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## faeces, *n.*

**Pronunciation:** /'fi:si:z/

**Forms:** ME–17 **feces**, **fecis**, 15 **fecies**, **fesses**, (17 **feeces**), 16– **fæces**.

**Etymology:** < Latin *faeces* plural of *faex* dregs.

### 1. Sediment; dregs, lees, subsidence, refuse.

a1475 *Bk. Quinte Essence* 4 Rotun fecis of wyn.

1527 L. ANDREWE tr. H. von Braunschweig *Vertuose Bk. Distyllacyon* sig. Bvij, Euery water shold be cast upon his owne feces.

1594 H. PLATT *Jewell House* II. 40 The Lee or fæces of y<sup>e</sup> best sallet oyle.

1655 N. CULPEPER et al. tr. L. Rivière *Pract. Physick* I. ii. 13 The fecies or residents of the Powder in the bottom.

1742 W. ELLIS *London & Country Brewer* (ed. 4) I. 73 The Fæces or Sediment which causes the Fermentation to be fierce or mild.

1811 A. T. THOMSON *London Dispensatory* III. 520 Set apart the liquor, that the fæces..may subside.

### 2. Waste matter that is discharged from the bowels; excrement.

a1625 J. FLETCHER *Monsieur Thomas* (1639) II. iii. sig. E2, Doe you marke the Pheses? 'Tis a most pestilent contagious feaver.

1732 J. ARBUTHNOT *Pract. Rules of Diet* ii. 293 If there be any Acrimony in the Fæces.

1749 D. HARTLEY *Observ. Man* I. i. 96 The Impressions which the Aliment, Bile, and Fæces, make upon the villous Coat.

1802 *Med. & Physical Jrnl.* 8 369 The expulsion of the fæces.

1872 T. H. HUXLEY *Lessons Elem. Physiol.* (ed. 6) vi. 139 The residue..leaves the body as the fæces.

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