



LET'S LAUGH



Sir Thomas More, venerated in the Catholic Church as Saint Thomas More, was an English lawyer, judge, social philosopher, author, statesman, and noted Renaissance humanist. He also served Henry VIII as Lord High Chancellor of England from October 1529 to May 1532.

He later refused to approve King Henry VIII's divorce and remarriage and establishment of the Church of England. As punishment he was sentenced to death.

During the trial, More prepared his soul to meet 'the great spouse' and wrote a beautiful prayer and several letters of farewell. Thomas More's sense of humour never deserted him, right up to the moment of his execution.

The execution took place on 6 July 1535 at Tower Hill. After More had finished reciting the 'Miserere' while kneeling, the executioner reportedly begged his pardon, then More rose up merrily, kissed him and gave him forgiveness.

When he came to mount the steps to the scaffold, its frame seeming so weak that it might collapse, More is widely quoted as saying (to one of the officials): 'I pray you, master Lieutenant, see me safe up and [for] my coming down, let me shift for myself'. He told the onlookers to witness that he was dying 'in the faith and for the faith of the Catholic Church, the king's good servant and God's first.'

He altered the ritual by blindfolding himself, playing 'a part of his own' even on this awful stage.