

From **The Masque of Queens**
By Ben Jonson

HAG: What our Dame bids us do
 We are ready for.

DAME Then fall to.
 But first relate me what you have sought,
 Where you have been and what you have brought.

1ST HAG I have been all day looking after
 A raven feeding upon a quarter,
 And soon as she turned her beak to the south,
 I snatched this morsel out of her mouth.

2ND HAG I have been gathering wolves' hairs,
 The mad dogs' foam and the adders' ears,
 The spurging of a dead man's eyes,
 And all since the evening star did rise.

3RD HAG I last night lay all alone
 O' the ground to hear the mandrake groan,
 And plucked him up, though he grew full low,
 And as I had done, the cock did crow.

4TH HAG And I ha' been choosing out this skull
 From charnel houses that were full,
 From private grots and public pits,
 And frightened a sexton out of his wits.

5TH HAG Under a cradle I did creep
 By day, and when the child was asleep
 At night I sucked the breath, and rose
 And plucked the nodding nurse by the nose.

