, while you thus mistrust  
 My skill and my ability.

*Cy.* We doe adore thy matchlesse skill and wisdom,  
 Thou grace and wonder of thy sexe.

*Po.* Me thinkes I see the merry Post at hand,  
 That brings us joyfull newes of *Rhodons* death:  
 And not behinde him much me thinkes I see  
 Another Post, who comes with better newes,  
 That *Rhodons* army is discourag'd and discarded,  
 Yea quite disbanded and disperst.

*Ma.* Oh happy newes (divine *Poneria*)

*Po.* Yet ye account me a meere silly Dame,  
 Yea as silly as some simple simpering Citizen.

H

That

## RHODON and IRIS.

That hath but manners enough to take  
The upper end of a Table at a feast,  
And to carve a Capons legge to a Coxcombe.

*Ma.* The ten *Sybils* were no more comparable to thee,  
Than an old Gentlewoman is to a yong Chambermaid,  
Sweet *Poneria*, I am even in love with thee :  
Yea, I durst almost swear I should kisse thee,  
If thou had'st but three rotten teeth in thy head.

*Po.* Well, my Masters, I hope you'll thanke me  
When you heare that I have made proud *Rhodon*  
A Legier Embassadour in *Don Pluto's* Court.

*Ma.* Thy thanks, *Poneria*, shall be duly paid  
In eyebewitching talents ;

Wee'll rip the matrice of our grandam earth  
To see the place where riches are conceiv'd ;  
And from her pregnant wombe we'll draw  
A golden age for thee to live in (*Deare Poneria*)

*Po.* Who would leave any villany undone,  
To be thy slave, most noble *Martagon*.

*Exit*  
*Pone.*

*Cy.* Now *Martagon* let us goe put on armes,  
And toward *Hybla* march in strong aray.  
Let us deface the glory of their flowers,  
If *Rhodon* be but dead, the day is ours.

### ACT. 5. SCEN. I.

*Acanthus, Anthophotus.*

*An.* THOU speak'st of things beyond beleefe, *Acanthus*,  
*Ac.* Too true it is, I shrewdly feare,  
For every circumstance makes it appeare

*That.*

## RHODON and IRIS.

That *Rhodon* in the mirtle grove, last night,  
 Had private conference with *Iris*,  
 From whom (it seemes) he tooke the venom'd potion,  
 For now he doth, in his extremest fits,  
 Exclaime on the untruth of woman kind,  
 Bewailing the unlucky houre that did present  
 Your sister *Iris* to his sight.

*Enter Pan.*

*Pa.* *Anthophotus* and *Acanthus*, y'are well met.

*Ac.* Nay, never worse, thou wouldst say, gentle *Panace*,  
 If thou knew'st all.

*Pa.* What dire disastre hath befallne you, honor'd friends?  
 How fares the noble Shepheard *Rhodon*?

*Ac.* *Rhodon's* mishap's the cause of all our sorrow:  
*Rhodon's* betray'd, poyson'd, and lies at point of death.

*Pa.* Curs'd be the hand that did attempt  
 A villany so impious and foule.

But if you love your selves, and *Rhodons* health,  
 Conduct me to him immediately:

I have an antidote that shall cure him,  
 If any breath be left within his bulke.

*An.* Oh happy comfort! come sweet *Panace*,  
 To our sicke friend, we'll thy Conductors be.

*exunt.*

## ACT. 5. SCEN. 2:

*Martagon, Cynosbatus.*

*Cy.* A happy morne be this to thee (friend *Martagon*,)  
*Ma.* Nay, 'tis the happiest morn that e'r we two be-  
*Rhodon* is dead; (held,  
 And is by this time, serv'd up in a wooden dish,



## RHODON and IRIS.

To feast the wormes upon an earthen table;  
 The purple bosom'd rose whole glorious pride  
 Disdain'd the beauties of all other flowers, is cropt,  
 Yea the ambitious bramble is quite wither'd,  
 And now is laid in the contemned dust:

*Ponerias* wit hath done this noble act.

