

John Florio's Holographic Will

Transcript

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In the blessed name of God the Father, my gracious Creator and Maker; of God the sonne Jesus Christie my mercifull sauour and Redeemer, and of God the holy ghoste, three persons, and one euer-living and omnipotent God in unities and Trinitie, my most-louing Comforter and Preseruer; Amen.

I Jhon Florio of Fullham in the Countie of Middlesex Esquire, being of good health, of sound minde, and perfect memorie, heartie thanks be ever ascribed and giuen therefore unto Almighty God.

And well-remembering, and knowing, that nothing is more certaine unto mortall man then death; and no one thing more uncertaine, than is the houre therof, doe make, appoint, pronounce, and declare this my testament, therein fully containing my last, direct, and unreuocable will, and intention, in manner and forme following, that is to saie.

First, and principaly, as dutie and Christianitie willeth me, I most heartily, and penitently-sorrowefull for all my sinnes, committ and recomend my soule into the merciefull hands of Almighty God. assuredly trusting, and faithfully belieuing by the onely merits, bitter passion, precious blood, and glorious death of the immaculate Lambe Jesus Christe his sonne, to haue full remission, and absolute forgiuenesse of all my sinnes whatsoever; and after this transitorie Life, to Liue and raigne with him in his most-blessed kingdom of heauen. As for my wretched ~~life~~ bodie I commit the same as earth to earth, and dust to dust, to be buried in such decent ordre, as to my deare wife, and by my Executors heere-under named shall be thought meete and couenient. And as touching the disposing and ordring of all and whatsoever such goods, cattle, chattle, leases, monie, plate, iewels, bookes, apparell, bedding, hangings, pewter, brasse, house-holde stuff, moueables, immoueables, and all other things whatsoever named or unnamed, specifide or unspcifide, wherewith my most gracious God hath bin pleased to endowe me with; or hereafter shall of his infinite mercie be pleased to bestowe or conferre upon me in this transitorie Life I will, appoint, giue, ordre, dispose, and bequeath, all, and euerie parte, and parcell of the same, firmly, and unalterably to stand, in manner and forme following; that is to saie:

Item. I giue and bequeath unto my daughter Aurelia Molins the wedding ring wherewith I married her mother, being aggriued at my verie heart, that by reason of my pouertie I am not able to leaue her anie thing els
Item, I giue and bequeath, as a poore token of my loue to my sonne in lawe James Molins a faire black veluet deske, embroidered with seede pearles, and with a siluer and gilt ink-horne and dust-box therein, that was Queene Annas.

Item, I giue and

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Item, I giue and bequeath unto the Right honorable, my singulare, and euer honored good Lord, William Earle of Pembroke, lord Chamberlaine to the Kings most Excellent Maiestie, and one of his Royall Consell of State (if at my death he shall then be liuing) all my Italian, French, and Spanish bookes, as well printed as unprinted, being in number about three hundred and fortie, namely my new and perfect Dictionarie, as also my ten Dialogues in Italian and English, and my unbound volume of diuers written collections and rapsodies: most heartily entreating his Honorable Lordship (as he once promised me) to accept of them as of a signe and token of my seruice and affection to his Honor; and for my sake to place them in his librarie either at Wilton, or els at Baynards Castle at London, humbly desiring him, to giue waie, and fauorable assistance, that my Dictionarie and Dialogues maie be printed, and the profit thereof accure unto my wife.

Item, I doe lykewise giue and bequeath unto his Noble lordship the Coruine stone (as a iewell fitt for a Prince) which Ferdinando the greate Duke of Tuscanie sent as a most precious guift (among diuers others) unto Queen Anna of blessed memorie, the use and vertue wherof is written in two pieces of paper both in Italian and English, being in a litle box with the stone, most humbly beseeching his Honor, (as I right confidently hope and trust he will in charitie doo, if neede require) to take my poore and deare wife into his protection, and not suffer her to be wrongfully molested my anie enemie of mine as also in her extreamitie to afforde her his help, good word, and assistance to my Lord Treasurer, that she maie be paide my wages, and the arreanges of that which is unpaide, or shall be behinde at my death.

The rest, the residue, and remainder of all whatsoeuer, and singulare my goods, cattles, chattles, Jewels, plate, debts, leases, monie, or monie-worth, houshold-stuff, utensils, English-bookes, moueables or immoueables, named or not named, and things whatsoeuer, by me before not giuen, disposed, or bequeathed (provided that my deabts be paide, and my funerall discharged) I wholly giue, fully bequeath, absolutely leaue, assigne, and unalterably consigne unto my dearely-beloued wife Rose Florio, most heartily grieuing, and euer sorrowing, that I can not giue or leaue her more, in requitall of her tender loue, louing care, painefull diligence, and continuall labore, to me, and of me in all my fortunes, and manie sicknesses, then whom neuer had husband a more louing wife, painefull nurce, or comfortable consorte.

