

The Testimony of John Doone concerning his Supercare Wife and faithful York
fellowe Hannah Doone as in the Simplicity of Truth it arose and was spoken
amongst Friends when met together to accompany her Body to the Ground
at the house of their deare friends John and Mary Eton at the Steele ma-
ing Place Lond^o the 2^d 12th Mo^o 1677

My Dear Friends for so I can truly call you The desire of my heart is that every mind may sink
downe inwardly that as you may feele Yee may taste and may truly savour that which a-
rises from the Lords begetting for I can in truth say it truly sprung in my heart
this day although I may in some sense truly declare that my naturalls have been
ruen as dissolved in this weighty exercise in this deep and very neare reuel with my
heavenly Fathers Desire hath been to procure me who now hath seen good to gather to
himselfe into everlasting rest that which he alone hath prepared and fitted for himselfe out
of that earthly tabernacle which now I must leave behinde as once the thing sprang in her
that shee must stay behinde her Husband.

Now must I know that earthly tabernacle to be loved amongst many of the Lords Bonhis
amongst his Valiants and amongst his tents. Forbes many of which wee have seen & we
rejoiced with for these many years and I know not any place from my outward being
could have been such satisfaction to me as with you at this time and I find my selfe
having this opportunity weightily concerned to testify a little of the abundance that is in
my heart concerning my deare and tenderly beloved Wife to whose charge I have not any
thing to say since I first enjoyed her Company

To declare a little to you my Friends to ease my heart in this matter when I first heard of her
to fore I knew her face a true love was begotten in my heart towards her because of the
love of God that lived in her and that from her child hood she sought after heavenly
things whose face when I did behold it as I may say it was outwardly beautiful and am-
-rable and so hath it continued unto me and to all that truly know her shee was very
zealous for the Lord in what shee knew in that day and from the first cleaving with the
thing I declared unto her shee hath been truly faithful unto me until her last breath
as I have often heard her say the resolution of her heart and the bent of her spirit was
altogether to be subject unto me in all things which for convenience sake shee could doe

But after the Lords Messengers come amongst us and declared the eternall Truth shee was
downe with it and durst not derogate from it shee was a true and tender Mother to her
Children seven I hope is yet remaining to them her care over them was such that shee
would never consent to part with any one of them out of her family except I
-scribe a place better for them for their eternall well being

But when the Lord layed it upon her then was shee truly willing to leave both her native
Country and her Husband and Children and all her deare Relations and after some other diffi-
cult travells shee was concerned to see Friends in this Nation of England to beeing accom-
-plished in an acceptable time shee returned to my owne dwelling where joyfully shee was
received of all that truly knew her

But in a little time shee declared unto me that when shee was upon the Seas it was in her
veins that shee must say Husband I am come to see thee but I must not tarry which came
to pass in some Months time that except shee returned to England againe shee could not
enjoy peace with the Lord

At the knowledge of which I could freely have given up all to have accompanied her but
not daring to stir without the leading of the Lord I was made freely willing to part
with her and remaine at home with my little ones but after some time the thing sprang
in my heart to make preparation to come for England and it was made truly easy to
me that if the Lord required her travelling in these Countries that I should take the
care of her and accompany her if it were to the disbursing of halfe my outward
estate

But when I came hore I understood shee was in Ireland which place I expected I might
in which being accomplished it lay upon her spirit to visit Friends throughout all that
Nation whom I did accompany her willingly to a thousand miles travell and after
wards came over into England into part of many Counties in this Nation hoping when
I come to London the Lord would make her way homeward but a necessity was laid upon
her of further travell in these Countries but it was much with me to press her so far
as I durst to haste away to her children and when I durst proceed no farther I gave
up to accompany her wheresoever the Lord might order her which hath been through
Holland Friesland and as far as the City of Embden in the low Countries which was the
furthest place that stood in her veins ere shee went out through all which I have
a testimony in my heart shee was made serviceable for the Lord and particularly at
that City of Embden having cleared her Conscience to those that were concerned and
they from that Established their Meeting twice a week which had been long neglected
through all which Countries shee was enabled to cleare her conscience to them in their
owne Language in which shee had been little exercised ever since I had the knowledge
of her

After which being accomplished returning for England Now said shee if there were a Ship
at London am I ready to returne home Nay my deare said I if there were a Ship I should
now carry thee at this Season of the year Oh said shee I would scruple no Season if it
were the Lords time
Now my deare friends as the Lord hath enabled me haue I in short giuen you this account
for your satisfaction concerning her though I am well perswaded it need not be spokt
to many of you
And thus can I in truth say as I said at first I haue nothing to say to her charge I
first knew her and I am satisfied in my owne heart that her garments are cleane and
were cleane and without spot a tender Mother to her children and faithfull wife to
her Husband and that which passeth all truly resigned vp to serve the Lord to the
utmost of her power hauing truly denyed all parted with all forsaken all to answe
the Lords Requiring

And now to add a little for the sakes of those that are conuincid of the Truth to whom
may come shee was alwayes diligent in what shee understood ever shy of coming into
debts and alwayes carefull to answeare Engagements and performe to euery one the thing
was equall vpon all accounts neuer willing to make vse of things aboue her ability
but constantly minding that which was decent comely and of good report amongst
sober people and when concernd in her family to Exhort Reproue or correct it
done in tendernes wisdom and godly feare to the reaching Gods Wittnesse and against
the stuborne nature to God

Shee could alwayes freely make vse of what the Lord did afford her for the seruice of God
and friends thereof neuer questioning but the Lord would take the care of her and provide
for her when shee was concernd to leaue all her outward acquaintance and travell
the Truths account in diuers Countys where shee was a stranger alwayes beleauing that
the Lord would take away all scruples and remove all doubts that might arise in
of his faithfull people concerning her

And in all the time of the weakness of her Body there was not the least appearance of any trou
bpon her mind and some of her last words to me were if the Lord should take her away
to remeber her deare loue to all friends that are faithfull and to her deare children
and not long after passed away without sigh or groane. Willing Submissiue faith
full obedience and liuing Prayes be renderd unto God for euer Sayth my Soule Amen

And many friends being come together we had a precious Meeting before her Body was carry
forth and I am a liuing witnes with many more that the liuing power of God with
accompanyd her Body to the Ground

And now tis the breathing of my Soule to the Lord that the residue of my time here
may liue for his life And not only performe the faithfull and true care of a Com
fathers but also keep the diligent watch of a tender Mother unto and ouer our
children

And so in true tendernes and Brotherly loue I dearely salute all faithfull friends to whom
this may come and bid you all farewell

of Long Island In Newengland

Your friend and Brother in the Truth
John Donne