



Handout #2 p.1 – excerpt from the chapter *Ordering of Sonnes from Fourteene Yeare Old and Upward*

178 **Begin reading here** *Ordering of sonnes*

Parents ought to teach their sons to auoide quarrelling and fighting.

At this place I could afford to make an ende of the first part of the Christian parents office, which is the necessary and wise education of children till marriage : but that one thing commeth to my minde, which I haue singled out, because I see much mischeife commeth thereupon : which is a kinde of childish brauerie, whereupon many doe stand in this our age, and so vpward: and these be the words of our young bloods; *I will offer no man wrong or disgrace, but if any be offered to me I will not put it up: I will not take wrong at any mans hand.* **Stop** This they take to be the honour and reputation of a man, and namely of a gentleman, that the least touch or word, which seemeth to carrie any disgrace, they be readie to stab, or to challenge into the field. And if through anger one chance to say, thou liest; or touch his cheek with the backe of his hand; this is taken in such scorne, that there is no way of pacification or reconciliation, but by the sacrifice of death, either one or both must die, or at the least they hazard their liues in a wicked combate. So little is the price of a mans life in our daies, and so great is the pride and wrath of vaine and foolish men; so that many a brane gentleman is cast away without cause and vnnecessarily. *Vul- gus animos ammiratur, &c.* The common people (saith *Seneca*) admire couragious gentlemen, and they that are bold are honoured, but quiet men are counted cowards. This is so perhaps at the first sight, yet when an equall life doth make them dis- cerne and beleue, that it is not the cowardlinesse of.

A vile disence, men giuen ouer to anger and reuenge.

de ira lib.3.



Handout #2 p.2

186

Gentlemen are
doe like the
men renowned
for valour.

Ordering of sonnes **Begin here**

subiect to every slaue? To whom I answer; he is a
slaue which is intralld into his owne anger; but
gentlemen are called, *gens d'armes*, men that beare
armes; and therefore let them read the historie of
Iulius Caesar in his Commentaries, and they shall
finde, that he beeing a man of armes, and very va-
liant, would not alway fight when he was prouo-
ked, no though his souldiers called him coward,
but when it might be most safe for him and his ar-
my, and most honourable in the issue: so if our
gentlemen would consider when they ought to
fight, what indeed belongeth to their honour, and
what a lamentable issue commeth of such rash,
venturous, and beastly fighting, there would not
be one of fīue hundred to mourne for the casting
away of their sonne, or of their friend. I remem-
ber I haue heard it reported among wise men, that
in the Court in *Queene Elizabeths* time, of blessed
memory, there was a sober staied gentleman a
Courtier, who went in and out as his place requi-
red with his sword by his side, but he medled with
no man, and gaue no occasion of brawle: on a
time a couple of lustie bloods would needs trie if
he were not a coward, and set vpon him with their
swords drawn; when he saw there was no remedy,
he drew vpon them, shewed the valour of a quiet
man, driving them both before him like a couple
of sheepe: so if Parents would instruct their chil-
dren to quiet meeknes, and to abstaine from quar-
rels, and quarrelling company; and vnderhand
arme them with skill & courage to defend them-
selues,

End of excerpt