

The intent of the Author in this worke is first to confute all  
Figure-Casters, by the

Divine Law,  
Imperiall Law,  
Canon Law: by  
Phylosophy,  
Common sence &  
Reason.

Secondly, to overthrow the absurd opinions of many

Phylosophers  
Astronomers.  
Geographers.  
Cosmographers.

Thirdly, to unfold the darke and abstruse Answers  
of the

Delphian, rather Deuillish  
Oracles.

Fourthly, and lastly, to shew the Sympathy and Correspondency  
that is betweene the Regnish Controversers, and Romish  
Impostors, in their

Ceremonies,  
Superstitious  
Deceits, and  
Counenages.

Horat. Epist. Lib. 1.

— Si quid nouisti rectius istis  
Candidus impertis, si non uia uere mecum.



ASTROLOGASTER,  
OR,  
THE FIGURE-  
CASTER.



I was about the Heart of Summer,  
(when the Celestiall Dogge belch't  
from his burning Galls infectious Dis-  
eases to poyson frayle Mortalitie) that  
I walk't into a friends Garden of mine,  
not farre distant from this sumptuous  
(but sinfull) Citie, to see the fresse  
and coole Aire, that did breathe on those sweet-smelling  
flowers. But I no sooner entred into this *Microcosme*  
of Sweetnesse, but the Amenitie, Neatnesse, Elegance, and  
Splendor of the Place did so tickle and delight my senses,  
that I thought it rather a Celestiall Paradiſe, then a Ter-  
reſtriall Garden. The glorious Fires that in the peace of  
Midnight gild the rich Rooſe of Heauen, shew'd but  
dimme to those bright flowers that in the day time did il-  
luminare that place; so that a hundred times I did wish I  
had *Argus* hundred eyes, that I might alwayes see them, or  
*Cerberus* sweet ſcenting noſe, that I might alwayes ſmell  
them. The *Arabian* Odours and *Indian* Drugs were but  
Weeds.

Weeds, compared to the flowers: that did blesse those banks. The Gardens of *Adonis*, *Alcinous*, *Tantalus*, *Hesperides*, or the Banks of *Po* were but the Types of this Reall and Essentiall Sweetnesse; for all things grew to beautifull and pleasant, as if Nature had concluded, that whatsoeuer hath bene eximious or braue in former Ages, should then dwell there, for it was *Flerus* Pallace, her Standing-Houfe, and her Spicerie, from whence she did breathe forth her sweetnesse to euery Climate.

When I beheld the industrious Gardiner grafting young Syens, me-thought (with my Minds eyes) I beheld *Dioctes* the Prince exercising himselfe in the delightfome labour of Agriculture; and that which all *Africa* admired, *Messius* walking among his Quick-sets: I could not be periwaded, but I saw the valiant *Romans*, learned *Grecians*, wise *Philosophers*, and wrangling *Lawyers*; their *Armes*, Oratorie, Moralitie, the lowd and troublesome Barre layd aside, quietly and peaceably repoling themselves on those Banks: *Tarquinius* the King cutting off the heads of Poppyes, as if they had bene the heads of so many rebellious subiects; *Cato* the Censor writing in the prayle of Husbandry; *Scilla*, after his Dictatorship, and *Lucullus*, after his *Astiatick* Warre.

But as I was seriously looking ouer this *Aden* of delight, my eyes tooke notice of a withered banke of flowers, hanging downe their weather-beaten heads, that not seuen dayes before had flourished in their full prime; in-igmating vnto Man, that the beautie of all Mundane and Earthly pleasures haue no perpetuities. Not farre from them grew a sweet companie of fresh and redolent flowers, that like so many young Gallants, thought the brightnesse of their glory would neuer vanish, but that their beautie and colour was dyed in such a deepe graine of perpetuities, that neyther the violence of a Storme, the pruning North-Winde, nor the heat of the Mid-day Sunne, could beat downe, nippe, or wither them. And these fading

ding and flourishing Plants were not onely the Emblemes of Mans Mortalitie, but the true Type of his Death and Resurrection; of his Death, in their decay; of his Resurrection, in their growth and flourishing.

