

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-22869-5 - The Rainbow: Part I

D. H. Lawrence Edited by Mark Kinkead-Weekes

Excerpt

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THE RAINBOW

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Note on the text

The base-text for this edition is the Manuscript (MS) which DHL completed on 2 March 1915, and from which a typescript (TS) was prepared. Emendations have been adopted from DHL's revision of the typescript in March–May; and from the revision in July and August of the unlocated proofs which were prepared from the typescript for the first English edition (E1), published by Methuen on 30 September 1915. Manuscript and typescript are in the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center of the University of Texas at Austin.

The apparatus records all textual variants except the following silent emendations:

1. Clearly inadvertent spelling and typesetting errors have been corrected.
2. Misreadings of substantives and accidentals by typists, which were corrected back to the original before publication, are not noted.
3. Inadvertent omissions (e.g. incomplete quotation marks, the accent in *hôtel* and full stops omitted at the end of sentences where no other punctuation exists) have been supplied.
4. Omitted or misplaced apostrophes in possessive cases and the apostrophe in 'o'clock' have been supplied or corrected.
5. Quotation marks around the names of public houses, which DHL supplied on their first occurrence but not thereafter, have been supplied throughout. DHL's titles (e.g. St, Mr, Mrs) have been emended to his most usual form without a stop; E1 printed with the stop. The name of Brinsley Street School is silently emended from E1's 'St. Philip's' to the usual MS form 'St Philips'.
6. DHL often presented colloquial contractions without joining them up (e.g. 'does n't'), and these have been normalised ('doesn't') as they were in TS and E1.
7. E1 consistently printed 'to-day', 'to-morrow', 'to-night' whereas DHL wrote these as one unhyphenated word; his practice is followed. DHL usually wrote numbers without a hyphen as two words; TS and E1 added the hyphen, but this is not recorded.
8. DHL often followed a full stop, question mark or exclamation mark with a dash, before beginning the next sentence with a capital letter. Typists and typesetters frequently omitted the dash, which has been silently restored in this edition. E1 printed the dash with which DHL often breaks off or tails away speech as a 2-em dash (e.g. 'be——' at 27:29; this has been replaced by a 1-em dash).
9. It is often unclear whether the initial letters 'A', 'C' and 'U' in DHL's handwriting are upper or lower case. His majority use of 'angel' and 'college' has been followed silently unless MS is clearly a capital; 'Uncle', 'Aunt' and 'Cousin' are used only in direct speech, appearing otherwise as 'uncle', 'aunt' and 'cousin'; 'Church' has been used for the institution, and 'church' and 'cathedral' for the buildings, though unmistakable capitalisation in MS is noted.

Note on the text

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10. Some compounds, which E1 printed in a consistent form, but DHL usually in one form and sometimes in another (without nuances of meaning), are silently emended to his majority use after the first occurrence, though the minority use in MS will always be noted. E1 consistently printed 'weekday' which is here emended silently to DHL's 'week-day' except where he wrote 'week day'.

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TO ELSE*

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Chapter I

How Tom Brangwen Married a Polish Lady

I

The Brangwens had lived for generations on the Marsh Farm, in the meadows where the Erewash twisted sluggishly through alder trees, 5 separating Derbyshire from Nottinghamshire. Two miles away, a church-tower stood on a hill, the houses of the little country town* climbing assiduously up to it. Whenever one of the Brangwens in the fields lifted his head from his work, he saw the church-tower at Ilkeston in the empty sky. So that as he turned again to the horizontal 10 land, he was aware of something standing above him and beyond him in the distance.

There was a look in the eyes of the Brangwens as if they were expecting something unknown, about which they were eager. They had that air of readiness for what would come to them, a kind of 15 surety, an expectancy, the look of an inheritor.

They were fresh, blond, slow-speaking people, revealing themselves plainly, but slowly, so that one could watch the change in their eyes from laughter to anger, blue, lit-up laughter, to a hard, blue-staring anger; through all the irresolute stages of the sky when 20 the weather is changing.

Living on rich land, on their own land, near to a growing town,* they had forgotten what it was to be in straitened circumstances. They had never become rich, because there were always children, and the patrimony was divided every time. But always, at the Marsh, 25 there was ample.

So the Brangwens came and went without fear of necessity, working hard because of the life that was in them, not for want of the money. Neither were they thriftless. They were aware of the last halfpenny, and instinct made them not waste the peeling of their 30 apple, for it would help to feed the cattle. But heaven and earth was* teeming around them, and how should this cease? They felt the rush of the sap in spring, they knew the wave which cannot halt, but every year throws forward the seed to begetting, and falling back,*

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The Rainbow

leaves the young-born on the earth. They knew the intercourse
 between heaven and earth, sunshine drawn into the breast and
 bowels, the rain sucked up in the daytime, nakedness that comes
 under the wind in autumn, showing the birds' nests no longer worth
 5 hiding. Their life and inter-relations were such; feeling the pulse
 and body of the soil, that opened to their furrow for the grain, and
 became smooth and supple after their ploughing, and clung to their
 feet with a weight that pulled like desire, lying hard and unresponsive
 when the crops were to be shorn away. The young corn waved and
 10 was silken, and the lustre slid along the limbs of the men who saw it.
 They took the udder of the cows, the cows yielded milk and pulse
 against the hands of the men, the pulse of the blood of the teats of the
 cows beat into the pulse of the hands of the men. They mounted
 their horses, and held life between the grip of their knees, they
 15 harnessed their horses at the wagon, and, with hand on the
 bridle-rings, drew the heaving of the horses after their will.

In autumn the partridges whirred up, birds in flocks blew like
 spray across the fallow, rooks appeared on the grey, watery heavens,
 and flew cawing into the winter. Then the men sat by the fire in the
 20 house where the women moved about with surety, and the limbs and
 the body of the men were impregnated with the day, cattle and earth
 and vegetation and the sky, the men sat by the fire and their brains
 were inert, as their blood flowed heavy with the accumulation from
 the living day.

25 The women were different.* On them too was the drowse of
 blood-intimacy, calves sucking and hens running together in droves,
 and young geese palpitating in the hand whilst food was pushed
 down their throttle. But the women looked out from the heated,
 blind intercourse of farm-life, to the spoken world beyond. They
 30 were aware of the lips and the mind of the world speaking and giving
 utterance, they heard the sound in the distance, and they strained to
 listen.

It was enough for the men, that the earth heaved and opened its
 furrow to them, that the wind blew to dry the wet wheat, and set the
 35 young ears of corn wheeling freshly round about; it was enough that
 they helped the cow in labour, or ferreted the rats from under the
 barn, or broke the back of a rabbit with a sharp knock of the hand. So
 much warmth and generating and pain and death did they know in
 their blood, earth and sky and beast and green plants, so much
 40 exchange and interchange they had with these, that they lived full