



The Flea

by John Dunne

Canadian (in Black) vs. RP (in Blue)

mɑ:k bʌt ðɪs fli ənd mɑ:k ɪn ðɪs
mak bʌt ðɪs fli ənd mak ɪn ðɪs
MARK but this flea, and mark in this,

haʊ lɪtl̩ ðæt wɪtʃ ðəʊ dənai.əst mi ɪz
haʊ lɪtl̩ ðæt wɪtʃ ðəʊ dɪ'naɪ.ɪst mi ɪz
How little that which thou deniest me is ;

ɪt sʌkt mi fɜ:st ənd naʊ sʌks ði
ɪt sʌkt mi fɜ:st ənd naʊ sʌks ði
It suck'd me first, and now sucks thee,

ænd ɪn ðɪs fli ə tu blʌdz mɪŋgɫd bi
ænd ɪn ðɪs fli ə tu blʌdz mɪŋgɫd bi
And in this flea our two bloods mingled be.

ðəʊ nəʊst ðæt ðɪs kənɒt bi sed
ðəʊ nəʊst ðæt ðɪs 'kænɒt bi sed
Thou know'st that this cannot be said

ə sɪn nɔː ʃeɪm nɔː lɒs əv meɪdənhed
ə sɪn nɔ ʃeɪm nɔ lɒs əv meɪdənhed

A sin, nor shame, nor loss of maidenhead ;

jet ðɪs ɛndʒɔɪz bɛfɔə ɪtʰ wu
jet ðɪs ɪndʒɔɪz bɪfɔ_ɪtʰ wu

Yet this enjoys before it woo,

ænd pæmpərd swelz wɪθ wʌn blʌd meɪd əv tu
ænd pæmpəd swelz wɪθ wʌn blʌd meɪd əv tu

And pamper'd swells with one blood made of two ;

ænd ðɪs ə'læs ɪz mɔː ðən wɪ wʊd du
ænd ðɪs ə'læs ɪz mɔː ðən wɪ wʊd du

And this, alas ! is more than we would do.

ou steɪ θri laɪvz ɪn wʌn fli spɛə
əu steɪ θri laɪvz ɪn wʌn fli spɛː

O stay, three lives in one flea spare,

wɛə wɪ ɔlmʊst ʒeɪ mɔː ðən 'mɛə.ɪd ə
wɛː wɪ ɔlmʊst ʒeɪ mɔː ðən 'mæ.ɪd ɑː

Where we almost, yea, more than married are.

ðɪs fli ɪz ju ɛnd aɪ ɛnd ðɪs
ðɪs fli ɪz ju ɛnd aɪ ɛnd ðɪs

This flea is you and I, and this

ɑː mɛə.ɪdʒ bɛd ɛnd mɛə.ɪdʒ tɛmpəl ɪz
ɑː mæ.ɪdʒ bɛd ɛnd mæ.ɪdʒ tɛmpəl ɪz

Our marriage bed, and marriage temple is.

ðʊ pɛə.ɪənts ɡɹʌdʒ ɛnd ju wɪə mɛt
ðʊ pɛə.ɪənts ɡɹʌdʒ ɛnd ju wɪə mɛt

Though parents grudge, and you, we're met,

ɛndʰ kloɪstəd ɪn ðɪz lɪvɪŋ wɔlz əv dʒɛt
ɛndʰ kloɪstəd ɪn ðɪz lɪvɪŋ wɔlz əv dʒɛt

And cloister'd in these living walls of jet.

ðʊ jus meɪk ju æpt tə kɪl mi
ðʊ jus meɪk ju æpt tə kɪl mi

Though use make you apt to kill me,

lɛt nɒt tə ðæt self mɜːdə ædəd bi
lɛt nɒt tʊ ðæt self mɜd ædɪd bi

Let not to that self-murder added be,



ænd sækɹələɪdʒ θɹi sɪnz ɪŋ kɪlɪŋ θɹi
ænd sækɹələɪdʒ θɹi sɪnz ɪn kɪlɪŋ θɹi
And sacrilege, three sins in killing three.

kɹuəl ænd sʌdən hæst ðəʊ sɪnz
kɹuəl ænd sʌdən hæst ðəʊ sɪnz
Cruel and sudden, hast thou since

pɜːpʃd ðaɪ neɪl ɪn blʌd əv ˈɪnəsəns
pɜːpʃd ðaɪ neɪl ɪn blʌd əv ˈɪnəsəns
Purpled thy nail in blood of innocence?

wɛə.ɪn kʊd ðɪs flɪ ɡɪltɪ bɪ
wɛ.ɪn kʊd ðɪs flɪ ɡɪltɪ bɪ
Wherein could this flea guilty be,

əksept ɪn ðæt drɒp wɪtʃ ɪt slʌkt frəm ðɪ
ɪksept ɪn ðæt drɒp wɪtʃ ɪt slʌkt frəm ðɪ
Except in that drop which it suck'd from thee?

jet ðəʊ tɹaɪəmfst ænd seɪst ðæt ðəʊ
jet ðəʊ tɹaɪəmfst ænd seɪst ðæt ðəʊ
Yet thou triumph'st, and say'st that thou

fʌndst nɒt ðaɪself nɔː mi ðə wɪkə nəʊ
fʌndst nɒt ðaɪself nɔː mi ðə wɪkə nəʊ
Find'st not thyself nor me the weaker now.

tɪz tɹu ðen lɜːn haʊ fəls frɪz bɪ
tɪz tɹu ðen lɜːn haʊ fəls frɪz bɪ
'Tis true ; then learn how false fears be ;

dʒʌst səʊ mʌtʃ ənə wen ðəʊ jɪldst tə mi
dʒʌst səʊ mʌtʃ ɒnə wen ðəʊ jɪldst tə mi
Just so much honour, when thou yield'st to me,

wɪl weɪst əz ðɪs flɪz dɛθ tʊk laɪf frəm ðɪ
wɪl weɪst əz ðɪs flɪz dɛθ tʊk laɪf frəm ðɪ
Will waste, as this flea's death took life from thee.



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IPA

This week's letter features a comparison between a Canadian version and a Received Pronunciation version of John Donne's *The Flea*.

Though Canadian is well known for having *Canadian Raising* on [aʊ] and [aɪ] when they're followed by a voiceless consonant, this text features neither of those sounds! Go through and see if you can spot all the differences between the two speech forms.

As always, you can contact me by email at <earmstro@yorku.ca>