Every Tree I saw there clad in Natures Liuerie (which is greene) put me in mind of that *Protoplast*, *Adam* our Great Grandfather, and his Fall: for if hee neuer had transgressed, hee neuer had worne a Sure of greene leaues; and hee neuer had bene cloathed in the Trappings of Sinne, if he still had kept himselfe Naked, that is, Pure, Sincere, and Spotlesse. Therefore, every Gallant or proud Man, that weares Clothes as fresh as the Fields, that bought them, may thinke with themselves, that although they bee neuer so rich, yet they weare but the Ragges of their Fore-fathers, Sinne and Transgression. The Oake stood there like a great Man, whose curied Brow was incident to the highest Inflammations of Heauen, as Thunder, Lightning, Tempest, and Raine, while the poore humble Shrub, that grew vnder him, like a contented Cottager, laught at the lowdest storme that could euer chide. The Pine-tree stood like an vpriight Man, whose Conscience was faire-shap't, smooth, and euen. The little Goose-berry Bush, laden with fruit, did include within it a Triple Embleme: First, that the greatest Men haue not alwayes the greatest Wits, but that a small Body hath often as fertile a Braine: Secondly, that although it had but a few Leaues, yet it had an abundance of Fruit; teaching Man, that his Actions should be more then his Words: And last of all, that the heauier hee was laden with Fruit, the lower his head bowed to the Earth; teaching rich and learned Men, that the richer and lea-ner they grow, the more liberall and humble they should bee. The Bramble, as I walk'd by, scratch't me by the Legges, which put mee in minde of a griping Lawyer, that neuer meetes with a Clyent, but hee will bee sure to sreece him, if hee doe not flea him.

Lawrell. The Lawrell resembled a constant and braue Martyr, whose leaues being torne from him, and flung into the fire, will spit and crackle, as if it derided the deuouring flame. The Damaske Rose lookt like a chaste and modeit Virgin, that will blush as soone as you cast your eye vpon her; and the siluer-coloured Primrose, that grew nere her, like a spotlesse Conscience. Mee thought the Mushrombe was like one of our Melting-Gallants, who held vp his head but for a small time, but perished as soone as it began to flourish.

These, and many more beside these, I saw in that place, growing peaceably by each other: For the Shrub enuyed not the sublime height of the Oake, nor the Oake the quiet peace the Shrub enjoyed. The Daisie murmured not, that the Rose should looke so beautifull, and smell so sweete; nor any Weed complayned, that the Daisie should haue such a gay Coat: but all, like so many honest and quiet House-holders dwelling nigh each other, did reioyce at each others happinelle. But Man, that is made *ad imaginem Dei*, that is the Golden Key, opening the rich Cabinet of all Arts and Sciences, the *Compendium* and *Epitome* of the World, cannot liue quietly together, but like so many Salamanders, must either be turning in the fires of Contention; or like Wolues, liuing on the spoyle of Innocence; or like Camelions, turning themselues into any colour of Mithiefe, Villany, or Dissimulation.

But, as I was wondering at this Place worthy of wonder, this extasie of my admiration was broken off by the occasion of a noyse I heard not tarre from me, which at the first was but like the loft breathing of a winde, sighing from the pregnant entrayles of the earth, but by degrees it began to resemble a Tempell, sayling aloft in the Ayre. When it drew nigher me, I perceiued this Lowdnesse to be engendred by the euer-mouing tongues of some twentie Women, that came talking and walking downe an Alley (neighbouring very nigh me) and all of them talking

to:

together: so that although I had an itching desire to vnderstand, and an attentiu care to heare the subiect of their discourse, yet it was as possible for me to know what they did talke, as to make them leaue talking. In the Rere of these I perceiued an auncient Man (on whose head the hand of Age had snowed white hayres) come with a graue pace after them; whom I entreated, if it lay within the reach of his knowledge, to resolu me what the cause was so many people, and most of them Women, should flocke together, or what busines they should haue in such a remote and by-place as that was, so early in the Morning? This old Father without any preiudicelle (which is a Passion incident to Age) first smil'd in my face, then tooke me by the hand, and began to open the mysterie of their meeting, and his owne being there, in this manner.

