

**Landesbibliothek Oldenburg**

**Digitalisierung von Drucken**

**Original Poems And Translations, By John Dryden, Esq;  
Now First Collected and Publish'd together, In Two  
Volumes**

Containing Poems on several Occasions

**Dryden, John**

**London, 1743**

To Mr. Dryden, on his Religio Laici.

**urn:nbn:de:gbv:45:1-1525**

10 VERSES in Praise of Mr. DRYDEN.

To Mr. DRYDEN, on his RELIGIO LAICI.

**T**Hose Gods the pious Ancients did adore,  
 They learnt in Verse devoutly to implore,  
 Thinking it rude to use the common way  
 Of Talk, when they did to such Beings pray.  
 Nay, they that taught Religion first, thought fit  
 In Verse its sacred Precepts to transmit :  
 So *Solon* too did his first Statutes draw,  
 And every little Stanza was a Law.  
 By these few Precedents we plainly see  
 The Primitive Design of Poetry ;  
 Which by restoring to its Native use,  
 You generously have rescu'd from abuse.  
 Whilst your lov'd Muse does in sweet Numbers sing,  
 She vindicates her God, and Godlike King.  
 Atheist, and Rebel too, She does oppose ;  
 (God and the King have always the same Foes.)  
 Legions of Verse you raise in their Defence,  
 And write the Factious to Obedience ;  
 You the bold *Arian* to Arms defy,  
 A conqu'ring Champion for the Deity  
 Against the Whigs first Parents, who did dare  
 To disinherit God-Almighty's Heir.  
 And what the hot-brain'd *Arian* first began,  
 Is carried on by the *Socinian*,  
 Who still associates to keep God a Man.  
 But 'tis the Prince of Poets Task alone  
 T' assert the Rights of God's and *Charles's* Throne.  
 Whilst vulgar Poets purchase vulgar Fame  
 By chaunting *Chloris'* or fair *Phillis'* Name ;  
 Whose Reputation shall last as long,  
 As Fops and Ladies sing the amorous Song.