And I doe make, institute, ordaine, appoint and name the right Reuerend father in God, Theophilus Field, lord Bishop of Landaffe, and mr Richard Cluet, Doctor of Diuinitie, viccare, and Preacher of the word of God at Fullham, both my much-esteemed, dearely-beloued, and truely-honest good friends, my sole and onely Executers and ouer-seers. And I doe giue to eache of them for their paines

an olde greene veluet desk

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an olde greene-veluet desk, with a siluer ink and dust-box in eache of them, that were sometimes Queene Annas my soueraigne Mistrisse, entreating both, to accept of them, as a token of my heartie affection towards them, and to excuse my pouertie, which disableth me, to requitt the trouble, paines, and cortesie, which I confidently belieue, they will charitably, and for Gods sake undergoe in aduising, directing, and helping my poore and deare wife in executing of this my last and unreuocable will and testament, if anie should be so malicious or unnaturall, as to crosse or question the same. Ad I doe utterly reuoke, and for-ever

renounce, frustrate, disanull, cancell, and make voide all, and whatsoever former wills, legacies, bequests, promises, guifts, Executors, or ouerseers (if it should happen, that anie be forged or suggested; for, until this time, I never writt, made, or finished anie but this onely) And I will, appoint, and ordaine, that this, and none but this onely, written all with mine owne hand, shall stand in full force, and vigor for my last and unreuocable will and testament, and none other, nor otherwise.

As for the deabts, that I owe, the greatest and onely is upon an obligatorie writing of mine oune hand, which my daughter Aurenia Molins with importunitie wrested from of about three score pound, whereas the truth, and my conscience telleth me, and so knoweth her conscience, it is but thirtie-foure pound or thereabouts. But lett that passe, since I was so unheedy, as to make and aknowledge the saide writing, I am willing, that it be paide and discharged, in this forme and manner. My sonne in lawe (as my daughter his wife knoweth full well) hath in his hands as a pawne, a faire golde-ring of mine, with thirteene faire table-diamonds therein enchased, which coste Queene Anna my gracious Mistrisse seauen and fortie pounds sterline; and for which I might manie times haue had fourtie pounds readie monie. Upon the saide ring, my sonne, in the presence of his wife, lent me ten pound. I desire him and praie him, to take the ouer plus of the saide ring in parte of paiement: as also a leaden-ceastern, which he hath of mine, standing in the yard at his London-house, that cost me at a porte-scale fortie shillings; as also a siluer candle-cup, with a couer worth about fourtie shillings, which I left at his house being sick there, desiring my sonne and daughter, that their whole deabt maie be made up, and they satisfide, with selling the lease of my house in shoe-lane, and so acquitt and discharge my poore wife, who as yett knoweth nothing of this deabt; Moreouer I entreate my deare wife, that if at my death my seruant Artur shall chance to be with me, and in my seruice, that for my sake, she giue him such poore dobles, breeches, hats and bootes as I shall leaue, and there with all one of my olde clokes, so it be not lined with veluet. In wittesse whereof, I the saide Jhon Florio, to this my last will and testament (written euerie sillable with myne owne

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with myne owne hand, and with long and mature deliberation digested) containing foure sheetes of paper; the first of eight and twentie lines; the second of nine and twentie; the third of nine and twentie; and the fourth of six lines, haue putt, sett, written, and affixed my name, and usuall seale of my armes. The twentieth daie of July in the yeare of our Lord and sauour Jesus Christie 1625, and in the first yeare of the raigne of our soueraigne Lord and king (whom God preserue) Charles the first of that name of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland King,

By me Jhon Florio, being thanks
be euer giuen to my most gracious
God in perfect sence and memorie.

June 1626 – Iurata Rosa Florio,
eoram me

*Emanavit commissio Rosae Florio, relictæ Iohannis Florio de Ffulcham
in comitem Midd eius defhentem ad administrandum bona, iura et eredita dicti defuncti
iuxta tenorem et effectum testamenti eiusdem defuncti, euo quod reverendust in Christo pater*

Theophilus promissione Landavensis episcopus et Bartholomeus Olvet, sacre theologie professor, in dicto testamento nominati, ex certis causis eos et amministratoes suos in ea parte iuste morientis oneri executionis testamenti predicti ex presente renuntiarunt, et ex auctoritate Curie plenius liquet de bene Christo iurat.

Blasii.

Iohannis