Sonne, said he (for so I may properly call thee, because Smoothnesse and Alacritie, the Characters of Youth, sit on thy vnwrinkled forehead) these Women your eyes did lately take notice of, are Creatures so ignorantly obliuate, that neyther the mild entreatie of a Friend can perswade them from their follyes, nor the bad report of an Enemye dissuade them from their peruersenesse. The Party to whom they come, is a Bird, of whose kinde I thinke there are but few liuing, for he professeth himselfe to be a Wise-man; and the cause of their coming, is to be resolu'd either of Money, Silver-Spoons, Rings, Gownes, Plate, or Linnen they haue lost: some, to know how many Children they shall haue; some, how many Husbands, and which shall loue them best: others, about other businesse; but in generall, all of them to know something, which indeed at the last comes to nothing. And I my selfe (like a Holy-day foole) haue bene there at the least halfe a score times, onely to giue my money away, to bee laught at. Yet I haue words ynough: for he will promise more then twentie Courtiers, talke more for halfe a Peece then halfe a score Lawyers, and lye more then twentie

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Chronologers: yet with some trick, or evasion, hee will come clearly off, without being suspected for an Impostor, especially if he have some man in hand he thinks he dare worke on, as he hath done me for example.

Exordium.

For going to the Crosse one Sunday morning to heare a Sermon, some *American* and nimble-finger'd Pick-pocket, that had more minde of my Purse then the Preacher, gelt it of sixteene pound; so that I went home lighter by two Stone then I went out. After I had fretted much, and to no purpose, I vsed all the meanes I could to recover my losse, as by seeing the Keepers of Newgate, who know which of that Law are appointed to filch in euery part of the Citie; yet still I came home a greater looser then I went out: for alwayes being in hope to finde that which I lost, I lost more, by bribing one Knaue, to discover another. At the last, it was my bad fortune to meet with an old Woman, that put a greater confidence in

Bookes to tell Fortunes.

the *Iewes Caballs*, and *Thalmud*, the Shepheards Kalender, and Bookes of Palmistry, then any part of the Bible; who aduised me to reaire to Doctor P. C. in *More-fields*, at the vpper end of this Alley, and if Art could helpe me to it againe, I should be sure to heare of it. This draught of good newes this old Woman gaue me, to quench the thirst of my desire, which I dranke in at mine eares as greedily, as a man sicke of a burning Feauer will the coolest Iulips: so giuing this old Piece of Superstition a Taster for her newes, I instantly went to Master Doctor. Who perceiving me to be one that loued Gold well (because Age most commonly is couetous) thought the better to worke vpon me, as he did: for his Doctorship had the Art to hold me in hand three weekes; in which time, he made the sixteene pound I lost, twentie: and when all came to a Period, hee told me, that he had laboured hard for me, and at the last, by his no small industrie and paines, had found out the Theefe that had my Money, but he was fled into the *Low-Countries*, because there were many Warrants out to apprehend him

Ami sua fames.

him for many Thefts and Burglaries hee had committed; and if it pleased me to take shipping, and sayle thither, I should be sure to finde him at the *Labor in Vaine* in *Bredawe*. The Labor in Vaine. But this comfort went as cold to my heart, as the Senterence Vaine. of Death to a Man that stands arraigned at the Barre: for I had rather goe five thousand mile by Land, then five mile by Sea; and if it had bene a hundred pound I had lost, I would rather haue giuen as much more, then hazard my selfe by Water. Yet howsoeuer I may doubt, may truly resolve my selfe; that he hath palpably cheated me: yet it was impossible to finde him a lyar, except I meant to take more paines about it, then it was worth. Therefore as patiently as I am able, I am going home againe, purposing hereafter to take heed of two Pick-pockets; the one, the Diuer that met with me in *Pauls Church-yard*; the other, the Doctor in *More-fields*, that rob'd me as well as the first, who in my mind hath deserued, for his artificiall Cheating, the Pillory, as well as the other did the Gallowes, for Stealing.