*Cy.* This is good newes, I must confesse, yet could I wish  
 That noble *Rhodon* had not so ignobly dy'd.

*Ma* Thou art too ceremonious for a politician,  
 And too superstitious: our duties 'tis to iudge  
 Of the effect as it concerns the state of our affaires,  
 And not to looke backe on the meanes by which 'twas  
 He is unfit to rule a Civill state (wrought.

That knowes not how in some respects to favour

Murther, or treason, or any other sinne,

Which that subtile animall, call'd man,

Doth openly protest against, for this end,

That he may more freely act it in private,

As his occasions shall invite him to't.

But 'tis no disputing now; the deed is done,

We are in a faire way to victory,

Conquest, triumph, and renowne;

We have a faire bginning, and what's well begun,

(If that the proverbe speakes truth) is halfe done. *exunt.*

## ACT. 5. SCEN. 3.

*Poneria. Agnostus.*

*Po.* **N**OW *Agnostus*, since by the death of *Rhodon*  
 We have endear'd our selves to *Martagon*,

'Tis

'Tis meet we provide for a backe winter,  
 That we purchase some eminence of place,  
 To make us glorious in the worlds ill-sighted eye,  
 That being great we may the greater mischief doe:  
 And since a warre is newly set abroad,  
 I will a suter be to Generall *Martagon*,  
 To place thee in some military office  
 Of high regard and speciall consequence,  
 Where by thy ignorant conduct and base carriage,  
 Thou mai'st a thousand heroicke soules send packing  
 Vnto the Stygian shore.

*Ag.* Nay good *Poneria*, I finde my selfe unfitting  
 for the warres.

*Po.* What neither hart nor braines; out inglorious lozel,  
 Thou most unweldy burthen of the earth:  
 I could finde in my heart to kicke thy soule out  
 Of thy carkasse: art all compos'd of earth and water?  
 Hast not a sparke of ayre or fire in that bulke?

*Ag.* Nay sweet *Poneria*, I am thy slave.

*Po.* I tell thee I will procure thee a Captaines place.

*Ag.* But I am altogether ignorant in the words of command,

And know not one posture neither of Musket or Pike.

*Po.* Hast wit enough to swallow the dead payes,  
 And to patch up thy Company in a Mustring day:  
 Hast valour enough to weare a Buffe-jerken  
 With three gold laces.

Hast strength enough to support a Dutch felt  
 With a flaunting Feather?

Can thy side endure to be wedded to a Rapire  
 Hatch'd with gold, with hilt and hangers of the  
new fashion?

## RHODON and IRIS.

Canst drinke, drab, and dice :  
 Canst damne thy selfe into debt among  
 Beleaving Tradefmen ;  
 Hast manners enough to giue thy Lieuetenant,  
 Antient or Sergeant leave to goe before thee  
 Vpon any peece of danger ?  
 Hast wit enough, in thy anger, not to draw a sword ?  
 These are the chiefe properties that pertaine  
 To our moderne Captaines; and if thou  
 Could'st but be taught these military rudiments,  
 I doubt not but thou mightst prove a very  
 Excellent new souldier.

*Ag.* If this be all, I hope, in time, to be as famous  
 As e're was *Cesar*, or great *Pompey*.

*Po.* *Agnostus*, come along, thy selfe prepare  
 To be a seruant to the god of warre.

*exeunt.*

## ACT. 5. SCEN. 4.

*Rhodon. Acanthus. Anthophotus. Parace.*

*Rho.* **T**His strange imposture hath amaz'd me so,  
 That I am almost to a statue strucke,  
 Not knowing what to speake, or what to thinke.

*Pa.* Assure your selfe it was a strange Collusion :  
 For this, on my fidelity, beleue,  
 That 'twas not *Iris* whom you met last night.

