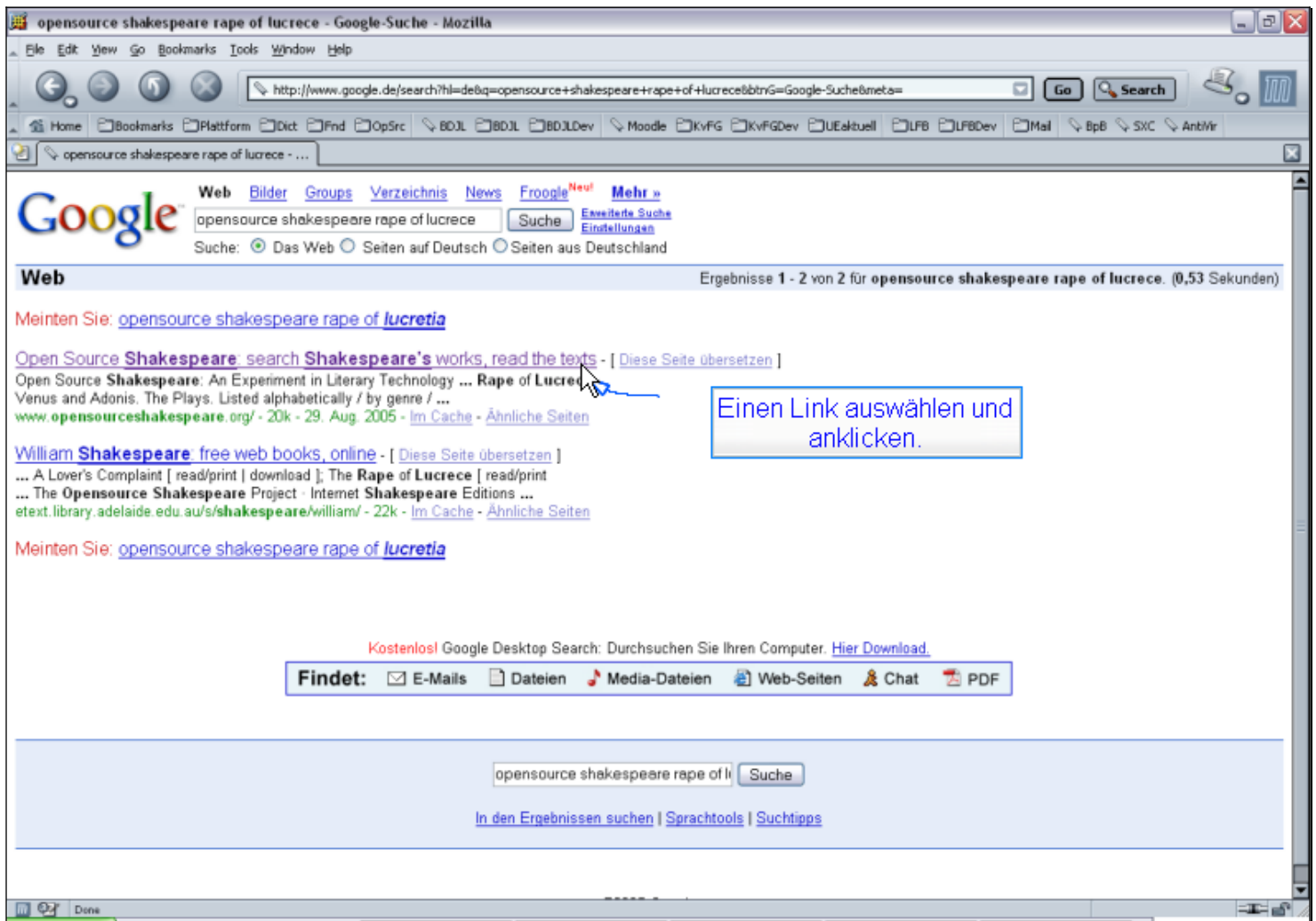


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## The Rape of Lucrece

1594

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### Dedication

TO THE  
RIGHT HONORABLE HENRY WRIOTHESLY,  
Earl of Southampton, and Baron of Tichfield.

5 The love I dedicate to your lordship is without end; whereof  
this pamphlet, without beginning, is but a superfluous moiety.  
The warrant I have of your honourable disposition, not the worth  
of my untutored lines, makes it assured of acceptance. What I  
have done is yours; what I have to do is yours; being part in  
10 all I have, devoted yours. Were my worth greater, my duty would  
show greater; meantime, as it is, it is bound to your lordship,  
to whom I wish long life, still lengthened with all happiness.

