3

Stately, plump Buck Mulligan came from the stairhead, bearing a bowl of

lather on which a mirror and a razor lay crossed. A yellow dressinggown,

ungirdled, was sustained gently behind him by the mild morning air. He held

the bowl aloft and intoned:

--<i>Introibo ad altare Dei.</i>

Halted, he peered down the dark winding stairs and called up coarsely:

--Come up, Kinch. Come up, you fearful Jesuit.

Solemnly he came forward and mounted the round gunrest. He faced

about and blessed gravely thrice the tower, the surrounding country and the

awaking mountains. Then, catching sight of Stephen Dedalus, he bent towards

him and made rapid crosses in the air, gurgling in his throat and shaking his

head. Stephen Dedalus, displeased and sleepy, leaned his arms on the top of the

staircase and looked coldly at the shaking gurgling face that blessed him, equine

in its length, and at the light untonsured hair, grained and hued like pale oak.

Buck Mulligan peeped an instant under the mirror and then covered the

bowl smartly.

--Back to barracks, he said sternly.

He added in a preacher's tone:

--For this, O dearly beloved, is the genuine Christine: body and soul and

blood and ouns. Slow music, please. Shut your eyes, gents. One moment. A

little trouble about those white corpuscles. Silence, all.

He peered sideways up and gave a long low whistle of call then paused

awhile in rapt attention, his even white teeth glistening here and there with

gold points. Chrysostomos. Two strong shrill whistles answered through

the calm.

--Thanks, old chap, he cried briskly. That will do nicely. Switch off

the current, will you?

4

He skipped off the gunrest and looked gravely at his watcher, gathering

about his legs the loose folds of his gown. The plump shadowed face and

sullen oval jowl recalled a prelate, patron of arts in the middle ages. A pleasant

smile broke quietly over his lips.

--The mockery of it, he said gaily. Your absurd name, an ancient

Greek.

He pointed his finger in friendly jest and went over to the parapet,

laughing to himself. Stephen Dedalus stepped up, followed him wearily halfway

and sat down on the edge of the gunrest, watching him still as he propped

his mirror on the parapet, dipped the brush in the bowl and lathered cheeks

and neck.

Buck Mulligan's gay voice went on.

--My name is absurd too: Malachi Mulligan, two dactyls. But it has a

Hellenic ring, hasn't it? Tripping and sunny like the buck himself. We must

go to Athens. Will you come if I can get the aunt to fork out twenty quid?

He laid the brush aside and, laughing with delight, cried:

--Will he come? The jejune jesuit.

Ceasing, he began to shave with care.

--Tell me, Mulligan, Stephen said quietly.

--Yes, my love?

--How long is Haines going to stay in this tower?

Buck Mulligan showed a shaven cheek over his right shoulder.

--God, isn't he dreadful? he said frankly. A ponderous Saxon. He thinks

you're not a gentleman. God, these bloody English. Bursting with money

and indigestion. Because he comes from Oxford. You know, Dedalus, you

have the real Oxford manner. He can't make you out. O, my name for you

is the best: Kinch, the knifeblade.

He shaved warily over his chin.

--He was raving all night about a black panther, Stephen said. Where

is his guncase?

--A woful lunatic, Mulligan said. Were you in a funk?

--I was, Stephen said with energy and growing fear. Out here in the

dark with a man I don't know raving and moaning to himself about shooting

a black panther. You saved men from drowning. I'm not a hero, however. If

he stays on here I am off.

Buck Mulligan frowned at the lather on his razor blade. He hopped down

from his perch and began to search his trouser pockets hastily.

5

--Scutter, he cried thickly.

He came over to the gunrest and, thrusting a hand into Stephen's upper

pocket, said:

--Lend us a loan of your noserag to wipe my razor.

Stephen suffered him to pull out and hold up on show by its corner a

dirty crumpled handkerchief. Buck Mulligan wiped the razorblade neatly. Then,

gazing over the handkerchief, he said:

--The bard's noserag. A new art colour for our Irish poets: snotgreen.

You can almost taste it, can't you?

He mounted to the parapet again and gazed out over Dublin bay, his fair

oakpale hair stirring slightly.

--God, he said quietly. Isn't the sea what Algy calls it: a great sweet

mother? The snotgreen sea. The scrotumtightening sea. <i>Epi oinopa ponton.</i>

Ah, Dedalus, the Greeks. I must teach you. You must read them in the

original. <i>Thalatta! Thalatta!</i> She is our great sweet mother. Come and look.

Stephen stood up and went over to the parapet. Leaning on it he looked down

on the water and on the mailboat clearing the harbour mouth of Kingstown.

--Our mighty mother, Buck Mulligan said.

He turned abruptly his great searching eyes from the sea to Stephen's face.

--The aunt thinks you killed your mother, he said. That's why she

won't let me have anything to do with you.

--Someone killed her, Stephen said gloomily.

--You could have knelt down, damn it, Kinch, when your dying mother

asked you, Buck Mulligan said. I'm hyperborean as much as you. But to

think of your mother begging you with her last breath to kneel down and pray

for her. And you refused. There is something sinister in you ...

He broke off and lathered again lightly his farther cheek. A tolerant

smile curled his lips.

--But a lovely mummer, he murmured to himself. Kinch, the loveliest

mummer of them all.

He shaved evenly and with care, in silence, seriously.

Stephen, an elbow rested on the jagged granite, leaned his palm against

his brow and gazed at the fraying edge of his shiny black coatsleeve. Pain,

that was not yet the pain of love, fretted his heart. Silently, in a dream she

had come to him after her death, her wasted body within its loose brown

graveclothes giving off an odour of wax and rosewood, her breath, that had

bent upon him, mute, reproachful, a faint odour of wetted ashes. Across the

6

threadbare cuffedge he saw the sea hailed as a great sweet mother by the wellfed

voice beside him. The ring of bay and skyline held a dull green mass of

liquid. A bowl of white china had stood beside her deathbed holding the green

sluggish bile which she had torn up from her rotting liver by fits of loud

groaning vomiting.

Buck Mulligan wiped again his razorblade.

--Ah, poor dogsbody, he said in a kind voice. I must give you a shirt

and a few noserags. How are the secondhand breeks?

--They fit well enough, Stephen answered.

Buck Mulligan attacked the hollow beneath his underlip.

--The mockery of it, he said contentedly, secondleg they should be.

God knows what poxy bowsy left them off. I have a lovely pair with a hair

stripe, grey. You'll look spiffing in them. I'm not joking, Kinch. You look

damn well when you're dressed.

--Thanks, Stephen said. I can't wear them if they are grey.

--He can't wear them, Buck Mulligan told his face in the mirror. Eti-//quette

is etiquette. He kills his mother but he can't wear grey trousers.

He folded his razor neatly and with stroking palps of fingers felt the

smooth skin.

Stephen turned his gaze from the sea and to the plump face with its

smokeblue mobile eyes.

--That fellow I was with in the Ship last night, said Buck Mulligan

says you have g. p. i. He's up in Dottyville with Conolly Norman. General

paralysis of the insane.

He swept the mirror a half circle in the air to flash the tidings abroad in

sunlight now radiant on the sea. His curling shaven lips laughed and the

edges of his white glittering teeth. Laughter seized all his strong wellknit trunk.

--Look at yourself, he said, you dreadful bard.

Stephen bent forward and peered at the mirror held out to him, cleft by

a crooked crack, hair on end. As he and others see me. Who chose this face

for me? This dogsbody to rid of vermin. It asks me too.

--I pinched it out of the skivvy's room, Buck Mulligan said. It does her

all right. The aunt always keeps plainlooking servants for Malachi. Lead him not

into temptation. And her name is Ursula.

Laughing again, he brought the mirror away from Stephen's peering eyes.

--The rage of Caliban at not seeing his face in a mirror, he said. If

Wilde were only alive to see you.

7

Drawing back and pointing, Stephen said with bitterness:

--It is a symbol of Irish art. The cracked lookingglass of a servant.

Buck Mulligan suddenly linked his arm in Stephen's and walked with him

round the tower, his razor and mirror clacking in the pocket where he had

thrust them.

--It's not fair to tease you like that, Kinch, is it? he said kindly. God

knows you have more spirit than any of them.

Parried again. He fears the lancet of my art as I fear that of his. The cold

steel pen.

--Cracked lookingglass of a servant. Tell that to the oxy chap down-//stairs

and touch him for a guinea. He's stinking with money and thinks

you're not a gentleman. His old fellow made his tin by selling jalap to Zulus

or some bloody swindle or other. God, Kinch, if you and I could only

work together we might do something for the island. Hellenise it.

Cranly's arm. His arm.

--And to think of your having to beg from these swine. I'm the only

one that knows what you are. Why don't you trust me more? What have

you up your nose against me? Is it Haines? If he makes any noise here I'll

bring down Seymour and we'll give him a ragging worse than they gave

Clive Kempthorpe.

Young shouts of moneyed voices in Clive Kempthorpe's rooms. Pale-//faces:

they hold their ribs with laughter, one clasping another, O, I shall

expire! Break the news to her gently, Aubrey! I shall die! With slit ribbons

of his shirt whipping the air he hops and hobbles round the table, with

trousers down at heels, chased by Ades of Magdalen with the tailor's shears.

A scared calf's face gilded with marmalade. I don't want to be debagged! Don't

you play the giddy ox with me!

Shouts from the open window startling evening in the quadrangle. A

deaf gardener, aproned, masked with Matthew Arnold's face, pushes his mower

on the sombre lawn watching narrowly the dancing motes of grasshalms.

To ourselves ... new paganism ... omphalos.

--Let him stay, Stephen said. There's nothing wrong with him except at

night.

