

Werk

Titel: Il. As stars with trains of fire

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Ort: Weimar

Jahr: 1880

PURL: https://resolver.sub.uni-goettingen.de/purl?338281509_0015|log28

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II. As stars with trains of fire.

Die Hamlet Quarto 1604 bringt die obige berühmte Stelle in folgender Fassung:

(Die hier unten in margine stehenden Zahlen entsprechen der Zählung in der Globe ed:)

- In the most high and palmy state of Rome,
A little ere the mightiest Julius fell*
115 *The graues stood tennatlesse, and the sheeted dead
Did squeake and gibber in the Roman streets
As starres with traines of fier, and dewes of blood
Disasters in the sunne; and the moyst starre
Vpon whose influence Neptunes Empier stands,*
120 *Was sicke almost to doomesday with eclipse.
And euen the like precurse of feare euent
As harbindgers preceeding still the fates
And prologue to the Omen comming on
Haue heauen and earth together demonstrated*
125 *Vnto our Climatures and countrymen.*

Da diese Stelle bekanntlich weder in der Quarto 1603, noch in der Fol. steht, so ist die obige Form die einzige, welche uns hier als Anhaltspunkt gegeben wird.

Ferner lesen wir im Julius Cäsar (Fol.) I, 3:

- 15 *A common flauie, you know him well by sight,
Held vp his left Hand, which did flame and burne
Like twentie Torches ioyn'd; and yet his Hand,
Not sensible of fire, remain'd vnscorch'd.
Besides, I ha' not since put vp my Sword,*
20 *Against the Capitoll I met a Lyon,
Who glaz'd vpon me, and went surly by,
Without annoying me. And there were drawne
Vpon a heape, a hundred gastly Women,
Transformed with their feare, who swore, they saw*
25 *Men, all in fire, walke vp and downe the streetes.
And yesterday, the Bird of Night did sit,
Euen at Noone-day, vpon the Market place,*

und Julius Cæsar (Fol.) II, 2.

- A Lionnesse hath whelped in the streets,
And Graues haue yawn'd, and yeelded vp their dead;
Fierce fiery Warriours fight vpon the Clouds*

20 *In Rankes and Squadrons, and right forme of Warre
Which drizzled blood vpon the Capitoll:
The noise of Battell hurtled in the Ayre:
Horses do neigh, and dying men did grone,
And Ghosts did shriek and squeale about the streets.*

Das sind die Sätze, welche von den Texterklärern zusammengestellt werden, wenn es sich um die Beantwortung der Frage dreht, ob zwischen Vers 116 und 117 eine Zeile fehle, oder ob der Text in 118 corrumpt sei. Neben vielen Emendatoren, welche den Fehler in Zeile 118 suchten (auch ich habe hier in Emendationen gesündigt und bin dafür gegeißelt worden) und dem entsprechend den Text 'verbesserten', war Malone der Erste, welcher den Verdacht hegte, daß eine Zeile verloren sein könne. Er sagt: *'When Sh. had told us that the 'graves stood tenantless', etc. which are wonders, confined to the earth, he naturally proceeded to say (in the line now lost) that yet other prodigies appeared in the sky.* Ihm schließt sich Singer in seiner 2. Ausgabe conjecturirend an, ebenso Boaden und Moberly. Am gründlichsten wurde diese Form der Erklärung in der Clarendon edition behandelt, wo wir nämlich eine einschlägige Stelle des Plutarch (Julius Cæsar) angeführt finden; aber sie giebt nicht alles Material, läßt sogar einen wichtigen Theil desselben fort und versucht auch nicht, die verlorene Zeile neu zu bilden. Vielleicht rücken wir der Lösung etwas näher, wenn wir auf diesem Wege systematischer verfahren.

Shakespeare hat hier wiederum, wie so oft, seine Quelle fast wörtlich benutzt, und so wären wir vielleicht berechtigt, aus dem Vorhandenen auf das Fehlende zu schliessen. In Plutarch finden wir Folgendes (ich citire nach der Ausgabe von 1595):

pag. 787, Zeile 40 ff.

For, touching the fires in the element, and spirites running vp and downe in the night, and also the solitary birdes to be seene at noone dayes fitting in the great market place that diuers men were seene going vp and downe in fire: and furthermore, that there was a slaue of the souldiers, that did cast a maruellous burning flame out of his hand, insomuch as they that saw it, thought he had bene burnt, but when the fire was out, it was found he had no hurt

pag. 790, Zeile 41 ff.

