

# The Athenian Mercury:

Saturday, June 6. 1691.

Quest. 1. **S**ince in your last Advertisement, you insinuate that the Coffee-houses must take in 12 Numbers by

the Lump, to compleat their first Volume,—  
Query—Of what Use or Interest will it be to them more than the single ones of the second Volume?

Ans. Which of the Coffee-houses this Question comes from, from that populous one of Mans, to the last that set up this Morning, I know not; nor am I, or any of our Society, so fit to answer this, as the Interested Bookseller — Resolved Nemine Contradicente, That he be taken into the Number to day, though we expel him again to Morrow — Thus then by his Advice —

1. The longer the Parcel is, the longer the Reckoning.

2. Those Coffee-houses where Gentlemen enquire for 'em, or the whole Set, may be furnished either from their Correspondent Hawkers, or from Mr. Baldwin the Publisher, probably to their Advantage; for to our Knowledge (the Bookseller is one of us) that one of those Coffee-houses we frequent will make a considerable Advantage by a great many Sets bespoke, as well as by the Confluence of their Customers.

3. That all those Gentlemen, which to our Knowledge are not a few, when they come into a Coffee-house, and not finding the Mercury there, go out again to seek it elsewhere, will by taking in this Supplement of the first Volume be accommodated without further search, and spend their Moneys where they find it.

4. It will send several New Customers to Coffee-houses, to search among such a Multitude of Questions, whether there may be a Solution for any Doubt, Trouble, or Curiosity that they labour under, (or to any Questions they have already sent in) as there is no Person that is satisfied in all things.

5. That those who send in Questions will come two or three times to look for an Answer, we having many, and therefore without great partiality cannot limit a Day.

6. That the Generous Lovers (who spend liberally) will throng the Coffee-houses every first Tuesday in the Month to read the Female Questions.

7. That the Youth will learn to be sober, and drink Coffee, on purpose to make use of these Opportunities, which will make 'em Disputants, and fit Company for their Seniors.

Well, Mr. Bookseller, We think you've said enough — The Coffee-houses must see their Interest by this time, and if so, 'tis needless to use Arguments with those Persons to Undertake any thing, that have resolv'd upon it

already — Away to your Counter again, there's a Coffee-man waits for a dozen Sets of your Athenian Mercury.

Quest. 2. Being some Years since in France, I was shewn this Experiment by an Eminent Physician, viz. A Condemn'd Prisoner that was begg'd had an Orifice made in his Arm, through which he bled till he was just ready to expire, at which time a tame Animal bled by a Pipe into his Jugular-Vein, which took this Effect, he recovered his Life, and lived in a more full strength of Body than before; this trial was made on him, when in Years, and yet he returned to the Vigour of his Youth —

Query — Whether this might be done with safety, and whether it might not be beneficial to the Publick?

Ans. The Story of Medea's restoring her Aged Father-in-Law, notwithstanding the Poet seems to be particular in quite contrary Ingredients, might (if true) have its rise from such an Experiment; several certain Instances of this Nature are upon Record, if they had been as common in Plato's days, it would have spoil'd the Doctrine of Transmigration of Souls, to see a Man continue humane, and act rationally in an Animals Blood. The Story of the Physician is very pleasant, who pretended an Experiment of this Nature with a Transfusion of Calves Blood, till the Party cry'd Bah. England and France have severally claim'd the Honour of this Invention, but the Controversie might have lain still; for there is a Book published at Rome by an Italian, wherein is mention'd that Libanius had exactly described this Experiment of Transfusion long before either England or France heard of it. There are some Instances of this Nature mention'd in the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society — But after all, how this may be done with safety, or how it might be a Benefit to the Publick, I see not, since those many Experiments of Prisoners, Mad-men and Animals, have been with such different Successes.

Quest. 3. I once met with a Man that had been at the Top of Tenariff, (whose Head is above the Clouds) he staid there some days, and never felt nor perceiv'd a Breath of Wind, when at the same time there were continual Gales below; the Clouds he could always see under him, when sometimes the People below could not see the least Cloud or Wrinkle in the Face of Heaven — What is the Reason of the Difference in the Optick Vertue of the Eye in this Case?

Ans. The Visual Power of the Optick Nerve is dazzled through abundance of Light; as for Instance, in the Heat of Summer, and in a clear Day there is not a Cloud to be seen to interpose betwixt us and the Surface of the Sky, when upon the same Day towards Sun-

setting



setting there are multitudes of Clouds to be seen; from this Reason it is, that the Person upon *Tenariff* might discern the Clouds, his Eye terminating upon a dark Body, the Earth, or at least looking *Obliquely* towards the Hemisphere, where the *Medium of Visuality* is always most proper, when those below the Mountain had no Darknels to temper the redundancy of Light, but lost it in the Transparency of the Sky. This *Tenariff* is now supposed to be the highest Place in the World, mounting its Perpendicular above seven English Miles.