--Then what is it? Buck Mulligan asked impatiently. Cough it up. I'm

quite frank with you. What have you against me now?

They halted, looking towards the blunt cape of Bray Head that lay on the

water like the snout of a sleeping whale. Stephen freed his arm quietly.

8

--Do you wish me to tell you? he asked.

--Yes, what is it? Buck Mulligan answered. I don't remember anything.

He looked in Stephen's face as he spoke. A light wind passed his brow,

fanning softly his fair uncombed hair and stirring silver points of anxiety in his

eyes.

Stephen, depressed by his own voice, said:

--Do you remember the first day I went to your house after my mother's

death?

Buck Mulligan frowned quickly and said:

--What? Where? I can't remember anything. I remember only ideas and

sensations. Why? What happened in the name of God?

--You were making tea, Stephen said, and I went across the landing to

get more hot water. Your mother and some visitor came out of the drawing

room. She asked you who was in your room.

--Yes? Buck Mulligan said. What did I say? I forget.

--You said, Stephen answered, <i>O, it's only Dedalus whose mother is

beastly dead</i>.

A flush which made him seem younger and more engaging rose to Buck

Mulligan's cheek.

--Did I say that? he asked. Well? What harm is that?

He shook his constraint from him nervously.

--And what is death, he asked, your mother's or yours or my own?

You saw only your mother die. I see them pop off every day in the Mater

and Richmond and cut up into tripes in the dissecting room. It's a beastly

thing and nothing else. It simply doesn't matter. You wouldn't kneel down

to pray for your mother on her deathbed when she asked you. Why? Because

you have the cursed jesuit strain in you, only it's injected the wrong way.

To me it's all a mockery and beastly. Her cerebral lobes are not functioning.

She calls the doctor Sir Peter Teazle and picks buttercups off the quilt.

Humour her till it's over. You crossed her last wish in death and yet you sulk

with me because I don't whinge like some hired mute from Lalouette's.

Absurd! I suppose I did say it. I didn't mean to offend the memory of your

mother.

He had spoken himself into boldness. Stephen, shielding the gaping wounds

which the words had left in his heart, said very coldly:

--I am not thinking of the offence to my mother.

--Of what, then? Buck Mulligan asked.

9

--Of the offence to me, Stephen answered.

Buck Mulligan swung round on his heel.

--O, an impossible person! he exclaimed.

He walked off quickly round the parapet. Stephen stood at his post, gazing

over the calm sea towards the headland. Sea and headland now grew dim.

Pulses were beating in his eyes, veiling their sight, and he felt the fever of his

cheeks.

A voice within the tower called loudly:

--Are you up there, Mulligan?

--I'm coming, Buck Mulligan answered.

He turned towards Stephen and said:

--Look at the sea. What does it care about offences? Chuck Loyola,

Kinch, and come on down. The Sassenach wants his morning rashers.

His head halted again for a moment at the top of the staircase, level with

the roof:

--Don't mope over it all day, he said. I'm inconsequent. Give up the

moody brooding.

His head vanished but the drone of his descending voice boomed out or

the stairhead:

<i>And no more turn aside and brood</i>

<i>Upon love's bitter mystery</i>

<i>For Fergus rules the brazen cars.</i>

Woodshadows floated silently by through the morning peace from the

stairhead seaward where he gazed. Inshore and farther out the mirror of

water whitened, spurned by lightshod hurrying feet. White breast of the dim

sea. The twining stresses, two by two. A hand plucking the harpstrings merg-//ing

their twining chords. Wavewhite wedded words shimmering on the dim

tide.

A cloud began to cover the sun slowly, shadowing the bay in deeper

green. It lay behind him, a bowl of bitter waters. Fergus' song: I sang it

above in the house, holding down the long dark chords. Her door was open:

she wanted to hear my music. Silent with awe and pity I went to her bedside.

She was crying in her wretched bed. For those words, Stephen: love's bitter

mystery.

Where now?

10

Her secrets: old feather fans, tassled dancecards, powdered with musk, a

gaud of amber beads in her locked drawer. A birdcage hung in the sunny

window of her house when she was a girl. She heard old Royce sing in the

pantomine of Turko the terrible and laughed with others when he sang:

<i>I am the boy</i>

<i>That can enjoy</i>

<i>Invisibility.</i>

Phantasmal mirth, folded away: muskperfumed.

<i>And no more turn aside and brood.</i>

Folded away in the memory of nature with her toys. Memories beset

his brooding brain. Her glass of water from the kitchen tap when she had

approached the sacrament. A cored apple, filled with brown sugar, roasting

for her at the hob on a dark autumn evening. Her shapely fingernails reddened

by the blood of squashed lice from the children's shirts.

In a dream, silently, she had come to him, her wasted body within its

loose graveclothes giving off an odour of wax and rosewood, her breath bent

over him with mute secret words, a faint odour of wetted ashes.