Againe, of signs in the element, the great comet which seuen nights together was seene very bright after Cæsars death, the eight night after was neuer seene more. Also the brightnes of the sun was darkened

Ich werde nun in schematischer Uebersicht zusammenstellen, was aus dem Plutarch in den Shakespeare übergegangen ist:

Zelle	Hamlet.	Zelle	Julius Cæsar.	pag.	Zeile	Plutarch.
115	<i>The graves flood tennatleffe, and the sheeted dead Did squeake and gibber in the Roman streets</i>	18	<i>And Graues haue yawn'd, and yeelded vp their dead; And Ghofts did shriek and squeale about the streets.</i>	787	41	<i>and spirites running vp and downe in the night, the great comet</i>
117	<i>As starres with traines of fier, and dewes of blood</i>	21	<i>Which drizzled blood vpon the Capitoll:</i>	790	41	<i>Also the brightnes of the sun was darkened.</i>
118	<i>Disasters in the sunne; and the moist starre Vpon whose influence Neptunes Empier stands, Was sicke almost to doome/day with eclipse.</i>	15	<i>A common slaue, you know him well by fight, Held vp his left Hand, which did flame and burne Like twentie Torches ioyn'd; and yet his Hand, Not sensible of fire, remain'd vn/corck'd. Who swore, they saw Men, all in fire, walke vp and downe the streets. And yesterday, the Bird of Night did sit, Euen at Noone-day, vpon the Market place</i>	790	41	<i>. . . which, seuen nights together was, seene very bright after Cæsar's death, the eight night after was neuer seene more. and furthermore, that there was a floue of the souldiers, that did cast a maruelous burning flame out of his hand, insomuch as they that saw it, thought he had bene burnt, but when the fire was out, it was found he had no hurt. that diuers men were seene going vp and downe in fire: and also the solitary birdes to be seene at noone dayes sitting in the great market place.</i>

Stellen wir nun zusammen, was Shakespeare aus dem Plutarch benutzt hat, so ergibt sich folgendes Resultat:

Plutarch pag. 787. *For, touching the fires in the element, and spirites running vp and downe in the night, and also the solitary birdes to be seene at noone dayes sitting in the great market place.... that diuers men were seene going vp and downe in fire: and furthermore that there was a flaue of the fouldiers, that did cast a maruellous burning flame out of his hand, infomuch as they that saw it, thought he had bene burnt, but when the fire was out, it was found he had no hurt....*

Plutarch pag. 790. *Again of signs in the element, the great comet which seuen nights together was seene uery bright after Caefars death, the eight night after was neuer seene more. Also the brightnes of the sun was darkened....*

In dem hier wiederholten Texte ist alles durch den stärkeren Druck Hervorgehobene im Shakespeare vertreten, und es bleibt demnach als nicht verwendet nur Folgendes übrig:

pag. 787. *For touching the fires in the element*

pag. 790. *Againe, of signs in the element*

Wir werden also berechtigt sein vorauszusetzen, daß eine dem Obigen ähnliche Form den Inhalt der verlorenen Zeile gebildet habe; und wenn wir sehen, daß die hier oben unter pag. 790 angeführte Zeile sich in folgender Weise durch die nächsten Worte ergänzt:

Againe, of signs in the element, the great comet

während die andere unter pag. 787 davorstehende, gleichsam als erklärende Zuthat für das Wort *comet* die Bezeichnung *fires* bringt, so dürfen wir vermuthen, da Zeile 117 im Hamlet von dem Kometen spricht

As starres with traines of fier,

daß die fehlende Zeile, dem vorausgehend, von dem *element* gesprochen habe, und würden also vielleicht nicht zu viel wagen, wenn wir, der Quellenform uns so treu wie möglich anschließend, von Zeile 115 an Folgendes für den Shakespearetext vorschlägen:

The graves stood tenantless and the sheeted dead

Did squeak and gibber in the Roman streets;

Ev'n in the element above were signs,

oder [*Ev'n in the element were dreadful signs,*]

As stars with trains of fire.....

Der deutsche Text — in der Schlegel-Uebersetzung — würde sich der neuen Form leicht anschließen. Bisher lauteten die Worte: