

# *My Mind to Me a Kingdom Is*

Dow Partbooks (Christ Church, Oxford MSS 984-988)

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

Superius

Medius

Contratenor

Tenor

Bassus

My mynde to me a king- dom is

5

such per- fect joy ther- in I finde, that it ex- cells all

10

o- ther bliss that god or na- ture hath as- sinde: tho much I

15

want that most men have yet stil my mynde for-bids to crave

20

tho much I want that most men have

25

yet stil my mynd for-bids to crave yet stil my mynd for-bids to crave.

Additional Lyrics from *Psalmes, Sonets, & songs of sadnes and pietie* (1588)

1. My minde to me a kingdome is,  
such perfect joy therin I find,  
That it excells all other blisse,  
which God or Nature hath assign'd  
Though much I want, that most would have,  
yet still my mind forbids to crave.

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2. No princely port nor welthie store,  
no force to winne a victorie,  
no wily wit to salve a sore,  
no shape to winne a loving eye:  
to none of these I yeld as thrall,  
for why my minde despise them all.

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3. I see that plentie surfeits oft,  
and hastie clymbers soonest fall:  
I see hat such as are a loft,  
mishap doth threaten most of all:  
these get with toyle and keepe with feare,  
such cares my minde can never beare.

4. I presse to beare no haughtie sway,  
I wish no more then may suffice:  
I doe no more than well I may,  
look what I want my minde supplies,  
loe thus I triumph like a King,  
my minde content with any thing.

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5. I laugh not at anothers losse,  
nor grudge not at anothers gaine:  
no worldly waves my minde can tosse,  
I brooke that is anothers bane:  
I feare no foe nor nor fawne on friend,  
I loth not lyfe nor dread mine end.

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6. My wealth is health and perfecte ease,  
and conscience cleere my chiefe defence,  
I never seeke by brybes to please,  
nor by desert to give offence:  
thus doe I live, thus will I dye,  
would all did so as well as I.