

demean, v.¹

Etymology: < Old French *demener* (in Ch. de Roland 11th cent.), also *deminer, demaner, demoner*.

a. trans. To conduct, carry on (a business, action, etc.); to manage, deal with, employ. *Obs.*

1644 MILTON *Areopagitica* 31 As our obdurat Clergy have with violence
demean'd the matter.

†**2.** To handle, manipulate, manage (instruments, tools, weapons, etc.). *Obs.*

c1384 CHAUCER *Hous of Fame* 959 Lo, is it not a grete myschaunce To lat
a fool han gouernaunce Of thing that he can not demeyne?

†**3.** To manage (a person, country, etc.); to direct, rule, govern, control. *Obs.*

a1535 T. MORE *Hist. Richard III* in *Wks.* (1557) 44/1 To the ende that
them selfe woulde alone, demeane and gouerne the king at their pleasure