

THE ZEUGMATIC

AUTO-DETECTING SHAKESPEARE'S RHETORICAL FIGURES

MICHAEL @ULLYOT, UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

RICHARD III

RICHARD'S SELF-RECRIMINATION

My conscience hath a thousand **several tongues**,

And **every tongue** brings in a **several tale**,

And **every tale** condemns me for a villain.

AS YOU LIKE IT

TOUCHSTONE'S SPECIOUS ACCUSATION

Why, if **thou never** wast at court, **thou never** sawest
good manners; if **thou never** sawest **good manners**,
then thy **manners** must be wicked; and wickedness is
sin, and **sin** is damnation.

JOHN LYLY, *EUPHUES: THE ANATOMY OF WIT* (1578)

EUPHUISM

This young gallant, of more wit than wealth, and yet of more wealth than wisdom, seeing himself inferior to none in pleasant conceits, thought himself superior to all in honest conditions, insomuch that he deemed himself so apt to all things that he gave himself almost to nothing, but practicing of those things commonly which are incident to these sharp wits: fine phrases, smooth quipping, merry taunting, using jesting without mean and abusing mirth without measure. As, therefore, the sweetest rose hath its prickle, the finest velvet its brack, the fairest flour its bran, so the sharpest wit hath his wanton will, and the holiest head his wicked way. And true it is that some men write and most men believe, that in all perfect shapes, a blemish bringeth rather a liking every way to the eyes, than a loathing any way to the mind. Venus had her mole in her cheek, which made her more amiable; Helen her scar on her chin, which Paris called *cos amoris*, the whetstone of love; Aristippus his wart; Lycurgus his wen: so likewise, in the disposition of the mind, either virtue is overshadowed with some vice, or vice overcast with some virtue. Alexander, valiant in war, yet given to wine. Tully eloquent in his glosses, yet vainglorious: Solomon wise, yet too, too wanton: David holy, but yet an homicide: none more witty than Euphues, yet at the first none more wicked.

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@thezeugmatic

ullyot@ucalgary.ca