Her glazing eyes, staring out of death, to shake and bend my soul. On me

alone. The ghostcandle to light her agony. Ghostly light on the tortured

face. Her hoarse loud breath rattling in horror, while all prayed on their knees.

Her eyes on me to strike me down. <i>Liliata rutilantium te confessorum turma

circumdet: iubilantium te virginum chorus excipiat.</i>

Ghoul! Chewer of corpses!

No, mother. Let me be and let me live.

--Kinch ahoy!

Buck Mulligan's voice sang from within the tower. It came nearer up the

staircase, calling again. Stephen, still trembling at his soul's cry, heard warm

running sunlight and in the air behind him friendly words.

--Dedalus, come down, like a good mosey. Breakfast is ready. Haines is

apologising for waking us last night. It's all right.

--I'm coming, Stephen said, turning.

--Do, for Jesus' sake, Buck Mulligan said. For my sake and for all our

sakes.

11

His head disappeared and reappeared.

--I told him your symbol of Irish art. He says it's very clever. Touch

him for a quid, will you? A guinea, I mean.

--I get paid this morning, Stephen said.

--The school kip? Buck Mulligan said. How much? Four quid? Lend

us one.

--If you want it, Stephen said.

--Four shining sovereigns, Buck Mulligan cried with delight. We'll have

a glorious drunk to astonish the druidy druids. Four omnipotent sovereigns.

He flung up his hands and tramped down the stone stairs, singing out of

tune with a Cockney accent:

<i>O, won't we have a merry time,</i>

<i>Drinking whisky, beer and wine,</i>

<i>On coronation</i>

<i>Coronation day?</i>

<i>O, won't we have a merry time</i>

<i>On coronation day?</i>

Warm sunshine merrying over the sea. The nickel shavingbowl shone,

forgotten, on the parapet. Why should I bring it down? Or leave it there all

day, forgotten friendship?

He went over to it, held it in his hands awhile, feeling its coolness,

smelling the clammy slaver of the lather in which the brush was stuck. So I

carried the boat of incense then at Clongowes. I am another now and yet the

same. A servant too. A server of a servant.

In the gloomy domed livingroom of the tower Buck Mulligan's gowned

form moved briskly about the hearth to and fro, hiding and revealing its yellow

glow. Two shafts of soft daylight fell across the flagged floor from the high

barbacans: and at the meeting of their rays a cloud of coalsmoke and fumes of

fried grease floated, turning.

--We'll be choked, Buck Mulligan said. Haines, open that door, will you?

Stephen laid the shavingbowl on the locker. A tall figure rose from the

hammock where it had been sitting, went to the doorway and pulled open the

inner doors.

--Have you the key? a voice asked.

--Dedalus has it, Buck Mulligan said. Janey Mack, I'm choked.

12

He howled without looking up from the fire:

--Kinch!

--It's in the lock, Stephen said, coming forward.

The key scraped round harshly twice and, when the heavy door had been

set ajar, welcome light and bright air entered. Haines stood at the doorway,

looking out. Stephen haled his upended valise to the table and sat down to

wait. Buck Mulligan tossed the fry on to the dish beside him. Then he carried

the dish and a large teapot over to the table, set them down heavily and sighed

with relief.

--I'm melting, he said, as the candle remarked when ... But hush. Not a

word more on that subject. Kinch, wake up. Bread, butter, honey. Haines, come

in. The grub is ready. Bless us, O Lord, and these thy gifts. Where's the

sugar? O, jay, there's no milk.

Stephen fetched the loaf and the pot of honey and the buttercooler from

the locker. Buck Mulligan sat down in a sudden pet.

--What sort of a kip is this? he said. I told her to come after eight.

--We can drink it black, Stephen said. There's a lemon in the locker.

--O, damn you and your Paris fads, Buck Mulligan said. I want

Sandycove milk.

Haines came in from the doorway and said quietly:

--That woman is coming up with the milk.

--The blessings of God on you, Buck Mulligan cried, jumping up from

his chair. Sit down. Pour out the tea there. The sugar is in the bag. Here, I

can't go fumbling at the damned eggs. He hacked through the fry on the dish

and slapped it out on three plates, saying:

--<i>In nomine Patris et Filii et Spiritus Sancti.</i>

Haines sat down to pour out the tea.

--I'm giving you two lumps each, he said. But, I say, Mulligan, you

do make strong tea, don't you?

Buck Mulligan, hewing thick slices from the loaf said in an old woman's

wheedling voice:

--When I makes tea I makes tea, as old mother Grogan said. And when I

makes water I makes water.

--By Jove, it is tea, Haines said.

Buck Mulligan went on hewing and wheedling:

--<i>So I do, Mrs Cahill,</i> says she. <i>Begob, ma'am,</i> says Mrs Cahill, <i>God send

you don't make them in the one pot</i>.

13

He lunged towards his messmates in turn a thick slice of bread, impaled

on his knife.

--That's folk, he said very earnestly, for your book, Haines. Five lines

of text and ten pages of notes about the folk and the fishgods of Dundrum.

Printed by the weird sisters in the year of the big wind.

He turned to Stephen and asked in a fine puzzled voice, lifting his

brows:

--Can you recall, brother, is mother Grogan's tea and water pot spoken

of in the Mabinogion or is it in the Upanishads?

--I doubt it, said Stephen gravely.

--Do you now? Buck Mulligan said in the same tone. Your reasons,

pray?

--I fancy, Stephen said as he ate, it did not exist in or out of the

Mabinogion. Mother Grogan was, one imagines, a kinswoman of Mary Ann.

Buck Mulligan's face smiled with delight.

--Charming, he said in a finical sweet voice, showing his white teeth

and blinking his eyes pleasantly. Do you think she was? Quite charming.

Then, suddenly overclouding all his features, he growled in a hoarsened

rasping voice as he hewed again vigorously at the loaf:

--<i>For old Mary Ann</i>

<i>She doesn't care a damn.</i>

<i>But, hising up her petticoats</i> ...

The doorway was darkened by an entering form.

--The milk, sir.

--Come in, ma'am, Mulligan said, Kinch, get the jug.

An old woman came forward and stood by Stephen's elbow.

--That's a lovely morning, sir, she said. Glory be to God.

--To whom? Mulligan said, glancing at her. Ah, to be sure.

Stephen reached back and took the milkjug from the locker.

The islanders, Mulligan said to Haines casually, speak frequently of the

collector of prepuces.

--How much, sir? asked the old woman.

--A quart, Stephen said.

He watched her pour into the measure and thence into the jug rich white

14

milk, not hers. Old shrunken paps. She poured again a measureful and a tilly.

Old and secret she had entered from a morning world, maybe a messenger.

She praised the goodness of the milk, pouring it out. Crouching by a

patient cow at daybreak in the lush field, a witch on her toadstool, her wrinkled

fingers quick at the squirting dugs. They lowed about her whom they knew,

dewsilky cattle. Silk of the kine and poor old woman, names given her in old

times. A wandering crone, lowly form of an immortal serving her conqueror

and her gay betrayer, their common cuckquean, a messenger from the secret

morning. To serve or to upbraid, whether he could not tell: but scorned to

beg her favour.

--It is indeed, ma'am, Buck Mulligan said, pouring milk into their cups.

--Taste it, sir, she said.

He drank at her bidding.

--If we could only live on good food like that, he said to her somewhat

loudly, we wouldn't have the country full of rotten teeth and rotten guts.

Living in a bogswamp, eating cheap food and the streets paved with dust,

horsedung and consumptives' spits.

--Are you a medical student, sir? the old woman asked.

--I am, ma'am, Buck Mulligan answered.

Stephen listened in scornful silence. She bows her old head to a voice that

speaks to her loudly, her bonesetter, her medicineman: me she slights. To the

voice that will shrive and oil for the grave all there is of her but her woman's

unclean loins, of man's flesh made not in God's likeness the serpent's prey. And

to the loud voice that now bids her be silent with wondering unsteady eyes.

--Do you understand what he says? Stephen asked her.

--Is it French you are talking, sir? the old woman said to Haines.

Haines spoke to her again a longer speech, confidently.

--Irish, Buck Mulligan said. Is there Gaelic on you?

--I thought it was Irish, she said, by the sound of it. Are you from

west, sir?

--I am an Englishman, Haines answered.

--He's English, Buck Mulligan said, and he thinks we ought to speak

Irish in Ireland.

--Sure we ought to, the old woman said, and I'm ashamed I don't

speak the language myself. I'm told it's a grand language by them that knows.

--Grand is no name for it, said Buck Mulligan. Wonderful entirely. Fill

us out some more tea, Kinch. Would you like a cup, ma'am?

15

--No, thank you, sir, the old woman said, slipping the ring of the

milkcan on her forearm and about to go.

Haines said to her:

--Have you your bill? We had better pay her, Mulligan, hadn't we?

Stephen filled again the three cups.

--Bill, sir? she said, halting. Well, it's seven mornings a pint at two

pence is seven twos is a shilling and twopence over and these three mornings a

quart at fourpence is three quarts is a shilling and one and two is two and two, sir.

Buck Mulligan sighed and having filled his mouth with a crust thickly

buttered on both sides, stretched forth his legs and began to search his trouser

pockets.

--Pay up and look pleasant, Haines said to him smiling.

Stephen filled a third cup, a spoonful of tea colouring faintly the thick

rich milk. Buck Mulligan brought up a florin, twisted it round in his fingers

and cried:

--A miracle!

He passed it along the table towards the old woman, saying:

--Ask nothing more of me, sweet. All I can give you I give.

Stephen laid the coin in her uneager hand.

--We'll owe twopence, he said.

--Time enough, sir, she said, taking the coin. Time enough. Good

morning, sir.