*Rho.* Then 'twas some hellish hag, that, in her shape,  
 Gave me the venemous confection  
 Which had undone me quite, if thou in time  
 Had'st not apply'd thy precious antidote.

But



## RHODON and IRIS.

But yet, me thinkes, that heaven should not permit  
The subt'lest hellish power to counterfeit  
The feature of so beautifull an angell.

*Ac.* Doubtlesse it was the false *Ponerias* plot,  
Whom *Martagon* hath lately entertaind,  
With her companion, old *Agnostus*;  
For, know the malice of your foes is such,  
That if by open force they can't destroy you,  
By hidden plots they'll seeke your overthrow.

*Rho.* Then I must pardon crave of gentle *Iris*,  
To whom I did ascribe this treacherous fact.

*An.* If she were guilty of so blacke a deed,  
These hands should chaine her to a fatall stake,  
And sacrifice her Corps in hideous flames,  
Vnto the awfull goddesse of revenge;  
(Which done) I'de throw her hatefull ashes up  
Against the furious gusts of boistrous winds,  
That being so disperst, there might remaine  
Not the least relique of so vile a wretch.

*Rho.* My *Iris* is as cleare as innocency it selfe;  
And since my treacherous focs have gone about,  
By wicked slights, to wrong so sweet a saint,  
And bring me also to a shamefull end,  
I here enioyne ye (honourable friends)  
Vpon my sword to take a solemne oath,

*He drawes his sword, they lay their hands upon it, and kisse it.*  
Ne're to lay downe your iust and lawfull armes,  
Vntill we be avenged to the full,  
For such unkindly and disloyall wrongs:  
True honour, that with dearest blood is sought,  
Is like a precious gemme that's cheaply bought.

*An.* Ill is a life bestow'd upon that wight

RHODON *and* IRIS.

That dares not loose it to maintaine the right :  
Him I account a base inglorious sot,  
That dares not honor pull from dangers throat! *enun.*

ACT. 5: SCEN. 5.

*Martagon, Cynosbatus, Agnostus, Poneria.*

*Ma.* **L**ady *Poneria*, upon your commendation,  
We bestow a regiment upon this Gentleman.

*Po.* Thanks (worthy *Martagon*) beleeve it Sir,  
Those good respects which I to your affaires owe,  
Vrg'd me t' importune you for his employment,  
Because I know him to be a tri'd souldier,  
Of great experience, worth and merit :

How say you, Colonell *Agnostus*,  
I hope your actions shall make good my words hereaf.

*Ag.* I am at your service, Madam *Poneria*: (ter.  
I am a man of action, I confesse:

*Po.* Trust me sir, although he wants verball expression,  
He is a Gentleman of singular abilities.

*Ma.* And I thinke no lesse, for th'are not good words  
That makes deserving souldiers, but good swords.

*Cy.* He lookes as if he had bin bred, borne,  
And brought up in a Leager all his life time.

*Enter Gladiolus.*

*Gla.* Noble Generall; the beaut'ous *Eglantine*  
Wisheth all happinesse to your designs,  
Desiring that this paper may kisse your hands for her.

*He opens the Letter.*

*Ma.* Tis about a place, Ile pawne my life on't:

Heare

Hear me Mounſier, I underſtand the buſineſſe :  
Her requeſt is granted.

She when ſhe pleaſe, may at my hands command  
A greater curteſie then this.

*Gla.* Thanks honor'd Sir.

*Ma.* On you I beſtow a Captaines place.

*Gla.* Now I perceive that the readi'ſt way to attaine  
Preferment in the Court of *Mars*,  
Is to creepe into the favour of *Venus*.

