

Care-charming sleep

Poem by John Fletcher

Robert Johnson

The musical score is presented in a system of seven systems, each containing a vocal line and a lute tablature line. The tablature uses letters (a, b, c, d, e, f, g) and numbers (1-4) to indicate fret positions on the strings. The vocal line includes notes, rests, and ornaments, with some notes marked with 'p' for plectrum. Measure numbers 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35 are indicated in boxes. The piece concludes with a double bar line and the number 6.

"The Tragedy of Valentinian" (1614) deals with the vengeance of Maximus, a general under Valentinian III, for the dishonour of his wife by the emperor, and her suicide. A dense web of intrigue and treachery results in the slow death of Valentinian by poisoning (to the accompaniment of the well-known lyric 'Care charming sleep'), and the subsequent death of Maximus, poisoned, again to musical accompaniment, by the widowed empress Eudoxa, as he is inaugurated as Valentinian's successor.