

# Sundry Lawes against Swearing, Cursing and Blaspheming the most holy Name of God.

## The Law of God.



**G**e that blasphemeth the name of God, shall dye for it; all the multitude shall stone him to death: whether he be a Stranger or Citizen, if he blaspheme the name of the Lord, let him die the death. This was executed on the sonne of an Israelitish woman, because hee blasphemed the name of the Lord, hee was first put in prison, and afterward, at the commandement of God, hee was stoned to death, Leu. 24. 14.

## The Law of King Henry the fifth.

**K**ING HENRY the fift made a Statute for Swearers in his owne Palace, that if he were a Duke that did sware, hee should forsayt for every time forty shillings, to the relife of poore people: if he were a Lord or Baron twenty shillings: if hee were a Knight or Esquire, ten shillings: if hee were a Peoman, thre shillings four pence: if hee were Page, Lackey or Slave, to be scourged with rods or else with a whip: Waffen. in quodam Serm.

## The Law of our now most dread Soueraigne Lord, I A M E S, King of Great Brittaine, France and Ireland, against prophane Swearing and Cursing.

**I**T is ordained, That every common Swearer or Cursler, shall for every time so offending, forsayt and pay to the bis of the poore of the Parish, where the same offence is so shall be committed, the summe of twelve pence. And it shall be lawfull for the Constable, Churchwardens and Overseers of the poore of that Parish, by warrant from such Justice of peace or head Officer, to leue the same summe or summes of mony, by distresse, and sale of the Offenders goods, rendring to the Party the auer plus. And in defect of such distresse, the Offender, if he or she be aboue the age of twelve yeeres, shall by warrant from such Justice of the Peace, or head Officer, be set in the Stocks by thre whole houres. But if the Offender be vnder the Age of twelve yeares, and shall not soothwith pay the said summe of twelve pence: Then he or she, by warrant of such Justice of peace, or head Officer, shall be whipped by the Constable, or by the Parent or Master in his presence: Anno 21. Iacobi Regis, Cap. 10.

## The Law of King Edmund.

**K**ING EDMUND made this Law; that they which were proved once falsly forsworne, should for ever be separated from Gods Congregation. In Chro. of Brittaine.

## The Law of Donaldus King of Scots.

**D**ONALDVS SEXTVS, King of Scots, made this Law in his Land, that all Perjurors & common Swearers, should haue their lips seared with an hot burning Iron: He& Boetius in Hist. Scotorum.

## The Law of Lodowicke the French King.

**T**HIS Law aforesaid did Lodowicke the French King enact also, and put in execution at Paris vpon a Citizen there, for blaspheming the Name of Christ, vnto the example of others, and so caused it to be proclaimed throughout his Realme for a generall punishment, In Chro. of France.

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## The Law of Philip the French King.

**P**HILIP the French King, whomsoever he perceived to blaspheme the name of God, either in Tauerne or else-where, yea, though hee were a man of great dignitie, commanded that they should bee drowned, and caused a strong Act to be made of it a little before his death, and left it to his Successors, Vincentius in speculo.

## The Law of Philip, Earle of Flaunders.

**P**HILIP, Earle of Flaunders, made this Constitution within his Earldome, in the yere of our Lord God, 1508. that he that did forsware himselfe, should lose his life and goods, Iacobus Maierius in Chro. Flaunders.

## The Law of Maximilian the Emperour.

**M**A X I M I L I A N the Emperour made also a Decree, that whosoever hee was that were a common Swearer, should for the first time lose thirtene shillings four pence: and if hee were not content with that, he should lose his head: which Act he and the Nobility of the Empire caused to bee published four times in the yere, that is to say, at Easter, Whitsontide, Assumption of our blessed Lady the Virgin, and Christmas: In Paralip. rerum memorab.

## The Law and Counsell of Iosephus.

**T**HE Counsell of Iosephus is this, that if any doe blaspheme God, and vnueruerely vse his name by unlawfull Swearing, he should be stoned to death, and then hanged vp by the space of one day, and so taken downe and burned without all manner of honour: Lib. 4. Anti. Cap. 6.

## The Egyptians Law.

**T**HE Egyptians Law was, that none should sware at all, except it were for a waighty cause; and if any were found to bee perjured, the same should lose his head, Iohannes Bohemius Libro Histor. primo.

## The Law of the Scythians.

**T**HE Scythians Law was, that if any among them could be proved to be a notable Swearer, or such a one as would forsware himselfe, the same being conuict of the fault, shoulde, without tariance, not onely lose his head, but goods also; which they shoulde haue that proved him perjured, Idem libro secundo.

## The Romanes Law.

**T**HE Romanes had a Law, that all such as were found to be perjured, shoulde bee thowne downe headlong from the toppe of an high Rocke called Harpeius. Ex. 12. Tabul.

## Certaine Sentences out of the holy Scriptures.

**T**hou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vaine: for the Lord will not hold him guiltlesse, that taketh his name in vaine: Exod. 20.

## Ecclesiasticus. 23. 9.

**L**et not thy mouth accusome Swearing: for in it are many falls. And like as a Servant which is often punished, cannot be without some soore: even so, whosoever sweareth and nameth God in vaine, shall not be cleane purged from sinne. A man that sweareth much Swearing, shall bee filled with wickednes, and the Plague shall never goe from his house.

**T**he words of the Swearer bring death. God grant it be not found in the House of Iacob. But they that feare God, eschew all such, and live not wotrung in sinne.

FINIS. Thomas Wray.