

# The true reporte of the forme and

shape of a monstrous childe, borne at Duchehorkelesse, a village thre  
myles from Colchester, in the Countye of Essex, the .xxi. Daye  
of Apryll in this yeare. 1562.

O, praye ye God and  
blesse his name



His mightye hande hath  
wrought the same,

**H**is monstrous world that monsters breeds as  
As men tofore it bred by natie kinde (rise  
By birthes that shewe corrupted natures strife  
Declares what finnes beset the secrete minde.

I meane not this as though deformed shape  
were alwayes linked with fraughted minde with vice  
But that in nature god such draughtes doth shape  
Resemblyng finnes that so bin had in price,

So grossest faultes blast out in bodyes forme  
And monster caused of want or to much store  
Of matter, shewes the sea of sinne: whose store  
Drownes and whelms vertues barren shore.

faulte alike in ebbe and eke in flowd,  
Like distaunt both from meane, both like extreames.  
Yet greatt excesse the want of meane doth shrowde  
And want of meane excesse from vertues meanes.

So contrayest extreames consent in sinne  
which to be way to blindest eyes by syght  
Beholde a calfe hath clapt about his chinne  
His chauborne rest whence nature placed it right.

And rudd bynes doutfull seers to proue by speache  
Them selues not calues, and makes the fashion stale,  
In him behold by excesse from meane our breache  
And midds excesse yet want of natures shape.

To shewe our misse beholde a guiltlesse babe  
Rest of his limmes (for such is vertues want)  
Him selfe and parentes both infamous made  
With sinful byrth: and yet a worldlyng scant.  
Feares midwifes route: bewrayeng his parentes fault  
In want of honestye and excesse of sinne.  
Made lawfull by all lawes of man, yet halt  
Of limmes by God, seayd not the shamefull marke  
Of bastard sonne in bastard shape descryed.

Wetter farre better vngyuen were his lyfe  
Than geuen so. For nature iust enuyed  
Her gyft to hym: and cropd wyth mayning knyfe  
His limmes, to wreake her spyte on parentes sinne,  
which, if she spare vnwares so many scapes  
As wycked world to breede wil neuer linn  
Theyr liues declare theyr mains saued frd their shapes

Scorchd in theyr mindes (o cruel priuie mayme  
That festreth styll, o vnrrecured soze)  
Where thothers quiting wyth theyr bodyes shame  
Theyr parentes guilt, oft linger not theyr lyues  
In lothed shapes but naked flye to skyes.  
As this may do whose forme tofore thine eyes  
Throug want thou seest, a monstrous vglye shape  
Whom frendly world to sinne doth terme a scape.



**O**n Tursday being the .xxi. day of Apryll, in this yeare of our Lorde God a  
thousand fyue hundred thre score and two, there was borne a man childe  
of this maymed forme at Duchehorkelesse in Essex, a village about thre  
myles from Colchester, betwene a naturall father and a naturall mother  
hauing neyther hande, foote, legge, nor arme, but on the left syde it hath a  
Stumpe growynge out of the shoulder, and the ende thereof is rounde,  
and not so long as it should go to the elbowe, and on the ryghte syde no  
mencion of any thing where any arme should be, but a litel stumpe of one ynche in length, al-  
so on the left buttocke there is a stumpe comming out of the length of the thygh almost to the  
knee, and round at the ende, and groweth something ouerthwart towarde the place where  
the ryght legge should be, and where the ryghte legge should be, there is no mencion of anye  
legge or stumpe. Also it hath a Codde and stones but no yearde, but a lytell hole for the water  
to issue out. Finallye it hath by estimation no tounge, by reason whereof it sucketh not, but is  
succoured wyth liquide substance put into the mouth by dropes, and nowe begynneth to  
forde wyth paype beyng very well fauoured, and of good and cheareful face.

The aforesayde Anthony Smyth of Duchehorkelesse husbandman and his wyfe, were  
both maryed to ochers before, and haue had dryers chyldren, but this deformed childe is the  
first that the sayd Anthony and his wyfe had betwene them two, it is a man chyld. This  
chyld was begot out of matrimony, but borne in matrimonye. And at the makynge hereof  
was liuing, and like to continue.

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