*Ma.* I underſtand you are a man o' reall worth,  
And very ſufficient for ſuch an office. *Enter Acauſtus*

*Ac.* Imperious *Martagon*, that art no leſſe  
Knowne for thy power, then thy wickedneſſe :  
In *Rhodons* name I doe deſie thee here,  
Who chalengeth the Combat at thy hands,  
To be aveng'd on thee for thy foule wrongs :  
But if thou dar'ſt not in a ſingle fight,  
Give ſatiſfaction to the noble Shepheard ;  
Then thee and all thy troopes he doth invite,  
To a bloody breakfast to morrow morne.  
Attended by a vigorous army he  
Stands in the confines of his owne dominions,  
Swearing that he will prove it in the field,  
That thou a tyrant and a traitour art.

*Ma.* Bold friend, I prethe ſpeake ingeniouſly,  
Doth this defiance come from *Rhodons* mouth.

*Ac.* Vpon my life, & by the honor of a ſouldier it doth.

*Ma.* Then tell him, I'me reſolu'd to be a gueſt,  
More bold then welcome at his bloody feaſt.

*Ac.* I will great *Martagon* ; and miſdoubt not,  
But that your cheere ſhall be exceeding hot. *Exit Ac.*

*Ma.* Diſſembling witch : how haſt thou beguil'd us ?



## RHODON and IRIS.

*Po.* What aduerse power hath crost our plot?

*Ma.* Didst not thou with thy deep protestations force us  
To give strong credence to thy false relations,  
When thou affirm'dst that thou hadst poyson'd *Rhodon*.

*Po.* The opposition of the cursed fates  
Hath brought us to deseru'd confusion.

*Ma.* Avant you hagge, abhominable sorceresse,  
Here I doe thee on paine of death enioyne,  
With that Impostor thy companion,  
Immediately to depart out of my Dominions.

*Po.* Now I accursed wretch have seene too well,  
That heaven will not be overrul'd by hell.

*Ag.* How sodainly by one contrarious gust,  
Is all our honour tumbled into dust.

*Ma.* Since that our brauing foe is now at hand,  
(*Cynosbatus*) we must not thinke of a retreat.

*Cy.* What your discretion holds fit to be done,  
I condiscend to noble *Martagon*.

*Ma.* Then let us meet our proud foe face to face,  
And with our swords and speares that right maintaine,  
Which lately we by sword and speare did gaine. *exeunt.*

---

## ACT. 5. SCEN. 6:

*Rhodon, Ant hophetus, Acanthus.*

*Rho.* **D**eserving friends and fellow souldiers,  
Now arme your selves with *Romane* fortitude:  
First call to minde the iustice of our cause,  
And then let each remember that true honour,  
Which must be valu'd above health and life:

Consider

## RHODON and IRIS.

Consider also that we must contend,  
 Against a tyrant and a meere usurper ;  
 A person guilty of no meane offences,  
 Which must be iustly punish'd by our swords.

*Enter Poneria, Agnostus.*

*Po.* Thrice noble *Rhodon*, in whose noble brest  
 True pittie dwels, vouchsafe a pardon  
 To us distressed Caitives.

*Rho.* I neither know what your offences are, nor yet your

*Po.* I am the unfortunate *Poneria*, (sees.)  
 That was suborn'd by uniuert *Martagon*  
 To worke thy utter ruine :

I did conduct the love-sicke *Eglantine*  
 Vnto thy presence instead of *Iris* :

I caus'd her to give thee a poysonous drinke,  
 Vnder the pretence that it was a love-potion.  
 I have deserv'd to dye, and crave life at your hands.

*Rho.* And are you the grand incendiary  
 That have so many mischiefes wrought in *Thessaly* ?  
 Now I remember I have seen your elvish countenance,  
 Nor have I altogether forgot your reverent mate,  
 Who with his personated gravity deludes the world,  
 Being accounted a man of profound art.

*Acanthus*, see them committed to safe custody,  
 See you make them sure for starting. *exeunt Po.*

*Po.* Nay worthy sir. *Ag. Ac.*

*Ac.* You must away, for no entreaties can prevaile.