Your lordship's in all duty,  
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE.

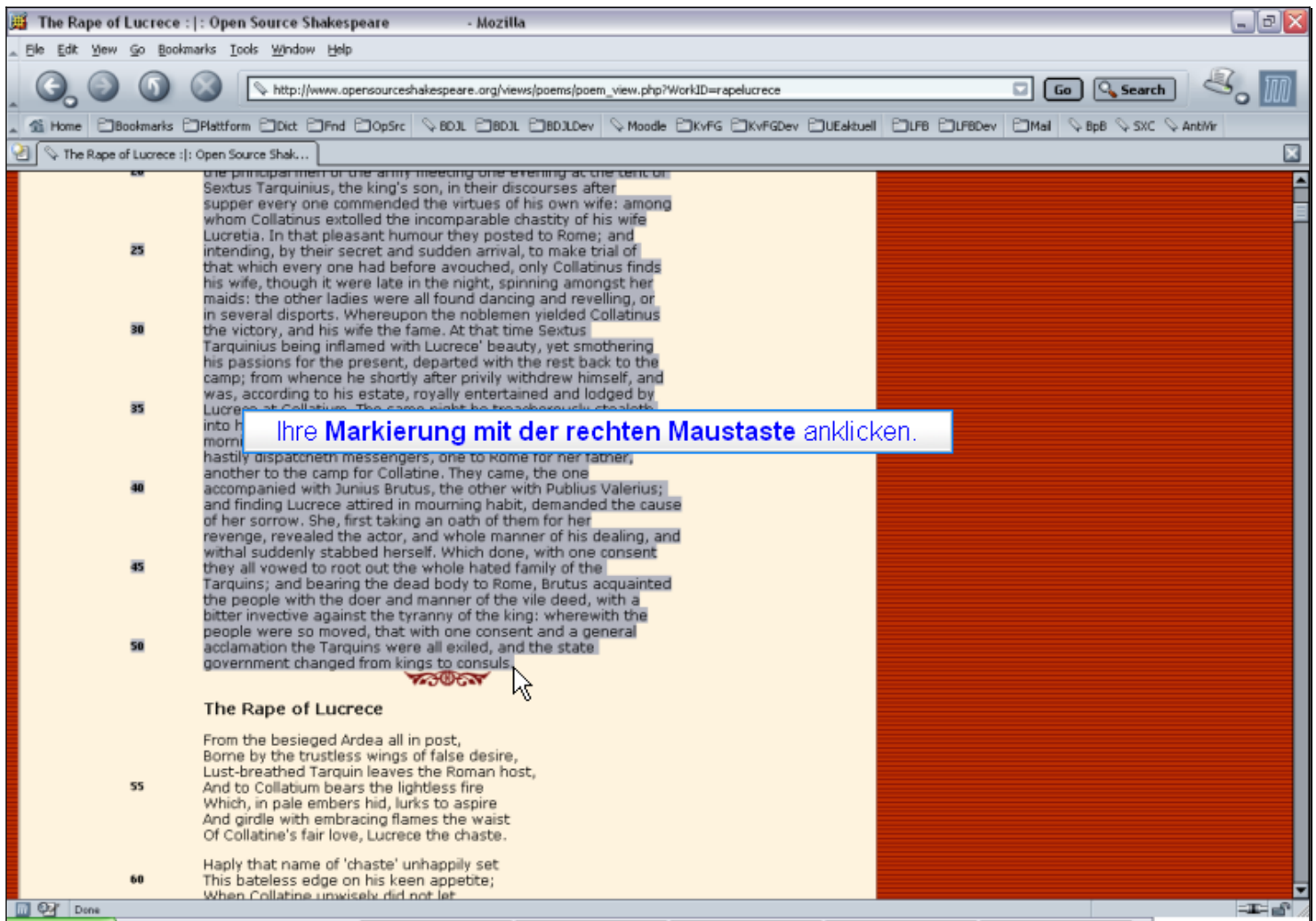
### The Argument

15 Lucius Tarquinius, for his excessive pride surnamed Superbus,  
after he had caused his own father-in-law Servius Tullius to be  
cruelly murdered, and, contrary to the Roman laws and customs,  
not requiring or staying for the people's suffrages, had  
possessed himself of the kingdom, went, accompanied with his sons  
and other noblemen of Rome, to besiege Ardea. During which siege  
20 the principal men of the army meeting one evening at the tent of  
Sextus Tarquinius, the king's son, in their discourses after  
supper every one commended the virtues of his own wife: among  
whom Collatinus extolled the incomparable chastity of his wife  
Lucretia. In that pleasant humour they rested to Rome: and

