

leper shut up in a pesthouse, rankleth to himself, infects not others. A wild cannibal in a prison may only exercise his savage cruelty upon the stone walls or iron gates. But the tongue is so placed, that being evil and unruly, it hurts all the members.

2. To our neighbours. There are some sins that hurt not the doer only, but many sufferers. These are distinctly the sins of the tongue and the hand. There are other sins, private and domestic, the sting and smart whereof die in the soul; and without farther extent, plague only thy own soul; and without farther extent, plague only the person of the committer. So the lavish is called no man's foe but his own: the proud is guilty of his own vanity; the slothful bears his own reproach: and the malicious wasteth the marrow of his own bones, while his envied object shines in happiness. Though perhaps these sins insensibly wrong the commonwealth, yet the principal and immediate blow lights on themselves. But some iniquities are swords to the country, as oppression, rapine, circumvention; some incendiaries to the whole land, as evil and unruly tongues.

3. To the whole world. If the vastate ruins of ancient monuments; if the depopulation of countries; if the consuming fires of contention; if the land manured with blood had a tongue to speak, they would all accuse the tongue for the original cause of their woe. Slaughter is a lamp, and blood the oil; and this is set on fire by the tongue.

You see the latitude and extent of this unruly evil, more unruly than the hand. Slaughters, massacres, oppressions, are done by the hand; the tongue doth more. *Parcit manus absenti, lingua nemini*: The hand spares to hurt the absent; the tongue hurts all. One may avoid the sword by running from it; not the tongue, though he run to the Indies. The hand reacheth but a small compass; the tongue goes through the world. If a man wore coat of armour or mail of brass, yet *penetrabunt spicula lingue*: the darts of the tongue will pierce it.

It is evil, and doth much harm; it is unruly, and doth sudden harm. You will say, many wicked men have often