She curtseyed and went out, followed by Buck Mulligan's tender chant:

--<i>Heart of my heart, were it more,</i>

<i>More would be laid at your feet.</i>

He turned to Stephen and said:

--Seriously, Dedalus. I'm stony. Hurry out to your school kip and bring

us back some money. Today the bards must drink and junket. Ireland expects

that every man this day will do his duty.

--That reminds me, Haines said, rising, that I have to visit your

national library today.

--Our swim first, Buck Mulligan said.

He turned to Stephen and asked blandly:

--Is this the day for your monthly wash, Kinch?

Then he said to Haines:

--The unclean bard makes a point of washing once a month.

16

--All Ireland is washed by the gulfstream, Stephen said as he let honey

trickle over a slice of the loaf.

Haines from the corner where he was knotting easily a scarf about the

loose collar of his tennis shirt spoke:

--I intend to make a collection of your sayings if you will let me.

Speaking to me. They wash and tub and scrub. Agenbite of inwit.

Conscience. Yet here's a spot.

--That one about the cracked lookingglass of a servant being the symbol

of Irish art is deuced good.

Buck Mulligan kicked Stephen's foot under the table and said with

warmth of tone:

--Wait till you hear him on Hamlet, Haines.

--Well, I mean it, Haines said, still speaking to Stephen. I was just

thinking of it when that poor old creature came in.

--Would I make money by it? Stephen asked.

Haines laughed and, as he took his soft grey hat from the holdfast of

the hammock, said:

--I don't know, I'm sure.

He strolled out to the doorway. Buck Mulligan bent across to Stephen

and said with coarse vigour:

--You put your hoof in it now. What did you say that for?

--Well? Stephen said. The problem is to get money. From whom?

From the milkwoman or from him. It's a toss up, I think.

--I blow him out about you, Buck Mulligan said, and then you come

along with your lousy leer and your gloomy jesuit jibes.

--I see little hope, Stephen said, from her or from him.

Buck Mulligan sighed tragically and laid his hand on Stephen's arm.

--From me, Kinch, he said.

In a suddenly changed tone he added:

--To tell you the God's truth I think you're right. Damn all else they

are good for. Why don't you play them as I do? To hell with them all. Let

us get out of the kip.

He stood up, gravely ungirdled and disrobed himself of his gown, saying

resignedly:

--Mulligan is stripped of his garments.

He emptied his pockets on to the table.

--There's your snotrag, he said.

17

And putting on his stiff collar and rebellious tie, he spoke to them, chid-//ing

them, and to his dangling watchchain. His hands plunged and rummaged

in his trunk while he called for a clean handkerchief. Agenbite of inwit. God,

we'll simply have to dress the character. I want puce gloves and green boots.

Contradiction. Do I contradict myself? Very well then, I contradict myself.

Mercurial Malachi. A limp black missile flew out of his talking hands.

--And there's your Latin quarter hat, he said.

Stephen picked it up and put it on. Haines called to them from the

doorway:

--Are you coming, you fellows?

--I'm ready, Buck Mulligan answered, going towards the door. Come

out, Kinch. You have eaten all we left, I suppose. Resigned he passed out

with grave words and gait, saying, wellnigh with sorrow:

--And going forth he met Butterly.

Stephen, taking his ashplant from its leaningplace, followed them out

and, as they went down the ladder, pulled to the slow iron door and locked it.

He put the huge key in his inner pocket.

At the foot of the ladder Buck Mulligan asked:

--Did you bring the key?

--I have it, Stephen said, preceding them.

He walked on. Behind him he heard Buck Mulligan club with his heavy

bathtowel the leader shoots of ferns or grasses.

--Down, sir. How dare you, sir.

Haines asked:

--Do you pay rent for this tower?

--Twelve quid, Buck Mulligan said.

--To the secretary of state for war, Stephen added over his shoulder.

They halted while Haines surveyed the tower and said at last:

--Rather bleak in wintertime, I should say. Martello you call it?

--Billy Pitt had them built, Buck Mulligan said, when the French were

on the sea. But ours is the <i>omphalos</i>.

--What is your idea of Hamlet? Haines asked Stephen.

--No, no, Buck Mulligan shouted in pain. I'm not equal to Thomas

Aquinas and the fiftyfive reasons he has made to prop it up. Wait till I have a

few pints in me first.

He turned to Stephen, saying as he pulled down neatly the peaks of his

primrose waistcoat:

18

--You couldn't manage it under three pints, Kinch, could you?

--It has waited so long, Stephen said listlessly, it can wait longer.

--You pique my curiosity, Haines said aimiably. Is it some paradox?

--Pooh! Buck Mulligan said. We have grown out of Wilde and

paradoxes. It's quite simple. He proves by algebra that Hamlet's grandson is

Shakespeare's grandfather and that he himself is the ghost of his own father.

--What? Haines said, beginning to point at Stephen. He himself?

Buck Mulligan slung his towel stolewise round his neck and, bending in

loose laughter, said to Stephen's ear:

--O, shade of Kinch the elder! Japhet in search of a father!