*Rho.* The apprehension of these wretches doth presage  
 Auspicious fortunes to our actions; *Drum beats a march*  
 List, list, *Anthophotus*, our enemies are at hand, *within*  
 Their thndring drums warne us of their approach.

Wee'le bid them nobly welcome then: this day will I

## RHODON and IRIS.

Victorious be (I vow) or bravely dye.

*Rho.* Thy honour'd resolution I commend,  
And take it for a signe of good successe. *Enter Acan.*

*Ac.* Arme, arme : the hostile forces are in sight,  
And thus come marching on in proud array :  
The battaile's led by *Martagon* himselve,  
Wherein are martial'd neere five thousand Bill men,  
All clad in coats of red :

A furious *Amazon* call'd *Tulipa*,  
Brings on three thousand burley *Swissers*,  
Arar'd in gorgeous Coats of red and yellow ;  
And these make up the vanne :

To which are added for a forlorne hope,  
Two hundred melancholy Gentlemen.  
The fierce *Cynosbatus* brings up the Rere,  
Wherein about two thousand souldiers be  
Clad all in greene, and arm'd with pikes of Steele.

*Narcissus* with a thousand *Daffadils*,  
Clad in deepe yellow coats doth flanke  
The right side of the battaile.

The left wing is by *Hyacinthus* led,  
Wherein a thousand Souldiers march,  
Arraid in purple coats.

*Enter Martagon, Rhodon.*

*Ma.* What fury tempted thee unhappy *Rhodon*,  
In hostile manner thou to invade my confines.

*Rho.* For *Violettas* sake I tooke up armes,  
Whom thou uniuistly hast opprest. *Musicke sound,*

*Ma.* What I have done my sword shall justifie.

*Rho.* Whence comes this most harmonious melody.

*Enter Flora, Iris, Eglantine, Panace.*

*Flo.* Put up those murthering blades on paine of my dis-  
pleasure, Confine



RHODON and IRIS.

Confine them to perpetuall prison in the scabbard,  
That they may nere come forth to manage civill broiles.

*All.* We must obey, and will, Oh awfull goddesse.

*Flo.* While in my flowry bowers I tooke repose,  
I heard the noyse of these tumultuous broiles,  
Which strooke me with a wonderfull amazement.

Then hastily I left my bankes of pleasure,  
And hither came to end these mortall iarres;  
Therefore I charge you both on that allegiance  
And respect which you doe owe to me,  
Quite to dismisse your armed bands.

And you *Martagon*, who have faire *Violetta* wrong'd,  
To her shall make an ample restitution,  
Of what y' have tane from her;

And entertaine a friendly league with *Rhodon*,  
Which you *Cynosbatus* must also condescend to:

But as for you fond Madam *Eglantine*,  
Since you have broke the sacred lawes of love,  
And by unlawfull meanes sought to accomplish  
Your designs, and make the Shepheard *Rhodon*  
Enamor'd on you:

You to a vestall Temple shall be confin'd,  
Where with ten yeeres penance  
You shall expiate your folly.

But where be those two intruders:

*Peneria* and *Agnosus*.

These that have crept in among us, and with false slights  
Sought to ore-throw our state.

*Peneria* and *Agnosus* brought.

We banish them quite  
Out of *Thessaly* for ever.

What I have decreed you must assent unto.

## RHODON and IRIS.

*Ma.* We doe, because we must. (desse.

*Flo.* Rhodon, I here bestow on thee this noble shepher-

*Rho.* Thanks for your precious gift, renowned Queen.

*Flo.* And now since all things are reduc'd to ioyfull

Let us betake our selves to sweet delights, (peace,

And solemnize with mirth your nuptiall rites.

---

### Epilogue.

*S*ince Ignorance and Envie now are banish'd;

*S*ince discord from among the flowers is vanish'd;

*S*ince Rhodon is espous'd to Iris bright;

*S*ince warre hath happy Theffaly left quite,

Let every one that loves his Countries peace,

His height of gladnesse with his hands expresse:

---

### FINIS.







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