it can be quoted here almost in its entirety: "Venus is not male ("His deawy face"),
is not associated with the sea, and does not 'reare,' but rather appears
dehicacally." Mr. Campbell identifies the "faire Starre" with "Phoebus, the sun, whose
home is, as Spenser says elsewhere, 'within the western fome' (Epithala-
mion 283). Phoebus is both male and blond, and rises from the sea."

Of the three reasons for disqualifying Venus, the second and third may be dis-
misssed quickly. Though the planet Venus may not traditionally be associated with the sea,
when the sun is viewed rising from the sea, Venus is seen preceding it:

"When Venus appears west of the sun, she rises before him in the morning, and is
called the morning-star" (Encyclopaedia Britannica, 1771, I, 436, drawing its information
from James Ferguson, Astronomy Explained upon Sir Isaac Newton's
Principles, 1756). As to the planet's dehlicial movement, even astronomers described it
as rising, as the above quotation shows'

On the other hand, as Mr. Campbell points out, Spenser's use of the masculine pronoun to
refer to the "faire Starre" apparently rules out the planet Venus,
which seems always to be referred to in the feminine, when its gender is mentioned at all
However, the morning star is also frequently identified with Lucifer, who is
masculine. Mark Akenside (The Pleasures of Imagination, 1744, I, 148-50) writes,

More lovely than when Lucifer displays
His beaming forehead through the gates of morn, To
lead the train of Phoebus and the spring.

Citations in the OED (under Lucifer) from Chaucer, Wyclif, and Milton reinforce this
identification. This is not to say that Spenser had Lucifer in mind, but it
does show that there is precedent for using the masculine pronoun to refer to the morning
star It is possible, in fact, that Spenser may have had in mind neither masculine nor
feminine but neuter in using his, because this pronoun was used frequently to refer
neutrally to inanimate objects (e.g., "if the salt have lost his savor"), a practice which
seems to have affinity with personification (OED, his, 3).

The most serious objection to Mr' Campbell's own identification of the "faire Starre"
with Phoebus, the sun, lies in the word "messenger": the "faire Starre"
comes as a messenger of the morning and therefore precedes the actual arrival of
the sun. In another place in The Faerie Queene (1'12.21), Spenser writes of Una's entering
As bright as doth the morning starre appeare Out of
the East, with flaming locks bedight, To tell that
dawning day is drawing neare.

Milton, in "Song: On May Morning," writes,
Now the bright morning Star, Day's harbinger,
Comes dancing from the East.

Kyd's THE SPANISH TRAGEDY 3.6.89-94

Hiero. I have not seen a wretch so impudent,
O monstrous times where murders set so light,
And where the soul that should be shrin'd in heauen,
Solely delights in interdicted things,
Still wandering in the thornie passages,
That intercepts it selfe of hapines.

These lines are here quoted from the sole surviving copy of The Spanish Tragedy
(1592), now in the British Library (shelf-mark C.34.d.7). They have proved puzzling to
modern editors, and a possible "emendation" has been mentioned. I believe, on the
contrary, that the lines make perfect sense as they stand, provided we realize that the
punctuation marks serve to indicate rhetorical pauses rather than syntactical breaks.

The passage can perhaps defensively be modernized as follows:

Hieronimo. I have not seen a wretch so impudent!
O monstrous times, where murder's set so light;
And where the soul that should be shrin'd in heaven
Solely delights in interdicted things,
Still wandering in the thornie passages
That intercepts itself of happiness.

In what many would see as the standard edition of our times, that by Philip Edwards
(London: Methuen, 1959), line 94 is explained as "presumably 'which prevent it (the
soul) from attaining happiness'. Since the construction is so clumsy it is impossible to
know whether intercepts is a correct or incorrect singular, or a rare plural-form."

A later editor, J. R. Mulryne (London: Benn, 1970), comments: "A more natural
construction would arise if 'That' were a misprint for 'And', making 'soul' the subject of
'intercepts'; there are, however, no grounds for emendation."

If there are no grounds for emendation, one wonders how Mulryne wishes us to interpret the
connection between line 94 and the remainder of the passage. Does
Caesar often declares this love (11.1159-60, II.i.24-25, 111.139-41, 111.159-61, III.i.87-88), and even displays it, once with a kiss (III.i.66) and once with tears: Enobarbus. "Will Caesar weep?" Agrippa. "He has a cloud in's face" (III.i.51). Yet the drama presents problems with accepting these signs of love at face value. For example, if Caesar loves Octavia, why does he sacrifice her to his political machinations by marrying her to a man whom he has described as "th' abstract of all faults" (Liv.9)? When she returns unexpectedly to Rome, why does he initially greet her with hostility (III.i.40), and complain that her unannounced arrival has "prevented The ostentation of our love, which left unshown Is often left unlolv'd" (III.i.51-53)? Can Caesar love only when prepared for public ceremony? Why, a moment later, does Caesar inform Octavia of Antony's desertion in a manner calculated to wound her feelings (III.i.64-69)? These incidents cause the audience to question Caesar's devotion. Moreover, crediting Caesar with brotherly affection would skew the brilliant and otherwise consistent contrast Shakespeare builds between Caesar as cold and calculating and Antony as passionate and impulsive.

Perhaps, then, Shakespeare intends the audience to doubt Caesar's signs of love—his declarations, his kiss, and his tears. Words and kisses may, of course, always be doubted, but tears seem to bespeak sincerity, and this may be the underlying reason for Antony's crocodile speech in its second definition of the term, the Oxford English Dictionary states that "the crocodile was fabulously said to weep ... to allure a man for the purpose of devouring him ...; hence many allusions in literature," and notes that Maundeville describes deceitful crocodile tears as early as 1400.2

Shakespeare refers to the crocodile three times, first in II Henry VI: "Gloucester's show Beguiles him, as the mournful crocodile With sorrow snares relenting passengers" (III.i.226); next in Othello: "If that the earth could teem with womans tears, Each drop she falls, would prove a crocodile" (IV.i.246-247); and last in Antony and Cleopatra. In the first two references, Shakespeare obviously associates the crocodile with a hypocritical display of sorrow. In the last, he does not explicitly state the association, but he does emphasize the image of the crocodile's tears by placing it at the end of the description and by making this part of the description the only part that Antony offers of his own accord rather than in response to a question. Inasmuch as both Shakespeare and his audience were apparently well aware of the metaphorical content of this image, it seems improbable that Shakespeare would emphasize the image without intending to remind the audience of hypocritical tears.

Yet Shakespeare not only reminds the audience of hypocritical displays of sorrow, he also directs the association toward Caesar. To accomplish this, Shakespeare keeps Caesar silent in the scene until Antony mentions the crocodile's tears at line 50, then has Caesar break his silence to deliver a line of insignificant content, or which could have been delivered by Enobarbus, Menas, or Pompey, and

Shakespeare's ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA

Lepidus. What manner o' thing is your crocodile?  
Antony. It is shap'd, sir, like itself, and it is as broad as it hath breadth. It is just so high as it is, and it moves with its own organs' It lives by that which nourisheth it, and, the elements once out of it, it transmigrates. Lepidus. What color is it of?  
Antony. Of its own color too.  
Lepidus. 'Tis a strange serpent.  
Antony."'Tis so. And the tears of it are wet.  
Caesar"Will this description satisfy him? (II.vii.42-51)

Ostensibly, Antony's crocodile speech in II.vii of Antony and Cleopatra mocks Lepidus, but within this jest lurk a cutting criticism of Caesar and a clue to interpreting Caesar's paraded love for Octavia.


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