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Main Text

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The Dissolution

- SHEE'IS dead; And all which die  
To their first Elements resolve;  
And wee were mutuall Elements to us,  
And made of one another.
- 5 My body then doth hers involve,  
And those things whereof I consist, hereby  
In me abundant grow, and burdenous,  
And nourish not, but smother.  
My fire of Passion, sighes of ayre,
- 10 Water of teares, and earthly sad despaire,  
Which my materialls bee,  
But neere worne out by loves securitie,  
Shee, to my losse, doth by her death repatre,  
And I might live long wretched so
- 15 But that my fire doth with my fuell grow.  
Now as those Active Kings  
Whose foraine conquest treasure brings,  
Receive more, and spend more, and soonest breake:  
This (which I am amaz'd that I can speake)
- 20 This death, hath with my store  
My use encreas'd.  
And so my soule more earnestly releas'd,  
Will outstrip hers; As bullets flown before  
A latter bullet may o'rtake, the pouder being more.

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The Dissolution. In *TC*, *OF*: omit  $\Sigma$ . Title from 1633, *MSS*.

l. 5. *involve*: include.

l. 8. *nourish*. Cf.

Fire, Water, Ayre and Earthe ... the first, and the common, and most simple Elementes, and beginners of all things, of which verily, both Plantes, and also all living creatures, are engendered, nourished, and encreased (Jones, *Galen's Books of Elements*, 1574, f. 3<sup>V</sup>).

10 earthly] earthy *OF*

12 neere *MSS*: ne'r 1633

l. 12. *securitie*: recklessness. The elements he squandered as her lover are now replenished by the addition of hers.

l. 15. *my fire*: my passion.

l. 18. *breake*: go bankrupt.

l. 22 *earnestly*: ardently.

23 flown] flownen 1633

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