--We're always tired in the morning, Stephen said to Haines. And it is

rather long to tell.

Buck Mulligan, walking forward again, raised his hands.

--The sacred pint alone can unbind the tongue of Dedalus, he said.

--I mean to say, Haines explained to Stephen as they followed, this

tower and these cliffs here remind me somehow of Elsinore. <i>That beetles o'er

his base into the sea,</i> isn't it?

Buck Mulligan turned suddenly for an instant towards Stephen but did

not speak. In the bright silent instant Stephen saw his own image in cheap

dusty mourning between their gay attires.

--It's a wonderful tale, Haines said, bringing them to halt again.

Eyes, pale as the sea the wind had freshened, paler, firm and prudent.

The seas' ruler, he gazed southward over the bay, empty save for the

smokeplume of the mailboat, vague on the bright skyline, and a sail tacking

by the Muglins.

--I read a theological interpretation of it somewhere, he said bemused.

The Father and the Son idea. The Son striving to be atoned with the Father.

Buck Mulligan at once put on a blithe broadly smiling face. He looked at

them, his wellshaped mouth open happily, his eyes, from which he had

suddenly withrawn all shrewd sense, blinking with mad gaiety. He moved a

doll's head to and fro, the brims of his Panama hat quivering, and began to

chant in a quiet happy foolish voice:

--<i>I'm the queerest young fellow that ever you heard.</i>

<i>My mother's a jew, my father's a bird.</i>

<i>With Joseph the joiner I cannot agree,</i>

<i>So here's to disciples and Calvary.</i>

19

He held up a forefinger of warning.

--<i>If anyone thinks that I amn't divine</i>

<i>He'll get no free drinks when I'm making the wine</i>

<i>But have to drink water and wish it were plain</i>

<i>That I make when the wine becomes water again.</i>

He tugged swiftly at Stephen's ashplant in farewell and, running forward

to a brow of the cliff, fluttered his hands at his sides like fins or wings of one

about to rise in the air, and chanted:

--<i>Goodbye, now, goodbye. Write down all I said</i>

<i>And tell Tom, Dick and Harry I rose from the dead.</i>

<i>What's bred in the bone cannot fail me to fly</i>

<i>And Olivet's breezy ... Goodbye, now, goodbye.</i>

He capered before them down towards the fortyfoot hole, fluttering his

winglike hands, leaping nimbly, Mercury's hat quivering in the fresh wind

that bore back to them his brief birdlike cries.

Haines, who had been laughing guardedly, walked on beside Stephen and

said:

--We oughtn't to laugh, I suppose. He's rather blasphemous. I'm not

a believer myself, that is to say. Still his gaiety takes the harm out of it

somehow, doesn't it? What did he call it? Joseph the Joiner?

--The ballad of Joking Jesus, Stephen answered.

--O, Haines said, you have heard it before?

--Three times a day, after meals, Stephen said drily.

--You're not a believer, are you? Haines asked. I mean, a believer in

the narrow sense of the word. Creation from nothing and miracles and a

personal God.

--There's only one sense of the word, it seems to me, Stephen said.

Haines stopped to take out a smooth silver case in which twinkled a green

stone. He sprang it open with his thumb and offered it.

--Thank you, Stephen said, taking a cigarette.

Haines helped himself and snapped the case to. He put it back in his

sidepocket and took from his waistcoatpocket a nickel tinderbox, sprang it

20

open too, and, having lit his cigarette, held the flaming spunk towards Stephen

in the shell of his hands.

--Yes, of course, he said, as they went on again. Either you believe or

you don't, isn't it? Personally I couldn't stomach that idea of a personal God.

You don't stand for that, I suppose?

--You behold in me, Stephen said with grim displeasure, a horrible

example of free thought.

He walked on, waiting to be spoken to, trailing his ashplant by his side.

Its ferrule followed lightly on the path, squealing at his heels. My familiar,

after me, calling Steeeeeeeeeeeephen. A wavering line along the path. They will

walk on it tonight, coming here in the dark. He wants that key. It is mine, I

paid the rent. Now I eat his salt bread. Give him the key too. All. He will

ask for it. That was in his eyes.

--After all, Haines began ...

Stephen turned and saw that the cold gaze which had measured him was

not all unkind.

--After all, I should think you are able to free yourself. You are your

own master, it seems to me.

--I am the servant of two masters, Stephen said, an English and an

Italian.

--Italian? Haines said.

A crazy queen, old and jealous. Kneel down before me.

--And a third, Stephen said, there is who wants me for odd jobs.

--Italian? Haines said again. What do you mean?

--The imperial British state, Stephen answered, his colour rising, and

the holy Roman catholic and apostolic church.

Haines detached from his underlip some fibres of tobacco before he spoke.

--I can quite understand that, he said calmly. An Irishman must think like

that, I daresay. We feel in England that we have treated you rather unfairly.

