

View evâ€™ry Age, the present, and the past,
To this, the Great, and Wisest, come at last,
No mortal Powâ€™r, its firm Decree can shun,
â€˜Twas *Caesar*â€™s Fate, and *Ammon*â€™s mighty Son. 30

NOTES:

Title A reference to Act V scene 1 of William Shakespeareâ€™s *The Tragedy of Hamlet*, where Hamlet questions mortality and the nature of fate when mourning the loss of his love, Ophelia.

Dedication *Mr. J. Lisset* [Unable to trace.]

1 *Span* â€œA short space of time, esp. as the duration of human lifeâ€• (QED).

4 *venal* â€œConnected or associated with sordid and unprincipled bargaining; subject to mercenary or corrupt influencesâ€• (QED).

7 *consign*â€˜dâ€• â€œTo commitâ€• (QED).

16 *flavour*â€˜dâ€• â€œA distinctive appealing or enlivening qualityâ€• (QED); *sprightly* â€œWith spiritâ€• (QED).

18 *wanton* â€œUnrestrained in merriment, jovialâ€• (QED).

22 *putrifying* Alternate spelling of â€œputrefying,â€• â€œto cause to decompose with a foul smellâ€• (QED); *Trunk* â€œA dead body or corpseâ€• (QED).

30 *Caesar*â€™s *fate* Allusion to the death of the Roman dictator Gaius Julius Caesar who was murdered in the Roman Senate House by a group of nobles in March 15, 44 BCE (*Britannica*). Caesar is also referenced in the scene that this poem imitates: â€œImperious Caesar, dead and turnâ€™d to clay,/ Might stop a hole to keep the wind awayâ€• (Shakespeare *Hamlet*, V.i.220-221); *Ammon*â€™s *mighty Son* Alexander the Great (356 BCE-323 BCE), king of the ancient Greek kingdom of Macedon and conqueror of the Persian Empire.

Source: *A Miscellany of Original Poems on Various Subjects, Part I* (London, 1751), pp. 132-133. [Google Books]

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