

NOTES:

Title A reference to Act V scene 1 of William Shakespeare'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* A short space of time, esp. as the duration of human life (OED).

4 *venal* Connected or associated with sordid and unprincipled bargaining; subject to mercenary or corrupt influences (OED).

7 *consign* To commit (OED).

16 *flavour* A distinctive appealing or enlivening quality (OED); *sprightly* With spirit (OED).

18 *wanton* Unrestrained in merriment, jovial (OED).

22 *putrifying* Alternate spelling of *putrefying*, to cause to decompose with a foul smell (OED); *Trunk* A dead body or corpse (OED).

30 *Caesar'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: Imperious Caesar, dead and turn'd to clay, / Might stop a hole to keep the wind away (Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, V.i.220-221); *Ammon's mighty Son* Alexander the Great (356 BCE-323BCE), 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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