Quest. 4. *What's the Reason that two Persons are never alike in Face and other Proportions?*

Ans. Chiefly from two Reasons: The first, an *Inequality of Complexions* or Dispositions of Parents: The second, *A dissimilitude of informing Organs*. We shall pass over the Power of Imagination, since such Instances are extraordinary; here's one Mother *Flegmatick*, another *Cholerick*, &c. one is less, and another is bigger; one eats this Dyet, another that, when 'tis well known that the Nourishments of Meats are according to their quality: Some hot, some cold, some indifferent, some a second, third or fourth Degree of Heat or Cold; the different Postures of sleeping, and millions of other *unthought Accidents* must needs have their Effects in *Disparity of Productions*; but was a Woman and her Husband to be always of an *equal Constitution*, both as to their Body and Passions, at the *Act of Generation*, and shou'd the Mother after Conception always eat the same Dyet, use the same Motion of Body, the same time for sleep, and so in every thing else, her Children wou'd be very like, as is evident in the *Case of Twins*, which wou'd also be yet liker, if the Mothers Posture in sleeping did not hinder; for in the time of sleep, the *Sensitive and Animal Parts* are more powerful in their Effects than at other times, (which by the by, the Reason why Nature gives to Children such a Necessity of Sleeping,) — This Similitude of Birth may by unequal Climates, Dyet, Labour, &c. alter two Twins, as we see Men alter in two or three Years from what they were. This Similitude of Lineaments and Personage is very often accompanied with *Mutual Kindness, Pain, Sleep, &c.* tho' at a distance, as is remarkable in two Twins, Sons of *Tho. Tremain* in *Devonshire, Esq;* (See *Fuller's Worthies*, p. 266.) who sometimes by a private Confederacy wou'd exchange Habits for Mirth, and act such Mistakes as were never thought of in the *Amphitruo* of *Plautus*.

Quest. 5. *Whether we may safely conclude or not, that a Child quick'ned in the Womb, and yet dying before its Birth, is capable of the Rewards or Punishments of a Future State?*

Ans. Yes, 'Tis not the continuance of a Soul's Operation in its Organs, but the reality of its Operation there, which determines the Question; and that the Soul is suppos'd to be really there, is evident from the Effects, viz. *Life and Motion*.

Quest. 6. *What Members might Humane*

*Nature be depriv'd of, as not absolutely necessary, and yet be supposed to exist?*

Ans. The Doctors say, without the Spleen, dismember'd of Arms and Legs, disarticulated, without Eyes, Nose, Teeth, Lips, Chin, Ears, Tongue, without part of his Scull, Shoulders, Buttocks, &c. which have been by many Instances found not absolutely necessary for existence: and no doubt but Nature would desire a protraction of its existence under worse inconveniencies: A remarkable Instance we have in a *Turkish Punishment*, viz. The Criminal has a strong *Bow-string* put about his middle, with some Persons at each end to pull it, the standers by prick the Sides of the Party with Pins, Needles, or such like sharp Instruments, whereby (and the others pulling) he is contracted into a very small Compass; and when the Executioners think it at the smallest, some one amongst them takes a keen Scimiter, and with one blow separates the Body in two; and immediately taking the upper part, places it upon a broad Iron, heated for that purpose, which sears the Wound, and stanches the Blood, in which posture the Party having his Intestines whole will live a very considerable time: And it has been observed, that when the Mercy stroke (as the *Turks* call it) is giving to the Wretch, he will move his Head, and (as much as may be) his Body from it, *chusing rather that torment than Death*, altho' he must be satisfied of the necessity of his speedy Death.

## Advertisements.

Next Monday, being the 8th. of this Instant June, will be finish'd all the 12 Numbers that complet our First Volume, which shall then be Publish'd all together, with a Preface and Index to it, which said Preface, Index, and 12 Numbers, shall be but Twelve Pence price, that so all those Gentlemen that took in the single Sheets from time to time, may have their Volume entire for 2 s. 6d. And also that those Coffee-houses that did the like may then have the whole First Volume stich'd up by them, for the constant Entertainment of their Customers, single Sheets being apt to be lost, except pasted in the Book.

We hope at the end of our First Volume we have given general Satisfaction to all our Reasonable Querists; but if for want of room, through over-sight, or otherwise we have omitted the Resolution of any Question worth our answering, upon fresh notice given by the Inquirers, they may expect an answer to their full satisfaction either in our weekly Papers, or at the Conclusion of our Second Volume, which shall be publish'd (that we may oblige all our Querists) as soon as ever we have received Questions enough to fill it up; but forbear sending any more Questions till we give publick Notice we have dispatch'd all those already on our hands.

\* \* We design to add a general Title, Preface and Index to every Volume, (as we have to this first) and at the end of every twelve Months to draw an Alphabetical Table for the whole Year, that so those Gentlemen that keep by them the several Volumes, or single Papers that are publish'd from time to time, may then bind them up all together, and by the help of the said Alphabetical Table presently find any Subject or Question they have a mind to consult.

||| The Question sent us this Week, viz. Whether there is any Hopes of Salvation for them that Murther themselves? is answered (and we hope to the Querists full satisfaction) at the End of our first Volume.