Thus Sir, according to my weake abilitie, haue I discoursed to you the condition of him, to whom these Women and my selfe come, the cause of our coming, with his manner of deluding vs: for howsoeuer he professeth himselfe to haue an absolute and exquisite knowledge in Philosophy, Astronomy, Physike, Metaphysike, the Mathematikes, and Astrology; yet if a Scholler had him in handling, he should finde him as meeere a Mountebanke, as euery sold Sophistickations in *Italy* or the *Low-Countries*.

He no sooner had deliuered me this Relation, but he hasted away from me: therefore seeing he was impotunate to be gone, I only shew'd my selfe gratefull in thanking him for his kindnesse; so he went homewards, & I into my Garden. But now my minde was quite transported from the sweetness of that Place, and only fixt on the subtiltie of the Doctor, and his politike answer to the old Man about the recovery of his Money; so that I could not be at quiet with my selfe, while I was truly resolu'd of the Art of this Star-gazer.

Theres

Therefore on a Morning which was as calme as I could wish my thoughts now were, I put on a Suite of courtly Northern Dozens, with all accoutrements that were most suitable to that homeliness, and with all expedition went to Master Doctor, and hastily knocking at his West-End doore, there came running downe the steyres with a nimble dexteritie (the little *Mephistophiles*) his Boy, demanding with whom I would speake; to whom, in a broad *Somersetsire* language, I answered, with Master Doctor, vpon an earnest businesse. Vpon the deliuerie of this Message, this young Spirit, like exhaled dew, nimbly flew away from me, who vpon an instant, like a flash of Lightning, was in my bosome againe before I could perceiue him; and then, without any more Interrogatories, marshalled me vp into his Masters Study, who sat in this manner following:

The description of the Figure-Caster  
His Instruments.

Before a Square Table, covered with a greene Carpet, on which lay a huge Booke in *Folio*, wide open, full of strange Characters, such as the *Egyptians* and *Chaldeans* were neuer guiltie of; not farre from that, a siluer Wand, a Surplus, a Watering Pot, with all the superstitious or rather fayned Instruments of his coufening Art. And to put a fairer colour on his black and soule Science, on his head hee had a foure-cornred Cap, on his backe a faile Gowne (but made of a strange fashion) in his right hand he held an Astrolabe, in his left a Mathematicall Glasse. At the first view, there was no man that came to him (if hee were of any fashion) could offer him for his aduice lesse then a *Iacobus*, and the meanest halfe a Peece, although hee peradventure (rather then haue nothing) would be contented with a brace of Two-pences.

I no sooner came into his Study but I did him the reuerence belonging to his Doctorship, and stood as long bare to him, as a poore Country Client that sues in *Ferua Pauperu*, will to his hungry Lawyer. At the last, with the expence of many a Legge (and may it please your Wor-  
ship)

ship) I told him, that the cause of my comming was, that hauing lately lost at the Kings Bench Barre in *Westminster Hall* a Chayne of Gold of three hundred Links, therefore I came to his Doctorship, hauing beene informed, that his Art could bring it to light againe: so putting my hand into my Leather Pouch, I greased his euer-dry Palmes with an Angell, who no sooner had a feeling of my bountie, but hee began to be more liberal to mee of his Tongue, then I was to him of my Purse: And while I stood leaning on my Staffe, hee deliuered this Emperike-like Oration in this or not much vnlike this manner.

The Figure-Casters Oration.

**H**onest Friend, the losse you haue sustayned, is so great, that I make no doubt, what you now haue giuen, or hereafter shall giue, will not come forced or wrackt from you, but voluntarie and free. For it is wisdom in a Man to aduventure small things *Neid.* to regayne greater, where there is a possibilitie of obtaining. He is not worthy of Money, that will not seeke after it, and he cannot truly iudge, how to value so precious a Metall as Gold, that is not stung with the losse of it. Therefore Sir, your care deserues a redresse, and this Booke (meaning his *Ephimerides*) with my Art and Industrie, shall be the Instrumentall Causes to make you happie in the recouerie of that which is werthie both of my Care and your Cost. And to put you in some hope, if that Man that had your Chayne, liues cyther within the Horizon of *England, Francke, Spaine, Italy*, or the *Low-Countries*, I will vndertake to shew you him, and in what place, and what companie hee is in. There is  
G not