

Care-charming sleep

Poem by John Fletcher

Robert Johnson

Not too fast

Care-charming sleep, thou eas-er of all woes,

Bro-ther of Death, sweet-ly thy-self dis-pose On this af-lict-

ed wight; fall like a cloud in gen-tle show'rs; give noth-ing that is

loud, Or pain-ful to his slum-bers, but eas-y, sweet, And

20

as a pur-ling stream, thou son of Night, Pass by his trou- bled

BII

25

sen- ses; sing his pain hol- low mur- mur- ing wind, or sil-

BIII

30

ver rain, In- to this Prince gent- ly, O gent- ly O

BII

gent- ly slide, And kiss him in- to slum- ber like

BII

35

The musical score consists of two systems. The first system has a vocal line starting with a whole note 'a' and a lute line with figured bass notation: 4 e, a, a, 4 e. The second system has a vocal line with a whole note 'bride.' and a lute line with figured bass notation: a, a, 2 r, a. The lute line includes a double bar line with a repeat sign and first/second endings. The number '8' is written below the first system's lute line, and '6' is written below the second system's lute line.

"The Tragedy of Valentinian" (1614) deals with the vengeance of Maximus, a general under Valentinian III, for the dishonour of his wife by the emperor, and her suicide. A dense web of intrigue and treachery results in the slow death of Valentinian by poisoning (to the accompaniment of the well-known lyric 'Care charming sleep'), and the subsequent death of Maximus, poisoned, again to musical accompaniment, by the widowed empress Eudoxa, as he is inaugurated as Valentinian's successor.