It seems history is to blame.

The proud potent titles clanged over Stephen's memory the triumph of

their brazen bells: <i>et unam sanctam catholicam et apostolicam ecclesiam:</i> the

slow growth and change of rite and dogma like his own rare thoughts, a

chemistry of stars. Symbol of the apostles in the mass for pope Marcellus, the

voices blended, singing alone loud in affirmation: and behind their chant the

vigilant angel of the church militant disarmed and menaced her heresiarchs. A

horde of heresies fleeing with mitres awry: Photius and the brood of mockers

21

of whom Mulligan was one, and Arius, warring his life long upon the

consubstantiality of the Son with the Father, and Valentine, spurning Christ's

terrene body, and the subtle African heresiarch Sabellius who held that the

Father was Himself His own Son. Words Mulligan had spoken a moment

since in mockery to the stranger. Idle mockery. The void awaits surely all

them that weave the wind: a menace, a disarming and a worsting from those

embattled angels of the church, Michael's host, who defend her ever in the

hour of conflict with their lances and their shields.

Hear, hear. Prolonged applause. <i>Zut! Nom de Dieu!</i>

--Of course I'm a Britisher, Haine's voice said, and I feel as one. I

don't want to see my country fall into the hands of German jews either.

That's our national problem, I'm afraid, just now.

Two men stood at the verge of the cliff, watching: businessman,

boatman.

--She's making for Bullock harbour.

The boatman nodded towards the north of the bay with some disdain.

--There's five fathoms out there, he said. It'll be swept up that way

when the tide comes in about one. It's nine days today.

The man that was drowned. A sail veering about the blank bay waiting

for a swollen bundle to bob up, roll over to the sun a puffy face, salt white.

Here I am.

They followed the winding path down to the creek. Buck Mulligan stood

on a stone, in shirtsleeves, his unclipped tie rippling over his shoulder. A

young man clinging to a spur of rock near him, moved slowly frogwise his

green legs in the deep jelly of the water.

--Is the brother with you, Malachi?

--Down in Westmeath. With the Bannons.

--Still there? I got a card from Bannon. Says he found a sweet young

thing down there. Photo girl he calls her.

--Shapshot, eh? Brief exposure.

Buck Mulligan sat down to unlace his boots. An elderly man shot up

near the spur of rock a blowing red face. He scrambled up by the stones,

water glistening on his pate and on its garland of grey hair, water rilling over

his chest and paunch and spilling jets out of his black sagging loincloth.

Buck Mulligan made way for him to scramble past and, glancing at

Haines and Stephen, crossed himself piously with his thumbnail at brow and

breastbone.

22

--Seymour's back in town, the young man said, grasping again his

spur of rock. Chucked medicine and going in for the army.

--Ah, go to God, Buck Mulligan said.

--Going over next week to stew. You know that red Carlisle girl,

Lily?

--Yes.

--Spooning with him last night on the pier. The father is rotten with

money.

--Is she up the pole?

--Better ask Seymour that.

--Seymour a bleeding officer, Buck Mulligan said.

He nodded to himself as he drew off his trousers and stood up, saying

tritely:

--Redheaded women buck like goats.

He broke off in alarm, feeling his side under his flapping shirt.

--My twelfth rib is gone, he cried. I'm the <i>Uebermensch.</i> Toothless

Kinch and I, the supermen.

He struggled out of his shirt and flung it behind him to where his

clothes lay.

--Are you going in here, Malachi?

--Yes. Make room in the bed.

The young man shoved himself backward through the water and reached

the middle of the creek in two long clean strokes. Haines sat down on a stone,

smoking.

--Are you not coming in, Buck Mulligan asked.

--Later on, Haines said. Not on my breakfast.

Stephen turned away.

--I'm going, Mulligan, he said.

--Give us that key, Kinch, Buck Mulligan said, to keep my chemise

flat.

Stephen handed him the key. Buck Mulligan laid it across his heaped

clothes.

--And twopence, he said, for a pint. Throw it there.

Stephen threw two pennies on the soft heap. Dressing, undressing. Buck

Mulligan erect, with joined hands before him, said solemnly:

--He who stealeth from the poor lendeth to the Lord. Thus spake

Zarathustra.

23

His plump body plunged.

--We'll see you again, Haines said, turning as Stephen walked up the

path and smiling at wild Irish.

Horn of a bull, hoof of a horse, smile of a Saxon.

--The Ship, Buck Mulligan cried. Half twelve.

--Good, Stephen said.

He walked along the upwardcurving path.

<i>Liliata rutilantium.</i>

<i>Turma circumdet.</i>

<i>Jubilantium te virginum.</i>

The priest's grey nimbus in a niche where he dressed discreetly. I will

not sleep here tonight. Home also I cannot go.

A voice, sweettoned and sustained, called to him from the sea. Turning

the curve he waved his hand. It called again. A sleek brown head, a seal's, far

out on the water, round.

Usurper.