

## **M0012967: Text from An anatomie of the metamorphosed ajax**

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## An Anatomie.

*fauerie, what might I thinke the feete or tayle thereof were like to prove? Wherefore I would gladly haue shunned so base an office: but hauing my maisters exāple ioyned to his commandement, I tooke hart to me, and first I read ouer the discourse, to see what was promist therein on my behalfe (viz. certaine pictures.) But I assure you in the reading of it, whether it were the wel hādling of the matter, or my partiall opinion (a fault that I am seldome charged withall) my minde was altered, and I compared the homely title of it, vnto an ill fauored vizer, such as I haue seene in stage-playes, whē they daunce *Maachackinas*, which conuers as sweet a face sometimes as any is in the cōpanie. And euen presently therewithall, as if I had bene inspired vith the spirite of *A I A X*, me thought I durst haue adu ventured vith my pen and pen fill vpon any thing. For, as the saying is,*

*Painters and Poets, clayme by old enrolment,  
A charter, to dare all, without controlment.*

*Wherefore by the Priuiledge of this Charter (as also by a Pattent I haue of seruing two prentiships) I will go somewhat beyond the bare wordes of my cōmission, and yet not swarue much from the charge that is layd vpon me. For Sir, I would you knew it, though I neuer troubled the schooles at Oxford, with any disputes or degrees, yet I carried there a good schollers bookes after him, and I trust I gat some quaynt phrases amōg them, as namely in steed of praying the Cobler to*

*Or to a toad  
or a snake  
made in su-  
ger, that  
lookes vn-  
fighely, but  
tasts sweetly.*

## An Anatomie.

*set two patches on my shoes, I could haue said, set me two semicircles vpon my suppeditals, vwith much other eloquence beyond the common intelligence. And yet notwithstanding all these great vaunts, I wil not take vpon me, that I am able to say so much of the *Metamorphosis*, the *Etimologie*, & the reformatiō of *Don A I A X*-house, as my maister hath said, or to defend the wordes, illustrate the matter, and dilate of the forme as he hath done, for vwho can stand against such an army of Emperours, Kings, Magistrats, Prophets, Poets, All-hallowes, and all prophanes, euen from the Bible to the bable, as are by him brought for enobling of his arguments? Yet for Anatomysing as it were of the shape and bodie thereof, because he hath handled that point (in *M. Plats* opinion) somewhat too briefly for common understandings, I must heare a litle better open it: for as the old saying is, (*bonum quo cō-**

*M. Plat in  
his booke a-  
gainst fa-  
mine, fol. vi.  
imo penulti-  
mo.*

*Scire tuum nihil est, nisi te scire hoc sciat alter.  
Goodnesse is best, when it is common showne,  
Knowledge were vayne, if knowledge were not knowne.*

*Wherefore now, seriously and in good sadnesse to instruct you, & all Gentlemen of worship, how to reforme all vsfauerie places of your houses, vwhether they be caused by prinies, or sinkes, or such like (for the annoyance comming all of like causes, the remedies neede not be much vnlike,) this you shall do.*

*If that which  
followes of-  
fēd the rea-  
der, he may  
turne ouer a  
leaf or two,  
or but smell  
to his sweet  
gloues, and  
thē the fauor  
will neuer  
offend him.*