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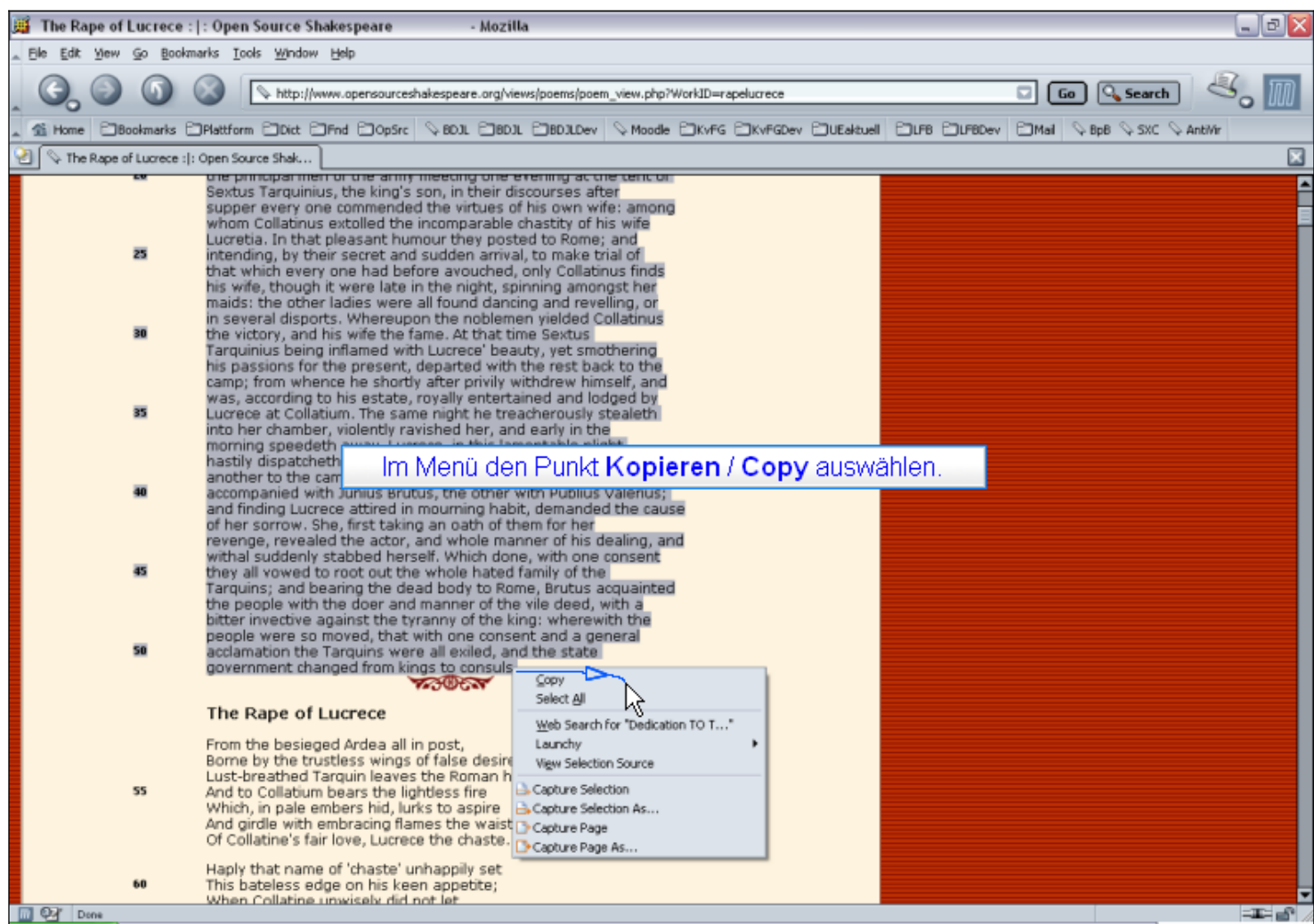
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