

A Melancholy Man

Non-Specific Humans Mad Men Second Sighted Man in Scotland Other Men  
Antient Rude People

Proper Names Heraclitus, The maudlin philosopher

Mythological Figures Gods Sylvans Fauns Dryads Spirits Evil Spirits Apparitions  
Mahomet

Animals Dog in a slip Mole

[double rule]

A

MELANCHOLY MAN

I<sup>2</sup>s one, that keeps the worst Company in the  
World, that is, his own; and tho' he be al-  
ways falling out and quarrelling with himself,  
yet he has not power to endure any other Con-  
versation. His Head is haunted, like a House,  
with evil Spirits and Apparitions, that terrify  
and fright him out of himself, till he stands  
empty and forsaken. His Sleeps and his Wa-  
kings are so much the same, that he knows not  
how to distinguish them, and many times  
when he dreams, he believes he is broad awake  
and sees Visions. The Fumes and Vapours  
that rise from his Spleen and Hypochondries  
have so smothered and fullied his Brain (like a  
Room that smoaks) that his Understanding is  
blar-ey'd, and has no right Perception of any  
Thing. His Soul lives in his Body, like a  
Mole in the Earth, that labours in the Dark,  
and casts up Doubts and Scruples of his own

Imagination, to make that rugged and uneasy,  
that was plain and open before. His Brain is

fo cracked, that he fancies himself to be Glafs, and is afraid that every Thing he comes near fhould break him in Pieces. Whatsoever makes an Impreffion in his Imagination works it felf in like a Screw, and the more he turns and winds it, the deeper it fticks, till it is never to be got out again. The Temper of his Brain being earthy, cold, and dry, is apt to breed Worms, that fink fo deep into it, no Medicine in Art or Nature is able to reach them. He leads his Life, as one leads a Dog in a Slip that will not follow, but is dragged along until he is almoft hanged, as he has it often under Confideration to treat himself in convenient Time and Place, if he can but catch himself alone. After a long and mortal Feud between his inward and his outward Man, they at length agree to meet without Seconds, and decide the Quarrel, in which the one drops, and the other finks out fo the Way, and makes his Efcape into fome foreign World, from whence is it never after heard of. He converfes with nothing fo much as his own Imagination, which being apt to mifreprefent Things to him,

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makes him believe, that it is fomething elfe than it is, and that he holds Intelligence with Spirits, that reveal whatsoever he fancies to him, as the antient rude People, that firft heard their own Voices repeated by Echoes in the Woods, concluded it muft proceed from fome invisible Inhabitants of thofe folitary Places, which they after believed to be Gods, and called them Sylvans, Fauns, and Dryads. He makes the Infirmary of his Temper pafs for Revelations, as Mahomet did by his falling Sicknefs, and infpires himself with the Wind of his own Hypochondries. He laments, like Heraclitus the Maudlin Philofopher, at other Men's Mirth, and take Pleafures in nothing

but his own un-fober Sadnefs. His Mind is full of Thoughts, but they are all empty, like a Neft of Boxes. He fleeps little, but dreams much, and foundeft when he is waking. He fees Vifions further off than a fecond-fighted Man in Scotland, and dreams upon a hard Point with admirable Judgement. He is juft fo much worfe than a Madman, as he is below him in Degree of Frenzy; for among Madmen the moft mad govern all the reft, and receive a natural Obedience from their Inferiors.

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